

Olson dances her way through life

by Holly Spragg, staff writer

Athletes everywhere have practiced their sport for many years, and for some it has almost been a lifetime.

Samantha Olson is a junior who has danced since she was just over two years old. She said her mom danced when she was younger so she decided to enroll her daughter at Miss Linda's School of Dance.

"From there the love and passion for it just grew, and I haven't stopped dancing since," Olson said. She added that she is now at Sole Dance Academy.

Dance is a sport with many styles, and Olson has done just about everything. She said that she focuses in ballet, tap, contemporary, and hip hop. Her strongest style is jazz/contemporary.

"My favorite style that I have done would be Bollywood," Olson said. "It was so interesting and fun to do." She added that it is was cool to learn more about a different culture.

Olson and Sole Dance Academy went to a national competition in Las Vegas over the summer and won first place. She competed in the title competition and got third place.

"Along the years we've won and placed

highly all over Montana and the country," she said. She added that they have won special awards such as an entertainment and technique award.

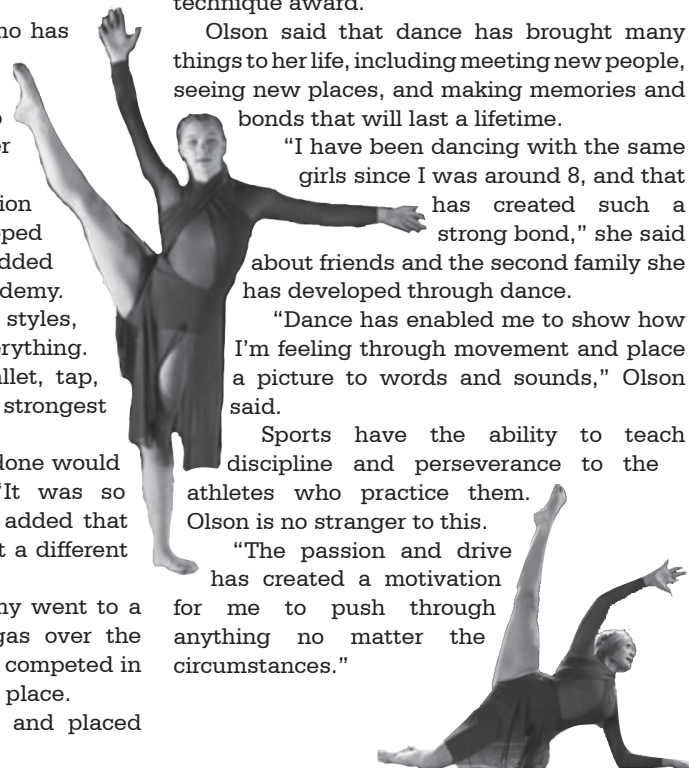
Olson said that dance has brought many things to her life, including meeting new people, seeing new places, and making memories and bonds that will last a lifetime.

"I have been dancing with the same girls since I was around 8, and that has created such a strong bond," she said about friends and the second family she has developed through dance.

"Dance has enabled me to show how I'm feeling through movement and place a picture to words and sounds," Olson said.

Sports have the ability to teach discipline and perseverance to the athletes who practice them. Olson is no stranger to this.

"The passion and drive has created a motivation for me to push through anything no matter the circumstances."



Foreign language students visit UM

by Grace Carr, staff writer

There is one time each year when Charles M. Russell High School students can learn how to salsa dance, have their name written in Hindu, and experience different languages. This opportunity is called Foreign Language Day.

"The University of Montana Department of Foreign Languages offers it to us," Spanish teacher Sara Buley said.

For many years, Buley has taken students interested in pursuing a language while in college to the University of Montana in Missoula. The trip took place this year on March 2, when students crawled out of bed and left Great Falls at 5:15 a.m.

"There are classes to visit and special presentations geared towards certain languages," she said. "I think it's a really good opportunity. It also encourages kids to go to college and continue in language, no matter what language they practice."

There were a variety of classes students visited, including Intro to German, Intro to French, Spanish 101, Putin's Russia, Salsa Dancing, and Dances around the World. They also learned what languages and foreign language clubs are offered at the university.

"I thought it showed me more and taught me more about other languages and the importance of learning a new language," sophomore Jady Martinez said. "I definitely would recommend it for other students."

Sophomore Teagan Tuss agreed that this experience was useful and fun.

"I learned about the study abroad program," Tuss said. "Salsa dancing [was my favorite activity] because it was different, and it was fun."

Tuss said she definitely encourages students to attend future trips.

"I encourage students to go because, whether or not you go to the U of M, it gives them the idea of going to a college campus while school is in progress," Buley said. "I have really enjoyed it, and I go every time."

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