



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: February 15, 2023
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor
RE: Campus Report for the March Board of Regents' Meeting

- **Innovation Grant Funding to Expand Access to Childcare in Beaverhead County**

The University of Montana Western and its partners—Canvas Early Learning Center and the Early Childhood Coalition of Beaverhead County—are excited to announce receipt of a Childcare Innovations Grant to expand licensed, quality infant and childcare in Beaverhead County.

The \$999,920 award is part of a state-wide initiative directed by the Early Childhood and Family Support Division of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The University of Montana Western and thirty-one childcare providers across the state were chosen to develop and implement innovative community, area, region and/or business-based strategies to expand childcare availability for Montana families.

- **English Honor Society Inducts Seven UMW Students**

On January 13, 2023, the English Department of the University of Montana Western inducted seven new members into its Alpha Epsilon Iota chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, an international honor society.

Candidates for membership in Sigma Tau Delta have attained high academic achievement in the field of English studies. This year's inductees include Crystal Felgenhauer, Draylen Sawyer, Tana Campbell, Samantha Gregg, Laura Symmes, Cynthia Gregg and Brigid Reedy.

- **Dr. Shane Borrowman Publishes Essay in Weber: The Contemporary West Journal**

University of Montana Western Professor of English, Dr. Shane Borrowman, recently had his essay "Cemetery Vodka and the Language of Flowers" published in Weber: The Contemporary West journal.

In this emotional essay, Dr. Borrowman attempts to make sense of two suicides within his family, his great-grandfather in the early 1950s and one of his great-grandfathers' sons in the mid 1990s. The publication represents the culmination of years of research into the author's family history, alcoholism, and suicide.

- **Cowdrey Rodeo Endowment Receives \$25,000 Gift**

The University of Montana Western Foundation is pleased to announce that the Cowdrey Rodeo Endowment has received a \$25,000 gift to support Montana Western scholarships.

In honor of the late UMW alumnus Buz Cowdrey, his wife, Judy, committed the gift to the Endowment which was previously established by the Cowdrey family as a way for them to express their support of Montana Western's rodeo programs and scholarships.

UMW Rodeo Coach, JT Robbins, chose to award a scholarship this spring from the Endowment to Luke Murphy, a junior majoring in Business Administration at Montana Western.

- **Eleven Bulldogs Named to Academic All-Conference Team**

Frontier Conference Commissioner Kent Paulson recently released the 2022 Academic All-Conference Volleyball team roster.

To be eligible for the team, the student-athlete must be at least a sophomore in standing and maintain a 3.25 GPA. The Montana Western volleyball team had 11 athletes selected to the list including Katie Casagrande, Kaylee Fritz, Kelsey Goddard, Morgan Kirch, KayLee Kopp, Taylor Peterson, Jazi Smith, Morgan Stenger, Josie Thomas, Peyton Vogl and Ramyia Wendt.

- **Missoula Children's Theatre Presents "Aladdin" at UMW**

The University of Montana Western was pleased to present "Aladdin" by the Missoula Children's Theatre as part of the 2022-23 Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series.

Performances were held at the Beier Auditorium on January 28, 2023. This enormously fun musical adaptation featured children of all ages from the Dillon community.

- **Montana Western Fine Arts Gallery Presents “More Than Dust”**

The University of Montana Western Fine Arts Gallery is thrilled to announce, "More Than Dust", an exploration of Southwest Montana's ranching culture through the lens of UMW student artists Kim Giannone and Brigid Reedy. An opening reception will be held on February 24 in the Fine Arts Gallery located in Main Hall.

The title of the show, “More Than Dust”, speaks to the rich cultural heritage of the region, inviting an immersive exploration of the art, craft, and imagery of the ranching world, one in which beauty often resides amidst the dust.

- **Montana Western & Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series to Present "Every Brilliant Thing"**

UMW’s Theatre Department is pleased to present "Every Brilliant Thing" to be performed February 10-12 as part of the 2022-23 Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series.

After completing a successful tour across Montana in 2019, theater artists Rosie Seitz Ayers and Ryan Eggensperger are bringing back their production of Duncan MacMillan’s “Every Brilliant Thing” in an effort to make suicide prevention and awareness accessible and engaging to the students of Montana’s middle and high schools.

The performances will feature pre-show exhibitions of artwork highlighting mental health, with a mental health clinician and/or a UMW peer educator present to offer support at each performance.

- **UMW and MCH to Host Annual Colt Challenge and Sale**

The Annual Colt Challenge and Sale, hosted by the University of Montana Western and the Montana Center for Horsemanship, will take place March 31 and April 1, 2023, at the Montana Center for Horsemanship in Dillon, Montana.

Students and colts compete in a series of events that demonstrate their wide range of abilities on the first day, and the following day, a public auction features the colts for sale, with all proceeds reinvested in the program in order to provide scholarships to Natural Horsemanship majors at the University of Montana Western.

- **UMW Football Program Announces Initial Signing Class for 2023**

The Montana Western Football Program recently welcomed 57 signees in its 2023 signing class. Of the signees, 18 are from Montana, 21 are from Washington, 12 are from Idaho, four are from Hawaii, one is from Wyoming, and one is from Utah.

"Our staff has worked incredibly hard to put together what we believe is an excellent 2023 recruiting class. I feel strongly that this crew will prove to be a great class of Bulldogs," said Head Football Coach Ryan Nourse.

- **UMW Foundation Establishes Scholarship in Memory of Lee E. Orr**

The University of Montana Western Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the Lee E. Orr Scholarship.

"The Orr family has an enduring history with Montana Western and the Dillon community. We are honored to remember this remarkable man knowing that his scholarship will make a difference in the lives of Montana Western students," said Roxanne Engellant, Executive Director of the UMW Foundation.

Some of Lee's fondest memories from childhood and early adulthood revolved around his experiences and relationships in Dillon and Western Montana College (now the University of Montana Western).

- **Montana Western Names Students to 2022 Fall Semester Dean's List**

The University of Montana Western named 537 students to the 2022 fall semester Dean's List. To achieve this honor, students must be enrolled full-time or for 12 semester credits and carry a minimum 3.33 grade point average.