Grad Programs

By: Paul Kato

From changing to a university, to building a new field house, Western State Colorado University is always looking for ways to entice potential students. This is why Western has added a few new graduate programs, while also exploring new majors and minors. With the addition of two new graduate programs, Western will now have a total of three two-year graduate programs, along with twenty-eight different undergraduate programs.

The newest program, a Masters in Environmental Management, was added this past year. The Masters in Environmental Management program is slated to begin this August, bringing in thirty-two students, twenty percent of which will be returning alumni. Dr. John C. Hausdoerffer, Director of the Master of Environmental Management Program, believes the introduction of a masters program will help Western as a whole. There are three things that can be improved: First, students are coming from over twenty-five different universities, all of which have experience in their respective fields. Second, all graduate students are required to undertake a ten month project, making Western take a more active role in the community. Third, these students are more career driven.

Another addition to the graduate program is a Master of Arts in Creative Writing. Not to be confused with the Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, the Master of Arts is a one-year degree, while the Master of Fine Arts is a two-year degree. The Master of Fine Arts in Creative writing is a “Terminal Degree” for the fine arts, which gives students the necessary credentials to get a tenured position at the university or college level.

While there have not been any new undergraduate programs added in the past year, there have been twelve formal proposals submitted for new majors, minors or emphases. While new undergraduate programs have not been created in the past year or so, Western is always looking for new possibilities.

Dr. Terry Schliesman, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, said “We have provided a small amount of release time to a handful of faculty to research and develop new undergraduate programs for the future.  However, those programs are at the embryonic stage.” While these proposals are still in the early development stages, it is exciting to think of all the new possibilities that Western will have to offer in the years to come.