

May 26-27,2021

ITEM 194-1602-R0521

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Physics on Dr. Craig Zaspel, The University of Montana Western

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Zaspel from the faculty of The University of Montana Western, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 37 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Craig Zaspel started his teaching career at the University of Southern Mississippi in the fall of 1982 after spending a few years logging the forests of Montana following his Ph.D. in physics at Montana State University (1975). Dr. Zaspel came to Western in the fall of 1984 and taught a broad array of science classes, including Earth science! Dr. Zaspel was promoted to Associate Professor in 1986, earned tenure in 1987, and was promoted to full professor in 1990. He has served as the physicist in the Environmental Sciences Department since 1995.

Craig Zaspel is one of the best teachers to ever grace the wood-paneled corridors of Block Hall. Over his 37 years at the University of Montana Western, Dr. Zaspel taught physics to countless students in support of the sciences. Craig is physics at Western and Block Hall 112 has been where physics happens for nearly four decades. For those lucky enough to experience “Dr. Z”, they know his quiet, respectful teaching and support of students. Not one to promote himself, Craig has not received nearly the accolades he should have been given for his teaching. Physics is not an easy topic, yet Craig taught it with rave reviews from students for decades. He seemingly never tired of his role, because he got better at it with each passing year. He is the best of us.

Dr. Craig Zaspel is a scholar of the highest caliber. He has over 40 years of research on the theory of magnetic materials with over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and service as a referee for various physics journals. It is not an exaggeration to say that he published more papers in a given year than some physics departments. His various collaborators include the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (NASU); Verkin Institute for Low Temperature Physics and Engineering, Kharkov, Ukraine; Chiba University, Japan; the University of Minnesota; Colorado State University; and Kansas State University (KSU). He plans to continue research and collaboration with NASU and KSU post retirement.

Dr. Zaspel service record has been stellar, including many years on the Tenure and Promotion Committee, serving as a departmental chairperson and teaching classes on “the night sky” for the public. Craig and his spouse Karen have been dedicated contributors to campus events and activities, including campfire gatherings and department meetings at his house over a plate of his tater-tot hotdish! He has been the social glue in the department and will be missed.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments