

May 23-24, 2013

ITEM 159-2002-R0513

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of English upon Greg Keeler, Montana State University-Bozeman

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Greg Keeler 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

Dr. Keeler received his Bachelor of Arts (1968) and Master of Arts (1971) in English from Oklahoma State University and his Doctor of Arts (1973) from Idaho State University. From 1968-69, he taught English at Ataturk University in Turkey and then from 1973-75 at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. In 1975, he was hired as an Assistant Professor of English at Montana State University, then promoted to Associate Professor in 1983 and to full Professor in 1989. Dr. Keeler has been at MSU for over 38 years, during which time he has distinguished himself through superb teaching, prolific creative activity, and selfless service to the department, the university, the community of Bozeman, and the State of Montana.

Dr. Keeler is a specialist in creative writing—in both teaching and production. For many years, he was the sole tenure-track faculty member in creative writing. To say it simply, students loved his classes, finding him a warm, generous, and thoughtful instructor who invited his charges to explore literature and writing with him—whether the genre was poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, or playwriting. He was a master guide through the world of linguistic art, and his students invariably emerged from his classes with richer interpretive insights and more finely-honed writing skills.

The name Greg Keeler is known far and wide for his remarkable range of talents. First of all, he has published eight books of poetry and two full-length memoirs. Dr. Keeler's verse is characterized by an engaging conversational style, lexically rich and unpredictable. He has a rare gift for drawing his reader quickly and deeply into a scene or conversation or relationship with language that strikes the mind's eye and ear in an unpretentious yet deeply evocative way, very often with subtle—or sometimes raucous—humor. From "Rock Chuck Hears a Logging Truck":

Rock chuck is a rusty puff
who makes fat fists when she eats
and cheeps to remind us of
our own strong will to sit
straight up and whistle when
the world comes to pull us apart.

ATTACHMENTS