

## RMC PROFESSOR HONORED AT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GENERAL SYNOD

For more information: Rev. Randall Hyvonen, Conference Minister, United Church of Christ, 406-656-8688 or [cm@mnwc-ucc.org](mailto:cm@mnwc-ucc.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College Fine Arts Professor Mark Moak is among six distinguished educators who will be honored June 29, 2009 at the 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich.

“Mark Moak embodies in word and deed vibrant teaching ministries in local churches of the United Church of Christ,” according to Rev. Randall Hyvonen, Conference Minister. “He has been selected in recognition of the critical importance he places on the teaching ministry, for the church and for society.”

Besides being an art professor, Mark Moak is chair of the faculty at Rocky Mountain College, a UCC-related college. He specializes in teaching jewelry and metalwork, calligraphy, and photography. His art history courses, especially Greek art, come alive because he also has worked for more than 20 years on Minoan excavations at Palaikastro, Crete. He and other researchers sifted through more than seven tons of earth and ancient ash to find pieces of the statue, which was charred by a fire that swept through prehistoric town of Palaikastro. The statue had been broken into more than 200 pieces. Last October he shared his 20-year odyssey with the entire community by presenting his statue, an intricate replica of the Palaikastro Kouros.

Mark Moak also loves music, which is why whenever he has time you’ll find him rocking out the beat to classic rock and blues with the band, Midlife Chryslers, comprised of four doctors and an athletic trainer. The Midlife Chryslers play primarily for charitable causes.

“And because it’s a lot of fun,” he laughs.

In the summers he and his wife, Rhett, staff U.S. Forest Service lookout towers, where he keeps a wary watch for smoke and a keen interest in nature. Mark Moak is an active member of the First Congregational UCC Church in Billings, Montana.

Prof. Moak will be honored, with five other educators nominated from across the United States, at the Local Church Ministries Banquet.

Nominators submitted nominations of dedicated teachers and faithful educational programs in the 38 Conferences of the United Church of Christ. These nominations are representative of the thousands of other outstanding educators, members of the United Church of Christ or teaching in UCC-related institutions. They affirm the significance of this effort to provide recognition of the valuable teaching ministry carried on by volunteers and professionals in varied educational settings, according to Rev. Hyvonen.

# # #

6/22/09