

**The University of Montana Western
Academic Newsletter
Fiscal Year 2007-8 Block 5 Issue
February 5, 2008**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

O. Alan Weltzien, Professor of English, happily announces that *The Norman Maclean Reader*, which he has edited, will be published in September (2008) by the University of Chicago Press. Over the past three-four years Weltzien has worked closely with Press senior editor, Alan Thomas, John N. Maclean, and Jean Maclean Snyder to bring this project to fruition. The *Reader* includes several miscellaneous essays (some published before), an interview, and selections of letters to four widely different individuals important to Maclean's writing. Probably of most interest, it includes six pieces of Maclean's never before published. Five of these are chapters from his uncompleted book about George A. Custer and the Battle of Little Bighorn, which he worked on mostly between 1959-63. *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*, which became an instant classic of American literature and which changed Montana literature, was published 32 years ago. *Young Men and Fire*, published sixteen years ago (posthumously), won a national award for best nonfiction (1992). The *Reader* represents the third and final book by one of Montana's best-known writers.

Dr. Gary Lundy has been informed that *The Tule Review*, out of Sacramento, CA, has taken his poem *fault* for publication in their upcoming issue. Two of Professor Lundy's poems, *a failure of promise* and *can we ever retrieve what has been* from his long poem *loves conduit* were accepted by the journal *prairie winds* out of Dakota Wesleyan University in South Dakota. Finally, his story "creations myth" is now in print in the online journal *Ignavia*.

NCATE VISIT

In October of this year the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education will have its seven year accreditation visit. Dr. Delena Norris-Tull has been leading our preparation for this visit. As with NWCCU, this preparation involves the writing of a major document as well as electronic and physical exhibits. While much of the work for this visit needs to be done by the education faculty and administration, some involvement of all faculty and staff across campus will be needed for a successful visit.

NWCCU VISIT

In the spring of 2010 Montana Western will have its major 10 year visit from the Northwest Association of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Two years before each 10 year visit NWCCU sends a single representative to each campus under review in order to assess their readiness to complete their self-study and prepare for the site visit by a team of evaluators, mostly consisting of trained volunteers from other colleges and universities. In our case, NWCCU will be sending Dr. Ronald L. Baker, Executive Vice President of NWCCU, to campus, probably some time in March.

Assistant Provost Brian Price is at training meetings in Seattle later this week in preparation for calling the first meeting of the NWCCU Self-Study Steering Committee. That committee will be finalized soon and will guide and coordinate the rest of campus in the preparation of the written self-study as well as exhibits that document what is stated in the self-study. This is a major process that necessarily includes everyone on campus to one degree or another.

ACADEMIC DISCUSSION FOLLOW-UP

A second academic discussion on Western's current B.A. programs occurred on Friday, February 1st. Discussion on the topic was also held at Faculty Senate on February 4th with further discussion being referred back to departments. Department recommendations on how to proceed are due by April 1, 2008. Major issues discussed included that there is only one recognized major in the B.A., in "Arts", due to historical reasons that no longer apply.

There is little promotion of the "Arts" major as an entity since "Arts" graduates of the separate programs within the degree (Option/Related Area combinations) have almost nothing in common with one another. A number of the B.A. programs are difficult to impossible to complete in four years given the large number of credits required and the difficulty in scheduling courses so that students are able to make progress each block on completing their degree requirements. There is also currently almost no way for students to complete the B.A. with in depth study of disciplines found in different departments.

Note:

This newsletter will be posted on the Provost's website at <http://www.umwestern.edu/administration/ycaa/newsletters/> Back issues can also be found at the same site. It will also be mailed to Dillon community members who express an interest in receiving it. The purpose is to have a central, broadly distributed information resource to keep people informed about Western, its programs, and its faculty, staff, and students. If you have information that you believe would be appropriate for this newsletter please send it to Karl Ulrich in the Provost's office, k_Ulrich@umwestern.edu