

THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN

DATE: Monday, May 1, 2017
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the May 2017 Board of Regents meeting

Dr. Craig Zaspel's Research in Magnetism Has Applications in Cancer Research

The Professor of Physics at the University of Montana Western, recently had his article "Vortex Precession in Thin Elliptical Ferromagnetic Nanodisks" accepted for publication by the Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials.

Zaspel collaborated with physicists at the Institute of Magnetism in Kiev and Kansas State University to study the magnetization of nanoparticles.

Zaspel said, "Research is being conducted on inserting nanomagnets into cancer tumors in mice." Putting microwave energy into nanomagnets causes them to vibrate, which breaks down and kills cancer cells.

The University of Montana Western Offers Glass Degrees, Certificates, and Minors

UMW's new glass programs will be run by Assistant Professor Michael Hengler.

The students will be able to focus on glass sculpting for artistic, practical, or scientific purposes.

Montana Western will be the only university in the country offering a four-year degree with a scientific glass specialization. Paid internships will be offered to students in the major.

Professor Alan Weltzien's Literary Regions Class Visits Death Valley

Literary Regions is an interdisciplinary course in geology and literature. Weltzien's students focus on scientific texts and literature about the American Southwest.

Professor Weltzien and his students hiked through the Death Valley National Park for several days. Retired Montana Western Geology professor Sheila Roberts was also in attendance along with her husband Tom Satterly. Together, Roberts and Weltzien came up with the idea for the class on deserts and literature.

Roberts instructed the students on geologic formations while Satterly was able to educate them on the night skies. Death Valley is a "Gold Tier" Dark Sky Park. Distance from major cities, and efforts from the National Park Service to minimize light pollution, make this one of the best locations in the country for stargazing.

The Dillon Jaycees Annual Distinguished Service Award Presented to Kevin Engellant

The Dillon Jaycees is a non-profit organization that hosts fundraisers and events in the city of Dillon, Mont. Engellant is an assistant professor of business at the University of Montana Western. He has lived in Dillon, Mont. for 31 years since moving here to attend the university.

He coached basketball for both the Beaverhead County High School and Montana Western. He continues to give back to the community with his "Hook a Kid on Golf" program which teaches children the fundamentals of the sport and provides them with a free set of clubs.

Assistant Professor Francis Davis Has Book Accepted for Publication

Davis' short story collection, "West of Love," will be published by Brighthorse Books in 2018. Davis has been publishing fiction since 1994 when he won a city-wide contest in Philadelphia called "Discovering New Writers of Fiction."

"West of Love" will feature 19 short stories Davis has been working on since 2006. The stories will deal with love, identity, and sexuality, and are set in Philadelphia and in cities throughout the West including Missoula, Seattle, and San Francisco.

Montana Western Unveils New Bulldog Mascot at Alumni Weekend

Montana Western Athletic Director Russ Richardson released the new design for the university athletic logo on April 21, 2017.

He started work on the new design with a committee of faculty, staff and community members in October 2016. They developed this series of attributes they wanted the mascot to symbolize: focus, determination, intensity, fearlessness, pride, uniqueness, engagement, and memorability.

One hundred and fifty free t-shirts featuring the new bulldog were given to alumni during a party at the Lion's Den restaurant.

UMW Alumni Brandon Branscum Returns to Direct "And Then There Were None"

After studying at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, Branscum made a brief return to the University of Montana Western to share his theatre expertise with the students in Dillon. Six showings of the play began at the end of March and ended on April 1.

Branscum was exceedingly positive when speaking of his experience with the local actors. "Honestly, the students here are better than most actors I see in New York," he said. "It's very easy to direct them, and they're all so unique. A lot of actors in New York lose that."

Montana Western Celebrates Instructors and Education Students at Night of Stars

On April 22, 2017, the University of Montana Western hosted the sixth annual Night of Stars and Montana Western Education Hall of Fame celebration. This event recognizes exemplary education alumni and students.

The Friends of Education Award was presented to John Schuyler and Jo Ann Juliano.

The Hall of Fame Inductees for this year were: Amy Piazzola, Terry Rosin, Linda Rosin, Diane Rewerts, Fran Schisler, E. Otis Thompson.