

THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN

DATE: Wednesday, August 23, 2017
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the September 2017 Board of Regents meeting

Montana Western Ranked Among the Best Equestrian Schools Nationwide

Montana Western was recently ranked among the "Best Equestrian Colleges" by ThoughtCo, an online education resource. The Equine Studies Department offers the nation's only B.S. degree in natural horsemanship. The university also offers a B.S. degree in equine management and associate's degrees in equine studies and natural horsemanship.

Students wishing to compete can participate in the rodeo club or on the equestrian teams. The program is based out of the university's Montana Center for Horsemanship.

Montana Western Alumnus Pens Supernatural Detective Series

The Rankin Flats series of supernatural thrillers has been created and self-published by University of Montana Western alumnus, author Cameron Lowe. The books feature "an exploration of a man lost to darkness who finds his way back to the light thanks to his ghostly best friend and the hope of a healthy, real relationship with a spirited, scarred acquaintance."

All of Lowe's books are available on Amazon.com. Lowe's website and blog are available at RankinFlatsObserver.com.

Alan Weltzien's Summer of Words

Professor Alan Weltzien is spending the summer writing, publishing, editing, and traveling all over the country to launch books and speak about writers including Thomas Savage, Norman Maclean and Ivan Doig.

Along with co-editing an anthology and writing articles for literary journals, Weltzien is the author of a new chapbook.

Weltzien will be rounding out his summer schedule with two speaking engagements at a festival in Missoula/Seely Lake and a symposium at Montana State University.

Montana Western Librarian Appointed to the State Commission

University of Montana Western Librarian Anne Kish has been appointed to a second term on the State Library Commission. She works as both an assistant professor and Interim Library Director at Montana Western along with attending regular meetings for the State Library Commission and assisting the public library in Twin Bridges.

Kish's position is quite beneficial to Montana Western and provides a unique opportunity for better serving the needs of the library's patrons.

Shakespeare in the Parks

Since 1986, the Montana Western School of Outreach has consecutively helped bring Montana Shakespeare in the Parks to the Dillon community. The School of Outreach's mission is to promote lifelong learning.

MSIP's Executive Artistic Director Kevin Asselin directed a unique take on "Macbeth" set in a dystopian future.

Por El Amor Del Arte

Former student Damaris Soto Foster now creates impressionistic paintings on the beaches of Puerto Rico after a unique journey that took her from Puerto Rico to Montana Western and back again. Damaris excelled at painting while attending Montana Western. She won first prize in a 3-D Art competition and graduated Summa Cum Laude.

In addition to her beautiful paintings of the Puerto Rican oceanside, she also has works which tackle issues like mental health and political corruption.

Protectors of the Past

Kailey Judisch is keeping the past alive at her summer internship with the Beaverhead County Museum. Professor Erin Zavitz helped Judisch receive her ideal internship as part of the Experience One program. Judisch has wanted to be a museum curator since she was young.

During her internship, Judisch has had the opportunity to learn about who visits museums and what interests them, information that will be very helpful to her when she becomes a future curator.

Farewell to Kent Ord

Marketing Director Kent Ord retired at the end of June after over a decade of service at the University of Montana Western. Kent was instrumental in getting the word out on Experience One.

His background in interactive education and marketing made him highly qualified and uniquely motivated to spread the word about Montana Western's unique hands-on program. According to Kent, "People learn so much more through interaction which is critical to what we do here. It's all about being able to interact."

To this day, the University of Montana Western remains the only public four-year institution in the country offering block scheduling.

Terry and Linda Rosin: Education Stars

Terry and Linda Rosin, graduates from the class of 1974, were both inducted into the Montana Western Education Hall of Fame this year during the annual Night of Stars ceremony.

After teaching in Grass Range, MT, they then accepted positions in Stevensville, MT. Linda taught band and choir for grades 7-12, started the elementary music program and created a choir for 5-6 graders. Linda was a member of the Federation of Teachers, the Music Educators' National Conference, the General Music Teachers' Association and the Treasure State Orff Chapter.

Terry taught science for grades 7-8 and was the Science Fair director for 35 years. He also helped bring in an After School Scholars program. In addition, he coached basketball and track, and served as an assistant athletic director. He is a member of the Montana Coaches and the Montana Officials Associations.