Cutline: University of Montana professors receiving congratulations

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CUTLINE

Receiving congratulations from University of Montana Profs. J. George Hummel, left, and Lucien Hut are, seated from left, Michael Coonrod, Missoula; Mitzi Kolar, Geyser, and Chris Biehl, Moore.

In competition with students from the United States and Canada, the UM musicians swept the field in collegiate piano events and captured the grand award at the Greater Spokane Music and Allied Arts Festival, which closes Friday (May 9).

In piano events last weekend Coonrod placed first in the Bach section with his performance of Prelude and Fuge in B minor, no. 24. Midweek he was notified of his selection as winner of the festival grand award for the most promising young artist in all divisions. He will receive a cash prize and will appear on a half-hour television program to be taped in Spokane Thursday (May 8) for later broadcast. The grand prize is awarded only if the jury deems a festival entrant worthy of the honor, and in many years it is not given.

In the piano division Miss Kolar took the top award in the romantic section, playing Schubert's Impromptu, op. 90, no. 3. Biehl was winner of the Beethoven section with his rendition of Sonata in C minor, op. 10, no. 1. As a duo-piano team, Miss Kolar and Biehl won the piano ensemble event performing Persichetti's Sonata, op. 13, and Prokofiev's March, op. 99.
Miss Kolar, a sophomore, and Biehl, a freshman, study with Prof. Hummel. Coonrod, a freshman, is a student of Prof. Hut. Their parents are, respectively, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kolar, Geyser; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Biehl, Moore, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Coonrod, Missoula.

Piano division adjudicator Thomas Manshardt commented that the exceptional quality of the UM students is an indication of an outstanding piano faculty at the Missoula school.