

THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2018
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the March 2018 Board of Regents Meeting



Alumnus Tony Schoonen Recognized for Conservation Efforts

Montana Western alumnus Tony Schoonen was recently inducted into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame.

During his tenure on the Montana State Legislature, Schoonen fought to protect streams and rivers from encroaching highways.

"The most important legislation that I was involved in was our long standing stream access proposal which Governor Schwinden signed into law in 1985," Schoonen said.

Professor Steve Mock Teaches at Khumbu Climbing Center in Nepal

Montana Western Environmental Sciences professor, Steve Mock, is the director of the Khumbu Climbing Center (KCC), a project of the Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Bozeman, Mont.

The center has become a successful vocational program for indigenous people and over 1,000 local men and women have completed the course.

Topics include technical climbing skills, English language, mountain safety, rescue, and wilderness first aid. The goal is to create a sustainable program that will eventually be completely operated by the local people.

Student Receives Montana Athletes in Service Award

The Montana Campus Compact honored Montana Western sophomore Samantha Hubbard for her outstanding community service work at the 2017 Brawl of the Wild Football Game in Bozeman.

Along with cheerleading, Hubbard volunteers with the Beaverhead County Humane Society, the Montana Western Intramural program, and is a Sunday school teacher and worship leader at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Dillon, Mont.

Majoring in social sciences, she plans to pursue a law degree after graduating.

The Block Schedule Helps Student Find his Passion at Montana Western

Wyatt Sarrazin is a member of the student senate and five different clubs along with working as a carpenter to build sets for the drama department.

He started as a history major, but after his first introductory art class, he was hooked.

"I got into art because of the one-on-one interactions with the professors," Sarrazin said.

Sarrazin believes that if it wasn't for Experience One, the block scheduling program that allows students to focus on one course at a time, he would have never found his passion for the arts.

Glass Artist in Residence Shares her Unique Process with the Campus and Community

Miriam Di Fiore shared her expertise and unique technique for rendering imagery in glass during the Glass Studio Open House, co-hosted by Montana Western's Alumni and Friends.

Originally from Argentina and currently living in Italy, Miriam Di Fiore has traveled the world teaching classes and exhibiting in galleries. Her unique glass layering technique creates a three-dimensional effect that has made her work popular in several museums and permanent collections.

Montana Western students had the opportunity to work directly with the artist in residence during the week of the Open House.

Author Ken Egan Explores the History of Montana's Statehood

The Montana Western "Dances with Words" event held on Nov. 13, 2017 featured executive director of Humanities Montana, author Ken Egan, reading several excerpts of historical non-fiction from his new book.

"Montana 1889: Indians, Cowboys and Miners in the Year of Statehood" chronicles major events from the eyes of prominent figures involved in Montana's journey to statehood.

The first passage Egan read regarded Canadian politician and 19th-century revolutionary, Louis Riel.

Egan emphasized that, "One of the worst things we do [when writing history] is convert historical figures into flat stereotypes. It's my hope that this book will help de-heroicize famous figures in the West."

Mr. Bill Wilson Appointed to Athletic Director Position

Chancellor Beth Weatherby selected Bill Wilson after a national search that brought several candidates to campus. "I greatly appreciate the input we received from students, faculty, staff, and community members. This was a very competitive pool of candidates, which is a testimony to the excellent reputations of our athletics programs, the Frontier Conference, and our University."

Wilson earned a Master's of Education in Athletic Administration from Slippery Rock University and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Eastern Kentucky University. He began his duties on February 1, 2018.

Alumna Pursues Master's Degree at Boston University

Brawner credits her experiences at the University of Montana Western towards helping her earn a full scholarship to Boston University.

Brawner travelled from her hometown of Anchorage, Alaska, to study elementary education at Montana Western.

During her time at Montana Western, Brawner was a member of Chi Alpha, Student Health 101, and the Education Club.

She was also a resident assistant for three years, a position she continues to hold at her new university. She cites Residence Life supervisor, Mike Piazzola, along with Student Wellness Coordinator Lexi Benson and Professor of Education Laura Straus as the people who inspired her most during her time in Dillon, Mont.

Student Liz Hanson Examines the Validity of Horse Personality Questionnaires

On her senior project, Hanson said, "It's a trend in the horse world. People put a lot of emphasis on horse personality when it might not be valid."

To test her theory, Hanson travelled to five different facilities in Montana. For 52 different horses, she asked the primary owner to fill out a questionnaire describing the horse's personality.

She then recorded video footage of the horse and had a group of experts rate their personality.

By comparing the two results, she hopes to scientifically measure the effectiveness of these questionnaires.

Scholarship Honors Memory of Colton Tanner Rohlf

Montana Western Senior Delaney Hansen is the first recipient of the Colton Tanner Rohlf Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship honors the memory and life of Colton Rohlf.

Delaney and Colton were good friends who collaborated on many projects together while they were involved in the Student Senate at Montana Western.

"Colton has a permanent place in my heart, and I intend on carrying the memory of him with me as I continue my education and begin my career," Delaney said.

Colton's love for helping others wasn't limited to Montana Western, as he also performed many services in his hometown of Great Falls, Mont., including volunteering with the Special Olympics.

Author Caroline Patterson Reads at Dances with Words

Patterson is an award-winning author and Executive Director of the Missoula Writing Collaborative.

She read from her new book, "Ballet at the Moose Lodge," a collection of 16 short stories that explore what it is to be a female in the American West.

On her writing process, Patterson said she often comes up with endings first before working her way back to the beginning.

Kim Zupan, author of "The Ploughmen," wrote of Patterson's stories, "The emotional breadth of these heart-wrenching yarns is vast, the characters within them fragile yet counterintuitively rugged and complex."

Math Major Baleigh Doyle Excels During NASA Internship

University of Montana Western junior Baleigh Doyle spent her summer at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland analyzing data for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Doyle was asked to continue working for NASA remotely at the conclusion of her internship. She accepted and believes it wouldn't be possible without the one-course-at-a-time block scheduling system and Experience One program implemented at the University of Montana Western.

Doyle has excelled at math since enrolling at Montana Western. Her good grades helped get her a job as a tutor along with her internship for NASA. Doyle plans to start a career with NASA once she finishes school.