

## Budding scientists make waves

►UGF students land internships, jobs

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The science program at the University of Great Falls is one of the fastest growing programs on campus, and faculty and the administration are trying to provide more opportunities for students to complete undergraduate research.

UGF science students recently proved their muster.

Erin Fenger, a biology major from Galata, and Josh Beaulaurier and Daniel Morris, both biology majors from Great Falls, all participated in the Montana Academy of Sciences and Montana Sigma Xi program. The students presented research topics such as commercially made feed, and road and culvert removal.

Fenger was awarded a \$500 Montana Academy of Sciences student research grant and Morris was in the running for a "best undergraduate talk" award.

Also making waves was junior Moses Leavens. The Great Falls student — who is majoring in biology, chemistry and mathematics — was selected to participate in the Amgen Scholars Program. As such, he will take part in an undergraduate summer research program in science and biotechnology at the Massachu-



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Moses Leavens, a junior at the University of Great Falls, is completing an internship this summer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Leavens is majoring in biology, chemistry and mathematics at UGF and was one of only 26 applicants chosen for the summer program. In recent years, UGF has seen its science program grow in enrollment and is working with students to provide more undergraduate research opportunities.

setts Institute of Technology.

"It's a pretty big opportunity," Leavens said. "(The program) is geared toward students who come from smaller universities."

He was one of only 26 applicants out of a pool of 500 chosen for the summer program. He will be researching and working on development of a vaccine for HIV.

"It's given me a better idea

### Science: UGF science program one of fastest growing on campus

of what I want to do as a career," Leavens said.

Leavens said he has seen more opportunities for undergraduate research start to appear while attending UGF.

Josie Herin, a freshman biology major from Havre, was one of only 12 undergraduate students across the country selected to take part in the Research Experience for Undergraduates in Integrative and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. There were more than 400 applicants for the program.

Her research topic will be "the Role of Metals in the Formation of Bone."

The 10-week program stresses the integration of diverse fields of biology.

Other UGF students landed summer jobs and internships in the science field across the area.

Andrea Spake, a freshman biology major, will work this summer for the U.S. Geological Survey field station in Puget Sound in Washington. While there, she will work on fish pathology and diseases.

Mike Hader, a sophomore biology major, and Morris work with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, studying invasive plant species in the state.

Fenger, sophomores Bob Ward and John Burns, and freshman Chase Burns are all working with the U.S. Forest Service in capacities such as fisheries and wildlife.

Beaulaurier works with Southern Ecological Services as a crew leader for avian inventory for wind-development projects.

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