

January 19, 2012

ITEM 154-2007-R0112

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Soil Science on Clifford Montagne; Montana State University-Bozeman

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Clifford Montagne 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 Montagne received his B.S. from Dartmouth College and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Montana State University. He came to Montana State University in 1975 as an instructor and became an Assistant Professor of Soil Science in 1976. Over his 37 years at MSU, he has made important contributions across its teaching, research, and service missions.

Teaching has been the central focus of his career and Dr. Montagne has made extraordinary contributions to the teaching mission of the university. His signature courses have included Soil Resources, Landscape Pedagogy, and Holistic Management, and he has also made significant contributions to the University Honor's, International Education, and Undergraduate Research Programs. In each of these efforts, Dr. Montagne has immersed students in active learning where they explore real-life natural resource issues and personal decision-making, learning experiences that many students have considered the most impactful they have received at MSU. He has received several teaching awards in recognition for his pedagogy and mentoring of students, including the President's Excellence in Teaching Award, the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Institutional Award, and the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Dr. Montagne's research program started with examining soil-geology relationships and land resource inventory. Since 1998, his efforts have been directed towards the BioRegions Program which uses a holistic problem-solving approach to improve natural and human resources by engaging students, scientists, and community members in interdisciplinary research questions. Dr. Montagne has led visits to Mongolia's Darhad Valley involving over 90 students, faculty, and community members to work on BioRegions projects, publishing this collaborative work in peer-reviewed journals and workshop proceedings. He has received multiple international awards recognizing these initiatives, including the Hovsgol Province Governor's Award in 2010.

Dr. Montagne has provided significant university service during his three decades at MSU. He has served as Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee and most recently was asked by former President Gamble to serve as the first sustainability liaison and the chair of the MSU Sustainability Advisory Council.

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