DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Final report prepared by Teresa Branch, Vice President for Student Affairs

AUGUST 2009
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Our Mission

Our mission is to facilitate student learning by providing high quality programs, services, and development opportunities, while fostering an inclusive campus community in support of the educational mission of The University of Montana.

Our Values

- **QUALITY**
  Student Affairs offers high quality programs that prepare students to understand and address the needs of society.

- **DIVERSITY**
  Student Affairs supports diversity in all its forms and actively strives to create an environment that is welcoming and student-centered.

- **COLLABORATION**
  Student Affairs collaborates with faculty, staff, and students to offer educational programs and services that increase understanding of issues of mutual concern.

- **TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION**
  Student Affairs strives to keep pace with technological advances in order to enhance service delivery.

- **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**
  Student Affairs must continue to prepare for a future in which less funding may be available for new programs and services.

- **INNOVATION**
  Student Affairs will encourage and reward innovative thinking that improves the substance and delivery of programs and services.
### DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

#### Department and Director List

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DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Introduction

The Division of Student Affairs encourages the personal, academic, and career development of all students by providing essential programs and services to students. This year, Student Affairs focused administrative efforts on preparations for the 2010 accreditation site visit, student success and retention, fiscal responsibilities, and staffing.

In spring 2009, Student Affairs produced an accreditation report in keeping with the guidelines set out under Standard 3: Students. It illustrates the complexity of the Division of Student Affairs in terms of policy, staffing, service delivery, and institutional commitments. This lengthy document is the result of a long-term collaboration between many departments and individuals, and it will be submitted for review accompanied by supporting exhibits in fall 2009.

During the past two years, the Retention Task Force has acted as a collaborative effort between Student Affairs, Administration and Finance, and Academic Affairs to plan strategies for encouraging student success and retention at the University. The Student Success Action Plan was the result of this initiative, and demonstrates the University’s renewed commitment to student retention in addition to enrollment. The Vice President for Student Affairs continues to serve as co-chair of the Retention Plan Implementation and Assessment Committee, which will monitor the implementation and success of the strategies proposed by the Student Success Action Plan.

Fiscal concerns continued to dominate strategic planning initiatives, especially with regard to long-term projects and new construction.

Student Affairs welcomed a new director at the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year. As a UM alumna, Fredricka Hunter brings personal experience as well as depth of understanding of tribal culture to her role as director of American Indian Student Services. The Division also began a national search for an Associate Vice President for Student Affairs whose arrival is anticipated by fall 2009.

Two Student Affairs Immersion Learning (SAIL) interns worked in various departments throughout the year as part of the inaugural year of the SAIL program. Student Affairs will continue to monitor the success and funding of this internship program, and the Vice President for Student Affairs has begun a collaborative effort with the Dean of the School of Education to develop a master’s program for Student Affairs professionals.
Because of leadership changes, AISS did not complete a 2008-2009 Annual Report.
Campus Recreation witnessed a number of developments during 2008-2009, particularly in the Intramural, Outdoor, and Fitness programs. The Fitness and Recreation Center set two service records, first when it acquired more than 10,000 student entry swipes per week for 12 weeks, bettering a 4-week record; and second when it acquired more than 14,000 student entry swipes during the week of January 29, bettering the 1-week record of 12,800 swipes that was set in February 2007.

Student participation in the Intramural Program increased. As compared to 2007-2008, 12.5 percent more students took part in spring sports and 20 percent fewer intramural teams forfeited games. Campus Recreation also established a winter football league, in which 28 teams competed at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Students were noticeably more involved in the Outdoor Program, increasing participation in trips and classes by 10 percent. During 2008-2009, the Outdoor Program conducted 40 lectures, 33 percent more than in the previous year. A total of 1,200 students attended these lectures, which was a 10 percent increase in participation. In addition, the climbing wall’s gear had to be replaced, due to wear and tear, at a rate 35 percent beyond expectation.

The West Central Montana Avalanche Center, co-sponsored by Campus Recreation and Missoula Ranger District-Lolo National Forest, established an avalanche transceiver training park at Lolo Pass. The Avalanche Center also instituted a Monday Advisory Report to accompany its Friday Advisory Report.

Fitness Program participation increased by 4 percent, and Campus Recreation hosted certification programs for yoga and spin instructors.

Overall, Campus Recreation netted $227,000, with $117,000 coming from The University of Montana Golf Course and $110,000 coming from Campus Recreation fees. A total of $160,000 was allocated to capital.
CAREER SERVICES (CS)

To assist the University in its recruitment and retention efforts, CS participated in Admissions outreach tours across Montana, made presentations at each new student orientation, and conducted information sessions at all UM Days. The unit provided tours of the CS office to every Freshmen Interest Group and Trio Class (C&I 160) to further promote its services.

The following service measurements speak to the unit’s success during 2008-09. A total of 2,806 students and 249 employers attended career/employment fairs hosted by CS. Fairs included the Student Employment Job Fair, Health Professions Fair, Educators’ Career Fair, Big Sky Career Fair, and new Graduate and Professional School Fair. Over the course of the year, CS hosted 157 additional employers, who conducted 465 formal student interviews and posted 3,301 career opportunities online. The unit sent 299 teacher credential files to potential employers. A total of 1,267 students established Griz eRecruiting accounts.

CS conducted a record 2,044 career counseling appointments, as compared to 1,981 during 2007-08. Career counselors administered 84 formal career/personality assessments and hosted 99 events—workshops and presentations—which were attended by 3,749 students. Due to the heightened demand for counseling services, the unit was permitted to hire another full-time counselor.

Student Employment continued its vital work on campus and in the community. A total of 966 jobs were posted and 20,273 applications were submitted via the online system. CS collaborated with Dining Services to host the seventh annual Student Employment Awards Reception to recognize outstanding student employees on campus. A committee composed of Financial Aid, Human Resource Services, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, and student representatives reviewed findings from a recent CS assessment project and offered ways to improve the Student Employment program. To increase referrals, the unit engaged new staff and acquainted them with its services.

Testing Services administered a record 3,490 tests. A survey of faculty, students, and community members was conducted to determine each group’s familiarity with and usage of the various admissions, certification, and licensing examinations available through Testing Services. Survey results were used to enhance marketing efforts. Due to the limited space of its current facility, CS remains unable to administer numerous tests, including the Certified Public Accountant, Pharmacist, and Social Worker licensure examinations.

CS staff participated in various professional development opportunities throughout the year. Two individuals served as board members of their respective professional associations—President of the National Student Employment Association and Director of Technology of the Mountain Pacific Association of Colleges and Employers.
CURRY HEALTH CENTER

Curry Health Center made great strides during 2008-2009, completing and implementing a five-year strategic plan, instituting a practice management system throughout the clinic, and successfully passing reaccreditation with an overall rating of “substantially compliant.” In addition, the unit successfully recruited and retained staff in Medical Services, reducing the turnover rate by 0.4 percent.

The following service measurements speak to the unit’s success during 2008-2009. In the fall, Medical Services assisted 5,178 students during 11,206 visits. This represents 37 percent of the University’s registered students and an average of 2.16 visits per student. In the spring, 5,307 students were served during 11,743 visits. This represents 39 percent of registered students and an average of 2.21 visits per student.

The unit recorded 12 overnight admissions to the infirmary. The average stay was 1.4 days. There were 326 admissions for observation and brief treatment, with an average stay of 6.6 hours.

By improving urgent care through modifying appointment scheduling and expanding evening hours, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) was able to provide 4,997 direct clinical service units to 1,351 students for an average of 3.7 visits per student. This represents the greatest number of students served in any of the past eight years. During 842 visits, 307 students received psychiatric care for an average of 2.7 visits per student.

The Dental Clinic served approximately 2,000 students during 4,500 visits, averaging 2.25 visits per student. The Student Assault Resource Center (SARC) provided direct service to 119 students and Self Over Substance (SOS) served 738 students, with referrals to SOS up 18 percent.

Outreach programs in Health Enhancement, SARC, and CAPS reached thousands of students, faculty, and staff. Over 10,000 members of the campus community participated in Health Enhancement outreach activities. Activities included “Beer Goggles,” “Health Fair,” “Sexapolooza,” “the Booze Brothers,” and “Ignite Tobacco Team.”

SARC recorded over 3,000 participants at its events, including 533 students at 14 presentations in residence halls and 1,700 students at 25 events on campus and in the surrounding community. A total of 150 faculty members from the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences attended a 3-hour program on suicide prevention, substance abuse, and relationship violence presented by SARC, SOS, and CAPS.

By providing volunteer and credit-earning learning opportunities to students in the Department of Counselor Education, the Department of Health and Human Performance, the College of Technology’s Department of Health Professions, the Department of Psychology, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, and the School of Social Work, Curry Health Center contributed to the educational mission of the University. During 2008-2009, participants in WWAMI, a cooperative program of the University of Washington School of Medicine and the states of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho, were added to the extensive list of students in clinical rotation at the Curry Health Center.

To advance its programs and services, Curry Health Center collaborated with various departments and offices. The unit joined the Financial Aid and Registrar’s offices to streamline its medical withdrawal process. CAPS
joined other University departments to present the campus community with information on stress reduction, nutrition and eating disorders, test anxiety management, mental health issues, and how to contend with disruptive students.

The unit worked to foster a more inclusive campus community by developing and coordinating various programs, events, and positions. Curry Health Center helped develop the UM Allies Program, which supports LGBT students. SARC and CAPS collaborated with American Indian Student Services to organize the first annual Native Women’s Leadership Luncheon. A Curry Health Center staff member coordinated the Association of Campus Ministers, and several other staff members participated in the Foreign Student Orientation. In addition, Curry Health Center worked with the vice president for student affairs, the director of athletics, the executive vice president, and African-American Studies Adjunct Assistant Professor George Price to establish a new high-level staff position. The staff member holding this position is responsible for attracting and assisting students of color, particularly African-American students. The director of CAPS helped reinstitute the Black Student Union on campus.

The unit implemented the following technological initiatives: (1) digital radiography in the Dental Clinic; (2) a Web-based student satisfaction survey, permitting monthly surveys and the collection of baseline and trend data; and (3) a full update of the Curry Health Center Web page, resulting in a 31.6 percent increase in visits and a 76 percent increase in page views.

Finally, significant progress was made in suicide prevention on campus; a total of 96 students and faculty were trained as “First Responders.”
DEAN OF STUDENTS

During 2008-2009, the dean of students witnessed a six percent increase (N=12) in student misconduct cases as compared with 2007-2008. There was a 15 percent increase in student misconduct cases (N=27) from 2006-2007 to 2008-2009. Although alcohol-related misconduct was the primary offense during 2008-2009, there were four percent fewer alcohol violations than in 2007-2008, 25 percent fewer alcohol violations than in 2006-2007, and 47 percent fewer than in 2005-2006. Theft, the second most common offense, appeared to be on the rise. From 2007-2008 to 2008-2009, the number of thefts increased by 23 percent (N=8), and, significantly, the number increased by 366 percent (N=33) from 2006-2007 to 2008-2009. In summary, 200 student misconduct cases were referred to the dean during 2008-2009, including 46 alcohol cases and 42 theft cases. The primary referral sources were the Office of Public Safety (84 cases) and university staff (46 cases).

The dean collaborated with the director of American Indian Student Services to mediate an ongoing conflict between the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association executive officers and the association’s program assistant. Unfortunately, mediation efforts proved unsuccessful.

During spring semester, the dean chaired a committee to select the University’s Nancy Borgmann Diversity Award winner. To further recognize those who substantially contribute to the University’s cultural diversity, the dean facilitated the Diversity Advisory Council Student Achievement Awards program, which honored 28 students.

The dean reviewed and rated program proposals for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education’s national and regional conferences. In addition, he assisted in the selection of the fall and spring semester Outstanding Student of the Year award recipients.

At a fall semester meeting of the College of Technology faculty, the dean spoke about disruptive and threatening students. He used the opportunity to discuss the newly-formed Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), its mission, and associated reporting procedures. He also explained the “Disruptive/Intimidating Incident Report Form,” designed for less threatening situations. Later in the year, the dean facilitated the CIRT process in response to the potential threat posed by two students on the Mountain campus. In addition, he presented three student disciplinary cases to the University Court.

The dean proudly serves on a variety of University committees and councils. His appointment on one, the Sustainable Campus Committee, was set to expire at the end of the year. He declined an offer of reappointment because of time constraints.
DISABILITY SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Because of leadership changes, a 2008-2009 Annual Report was not available for DSS.
ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Amidst a national economic crisis, Enrollment Services worked rigorously. The recruitment staff participated in approximately 160 college fairs; visited 454 high schools and community colleges in 26 states; hosted 27 receptions in key U.S. cities; and conducted 4 outreach tours to Chicago, Browning, Lewistown, and Helena. The unit coordinated events for over 2,100 prospective students and their family members, including individual campus visits and 13 open houses at UM Days. As part of the 4th Annual Montana Counselor Tour, Enrollment Services hosted 52 high school counselors on campus.

In an effort to offset the declining number of Montana high school graduates, Enrollment Services entered the third year of a strategic nonresident recruitment initiative. The unit communicated with 233 percent more prospective students through e-mail and chat.

During 2008-09, Enrollment Services promoted campus diversity by developing strategic plans to attract minority and international students. The unit’s minority recruiter partnered with Missoula County Schools to provide individual enrollment counseling to prospective students from Missoula; visited all tribal colleges and reservation schools in Montana multiple times; and attended recruitment gatherings in seven states.

To bolster international enrollment, the University’s international recruiter visited ten cities in China, three in Japan, and five in Canada. Visitations to domestic community colleges with high concentrations of international students proved advantageous. In California and Washington, the recruiter visited 13 community colleges and four English language centers.

Enrollment Services’ publications earned recognition in national and regional award competitions. The “Total Recruitment Package” won a bronze medal at the 24th Annual Admissions Marketing Awards and a silver medal at the Annual CASE District VIII Communications Awards.

The unit implemented multiple technological initiatives including an online orientation system, a campus visit registration system, and an online application system for the Davidson Honors College.

To assist students with college affordability, Financial Aid (FA) instituted a number of new services, such as a Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for students receiving financial aid and an electronic calculator for students to monitor and predict their academic progress and financial aid eligibility.

To reduce its carbon footprint, FA launched three processes for online delivery: (1) notification of FA estimates; (2) offers for final awards; and (3) acceptance of awards by students. In addition to providing students with greater access to their award information, online delivery saved FA $5,000 in postage.

FA implemented three federal programs to ensure students are in compliance with regulations and remain eligible for maximum aid. Students majoring in education have the opportunity to earn a Federal TEACH grant, an award of up to $4,000 per year. FA developed a process through which veterans are identified as a special class of students. Aid will be awarded without consideration of any benefits a student may receive through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, including chapter 33 and Yellow Ribbon program benefits. Finally, FA collaborated with Business Services to implement new congressional mandates regarding past-due debts and assisted students who had been adversely affected by the latest directives.
FOREIGN STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES (FSSS)

In addition to communicating with over 200 prospective students, FSSS served 470 foreign students and 85 scholars from 79 countries. To maintain a clear record of communication between the unit and those it serves, FSSS staff completed accountability forms after 3,500 meetings with students, scholars, faculty, staff, and community volunteers.

FSSS strove to fulfill its duties in a professional and ethical manner. The unit offered a variety of advisory services, counseling foreign students and scholars with personal concerns, emergency needs, and institutional policy issues. In addition, FSSS promoted and elucidated U.S. government regulations, particularly the Department of Homeland Security’s immigration rules, and provided orientation programs to foreign students and scholars upon their arrival in Missoula and re-entry into their home countries. Throughout the year, the unit conducted programs that enhanced American students’ appreciation for different societies and cultures, thereby enriching the experience of all students at The University of Montana.

In fall 2008, an alternative orientation model was adopted for new foreign students. Smaller groups were ushered to campus venues for pertinent presentations. A content knowledge test was used to assess the success of the new model. Reportedly, students and presenters were extremely satisfied.

To fulfill its mission, FSSS collaborated with numerous University and community groups. The unit partnered with the University Center’s (UC) Multicultural Alliance to present “International Incident.” The event, which encouraged greater interaction between American and international students, was held on the first Friday of every month in the UC Game Room. In addition, FSSS worked with the International Student Association to introduce a new community initiative that united the International Culture and Food Festival and Missoula Food Bank.

The Internship Services’ Learning Agreement form was revised; it now requires the signature of a FSSS staff member. Foreign students must gain approval from the Department of Homeland Security before they embark on internships. This approval can be obtained with the help of FSSS. The unit collaborated with Internship Services to promote this service to the campus community.

In April, the unit commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the Missoula International Friendship Program with a banquet. The NAFSA: Association of International Educators consultant, who helped to initiate the program in 1988, spoke on the topic of “public diplomacy.”

FSSS is pleased with its accomplishments during 2008-09, but maintains that continual assessment is crucial to the unit’s prolonged success. An internal campus committee was formed in fall 2008. In April, two external reviewers from Colorado visited the University. A final assessment report, prepared by the external team, was submitted in May of 2009.
Due to a tremendous number of late applications (over 200 in residence halls alone), the University Villages, Lewis and Clark Village, and the residence halls began 2008-2009 at capacity. Residence Life was forced to place 172 students in interim housing. Over the course of the fall semester, this number was reduced; however, by December, 17 male students had not yet received their permanent housing assignments. Residence Life explored ways of increasing the University’s student housing capacity. One suggestion—to reclaim Corbin Hall—was rejected by the President. Another—to house students in local motels when on-campus residences reach capacity—proved impractical; motels were too expensive and provided inadequate space.

Residence Life achieved departmental goals and exceeded fiscal requirements. Using its capital fund allocation, the unit was able to make a number of facility improvements. Improvements included fresh carpeting in the west wing of Craig Hall and the third and fourth floors of Pantzer Hall, an upgraded internal network in Miller Hall, a new living/learning center in Knowles Hall, and a retrofit—TV lounge turned classroom/seminar room. DirectConnect costs were included in Lewis and Clark Village and residence hall housing fees, thereby making the computing service compulsory and guaranteeing technological support to all campus residences. Sound fiscal management will allow for minimal housing rate increases in AY09.

By employing 150 students, who were compensated a total of $1.2 million, the unit helped ease the burden of college expenses. In addition, staff orientation, in-service training, and on-the-job work experience provided student employees invaluable knowledge and skills they may use as professionals.

The unit strongly supported the Office for Student Success initiatives and actively included faculty in its retention efforts. The Davidson Honors College Learning Communities continued to thrive in Knowles Hall. Various Residence Life staff served on committees and task forces charged with developing retention programs and increasing opportunities for out-of-class learning and engagement.

To build a strong community and facilitate the academic success and personal growth of its residents, Residence Life conducted a variety of social, educational, and cultural programs for students and their families. These included holiday parties for children; celebrations during Diversity Week and International Student Week; the Women Infant Care (WIC) Program; Parents’ Night Out; and Sex Signals, a “sort-of-improv show” presented in part by Residence Life and The Student Assault Resource Center. Additional programming dealt with substance use and abuse, academic success, healthy relationships, and community service.

Residence Life adjudicated over 800 student conduct cases and helped devise a campus-wide disaster response to be implemented in the event of a pandemic.

Due to economic constraints, the Griz Card Center was forced to restructure staff in 2008-2009. Other developments were decidedly more positive. The Griz Card Center instituted electronic ticketing at football games, adopted new policies regarding construction and renovation of campus facilities, and devised strategies to support the general fund. The planned transition from the Blackboard Transaction System Unix Edition to the more advanced and secure Blackboard Transact™ platform progressed significantly. The Griz Card Center continued to plan for imminent software updates, including a new badging system and BlackBoardOne.
The University Center (UC) celebrated its 40th anniversary during 2008-2009 with such special events as “Studio 1969,” an exhibit in the UC Gallery that included an eclectic mix of works representing prevalent styles from the era; a movie series featuring classics from 1935, 1955, and 1969; and the very popular “Cupcake Tuesdays,” a weekly event during the month of February that saw the consumption of many free cupcakes. In conjunction with this celebration, UC staff researched the history of creating a student union on campus and published the findings on the UC website. This project also generated a permanent exhibit in the UC that tells the story of the center and honors two other buildings on campus that previously served as the student union: the current Fine Arts building and the Lommasson Center.

A UC working group completed an internal assessment using the standards of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education. This information is being compiled into a report that will guide the UC in identifying strengths as well as areas for improvement. In late fall 2009, a preliminary report will be issued detailing the results of the assessment. The report will also serve as the basis for an external review that will be conducted during 2009-2010. The findings of both reports will drive the development of a strategic plan to be completed by the following fall. Areas for improvement that have already been identified are strengthening internal controls and improving on-the-job training. Also in late fall 2009, the UC will launch a master planning process to prioritize such projects as the rejuvenation of the atrium, energy/sustainability initiatives, and upgrades to mechanical systems.

In a separate exercise, the UC’s student activities unit, Student Involvement and Leadership Development, undertook a strategic planning process with an eye toward reshaping its programs. This effort was completed while the UC continued to offer the campus community a variety of educational, cultural, recreational, and social programs and activities.

One such program, Study Jam, was implemented during the fall semester. Study Jam is a tutoring initiative made possible by a partnership between the Office of Student Success (OSS) and the UC. The UC provides space in the Commons and the OSS provides tutors for organized student study sessions. During 2008-2009, Study Jam logged approximately 1,800 student visits for an estimated 4,000 student contact hours.

With the stated goal of becoming the most accessible facility on campus, the UC staff created the Accessibility Work Group. This group works to ensure that the UC facility and its programs are welcoming and accessible to all of its constituents. Based upon the group’s recommendations, the UC has purchased new assistive listening devices and now has the capacity to show movies with closed captioning. In addition, plans are in development to renovate two single restrooms into one accessible unit.

A modest inflationary adjustment in the student fee, increases in rental revenues, and prudent budgetary management contributed to another year of fiscal stability for the UC. The UC set aside sufficient funds to address leave liability and at the same time maintain an adequate fund balance to protect against years of decreased revenues and/or increased expenses. The UC funded such capital projects as floor and carpet replacement, the purchase of new furniture, and the reconfiguration of the student organization suite to better serve the needs of staff and student groups.

During 2008-2009, UC staff members remained active in campus committees as well as professional and community organizations. Two organizations, the Clark Fork Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society and the I-LEAD Student Leadership Conference (sponsored by the UC’s professional organization, the Association of College Unions International [ACUI]), awarded special recognition to individual staff members involved with their programs.

Overall, the UC worked collaboratively with Associated Students of The University of Montana, the UC Board, and the UC Business Partners to improve its facility and programs. Just fewer than two million people visited the UC between July 2008 and June 2009. An estimated 152,700 people participated in more than 7,025 campus-affiliated events, and approximately 23,315 people attended 573 non-campus events in the building.
UNIVERSITY DINING SERVICES

UDS achieved an important goal in 2008-2009 when, despite staffing shortages, it provided exceptional guest service to students, faculty, and staff. According to a National Association of College & University Food Services (NACUFS) staff survey, UDS outscored 108 participating universities by large margins. Seventy-four percent of the 3,009 students, faculty, and staff surveyed claimed to be “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the overall service provided by UDS. Written feedback from the survey was provided to all unit managers for immediate action planning.

During 2008-09, UDS collaborated with the School of Business Administration to complete a co-branding project. Local vendors were able to utilize the University of Montana Farm to College (FTC) logo. In addition, UDS assisted the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) with environmental initiatives, including two student reports on green cleaning products, the Green Cleaning Product Seminar presented to the entire custodial staff, and a Green Product Policy to be adopted by the University. In February, UDS collaborated with the ASUM Sustainability Coordinator to host a “Griz Green” men’s basketball game. Only environmentally-friendly products were used.

The FTC program continued to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Quality Council, U.S. Omega Three Foods, Grow Montana, and Montana Food Products. In appreciation for UDS’ commitment to sustainable practices, a group of students hosted a dinner for UDS at the Program in Ecological Agriculture and Society Farm.

To improve its services, UDS took advantage of training and educational opportunities. Various culinary and management staff attended the NACUFS National Conference, Pacific Regional Conference, and Regional Conference. The manager of the Food Zoo was selected by NACUFS to attend its Leadership Institute. The unit’s executive chef attended a supervisory workshop and the UDS dietitian took part in the American Diabetic Association Conference and the Healthy Kitchens Conference. In addition, UDS staff participated in numerous management seminars.

The unit presented information on sustainable practices and nutrition at conferences and through online seminars. The UDS Pandemic Event Response Plan was updated and presented to University administration. The unit’s executive chef provided ServSafe training to UDS and Montana Tech staff.

In addition to imparting information to the community and staff, UDS actively educated students. The unit dispensed food and nutritional information in conjunction with National Food Literacy Month. The unit also facilitated student discussion groups on the subjects of sustainability and the local food movement, and presided over two University events, the “Film Feast-ival” and a “Meatless Meal.”

UDS pursued multiple projects, such as the remodeling of Biz Buzz, the opening of Casa Nina, and the newly built Stadium Kitchen. Due to budgetary setbacks, the Think Tank Project was suspended.

UDS awarded scholarships to eight students, presenting notable student employees with a total of $5,000. Thirty-two student employees received “Student of the Month” recognitions, and one was designated “Student Employee of the Year.”

The unit continued to receive recognition as a leading college and university food service organization. UDS was awarded National Top Honors in the NACUFS Local Food Recipe Challenge for “Chef Siegel’s Hutterite Chicken & Big Sky Mushroom Ragout.” At the NACUFS Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards, Casa Nina received a gold medal, Overall Grand Prize, and the coveted People’s Choice Award for the second consecutive year. UDS Sous Chefs placed second and third in the NACUFS Regional Conference Culinary Challenge. Both received American Culinary Federation bronze medals.