

**The University of Montana Western  
Academic Newsletter  
Academic Year 2010-11, Block 4 Issue  
December 15, 2010**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Dr. Delena Norris-Tull was named the 2010 Montana Professor of the Year by the Council for the Support of Education (CASE) of the Carnegie Foundation. This is considered to be the highest recognition for excellence in teaching that can be received by college faculty members in the U.S. Details can be found on-line at: [www.umwestern.edu](http://www.umwestern.edu)

Professor Craig Zaspel published in the Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials: "Antivortex Gyrotropic Motion in a Nanocontact", October, 2010. He has started working on methods to synchronize vortex-based nano oscillators through antivortices and this is a result of the beginning of this project.

Professor Gary Lundy has received notice that the literary journal *Taproot Literary Review* has accepted his poem "time" to be included in their 23rd edition. *The Rockford Review* has accepted another of Dr. Lundy's poems, "he doesn't mind the world now that he's removed his glasses.," for inclusion in their upcoming edition.

Dr. Michael Gilbert has had an article accepted for publication in *Molecular & Biochemical Parasitology*. The article is "An Atypical Proprotein Convertase in *Giardia lamblia* Differentiation" Authors are B.J. Davids, M.A. Gilbert, Q. Liu, D.S. Reiner, A.J. Smith, T. Lauwaet, C. Lee, A.G. McArthur, and F.D. Gillen.

Professor Alan Weltzien's first book--a chapbook--of poetry, *To Kilimanjaro and Back*, has been accepted for publication by Stephen Austin University Press, of Nacogdoches, Texas. This chapbook stems from a June, 2009 trip Dr. Weltzien took with oldest son, Alec Weltzien, to East Africa. He journalled and photographed extensively. The poems come from their experiences in Nairobi, Arusha (Tanzania), Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area, and Serengeti National Park. Last winter Dr. Weltzien joined the poetry circle hosted by poets Roger Dunsmore and Jenni Fallein, and many of these poems were revised after this workshop. The chapbook should be published and available early in the new year, 2011. He plans to give a reading in The CUP in Block V, in part to launch the chapbook.

Professor Diana Francis has had the following publications: "The Colonial Feminine in Pat Murphy's "His Vegetable Wife"" in *Science Fiction, Imperialism and the Third World; Bitter Night*, the first of her Horngate Witches series, was just released in Germany under the title: *Shadowblade: Dunkle Fesseln*, translated by Jakob Schmidt; and *Crimson Wind*, the second in Dr. Francis's Horngate Witches series, releases on December 28th.

Professor Rob Thomas has been chosen as the commencement speaker for Humboldt State University in May, 2011. His entire family has been invited out for several days of festivities, including three institutional commencement addresses, including to the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the College of natural Resources and Sciences, and the College of Professional Studies. As a graduate ('85), and this being the place where his academic journey essentially began, he is extremely proud to have been asked to come back and address the graduates.

During a recent visit to Montana Western by the University of Montana Missoula provost and two associate provosts, Dr. Linda Lyon was informed that she was awarded a grant from The University of Montana to fund her travel to Grenada for a month in the spring of 2012 to perform research and teaching in collaboration with former Montana Western Professor Andrea Easter-Pilcher.

### **COLLABORATION DISCUSSIONS**

During the same visit that Dr. Lyon received her award letter, a number of other areas for increased collaboration between The University of Montana campuses were discussed. This included ways for Montana Western faculty and students to take greater advantage of the services and programs overseen by the International Office on the Missoula campus. Further collaborations in the areas of student services, developmental education, and academic programs were also discussed with preliminary plans being made for additional meetings.

### **NWCCU PROCESS**

Progress is being made on the year one report that is due to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) this coming March. Part of this process is to develop core themes that collectively encompass our mission. Assistant Provost Brian Price is coordinating this activity with draft documents being shared widely across campus.

### **NEW DEGREE, MAJOR, MINOR AND OPTION PROCESSES**

This year has been a busy one with submissions to the Board of Regents of Level II or major academic changes. These included the creation of a new academic department as well as the creation of a number of new B.A. and B.S. majors, mostly from existing option areas in the current B.A. major. Some of those were approved at the November BOR meeting, details of which can be found at: <http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2010/Nov2010/ARSA/Nov2010-ARSA.asp>

Another batch of proposals is being submitted for the January BOR meeting with final approval expected to occur at the March meeting. The second batch of proposals includes a total restructuring of Montana Western's secondary education offerings, new majors from existing options in the History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences Department, and a new non-teaching major in Health and Human Performance.

## **TENURE AND PROMOTION RECOGNITION EVENT**

As has been the custom the past several years, there will be a recognition event for those receiving tenure and/or promotion effective during the 2010-11 academic year sometime next semester. The date and time will be announced early next semester.

## **TENURE AND PROMOTION APPLICATIONS FOR 2010-11**

According to the faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) the tenure and promotion "...procedures shall allow all interested parties to submit written documentation." This newsletter item is the official call for such documentation. Please submit signed written statements to the Office of the Provost by no later than January 10, 2011 so that the Tenure and Promotion Committee can review and assess its contents. Complete Tenure and Promotion review procedures can be found in the faculty CBA page 19, section 9.430.

[http://my.umwestern.edu/administration/vcaa/CBA\\_2008.pdf](http://my.umwestern.edu/administration/vcaa/CBA_2008.pdf)

Applicants who have applied for tenure and been determined to have met the minimum time in service and terminal degree requirements for review include: Bethany Blankenship, Sara Glasgow, Linda Lyon, Fredrick Chilson and Megan Chilson; for promotion to Associate Professor Brent McCabe and David Regan; for promotion to Professor Michael Morrow and Sean Eudaily.

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](mailto:k_Ulrich@umwestern.edu)*