

ITEM 139-2002-R0508

**Title of Professor Emeritus of English: Paul Trout; MSU-Bozeman**

**THAT:**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Paul Trout from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

**EXPLANATION:**

Professor Trout joined the faculty of Montana State University as an Assistant Professor in 1972. He received his doctorate in English from the University of British Columbia in 1975 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1978.

As a teacher, Professor Trout has been indefatigable. He has taught all levels of writing, has frequently and happily taught English 123, Introduction to Literary Studies, and has taught a host of other courses including Mythologies, World Literature, Classical and Biblical Backgrounds to Literature, the Novel, popular culture genres, and British literature in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Professor Trout's teaching throughout his career is marked by his devotion to student learning. He demands much of his students (including extensive writing in every course). Students praise his dedication to their learning and the ways in which he encourages and supports the development of their critical thinking.

Professor Trout's scholarly fields are social constructions of literature and professional issues; he is most widely known (both locally and regionally) for his work on classroom standards, student evaluations, academic free speech, and the current state of the Humanities. He has been an important local and regional leader on these questions, pushing the academy to more thoroughly articulate its stances on these issues. More recently, Professor Trout's work has turned more purely scholarly. In fact, his retirement is less about leisure than it is about his determined commitment to develop his ideas regarding mythology, archeology, and paleontology. He is hard at work on a cross-disciplinary project he has entitled "paleomythology." He plans to write a book tentatively titled *Deadly Powers: Tracks of the Predator in Myth*. His retirement is dedicated to that study.

Professor Trout has served on virtually all department committees many times. Moreover, he was the long-time book reviewer for *The Montana Professor*. Professor Trout's career has been a distinguished one, and all aspects have been characterized by integrity and by commitment to the department, the college, and the university.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Paul Trout the rank of Professor Emeritus of English at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.