

The University of Montana Western

March 2014 campus report to the Board of Regents (taken primarily from our website)

University of Montana Western Professor of Political Science Sara Glasgow is the Carnegie Foundation 2013 Montana Professor of the Year.

Glasgow, who received her doctorate in government and politics from the University of Maryland, has been a member of the Montana Western faculty since 2005. She teaches courses in political economy, international relations, strategic studies, social medicine and Norse history.

She is the fifth professor in five years at Montana Western to have received the Professor of the Year award. Last year, Mike Morrow, professor of biology, was named the 2012 Montana Professor of the Year. Dr. Glasgow and Dr. Morrow follow 2011 Montana Professor of the Year Dr. Julie Bullard, 2010 Montana Professor of the Year Dr. Delena Norris-Tull and 2009 U.S. Professor of the Year Dr. Rob Thomas.

Early childhood educators Linn Veen and Kate Ord have joined the staff at the University of Montana Western's Curious Minds pre-school program. Curious Minds employs a unique approach to learning that encourages children to learn through discoveries they initiate. These discoveries are explored via literature, math, science and art through the support of educators and university students. Curious Minds is a National Association for the Education of Young Children accredited lab school. Enrollment is open to any family in the Dillon area, and "Best Beginning" scholarships are available to families who qualify.

Curious Minds is part of our early childhood education program directed by Dr. Julie Bullard, the Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year in 2011 for Montana. The Early Childhood Education program prepares early childhood practitioners to meet the unique needs of children from birth through age eight and their families in a variety of early childhood settings including child care home and centers, Head Starts, pre-schools, Resource and Referrals. By providing ample opportunities in early childhood labs, students learn through doing. Students also have many opportunities to interact with peers and professionals in the field.

Last year physics professor Dr. Craig Zaspel was informed that, "Vortex-Antivortex Dynamics Driven by a Spin-Torque in a Nanocontact" was accepted for publication in Physical Review. This is work done during the past year in collaboration with Boris Ivanov at the Institute of Magnetism, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. A nanocontact is a microscopic wire connected to a thin film magnet where a magnetic vortex will form in response to an electric current in the wire. The nanocontact can be a possible "artificial atom."

Starting this spring, Montana Western will host a group of international students from Perm State University in Russia. The students will attend a variety of classes at UMW and share their culture with the university and the community of Dillon. In 2015, Montana Western students will have a chance to take a course at Perm State and explore the culture of Russia.

We celebrated the grand opening of the Veteran Military Exchange (VMX) in the Student Union Building Feb. 14. The VMX serves as a place for veterans, active military and their family members to receive support and access resources. The new center serves as a community to ease the transition into college life and the civilian world. It provides such services as access to computers, educational and reintegration support and resources, community involvement and informational events.