

Casper College Alumni Magazine

Summer 2017

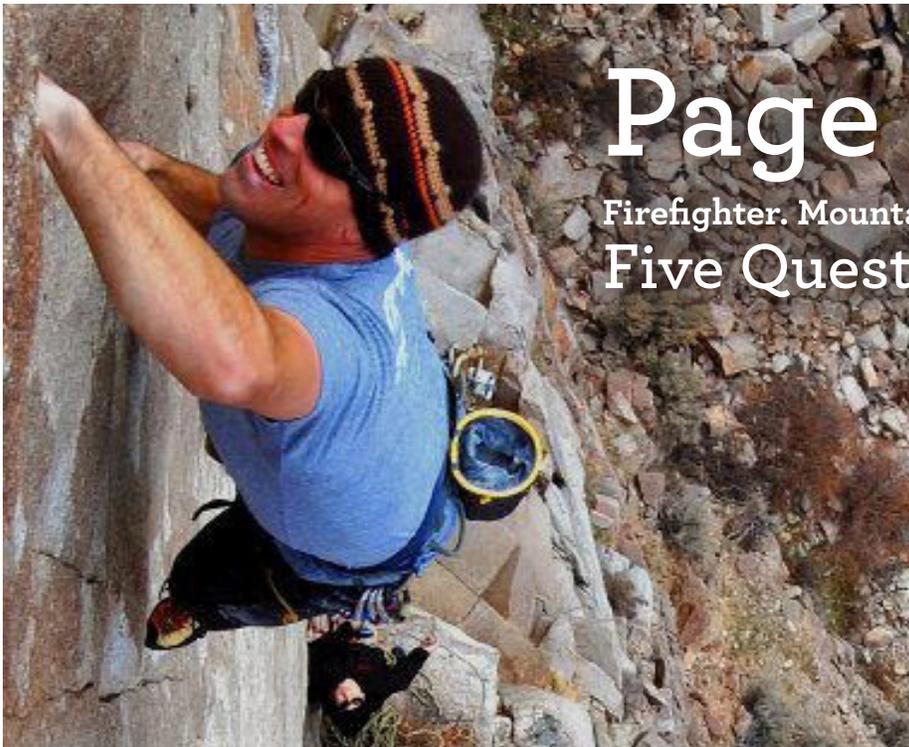
Footprints



Road to Success
CC Education Paves the Way

Celebrating 10 Years of OLLI
Learning for the Love of It

Looking Back
Mystery Money



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Firefighter. Mountaineer. Educator.
Five Questions

Fremont Canyon provides Micah Rush with many climbing opportunities. Below Rush are the waters of Alcova Lake near Alcova, Wyoming.

Footprints

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

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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!

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Dear fellow alums and friends of Casper College,

As I write my last article as your Casper College Alumni Board of Director's president, I can't help but think back over an amazing two years. Casper College is an incredible institution for the city of Casper, the state of Wyoming, and the entire nation. Thanks to all that read Footprints for helping make our school and the alumni association remarkable organizations.

We have another informative issue of Footprints for your reading pleasure. The cover story is about CC alumni who own businesses in the Casper area. These are stories of dedication and inspiration. As always, if you are in Casper, please patronize these good folks.

I'm proud to have helped develop and design a new graduation gift from the alumni association. This year's graduates received a CC Alumni Association Challenge Coin. The coin has a long tradition in military units, emergency services, and those that want to create a memento of a group, event or organization. We are discussing how we might make these coins available to you. Stand by.

The third annual T-Bird Trek will happen on Sunday, September 17. Here is a chance to get Wyoming off your "Run a half marathon in every state" list. Casper in the fall is always beautiful, with the distinct possibility of either a head wind or tail wind, or both.

There is always more content in Footprints than what I cover here. Always informative, well written, and many with color pictures! If there is an article that touches you, drop an email to alumni@caspercollege.edu.

Providing scholarships is the most important thing we do. Thank you to all that have applied and congratulations to those that have been awarded a scholarship.

We honored our 2017 Distinguished Alum and Commitment to Excellence award winners at commencement and a special reception at the home of Dr. Darren and Terry Divine.

There are personnel changes happening in the Casper College Foundation Office. I want to publically thank Paulann Doane, Linda Nix, Denise Bressler, Becky Wise, Elliott Ramage (already gone, but not forgotten), and Katie Schwieger. You have made my term challenging, interesting and educational. Plus, there is always chocolate in the office. Thank you to Casper College President Divine for supporting us. I've enjoyed our friendship. And welcome to Ann Dalton, the new associate director of development and Danica Sveda, the new associate director of donor and alumni relations. Both of you are joining a great team.

Thank you all for being a part of and for your interest in Casper College. My best to you all,

David Long ('72)

President
Casper College Alumni Association, 2015-17

Alumni News

2017 Graduate Thomas Mylar Chosen as Commencement Speaker

The commencement speaker for this year's commencement was Casper College graduating student Thomas Myler. Myler was selected from a pool of six students who each presented their proposed commencement speech to a panel of nine judges consisting of college deans, student service personnel, faculty, alumni, and college students.

During his time at Casper College, Myler was a student ambassador for the admissions office; a member of the student senate; Latter-day Saints Student Association; Campus Kitchen; Casper College chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, where he was the student networking team coordinator; Phi Theta Kappa; and served as an intern in U.S. Senator John Barrasso's Casper office. He also

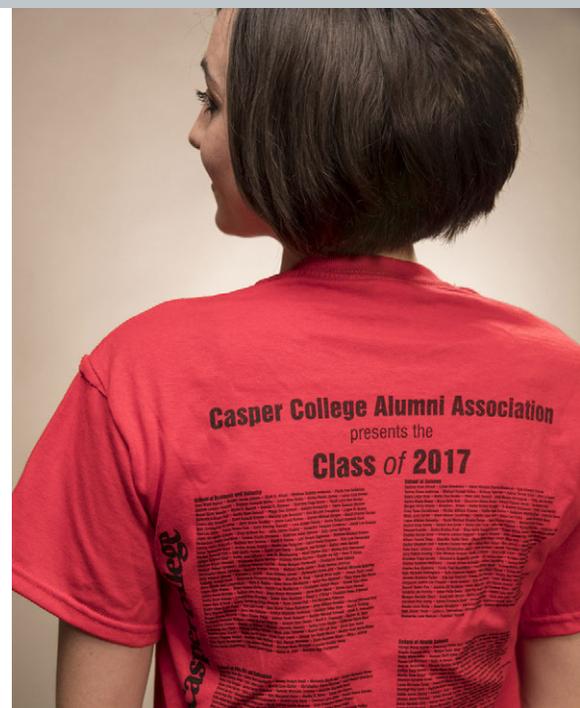
appeared in the summer 2016 production of "Legally Blonde – The Musical!" as Kyle the UPS man and in the 2017 dance production of "Charlotte's Web" where he appeared as Lurvy. In his application, Myler noted that his "involvement both on campus and in the Casper community have allowed me to show and build my leadership skills and help those who might otherwise be in need."



New Grads Pick up the Check for Two Students

Many members of the recently graduated Class of 2017 are sporting shirts with their names on the back. Not just their own names, but also the names of all their classmates. A significant portion of the graduates donated \$10 or more to the Class of 2017 Scholarship fund that supports scholarships for students in the upcoming fall semester. That donation made them eligible to receive a free t-shirt. Why pay it forward at a school that many tout as inexpensive? These graduates know first-hand that a good value doesn't always translate into

a fully affordable education, and that without scholarship support, many students could not afford a college education. For the past five years, the alumni association has donated the cost of the shirts to support student-led philanthropy. The project, in conjunction with the Casper College Student Senate, allows graduates to give a hand up to two students each year. A limited number of shirts are still available. Email alumni@caspercollege.edu or call 307-268-2256.



Alumni Board Welcomes Five New Members

The Casper College Alumni Association board of directors welcomed five new board members at the spring meeting. Casper College Fire Science instructor **Dale Anderson** (AAS, AB '93) has been an active participant on the T-Bird Trek planning committee since its inception; **Shawn Houck** (AA, '95) is

the owner and CEO of AdBay, Casper's largest advertising agency; **Chad Pollock** ('13) is the master distiller at Backwards Distilling in Casper; **Joni Hedstrom** (AB, '94) is a stylist at Martin's Co-Op in Casper and recently gained her real estate license; and **Hannah Wille** (AS, '13) is an elementary school

educator in Salt Lake City, and was the alumni assistant for the Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association for three and a half years. The five join the other 18 members of the board in representing a diverse cross section of the college's alumni community.

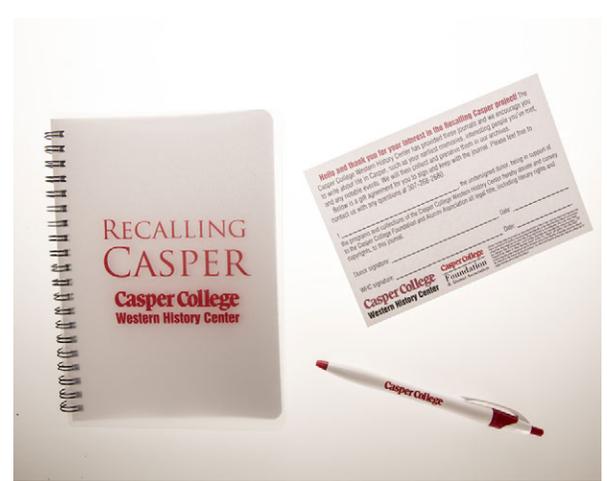
Recalling Casper – An Effort to Collect Written Memories of Casper and Natrona County

The Casper College Western History Center's latest project, "Recalling Casper," asks people to write about life in Casper, including earliest memories and notable events, in an effort to collect local history. The goal is to gather stories about people and events, first thoughts about Casper, or any experiences that have left an impression on current and former Casperites. Free journals are available to interested persons.

The "Recalling Casper" project asks participants to complete, then return and donate the journals back to the Casper College Western History Center. The

center will preserve them, and store them in the archives. At some point, contents of the donated journals will be transcribed and shared with the community. The Casper College Western History Center strives to preserve the cultural heritage of Wyoming and the West, with a special emphasis on Casper and Natrona County.

If you would like to participate, please feel free to contact archivist **Vince Crolla** at vcrolla@caspercollege.edu, call 307-268-2680, or stop by the office in the Goodstein Foundation Library and pick one up.



Your Place or Ours? Choose Your Trek View

This year's T-Bird Trek is all about the view. Last year, the Trek added a virtual race option, and it was an enormous success. The Virtual T-Bird Trek allows runners and walkers from all over the world to choose when and where they want to do their T-Bird Trek.

As participation in 5K, 10K, and half-marathon events climbs worldwide, virtual races are all the rage. Runners and walkers from near and far can get the race swag, and a T-Bird

Trek t-shirt, plus have the fun of being part of a larger event, without making a trip to Casper.

Participants who come to campus for the September 17, 2017, half-marathon race will once again do the hill climb to Lookout Point, then turn around and return to campus. The 13.1-mile event is intentionally difficult and not everyone's cup of tea, but for runners interested in a mountain road race with a 2,007-foot elevation gain in just over six miles, it's perfect.

Not into the big hill climb? Try the 10K or the 5K. Whether you run or walk, the views are tremendous. Last year's Trek participants represented half the United States and five continents. This year, the T-Bird Trek and T-Bird Virtual Trek seek to surpass those numbers.

For the third year in a row, Bromley Real Estate Company is the title sponsor.



Campus News

First Ever Sign Fest Successful

Casper College's first ever Sign Fest was termed a success by fest coordinator **Gail Schenfisch**, American Sign Language instructor at the college.

The event took place on February 1-3 thanks to a grant funded by the Central Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Heath Goodall, a deaf presenter, worked with a total of 328 students from Casper College, Kelly Walsh High School, and Dean Morgan Middle School

who were learning American Sign Language during the 2016-2017 school year.

According to Schenfisch, Goodall's presentations were on deaf literature, deaf poetry, and grammatical structures of ASL. Students also participated in breakout groups taught by local deaf community members focused on deaf art and developing visual communication.

"On February 3, Heath worked with approximately 170 deaf and hard of hearing

students during the day through a collaborative effort with the Wyoming Department of Education – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. He presented a visual-gestural performance to these students on campus," said Schenfisch.

The Sign Fest concluded with an evening presentation open to the community by Goodall titled, "Deaf Man Wired." His performance incorporated deaf poetry into stand-up comedy using no conventional signs to tell about his life experiences in the hearing world.



Humanities Festival Celebrates 32nd Year, Focuses on "Identity"

The 32nd Annual Casper College Humanities Festival looked at the topic of "Identity" and had celebrated transgender trailblazer Kate Bornstein as the Demorest Keynote Lecturer. Each year the festival presents local and national scholars in the humanities who present on the theme and encourage a dialogue with attendees in one-hour sessions. Next year's festival will focus on "Fables, Folklore, and Fantasy."

IDENTITY

2017 CASPER COLLEGE HUMANITIES FESTIVAL AND DEMOREST LECTURE
FEBRUARY 22-25, 2017

Kinser Celebrates 50th

The Annual Kinser Jazz Festival celebrated its 50th year with three headline concerts. Grammy-nominated Kris Berg and the Metroplexity Big Band performed on February 6, Grammy winner New York Voices on February 7, and Grammy winner Terell Stafford with the Ben Markley Trio closed the three-day event out on February 8.

The festival, named in honor of Casper College music instructor and jazz promoter **Dr. Thomas Kinser**, was founded by Kinser to promote jazz as a

standard component of music study in Wyoming. The first festival held in 1967 hosted just three ensembles. Today, the festival has grown to accommodate more than 50 vocal and instrumental ensembles, with regional junior high schools, middle schools, and high schools participating.

In past years, jazz greats Dizzy Gillespie, Betty Carter, the Count Basie Orchestra, Airtio Moreira, Flora Purim, Ellis Marsalis, Clark Terry, and others have performed.



Casper College Debate Team Takes First in Lima, Peru, Third Nationals



The Casper College Forensics team won first place in the community college team sweepstakes and took third place in overall team sweepstakes at the 27th Annual International Forensics Association Tournament in Lima, Peru.

The team ended the season with two bronze awards in the Wheeler Division: one in debate and the other in individual at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament held in Washington, D.C. According to **Jordan Johnson**, assistant director of forensics, the team had five events

that were “‘next out’ meaning that they missed the elimination round break by one rank,” she said, adding, “Next-out placings speak to the quality of the event but are heart-breaking because only advancing events score points for the team.”

“The national tournament was exceptionally competitive this year, and our students excelled,” said **Doug Hall**, director of forensics. This is an outstanding team full of passion and talent. They set the bar extremely high for future teams.”

Tate Hosts Two Nationally Known Speakers

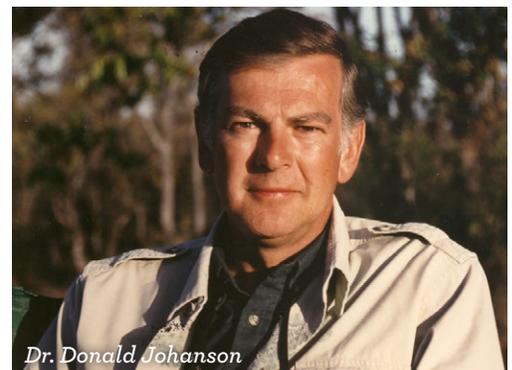
This year's Tate Geological Museum Lecture Series titled “Science in the Public Eye” featured two nationally known speakers, Emily Calandrelli, host of FOX’s “Xploration Outer Space,” and Dr. Donald Johanson, renowned paleoanthropologist.

Calandrelli spoke about her adventures as a science communicator: the good, the bad, and the more surprising experiences. She also explained why she believes science literacy and space exploration are important and how social media has played a crucial part in bringing science to the masses.

Johanson is the discoverer of “Lucy,” one of the most complete skeletons of a female

Australopithecus afarensis, in 1974. The 3.2 million-year-old fossil was found in the Afar Triangle region of Hadar, Ethiopia. He is the author of the 1981 bestseller “Lucy: The Beginning of Humankind” and 2009’s “Lucy’s Legacy: The Quest for Human Origins.”

The series began with Casper College’s own **Dr. Andrew Young**, physics and astronomy instructor, who spoke on the total solar eclipse that will take place over the United States on August 21 and the various aspects of historical significance for the astronomical phenomenon.





Road to

CC Education Paves Way for Alumni Businesses

by Susan Anderson

A varied group of self-starters who serve on the Casper College Alumni Board agree on this: Casper College set them up for success. Board member **Deb Simon** (AS, '75) is a self-described “country girl” from “down a crummy road” who came to life at the college and went on to advocate for education programs for the “average Joe kid” in Wyoming before taking over the family ranch. Past board president **Kevin Bromley** (AAS, '77) bounced around to different jobs before opening his own real estate business; he is convinced that the business classes he took at CC gave him tools to overcome the odds against startup businesses surviving past five years.

Among the college alums on the board are successful business people from many fields. Talking with a handful who have taken entrepreneurial paths produces a clear agreement on strengths of the Casper College experience and the lasting loyalty it creates in many grads.

For Simon, leaving her ranch located on Lightning Creek 10 miles east of the town of Bill, Wyoming, and walking onto the Casper College campus served as a sparkplug for her ambitions. The college “lifted me up and made me realize the world is a big place with a zillion opportunities,” she said, adding, “I wish for every kid to have that opportunity – the individual attention, everything.” She observed teachers getting to know each student in the classroom and took that as the model for an educator. Casper College teachers were “good at preparing people for being lifelong learners and knowing they can have a variety of careers.”



Success

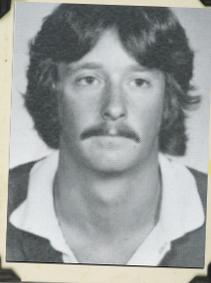
Deb Simon with her newest ranch hand, D.J. Booger.



Deb Simon

Her long career path in education ranged from teaching science at Wyoming Indian High School to working for the Wyoming State Department of Education Special Education Division. One part of being on the alumni board that she treasures is recognizing the staff and educators who have an impact on youth; “We go back and honor those people who have made a career of preparing students for the future.”

Bromley knew he was taking a risk when he opened the Bromley Real Estate Company after 18 years of working for others both in the oil business and then real estate. He reflected on the percentages of new businesses “that make it to five years, and I think what I learned at Casper College was so beneficial. Staying afloat for 16 years has had a lot to do with what I learned in economics and statistics.” His gratitude led Bromley to work hard for the college on the alumni board, saying “They were there for me; it was time to give back to them.”



Kevin Bromley



Grateful Alumni 'Pay Back'

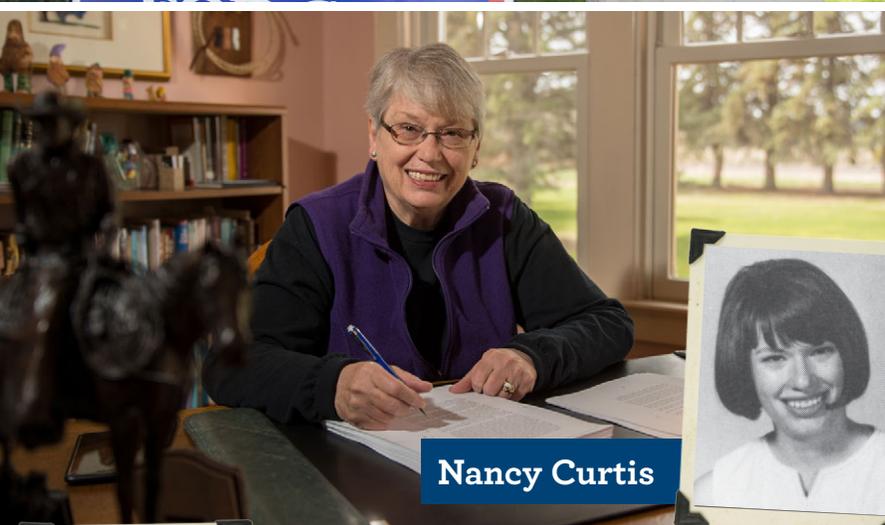
The desire to pay back to the college is a big part of why the board members interviewed for this article got involved in alumni work. High Plains Press Publisher **Nancy Curtis** (AA, '67) was selected as an outstanding alumna one year. "I was honored; I thought that whatever Casper College wants, I'll do it," she said. One of her favorite parts of being on the alumni board is working on scholarships for current students.

Curtis had graduated in a tiny class of 16 in high school and found a home at the college, which she said "was small enough that I was welcomed and recognized as an individual. It was just the right size for me." One of her inspirations as a teacher was legendary English instructor Margaret Demorest. Curtis taught English for several years after college and then took a leap. She started High Plains Press in Glendo, Wyoming, with one poetry book. From there, "I just did one book at a time and always had enough money to do one more." She has published more than 50 books since starting the company in 1984, specializing in Wyoming history, poetry, and the American West. Two of her best sellers are "Staking Her Claim," about single women homesteaders and "Tom Horn: Blood on the Moon."

Casper entrepreneur **Shawn Houck** (AA, '95) plunged directly into starting businesses after college. He founded the ad agency Adbay with two partners while in his 20s, recently bought the online news service Oil City, and expects to open a microbrewery, Frontier Brewing Company, in downtown Casper this summer on Second Street. He is a recent alumni board member who is convinced that the many opportunities Casper College offered him built up a belief that he could try anything and succeed. While earning his English degree, Houck edited "Expression," the student-run literary and arts magazine, and competed on the debate team.

He said that "Expression" was a hands-on experience that gave students opportunities to try editing, design, sales, and writing. That was an early taste of what he would begin doing professionally at Adbay. From debate, he learned to organize and present ideas and be comfortable in front of a crowd, skills that he used this year as he shepherded the plans for Frontier Brewing Company through permitting and public presentations.

Jan Cundy (AS, '80) joined the board because she believes the college has an important place in the community. She is a big fan of community colleges, she said, because of the individual attention to students. "I think people get lost in big universities." Cundy and her husband **Brad** ('79) have run two major businesses in Wyoming. First, they operated Cundy Asphalt Paving Construction in Gillette, Wyoming, employing 250 and doing \$20 million a year in business. After selling that, they started Keyhole Technologies in Casper. Keyhole Technologies LLC is a traffic control subcontractor for Wyoming's busy road construction industry. They recently added Uncorked Fine Wine and Spirits Tasting Room, featuring the only WineEmotion dispenser in Wyoming, to their businesses, managed by their daughter **Dawn Cundy Hogue** ('08). The Cundys also own Keyhole Outdoor Living (offering spas, grills, outdoor furniture, Surecrete, and other items) and Keyhole Storage. Cundy not only likes to help Casper College on the alumni board, but she is pleased to have hired an alumna as office manager.



Nancy Curtis



Shawn Houck



Jan Cundy



Jan Cundy with daughter Dawn Cundy Hogue.

Jan and Brad have also supported the college financially, providing funding for the Matthew Robert Cundy Health and Wellness Center in the Union/University Building in honor of their late son Matt and the Cundy and Sorenson Families Lounge. She is quick to celebrate the generosity of many in Casper and is proud that the community provides so much support to the college.

Many Paths for Grads

Five of the board members demonstrate the wide variety of paths taken by Casper College grads. **Mike Stepp's** (AAS, '80) candy company Donells (Winter 2013) and **Chad Pollock's** ('13) Backwards Distilling Company (Summer 2015) were profiled recently in Footprints magazine. But the board also includes a hair stylist, geologist, and insurance business owner.

Joni Hedstrom (AB, '94) started her higher education at the University of Wyoming, but then came back to Casper College and the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center, (now the University of Wyoming at Casper), to complete her business degree. The change did wonders for her; "I can't say enough about the smaller classrooms and the great learning environment and educators," she said. Now she loves "to give back to community ... I always talked Casper College up; this is another avenue to give back to a school that was so good to me." She has owned her own hair styling business for 23 years. And she sees the value for the next generation, saying, "My daughter just graduated from high school this year and had already earned approximately 30 credits and will be starting in the nurse's program soon. It's reassuring to know she will be receiving a quality education at a great institution."

Geologist **Ron Baugh** (AS, '68) credits an outstanding Casper College geology teacher, Al Allen, with teaching him not only about geology but about training and leadership. Allen had come to the college from being a training expert at Shell Oil. It was Allen's influence that motivated Baugh to shift from his initial engineering major to geology. Baugh's interest in geology was initially kindled as a teenager working in Shell, Wyoming, when three students at the Iowa State Geology Field Station near Shell let him tag along and observe field work. Baugh has had many leadership roles in industry groups and currently serves on the Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission.

Rich Hepner's (AAS, '92) success as an Allstate Insurance agent comes from the confidence and knowledge he acquired in his time at the college. He believes that without the encouragement he experienced in college, his career wouldn't have been so rewarding. And he is honored to be part of the ongoing efforts of the alumni board.

On Casper College's alumni board, gratitude for an atmosphere that built confidence, camaraderie, and knowledge is a common thread and motivator for their contributions to the college's success.

Tell Us Your Business

If you attended Casper College and are interested in sharing the story of your business, send it to alumni@caspercollege.edu. We'll select some of those stories and feature them as brief vignettes in subsequent issues of Footprints and/or online.



Joni Hedstrom



Ron Baugh



Rich Hepner

CC alumni board also has members from the service sector:

Dale Anderson (AAS, AB '93), Casper College Fire Science instructor

Virginia "Virg" Bodyfelt (AA '01) head clerk of the Circuit Court for Sweetwater County

Derrel Carruth (AS, '65), Wyoming state director for USDA Rural Development (retired)

Kyla Foltz (AS, '02), Casper College director of admissions services

Nancy Gerlock (AA, AS, '95), K-2 tutor, Willard Elementary School, Casper

Ryan Hieb (AA, AAS, CERT, '08), special agent with the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation

Luella Hinderliter ('66), Dept. of Interior, records specialist; public school educator (retired)

Mary Litzel (AS, '82, '87), director of Acute Care, Johnson County Healthcare Center

David Long ('72), sergeant major, Colorado State Patrol (retired)

Lea Schoenewald (AA, '72), public school educator

Hannah Wille (AS, AS, '13), elementary school educator



Mad Flatters Bring a Taste of Kenya to Casper

by Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle (AA, '79)

You may be asking yourself, “What is a Mad Flatter?” Well,

glad you asked. Mad Flatters is actually the husband and wife duo of **Kellen** (AS '06) and **Britnee** (AA '06) **Miller**. The two started dating in junior high here in Casper and got married after both received their education degrees from the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center, now known as the University of Wyoming at Casper, in 2009. Kellen's degree was in secondary sciences while Britnee's was in elementary education.

After working as full-time teachers, the two decided they wanted to do something different and left the teaching profession following the 2014-2015 school year. Their careers had taken them to Salmon, Idaho, for four years and Laramie, Wyoming, for two, but they both felt it

was time for a change – enter the Mad Flatters food truck.

The two had never “wanted to own a food business,” says Kellen, though they had often joked about opening up a coffee shop/bakery, “a pipe dream,” he adds. But in September of 2015, they found themselves running their own food business in a food truck that they found on Craigslist. “We had some long discussions about getting out of teaching and trying to sell breakfast burritos at farmers’ markets,” says Kellen. “When we found and bought the trailer, which was kind of a quick decision, we basically decided we wanted to take a year and try the breakfast burrito thing,” he says. The discussion for the two then centered on what they could make that would set them apart from the rest of the eateries in Casper. A trip to Kenya provided the answer.

In 2008 Kellen traveled to Kenya with a Casper College class. He loved the experience so much that he wanted to return with Britnee to spend some time in the communities and schools in the area where he had been in 2008. “We were originally supposed to teach at Thika Academy in Thika, but due to a miscommunication, we were put in contact with a nonprofit charity school, Tumaini Brooks Center,” says Kellen.

“The experiences we had during our time in Kenya helped us to grow as individuals as well as educators. Of the many experiences we had in Kenya, one of our favorites was learning about the culture and its cuisine,” says Britnee. While in Kenya, they met a woman who taught them how to make chipoti, a traditional/tribal Kenyan flatbread. According to Britnee, chipoti is made from a base of carrots in the dough with no rising agents. It is this slightly sweet



Everyone Agrees!

How good is the food from Mad Flatters? Well, pretty darn good judging from the five-star ratings on its Facebook page. Here's a sample of the 55 five-star ratings:

- "Oh my goodness what a great breakfast! I wish I had tried the burritos long before now. Thank you for bringing a great product to Casper!" Maria S.
- "Amazing food!! Best burrito in town, and out of a tiny truck." – Kerrie L.
- "The owners are as wholesome as their delicious food! Eat here." – Dominique Nichole
- "Incredible! So delicious! Nice to have a healthy and delicious option in town!" – Cecilia F.
- "Hands down, the best burritos I've ever had! I've never been disappointed! Very friendly owners who take pride in their work! I highly recommend them! The Habari is my favorite!" – Shannan M.
- "I just had the Chicken Salad Wrap today. It was so unbelievably tasty that I might have to go get another one this weekend. Awesome, awesome, awesome. So happy to have found you guys." – Rebecca P.
- "So delicious! I had the Marley today ... it is so much better than I even imagined! Even my husband who does not eat this type of food took a bite and said it was good! I will definitely be finding them again!!!!" – April H.

flatbread that forms the base for the majority of Mad Flatters' American-styled menu items and sets them apart from dishes featuring tortillas.

All the recipes are unique and created by Britnee. "Britnee has very odd flavor pairings, but people just love them," notes Kellen. Homemade sauces, bases, ketchup, and BBQ sauce help fill out the flavor profile of the burritos, wraps, and tacos that are made and rolled fresh per order.

Currently, Mad Flatters can usually be found on Mondays in the Lifetime Fitness parking lot in the morning through the lunch hour. But the best way to find them is to check out their Facebook page at facebook.com/madflattersllc.

When asked about their plans for the future,

both Kellen and Britnee say they want to continue running their successful business. But as Kellen notes, "We have decided that our plans change every six to 12 months whether we want that or not. We really don't know what our future plans are, but we plan to continue running the food truck for the foreseeable future."

In addition to the food truck, Kellen works as a cross fit coach at Lifetime Fitness and Britnee teaches yoga. She is also considering going back to school for a master's degree in speech and language pathology. "We plan to continue to explore in our personal lives as well as our business lives and hope that we can continue to bring smiles to peoples' faces with great wholesome food," says Kellen.



Firefighter. Mountaineer. Educator.

Five Questions

Micah Rush (AA, '05)



A 2005 Associate of Applied Science graduate in fire science technology, Micah Rush pursues a busy life that includes marriage, children, firefighting, and mountain guiding.

A Casper native, Rush has not been content to sit at home but instead has traveled and climbed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia. Oh, and let's not forget that he was also in Thailand when that country was hit by the devastating 2004 tsunami on December 26.



Micah Rush pauses during a skiing trip in Canada.

01

Q : How did you get into mountain climbing?

A : My brother was the first person to take my friend and me climbing in high school because he knew I was interested in it. Then I was able to get into the climbing gym and meet up with one of the owners, Pat Parmenter and his friend Kevin Siebke, who took me under their wings. They showed me the ropes at Fremont Canyon and even took me on my first big wall climbs in Utah. We were a great team because they carried the knowledge and gear I was lacking, and I was able to contribute youthful strength on the harder climbs. From these early days, I went on to buy the gym from Pat; running it for about 10 years. I began some of my early mountain guide training classes, which opened a lot of doors for my current rescue jobs, guiding, and has even helped contribute to certain aspects of my fire job.

Q : You are a firefighter for the City of Casper, an adjunct instructor in the Fire Science Technology and Continuing Education departments at Casper College, work for Exum Guides in Jackson, Wyoming, as a guide, and also have your own climbing business. How are you able to do all of this?

A : My wife always says that I work hard to play hard. So, I find that firefighting for the city of Casper is the job that comes first in my life, but thankfully has a schedule that allows me to work my other jobs and have fun. I work 48 hours (two days) in a row as a firefighter to have 96 hours (four days) off. Usually, it's during these four days off that I can schedule my rescue jobs and also guide through Exum or my company, Peak Rescue. When I am pulled too thin, I have a few people that I trust, and I hire them to work with me or to help me. The guys on the fire department are also very supportive of each other, so if I need time off to work one of these jobs, I can usually trade days with another firefighter to meet the requirements of both jobs. Speaking of my wife, Kelly and I knew each other when we were kids, but then met again at Casper College through mutual friends and rock climbing. We were able to have a lot of fun experiences climbing together before our little boy, Marcus, came into our lives three years ago, and we just welcomed a baby girl to our family!

02

Q : Tell me a little about your climbing throughout the world, what you consider the toughest mountain you have climbed, and if there is still a mountain you want to climb?

A : The climbing has varied in each location, sometimes climbing mountains, sometimes climbing mountains to ski them, and other times to just explore the local rock climbing that doesn't involve mountains necessarily. I always find that the toughest mountain is usually the one I build up in my head before I do it. Every mountain has its own challenges, whether it's the terrain, time of year, weather, or how I am approaching the route. For example, I've climbed the Grand Teton in the summer, and skied it mid-winter, and both were totally different experiences. I always have a list of mountains and bigger objectives I want to climb.

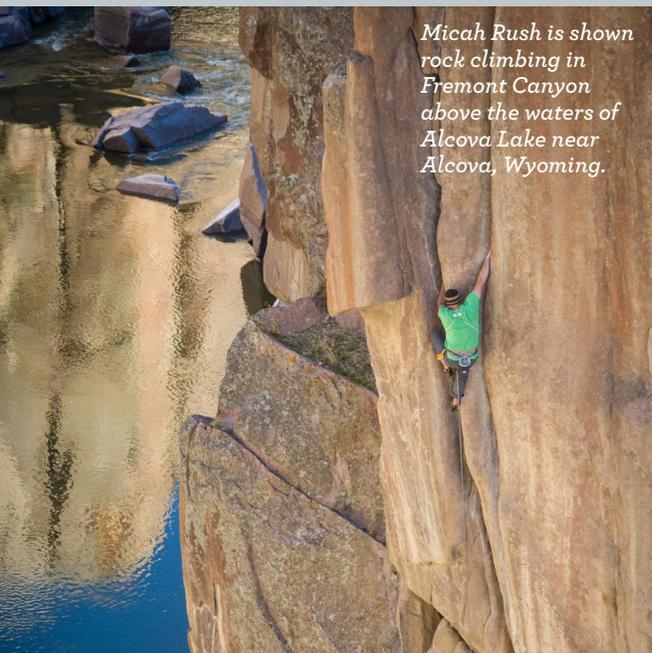
03



Micah Rush spends time hiking in Wild Iris, a climbing area outside of Lander, Wyoming, with his son Marcus after climbing all day.



Micah Rush teaching a student crevasse rescue in Alaska.



Micah Rush is shown rock climbing in Fremont Canyon above the waters of Alcova Lake near Alcova, Wyoming.

Q : Why was obtaining the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association status important to you? For the public, say someone considering hiring a mountain guide, why is it important that the guide has this status? How many years did it take you to finish the program and receive this status?

A : Obtaining the IFMGA pin was a goal I had set for myself because there are very few in the United States, and it meets the global guiding standards – there are no higher certifications, and this one is recognized around the globe. Once I embarked on it, as much as I wanted to quit at times, I had to finish it because it was a goal I couldn't abandon. To begin, I had to prepare for the courses/exams. The preparation included completing many different technical aspects of climbing, skiing, mountaineering, alpine, and glacier skills/rescue to fulfill the prerequisites for each course/exam. Depending on a person's successes completing the extensive prerequisites for each course/exam, you decide when it is time to test your abilities within each discipline of 15 different courses required through the American Mountain Guides Association. You have to take a minimum 15 courses from the AMGA and can take up to 22.

There are three aspects of the program: rock, alpine, and ski. If you pass all three, then you obtain your IFMGA status. They all start out with your independent preparation, a basic class, and then you move up into advanced classes and exams. You can take these exams all over the world from France to Canada. I traveled within the United States, and to Canada and Europe. Each class assesses you on your proficiency within many different disciplines including mountain sense, rescue, skills, etc. On average, it takes most people about eight years to finish the program. After each aspect of the program, you are required to have a list of skills/routes done before you can apply for the next aspect of the program. I started pursuing my IFMGA in 2013 and was doing three to four courses a year. This time of my life was extremely busy toggling between different time zones, keeping in top physical condition, and preparing for each exam. I had set this as a goal though and wanted to see it through as quickly as possible. I went through the IFMGA program with a really good friend of mine and fellow Exum guide, Zahan Billimoria. It was great to have someone to train with and go through the program with.

I have taken away many different perspectives from this guiding experience, and one of them is the importance of a guide. People often feel that hiring a guide is either too expensive or is something they don't need – they can do it themselves. But a guide is a huge asset when it comes to unknown terrain, trying to accomplish something slightly outside your independent comfort zone, or going to an unknown place. I have certain clients that call every time they want to climb or ski in a different area – and I consider them much more than "clients" but friends. These people are actually very accomplished skiers and climbers, but recognize the consequences of not having a guide in certain circumstances. Guides don't minimize the adventure; they just help to ensure you can explore and adventure more safely.

04

05 **Q** : Finally, since you set a record not too long ago, what is the Cirque Traverse in the Wind River Range of Wyoming, and do you still hold the record at 10 hrs. 15 min.?

A : The Cirque is a link of 11 summits and includes running from the parking lot, and back to the parking lot. I still hold the record as of right now, although I know a few people want to challenge it.

Grad's Documentary Takes PBS Award

by Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle (AA '79)

Patricia McInroy's, (A.A. '89) documentary "Clara: Angel of the Rockies" won the Women's History U.S. category in the 2016 Public Broadcasting Service "To the Contrary" All About Women Film Festival.

The documentary first aired nationally on "To the Contrary" between December 30, 2016, and January 6, 2017. The film tells the story of former slave Clara Brown who came from Kentucky, where she was freed from slavery in 1856, to Colorado around 1859. "I hadn't heard about Clara Brown until just a few years ago from my partner, Jennifer Champagne. One day Jennifer was bike riding near the Riverside Cemetery in Denver and spotted a sign that listed the names of famous people buried at Riverside. After she had told me about it, I decided to check out the sign. When I read the paragraph on Clara, I just felt like it was such an amazing story that I had to find out more," says McInroy.

What McInroy discovered was that a book had been written on Clara, but was long out of print. She believed that the story needed to be shared "as much as it could be" so she decided to produce a documentary with her own money on Clara. According to McInroy, "Clara Brown is a historic figure with an incredible story who is relatively unknown outside of the state

of Colorado. She lived a frugal life and used her money to help others, donate to churches, and search for her daughter, Eliza Jane."

McInroy says her film "is an attempt to fill in a small part that is missing from a much larger picture. The historical story of Clara Brown is one of hope and, as human beings, I think we could all use more hope. Ultimately," she adds, "my personal hope is that regardless of gender, race or religion, each person who sees this is inspired by the amazing story of Clara Brown and how she was open to people of a wide variety of colors and religions. It would be wonderful to see us all carry those ideals forward somehow."

Currently, McInroy works in the mediums of both photography and video and has screened her video work in more than 20 film festivals across the United States, Europe, and Latin America. She is currently teaching at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design and The Denver School of Photography.

"Clara: Angel of the Rockies" was also an Official Selection of the 2016 River's Edge International Film Festival and an Official Selection of the 2017 Women+Film Festival. McInroy is selling copies of the documentary with all proceeds going "directly to the basic production costs, which made this film possible," she says. For more information, you can contact her at mcinroy.patricia@gmail.com.

CLARA

Angel of the Rockies



Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library Western History Photographic Collection.



McInroy graduated from Natrona County High School in 1987, and that fall started at Casper College where she majored in three areas and received an Associate of Arts degree in each: foreign language, liberal arts, and photography. In 1992 she graduated with a degree in journalism with honors from the University of Missouri. After working as a photojournalist, she returned to school and earned her Master of Fine Arts in visual arts from the Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2007.



OSHER LIFELONG

OLLI • OLLI • OLLI • OLLI • OLLI • OLLI

LEARNING INSTITUTE

Celebrating 10 Years of
“Learning for the Love of It!”



by Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle (AA, '79)

Ten years ago this summer, the first eight classes of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Casper College began.

"I knew about Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes from my time at the University of North Dakota, so it was on my radar when I arrived at Casper College," says **Laura Driscoll**, executive dean of continuing education and community partnerships. Indeed, it was on her radar, and in less than two years from the time she started at Casper College, Driscoll had successfully brought an OLLI to Casper College.

Knowing that the Bernard Osher Foundation had an interest in having an OLLI in every state, Driscoll sent an email to Mary Bitterman, president of the Osher Foundation, on June 9, 2005, requesting information on the by-invitation-only grant-based program. "I received a reply from her stating that the foundation was currently focusing on supporting existing programs as opposed to start-ups. She supplied me with background information on the program and expressed interest in keeping in touch as they expanded the program," Driscoll recalls.

An Eye on Casper College

Unbeknownst to Driscoll, the Osher Foundation took an interest in Casper College after her initial email. "They did their research," says Driscoll who was sent a questionnaire by the organization in August 2006 asking for more details on the community, foundation, and college. In September 2006, Casper College was one of 10 schools invited to apply for an Osher Foundation grant.

Driscoll got busy and immediately started on the grant, which she wrote and then submitted to the Osher Foundation in November. "If you get an invitation and fill out the information asked for, you will get the grant," she says.

Someone to Run the Program

An OLLI at Casper College was now becoming a realization, but someone needed to be hired to start and run the program. In March 2007, **Vicki Pollock** ('83) was hired as the program coordinator and began to spend the grant funds.

"Vicki hit the ground running. She put the board together with an eclectic mix of on-and-off-campus people," says Driscoll. Pollock believes that if it hadn't been for Driscoll's and

the board's guidance in those early days, OLLI at Casper College wouldn't have gotten off to the great start it did.

The Osher Foundation has only a few rules to guide schools with OLLIs: "No credit, no traditional environment, a focus on the love of learning, and a sense of connection between people," Driscoll says.

That first summer Pollock remembers everything going smoothly, but she needed to have 100 members by the end of the year. "I was a little worried, but by December we did it."

That fall OLLI offered 11 classes, and by the spring of 2008, the number was up to 13. Because the 100-member requirement for the first year had been met, OLLI at Casper College was awarded another \$100,000 grant. The program then had to reach a goal of 250 members by December of 2008. That number was also met, and another \$100,000 grant was received from the Osher Foundation.

500 Members – Make it or Break it

The Casper program had the option of applying for a fourth-year grant of \$100,000 or trying for the \$1 million endowment. The catch was, they needed to have a membership of at least 500.

But make the goal OLLI at Casper College did with more than 650 members signed up by the end of 2009. Many of those memberships came from Casper College employees who wanted to make sure that the necessary 500-member goal was reached.

"The progress that the institute has made since receiving its initial support from The Bernard Osher Foundation in December 2006 has been outstanding, and we congratulate (OLLI at Casper College) on its many remarkable achievements," says Mary Bitterman, president of the Osher Foundation.

In addition to the endowment, OLLI at Casper College also received a "bridge" grant of \$50,000 to allow the \$1 million endowment "investment time (so it can) deliver meaningful income support of the institute," Bitterman notes.

Never Looking Back

Now at 10 years old, OLLI at Casper College boasts a membership of more than 500 and offers between 45 and 50 classes in the spring and fall and between 35 and 40 in the summer.

"We successfully developed an OLLI community of people who are more social and engaged with others who without OLLI wouldn't be. That has been fun for us; people have gotten together and formed true friendships thanks to OLLI at Casper College," says Driscoll.

Halloween fun during a costume party held the last night of the "Horror Movies" class.



First Classes

The first classes and instructors for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Casper College 2007 summer session:

- "Hogs and History: Biker Culture in America" – taught by Dan Cantine
- "Walk on the Wild Side: Wildlife Viewing Tips and Practices" – taught by Robin Kepple
- "Older Than Dirt: Amateur Paleontology" – taught by JP Cavigelli
- "Strike Up the Band: An Appreciation of Casper City Band Concert Selections" – taught by Ron Alexander
- "Downtown Sculptor Crawl" – taught by George Bryce

Note: There was no formal schedule printed for the first offerings. These five were the only ones that could be confirmed for that first summer.

The First Advisory Board

The first advisory board for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Casper College consisted of 11 members and was a mix of Casper College and University of Wyoming at Casper employees and community members.

- Ron Alexander, Casper College
- Vicki Burger, community
- Keith Cottam, Casper College
- Carol Crump, community
- Janet de Vries, Casper College
- Julie A. Greiner, community
- Greg Lance, community
- Lisa Mixer, Casper College
- Pat Nagel, community
- Scott Seville, University of Wyoming at Casper
- Pam Swisher, community

My\$tery Money

Grad finally identifies life-changing benefactor



George
McConnaughey

by Richard Renner (AA, '64)

In 1961, I was literally forced to attend college by my boss, George McConnaughey, who owned the Corner Market in Glenrock, Wyoming. He had arranged for Dr. Kenneth Ury to tell me about the various degrees and certificates available at Casper College. After Dr. Ury had left, George asked me what I thought about going to Casper College. I told him I didn't have any money to pay for books or to buy a car to drive to the college. He handed me a list of families near the college who would provide me with a bed and meals. I then pointed out that if I were living in Casper, I wouldn't be able to work at the Corner Market. He handed me another list of managers or owners of grocery stores who would interview me for a possible position. When I still hesitated, he said, "If you are not enrolled in courses at Casper College for the fall term, you are fired!" "Yes, sir!" Thanks to the list from George, I was soon working 20 hours per week in Branen's Food Market to help pay the room and board for my first year of college.



I declared a business administration major, took placement tests and enrolled in a full load of classes. Struggling with that many courses, I quickly became discouraged. "Advanced Composition" was really kicking my behind. I had to rewrite every essay that first semester. I was ready to withdraw and enlist in one of the military branches when my "Western Civilization" instructor suggested I withdraw from one of the classes I was taking, rather than withdrawing from the college. I stayed on.

The next semester, my classes included "Survey of Physical Sciences." Wow! I loved that class and the instructor, **Dr. Norman Weis**. And this time, I only had to rewrite half of the weekly essays for "Advanced Composition." Soon I was changing my major to the sciences, and meeting the exacting standards of my general zoology instructor, **Richard Morse**.

During the spring term in 1962, I received a note to go to the dean of students' office where I was handed a general application for a scholarship. I said my grades were not all that good, so I probably wouldn't be eligible. Assistant Dean **Marie Stewart** told me there was often money available but not awarded because no one had applied. I reluctantly completed the scholarship form. In late April, a letter arrived, informing me I had been awarded \$150 – tuition for two semesters! When I got the actual award, the letter mentioned the Casper Elks Club.



The next year Dean Stewart again pulled me into her office, telling me to complete scholarship applications for transfer students to the University of Wyoming. I was awarded enough money to pay tuition for four semesters. I also applied for and received a National Defense Education Loan and \$900 for my last two years at UW. I thank Sputnik for that opportunity. I also met my future wife, **Carol McGraw**, in a CC Spanish course taught by **Jacqueline Logan**.

My confidence improved. When my UW advisor asked what I intended to do with my botany degree, I decided I wanted to teach at a community college. I had such supportive instructors that kept me going that first year that I wanted to be able to do the same thing for others. I was accepted to four different universities and took the offer to work as a teaching assistant at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and earned a master's degree in botany.

After 40 years of teaching biology courses in colleges, serving as the sciences department chairperson for six years and retiring as the dean of arts and sciences, I began to reflect on my change from a business major to teaching. I realized I hadn't thanked the Elks Club for that first scholarship. I sent letters to both the Casper Elks chapter and the national Elks office telling them the impact that \$150 had on me. Later I got a letter from the Elks National Foundation saying they had no record of me receiving a scholarship. I was puzzled but decided I'd forgotten the name of the club that gave me the money.

While teaching at Laredo Community College in Laredo, Texas, Carol and I created the James

Michael McGraw Scholarship for students majoring in the performing and fine arts, in memory of her brother, Mike, who died from leukemia. When my father-in-law died, we created the G.J. and Juanita Harvey McGraw Memorial Scholarship, helping students who lack the money to complete a degree. Carol's father aspired to attend medical school, but the Depression destroyed that dream. Unfortunately, even finding 10 dollars for tuition was unsustainable for the family, despite his bus boy earnings covering his room and board.

In 2009, I attended the 50th-anniversary celebration of my high school graduating class. While in Glenrock I went to locate Mr. McConnaughey's grave. It dawned on me that he was probably the source of the money that kept me in school, and not just the Elks Club support but also the transfer scholarship. I could no longer ask him, but I located one of his sons. He confirmed my suspicions. That knowledge inspired me to ask my classmates to donate money to give scholarships to the Class of 2009 Glenrock High School. Four students received \$500 each. I have continued giving one scholarship each year since then.

George McConnaughey taught me much more than meat cutting. He had only one standard in both his business and in his life – to be the best he could be. He warned me that not everyone in business did things his way. He counseled me to just do it the way they asked because they would be the ones signing my checks. I chose George's way, and I will continue to pay George back for his secret financial support.

Richard Renner and his wife Carol.



Eleven Retire from Casper College

Casper College said farewell to 11 employees who accounted for a total of nearly 243 years during the 2017 Recognition and Retirement Banquet.

Karen Arnold began working at Casper College on January 2, 2007, as the administrative assistant for the college's continuing education department. Later that year she became a lifelong learning specialist with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Casper College also in the continuing education department.

Marilyn Begg started working at Casper College on February 16, 1999, as a custodian.

Jan Dalgarno began working for Casper College on November 5, 1990, as the academic assistant for fine arts and humanities. In May 1996, she became the academic affairs specialist and facilities coordinator. In July of 2004, she took over as the executive assistant in the Casper College Foundation Office. Her

last position came in July 2012 when she became the executive assistant to the president and board of trustees.

Lynn Fletcher began as a student employee at Casper College in 1975. She became an employee on August 1, 1977, as an admission and financial aid clerk. Her next position was as the secretary to the dean of admissions and records; then a student records clerk, the registrar, and director of institutional research, her last position.

Chuck Griswold came to Casper College on August 25, 2008, as a telecommunications systems technician. Before that, he had been an independent contractor for the college beginning in 2001.

Heather Huber began her career at Casper College on August 22, 2000, as a nursing instructor. She leaves the college as the nursing program director.

Kevin McDermott began working for Casper College on August 19, 2002, as a CISCO and mathematics instructor.

Debbie Price began her career as a computer support specialist at Casper College on March 2, 1998. She was transferred to academic computing on June 1, 2001. In 2003

her position title was changed to computer support technician.

Linda Ryan began her teaching career at Casper College on August 23, 1982. During her time at Casper College, she taught mainly in the three-dimensional realm of sculpture design and jewelry but also taught two-dimensional design, drawing, bronze casting, casting workshops, casting and fabrication, and women in art.

Teresa Wallace began her career at Casper College on December 6, 1991, as coordinator of "special populations" Grant I. She moved into a counselor position in 1995 and took over as the director of counseling in 2011.

Gretchen Wheeler began working for Casper College on July 1, 1986. She held a variety of positions in her time at the college teaching in both the communication and theater departments, serving as the director of the Casper College Competitive Speech and Debate team for 20 years, serving one term as the communication department chair, and most recently, teaching and serving as the director of the Casper College Center for Learning through Service and the Service Learning Initiative for the past 11 years.



Faculty & Staff

Doug Bull, Casper College music instructor, is the new director of the Casper Brass & Storm Door Co., which played a concert last winter. The group has around a dozen brass players in the Casper area, and performs on average, every two years. Group founder **Fred Taylor** is a CC retiree and continues to perform with the group. Bull was a lead trumpet player and soloist for the U.S. Army Band, and also had a long career teaching in the public school system, before joining the Casper College faculty in August 2006.

Joe Simon, business/management instructor at Casper College, took a turn on stage, appearing as the landlord in "Nana's Naughty Knickers" at Stage III Community Theatre this past winter.

Tracie Bopp ('96) is the new executive assistant to the academic affairs office at Casper College. She replaced **Shereen Matheson** (AFA '06), who is now the assistant human resources director for the college.

Lance Jones recently received a certificate from the Casper Police Department for his service on the Crisis Intervention Team Committee for Natrona County. The CIT Committee was designated the Community Partner of the Year for 2016, and each member of the CIT Committee received an individual certificate. Jones has served on the CIT Committee since 2009, and since that time all campus security officers have received the 40-hour training in this field, identical to that received by Casper Police officers and Natrona County Sheriff's deputies. Crisis Intervention Team training equips the officers to communicate with and stabilize persons in

crisis or emotional distress brought about by mental illness, substance abuse, traumatic brain injury, or suicidal ideation.

Russell Hawley, Tate Geological Museum education specialist, traveled to the Riverton Museum in Riverton, Wyoming, to present an interactive, hands-on program for children about fossils. This presentation marks the third time Hawley presented at the Riverton Museum.

Lesley Travers, dean of the Casper College School of Business and Industry, is the new president of Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, Wyoming. Travers was at Casper College for 15 years both as an instructor and administrator. She was honored as the Rosenthal Outstanding Educator in 2009 and holds the 2016 Wyoming Counseling Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

1. Justin Hayward, Casper College art instructor, will have his painting of a badger featured on the 2018 Wyoming Conservation Stamp. Hunters and anglers, as well as collectors, buy the stamps. The Wyoming Game and Fish headquarters will have his painting on permanent display.

2. Chad Hanson's recent collection of poems was a finalist for the 2017 Creative Writing Book Award, granted by the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Hansen also published wild horse-related essays in *Prairie Schooner*, *Pilgrimage*, and *The Wayfarer* this year, and his photograph, "Battle of the Bends," appears in the summer edition of *Camas: The Nature of the West*. Hansen is a Casper College sociology instructor.

Tammy Frankland, dean of the Casper College School of Health Science, is the new executive vice president of instruction and student services at Everett Community College in Everett, Washington. Frankland had been with Casper College for 18 years.

Dave Zoby, Casper College English instructor, took second place in conservation and nature writing from the Outdoor Writers of America Association. His winning article, "Losing the Land," appeared in *Gray's Sporting Journal*.

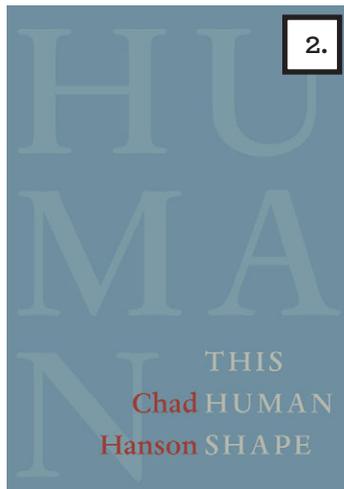
Denise Bressler, chief financial officer for the Casper College Foundation, and **India Hayford**, museum assistant at the Werner Wildlife Museum, were honored for their work with crime victims with a certificate from the Casper Police Department. The two belong to the Victim Response Unit with the Natrona County Sheriff's Office. Acceptance to the unit required a written application, background check, personal interview with the unit directors, and approval from the sheriff. A 40-hour academy followed by several hours of continuing education is required each year. There are currently about eight volunteers in the local unit.

Mary Kubichek, paralegal instructor and director of the Casper College Paralegal Program, was presented with the Legal Assistants of Wyoming's 2017 Outstanding Member Award.

3. Ryan Davis, former assistant women's basketball coach at Casper College, was named the new head women's basketball coach at Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyoming.



1.



2.



3.

People & Places

1960s, 70s

Barbara Gast (AS, '63) received a Community Service Award from AARP Wyoming for volunteer work teaching the AARP's Safe Driver program. She enjoyed a 25-year career as a public-school teacher in California, then relocated to Cody, Wyoming, opening a tax and financial service company. Barbara volunteers with several youth organizations and charities.

Jim (ABUS, '67) and **Terry** ('65) **Porter** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 22, 2017. Jim and Terry met as Casper College students after an introduction through mutual friends. Jim spent most of his career as an accountant and shareholder in Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard. Terry enjoyed several careers at different businesses including Ayers Jewelry, the Cowboy State Games, the Casper Star-Tribune, and World Wide Travel. Jim is a past president of the Casper College Alumni Association board of directors. They have two children and three grandchildren who joined them on their anniversary trip to Ambergris Caye in Belize.

Mike Ragan (AS, '75) retired as head basketball coach for the Tigers at Lander Valley High School, in Lander, Wyoming, after 17 years as a coach and math instructor. Under Mike's leadership, the Tigers were the Class 3-A West regional champions in 2015 and 2016. Before his move to Lander, Mike spent 15 years in Casper, including his service as head football coach at Natrona County High School and head basketball coach at Kelly Walsh High School. He played basketball at Casper College in the mid-70s, finishing his education at Chadron State College. Early in his career, Mike also held coaching positions in Wheatland and Riverton, Wyoming.

Ron Franscell's (AA, '78) book, "Morgue," written with Dr. Vincent DiMaio, earned a 2016 Edgar Award nomination last January in the category of "Best Fact Crime." Given annually, the "Edgar Awards" recognize the best crime fiction, nonfiction, and television published or produced in a given year.

1980s, 90s

John Trohkimoinen (AA, '83) received the 2016 Wyoming Education Association National Foundation for the Improvement of Education Award. The NFIE Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes a member who exemplifies excellence in teaching as well as support for the profession through association activism. John teaches at Natrona County High School.

Eleanor Azar (AB, AAS, '87) is CEO of Business Development Group Holding in Beirut, Lebanon. Eleanor has spent the last 28 years working primarily in the communications and telecom industry throughout the Middle East and Africa.

Chris Navarro (AA, '90) created the recently dedicated statue the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Casper. The statue was made possible by the generous donation of Casper College Commitment to Excellence honoree and former foundation board member, Marialyce Tobin.

1. **Josh Hamilton** (AS, '95), dean of the Engelstad School of Health Sciences at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, was selected for an American Association of Nurse Practitioners fellowship in recognition of his contributions to advanced nursing practice, translational research and education. The AANP is the largest professional membership organization for nurse practitioners of all specialties. It represents the interests of more than 205,000 NPs, including more than 67,000 individual members and 200 organizations. In addition to being a graduate of Casper College, Josh was a member of the faculty in the department of nursing from 2001 to 2007.

Zach Schneider (AA, '96) is a member of the inaugural class Advocacy Leadership Network, a program developed by the Educational Theatre Association. The three-year initiative focuses on teaching grass-roots advocacy for the arts.

Melissa Hieb (AS, '97) has joined Casper Obstetrical and Gynecological Associates in Casper. Melissa earned her medical degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and completed her residency at the University of Minnesota. She is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. Melissa

is originally from Newcastle, Wyoming, and after earning her degree at Casper College, she attended the University of Wyoming at Casper.

Jennifer Gallagher (AS, '98) was recognized by the Casper Star-Tribune as one of three top nurses in Wyoming. Gallagher is a labor and delivery nurse and clinical educator at Wyoming Medical Center. She's been employed by WMC for 25 years and began her career there working in the kitchen.

Jon Schaffner (AS, '98) is now the commanding officer of the USS Tennessee, an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine. He previously served on submarines based out of Connecticut, Washington, and Hawaii. His current tour is scheduled to end in 2020. Jon earned AA degrees in engineering and physics at Casper College and then transferred to the University of Wyoming to complete his undergraduate education. Jon and his family currently reside in Georgia.

2. **Terry Brown** (AS, '99) chosen in May 2017 as Wyoming Medical Center's 2016 Employee of the Year, entered nursing later in life. After graduation, she was hired at WMC and has been there for 18 years, working in the medical unit. *Photo courtesy Kristy Bleizeffer, Wyoming Medical Center.*

2000s

Paul Neel (AAA, '00) is living in Central Pennsylvania and works for state government. He says he enjoys being a member of his "amazing" church choir and has been married for four years. Paul reports that the choir recently "performed Randall Thompson's 'Alleluia' and they are now working on Maurice Durufle's 'Requiem.'"

Virginia "Virg" Bodyfelt (AA, '01) is the head clerk of Circuit Court for Sweetwater County in Wyoming, which includes the Green River Circuit Court and Rock Springs Circuit Court. The two courts are merging at the end of the year into one facility in Rock Springs. Virg is also a legal assistant for the Sweetwater County Attorney's Office. Virg and her husband Borislav Damjonovic reside in Rock Springs.

Luke Fortner (AAS, '01) and **Melissa Rodgers** (AA, '02) got married on November 5, 2016, in Casper. Luke graduated from Casper College with a fire science degree in 2001 and works for the U.S. Forest Service in fire management and aviation. Melissa works as an executive assistant. The couple is home in Casper.

Marci Kutzer (AA, '02), a teacher at Cottonwood Elementary School in Casper, Wyoming, received the Harriett "Liz" Byrd Award from the Wyoming Education Association. The award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding contributions in the areas of human relations, multiculturalism, and/or diversity in the field of education. Marci was honored as an educator who has worked to promote collaboration and harmony among diverse groups.

Krista L. Reed (AFA, AAS, '05) was honored by the Natrona County Sheriff as Civilian Employee of the Year.

Rachelle Donaldson (AS, '07) was recognized by the Casper Star-Tribune as one of three top nurses in Wyoming. Rachelle's interest in health care began as a medical transcriptionist. In addition to her degree from Casper College in nursing, Rachelle holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and is beginning work on her bachelor's in nursing.

Ryan Hieb (AS, '08, '09) is employed by the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation as a special agent with the computer crime team. He recently received a master's degree in organization management from Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska, to accompany his bachelor's degree in justice studies. Ryan first earned degrees in fire science and criminal justice from Casper College. Ryan's career in public safety began as an explorer/cadet with the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department in Newcastle, Wyoming, and includes four seasons with the U. S. Forest Service. He worked for the Casper Police Department before joining DCI. Ryan is also a member of the Casper College Alumni Association board of directors.

3. Travis Winchell ('09) recently hit the one-year mark as the general manager of Urban Bottle in Casper. Prior to the store's opening in the summer of 2016, Travis was the food and beverage director at the Casper Country Club, a position he held for three years. Travis earned a B.A. in music from the University of Colorado, Denver. He plays bass in the band, "Speed the Pilgrim."

Sarita Reeves-Miramontes (AS, '09) was recognized by the Casper Star-Tribune as one of three top nurses in Wyoming. Sarita works at The Birth Place in the Wyoming Medical Center. Prior to attending Casper College for training as a nurse, she was a combat medic in the U.S. Army.

4. Patrick Rodgers (BOCES, '09), a zoology graduate student at the University of Wyoming, received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Patrick's research project is titled, "Do Migratory Behaviors of Male and Female Mule Deer Differ? A Test of the Sexually Segregated Migration Hypothesis."

2010s

Heather Perry (AA, '11) is now news producer with "6 News" in Lawrence, Kansas. Formerly the editor and main reporter for The St. Marys Star in St. Marys, Kansas, Heather played volleyball during her time at Casper College and was features editor of The Chinook. She holds a degree in journalism from Kansas State University.

Marcia Hawea Ferris (AA, '12) was sworn in as a naturalized U.S. citizen at a January ceremony in Casper. Marcia, originally from New Zealand, met her husband, **Craig Ferris** (AA, '97) while attending Casper College.

Jeannine Earl (AB, '13) is now employed by Casper College as an accountant in the business office. Jeannine earned her AB in accounting at CC, then received a bachelor's degree from Chadron State College. She will soon sit for the CPA examination. Jeannine and her husband, a former football player for the University of Wyoming, have three children, including former CC volleyball player and recent graduate, **Alyssa** (AS, '17) and **Brianna** (AA, '15). Their son Tommy attended Black Hills State on a basketball scholarship.

Cassandra Bush (AB, '14) serves as the associate director of the Wyoming Food for Thought program. She started volunteering with the program in April of 2013 while she was finishing school at Casper College and was subsequently offered a full-time position.

Will Davis (AA, AFA, '14) is a gallery assistant at Art 321 in Casper. Will graduated from Casper College with degrees in art education, fine arts, and museum studies.

Ethan George (AS, '14), livestock manager at Foothills Farm in Thorp, Washington, was awarded the Young Cattleman of the Year award by the Kittitas County Cattlemen's Association. Ethan earned degrees at CC in animal science and range management and was on the livestock judging team. He manages 80 head of mixed Angus-Hereford cattle.

5. Courtney Howsden (AS, '14, CERT '14) and **Alina Sanchez** (AS, '13, CERT '13) are the first graduates of the University of Wyoming at Casper medical laboratory sciences program. Both Courtney and Alina first graduated from Casper College with medical laboratory technician degrees. Courtney works for Memorial Hospital of Converse County in Douglas, Wyoming. Alina earned her degree and the same certification in 2013. Alina is an employee of Wyoming Medical Center in Casper. *Photo courtesy of Benjamin Kroushaar.*

Mary McPherson (AA, '14) was recognized by Sinclair Casper Refinery and the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce as part of the "Caught You Being Good" program. The program selected Mary for her volunteer work with Little Hands and participation in local theatrical productions. She works at the Casper Country Club as a shift lead in the restaurant.

Matthew Stairs (AA, '14) performed with ReVerb in February 2017. He completed his bachelor's degree in musical theater at Minnesota State University the previous May, and since then has worked full time as an actor around the country. Matthew also had a six-week performance contract in Louisville, Kentucky, followed by six months working in Ohio. He plans a move to New York within two years to continue his career.

Katie Dolajak (AFA '16) recently had an exhibit of her artwork in the Goodstein Art Gallery on the Casper College campus. "Portraits of a Lyric Enthusiast" featured work that Katie began in a Casper College digital photography course and refined and finished in a special topics course.

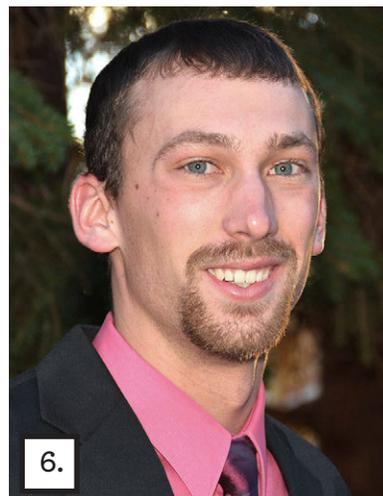
6. Blake Ochsner (AS, '14) was one of only 11 students across the nation to receive an All-American Award in livestock judging. He received the honor during the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky in November. Blake also received a meat judging All-American Award as a member of the University of Wyoming reserve national champion team. He was named a 2013-2014 National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-American while a member of the Casper College Livestock Judging team. Blake

People & Places

may be the first person to ever accomplish the feat of winning three All-American awards. He graduated this May with his agriculture business degree from the University of Wyoming. Following graduation from UW, Blake has returned to the family-owned Hereford and Angus ranch outside of Torrington, Wyoming. He is a fifth-generation rancher.

Jamie Lee Lierman (AS, '15) has been working as project coordinator for Tradesmen International, a construction labor support company. As a project coordinator Jamie is in charge of all day-to-day recruiting activities as well as managing the office. He recently had a one-year anniversary with the company. He is based out of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Kjia Dee Perkins ('17) and Tucker Hurd were married on Friday, June 30 in Logan, Utah. The bride attended Casper College and was on the livestock judging team. She will attend Bridgerland Applied Technology College and Utah State University in Logan majoring in nursing and works as a CNA. The groom attended Snow College in Ephraim, Utah. He will attend USU majoring in veterinary science. He works at Animal Health International.



Recently married? New job? New baby? Other news?
 Send information to:
 Linda Nix, Associate Director, Alumni Relations,
 Casper College,
 125 College Drive,
 Casper, WY 82601;
 Phone – 307-268-2218
 or 800-442-2963 ext. 2218;
 email – alumni@caspercollege.edu.



What's your view? Choose your distance and your level of challenge. Charge up to the Casper Mountain overlook, catch a view, then back to campus in the half-marathon.

Half-marathon and 10K
7 a.m.

5K run/walk
(with special fun for kids on the plaza)
7:30 a.m.

Free musical entertainment and picnic for all! Sponsored by Bromley Real Estate.

Register by August 15 and Save! *(Registrants after August 15, are not guaranteed race shirt.)*
Children under 12 **FREE** with registered adult

Sign up caspercollege.edu/tbird-trek



In February 2017, we shared the stories of some alums who met and fell in love while attending Casper College.

We posted the request on the CC Facebook site: "Did you meet your significant other at Casper College? If so, we want to hear your story!" On Valentine's Day Web Coordinator Ashley Chadwick gathered the stories we had received via private message and posted them on Inside Casper College, the Casper College news blog. We thought these reminiscences were so fun that they needed to be shared with all our alums here in the pages of Footprints. As Chadwick began in that February post, "From mistaken assignment due dates to dorm room movies dates, current and former Casper College students share their CC love stories."



Finding Love at CC

Nine Couples Tell Their Story

The art of dating:

Kathy Backman (AFA, '14)
and **Kyle McCord** (AFA, '14)

Kathy Backman: "Kyle and I met in a printmaking class at CC in the fall of 2012. Both of us were too shy to talk to most of our classmates, let alone each other. Toward the end of the semester, we began chatting here and there in class. I embarrassingly admit that I used a class assignment as an excuse to start talking to him more. I asked him if he remembered when our final was due and pretended like I had no clue – but I actually knew the whole time. He gave me the completely wrong due date, but I thanked him anyway (and reminded him of the right date later). He then slipped me his number in case I had any more questions for him. We talked for a couple of months. That next February we had our first date, and in March we became "Facebook official." The photo of us is from a trip we took to Santa Fe with the

Casper College art department in April 2013. This March we will be celebrating our fourth anniversary as a couple."

From Wyoming to Texas and back again:

Heath (AS, '97) and **Jamie** (AS '97) **Hornecker**

Jamie Bobinmyer-Hornecker: "So, I met this guy at Casper College. Do you recognize him? If not, you should, as he's one of your awesome faculty. We met the first day of livestock judging class in the fall of 1995. He told me that he was certain he had met me somewhere before. I think I told him that it must have been in his dreams. We didn't start dating until December of our sophomore year, and over a glass of water in the dorms (Morad Hall, to be exact). We followed each other to Texas and back to Wyoming while we continued our education, and married in 2001. We ended up back in Casper where it all started in 2003. Here we

are almost 22 years, four children, and a lot of adventures later, and the rest is history. Thanks, Casper College, for giving me my best friend."

A special Christmas carol:

Holly (AA, '96) and **Dustin** (AA, '97) **Hills**

Holly Hills: "I met my hubby in 1995 at CC! We were in a theater production of 'A Christmas Carol.' Been happily married since 1999 with three amazing kiddos."

Matchmaking by class schedule:

Bradley (AS, '02) and **Lindsey** (AS, '02) **Erickson**

Bradley Erickson: "My wife (Lindsey Miller at the time) and I met at Casper College as computer science majors in 2001. Our first date was in 2002 on college graduation evening. We went to the 'Star Wars, Attack of the Clones'

premiere. We have been together since. We married in 2009. Had our first son, Rowan, in 2013, and we welcomed our next son who arrived in April. We have fond memories of sharing many classes together, including calculus II and III, discrete structures, tae kwon do, criminal justice, creative writing, and assembly programming. In our first sparring match in tae kwon do, she gave me a bloody nose! She has since carried on to achieve her black belt. Casper College is a great school, and we will always treasure our time there."

"I didn't like cowboys, but boy was he cute":

Mary (AS, '82) and Rod (AS, '86) Litzel

Mary Litzel: "Rod and I met at CC in 1985 while I was an RA at McIntyre Hall. He was in the ag program and on the judging team. I didn't like cowboys, but boy was he cute. I continued my nursing degree and graduated in May of '87. He went to Texas A&M, and we had a long-distance romance until we married in January 1988. We now have two kids who are CC alums! Loved it there."

Project partners become partners for life:

Chris (AA, '08) and Sarah (AA, '07, AA, '08) Neubauer

Sarah Neubauer: "I met my husband on the first day of fall classes in 2005. We were both in 'Introduction to Mass Media.' He sat directly across from me and the first thing I noticed was that he was swiveling his chair nervously, just like I was. Come to find out, by the end of the week, Chris and I had three more classes together. By the second semester, we had become good acquaintances, working on small assignments together and running in the same study groups. We really became friends when we had to work on our final for 'Reporting and Newswriting I.' Both of our partners for the project had dropped out halfway through, so we had to team up and put together our final in the last week of classes. It turned out great, and that led us to be co-editors of the Chinook. After that, we became close friends.

Chris and I did not start dating until we finished our bachelor's degrees in 2010. We were married in 2013 and still make a really good team."

Long-distance love:

Lindsey (AS, '05) and Aaron (AA, '05) Temple

Lindsey Bartholomew Temple: "My husband and I met at Casper College in 2003 through a mutual friend. Six months after dating he was deployed to Iraq with the National Guard. We continued to write letters, and he called whenever he could. When he returned, he finished his associate degree through Casper College and then transferred to the University of Wyoming to obtain his teaching degree. I stayed at Casper College to receive my master's degree through the Casper College/University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy program. We have been together for 13 years, married for seven, and have two little boys."

Rodeo romance:

Lori ('79) and Hank (AS, '79) Franzen

Lori Franzen: "Hank and I met while we were attending Casper College in 1978-79. We both rodeoed for Casper College. We were married November 10, 1979. We've been married 37 years. We have two married children and our first grandson. We own and have operated the Powder River Rodeo Company for the last 31 years. The photo is of us at National Finals Rodeo after receiving the award for being one of the top five honorees for the Pro Rodeo Cowboy's Association Stock Contractor of the Year."

A winning team:

Denise (AS, '01) and Josh (AS, '02) Mavencamp

Denise Mavencamp: "My husband Josh and I met while on the livestock judging team at Casper College in the fall of 2000, and we started dating in May of 2001, married in September 2003, and now live in Idaho and raise Angus cattle and show lambs. We have three beautiful boys, ages 9, 7 and 4, and a beautiful life all because of Casper College."



Backman and McCord



Horneckers



Hills



Ericksons



Litzels



Mavencamps



Franzens



Temples



Neubauers

Notes from T-Bird Camp

by Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle (AA, '79)

Rodeo Team and College Lose Coach Tom Parker



The Casper College Rodeo team, college, community, and the sport of rodeo lost long-time rodeo coach and rodeo advocate Tom Parker.

Parker, who began his career at Casper College on August 20, 1990, as an agriculture instructor and head of the rodeo team, lost his fight against liver cancer on March 15, 2017, at the age of 69.

Parker retired from full-time teaching in May 2013 but continued as the head rodeo coach. For many Casper College rodeo team members, past and present, Parker was their concerned and caring father figure. He loved the kids and always looked out for his team.

During his first 15 years at Casper College, the women's rodeo team qualified for three College National Finals Rodeo appearances. The men's team took the regional rodeo title in both 2011 and 2012 and finished either first or second in five of the last six rodeo seasons in the region.

In addition to the long hours he put in for the rodeo program hauling livestock back and forth to the Natrona County Fairgrounds for the team's daily practice sessions, over the years Parker was also involved with the Wyoming High School Rodeo Association, served as the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association faculty director for the Central Rocky Mountain Region, was on the NIRA board of directors, was a rough stock chute boss at the CNFR, a judge for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, and attended every CRMR rodeo contest, except for two contests in the fall of 2011.

As a testament to what he did for college rodeo, Parker was posthumously named 2016-2017 CRMR Coach of the Year and 2016-2017 NIRA Coach of the Year at this year's College National Finals Rodeo.



Johnson Named New Head Rodeo Coach

Jhett Johnson states simply that his objective as the new head rodeo coach at Casper College is "to have the number one rodeo program in the Central Rocky Mountain Region." Professionally, beyond becoming the head coach at Casper College, Johnson also wants to "provide opportunities for young people to enhance their ability to rodeo while getting an education."

Johnson, who had been the assistant rodeo coach under Tom Parker since August of 2012,

took over as interim head coach in February of this year as Parker's health began to decline, (Parker eventually lost his battle with liver cancer on March 15, 2017).

A million-dollar career earner in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and a five-time National Finals Rodeo Qualifier, Johnson was the 2011 World Champion Team Roper along with Turtle Powell.

Volleyball Players Recognized for Academic Performance

Eight Casper College volleyball players have been recognized regionally and nationally for their academic performance during the 2016-2017 school year at Casper College.

The eight, **Annie Deininger**, Cave Creek, Arizona; **Katja Kohler**, Villingen, Germany; **Louisa Krams**, Schashagen, Germany; **Olivia L'Ami**, Casper; **Ivana Maric**, Kraljevo, Serbia; **Sydney Nielsen**, Kamloops, British Columbia; **Jessica Pilivi**, West Jordan, Utah; and **Alayna Sheldon**, Loveland, Colorado, were all recognized as Academic All-Region for a grade point average of 3.25 or higher.

Nationally the players were honored in three categories as Academic All-

Americans. Krams received the Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence with a 4.0 GPA. Both L'Ami and Kohler received the Superior Academic Achievement Award for a GPA of 3.8-3.99. According to **Angel Sharman**, head volleyball coach and athletic director, this is the second year in a row that L'Ami has received the award. Finally, Deininger, Nielsen, Maric, and Pilivi all received the Exemplary Academic Achievement Award for a 3.6-3.79 GPA.

"I am very proud of all of these players as they achieved this distinction while maintaining a busy schedule of practice and traveling, which is quite a feat," said Sharman, adding, "Their determination to reach this goal is admirable, and they are good role models."

Four Represent CC at CNFR

This year the Casper College Rodeo team sent four competitors to the College National Finals Rodeo. Steer wrestler **Jake Fulton**, Valentine, Nebraska; calf ropers **Bryce Bott**, Powell, Wyoming, and **Logan Brown**, Miles City, Montana; and all-around reserve champion **Lacey Camp**, Belgrade, Montana, who competed in both breakaway roping and barrel racing.

The Thunderbird men, who were defending their championship in the Central Rocky Mountain Region, scored a total of 2,425 points during the 2016-2017 season placing the team sixth overall with Sheridan College, 4970 points, and Gillette College, 3945 points, sending teams to this year's CNFR.

The women's team nearly made it to the CNFR, coming in third with 1680 total points behind Gillette College with 3298.66 points, and the University of Wyoming with 2,261.99.

In addition to the top two teams in each region, the top three finishers in each event in each region qualify for the CNFR. For the year Fulton took first in steer wrestling, while Bott and Brown took second and third respectively in calf roping. Camp as the all-around reserve placed second in breakaway roping and fifth in barrel racing for the year.

Another women's team member, **Kassidy Williams**, Pinedale, Wyoming, missed a slot at the CNFR by a mere five points as she placed fourth in barrel racing for the year.

Women's Basketball Welcomes New Assistant Coach

Casper College welcomed new women's assistant basketball coach Nate Macy on July 5. Macy comes to Casper College from Northern Oklahoma College where he had been the assistant coach for the Lady Mavericks since 2012. Macy replaces Ryan Davis who resigned in March 2017 to accept the head coach position at Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyoming.



Fall 2017 T-Bird Athletic Schedule

Volleyball

Aug. 25-26	Crystal Inn	Salt Lake City, UT	TBA
Sept. 1-2	Barton Classic	Great Bend, KS	TBA
Sept. 5	Western Nebraska	Scottsbluff, NE	6 p.m.
Sept. 8-9	CSI Tournament	Twin Falls, ID	TBA
Sept. 13	Colorado Northwestern	Casper, WY	7 p.m.
Sept. 15-16	Pizza Hut Tourney	Sterling, CO	TBA
Sept. 22	Eastern Wyoming	Casper, WY	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	Laramie County CC	Casper, WY	3 p.m.
Sept. 29	Northwest College	Powell, WY	7 p.m.
Sept. 30	Miles City CC	Miles City, MT	3 p.m.
Oct. 3	Sheridan College	Casper, WY	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Central Wyoming	Riverton, WY	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Western Wyoming CC	Rock Springs, WY	3 p.m.
Oct. 10	Western Nebraska	Casper, WY	6 p.m.
Oct. 13	Northwest College	Casper, WY	7 p.m.
Oct. 14	Miles City CC	Casper, WY	3 p.m.
Oct. 20	Eastern Wyoming	Torrington, WY	7 p.m.
Oct. 21	Laramie CCC	Cheyenne, WY	3 p.m.
Oct. 24	Sheridan College	Sheridan, WY	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Central Wyoming	Casper, WY	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	Western Wyoming	Casper, WY	3 p.m.
Nov. 1-4	Regionals	Sheridan, WY	TBA
Nov. 16-18	Nationals	Hutchinson, KS	TBA

Rodeo

Sept. 15-17	Chadron State	Chadron, NE
Sept. 22-24	Sheridan College	Sheridan WY
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Lamar CC	Lamar, CO
Oct. 6-8	Central Wyoming College	Riverton, WY
Oct. 12-14	Laramie County CC	Cheyenne, WY

Women's and Men's Basketball

Oct. 13	JucoAdvocate	Windsor, CO	TBA
	Jamboree (M)		
Oct. 14	JucoAdvocate	Windsor, CO	TBA
	Jamboree (M)		
Oct. 14	Sheridan Jamboree (W)	Sheridan WY	TBA
Oct. 20	Salt Lake CC (W)	Salt Lake City, UT	TBA
Oct. 28	Mid-America (W)	Lawrence, KS	TBA
Nov. 1	Eastern WY (W)	Torrington, WY	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	Eastern WY (M)	Torrington, WY	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	USU-Eastern (W)	Casper, WY	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	Impact Academy (M)	Casper, WY	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Otero JC (W)	Casper, WY	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	USU-Eastern (M)	Casper, WY	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	Laramie CCC (M)	Casper, WY	6 p.m.
Nov. 10	Lamar CC (W)	Sterling, CO	5 p.m.
Nov. 10	Salt Lake CC (M)	Twin Falls, ID	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	Northeastern JC (W)	Sterling, CO	3 p.m.
Nov. 11	Southern Idaho (M)	Twin Falls, ID	7:30
Nov. 16	Northeastern JC (W)	Casper, WY	7:30
Nov. 17	Snow College (W)	Casper, WY	7:30
Nov. 17	Williston St. (M)	Miles City, MT	3 p.m.
Nov. 18	Western WY (W)	Casper, WY	3 p.m.
Nov. 18	Nueta Sanish (M)	Miles City, MT	1 p.m.
Nov. 23	Colo. Northwestern (M)	Casper, WY	7 p.m.
Nov. 24	USU-Eastern (W)	Salt Lake City, UT	TBD
Nov. 24	Lamar CC (M)	Casper, WY	7 p.m.
Nov. 25	Salt Lake CC (W)	Salt Lake City, UT	TBD
Nov. 25	Rexburg United (M)	Casper, WY	5 p.m.
Nov. 30	Wyoming All-Stars (M)	Casper, WY	6 p.m.
Dec. 5	Western Nebraska (W)	Scottsbluff, NE	5 p.m.
Dec. 5	Western Nebraska (M)	Scottsbluff, NE	7:30
Dec. 9	Laramie CCC (W)	Cheyenne, WY	2 p.m.
Dec. 12	Eastern WY (W)	Casper, WY	5:30
Dec. 12	Eastern WY (M)	Casper, WY	7:30
Dec. 16	Laramie County (W)	Casper, WY	3 p.m.

In Remembrance

College Loses Two Major Benefactors

In less than 30 days, Casper College lost two of its major benefactors, John Wold on February 19, 2017, and Barbara Scifers on March 5, 2017.

John Wold was born on August 31, 1916. He lived in Casper for 68

years. Education was always important to Wold, who spent his growing up years on the campus of Union College in Schenectady, New York, where his father chaired the physics department. It was fitting, then, that Wold and his wife Jane were lead donors for the Casper College Wold Physical Science Center in 1993. That same year, Wold was named the Council for Resource Development Region VIII Benefactor of the Year for his contribution to the Casper College Foundation.

In 2009, Wold saw the launching of The John Wold Help Yourself Academy at Casper College, in partnership with Casper College and Natrona County School District No. 1. Wold got the idea for the academy from his friend and associate Roger Hull. Enthusiastic about how the program could encourage young students and their families to believe in their ability to become successful college students, Wold funded the entire program its first year.

In 2014, the Casper College Alumni Association recognized John and Jane with a Commitment to Excellence Award for their outstanding contributions to the college as benefactors and advocates for educational excellence.

Wold was a member of the Casper College District Board of Trustees from 1978-1982 during which time he was also president of the board. Wold held the distinction of being the first professional geologist to serve in the United States Congress, and at the time of his death at age 100 was the oldest living former Republican member of the United States House of Representatives.



Top: John and Jane Wold at the Wold Science Center dedication. Below: Seated, left to right, Gladys Blakeslee, Krystal Reece, standing, Anna May Pearce, Barbara Scifers. Photos courtesy of Casper College Western History Center.

Barbara Scifers was born on March 17, 1919.

In 1994, Barbara and her husband Leland purchased the Barbara-Lee Mobile Home Park, which they later gave to the Casper College Foundation as part of the \$1 million the couple donated to build a dance studio at the college. When explaining their donation, she said, "Dancing has continually been an important part of our lives, so has Casper College. It is an outstanding school, and we are happy to give our gift to help the school and community."

As a couple, Barbara and Leland established the Fort Caspar DAR and Edna Raymond Nursing Scholarship at Casper College. Following the passing of Leland in March 2003, she established scholarships at Casper College including the Leland Scifers Business Scholarship, the Leland and Barbara Scifers Music Scholarship, the Barbara Scifers Physical Education Scholarship, the Barbara Scifers Dance Scholarship, the Barbara Scifers Female Doctoral Incentive Award, the Charles C. and C. Dwayne Raymond Agriculture Scholarship, and the Barbara Scifers Rodeo Scholarship. She also made a substantial donation to Casper College's fitness center for the purchase of new exercise equipment.

In 2006 the Council for Resource Development named Scifers the Region VIII Benefactor of the Year for her contributions to the Casper College Foundation. In 2012 she donated 27 bronzes by several prominent western sculptors to be placed on permanent display in the south lobby of the Gertrude Krampert Center for Theatre and Dance Performance. At the time of her death, Scifers left a sizable sum of money to the foundation as her final gift to the school.

Friends We'll Miss

Cynthia Rawlings ('73)
August 24, 2014

Duane Fehringer (AS, '69)
December 1, 2015

Kenneth Kidneigh (AA, '61)
September 5, 2016

William "Bill" Mayfield (CC custodian)
August 21, 2016

James C. Kyro (CERT, '79)
October 17, 2016

Owen Owens (AAS, '72)
October 29, 2016

Delmar Steinle ('61)
November 29, 2016

Elizabeth "Bettie" Sarette
(former CC employee)
December 30, 2016

**Norah Rosaleen
(Kelliher) Webster** (CERT, '70)
January 2, 2017

Tad Hobbs ('61)
January 3, 2017

Kevin J. Stransky (AS, '72)
January 7, 2017

Orese (Miller) Vondra (AA, '69)
January 8, 2016

Thomas Pitts Blevins (AAS, '79)
January 13, 2017

Scott Spicer ('83)
January 20, 2017

Vickey Teske ('87)
January 22, 2017

Edward Earl McKinley (AAS, '79)
January 27, 2017

Gibson "Gib" Lee Mathers ('00)
January 31, 2017

James McDaniel (AS, '66)
January 31, 2017

Jimmie Johnson (ABUS, '84)
February 2, 2017

Michael Dwayne Sowders (AS, '86)
February 12, 2017

**Margueritte Ellen
Walters** (former CC staff)
February 17, 2017

Brandon Scott Machado (AS, '03)
February 17, 2017

John Wold (CC benefactor)
February 19, 2017

Richard Confer (AAS, '81)
February 21, 2017

Donald Steinhelfer (AAS, '73)
February 21, 2017

Chester Oven Firnekas ('59)
February 22, 2017

Craig V. Spiva (AS, '02)
February 22, 2017

Barbara Feighner (CERT, '94)
February 28, 2017

Ardell Kangas Martin (CC volunteer)
March 4, 2017

Barbara Scifers (CC benefactor)
March 5, 2017

Lillian Marie Erickson Mitchler (AA, '51)
March 13, 2017

Tom Parker (CC rodeo coach)
March 15, 2016

Robert A. Blackburn (AA, '57)
March 16, 2017

Floyd Andrews ('76)
March 24, 2017

Judith J. Elder (CERT, '80)
March 27, 2017

Daniel Aksamit ('09)
March 30, 2017

Timothy G. Klinker ('80)
April 8, 2017

Daren Schnepfer ('95)
April 14, 2017

Nikky McFee (CERT, '16)
April 16, 2017

Ron Flackus ('61)
April 17, 2017

Ben Kennedy (CERT, '97)
April 17, 2017

Craig J. Cundy (CERT, '86)
April 19, 2017

Barbara Niesen (AA, '53)
April 19, 2017

Matthew C. Trott (AAS, '92)
April 22, 2017

Robert Riedel (AS, '86)
April 30, 2017

Sheila Patton (AA, '57)
May 6, 2017

Travis Hytrek (AAS, '98)
May 9, 2017

Deborah J. Ford (AA, '89)
May 13, 2017

Wendy J. Fischer ('88)
May 14, 2017

Irene Goergen (AA, '58)
May 17, 2017

Arlene Kay Francis Osborn ('68)
May 20, 2017

Janet R. (Kraen) Mackler (AA, '62)
May 27, 2017

Sheila Colgin (AS, '71)
June 2, 2017

Sharon S. Proud (AS, '75)
June 3, 2017

Susan A. Wyatt (CC supporter)
June 7, 2017

David William Ramsey (AA, '73)
June 9, 2017

Leonard Joseph Summers (AS, '86)
June 9, 2017

Lane Swedlund (AAS, CERT, '12)
June 9, 2017

Rose K. (Clark) Keiffer (AS, '53)
June 11, 2017

According to Charlotte

by Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)



Honey – the gold and white cat with rings around her tail – came into my life on a sunny summer day eight years ago.

She strolled up the walk, meowed at me and canvassed the yard like a realtor looking over the property. I knew she belonged in the next block because she was a familiar sight roaming the neighborhood.

That was the beginning of daily visits where Honey just refused to go home – no matter how many times I called her owner. This daily calling routine went on until a cold, snowy December when her owner said, “You keep her, she’s yours.”

So, there it was. I had a cat who turned out to be about six years old according to our veterinarian and who was as naughty as she could be.

She liked to hide, then jump out to attack me when I walked by, biting my leg in the process.

She loved grabbing almost anything (think clothes or toilet tissue) and running through the house, to say nothing of all the ribbons and bows she shredded.

She hated when I played the piano and jumped on the piano keys.

She hopped on my papers when I wrote, scattering them and chewing the edges.

I tried to keep her indoors, but she was masterful at sneaking out. The day my neighbor Norma and I stood in the street to stop traffic as Honey strolled across after visiting Norma’s birdfeeder was the day I put my foot down decisively! We had a serious discussion which Honey did not like and did a fair amount of hissing while I lectured with a newspaper in hand.

As an indoor cat, she became a little territorial tiger. She patrolled at the big floor to ceiling windows. When she spotted any cat – or even a dog – she crashed into the window hissing and growling. The first time she did that, I thought a bomb had hit the house.

It took a long time, but she ultimately realized her outdoor living was over; she couldn’t bite me anymore and trusting me wasn’t such a bad thing.

She began curling up in my lap when I watched television in the evenings, sometimes sitting in front of the set to block my view if she felt like it.

I bought her a bed and put it on my bed because I liked to hear her snore. She went to bed when I did, but she woke up early – six o’clock early – and saw to it I woke up, too. She’d pull my hair until I couldn’t stand it because she wanted her breakfast – immediately! She

did love to eat; breakfast, lunch, dinner – always at five o’clock (I swear she had an internal clock) – and a bedtime snack.

Honey had a favorite velvet chair in the living room situated so that she could lie and look over the arm to see out the window and she didn’t like it if I happened to sit there. When she jumped on the arm and narrowed those amber eyes, I moved.

As she aged, she mellowed considerably. She talked to me, followed me around, always met me at the door and even let visitors pet her a little. She decided she did like attention – quite a lot of it.

By now, years had passed and I was just putty in Honey’s paws. When she was naughty, I thought it was funny. She was spoiled and my girls loved to irritate me by calling her “The Little Princess.” I knew very well how I spoiled her – and it was my pleasure.

Then came a day late in 2016 when Honey began to limp a bit and wasn’t quite herself. When her limp worsened and she had trouble jumping into her bed and her favorite chair, I noticed her left front leg was swollen. I called Dr. Jane. She came at once and took her immediately to the clinic where she examined her under anesthesia. She called to tell me she had found a malignant mass in Honey’s left front armpit which was cutting off the circulation to her leg.

And so, Honey, whom I loved truly, drifted off to Heaven in December – almost to the very day she adopted me eight years earlier on another cold, snowy December. But on this December day, my heart broke.





“My little tiger, there in Heaven,
is busy chasing all the other
cats out of her territory –
This I know to be true.”

When Honey Went to Heaven

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