

# THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN

DATE: Monday, Feb. 10, 2017  
TO: Montana Board of Regents  
FROM: Beth Weatherby, chancellor  
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the March 2017 Board of Regents meeting

## Colt Sale Coming to Montana Western

The University of Montana Western's inaugural colt sale and challenge is coming to Dillon, Mont. from March 31 to April 1, 2017.

In preparation for the event, donated colts are trained by students from October until the date of the sale, totaling around 80 rides for each horse. Students train the colts using natural horsemanship techniques and ensure the horses are trained to handle many aspects of ranch work. Montana Western's sales prep class will participate in the sale and challenge along with Miles Community College of Miles City, Mont.

The event will occur at the La Cense Montana Ranch in their state-of-the-art riding facility. The competition takes place on March 31 at 9 a.m., the colt preview will occur on April 1 at 10 a.m., with the sale at 1 p.m. The University's 49th Annual Rodeo Banquet takes place on campus at the Keltz Arena the evening of March 31.

## UMW holds inaugural winter formal benefiting good cause

University of Montana Western's Department of Residence Life recently hosted an inaugural winter formal on the Montana Western campus.

The dance was conceived of and planned by sophomore and Resident Assistant (RA) Caitlynn Ratliff and fellow RAs, junior Amanda Stobie and junior Gabriela Gomez-Wint.

Residence Life will donate all proceeds from ticket sales to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

March Report 2017

"Based on the success of our first year, the formal will become an annual event," Residence Life Director Mike Piazzola said. "Our students had a great time and raised money for a good cause. That's the Montana Western way."

## Montana Western's Main Hall renovation wins "Best Historic Preservation" award

Building contractors for the University of Montana Western's historic Main Hall renovation were recently awarded "Best Historic Preservation" by the Montana Contractors Association (MCA).

The multi-phase renovation project occurred over a 10-year period, resulting in a dramatic facelift and structural and technological upgrades for the 120-year old building,

Listed on the National Historic Register, Main Hall also serves as home to the university's art gallery and museum, drama facilities and art studios in addition to numerous classrooms, offices and public meeting rooms.

## "Literature and Women" class organizes fundraiser for Women's Resource Center

University of Montana Western English Professor Bethany Blankenship's "Literature and Women" class recently organized an event raising over \$2,000 for the local Women's Resource Center (WRC).

Blankenship began her class by studying the female writers of ancient Greece, to medieval and renaissance female leaders and up to current

graphic novelists promoting social empowerment for women's rights.

The class includes a service learning component as a requirement, which inspired Blankenship to put the students in charge of organizing the fundraiser to benefit the WRC.

The fundraiser included a "pint night" portion, where one dollar from every pint purchased was donated to the WRC, and a silent auction. The auction included items from over 20 local businesses.

#### Montana Western students inducted into English honors society

Six English students from the University of Montana Western have been inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Iota chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society.

This year's inductees include Amanda Joy Ernsberger from Anaconda, Mont., WesleyAnn Johnson, Helena, Mont., Evelyn Miller, Dillon, Mont., Tessa Miller, Manhattan, Mont., Victoria Smithson, Sheridan, Mont., and Alanis Stallknecht, Kalispell, Mont.

Sigma Tau Delta has been part of the Montana Western campus for 15 years. Students have to be invited to join the society, maintain a 3.3 grade point average and be in the top third of their class.

Society induction provides students exclusive access to scholarships, internship opportunities and makes them eligible for numerous awards.

#### During Block Five students study abroad and in Yellowstone National Park

During week two of Block Five, business students traveled to Austria with Professor and Business Department Chair Fred Chilson and Associate Professor of Business Christian Gilde. Chilson led  
March Report 2017

the trip, with the help of Gilde, an Austrian native, from Jan. 18 through Feb. 1.

"Our students had the incredible chance to visit Vienna, the nation's capital, and Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart," Chilson said. "When visiting businesses throughout Austria, our students became familiar with how they plan, organize and control their operations. For students interested in international business, experiences like this are excellent opportunities to see how businesses function around the world."

Gilde and Chilson organized corporate visits to Red Bull, Swarovski Crystal, BMW and Fischer Skis.

Several Montana Western Environmental Science students recently participated in a winter studies class offered in cooperation with the Yellowstone Forever organization.

The immersive two-week course was developed for undergrad students to earn four credits through Montana Western.

The course is an intense field-based program offering a hands-on winter ecology experience supplemented with interviews, guest lectures, readings and field research — all culminating in a final project which students will design and present to their peers.