

**The University of Montana Western  
Academic Newsletter  
Academic Year 2011-12, Block 1 Issue  
September 19, 2011**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Professor Alan Weltzien participated in the biannual ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment) conference, 21-26 June, at Indiana University. On his panel he presented a cutting from the second chapter, "Standard Routes, Standard Highways" from his recently completed (next) book, tentatively titled *Exceptional Mountains*. Currently the manuscript is with outside readers for Oregon State University Press.

Dr. Weltzien also had a poem, "Alec and Airports," accepted for publication in *Stone's Throw*, an online literary magazine. After a series of delays, his poetry chapbook, *To Kilimanjaro and Back*, will be published by the beginning of October. The newly republished second novel of Thomas Savage, *Lona Hanson* (1948), has now been released. Drumlummon Institute, in cooperation with Riverbend Publishing (both Helena), is issuing the reprint. Dr. Weltzien helped prepare the edition and wrote the introduction.

Professor Weltzien is participating in the Montana Festival of the Book (7-8 October), in Missoula, on two panels: a poetry (reading) panel; and a panel launching T. Savage's newly republished second novel, *Lona Hanson*.

Concurrently with the BookFest, the annual WLA (Western Literature Association) conference also occurs in Missoula (5-8 October): Dr. Weltzien is chairing and moderating a panel he organized ("Home on the Ranch?"), involving several writers, and he is moderating a second roundtable devoted to writer, Rick Bass.

*The Norman Maclean Reader*, which Dr. Weltzien organized and edited, was originally published by the University of Chicago Press in November, 2008 (hard copy). In May 2012 UC Press will bring out a paperback edition of the *Reader*.

Last April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Montana Wilderness Association's annual meeting held at Gallatin Gateway. Professor Jack Kirkley was given the MWA Founder's Award, their top award of the year. The MWA president read the following:

*The **Founder's Award** is given each year to the member who best exemplifies outstanding and enduring dedication to the cause of Wilderness and the mission of the Montana Wilderness Association.*

*This year we present this award to Jack Kirkley -Dillon.*

*Jack has been a lonely voice for wilderness and an MWA member for a quarter century in Dillon where he lives. Jack has been a courageous voice for wilderness in Beaverhead County for all those years, writing letters to the editor, **and more letters**, showing up at hearings, popular or not. **Mostly NOT**. In years past, as he raised a family in Dillon, he has weathered ugly threats and blatant intimidation, refusing to be silenced in his support for things wild- throughout the Forest Plan , forest road and wilderness wars of the 1980s and into the 90s.*

*Jack is also scientist, for many years tracking the movements of goshawks. The new Forest Plan references Jack's avian studies across the wilds of southwest Montana*

*When the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act was introduced, in July 2009, Jack called MWA; **very unhappy!** The draft bill included a corridor for OHVs to Tendoy Lake, deep in the East Pioneers proposed Wilderness.*

*Jack called Senator Tester's office ..... **steamed**. The senators staff explained why they included the corridor but said- "It's a draft. The senator is willing to listen and make changes."*

*Jack focused his passion like a razor, leading field trips, taking pictures, working with the local ranger, making calls*

*and generating a pile of letters to restore full wilderness protection to Tendoy Lake.*

*Last fall, when the bill was amended, thanks to Jack's tireless passion and belief, the OHV corridor was gone, and beautiful Tendoy Lake restored to heart of the magnificent East Pioneers proposed Wilderness.*

*It's quiet again in Tendoy Creek..... OHV scars will slowly mend as wildness returns -and Jack will once again be leading a Wilderness Walk into his beloved East Pioneers Wilderness this summer.*

*Thank you Jack!"*

Professor Rob Thomas will be receiving three awards for his photographs from the Geological Society of America at their October 2011 meeting. The photographs are shown below:



Dr. Thomas's image *Khumbu Mist* (far right) has been awarded First Place, Iconic Images; his entry *Ama Dablan* (far left) has been awarded Honorable Mention, Iconic Images; and his entry *Pallet of Yellowstone* has been awarded Honorable Mention, Geologic Processes. There were more than 300 photographs submitted to the 2011 GSA Photo contest, making it a very competitive field.

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)*