

University of Montana Western

March 2011 campus report to the Montana Board of Regents (mostly from our website)

- Dr. Delena Norris-Tull, professor of education, was recognized with the 2010 Montana Professor of the Year award by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Her honor was made official at the annual U.S. Professors of the Year awards ceremonies in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 18.

Dr. Norris-Tull earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Texas; a master's degree in environmental education and fisheries and wildlife management from Michigan State University; and her Ph.D. in science education from the University of Texas. She has been a member of the UMW faculty since 2004 and is an active, productive scholar.

In a recent newspaper article she said, "This University has been producing remarkable teachers since 1893. Whenever we visit schools and meet superintendents all around Montana they invariably tell us we produce the best teachers in the state."

Trish Lacey is one of Dr. Norris-Tull's current students and accompanied her to Washington, D.C. for the Professors of the Year awards ceremonies, which included a luncheon and a congressional reception. The two also visited with Montana's U.S. Senators and toured the Capitol and the Whitehouse. Ms. Lacey says Dr. Norris-Tull's dedication to real-world learning is unwavering.

Another of Dr. Norris-Tull's students, Kirsten Morasko, graduated from UMW at the top of her class in 2010. Ms. Morasko is currently teaching her own students at the elementary level, a job she landed before finishing her undergraduate degree. Ms. Morasko says she wouldn't be the teacher she is without Dr. Norris-Tull's guidance .

- Professor of English Alan Weltzien is celebrating the successful publication of *To Kilimanjaro and Back*. The poetry chapbook was recently accepted by the press at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. After taking a 15-day trip with his son Alec to East Africa in June 2009, Weltzien began writing poetry about their experiences. He recently said, "I've wanted to do this most of my life. It was one of the best trips I've ever taken. It was about honoring my oldest son, recently graduated from college, before he moved to new time zones." Dr. Weltzien and his son climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the African continent.
- The campus again hosted a community winter receptions and events that highlighted performances and exhibitions by the UMW music, drama and art programs.
- Three rodeo team members received the honor of being named 2010 Academic All Americans by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). Recipients must be current NIRA members, hold a 3.5 grade point average, and have qualified for the year's College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo. Just fifty NIRA members received this award for 2010, including Montana Western's Megan Crist, Kelsie McInerney, and Reef Mills.