

**The University of Montana Western  
Academic Newsletter  
Academic Year 2010-11, Block 6 Issue  
February 25, 2011**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Professor Gary Lundy has received news from *Voices Israel* that they have accepted his poems “wonderful contemplative nothing/ to be pulled together” and “curious women. one. returned from pakistan. say august. the other.” for inclusion in their upcoming edition.

Student Rebecca Davis had two poems, "Hay Fire" and "Palms" accepted for publication in *ScissorTale Review*, Winter 2011 issue. Student Katie Redfield also had two poems, "small cloud" and "litany" accepted for the same issue of *ScissorTale Review*.

English faculty member Rebecca Knotts had a long poem of hers, "We Speak of Sacred Things," published as a chapbook as part of the *dusie kollektiv #5: winter 2011* series by Dusie Press, Switzerland.

The Fall 2010 issue of *The Montana Professor* contained an article “The Female Professor on Film” by Dr. Bethany Blankenship. A highly favorable book review of “The Norman McClean Reader: Essays, Letters, and Other Writings By The Author of A River Runs Through It” edited by Professor O. Alan Welzien, can also be found in the issue. The book review was written by Keith Edgerton.

Professors Sheila Roberts and Craig Zaspel gave an invited talk January 27th at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, entitled, "Looking for climate trends in a century of weather data for Southwest Montana." The work presented is an extension of a research project begun with the "Weather and Climate" class that Roberts and Zaspel revised this year with funding from the NASA Space Grant Consortium. The revision replaced a lecture-based "Meteorology" class with a new experiential class.



Montana Western Professors Steve Mock and Rob Thomas recently returned from Nepal where they did some volunteer work at the Khumbu Climbing School in the shadow of Mount Everest. The mission of the school is: *To increase the safety margin of Nepali climbers and high altitude workers by encouraging responsible climbing practices in a supportive and community-based program.* Dr. Mock helped to organize the instructors and teach climbing techniques to native guides while Dr. Thomas provided instruction in the geology of the region. Professor Mock also taught at the school in 2008. They report having some excellent photographs among the thousands of pictures they took. These will make for some very interesting presentations, coupled with their excellent storytelling abilities.

## **NWCCU REPORT**

The new seven-year review cycle for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities begins with the submission of the university's year one report this week. The new procedures required a report on the new **Standard One: Mission, Core Themes, and Expectations**. Assistant Provost Brian Price has taken the lead on writing and collecting input on this important document. Collectively, the core themes encompass the current mission of the university, which they are required to do. It reinforces the excellent progress made by the university under Experience One scheduling.

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

On the consent agenda for the March 3-4 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. Details of these proposals can be viewed at:

[http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2011/Jan2011/2011Jan-Level\\_II.pdf](http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2011/Jan2011/2011Jan-Level_II.pdf)

Along with the new majors approved at the November meeting, Montana Western will now have many more true majors, minors and options that will better meet the needs of its students while not requiring any new resources. Details of the programs approved in November can be found at:

<http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2010/Nov2010/ARSA/Nov2010-ARSA.asp>

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)*