

**Three RM-CESU Students Awarded Jerry O'Neal Fellowship for Research in Glacier National Park and Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site** The Jerry O'Neal Fellowships, funded through the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center at Glacier National Park, were announced for student work in summer 2012. This student award is named for the former deputy superintendent at Glacier NP, in honor of his dedication to science and research in the NPS. The competition is facilitated through the Rocky Mountains CESU and was open to students at all of the RM-CESU universities. **This year's Fellowship recipients are:**

**Dulce Kersting, M.A. Candidate - History at Washington State University:** **"The Interpretive Powers of Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS in Determining the Roles of Race, Class, and Gender Among Cowboys on the Northern Plains During the Open Range Era"** Dulce will investigate the diverse experiences of cowboys from different ethnic backgrounds on America's Northern Plains during the open range era of cattle production, approximately 1860 through the 1890s. Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site will serve as a focal point of the study, and information gathered about the men who worked for the Kohrs and Bielenberg family cattle operations will serve to juxtapose the experiences of cowboys on similar ranching operations in Montana and the upper Plains.



**Warren Hansen, M.Sc. Candidate - Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana:** **"Integration of habitat modeling, stress physiology and stream flow to explain breeding success in the harlequin duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)"** Warren will study life strategies of Harlequin Ducks in Glacier National Park by examining a range of possible factors influencing survival and recruitment. Though the use of radio-telemetry, he will examine where Harlequins nest, the factors affecting their nest success, and the factors affecting chick survival.

**Cameron Naficy, Ph.D. Candidate - Geography at the University of Colorado at Boulder:** **"Cross-scale assessment of spatiotemporal patterns and drivers of fire effects in mixed-severity fire regime forests of *Larix occidentalis*, Glacier National Park"** Cameron's study will take a multi-method approach to assessing historical and contemporary patterns of fire severity in western larch (*Larix occidentalis*) forests in Glacier National Park. This research is particularly important to managers because fire is dominant process affecting large-scale vegetation patterns in Glacier.



As a requirement of their Fellowships, Dulce, Warren and Cameron will provide a final project report and copies of any publications as a result of their research. In addition, they will prepare a one-page, illustrated project summary that will be featured in a future RM-CESU newsletter. For more details contact Lisa Gerloff, Executive Coordinator of the RM-CESU at the University of Montana, at [rmcesu@umontana.edu](mailto:rmcesu@umontana.edu).