

**The University of Montana Western
September 2009 report to the Board of Regents**

Julie Bullard, professor and director of early childhood education at the University of Montana Western, is the author of “Creating Environments for Learning: Birth to Age Eight,” a new textbook for early childhood education students.

The book, published this month by Merrill Publications, is available in both English and Chinese editions. It is Bullard’s third book.

Student artwork displaying a suicide prevention message was judged Friday, April 24 on the Montana Western campus as a part of Montana Mental Health’s Preventing and Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Montana (PRISM) campaign.

The PRISM art contest was open to Montana Western and Montana State University students. A variety of entries in a variety of artistic medium was entered in the contest. The art was judged by a panel of unbiased individuals who visited each campus to evaluate the artistic value, accessibility and message of each entry.

The University of Montana Western women’s basketball team is again ranked in the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll.

The Bulldogs have been named to the WBCA NAIA Honor Roll for eight straight years and were second in 2004-05.

Whether it’s battling with a 1,300-pound saddle bronc for eight seconds, fighting insurgents in Iraq, enlightening middle school students to the mysteries of math, or managing often contrary draft horses at Denver’s National Western Stock Show, Brian Dawson’s life can be summarized by one word, remarkable.

Within the span of one month, Dawson will graduate with honors from the University of Montana Western and capped his collegiate career with an appearance at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) June 14 – 20, 2009 in Casper, Wyo.

But anyone who knows him would attest that he is the last one to call attention to his achievements.” I’m just a regular guy whose had lots of opportunities and I’ve been fortunate enough to take advantage of them,” Dawson said.

Dawson enlisted in the Marines after graduating from Boulder High School in 2000. His reason for the joining the Marines was simple. “Our family has a history of civil service and patriotism,” Dawson said. Dawson took it one step further and became part of Marine Force Reconnaissance — the elite of the elite. Dawson’s unit, Company B of the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, was made up of native Montanans which produced a very tight-knit unit. “We were called the Montana Boys,” Dawson said. “I was so lucky to serve with a great group of guys. We are planning on getting together for the first time since Iraq at a wedding this summer.”

Montana's Department of Administration, Architecture and Engineering (A&E) has awarded the construction bid for Phase I of the University of Montana Western Main Hall renovation project to Swank Enterprises of Valier, Mont.

A just-released national college survey demonstrates that the University of Montana Western continues to enhance its reputation nationally going into its 116th year.

U.S. News & World Report's 2010 edition of "America's Best Colleges" ranked Montana Western in its top tier of western baccalaureate colleges. The university jumped to 18th place in the academically coveted top tier from its third-tier position in 2009.

"On the Rocks," a speaker series organized by the University of Montana Western science and mathematics departments, kicked off a new season Tuesday, Sept. 8. Montana Western Professor of Physics Dr. Craig Zaspel presented "Vortex Formation in Nanocontacts and Spruce Budworm Populations."

Award-winning writers and poets will be featured in the fall lineup for the University of Montana Western's acclaimed "Dances With Words" series.

Montana Western's English department sponsors the visiting writers series, which is funded by the university and local patrons. The fall series received additional support through a \$1,000 grant from Humanities Montana.