

THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN

DATE: Wednesday, June 14, 2017
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the June 2017 Board of Regents meeting

Professors Publish Anthology

Overchoice: Too Much to Choose From, Too Little Time is a new anthology created by the University of Montana Western's Associate Professor Christian Gilde and Professor Fred Chilson. The book features several authors tackling the effect of an overabundance choices on the modern consumer.

From something as simple as choosing which shampoo to buy, to deciding on a career, the possibilities are astronomical, and that's not always a good thing.

Legacy Plaza

The first annual Legacy Plaza Celebration took place this year, bringing 50-year alumni together with recent graduates of the university. The group came together to watch the class of 2017 receive their own brick placed onto the university grounds. The bricks that make up the plaza are engraved with the names of graduates, memorials to deceased loved ones, and famous quotes.

Commemorative bricks of varying sizes can be purchased at the University of Montana Western Foundation and Alumni office.

Commencement

Montana Western held its 120th annual commencement ceremony on May 6, 2017. 348 students graduated at the event which featured speaker Julie Cajune. The university also honored Bob Hanson, Montana Farm Bureau president, with the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award.

440 degrees were awarded at the event, the second highest in university history, and 47 percent of the students graduated with honors.

Years of Service Awards

Academic Advisor Margo Heberling helped organize this event which celebrates the long history many staff and faculty members share with the University of Montana Western.

This ceremony shines a light on all the hard work it takes to keep the University of Montana Western running.

Goodbye Mike Schulz

Library Director Mike Schulz is retiring at the end of June after 26 years of employment at the University of Montana Western. Montana Western has been a part of Schulz's life since 1975 when he first became a student here.

Before becoming the library director, Schulz worked at the university as the campus coordinator for Elder Hostel, now Road Scholar.

Schulz plans to spend his retirement writing a family history, reading voraciously, and filling up the dark spaces on his traveller's map.

Rob Thomas Teaches Roadside Geology Course in Yellowstone

Professor Rob Thomas works with the Yellowstone Forever organization each summer to teach his Roadside Geology Course.

Professor Thomas is the co-author of the second edition of *Roadside Geology of Yellowstone Country*. The book is meant as a guide for people observing the beauty of Yellowstone from their vehicles.

Rock fanatics of all ages will have three days to pick the professor's brain as they tour one of the nation's most popular national parks.

Natural Horsemanship Graduate

Recent graduate Ava Duncan is a powerful advocate for UMW's natural horsemanship program.

Duncan came all the way from Atlanta, Ga. to enroll in the only four-year natural horsemanship program in the country. Since completing her degree, she has found a job starting colts for polo players in Wyoming.

Speaking about Experience One, she said, "Over time, you can see where the program goes from extremely structured to just guidance. It's teaching people how to think about what's going on with a horse in an effective way that suits them, versus creating robots."

Student Studies Sharks

Student Alexis Brunz spent the fall of 2016 studying nurse sharks off the coast of South Caicos as part of her internship requirements for graduation. The International Union for Conservation of Nature considers the nurse shark a data-deficient species, so Brunz and a group of students from around the world were chosen to tag and track these fascinating creatures.

The University of Montana Western is known for its great environmental studies courses and professors. The block system, along with the location, make the university an ideal place to learn about conservation work.

Brunz felt that her time at the university was great preparation for her work in South Caicos. She reported that she had much more experience in the field than many of her colleagues.