

The University of Montana Western

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

Governor Steve Bullock served as our commencement speaker in ceremonies Saturday, May, 10, 2014. The ceremony began at 11 a.m. in the Straugh Gymnasium on the UMW campus. This was the 117th commencement for the school that was founded in 1893. A record number of graduates participated in the event and the gymnasium was full of parents and friends of the graduates.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced the scholar athletes for 2013-14. The Daktronics-NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete teams included Montana Western's Sammi Bignell, Jenna Banks, and McCall Hasquet in this recognition. The NAIA also announced the student-athletes who have been selected to the Division I men's basketball Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete teams. Senior forward Tyler Miller was one of the players who earned this honor with his work in the classroom. Among other qualifications a student-athlete must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Sammi Bignell is a senior guard from Avon, Montana. She will graduate in the fall of 2014 with a degree in elementary education. Jenna Banks is a junior guard from Bozeman. She is studying biology at Montana Western. McCall Hasquet is a sophomore guard from Missoula. She is a secondary education major. Tyler Miller is a senior forward from Chandler, Arizona and a graduate of Basha High School. He has been an academic All-American for two years and graduated in the spring of 2014 with a degree in Business Administration with a digital media and design option.

This past semester we hosted the Montana Repertory Theatre as they performed "The Miracle Worker," the story of Helen Keller and her tutor Ann Sullivan. The play recounts the early life of Keller, who was deaf and blind since infancy, as she tries to find her way into adulthood with the help of Sullivan.

The 8th Annual University of Montana Western Research Symposium eighth annual Montana Western Research Symposium was held April 4 and April 5, 2014. The symposium was presented by the UMW Biology Club but also featured cross-disciplinary research by students from a variety of majors.

John Maclean, son of author Norman McLean and noted author in his own right, visited our campus to give a presentation at Dances with Words on the subject of writing about wildlands fires. Maclean's fourth book, *The Esperanza Fire*, came out last year, and now he's in the throes of investigating the Yarnell, AZ fire.

Jessica Lammi was honored and recognized as 2014 Newman Civic Fellow. She is a third-year elementary education major and an exceptional student and leader on our campus. Jessica is a wonderful role model and tutor, volunteering to work with elementary age students to help them be successful academically.