

The University of Montana Western May 2009 report to the Board of Regents

UMW spring enrollment was the highest in 10 years. Overall head count for second semester 2009 was 1,112 students compared to 1,101 a year ago making it the fourth highest enrollment in school history. We saw record enrollments this past fall with the highest FTE count since Montana Western began keeping such statistics.

The Business and Technology Department was granted accreditation by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) at their annual conference. Montana Western becomes one of only two universities in Montana to have an IACBE accredited program.

Over 30 student papers were presented at the 3rd annual campus research symposium April 17 and 18. The symposium included a keynote address from Carroll College biochemistry professor Dan Gretch on prion-based diseases in animals.

“A Doll’s House” by Henrik Ibsen was performed April 17 to 19 in the small auditorium of Main Hall. The production was directed and produced by Cathleen Flanagan, a student from Eureka, MT. She is a secondary education major with a minor in teaching drama. Experience One (X1) allowed her the opportunity to cast, direct, produce and stage a full-scale production while she is an undergraduate. The cast was made up of students and alumni.

The UM President’s Advisory Council met on campus in April and was entertained by faculty and student art, science research posters and our outstanding student choral group. Council members learned how X1 is having a positive impact on the university. Students and faculty presented their study abroad experiences in Ireland, Italy, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. In addition, a science class research project on the grayling habitat on the Big Hole River and a molecular biology research project on infectious yeast conducted by our biology faculty with Beaverhead County High School faculty and students were presented. All are products of X1—block scheduling and experiential learning.

We also reviewed results of National Survey of Student Engagement that ranks the university above regional and national competitors in a number of student learning and satisfaction measurements. X1 and the university’s faculty, staff and administration were credited as major factors in the positive ratings.

John Maclean, best-selling and award-winning reporter, author and Montana native now living in Washington D.C. (son of Montana author Norman Maclean), spoke at our 112th commencement ceremony. Maclean addressed the class of 2009, the second class to attend Montana Western classes solely under the X1 scheduling system.

Mark Pagani, associate professor of geology at Yale University gave a lecture this spring on carbon dioxide climate change. The presentation was a part of the visiting science speaker series “On the Rocks.” Pagani’s visit was funded through a grant from the U.S. Science Support Program’s Ocean Leadership Distinguished Lecturer Series.