

Curriculum Vitae

Robert C. Thomas

EDUCATION

Dr. Thomas earned an A.A. from Chabot College ('82), a B.A. in geology from Humboldt State University ('85), a M.S. in geology from the University of Montana ('87) and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Washington ('93).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dr. Thomas joined the University of Montana Western (UMW) faculty in 1993 and has since earned the rank of Full Professor. He has taught the Princeton University (YBRA) geology field camp for 15 years and holds affiliate faculty rank at Idaho State University and the University of Montana. He previously held a faculty appointment at Vassar College and taught continuing education classes for Chabot College and the University of Washington.

TEACHING AWARDS AND HONORS

In 2007, Dr. Thomas received the Distinguished Service Award from the Geological Society of America (GSA). He was the first geoscientist in Montana to ever receive a major award from the Society. In 2008, he became the first geology graduate to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award from Humboldt State University. Also in 2008, he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of America for his contributions in geoscience education. This award is bestowed upon the "best of the profession" according to the Society. He was recently featured in *The Montana Professor* magazine for their "Outstanding Montana Professor" series, and he was previously (2002) nominated for the CASE U.S. Professors of the Year Award.

GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Thomas has authored 60 publications (33% included undergraduate co-authors), edited 7 books, organized dozens of symposia and field trips, and has given numerous invited talks. His most recent publications and presentations have focused on the experiential immersion learning system that he helped to pioneer at UMW. His most recent publications on this topic include: *Teaching geology in the field through experiential immersion learning* (GSA Special Paper); *The impacts of immersion learning scheduling on the geoscience curriculum* (GSA); and *Learning geologic time in the field* (Journal of Geoscience Education).

GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION OUTREACH

Dr. Thomas has worked with colleagues and undergraduate students to provide layperson interpretive materials throughout Montana. Examples include 25 geological road signs along the Lewis and Clark Trail, interpretive brochures for state parks, and two layperson books on the geology of Montana (in preparation): *Roadside Geology of the Yellowstone Country*, 2nd ed.; and *Geology Underfoot in Montana*. In 2008, Dr. Thomas and his student's gained national recognition through The Nature Conservancy for their work on stream restoration related to the preservation of fluvial Arctic grayling, an endangered fish in the U.S. The student-authored report for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is entitled: *Inventory and Assessment of the McDowell Reach of the Big Hole River, southwest Montana*.

GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION SERVICE

Dr. Thomas served as an editor for the Journal of Geoscience Education and was on the education committees at GSA and the Paleontological Society. He mentors local k-12 students, founded the UMW science colloquium and does science education on campus radio.

GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION GRANTS

Dr. Thomas has obtained grants totaling \$334,000. They include an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates grant and a DOT grant for geologic road signs in Montana.