

University of Montana Western

May 2012 campus report to Board of Regents

Dr. Danielle Jones, a member of the English Department in 2011-12, received a Fulbright Scholar Award to Russia for 2012-2013. As a part of the award, she will be the Writer in Residence at Perm State University and teach two classes there. The remainder of her time will be dedicated to completing her memoir *Mother Russia, Father Time* and pursuing other research.

The Montana Gamma Chapter of the Alpha Chi Honors Society at UMW inducted its new members in April. Alpha Chi is a national Honor Society, whose members represent all academic disciplines and have attained a grade point average in the top 10% of their class.

Fine Arts major Kendra Dreyer was awarded the 2012 Edwin W. Gaston, Jr. Scholarship from the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. This is a competitive award, and Kendra won on the strength of a short film she created as part of her studies in the art program. Kendra is the first member of the Montana Gamma Chapter to win an Alpha Chi scholarship. The local Chapter was started 6 years ago and is sponsored by Professor John Hajduk.

Mathematics major Nathan Boll will extend his knowledge through an eight-week internship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif. in summer 2012. Boll will be working in the Mars Exploration Program. He will participate in the exploration of possible landing sites for robotic missions to Mars. The program focuses on one broad question: is there life on Mars? Boll will be present when one of the Mars robots comes back to Earth and said the opportunity to be present for such a momentous event will be inspiring. "To be in the room when it's touching down is going to be outstanding," Boll explained. Boll's internship is through the Montana Space Grant Consortium.

A collaboration between the Montana Western and Montana Tech is offering students the opportunity to earn a bachelor of science in elementary education from Montana Western's education program by taking classes through UMW at the Montana Tech campus. Students complete required teacher education coursework online and face-to-face at Montana Tech as well as enrolling in general education courses from Tech to earn the degree from Montana Western without having to attend class on the Dillon campus. The program began after several Montana Western students living in Butte inquired about attending UMW remotely. Several of the students worked full time and did not want to commute throughout the week to Dillon.

This spring, our Fine Arts Department presented Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma*. All performances were in the newly renovated Beier Auditorium, located on the south end of Main Hall of the campus. Director and professor Judy Ulrich said our crews used "the new workshops and renovated spaces to the utmost, designing lights, creating a barn-raising scene, rehearsing square dances, collecting cowmen paraphernalia, building colorful picnic outfits. With university staff members, community adults and children joining in, it feels like a celebration."

We are conducting an evaluation of student and business services including the registrar, financial aid, advising, career services and admissions offices to increase efficiency and access effectiveness of policies, procedures and administrative structure.

Sarah Foster, class of 2014, was named a 2012 Montana Newman Civic Fellow. This national award honors inspiring college student leaders who have worked hard to find solutions to community issues across the country.

In mid-April we held our annual research day featuring original research projects by students and faculty.