

**The University of Montana Western
Academic Newsletter
Academic Year 2010-11, Block 3 Issue
November 3, 2010**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Bethany Blankenship has been informed that two of her articles have been published. One, "Real World Ethics in the Tech Comm Classroom" can be found at the peer-reviewed on-line journal *Academic Exchange Extra*. The other, "Experiencing Experiential Learning" can be found in the September issue of the *Montana English Journal*. Both are teaching and learning articles about her experiences here at Montana Western.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY EVENTS

Library Director Mike Schulz organized the following programs for Native American Heritage Day, Friday, Sept. 24, 2010. Both of these programs were held in the STC Great Room.

Presentation One

- John Xanthopoulos spoke for 30 minutes on UMW Education Department's focus on multiculturalism and specifically their work with Native Americans; Q and A followed.

- A slide show of Native American art was presented after Dr. Xanthopoulos' presentation.

Presentation Two

- Jeanna Meier-Francisconi and Michael Francisconi spoke for 30 minutes on the Navajo people and their experiences living with them; Q and A followed.

- A slide show of Native American art was shown after Dr. and Mrs. Francisconis' presentation.

NEW UM PRESIDENT VISIT

Newly selected University of Montana President Royce Engstrom had his first visit to Montana Western as President on November 3rd. President Engstrom met with campus and community constituencies listening to their concern as well as eliciting their opinions on the strengths of the campus and its people. President Engstrom has assured Montana Western that he will have open lines of communication with our campus and develop further areas of collaboration where that makes sense.

NWCCU PROCESS

The campus, lead by Assistant Provost Brian Price, has been working on the development of Core Themes that are required under the new evaluation process of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). All campus constituencies will have a role in

development of these core themes, which have already seen several iterations. A report on the new Standard One is due to the Commission this March, including the core themes and their process of development.

NEW DEGREE, MAJOR, MINOR AND OPTION PROCESSES

The Board of Regents will be considering the first batch of new major, minor, and option proposals from Montana Western at their next meeting on November 17-18. For the most part, these represent a restructuring and application of new nomenclature to programs already being offered by Montana Western. None of the changes will require additional faculty or other resources. Proposals for new B.S. Majors in Biology, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Interpretation and Mathematics as well as a new B.A. Major in English (with minors in Creative Writing, Professional Communications, and Literature) will be considered for approval at the November meetings.

Being prepared for submission at the January BOR meeting are proposals from the History, Philosophy and Social Science Department (five new B.A. Majors (Anthropology & Sociology; Global Politics; Modern History; Interdisciplinary Social Science; and Psychology, and six new B.A. Minors (Anthropology; Global Politics; Modern History; Legal Studies; Psychology; and Sociology)), a proposal for a new B.S. Major in Health and Human Performance for those not seeking a teaching career, and a new proposal from the Education Department that would require all secondary and K-12 teachers to complete double majors in Secondary Education and in their content areas.

Collectively, the first and second batch of these proposals represent a restructuring of most current academic programs at Montana Western that will greatly benefit students in years to come if approved. Approval of the second batch of proposals will hopefully come at the March 2011 meeting, in time for the 2011-12 catalog.

Note:

This newsletter will be posted on the Provost's website at <http://www.umwestern.edu/administration/vcaa/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 Montana Western, its programs, and its faculty, staff, and students. If you have academic 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