Aaron Zimmerman receives Department of Commerce Silver Medal Award

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Aaron L. Zimmerman, a faculty affiliate in the Department of Geography at the University of Montana, was presented the Silver Medal Award of the U.S. Department of Commerce during a ceremony and UM faculty luncheon yesterday, Nov. 4.

Hazen H. Bedke, director of the National Weather Service, Western Region, presented the award to Zimmerman in behalf of Secretary of Commerce Elliot Richardson.

The Silver Medal Award is the second highest given by the commerce department and is granted by the department secretary for rare and outstanding contributions of major significance to the department, the nation or the world. Zimmerman is the only recipient of this award in the National Weather Service in the western half of the United States.

Zimmerman was cited Thursday for his 30-year career in the National Weather Service. His services as meteorologist in charge of the Seattle, Wash., weather service offices during the December 1975 floods in the northwest also were noted.

Zimmerman was also cited for his efforts toward development of ocean services in the Northeast Pacific. Through his personal efforts, weather forecast services for shipping from Alaska to West Coast ports will be significantly improved.

Zimmerman, who was appointed to his post at UM in September 1976, teaches courses involving meteorology at UM. He received the bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from UM in 1949. He also attended the University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.