



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor

RE: Campus Report for the January 2022 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **UMW Names Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**

Montana Western is pleased to announce that Dr. Johnny MacLean has been named the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs after a national search.

MacLean completed his B.S. in Geology at Furman University in 2001, his M.S. degree in Earth Science at Syracuse University in 2004, and a Ph.D. in Geosciences at the University of Montana in 2007.

Serving in the Office of the Provost since 2016 at Southern Utah University, he currently serves as Associate Provost and also served as Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs and as Provost Faculty Fellow. He will begin his new position at UMW on January 3rd, 2022.

- **UMW Football Shares Conference Title and Makes NAIA Playoffs**

The Montana Western Bulldogs clinched a share of the Frontier Conference Championship and a first-round playoff berth with a 50-42 double overtime win against Rocky Mountain College on Nov. 13, 2021.

UMW then faced off against defending National Champions and first ranked Lindsey Wilson Blue Raiders in Columbia, Kentucky on Nov. 21 where they were defeated 48-21. This was UMW's first playoff appearance since 2002.

"This team has a lot to be proud of; winning eight games, securing a share of the Frontier Conference Championship, and making it to the national playoffs is one great year," said Head Coach Ryan Nourse.

- **UMW Professors Receive Grants to Continue Clark Fork Drainage Research**

Dr. Arica Crootof and Dr. Rob Thomas of the Environmental Sciences Department at UMW have both received grants this fall to continue their work on the Upper Clark Fork drainage in the Deerlodge Valley of Montana.

The Consortium for Research on Environmental Water Systems (CREWS) is a five-year, \$20 million-dollar National Science Foundation program involving several state and business partners to study Montana's environmental water systems and specific water quality issues.

Student research supported by past CREWS grants to Dr. Crootof and Dr. Thomas has been disseminated to various stakeholder agencies and is being used to inform and aid in the remediation of the Upper Clark Fork drainage area.

- **Three UMW Cross Country Athletes Compete in National Championship**

Eireann O'Connor, Mason Baseley, and Luke Lutz competed in the 2021 NAIA Cross Country National Championships on Nov. 19, 2021.

O'Connor, a senior from Jackson, Wyoming, led the Bulldogs with a 12th-place finish and 5k time of 18:39.5. Baseley, a sophomore from Palo Cedro, California, finished 238 in the women's 5k with a time of 20:44.5. Lutz, a junior from Frenchtown, Montana, finished 141 overall with a time of 27:05.3.

"I thought we competed really well and demonstrated that we can be really successful at this level," said Head Coach Dylan Zitzer.

- **UMW Hosts "Much Ado About Nothing" by Montana Shakespeare in the Parks**

Directed by Melanie Keller for the 29th season of Shakespeare in the Schools, the company's educational outreach tour, the famous play was performed in 47 different communities this fall throughout Montana and northern Wyoming, including Montana Western's Beier Auditorium on November 2nd.

According to Keller, "'Much ado about nothing' means a great deal of fuss over a thing of little importance, and in Shakespeare's comedy this insignificant little thing is love! Miscommunications and secrets, hidden feelings and identities, puffed-up vanity and even malicious lies contribute to the characters' confusions over who adores whom, who's telling the truth, and whose loves and friendships are genuine."

The performance was followed by talk-back sessions between the audience and the actors to share more in-depth information about the play.

- **UMW Names Bethany Hauer as Director of Student Success**

Bethany Hauer began her new position as Director of Student Success at Montana Western on November 8, 2021.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a Focus in Archaeology and Native American Studies in 2008 and a Master of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Montana in 2011.

With over seven years of experience working directly with undergraduate and graduate students, serving as a mentor, academic advisor, and supervisor, Hauer has also assisted students with navigating the university system, applying for graduate school, and seeking employment opportunities in federal agencies leading to job placement.

- **Montana Western Students Work with Global Customer Experience Consulting Firm**

Helix Business Solutions (Helix), a global customer experience firm, conducted a Customer Experience & Web Assessment Module within Professor Kevin Engellant's Introduction to Web Design class, giving students the opportunity to learn the business principles of customer experience.

"Experience One is our university's mission," said Kevin Engellant. "Giving our students the hands-on experience to work with Helix and some of the brands they consult with is exactly the type of opportunity that students come to Montana Western to be exposed to and we are uniquely positioned to work with a company like Helix because of the flexibility that our block system allows."

- **Montana Western Theater Department Performs "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play"**

The University of Montana Western's theater students performed "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" November 18-21 as part of the Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series.

"It's A Wonderful Life," the American holiday film classic, was creatively transposed into a stage adaptation, as if the story was being told as a 1948 live radio broadcast direct from the imaginary studio of WBFR Radio New York City. A team of student actors from Montana Western stood before retro microphones, creating the voices of dozens of characters and sound effects during this unique show to kick off the holiday season.

- **UMW Glass Program & Fine Arts Gallery Host Artist in Residence**

Glass artist Alex Rosenberg, as seen on the Netflix series “Blown Away,” visited Montana Western this fall to work with UMW students at the glass facilities in the Emerick Art Studio on campus.

Alex Rosenberg is an artist, educator, and writer based between Philadelphia and New York. He received a Master of Science in Visual Studies from MIT and a BFA in glass from Rhode Island School of Design. His artistic practice is rooted in the study of glass as a material, in conjunction with broad interdisciplinary investigation crossing over into many other media and research areas.

This one-of-a-kind example of immersive learning was featured in the Missoulian newspaper and on the morning news from KBZK TV in Bozeman.

● **Montana Western Celebrates First-Generation Student Day**

On November 8, 2021, the Council for Opportunity in Education asked universities around the country to celebrate the fifth annual First-Generation College Student Celebration.

The date marks the 56th anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which increased funding for universities, scholarships and student loans. “First-generation” refers to students whose parents have not obtained a four-year college degree; the TRIO program at the University of Montana Western provides them with a support system to help them navigate the landscape of higher education.

The UMW TRIO program held a tabling event at the Lucy Carson Library where the university community could meet current students in the program and where first-generation UMW students could enter to win a scholarship.

● **Local Author’s Famous Book Comes to the Big Screen**

Dillon-area author, Thomas Savage, grew up as a rancher in Horse Prairie, writing what he knew through 13 books over a 44-year period. His most famous novel, “Power of the Dog,” premiered this fall as a feature film at Big Sky Cinemas in Dillon. The movie, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Kirsten Dunst, is a psychological drama based on 1920s-era life on the Montana ranch where Savage grew up.

The project got its start in 2018, when director Jane Campion contacted now-retired Montana Western Professor Emeritus of English, Dr. Alan Weltzien, regarding the biography he was writing on Savage which was published last year.

Weltzien, Big Sky Cinemas Manager Stan Smith, and Savage’s nephew Sandy James provided tours and fleshed out the history of the area and of Savage. “Campion is so faithful to the spirit of the novel,” Weltzien said. “This director has a history of doing astonishing literary adaptations.” The film began streaming on Netflix on December 1st.

- **Montana Western Presents Fall Concert**

UMW's Cantabileers, a select choral group, performed their fall concert on November 30 in the Beier Auditorium on the University of Montana Western campus.

The concert featured a diverse program, including some traditional songs like "Silent Night," some lesser-known songs like "Jazz Gloria," and several solos and duets.

According to the group's director Dr. Debbie Seacrest, "This group strongly incorporates the experiential side of choir, as there are far more opportunities for students than there would be in a more traditional choir. They not only sing, but they choose the songs and conduct the pieces themselves."

- **Seven UMW Football Players Selected to Academic All-District**

The 2021 Academic All-District Football Teams, selected by CoSIDA, recognizes the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the field and in the classroom. The CoSIDA Academic All-America program separately recognizes football honorees in four divisions — NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and NAIA.

Seven UMW Bulldogs were selected to the first-team for NAIA District 4—Atarangi Moli, Carson Hritsco, Reese Artz, Tanner Harrell, Kyle Schulte, Jonas Nyman, and Latrell McCutcheon—holding an average GPA of 3.58.

- **Montana Western Student-Athlete Honored with Athletes in Service Award**

Montana Campus Compact recently honored 12 Montana University System athletes with the Montana Athletes in Service Award. Among those honored with the award was Montana Western's Bert Paulsen.

Paulsen—a redshirt senior football player—is from Conrad, Montana. He is majoring in elementary education and was Academic All-Conference for the past three years. Paulsen received the Montana Athletes in Service Award for his volunteer work as a referee, an Allstar coach, and his work with Beaverhead Little League.

For 29 years, Montana Campus Compact and its campus affiliates have supported students, faculty, and communities across Montana with programs that encourage and recognize community service.