

# Footprints

Casper College Alumni Magazine

Spring 2016



Divine Lessons  
From the Field

Two of a Kind  
2016 Distinguished Alumni

Riding High  
Bates Hole to Houston



# Dan Cheney

# Page 18

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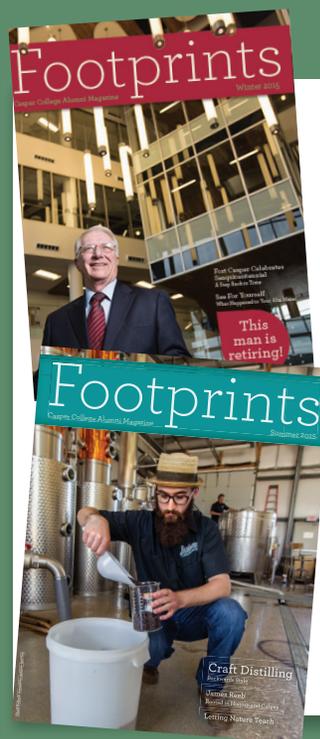
Casper College Public Relations Director, **Richard Kenji Fujita**, 51, died at his home in Casper of brain cancer on September 19, 2015. Rich leaves a legacy of professionalism and creativity at Casper College. Under his guidance, Footprints



magazine won numerous honors and awards. Rich crafted updates to the Casper College brand, including the development of a new athletic logo; had a hand in two website redesigns; and coordinated several groundbreaking and building dedications. When Casper College was named a top 25 community college in the nation and recognized as having a top five best looking campus, he wrote the catchy tagline, "Smart and good looking." For 10 years, he did an excellent job telling the story of Casper College to the community; in good times and, on occasion, under the most difficult circumstances. He was a professional and possessed a quick wit. We mourn his passing.



**Footprints Magazine** received a Gold Medallion of Excellence from Region IV of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations at the organization's annual conference in Galveston, Texas in October 2015. This marks the fifth consecutive year the magazine was judged to be the best in the region, which includes Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.



## From the Alumni Association President

### Dear Fellow Alums and Friends of Casper College,

I want to start by saying how honored I am to serve as the new president of the Casper College Alumni Association. I am the latest of many dedicated people who have served in this capacity. I want to thank **Mike Stepp** for being an outstanding president and leader. I step into big shoes that he and other good people have left for me. **Kevin Bromley** has completed his tour on the executive committee. Thank you, Kevin, for your leadership. **Lea Schoenewald** is your vice president and **Jan Cundy** is your treasurer. I look forward to working with these folks and the members of the board of directors to make our alumni association the best it can be.

This edition of Footprints is another good one. It is an award-winning publication that reflects our school, the staff and leadership of Casper College, its city, and the state of Wyoming. Enjoy the articles and information provided. Coming up in this issue: The T-Bird Trek was a great success! It takes a lot of people to hold a successful athletic event. The race committee did an incredible job and we couldn't have completed the Trek without the many volunteers. Be sure to catch the article about it. Enjoy the article about **Rob Hill**, an alumnus, who teaches construction technology to high school students in Casper. Read about alumnus **Dan Cheney**, who headed up Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Do you have any ideas for future articles? Do you want to contribute an article? Let us know. This is your publication.

We want to welcome our new Casper College President, **Darren Divine**. We all look forward to working with him. I'm sure he is used to the Wyoming wind by now.

Casper College brothers **Jerry** and **Terry Dunn** are the Distinguished Alumni this year and **Shirley Jacob** earned the alumni association's Commitment to Excellence award. These three exceptional people will be honored at the 2016 Commencement. If you have someone in mind for these honors, contact the alumni office for the nomination procedure. We get several excellent nominations each year. Selection is always a difficult task for us.

Homecoming was Saturday, February 6, 2016. Once again, we provided chili, sold Casper College clothing and held a 50-50 raffle at the game. If you were there, you know how much fun we had.

The Alumni Association continues to provide services, great and small, to the students and community, including scholarships. It is rewarding to give a hand up to scholarship recipients.

I'm looking forward to meeting and working with the outstanding community of folks that surrounds Casper College. Thank you all for all you do.

Onward and upward.

David Long ('72)



President  
Casper College Alumni Association, 2015-'17



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have been wanting to write since I received my current issue of "Footprints." Not another week will pass as I am finally buckling down and sending you a quick note; to thank you for the recognition of myself and my company Grapevine Design + Secretarial, LLC. Seeing my company mentioned in Footprints meant a lot to me.

Being in advertising, mainly, for the last 20+ years I know how much time, dedication and effort goes in to a publication such as Footprints and I appreciate you and all you do. The whole publication is outstanding and impressive and I am proud to be mentioned in it.

So, please consider this my official, "Thank you"!

Jill York  
Senior Designer | Virtual Assistant  
Grapevine Design + Secretarial, LLC.

Correction: The Summer 2015 issue of Footprints incorrectly identified one of Ola Belle Smith Burley's brothers as Calvin Smith. His actual name was Calvin Morris. We apologize for the error.

Thanks for the magazine article. My friends and relatives were amazed with the information provided concerning African-Americans in Casper. Please know (I have shared) the magazine from Louisiana to Florida and elsewhere.

Thank you,  
Ola Belle (Smith) Burley

## Don't forget to write

(...call, email or post on Facebook)

It's vital we have your best contact information so we can keep you updated regarding Casper College activities. We are in the middle of a major update of our database. If your mailing label on this issue is incorrect or you are receiving multiple copies of Footprints, **let us know!** Update online, call us, send an email, or use snail mail. It's okay to use the postage-paid envelope in the center of the magazine, too.



# Footprints

A publication of the Casper College Alumni Association  
Published twice a year.

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# Alumni News

## Alumni Awards to be Given at 2016 Commencement

**Shirley Jacob**, retired English instructor and grants coordinator, is the 2016 recipient of the Commitment to Excellence Award. Sharing the podium will be **Jerry and Terry Dunn**, the 2016 Distinguished Alumni honorees. The brothers both played basketball at Casper College then went on to notable coaching careers. Read more of their story on page 12 of this issue.

Jacob worked at Casper College for 25 years and retired in 2003. She helped create the Margaret Demorest Lecture Series and wrote the first grant for the annual Humanities Festival, of which the Demorest lecture is the keystone presentation. She received the Casper College Outstanding Administrator award in 2001. Jacob and several others worked to

establish more multicultural content in Casper College courses, and to create multidisciplinary learning opportunities for students beginning with a grant from the Wyoming Legislature. She established the grants office at Casper College, which now brings in close to 4.8 million dollars annually to fund CC programs and initiatives. Her husband, **Bob Jacob**, was also a key figure at Casper College, teaching accounting at Casper College from 1965 to 1992. Now retired, Jacob lives on the family ranch where she was raised, near Buffalo, Wyoming.

The awards will be presented at the Casper College Commencement on Friday, May 13, 2016 at the Casper Events Center, 7 p.m. Admission is free and open to all.



## Susan Powell Brings Her Talent Back to Casper College in May

**Susan Powell** ('90) returns to Casper on May 8, 2016, in the Wheeler Concert Hall, Music Building with the Sympatico Percussion Group. The group also includes Amy Garapic, Scott Herring, Joseph Krygier, and Christopher Norton. ARTCORE bills the program as "entertainment and intrigue, virtuosity and poignancy, and appealing melodies and vibrant rhythms from around the world. Their diverse and eclectic repertoire includes rudimental drumming, ragtime xylophone, pop

transcriptions, and wonderfully uncategorized original compositions that embrace global streams of contemporary musical styles."

Powell is professor of music and director of percussion studies in the Ohio State University School of Music. Powell's love affair with percussion began early, at the age of 10. Her family relocated to Casper and following high school, where she was a national winner of the Music Teachers National Association High School Competition, Powell attended Casper

College. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, and both the Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Northwestern University. In 2008, she was given an OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching and in 2003 she was chosen as the OSU School of Music Distinguished Teacher. Powell has performed all over the world. In addition, she is an active composer of works for percussion.

## Hardy T-Birds Turn out for Hoops and Hot Chili

Anyone can celebrate Homecoming on a glorious autumn day. It takes a tough T-Bird to show up in the dead of winter. T-Birds know that chili really makes a difference on a cold winter afternoon of basketball and camaraderie. Fans joined the alumni association board of directors on Saturday, February 6, 2016 as the T-Bird men and women's basketball teams faced off against the Mustangs of Western Wyoming Community College. Fun activities for kids and students added to the day and a 50/50 raffle raised funds to support alumni association scholarships and initiatives.



# Campus News

## CC Radiography Student Contributes Article to National Radiography Journal

Second-year radiography student **Codi Francis** was recently contacted by Becky Apodaca, director of professional practice for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists to write a story for the association magazine ASRT Scanner. Francis had met Apodaca at last summer's American Society of Radiologic Technologists Student Leadership Development Program held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Later Apodaca was at the Wyoming Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Educational Conference in September 2015. "Codi was the only student speaker and presented to 35 Wyoming radiography students as well as many registered technologists," says **Laurie Weaver**. So impressed with the young student's presentation, Apodaca contacted Francis via email last October to ask if she might be interested in contributing an article to the ASRT Scanner.

Francis jumped at the opportunity: "I said yes, right away." The article, titled "Student Offers

Sage Advice: Tips for a Successful Job Search and Meeting Career Goals," appeared in the December 2015/January 2016 issue of ASRT Scanner.

According to Weaver, director of the Casper College Radiography Program, Francis was selected to represent Wyoming radiography students at the development program following a rigorous application process that involved writing an essay as well as submitting letters of recommendation. Weaver believes that Francis' article will "reach out to students across the nation and help them as they graduate and move into the profession. Needless to say, I am very proud of her," she adds.

**Casper College Radiography student Codi Francis at the opening flag ceremony for the House of Delegates Meeting at the ASRT Student Leadership Development Program and Educational Symposium.**



## CC Recognized as Military Friendly School

Casper College has been designated a 2016 Military Friendly School by Victory Media, Inc. The Military Friendly Schools designation is awarded to the top colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success both in the classroom and after graduation, according to a Victory Media release.

"Post-secondary institutions earning the 2016 Military Friendly School award have exceptionally

strong programs for transitioning service members and spouses," said Daniel Nichols, chief product officer of Victory Media and Navy Reserve veteran.

"It is a great honor for Casper College to receive this designation," said **Lisa Goss**, veteran and Hathaway Scholarship coordinator at Casper College. "Casper College is committed to helping our service members, veterans, and their spouses achieve their educational dreams, and this designation says that we are meeting that goal."



## Alums, Transcripts Easier to Obtain

Receiving transcripts from Casper College has been made easier thanks to Casper College partnering with TranscriptsPlus®, PDF sending and eRoboMail® from Credentials Solutions. These services have streamlined the college's transcript ordering and fulfillment process.

Casper College students and alumni can now order and track their transcripts 24/7 from

anywhere in the world. The fully automated transcript ordering service takes student and alumni orders through a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliant and easy-to-use solution, while securely collecting all fees.

In addition, Casper College will be utilizing eRoboMail®. This system will

produce paper transcripts with the ability to seamlessly process multiple copies and easily accommodate attachments. The transcripts will include the Casper College logo, watermark and embedded registrar signature.

To find out more or to order transcripts go to [caspercollege.edu](http://caspercollege.edu).

# Evert Brown Recognized as STEM Educator of the Year

Casper College Biology Instructor and Director of the Casper Mountain Science School (CMSS), **Evert Brown**, D.A., received the STEM Post-Secondary Educator of the Year award for 2015.

At Casper College Brown teaches courses in biology, ecology and environmental studies; supervises the college's greenhouse; and directs the CMSS. **Grant Wilson**, Ed.D. has nothing but praise for Brown, noting that Brown "essentially does two full-time jobs: teaching Casper College students, and promoting STEM education throughout the community." Grant,

dean for the Casper College School of Science, continued, saying: "Evert allows STEM to reach a broad range of students beginning with kindergarten, and then he has graduate students who work here as interns. It's really a K-16 and beyond educational program. It's an excellent way to introduce students to fundamental scientific concepts. Being able to bring them to the CMSS and get them to not just understand those concepts, but see the application of those concepts and get excited about them is so important in every area."

Brown himself believes that the CMSS appeals to all kinds of students "because STEM is applicable to everyone. I think one of the things they leave here with is they have the ability to interact with a teacher, their peers and the environment in a new way. All of these are building blocks to their learning, and they learn to think for themselves here."

A video highlighting Dr. Brown's work can be seen here: <https://youtube/wYyNGdmWyl>.

## CC Receives International Recognition

The beautiful Casper College Music department is one of 35 schools, and the only two-year institution in the world to be part of Yamaha's Disklavier Education Network (DEN).

According to **Eric Unruh**, dean for the Casper College School of Fine Arts and Humanities, "The Yamaha Disklavier grand piano functions as a true acoustic instrument and is also connected to the Internet, where performances from renowned Yamaha Artists can be downloaded, heard and observed on this special piano. It is a big deal to have Casper College as a member of this new technology," he adds.

Recently Yamaha Institutional Solutions Group launched its website and the Casper College Music Department and Music Building are featured on a number of pages. "It's nice to have this (recognition) in the world," says Unruh. The music department is featured throughout the website at [yamahaisg.com](http://yamahaisg.com).

According to Unruh, Casper College music students not only have a unique opportunity to study with highly talented and qualified instructors, but they also enjoy 21st century innovations in technology and performance. "In addition to the Disklavier, our fleet of Yamahas includes the unmatched CFX Concert Grand,

a Yamaha C7 concert grand, 13 Clavinova lab pianos, six upright pianos, seven studio grands, and five hybrid N2 pianos," he says.

Beyond the Yamaha recognition, the Music Building itself was the sole feature of a full-page ad placed by the building's architecture firm, HMS Architects, in a publication of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. The ad can be viewed here: [icfad.org/assets/images/2014-conf/hms.pdf](http://icfad.org/assets/images/2014-conf/hms.pdf). "This is yet another great exposure for the Music Building," says Unruh, who adds, "Yay!"

## CC Student Sarah Finch Selected as a Coca-Cola Leader of Promise



Casper College sophomore **Sarah Finch** has been selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as a 2015 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar.

The 2014 Kelly Walsh High School graduate is an elementary education major at Casper College. Finch has clear goals and plans to continue her education at the University of Wyoming continuing her major with a minor in early childhood education. "I want students to benefit directly from knowledge gained in my classroom; thus, I aim to develop expertise in subject content, teaching strategies, use of technologies, and other essential elements in teaching to high standards. I believe that education provides people with opportunities to accomplish a successful life," says Finch.

"Sarah is an energetic member of the PTK family," says **Debra Swedberg**, Casper College math instructor and PTK co-sponsor on the campus. "She excels at all that she does and will become that quintessential teacher that all parents will want for their children. We are proud to call her our own."

Citing her mother, Kathy, (a first grade instructor at Verda James Elementary School in Casper, Wyoming, as inspiration), Finch plans to become an elementary school teacher in grades K-3. "My mom's hard work and dedication show me what passion is, and influences me to strive to do the same," Finch notes.

Finch, who will graduate in May 2016, is the daughter of Marty and Kathy Finch. **Marty Finch** is an agriculture instructor at Casper College.

# T-Bird Trek – Off & Running

The voice over the bullhorn told the runners to line up, gave a few directions, and then an air horn blast was heard and the half-marathon portion of the inaugural T-Bird Trek was launched. Seventy-five runners took off across campus, then turned south toward Casper Mountain, knowing they had several miles of uphill running before the wind was an ally, not an obstacle on the already challenging course.

Back at the Jorgensen/Bryce Commons, Trek organizers actually jumped for joy to see the race finally commence. After almost a year of planning, the Trek was on. Minutes later, the 5K runners heard the air horn blast, commencing their race. Meanwhile children, their grown-ups, and the

Heyoka and his mascot friends were gathering at the “Essence of Rex” statue for the 2K fun run to the commons. The races all concluded in front of the Student Union/University of Wyoming at Casper building with awards, food and music by Rocky Mountain Sound and Light.

The Trek raised almost \$22,000 for alumni scholarships, program support and college initiatives. With over 130 volunteers, the 247 runners had ample support.

This year the Trek returns Sunday, September 18, 2016 and will include a 10K, in addition to the half-marathon and 5K. Save money by registering early at [caspercollege.edu/tbird-trek](http://caspercollege.edu/tbird-trek) or sign up to volunteer. Runners, the hills are here all year round, so onsite training can begin at your convenience.







by Pete Van Houten

# Lessons from the Field



**Casper College's new president offers seven ways that his training as a biologist makes him a better leader.**

**The selection of a college president is much different than what would occur at a Fortune 500 company.** While most large businesses look for someone with an MBA or a degree in finance, a college often hires a president with a degree that could be viewed as less applicable. **Dr. Leroy Strausner** oversaw Casper College from 1991 to 2004 after beginning his college career teaching sociology and psychology classes. **Dr. Walter Nolte** brought his background in history to the presidency during his 11 years at Casper College. When **Dr. Darren Divine** was hired as the college's sixth president this past summer, his resume offered a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and a doctoral degree in biology. Someone with business training might question how the college can continue to excel with such varied backgrounds. Perhaps certain leadership skills are picked up in different settings.

During an hour-long interview with Divine, he talked about his six years as a field biologist, first identifying the availability of water near White Sands Missile Base in New Mexico and then tracking desert bighorn sheep in Nevada and California. At the time, he wasn't thinking of becoming a college president, though he does admit that he often pulls lessons learned from that field experience into his executive office in the college's Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center. The following are seven such lessons.



## Lesson 1: Small Changes Matter

As a biologist, Divine quickly learned a simple mantra: you can never only change one thing. In wildlife management, the research indicates that once a person steps in and starts managing a population, that person may never be able to stop.

"With one change, even a tweak, there are so many ripples, that you may never be able to walk away from the population," Divine said. "You discover that things are always constantly in flux, that things are changing all the time and not always as one might expect."

Consider the mosquito. For the last 100 years, countries have undertaken numerous efforts to eradicate this carrier of malaria and spreader of yellow fever, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile virus, and today's Zika virus. And while eliminating mosquitos might end the annual malaria infection of 250 million people worldwide, as well as the mosquito's general nuisance factor, some scientists have theorized what eradication might mean. For example, many types of insects, birds, bats, spiders, salamanders, lizards, and frogs would be deprived of a primary food source. Destroy the mosquito and thousands of plant species would forfeit a key pollinator. Then there are the caribou in the Arctic, where mosquito swarms feast on approximately 10 ounces of blood a day from each animal in the herd. To escape these swarms, caribou are believed to select paths that face into the wind. Without mosquitos, might the caribou change their migration routes? If yes, how might that change the Arctic terrain?

Divine considers this idea in the college setting whenever he implements a change. He

said the common wisdom is that if the change is not working, someone must step in and try to fix the problem. "Just because something is changing doesn't mean you need to step in right away," he said. "Sometimes you have to step in, if it's serious, though sometimes you can wait. I don't want to make it worse. I may sit back and watch it, if I can, and see how it plays out. That may just be my personality, though I have found this approach to be successful in most cases."

## Lesson 2: Be Open to Discovery

The harsh desert heat beat down on Divine as he sat on the edge of a cliff watching the bighorn sheep 200 yards away. The collared ram was walking around a barrel cactus, looking down on it with interest. He kept circling the globe-shaped cactus, eyeing it with great concentration. Through his binoculars, Divine was captivated. "I just kept thinking, 'what is he doing?'"

Without warning, the ram bashed the top of the cactus with the top of his head. A second strike, and the ram ate the fleshy fruit from the center of the plant. The moment stuck. Even though he was not studying how bighorn sheep find water in the pulp of the plant, Divine realized he had learned something unforeseen. "I later talked to some fellow wildlife biologists who said when they do sheep captures, they often find cactus thorns in their horns."

The lesson here is that with any problem, expect the unexpected. As an example, Divine points to colleges that charge students a graduation fee once they have completed their studies. Rather than collecting a small bit of revenue, these colleges soon discovered that their graduation rates had declined because

students refused to pay this charge.

During his time as vice president for academic affairs and student affairs at the Community College of Southern Nevada, he led a team to see why students who had been accepted to the college weren't enrolling. The 1,000 students in question had filled out an application but did not come to the campus for classes. What was happening here?

"So we started talking about how to approach this issue, and we came up with something that I thought we would never consider nor even might work," Divine said.

Someone suggested robo-calling, which uses a computerized auto-dialer to deliver a pre-recorded message. Used often in political and telemarketing campaigns, the message often sounds like it comes from a robot, something that Divine thought would be ignored by the students. Instead, the team was able to collect some strong data about why these students failed to progress.

"Many of us were surprised by the results. The point here is that you have to be open to new ideas and new learning," he said. "And it only happens if you are paying attention."

## Lesson 3: Understanding Intuition

Divine has heard the debate between hard scientists and social scientists many times. The thought of it makes him smile.

"As a natural scientist, I was trained from the get go that if I can't statistically prove that two things are different or the same, then I can't say it. I must be able to show you how I got there, and if can't show you the data, then I can't affirm or deny anything."

Shown during his field days working with big horn sheep, Dr. Darren Divine draws blood from one.



This doesn't always work as a college president. While he believes strongly in the value of hard data, he understands the social scientist who says anecdotal information has value as well. For example, as a president, he is expected to read people and figure out levels of trustworthiness and reliability. "This won't sound very scientific, but there are important things you can't statistically prove that you know are true," he said. "You can call it a gut feeling. That is the social science aspect that I have learned to appreciate. It's not all cut and dried."

## Lesson 4: Ask Lots of Questions

The scientific method begins with a question: What are you trying to discover? That natural curiosity has translated well into Divine's presidency, where he is expected to interact with all kinds of people.

"I really like learning new things, which is a great thing about his job," he said. "I love talking to people and asking them about what they do."

Divine said he really likes understanding how things work. If he doesn't know, he asks someone. The questions don't stop until he fully understands.

## Lesson 5: It's Hard Work

The office of a field biologist is often an open patch of land out in the middle of nowhere. You camp out, you eat next to a campfire, and carry most all of your belongings in a small knapsack. "For some odd reason, people think the life of a biologist is glamorous," Divine says with a laugh. "But it's far from it."

He tells stories of tracking bighorn sheep in a small non-air-conditioned plane, fighting back nausea, nervousness and vomit during the bumpy six-hour ride. People hear airplane, and they think elegance. He says the word and thinks Dramamine®.

"I suppose people think the same thing about a presidency, especially because we have nice offices and big desks," he said. "But it's not all that glamorous. Often it's hard work."

He said one of the difficult aspects of his job is the expectation that he always has the right answer. More trying, however, is the belief that he must behave as a president wherever he goes. "I am expected to be on, even when I have a cold or am just feeling grumpy. I must always present my best self." He said that in such a high-profile position, there are some people who expect to see him in a suit and tie at all times. But he is just as comfortable in jeans and boots, one of the big advantages of a presidency in Wyoming.

## Lesson 6: Learn from Your Experiments

Each night, on his drive home, Divine replays his day in his head. He spends a little time on what went well, and concentrates hardest on what things he could have done better. "I don't tend to remember those things that worked. Most often, I remember what I did that went badly." He admits that while he is hard on himself, such daily reflection is how he has improved over the years as a leader. In the field, this would be much like running your experiment, checking your results and possibly making modifications.

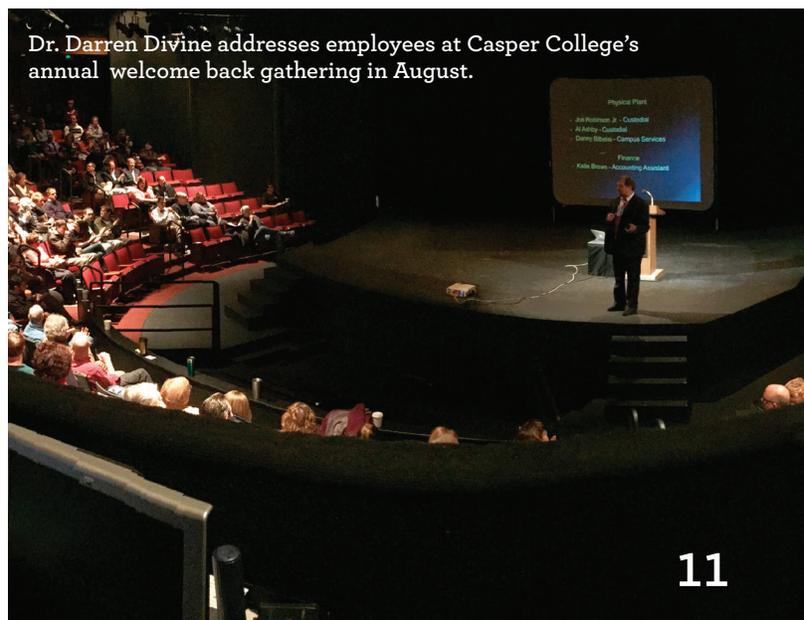
## Lesson 7: You Must Be Self-Sufficient

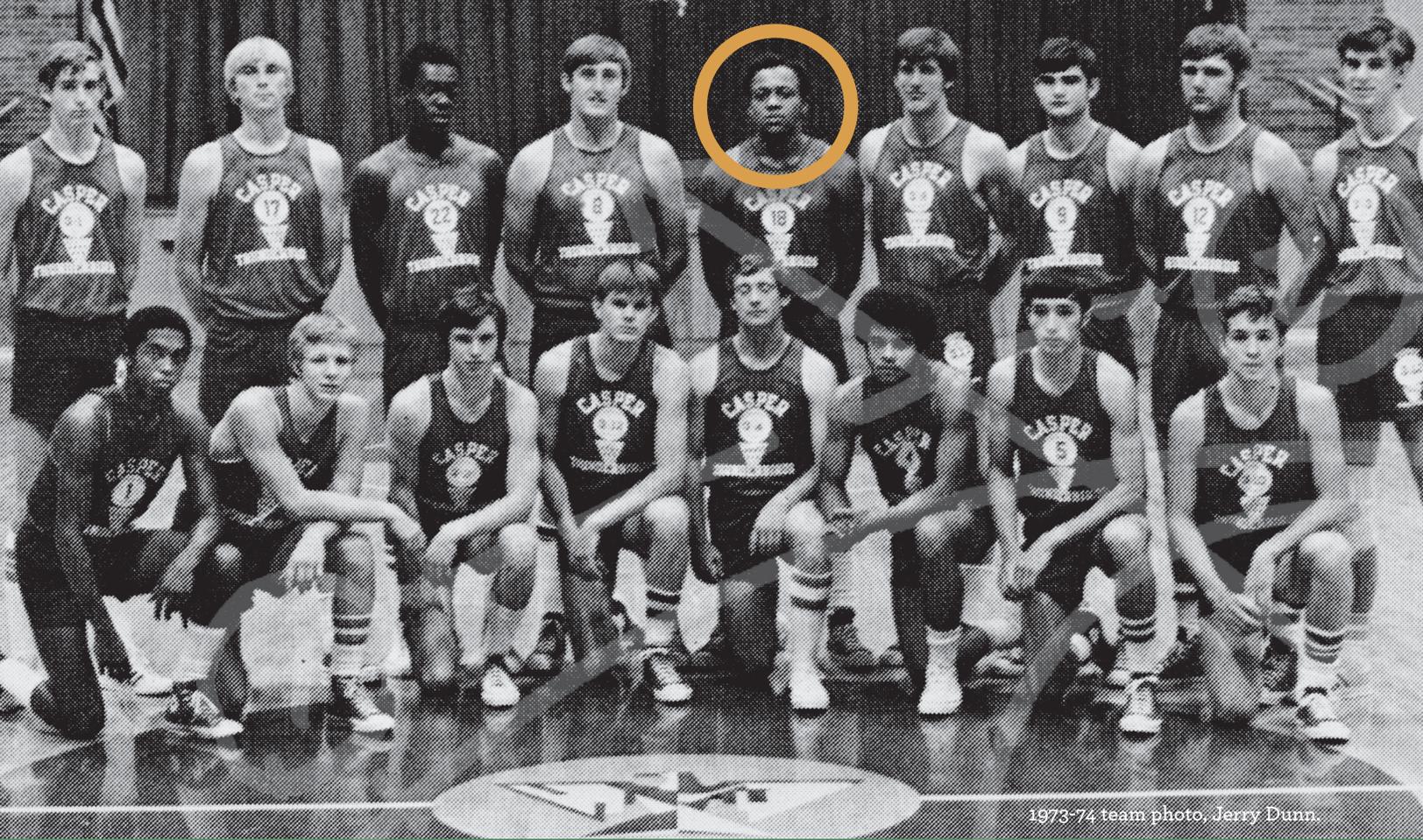
There's no good time for a flat tire. On this day more than 20 years ago, Divine stood alone on the side of the desert road in temperatures that were well over 110 degrees. The heat off the asphalt could sizzle bacon, and now Divine had to crawl under the truck and set the jack. Coaxing the truck upward, he quickly learned that the jack was off-kilter. Move forward several years to another vehicle incident in the desert, this time with a large truck that had three wheels sitting off the ground. Aided by two fellow biologists, Divine offered the team two options: a 10-mile hike to the nearest phone or some thoughtful improvisation because the three men lacked a shovel. They picked option B, once they located some flat rocks and conduit. In only two hours, they were able to dig away enough earth to get a second wheel to touch the soil.

"What I learned early on in the field is that you have to be self-reliant," Divine said. "Sometimes, the only thing you have is your own belief in yourself."

As a president, this tough hide gives him strength, especially if he has to make a difficult or unpopular decision. "If I don't trust myself, I'm done. If you don't know yourself, you may find yourself on the wrong side of what you believe in a heartbeat. In the field, I learned that every day."

Dr. Darren Divine addresses employees at Casper College's annual welcome back gathering in August.





1973-74 team photo, Jerry Dunn.

# 2016 Distinguished Alumni

1972-73 team photo, Terry Dunn.



Twin alums credit some of their success as basketball coaches to their time at Casper College.

# Two of a Kind

by Pete Van Houten

**T**he thump of the basketball on concrete could be heard each evening in the New Jersey neighborhood.

Thump, thump, thump, jump shot. Thump, thump, thump, a drive to the hole.

Rain or shine, the Dunn twins, Jerry and Terry, would face one another in their back yard. Covered in sweat, they knew each other's moves

on the family court, each fake and tendency, which only forced the teens to improve and improvise. Jerry said they were so evenly matched that most games ended in a tie.

On weekends, they traveled from Pemberton in the middle of New Jersey for a short drive to Philadelphia. It was city ball against outstanding college-bound players, and even though the Dunn boys only started playing at age 13, the duo quickly excelled at the game.

"When we played in Philly," Jerry said, "we made a point to always be on opposite teams. And we made sure we were guarding each other."

Mixing this competitiveness with brotherly camaraderie, they turned one another into elite players, garnering honors on their Pemberton Township High School team, then athletic scholarships to Casper College and four-year universities. From daily backyard contests to college scholarships, the siblings created their own paths to land jobs as basketball coaches in high school, college and the NBA.

This summer, the 62-year-old brothers will join the same team when they are honored with Casper College Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Awards.



# A Coaching Resume

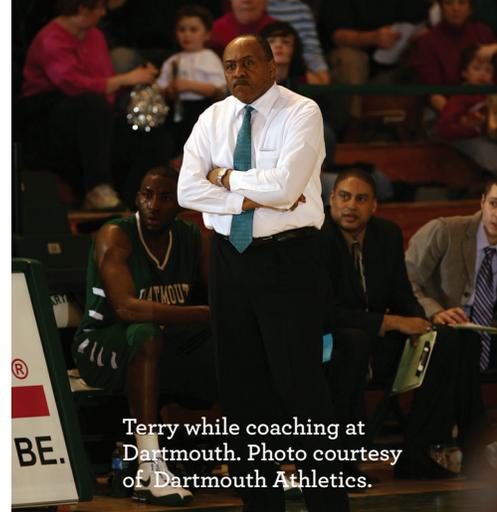
After two years as a volunteer coach at George Mason, Jerry was promoted to an assistant coaching position at the university. Building on his resume, he worked as an assistant coach at Penn State for 12 years before earning the head-coaching job for the Nittany Lions from 1995 to 2003. While at Penn State, Jerry earned 50 wins and 100 wins faster than any other men's basketball coach in the university's history. In 2001, Jerry led Penn State to the Big Ten Tournament semi-finals and to a number seven seed in the NCAA Tournament. Once there, Penn State defeated number two seed, North Carolina, to advance to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time in more than 50 years.

Jerry later worked as an assistant coach at West Virginia and Michigan before moving to the NBA for two years as a player development coach for the New York Knicks. Today he is the head basketball coach of Tuskegee University in Alabama.

Terry's start began after earning his degree in education with a coaching job in 1982 at Harrison High School in Colorado Springs. Success there led to assistant coaching jobs at such colleges as Army, Air Force, Colorado State, and Colorado. From 2004 to 2010, he served as the head coach at Dartmouth in the Ivy League, fielding competitive teams each year despite not having scholarships to give to his recruits. He was credited that first year in orchestrating Dartmouth's second-best turnaround in Ivy League history, when the team finished 1-13 in the 2003-2004 season during the season before Terry took the job. That next season, the Big Green improved 7-7 with Terry at the helm. Terry, who has served as the dean of students and basketball coach at Sierra High School since 2010, was also a coach for the USA Basketball Men's Developmental National Team, helping to lead a squad of young men under age 16 to play against teams from around the globe.



Terry coaching at Sierra High School. Photo courtesy of Mark Reis of *The Gazette*, Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Terry while coaching at Dartmouth. Photo courtesy of Dartmouth Athletics.

**T**erry Dunn received bad news his first day of basketball practice at Casper College. Coach Swede Erickson told him his hair was too long, something that was true of most all of the freshman players. "You've got 30 minutes to get your hair cut," he told them, "then come back to practice." The freshmen were perplexed. "Where can we find a barber in half an hour?" the players asked. Erickson said he had a pair of scissors in his office. Terry returned 30 minutes later, his afro now tightly shorn, to run through a series of drills.

Terry said his first week at the college was difficult, having never been west of the Mississippi River, and never away from his family for so long. He even had to leave behind his twin brother, who had a knee injury and had to sit out one year of basketball. "Swede heard about me from a coach in New Jersey who had seen me play," Terry said. "He said I could really help the Casper College program."

Terry remembers one afternoon soon after arriving in Casper when he was looking out a window of the college center's Vista Lounge and wondering why he had come. The answer arrived quickly enough when Erickson started introducing him to the community. Soon, Terry was spending his afternoons on Beech Street where two other basketball players lived. While there, he met the Banister family two houses down, which quickly became Terry's second home.

"My husband, Gaurdie Banister, Sr., and I were part of the boosters," said Barbara Shannon-Banister. "We had players over for Thanksgiving dinner, and really took to the Dunns. I remember that they studied hard in their classes and played hard on the court. They were very nice kids that everyone liked ... open and honest young men."

Barbara still talks to Terry on the phone whenever she can. "My husband grew close to Jerry and would visit him whenever he traveled to the East Coast."

Terry and Jerry said they were amazed by the friendliness of Casper and the support system

set up by Erickson. Terry said he spent many weekends in the homes of boosters and campus supporters, listing families like the Durhams, the Rosellos and the Boatrights. "We even ate at the president's home a time or two," Terry said.

The Dunns gained fans across Casper, two of which were Booster Club President Johnny Gardner and his wife, Judy, who entertained basketball players regularly with spaghetti dinners.

"They were fantastic players," Johnny said, "incredibly quick, great passers, and versatile athletes. I remember that Terry had a great shot and could hit anything from extremely long range. Jerry was a force inside who was impossible to guard. Both were very good defenders."

More importantly, Johnny said the Dunn brothers were good citizens. "You couldn't help but like them. Of course, Swede only recruited good kids."

Jerry, who came to Casper the following year on his brother's recommendation, said his introduction was easier in large part because Terry had paved the way. He said he has many fond memories of Casper and appreciated the chance to play for Erickson. "While I was in Casper, it was the first time that I rode a horse," Jerry said. "I attended my first rodeo. I was amazed how friendly the community was."

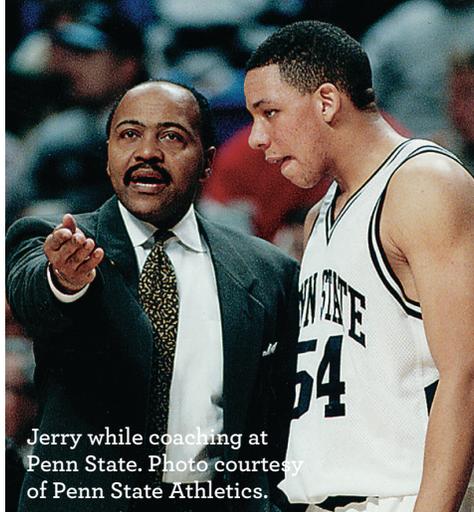
Being a twin can mean trying to establish your own person. "You know, we wanted to be our own self," Terry said. "As a twin, especially an identical twin, you are always searching for your identity. I think that is one of the reasons that Jerry played football in high school, and I ran track."

In high school, the two brothers were asked to wear colorful rubber bands around their wrists so the coach could tell them apart in practice. Yet, when they were feeling rebellious, they might switch jerseys before a game.

This need for individuality increases the irony that both brothers eventually gained fame in the same profession: as basketball coaches. Terry's journey began with his desire to eventually



Jerry coaching at Tuskegee University. Photo courtesy of Tuskegee University.



Jerry while coaching at Penn State. Photo courtesy of Penn State Athletics.

play in the NBA. When he transferred to the University of Northern Colorado, a coach advised him to come up with a back-up plan in case he could not realize his dream. Coaching seemed to be a good plan B.

Meanwhile, Jerry's body, or more specifically his knees, determined his career path. Because of painful tendonitis, he couldn't play during his senior year of college at George Mason University. Instead, he helped his teammates as a volunteer coach.

From these early life choices, the Dunn brothers moved up the coaching ladder (see coaching resume), adding stops at high schools, colleges and the New York Knicks to their resumes. And while Jerry said the life of a coach can be hard and require many moves for his family, the decision has been a good one.

"You make a difference in a person's life both on and off the court," said Jerry, the head basketball coach of Tuskegee University in Alabama. "I've met some great people through coaching, whether it was fellow coaches or young men that I recruited or young men that I didn't get. I'm very fortunate. I've been placed in and done things that I wouldn't have done if I wasn't a coach."

Meanwhile, Terry has returned to the high school game, leading the Sierra High School Stallions in Colorado Springs, Colorado, last year to a conference championship. After many years as a college basketball coach, Terry is glad to return to something more personal. "The thing I like is you can have greater influence on young men at this level because you catch them at an earlier age," Terry said. "We talk a lot at practices about accountability, number one, and work ethic. We talk about life's ups and downs, and what better way to learn that than through athletics. Life isn't always fair. Just because you show up to work doesn't guarantee you a promotion. Life owes you absolutely nothing, you are entitled to nothing and it is a competitive world out there. Those are things I try to teach."

Both brothers said their success as coaches could be traced back to one of their early teachers, Swede Erickson, and what he preached to his Casper College players. The T-Birds during the 1970s shut down their opponents, in large part because Erickson would practice the basics of defense so much that it became second nature.

"Swede was a big reason I entered coaching," Jerry said. "The one thing that his coaching spawned in me was the things you had to do to win. If you played for him, you had to be a good teammate, you had to play hard, you had to play defense. It was nonnegotiable."

"I thought that he was a brilliant tactician," said Terry. Most of all, he taught us how to be disciplined in our play. I didn't understand that until I became a coach, but now I think back on the things he would say to us and how he would prepare us for practice, for a game and for life."

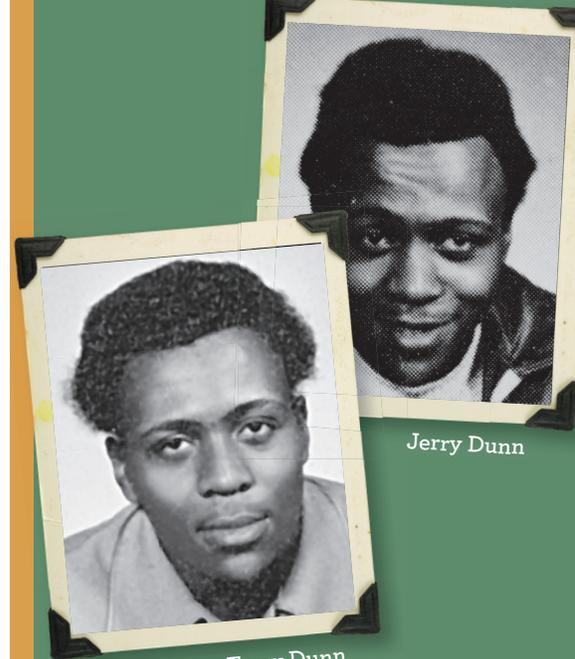
Their lives will be honored in May when they are each presented with the Casper College Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award. Former Casper College Associate Vice President of Student Services and Athletic Director **Bill Landen** ('76) said their selection was an easy one.

"They represent the best of the college," he said. "They were an integral part of the heyday of Casper College basketball, and then went on to become leaders in the coaching profession."

For their part, the Dunn brothers said they are honored and humbled by the award.

"When I got the phone call, it was exciting and great news for me and my brother," Terry said. "When I look at all the other distinguished alums at the college, it makes me feel proud. I am truly blessed to have begun my career at Casper College."

The brothers are looking forward to bringing their wives and children to Casper and to lead them on a tour of the campus. And though they said they are a little old now to lace up their basketball shoes and take on one another on the court, they do plan to join one another for a competitive afternoon on the golf course. At that point, they probably won't talk much.



Jerry Dunn

Terry Dunn

## Their Days at Casper College

Terry and Jerry Dunn remember many highlights during their playing time at Casper College. They were part of a 70-game home-winning streak while playing before packed crowds in the T-Bird Gym. Both teams finished with more than 20 wins while besting some of the top teams in the region.

Terry has special fondness for a win over Hutchinson Junior College, a team that came to Casper with the number two ranking in the nation. Led by future Purdue coach Gene Keady, Hutchinson lost some luster that day when Casper College pulled off the upset.

The Dunn brothers also remember playing against numerous quality opponents such as Robert Smith from Arizona Western, who ended up transferring to UNLV before getting drafted by the Denver Nuggets. "We still communicate," Terry said of Smith.

Away from the court, the Duns remember Casper College's outstanding teachers. Terry recalls his English instructor, who helped him see himself as a future educator. "She helped me with my writing, something I loved, and taught me how to write better and express myself with words. I remember she was tough, and she was fair, and I learned a lot in that class. That was pretty motivating to me."



Transitions student Austin Abrams works at a pole barn, in the construction stage, that Transitions students built.

**R**ob Hill came to Casper when his wife, Jackie, got a job teaching English at CY Middle School. He'd been working along the Front Range of Colorado in the construction business with companies that built apartment complexes; he even built on his own a few times.

Upon arriving in Casper Jackie suggested that he look into the idea of becoming an educator, "something I would never have thought of," he says, "but I seized the opportunity and went back to school."

by Lisa Pearce Icenogle ('79)

With his background in construction and construction management he knew that the best fit for him would be in that area. But he never dreamed he would one day be in charge of a high school program for students. That program, "Core Construction," is offered at the Natrona County School District's Transitions Learning Center. The center caters to at-risk students who are struggling in a traditional high school setting and who do better, typically, with hands-on learning.

Before he could begin teaching, however, he needed a degree. He began at Casper College, earning his associate in secondary education in 2008. He stayed in Casper and transitioned to the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center (now the University of Wyoming at Casper) where he earned his bachelor's in industrial technology education in 2010. He received his master's in director of career and technical education from Ball State University in 2015. Oh, and let's not forget that he is also an authorized OSHA trainer and will begin teaching 10 and 30 hour courses in August and plans to be a pre-apprenticeship certificate program instructor by this fall.

When he first began instructing at Transitions in the summer of 2009, he taught one course in construction. Since then the "one course"

has developed into several. "When I first began at Transitions, I started with five-year goals; sequencing coursework, adding classes." The next step for Hill was to reach an articulation agreement with Casper College. From there he began to integrate and add math and more construction, "because we have a lot of hands-on learners with real world math needs."

The math skills were important, because as Hill explains, industry wants employees with applied math skills. So his students not only learn construction but they also look at each project from a business standpoint: "How does money operate in construction? This is an important question to know the answer to," he says. Modeled from a general contractor's viewpoint, the students are also taught about building codes and permits. "While I was at CC and UW/CC I had about 3.5 years to envision what I thought was important in a course like this, not only construction skills, but business and personal ones too."

After the successful integration of hands-on learning and math, the next area was to provide the students with industry-recognized credentialed OSHA training for safety in industry. "The kids receive the same training as industry," Hill notes. He is now working on a pre-apprenticeship program, a way, he says, to get younger people tracked into a registered apprenticeship program that will give them a pathway into a future career.

# Rob Hill

Takes it One Nail at a Time

Photos courtesy of Rob Hill.

Students enrolled in the program work on a variety of jobs. Hill co-teaches with Dwight Burrows who handles the math side of things. "Dwight has industry experience as a former engineer. His curriculum matches my curriculum in sequence; it's time consuming, but the way we do it makes it so real to the kids, it's happening as they are in the middle of working on a project," says Hill. Students spend time in the classroom and out in the field. During the summer program they are completely in the field. Students will stay in the field or go back to the classroom and work with Burrows to "dissect where the math was and how it was used."

In the early days the class was nearly all male. But Hill wanted to change that. "There is a very high female population in Transitions and our first year of teaching we noticed that there was some interest from the girls," Hill recalls. The trick, he says, was to find the right girls to begin. Once that happened more came. The Core Construction class is now half male and half female.

The Core Construction class has completed 70 jobs in the Casper community over the past six years. "The work finds us, but we do look for the jobs that are the best fit for our kids," says Hill. In those six years the students have worked on concrete foundations and flatwork, roofing, barns, garages, and even a "little house" with a foundation. Hill even helped set up a cooperative agreement with Casper College and his program to allow his students to work on small cabins with Casper College students, who worked on the more complicated finish elements. "It is exciting for the kids to participate at that high of a level and to see that they can. Most programs around the country aren't resourced to do high level projects like that," he says. Hill credits the school district and its very forward thinking in allowing him to expand the courses offered and to participate in the relationship with Casper College. That

relationship Hill says has "blossomed to the next level from projects that aren't complicated to fairly complicated projects for new students including flooring, cabinets, log work, everything."

Over 90 percent of the students enrolled in the program have earned credit. The hands-on course has provided something for the students that they weren't able to get in a traditional classroom setting: a course that is not only hands-on, but is also highly focused on a team-based approach. Hill says that it is a "big skill" to be able to work in a co-op setting and that the class "becomes an identity for our students. This becomes their group and they share an accountability and interdependence with one another."

"I tell the kids that I have the best job in the district, this is the one true career that I love. It is very rewarding to be able to provide an opportunity for these kids, and for many a life-changing opportunity. My reward in all of this is seeing the kids move from the step where you are right next to them, to their independence when they are ready. To see them contribute to this community in the end and to have a community that believes in what you are doing is a wonderful thing," says Hill. According to Hill, most of his students go into industry directly from high school. Many, he says, are under resourced and need to start making money. "We know that there is a serious problem with skilled labor shortages in the future, which makes courses like this all the more important," he adds.

"I've always had construction in my blood. The timing was perfect for me and it was the right job at the right time. I had interviewed for other jobs, but then the school district opened the job at Transitions. I didn't have to move and my program is in the perfect town. I liked my old career, but I love this job," Hill says with a smile.



Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, left, and Rob Hill, center, following Hill's receiving of the 2014 Arch Coal Teacher Achievement Award.



While a senior at the University of Wyoming at Casper, Hill and fellow senior Mance Hurley received first place in an instructional unit design contest in Anchorage, Alaska.

## Recognitions

Since he began teaching for the Natrona County School District, Rob Hill has received a number of recognitions including:

- 2009 New Teacher of the Year by the Wyoming Association for Career and Technical Education (WACTE)
- 2010 Innovative Program by WACTE
- 2011 Innovative Regional Program by the Association for Career and Technical Education
- 2012 Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Innovative Demonstration Grant awardee
- 2014 WDE national selection for the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Excellence in Action award
- 2014 Arch Coal Teacher Achievement Award
- 2015 Wyoming Department of Education Spotlight Program
- 2015 K2/Reliant FCU Teacher of the Month
- 2016 WACTE nominee Wyoming CTE Teacher of the Year

Rob Hill works with Transitions student Tyler Myrick on a post placing for redwood and cedar pergola.



# Riding High

## Bates Hole to Houston on a Rodeo Scholarship

by Lisa Pearce Icenogle ('79)



**“It was a pivotal moment in my life when I was offered a rodeo**

**scholarship to Casper College,” says Dan Cheney (AS, AAS, '87), vice-president and chief operating officer for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo®.**

The young steer wrestler had grown up on his family's cattle ranch “30 miles southwest of Casper in the community of Bates Hole,” says the now older and wiser man. On his family's ranch Cheney was branding, calving, fencing, haying, raising market animals for 4-H and FFA, and doing anything else required on a ranch. “The animals I raised, showed and then sold

were how I financed my first pickup truck,” Cheney recalls.

During his senior year at Natrona County High School Cheney lived in town because there was no bus that came to the ranch. He wasn't a great student, he says, but that year he began competing in the National High School Rodeo Association rodeos. “My older brother Bob helped me out a lot with my steer wrestling, and between that, school and work, there wasn't time for anything else,” he says.

He graduated in 1984 and his steer wrestling ability and grades were good enough for Dale Stiles, ag instructor and rodeo coach for Casper College, to offer him a scholarship for tuition and books at the school. “My brother was a big influence in my decision to accept the scholarship and attend Casper College. Bob had

been offered a scholarship to go to college, but he decided to be a rancher and take over the family ranch. He is one of the smartest people I know and he encouraged me to not pass up the chance that he had seven years earlier.”

Had it not been for “the generosity of the Casper College rodeo program's scholarship offer,” Cheney says, he would not have attended college. It was thanks to college that Cheney was able to take advantage of career opportunities that were afforded to him later in life. “Dale had a rough exterior and demeanor, but he was kind and really cared about the rodeo program and the student athletes. He always believed the athlete's education was the first and top priority. He told all of us that Casper College was an educational opportunity and not just a place to rodeo,” says Cheney.



Stiles, the father of Casper College rodeo, was known as a tough coach and an even tougher instructor. "He was very encouraging, but he also demanded the best out of me and the others. Casper College was a great opportunity for me and I made the most of those opportunities," Cheney remembers. He stayed at the college for a total of three years and graduated in 1987 with two associate degrees: one in ag economics and the other in animal science technology, saying that he "took as many credits as I could that would transfer to the University of Wyoming."

In the fall of 1987 he started at UW, where he also was able to attend on a scholarship provided by the university's rodeo program. He completed his bachelor's in ag economics in 1989. It was during his senior year at the university that he was offered and accepted a job with Ciba-Geigy, now part of Novartis, a worldwide healthcare company. Cheney worked for the company for two years as a sales and marketing manager. "When I interviewed and was offered a job, I was told that it could be anywhere in the world. Instead, I ended up in Wyoming working a territory that included Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado."

Along the way, Cheney was introduced through a mutual friend to ProRodeo Hall of Famer, steer wrestler Roy Duvall. Duvall became Cheney's mentor when he quit his job at Ciba-Geigy to hit the pro rodeo circuit. Cheney moved to Checotah, Oklahoma, and competed professionally from 1991-1993 and "made enough to keep going. Those were the best three years of my life; no boss, no cares, no bills, a different city all the time. That was the best, to do something I loved with a bunch of great guys."

Despite his love for the sport, Cheney found that marriage and being away nine months out of the year didn't mix and so he went to work for the Greater Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Parks and Recreation Department where he managed three equestrian centers. "I was 26 when I took that job, and it was my first job in a leadership role," Cheney notes. Thanks to his success and experience in that role the mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee, contacted him about an opening at the Shelby Farms Showplace Arena in Memphis. He applied and shortly thereafter was appointed by the mayor as the executive director and general manager of the arena. With the election of a new mayor seven years later Cheney's appointment was rescinded.

During this time Cheney decided to go to graduate school to earn his MBA degree, which he received in 2003 from the University of Memphis. "I graduated with a 3.89 grade point average and financed my education totally myself and had it paid off completely in 16 months." Cheney says his time at UM was "a great experience" and that thanks to the "great schools in Wyoming" he was able to successfully attend classes with "a lot of very accomplished peers."

Opportunity continued to present itself to Cheney when he was introduced to the owner of several western lifestyle companies. The year and a half he spent working in the western lifestyle field afforded him more valuable work experience. In 2008 he left and headed to Florida to start his own business and to pursue one of

his passions, scuba diving. For someone who grew up on the high and dry plains of Wyoming, scuba diving may seem like an odd passion, but as Cheney puts it, "Everybody likes what they don't have. Like ranching, scuba diving allows me to interact with nature and enjoy a lot of solitude, no one can bother you."

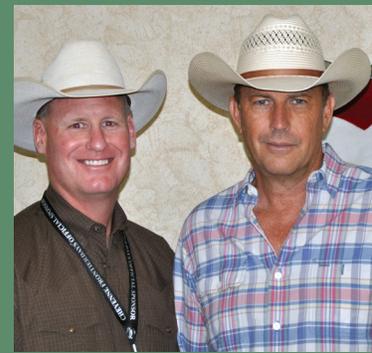
Cheney's business, Forbes Capital Business Group, did well and he enjoyed the Florida lifestyle, but in 2010 Cheyenne Frontier Days called with an opportunity for him to become the president and chief executive officer of the largest outdoor rodeo in the world. He accepted and spent the next 14 months spending alternating weeks in Florida and Cheyenne. He eventually sold his company in Florida to the employees and gave "one-hundred percent of my time to Frontier Days."

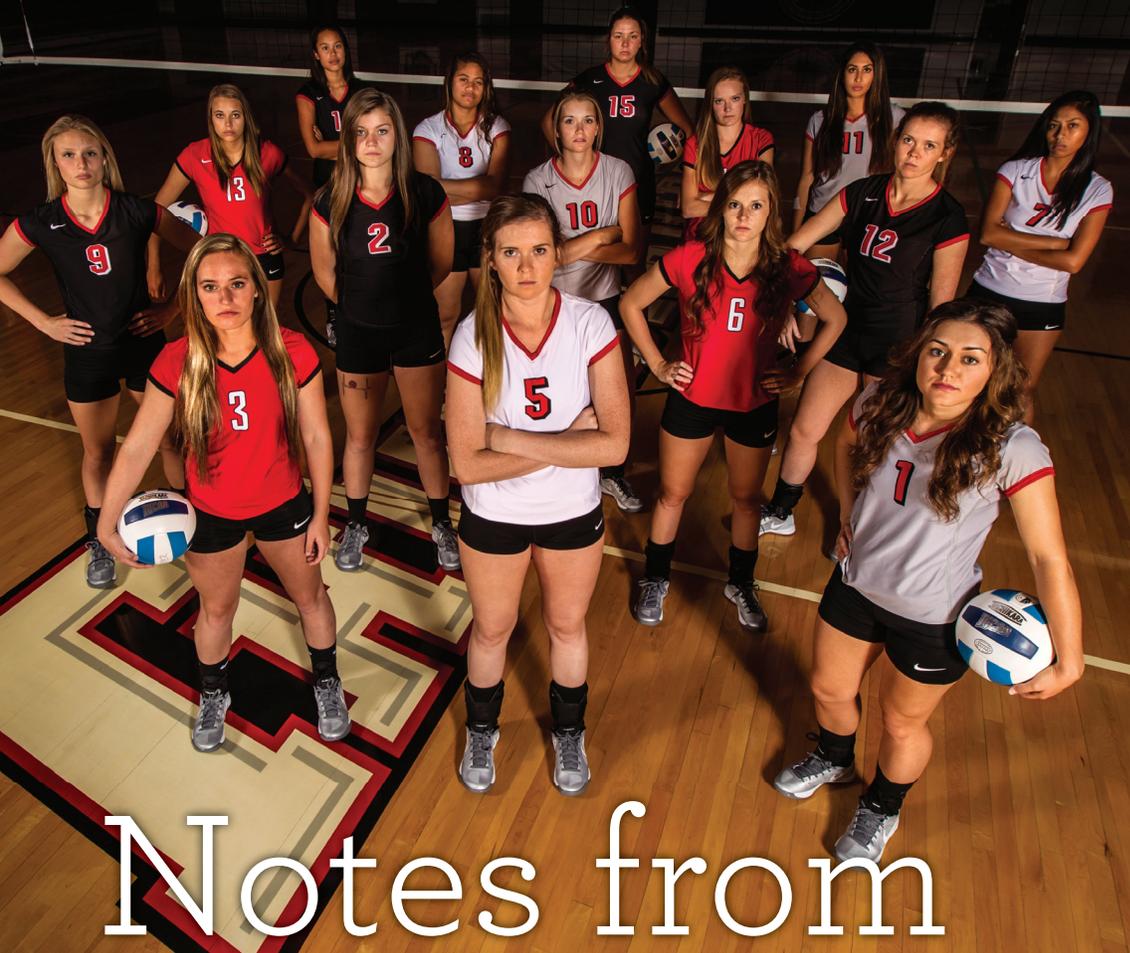
His contract with Cheyenne Frontier Days was up for renewal at the end of 2014 when he was contacted by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and offered the job of vice president and chief operating officer. He accepted and began his new job on October 1, 2014. Cheney was no stranger to Houston, having spent the prior four and a half years developing a partnership between Cheyenne Frontier Days and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Still, it was a big move for Cheney as he went from a business with an annual operating revenue of approximately \$13 million a year and reliance on 2300 volunteers to one with an operating revenue of approximately \$130 million a year and reliance on some 32,000 volunteers. "At either venue, without those volunteers we couldn't put on a show," he notes.

At Houston, Cheney still works at signing top-name entertainment acts, just as he did in Cheyenne, with the scope of the process notched up just a bit: This year the rodeo in Cheyenne will feature 10 days of rodeo and seven nights of concerts while the rodeo in Houston will feature 20 days of rodeo, 20 nights of concerts and the world's largest livestock show over 20 days. In addition, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo supports a large number of Texas youth with scholarships, something near and dear to Cheney, which he alluded to when he commented on his appointment in August of 2014: "I have a strong connection with the mission, as I was raised on a commercial cattle ranch and received a scholarship to attend college as a rodeo athlete. Promoting education and Western culture is my heritage," he said at the time.

According to Cheney the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo have contributed more than \$400 million to the youth of Texas since 1932; in 2016 the show has committed \$26 million to the youth of Texas providing over 750 college scholarships to Texas high school seniors. "Casper College believed in me and gave me a chance at an education and now I can be a part of that same tradition, providing that same opportunity and helping a lot of kids, it helps me feel like I am giving back," Cheney says.

**Top to bottom: Cheney with Reba McEntire, Kevin Costner, Alan Jackson, Pitbull, President George H.W. Bush, and the late Merle Haggard. Photos courtesy of Dan Cheney.**





# Notes from

Casper College athletics have had their ups and downs for the 2015-'16 season, but the

# T-Bird Camp



Coach **Angel Sharman's** volleyball team left fans with a lot of great memories, many of which were amazing blocks, (ranked third in the nation) and finishing up the season with a 25-13 record. The post season was initially looking hopeful with a 3-1 win in the first round over Eastern Wyoming only to have a couple of tough losses to Western College and Sheridan College (3-2, 3-1 respectively). The volleyball team's wins were not limited to the court. **Breeanna Mason, Cheyenne Palu, Isidora Markovic, and Olivia L'ami** made the fall semester President's Honor Roll for their academic accomplishments.

Coach Sharman already has some great incoming talent for next season with the signing of **Jessica Pilivi** from West Jordan, Utah, **Annie Deininger** from Cave Creek, Arizona, and **Alayna Sheldon** from Loveland, Colorado. Coach Sharman and Assistant Coach **Adrian McNamee**, are expecting big things from their flock next year so be sure to tune in come August.

Talent and depth are highly sought after commodities and obviously the most noticeable characteristics of an athlete. But with only two returning T-birds this year, Men's Basketball Head Coach **Dan Russell** was equally focused on the other intangibles that transform good players into memorable ones.

"When you add 13 new guys to a roster, one of the biggest challenges is instilling our culture early," says Russell. "Getting them to play together, identify roles, and then buy into those roles ... A lot of it is team chemistry. We have to spend time together to learn each other, trust has to be built."

Getting the team to play together is exactly what Russell and Assistant Coach **Kevon Davis** have done. Concluding the regular season at 22-8, (12-3 in conference) the men's team did not disappoint fans at home with a perfect record of 17-0. **Gerard Davis, LJ Westbrook, and Warren Dix** were huge components of the T-Birds success this year averaging 14.7, 12.3 and 11.6 (respectively) points per game. Fingers are crossed for Russell to be able to retain this team for another year.

Short of two heartbreaking losses at the very end of the regular schedule, Head Coach **Dwight Gunnare**'s Lady T-Birds crushed the competition. Finishing the season 25-4, nearly perfect in conference play at 19-2, Gunnare assembled a powerhouse group. Freshman guard **Monika Radomska**, from Wolomin, Poland, led in team points averaging 14.7 per game. Guard **Alyssa Big Man**, from Crow Agency, Montana, had another outstanding year in a T-Bird uniform despite missing more than a few games due to injury. She averaged 11.8 points per game while shooting over 80 percent from the free throw line.

In addition to Gunnare being named Coach of Year for the 2015-'16 season, Monika Rodomaska, **Gabby Johnson**, **Ada Yalcin**, and Alyssa Big Man were named to the all-region team and Yalcin was also named to the all-defensive team for Region IX.



take home message is that the T-Birds have had a strong year that only looks to get better.

**T**om Parker and **Jhett Johnson**'s rodeo team were roaring last fall with a strong showing in the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Much of this success is credited to the number one bareback rider in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, **Dylan Wahlert**. **Jeff Zdziarski** also contributes to the men's team in bareback riding, along with **JW Meiers** in saddle bronc riding, **Drew Antone** in bull riding, and **Coley Nicholls** in heeling.

For the women, much promise is shown and freshman **Kassidy Williams** has done well in ladies' barrel racing. Meanwhile, last year's region champion **Lacey Camp** has also performed well in breakaway roping, with teammates **Kooper Bott**, **Meghan Ebert** and **Murphy Haun** trailing closely behind in the same event.

The off-season provided a chance to heal injuries, improve techniques, and prepare for the upcoming rodeos. The Birds are working on a great spring season!





Looking Back

# A Page in Time

A look back at Expressions Magazine

**I**n the spring of 1967 Bertha Davidson, instructor of English, started the *Expression* magazine, according to Bill Curry, my new boss and department chairman of the **Language and Literature Division at Casper College**. “Bert Davidson knew some of her students were outstanding writers, and she wanted their works to receive campus attention,” Mr. Curry told me as I placed my new red grade book into the top drawer of an old wooden desk in the lowest floor of the Administration Building (Liesinger Hall).

I was sharing Mr. Curry’s office because no other space was available. I was a replacement instructor for Bertha Davidson in the spring semester of 1967. She was terminally ill with cancer and died soon after I came on campus. I was hired because I was conveniently on hand, newly married to Bob Jacob, accounting instructor at Casper College. When (college president) Dr. Aley and Dick Reitz, English instructor, told me the job was mine if I wanted it, I agreed but asked if one of my assigned classes could be moved so that I could go home and cook lunch for my husband. As a bride of the middle 1960’s, I considered my husband’s comfort more important than my academic career. Apparently Dr. Aley and Dick Reitz understood because they agreed to the change.

by Shirley Jacob



Looking Back

For several years Bertha Davidson had produced typed copies of poetry and short stories written by her students. Mr. Curry showed me carbon copies of two Expressions, which Ms. Davidson had edited. When Ms. Davidson became ill, Mr. Curry arranged for Charlene Nightwine, English instructor, to become the faculty sponsor, so Charlene was working with a student staff to select the best of the submissions, which were then taken to a printing business downtown.

Unfortunately, the printed magazines of 1967 arrived on campus too late to be distributed via English classrooms to students. I recall at least one box full of magazines roosting in Mr. Curry's office when the spring semester ended. Charlene was very distressed about the delay.

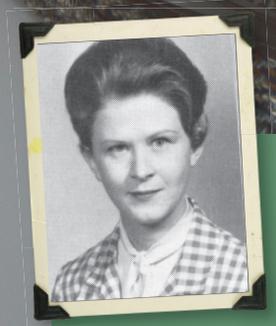
In the fall of 1967, the addition to the Administration Building was completed, so the faculty of the Casper College English and Foreign Language Departments were assigned offices and classrooms in the green-tiled addition. Unfortunately, the windows of our offices were so high that views of the rose garden were blocked.

Mrs. Nightwine's husband was offered a job overseas – a government position, I believe – so Charlene resigned from the faculty to follow her husband to Thailand. Mr. Curry asked me to become the faculty sponsor of Expression magazine, but I countered by saying that I would accept this extra duty if Jolayne Hinkle would be the co-sponsor. Luckily for me, Jolayne agreed. Jolayne and I recognized the challenges we faced:

- We had a tiny publication budget coming from English department funds.
- We had no space for the student staff to work.
- We were teaching regular freshman English classes, not creative writing classes. How would we identify talented writers?
- We both were new instructors struggling to grade the papers of about 100 students each, and we both believed in assigning plenty of writing and thoroughly commenting on each paper. Furthermore, Jolayne was preparing to teach a sophomore class on top of two preparations. I was assigned only two preparations whereas she had three preps.

We solved one of our problems by talking with Margaret Demorest, English Instructor, who taught "Advanced Freshman English" and "English Literature and Twentieth Century Humanities." Margaret agreed to encourage her students to submit their poems and short stories to Expression but she cautioned us that we should not suggest any corrections or revisions of the students' work, maintaining that was her job as their classroom teacher. Jolayne and I did not hesitate to agree to this stipulation. We had too many papers of our own students to look for any more. Mrs. Peggy Curry, who taught creative writing in the evenings, agreed to recommend Expression magazine to her students, as did all of the other English and language instructors.

In the new addition were several windowless closets for custodians to use.



Shirley Jacob was employed by Casper College for 25 years, retiring in 2003, after serving as

an English instructor and as the grants coordinator. She will be honored in May as the alumni association's Commitment to Excellence recipient at the 2016 commencement ceremonies.





1970-'71 Expressions Magazine staff Beverly Wingert, Rod Mahaffey, Dave Burnham, John Bradley, and Nancy Lewis.



1971-'72 Expression Magazine staff.

One was extra-large, so Jolayne and I went to Dr. Lloyd Loftin, dean of faculty, to ask permission to use the room for a desk and typewriter and supplies. Dr. Loftin was always a gentleman where ladies were concerned. When we encountered him in the hallway, he listened politely to our request, but clearly he did not want to say yes and he did not have a good reason to tell us no. He suddenly excused himself saying he must go and would let us know later. He escaped us, the dear man. Later Dr. Loftin gave us keys to the little room and we equipped it with cast-off chairs and desk.

We were wary of contracting with a local printer based on Charlene Nightwine's experience the previous year, so we decided to type the entire magazine ourselves and then send it to an out-of-state printer, a business that had printed the NCHS literary magazine the previous year. I contacted the director of a local IBM store in Casper who agreed to the loan of a Selectric IBM typewriter for our project. These were the days before computers. IBM had developed a computer, which was able to justify the right margins of typed pages. At that time, the only Selectric typewriter on campus was the one Dr. Aley's secretary used. Jolayne and I figured that with volunteer help we could type submissions as they were approved and we could lay out the copy ourselves. A wonderful business student, Mrs. Lily Beavers, volunteered and completed most of the typing.

Jolayne thought that Expression should showcase the work of student artists as well as writers – good idea, but I made an awful mistake in implementing it. I asked the art instructors for copies of student work and then Jolayne and I selected the ones we thought were the best. We should, of course, have asked the art instructors to make the decisions. Then to compound the mistake, we listed Jim Gaither and another art

instructor – perhaps Mr. Ossa – as art editors.

The 1968 Expression magazine saw the light of day on campus only briefly, so the art instructors were embarrassed only briefly. Dr. Loftin looked at the centerfold art section and spotted a drawing of a nude female. "This is close to pornography," he told me. But we did not dispose of the 1968 Expression because of his reaction nor did he ask us to do so. We found out after publication that a student had plagiarized a short story from a slick-paper magazine. We stopped our distribution efforts and sent the copies to the trash.

We did better in the next years. The 1969, 1970 and 1971 Expressions published no plagiarized work and we handled the art submissions more appropriately. We had bright and hard-working students for the Expression staff. Rod Mahaffey (AA, '71) was a student editor. Mary Woodall ('69) and Mike Leberer (AA, '69) were dedicated student staff members. I wish I could remember more names, but the archived editions of Expression at the Goodstein Foundation Library would have a full list of student workers.

I asked Mike Leberer to design a certificate to give to people who deserved special recognition. Using a linoleum-print process, Mike used symbols associated with human creativity: a vase with the word "Expression" written in elegant letters; a trumpet, a boat reminiscent of Ulysses' voyages; seeds inside a fruit. Clever design, but unfortunately, Mike arranged the symbols to suggest a macabre human skull. I have the original certificate, which I will donate if someone at Casper College wants it.

Mike was not the only student to play tricks. Another student, wrote a lovely poem about merry go round horses. After Expression published it, Jolayne and I learned that the

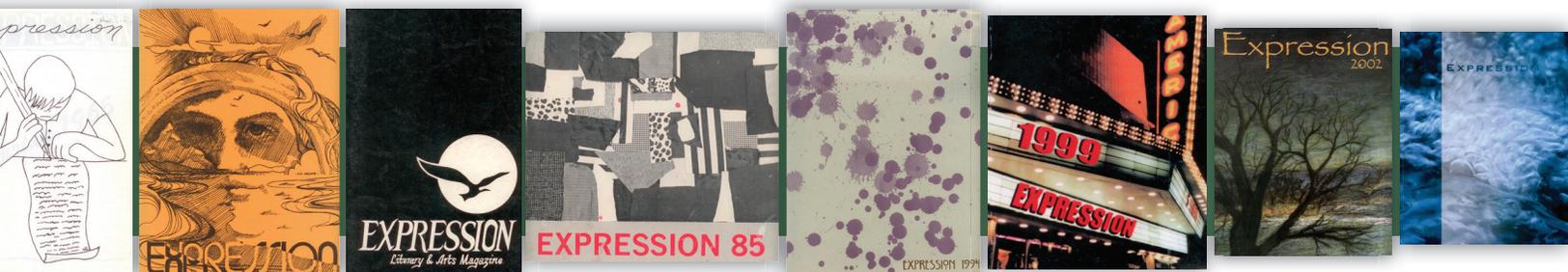
poem made references to using illicit drugs. These were the years when the war in Vietnam and recreational drug use were big issues on America's campuses.

After the 1968 issue, we contracted with local printing businesses to print Expression and we were satisfied. Also, in 1968, Jolayne Hinkle and the student editor successfully requested funding from the Casper College student government, so Expression was on better financial footing.

As if we didn't already have enough to do, I urged Jolayne and the student staff to initiate an Expression lecture series for discussion about the power of language with voices heard from students, faculty and community members. The lectures were well received for the two or three years we sponsored them.

In the fall of 1971 Jolayne Hinkle left Casper College to teach at a community college in Amherst, Massachusetts. I resigned from my position at Casper College when my husband and I adopted a baby boy, Ryan Robert Jacob. I continued to teach night classes in composition for the next three years. I returned in 1975-76 to teach three daytime classes, and then I was offered a full-time position in 1986. I was a classroom instructor until 1992 when I became Casper College's first grants coordinator.

After Jolayne Hinkle and me, the next faculty sponsor was Diane Collins. Other faculty sponsors were Ellen Burke and Terry Rasmussen, both english instructors. A complete list of faculty sponsors can be found in the archived Expression magazines at the library. Each faculty sponsor and student staff added quality and quantity to Casper College's Expression literary magazine. I hope Bert Davidson knows from her perch in heaven that her little magazine continues today full steam.



**Q** : Why did you choose to attend Casper College?

**01** **A** : I originally considered CC because of its reputation in the ag community. If you wanted to judge livestock and be competitive you came to CC. I applied for scholarships and received the Honors Scholarship the Casper College FFA Scholarship, and the Alumni Association Outstanding Student Scholarship. In the end, I had more scholarship dollars offered to me from Casper College, so this is where I came to school.

**Q** : With a degree in secondary education you must have had aspirations for a career other than your current one, true?

**02** **A** : Well, no one goes to college to become the director of admissions at a college; that is definitely an unknown career path. Actually I wanted to be an ag instructor at the high school level, and had wanted that since I was in elementary school. I wanted to have an impact on student's lives and be an instructor who mentored students. With my husband's career in Casper I was somewhat site bound, so I took the job as admissions rep thinking that it would be easy to sell the institution that I believed in.

**Q** : So, how is it to work at your alma mater?

**03** **A** : Someone once said that a good director believes in the institution they work for, has a zeal for education and enjoys meeting new people. Well, I believe in Casper College, I have a zeal for education, I love to learn, and I enjoy meeting new people, which makes it easy for me to come to work here.

**Q** : Do you have some funny stories to share from your days as an admissions representative?

**04** **A** : Doing classroom presentations as a rep is the ultimate test of extemporaneous speaking. One time in a classroom I had a student who was trying to be funny, but very seriously asked me if he could go to school to become a sex therapist. In another school I had a student who told me that he didn't need to go to college because he already worked as a s—t sucker, pumping out septic tanks.

**Q** : When you aren't working, what are you doing for fun?

**05** **A** : Well, I like to take classes and learn new things, take care of my 11-month-old son, Cody, help my husband with his hobbies and projects and work with my schnoodle, Buddy. I also garden, sew, and can still fix fence at my parent's ranch should the need arise!

# Five Questions

## From Grad to Director



**Kyla Cochran Foltz ('02)** attended Casper College, graduating with an A.S. degree in secondary education. During that time she was a work-study student in the office of college relations, now public relations. She studied at the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center, now the University of Wyoming at Casper. From there she headed to the University of Wyoming where she graduated with her B.S. degree in secondary education. That same year she married her high school sweetheart Casey Foltz (AAS, '03) who was already employed in Casper. Moving back to Casper she secured a job at the college as a recruiter. Ten years later she is now the director of admissions.

# Faculty & Staff Notes

**1. Larry Burger**, Casper College sound design instructor, was invited to present at InfoComm 2015 held in Orlando, Florida, in June. Larry gave a presentation about the challenges Casper College faced implementing the new audio technology networks for the Music Building and how those problems were solved. The Casper College Audio Department was one of the first in the country to design and implement these networks in complex configurations. Says Larry: "One of many examples is Wheeler Concert Hall in the Music Building that has 124 direct digital audio split feeds to the recording studio upstairs, allowing students and faculty the ability to record concert performances with up to 128 microphones while providing sound reinforcement for the Wheeler Concert Hall simultaneously."

**2. Chelse Depaolo-Lara**, director of the Adult Learning Center at Casper College and her husband, **Damian Lara** (AA, '07) announced the birth of their daughter, Bria Marie Lara. Chelse writes, "We welcomed her earth-side on Friday, July 17, 2015 in our home. She is healthy and more beautiful than we could have ever imagined. Big brother Auri is enchanted." Bria weighed 7 lbs., 15 ozs. and was 20 1/4 inches long.

**Janet de Vries**, director of student success services, is the current president of the Wyoming Counseling Association and was recently recognized by the American Counseling Association for her efforts in communicating the importance and roles of professional counselors. Janet won the 2015 Public Outreach contest and will receive a complimentary registration to the ACA 2016 Conference & Expo in Montreal, Canada. This past fall, she also received the Outstanding Service Award from the Wyoming Counseling Association for her service and commitment to the counseling field, the Wyoming Counseling Association, the Casper community, and the state of Wyoming. Before joining the CC staff, Janet was a geologist.

**3.** The National Education Association (NEA) published Casper College sociology instructor **Chad Hanson's** article, "Place ... the Final Frontier," in the summer 2015 edition of the journal *Thought & Action*. The essay is available online at [nea.org](http://nea.org). This past year, Chad also placed 38 poems in 26 literary journals, including: *Barrow Street*, *The Fourth River*, *Natural Bridge*, and the *Santa*

*Clara Review*. In addition, Chad and wife Lynn's photographs of Wyoming's wild horses were exhibited at the Natrona County Public Library this past fall. The show, "Landscapes with Wild Horses," featured several years of their photographic work.

**Erin Arnold Kay** (AS, '08) was inducted into the University of Nebraska Kearney Athletic Hall of Fame in September 2015 as one of the top volleyball players in the school's history, earning American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American honors in 2003 and 2004. Erin is the receptionist and bookkeeper for the Inga Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center at Casper College.

**4. Valerie Innella Maiers**, Casper College art history instructor, discussed "Caspar Collins and the Artistic Climate of the 19th Century" at the Fort Caspar Museum. Valerie placed young Collins' artwork in historical context and used the museum's exhibit of his work as a starting point for her talk.

**5. Scott Miller**, assistant human resources director at Casper College, was appointed to serve on the Casper City Council representing Ward 2. Scott says he applied for the position partly because he wanted to "be a part of the positive change" that he sees happening in the city. He holds two degrees from the University of Wyoming, one of which is a Master of Public Administration.

**Barbara Mueller**, retired Casper College anthropology instructor, presented at the Fort Casper Museum about "John Colter: Superhero." She critically examined the myths, the possible routes and the stories of the mountain man. She also discussed the life of John Colter at the annual John Colter Day celebration this past summer at Colter Bay Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park. Colter explored Wyoming and Yellowstone during the winter of 1807-08, and is believed to be the first European-American to travel the region.

**Walter Nolte** has joined Umpqua Community College as its interim president, after retiring as Casper College's president in June 2015. He will serve until the next president is named.

**Michael Olson** (AA, '93, AAA, '97, AAA, '99), had a retrospective show from June 19, 2015 through January 17, 2016 at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper entitled "From Kindergarten through College"

showcasing his earliest pot as a child, all the way through to his current work as the Casper College ceramics instructor and chair of the visual arts department. Mike earned degrees in art, commercial art and photography at Casper College and served in the U.S. Army before getting a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Dakota and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Wichita State University.

**6. Amy Raymond** (AS, '10) Casper College pharmacy technology instructor and **Chris Raymond**, Casper College automotive technology instructor, welcomed Rylee Elizabeth Raymond June 2, 2015 weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches long.

**Will Robinson**, Casper College biology instructor, traveled to Victoria, Australia to give a series of four lectures to an apiculture group. He also spoke in Melbourne, Bairnsdale and Swanpool. The invitation was issued by Kevin MacGibbon, the president of the Victorian Apiarists Association, after seeing Robinson's presentation in Cairns, New Zealand last summer at a convention of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects. Will spoke on his research in Thailand on migration of giant honeybees and the defenses of the Asian hive bee against predatory hornets.

**Garth Shanklin**, retired CC faculty member, earned Lifetime Achievement Recognition from the Wyoming Counseling Association. Garth is instructor emeritus for addictionology and psychology, teaching at Casper College for 28 years. He is the chair of the audit committee for the Wyoming Retirement System Board of Trustees and former board member and chair of the Wyoming Mental Health Professions Licensing Board. He was director of counseling at Casper College, director of residence halls at the University of Wyoming, director of orientation for Colorado State University, and a counselor at the University of Wisconsin. He has also served on the Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions board and is a survivor of breast cancer.

**David Zoby** kicked off the first music and poetry event for the 2015-16 ARTCORE season in Casper. Dave is an English instructor at Casper College. In the past year his work has been published in *The Missouri Review*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *The Sun* magazine, and *The Flyfish Journal*.



# People & Places

## 1960s

**Joseph** ('67) and **Christina** (AA, '67) **Counselor** of Cheyenne celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past summer. At the beginning of their marriage, they both attended Casper College, and then completed their degrees in Laramie at the University of Wyoming. Joe has spent his career with the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, primarily in Nebraska. Christina worked as a journalist. They are golfers and enjoy camping. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

**John** (ABUS, '68) and **Sherry Cram** (AS, '69) celebrated 45 years of marriage in August 2015. John and Sherry met in 1967 at a Casper College fall mixer, and then married in Casper, August 1970. They lived in Montana, Colorado, and Oklahoma, returning to Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1990. Prior to retirement, John was employed by the Wyoming Department of Revenue in the Mineral Tax Division. Sherry worked in nursing for United Medical Center, Health Care Cost Control and the Laramie County School District No.1. The couple has four children and three grandchildren.

**Robert** and **Sharon Lucht** (ATE, '68) of Cheyenne celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Robert Lucht and Sharon Baker met in November 1974, and married three months later on Feb. 15, 1975. Their daughter, Roxann, was born while they lived in Tucson, Arizona, and their son, Steven, was born in Rawlins, Wyoming. They resided in the Denver area before moving to Cheyenne 28 years ago. Sharon earned an Associate of Science degree in data processing from Casper College. Robert holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geological engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. In addition to their two children, they also have five grandchildren.

**Philip S. "Phil" Johnston** (AS, '69) and **Donna V. (Gowin) Johnston** (continuing ed. instructor) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary by gathering on July 4 at the Johnston mountain home on Casper Mountain. They were married July 22, 1955 in Casper. Phil has been a metal smith since 1944, and owns his own business. Donna taught genealogy for 15 years as part of the Casper College Continuing Education program. She is in her 44th year of service at the LDS Family

History Center in Casper. They continue to enjoy traveling and they love being with family. They have four children, 27 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

## 1970s, 80s

**John Brouillette** (ABUS, '71) was featured in a "They Served with Honor: Vietnam" story in the Casper Star-Tribune this past fall. John began pursuing a pilot's license when he was in seventh grade and has spent most of his life in the air. After retiring from a career in the military in 1989, John returned to a job with Casper Air Service. He flew as a civilian air pilot for 21 more years and he still flies for the joy of it.

**Sue Scoville Corsberg** (AGBUS, '72) checked in. She writes, "I married the Laramie, Wyoming, cowboy that I met at CC in 1970, **Marty Corsberg** ('72). We have been together almost 45 years and married 37 years. Marty owns Absolute Shredding out of Windsor, Colorado, and I work in Sales Support at Hach Company in Loveland, Colorado. I previously taught elementary school in Pierce and Montrose, Colorado." Sue and Marty ran in the T-Bird Trek 5K this past fall.

**Stanley A. Moser** (AA, '74) has started Stan Moser Consulting, a company providing consulting services to CMC Missoula, Inc., the former not-for-profit owner of Community Medical Center Missoula. He is assisting in the closeout of the corporation and the monitoring of the asset purchase agreement, following the sale of CMC.

**Don Hilsberg** ('75) recently retired from the Denver Public Schools System where he was an elementary music teacher for 30 years. During his teaching career, Don was honored to have his bio included in the 1989 edition of "Who's Who in American Education" and to receive the Denver Teachers' Award in 2006. Don is principal harpist with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra, a position he has held since 2000.

 **Chris Navarro** ('76, '90) was this year's Honored Artist at the Rendezvous Royale and gave the Honored Artist Lecture at the Buffalo Bill Art Show in Cody, Wyoming. His presentation was titled "Embrace the Struggle." Chris owns Navarro Gallery and outdoor sculpture garden in Sedona, Arizona. He also shows his work in Wyoming at the Big Horn

Gallery in Cody, Deselms Fine Art in Cheyenne, and Mountain Trails in Jackson.

**Robert Mullins** (ABUS, '79) of Carol Stream, Illinois, has been included in the Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide Edition for his outstanding contributions and achievements in the fields of accounting and finance. He is a senior manager at Liccar CPA's in Chicago. Prior to his tenure with Liccar, Robert created a cost accounting system for a department at the University of Wyoming and then automated Medicare cost accounting for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.

**Dan** ('80) and **Patty (Boyle) Goble** ('80) have relocated to the Front Range, after many years in Connecticut. Dan is now director of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Patty recently earned a Master of Arts of Music degree in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory in Boston. Dan and Patty were the 2011 Distinguished Alumni for Casper College.

**Toni Redman** (AA, '85) starred as Lucy Seward in a production of "Dracula" staged by The Old Pros of Laguna Woods in Laguna Woods, California, in October 2015. This particular version of the classic legend was told as a love story.

**Kebin W. Haller** (AAS, '88) was appointed colonel and administrator of the Wyoming Highway Patrol. He was formerly deputy director of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and an executive board member of the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Kebin was past president of the Wyoming Peace Officers Association and has also served on the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission.

**Bruce Nichols** ('89) had a show of his photography at Metro Coffee House in Casper this past summer.

## 1990s

**Denise Lewallen** (AAS, '92) of Casper and Donnie R. Townsend of Sheridan, Wyoming, were married February 28, 2015, at Bear Lodge Resort in the Bighorn Mountains. The bride graduated from Casper College and currently works at WyoBen Inc. The groom currently works for Wyoming Demolition. The couple resides in Sheridan.

**Trina Barber** ('95) and Fred Lombardi were married on August 8, 2015, at Sunburst Lodge Bed and Breakfast on Casper Mountain. The bride received an associate degree in elementary education from Casper College in 1995, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Wyoming in 2002. She is employed at Norco in Casper. The groom is employed at Rocky Mountain Window Distributors.

**Amber Lynn (Reynolds) Diaz** ('96) is a certification officer and assistant professor for teacher education at Texas A&M Central Texas in Killeen, Texas. Amber was previously the director of intervention and at-risk students at Copperas Cove Independent School District in Texas. She earned a master's degree in education administration at Texas A&M University – Central Texas, and her doctorate from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. At Casper College, she was on the speech and debate team.

## 2000s

**Jennifer Dyer** ('00) was recently appointed as the director of the Self Help Center in Casper. Jennifer was previously employed as the interim director of the Nicolaysen Art Museum. The Self Help Center serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

**Rodney Oster** (AA, '00, AS, '07) recently joined the GEAR UP team at Casper College as a student success advisor. He's not new to the college, as he's worked the past 10 years as a master plumber for CC. Before joining GEAR UP, Rodney worked part-time for Mercer Family Resource Center's Youth Empowerment Council as the assistant coordinator. Rodney earned a bachelor's degree in social work in 2010 from the University of Wyoming. He and his wife, Mary have three children. Rodney is a runner and competes in half-marathons. He also enjoys hiking, camping, fishing, playing his guitar, and building and creating anything.

**Charles Ledbetter** ('01) and Aaron Ridley were joined by, **Jim Kopp** (AAA, '00) and **Dani Bayert** (AFA '01) for a performance of the jazz group, the Charles Ledbetter Trio at an ARTCORE Music & Poetry event in Casper last August. The trio is sometimes a duo with Aaron, or a quartet with others. Charles and Aaron met as music students at Casper College.

 **Jeremy Jones** (AFA, '03, AFA, '04) enjoyed a solo show at the Goodstein Gallery at Casper College this past fall. "Unfiltered Curiosity" was an exhibit of ceramic

and mixed media toys. Jeremy earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wyoming and a Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture, with a minor in printmaking at Wichita State University. He is currently the sculpture and ceramics technician in the art department at Vanderbilt University and an adjunct instructor in ceramics at Tennessee State University.

**Brady Frude** (AS, '04, '05) has taken a new post as game warden with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in the Lander, Wyoming, district. Brady began his career as a game warden in August 2010. He and his wife, Candice, have three daughters.

**Dirk Andrews** (AS, '05) was one of five people in the United States to earn the prestigious, Horace Mann Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award cited his community involvement and his advocacy for education in Wyoming. Dirk teaches kindergarten and first grade at Evansville Elementary School in Evansville, Wyoming. He has other teaching awards, including the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education Award and the California Casualty Award.

**Joey Ford** (AA, '05) performs with the band Tree Party based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Their third album is entitled, "Iced Over: Thawing Minnesota's Local Lore" and involved researching stories and local history in smaller Minnesota communities. Joey is the recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board and is married to fellow band member Jenna Wyse.

**Kevin Bennett** (AA, '06) has written a novel, "The Thief and the Sacrifice" that is available on Amazon. Kevin is an online content-writer and also has a comedy act.

**Gabrielle Reeves** (AA, '06) had two exhibits of her work in Casper this past summer, one at ART 321 in Casper and another at the Mildred Zahradnicek Gallery in the Casper College Music Building. She also taught a travel collage workshop in Casper. Gabby, who is a working artist in Istanbul, Turkey, grew up in Casper.

**Kelsey (Roberson) Scolari** (AS, '08) completed a Spartan Race Trifecta this past June by completing three Spartan races including the Montana Beast (14 miles with 38 obstacles) placing third overall in the women's open division; the Montana Sprint (5 miles with 20+ obstacles) finishing first overall in the women's open; and the Salt Lake City Super (10 miles with 20+ obstacles) once again placing first overall in the women's open

division. The race had over 6,000 women participating. Kelsey was a 2005-06 Lady Thunderbird basketball team member. Kelsey is married to former Casper College Rodeo team member **Fenton Scolari** (AS, '08) and is the K-12 physical education teacher in Meeteetse, Wyoming, as well as the head volleyball and girls' basketball coach.

**Kylie (Peck) Richendifer** (AS, '09) is coaching the volleyball team at Kaycee High School in Kaycee, Wyoming. Kylie played volleyball for the T-Birds and earned Region IX Libero of the Year in 2006. She and husband Zack Richendifer have two sons, Clayton and Bridger.

## 2010s

**Brian Nicholas Parke** (AAS, '10) married Lindsey Jo Fuller on August 15, 2015 at Wolcott Galleria. The bride received a master's degree in exercise physiology from the University of Northern Colorado and is program manager at Wyoming Cancer Resource Services in Casper. The groom received an Associate of Applied Science degree from CC with an aviation focus and is flight operations manager and a certified flight instructor at Crosswind Aviation in Casper. The couple resides in Casper.

**Jody Young** (AS, '10) is working at Casper College in accounting. Prior to joining the college, Jody was the head secretary at Grant Elementary in Glenrock, Wyoming. Jody and her husband recently celebrated their 16th anniversary and have three children who are all active in sports. Jody plays golf, racquetball and volleyball and also has an artistic side, enjoying painting, Zentangle, repurposing, and photography.

 **Brianna and Andrew Litzel** (AS, '11) welcomed their daughter Evelyn James Litzel on September 15, 2015 at 1:31 p.m. She weighed 8 lbs., 13 oz. and was 21 inches long. Grandparents, **Rod** (AS, '86) and **Mary** (AS, '82, '87) **Litzel**, are happy to be nearby in Buffalo, Wyoming.

**McKenzie Danforth** (AS, '12) joined the staff of Martin/Martin Consulting Engineers in December. She played basketball at Casper College before transferring to the University of Wyoming where she earned a master's degree in structural engineering. McKenzie developed a system to install fiber optic sensors on bridges to measure the stress of a heavy load on the structure.

# People & Places

**Jessica “Jess” Lippincott** (AS, '13) is the director of the Big Horn Basin Foundation at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis, Wyoming. In addition to her Casper College degree, she also has an Associate of Science degree in general science from Utah State University and is working on a Bachelor of Science degree in geology. Jess worked at the Tate Geological Museum during her time in Casper.

**Tristan Sheets** (AS, '13) is a registered respiratory therapist at Wyoming Medical Center in Casper. After earning her associate degree

in respiratory therapy from Casper College she continued her studies and anticipates graduating with her bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy from Boise State this May. Tristan currently is on the Employee Advisory Counsel at Wyoming Medical Center.

**Scott Gambino** (AA, '14) and **Hannah Jolly** (AA, '09) are the house managers for the historic Bishop Home in Casper and hosted the summer tours. Scott earned a history degree from Casper College and is continuing as a museum studies student. Hannah teaches for the Natrona County School District.

**Megan Sechrist** (AA, '14) and Eli Gilmore were married July 11, 2015, at Red Butte Ranch. The bride continues to attend Casper College and the groom works at Black Hills Bentonite. After a honeymoon in Riviera Maya, Mexico, they are back at home in Casper.

**Rick Barnes** (AS, '15) did a summer internship with the Nevada Cattlemen's Association. Rick grew up on his family's cattle operation near Jiggs, Nevada. He is continuing his studies at Colorado State University where he is pursuing degrees in animal science and ag. business.

## Don't Get Lost! Help us Keep Track of You and Your Classmates!

If you move or have a significant event happen in your life, share it. Or if you know where another alum is, tell us about them so we can keep everyone connected!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Years attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

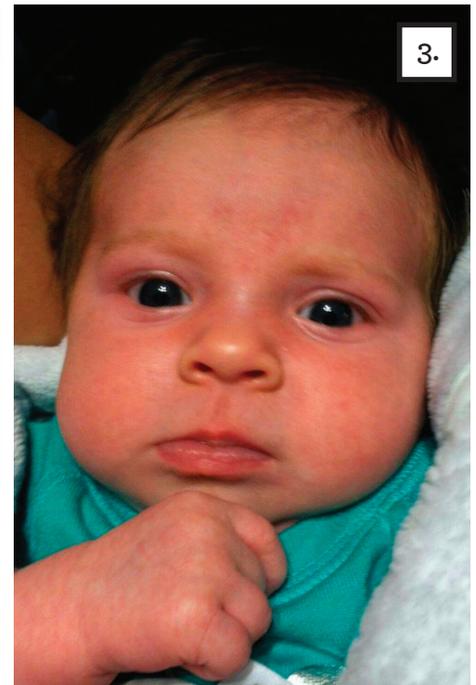
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### Please send information to:

*Mail:* Linda Nix, Associate Director  
Casper College  
125 College Drive  
Casper, WY 82601

*Phone:* 307-268-2218  
or 800-442-2963 ext. 2218

*Email:* [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu)



1.

2.

3.

# Friends We'll Miss

**Edwin Earle Walter** (AS, '67)  
February 8, 2015

**Cecelia Theresa Rodgers Miller**  
(AA, '63)  
March 13, 2015

**Kenneth Okes** ('48)  
May 22, 2015

**George K. Bryant** (CERT, '65)  
May 29, 2015

**Jolayne Johnson Hinkel**  
(Former CC instructor)  
June 12, 2015

**Stan Lowe** (CC friend and supporter)  
June 16, 2015

**Clint L. Montgomery** (CERT, '87)  
June 18, 2015

**Robert D. Strickler** ('49)  
June 22, 2015

**Dixie Rae Thoman** (AAS, '74)  
June 22, 2015

**Kay Lynn Bishop** ('97)  
June 26, 2105

**L.R. "Bob" Spillers** ('47)  
June 26, 2015

**Kirk Warren Goodrich** (CERT, '71)  
June 30, 2015

**Kirk King Watters** (ABUS, '66)  
June 30, 2015

**Mary Louise Bailey Knox** ('97)  
July 17, 2015

**Wayne Goerke** (AA, '57)  
July 19, 2015

**Joyce Martha (Huber)**  
(Garberg) Sneed ('49)  
July 19, 2015

**Charles C. Williams** (CERT, '68)  
July 25, 2015

**Mareta Jane Richards** ('79)  
July 30, 2015

**Iola 'Ike' Violet (LaFont) Dryer** (CERT, '75)  
August 11, 2015

**Doris Marie Hlava** (AAS, '89)  
August 11, 2015

**Dorene Davenport** (AA, '69)  
August 14, 2015

**Paula Christine Waatti** (AA, '66)  
August 14, 2015

**Wendell H. Caster** (CERT, '89)  
August 16, 2015

**Helen Hedberg Knott**  
(former CC employee)  
August 19, 2015

**Edward Franklin Kinion** (AA, AS, '59)  
August 30, 2015

**John Patrick Daly** (AA, '57)  
September 1, 2015

**William Alonzo 'Bill' Anderson** (AA, '48)  
September 6, 2015

**Delbert R. Richards** (AA, '59)  
September 11, 2015

**Jerald Thomas Marcotte** (ABUS, '80)  
September 12, 2015

**Sandra Sue "Sandee" (Lumley) Garrelts**  
(AS, '68)  
September 14, 2105

**Jerry Kaufmann** (AA, '60)  
September 18, 2015

**Richard Fujita** (former CC employee)  
September 19, 2015

**Linda Diane Heberlein**  
(AA, '69; OLLI instructor)  
September 19, 2015

**Jane Quinn Katherman**  
(former CC instructor, CC District Board Trustee, CC  
Foundation Board)  
September 19, 2015

**Frederick "Fred" Melvan Lollar** (CERT, '74)  
September 24, 2015

**Charlie Castor** ('74)  
September 29, 2015

**Luke L. DeCoteau** (CERT, '00)  
September 29, 2015

**Rick D. Hansen** (CERT, '09)  
September 29, 2015

**Russell (Rusty/Russ) James Smith, D.V.M**  
(AS, '80)  
September 29, 2015

**Jeffrey Lord** (former CC employee)  
October 3, 2015

**Judy (Davidson) Spade** ('63)  
October 3, 2015

**Linda Madeline (Peterson) Ackerly** (AA, '88)  
October 5, 2015

**Robert Page** (CERT, '79)  
October 5, 2015

**Leo Conway Ashba** ('50)  
October 9, 2015

**Avis Palmer** ('56)  
October 9, 2015

**Roy Calvin Crouch** ('48)  
October 17, 2015

**Kevin L. Ludiker** ('78)  
October 19, 2015

**James Delmar Baker, DVM** (AA, '55)  
October 25, 2015

**Melissa (Skinner) Bettencourt**  
(AAS, '00)  
October 26, 2015

**Gloria 'Jean' (Shumaker) Vega** (CERT, '76)  
October 31, 2015

**Charles F. Wooden** ('83)  
November 1, 2015

**Megan Elise Skinner** (current)  
November 3, 2015

**John F. Wing** (AS, '68)  
November 3, 2015

**William Barclay Ramage** ('51)  
November 5, 2015

**Fred M. Eiserman**  
(Werner Wildlife Museum volunteer)  
November 14, 2015

**David Warren Hadley** (AA, '58)  
November 14, 2015

**Jane Wold** (Casper College benefactor)  
November 18, 2015

**Nancy Carolyn Kortess Shepperson**  
(CERT, '92)  
November 20, 2015

**Regina Donelle Kirchnavy** (AS, '83)  
November 25, 2015

**JoAnne Titensor Wetzel** ('73)  
November 25, 2015

**Evelyn L. (Sheaman) Wall** (AS, '69)  
November 30, 2015

**Ron Mathisen** (former CC employee)  
December 3, 2015

**Marjorie E. Stuckenhoff**  
(Casper College benefactor)  
December 8, 2015

**James A. Wright** (AB, '00)  
December 10, 2015

**Newman Ute** (CERT, '65)  
December 13, 2015

**Jean Marie Parson** (CC friend)  
January 1, 2016



# Hidden Campus



by Justin Pehrson



**A**s I stood in a concoction of melt-off grime sourced by an aging snowbank from across the parking lot, a pair of stark realizations hit me. The first revolved around the idea of not being too thrilled about sending out a search party of one to recover a set of acrobatic car keys. The second was, that winter's welcome has worn transparent. I held out longer this year than I do most, but that moment when I'm ready to exchange boots for flip flops has arrived all the same. Sloshing about in a puddle of the unknown while having an abrasive conversation with the wind only reinforced my recent acknowledgment. I try my hardest to look for the best in all things but for me, at that specific spot in time and space, the beauty and magic of the season had become as desaturated as the beige ocean that slumped over the horizon. Since that bleak afternoon, the mere thought of "Local on the 8s" now provokes a barrage of audible sighs that, if left unchecked, will escalate into a full out expletive assault on the Weather Channel.

No fighting it, I've a small case of the winter blues.

Fortunately for most of us, this is a temporary condition where treatment of the symptoms is almost as good as a cure – maybe a cruise through tropical waters, full spectrum light boxes, or perhaps a little greenhouse therapy. I believe I'm in favor of the efficiency and price (or lack thereof) of the latter suggestion.

Operated by the Department of Environmental and Natural Science, the Casper College Greenhouse is more than a cost free oasis in the long stretches of winter. The mission of the Casper College Greenhouse is to support Casper College programs, educate the community and provide a diverse habitat that is conducive to stimulating all facets of education. While this includes the sciences, it also extends to areas of the arts and humanities.

Home to a variety of exotic plants, as well as reptiles, fish, and birds, the greenhouse offers three distinctive areas – the Tropical Rain Forest Room, a Desert Room, and the Greenhouse Main Room. Sustaining a balance between all the different life forms and their environments is a constant goal that stimulates studies in ecology, biology, botany, and zoology.

Located on the second floor of the Loftin Life Science Center, the greenhouse is open Monday thru Friday from noon-3 p.m. for drop-in visitors. Larger groups and private tours can be scheduled by contacting Evert Brown at 307-268-2407 or [ebrown@caspercollege.edu](mailto:ebrown@caspercollege.edu).

After your rejuvenating trip to the greenhouse has given you the will to endure until May, visitors are encouraged to take a small piece of paradise in parting. As the plants are free to a good home, please remember that the donations received for these plants help sustain the continued operation of the greenhouse.

Have a suggestion for a "Hidden Campus" feature? Send your request to Justin Pehrson at [jpehrson@caspercollege.edu](mailto:jpehrson@caspercollege.edu) or call 307-268-2266.



# According to Charlotte

by Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)



## Poll-arization

**W**hat is a poll? Well, I think a poll is a sampling of opinion from a segment of the population to find out what they are thinking in the hope that the result will be interesting enough to be newsworthy. Newscasters and newspapers seem to love telling viewers the results of some poll (survey) or other. I would love to be included in any kind of poll, but I'm still waiting.

I've done a little research into polls and I've found some that I'd really liked to have been asked about. For instance:

Saran Wrap took a poll of 1,000 adults about leftovers (wrapped in Saran Wrap, I'm sure.) "How old are your leftovers?" they asked. Sixty-one percent said six days or less; 23 percent said one to four weeks and 9 percent didn't have leftovers. Two percent didn't know or care. This poll is one I could really have gotten my teeth into.

A telephone poll by the Gordon S. Black Corporation asked 612 people if they would like to fly to the moon and 65 percent of the men said they sure would. In contrast only 34 percent of the women said they would like to

do that. It just goes to reinforce my opinion that women like both feet planted firmly on the ground!

The Black Corporation conducted another poll and this one addressed smoking in the workplace. A total of 678 people polled about this fiery issue found 88 percent of them did object to smoking at work. The missing 12 percent were obviously sneaking off to smoke in the bathrooms, blatantly ignoring the "No Smoking" signs.

Good Housekeeping once conducted a little survey about the home and its state of upkeep by asking 500 women over and under 45 years of age whether they made their beds every day and found that only 45 percent of the under 45s did that; but that 71 percent of the over 45s really did make their beds daily. Somehow this reminded me of my mother (who always did) saying, "You've made your bed, but do not lie on it."

The Wakefield Research for Filtrete Filters polled 1,000 households about their preferred cleaning shortcuts. Forty-six percent said they closed off a room; 44 percent said, "Hide stuff in a closet" while 27 percent said, "Throw

it away." Twenty-eight percent said, "Dust with your hand," and 19 percent said, "Hide everything under the bed."

There was a man (I don't know his name) who unofficially researched the most common closing lines of business and personal letters. He found that "Sincerely" was by far the most common closing (no percentage) followed by "Truly" coming in at 6 percent. "Warm regards" or "Best regards" landed at 5 percent. "Cheers" tied with "Love" at 3 percent and anything that closed with "Wishes" tagged along at 2 percent. (If my subtraction is right, good old "Sincerely" wins in a landslide at 84 percent.)

He found some very original closings which included: "Yours until the last stamp is licked," "With as much optimism as I can muster" and "Keep the bilge pumped and the motor running." (What does that mean, anyway?)

I would really, really like to be included in somebody's – anybody's – poll, so if any pollster could include me as one of their people, please get in touch. I'm in the phone book and I'm not getting any younger!

Sincerely, truly, cheers, and warm regards,

*Charlotte*



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