

September 18-19, 2013

ITEM 160-2701-R0913

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of English for Sue Hart; Montana State University Billings

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Sue Hart from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty extends its appreciation for her 50 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of English, Philosophy, & Modern Languages, to the University, and to the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred on her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Since joining the English faculty in 1961, Professor Hart made major contributions to her department, university and community in teaching, service, scholarship, and innumerable other personal and professional areas. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979 and to full Professor in 1986.

In teaching, Professor Hart developed and taught innovative courses in Montana Writers, Adolescent Literature, Women in Literature, Writing the Mystery Novel, and Magazine Article Writing. She became a popular and widely sought-after teacher among beginning college students, as well, for her College Writing, Introduction to Creative Writing, and Introduction to Literature courses.

In campus service, Professor Hart contributed to the University throughout her tenure in a variety of capacities. For 16 years she directed the Women's Studies Center. From the 1960s to her retirement she coordinated Ivy Guard, the women's academic honor guard highlighting MSU Billings' graduation ceremony, while also supporting women through many other speaking and organizing activities. For more than 20 years, she played an active role on the Commencement Committee, ultimately chairing it for over 15 years, helping to arrange speakers, organize events, and proofread the program. She also served MSUB on many other committees, from one-time search committees to other long-term departmental and campus-wide committees.

Professor Hart's service to the cultural life of our city, region and state included a wide variety of activities. As a member of the Montana Committee for the Humanities Speakers Bureau, she was a very popular presenter, and over the years, she has also spoken at numerous venues on the MSUB campus, in Billings, all over the state, and beyond, including a large number of academic conferences and workshops. For a number of years, she produced and hosted the public access television program *Montana Books and Authors*, as well as serving on the board of the High Plains BookFest and conducted a community book group through St. Vincent's Healthcare. She hosted topical-discussion tables at "Food for Thought," the annual Parmlly Billings Library fundraiser, and she donated her time and expertise to countless other good causes.

The value Professor Hart has brought to the literary life of the state and region is evident in the legacy of her presentations, publications and documentary films. With an extensive background in journalism and an encyclopedic knowledge of Montana and western writers, Professor Hart has written prolifically for a wide

variety of newspapers, magazines, journals, and books, as well as producing monographs on Montana authors - Thomas Savage and Mildred Walker. She is especially well known for her many book reviews in the *Billings Gazette* and *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* and for her feature stories published in the *Montana Senior News*. She co-produced and wrote the script of the Montana PBS documentary about Dorothy M. Johnson entitled *Gravel in her Gut and Spit in her Eye* and produced the award-winning PBS documentary *Paradise and Purgatory: Hemingway at the L-T and St. Vincent's Hospital*. Her historical chronicles include *Yellow-Stone & Blue: The First 75 Years, Montana State University-Billings*; *The Call to Care 1898-1998: St. Vincent Hospital and Health Center: The First 100 Years of Service*; *Billings, Montana's Trailhead*; *Montana Center on Disabilities: Focusing on Abilities*; and *Fra Dana: American Impressionist in the Rockies*.

Through the years, Professor Hart's writing, teaching and community contributions have earned her local, state and national honors. Amongst her many other recognitions, she received the Eastern Montana College Foundation Distinguished Faculty Award for Community Service in 1984 and 1990, the 2002 Montana Historical Society Educator's Award, the 2005 Montana Governor's Humanities Award, a 2007 MSU Billings Faculty Excellence award, and the WILLA Literature Award in 2007 for Best Creative Nonfiction. She was also a finalist for the 2006 and 2012 High Plains BookFest awards and for the 2006 Spur Award for Best Documentary Scriptwriting. Also worth mentioning as an indication of Professor Hart's versatility, she won a prestigious PEN Syndicated Fiction Award for her moving short story "Star Pattern" in 1987.

Even more than awards and ceremonies, however, the measure of Professor Hart's long and rich career must include all she has done for countless students, with whom she has shared endless hours of guidance and encouragement; for colleagues, whom she has selflessly mentored; for fellow writers, whom she has always encouraged in their efforts and for whom she is never too busy to provide feedback on their work; and for the public at large, who has benefited immensely from the knowledge she has shared in written and spoken forums.

It is therefore the consensus of her colleagues in the Department of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages that her numerous contributions as summarized above, and her endless energy and generosity of spirit underlying all she has done, make Professor Sue Hart eminently worthy of the designation of Professor Emeritus of English at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments