

Footprints

Casper College Alumni Magazine

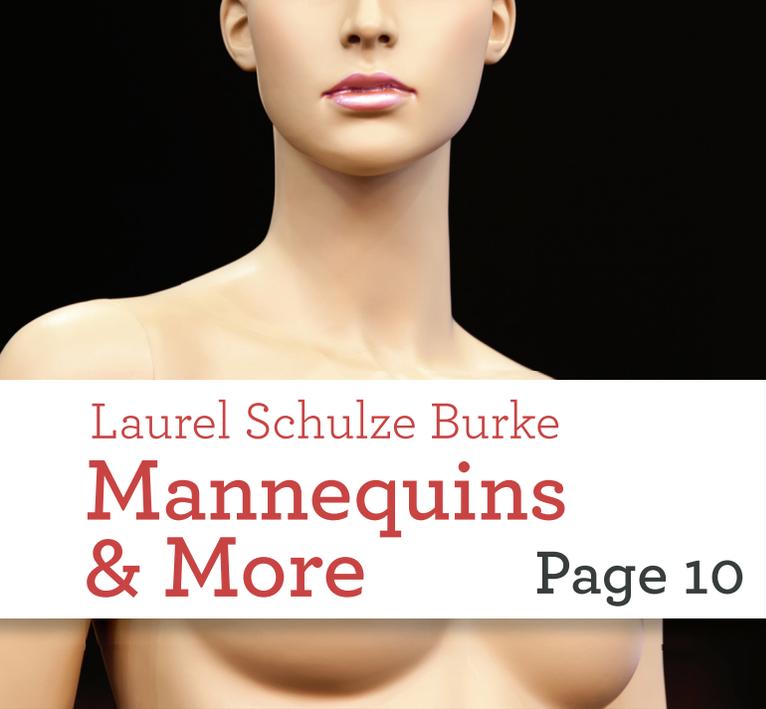
Summer 2016



Casper College at a Distance
All the Way to Russia

Nursing
New Curriculum Debuts

Five Questions
Biology, Makeup, Dummies,
and Ghouls



Laurel Schulze Burke
**Mannequins
 & More** Page 10

Footprints

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

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Front Cover: Sophomore, Kiefer McLemore is an avid
 mountain biker and snowboarder who is studying
 business management at Casper College.

On the Cover

Digital Learning..... 4-7
 A Secret Weapon for Students

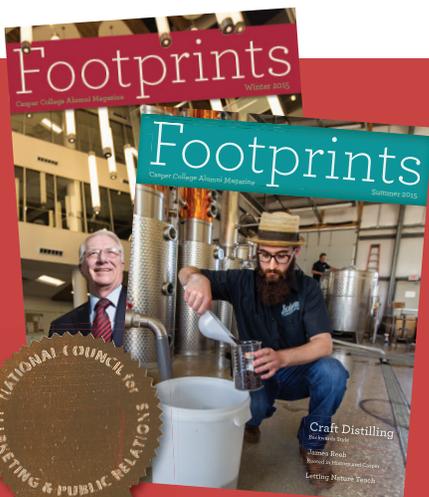
Main Stories

The Revolution in Nursing Education 8-9
 New Curriculum Debuts
 Looking Back. 12-13
 What Can't She Do?

Regular Features

Alumni & Campus News 2-3
 Five Questions 10-11
 Faculty & Staff Notes 14
 People & Places 16-18
 Friends We'll Miss 20
 According to Charlotte 21

Footprints contents



Footprints magazine was recently honored with a Bronze Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations at the organization's annual conference. NCMPR's Paragon Awards is the only national competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges. Though the magazine has won regionally a number of times, this marks the first year it was judged to be among the best in the nation.

Casper College seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment/gender or sex discrimination/sexual misconduct/assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify our college's Title IX Coordinator, Linda Toohey, associate vice president of student services, 125 College Drive, GW 412, Casper, WY 82601; 307-268-2667; linda.toohey@caspercollege.edu about the basic facts of the incident. For more information about your options, please go to: caspercollege.edu/nondiscrimination.

Dear Fellow Alums and Friends of Casper College,

Surprised to see another issue of Footprints so soon after the spring issue? We're trying to get on a schedule that works for all involved with putting this publication together and this is the result. I hope you enjoy what you see and read here. What do you read first when you get your Footprints? The cover story? The guest columns? How about "Friends We'll Miss"? "People and Places"? Our feature article this issue is about distance learning and how there's more than one way to get a college education.

I had the honor in May of representing you at a reception for our distinguished alums and commitment to excellence award winner. Meeting and talking to Jerry Dunn, Terry Dunn and Shirley Jacob was inspiring and they are all dedicated to their professions and T-Bird proud! We have evolved from the awards dinner and now have a reception at the president's home prior to commencement. It was well attended; there was great food, drink and fellowship. The next day, Friday, was commencement. Rehearsal went well and the graduates were excited about the evening to come. As the last speaker of the event, I welcomed the 2016 class to the ranks of alumni. I was honored, humbled and proud to be on stage with the president, vice presidents, deans and guests.

We are looking forward to the second annual T-Bird Trek in September. Last year's event was a great success. This year we plan to continue that success. We need runners, sponsors and volunteers. As with any successful event, it is the 'behind the scenes' folks that make it happen.

Are you on Facebook? "Like" the Casper College Alumni Association page. There are several other CC pages you may wish to follow as well. We're always trying to keep you informed.

The alumni board has selected the 2017 Casper College Distinguished Alum and Commitment to Excellence winners from several outstanding choices. Stand by to read more about them in the winter 2017 issue of Footprints.

Live Long and Prosper.

David Long ('72)



President
Casper College Alumni Association, 2015-17

From the Alumni Association President



David Long speaks to the CC graduating class of 2016.

Alumni & Campus News

Alumnus Addresses Students at 70th Casper College Commencement Ceremonies

Micah Christensen (AA, '12) was the speaker for the 2016 Casper College commencement ceremonies. Micah graduated with honors from Casper College with a degree in communication studies, going on to receive

two bachelor's degrees with highest honors in political science and communication at Arkansas State University in 2014. Following college graduation, Micah served as the campaign manager for U.S. Rep. Cynthia

Lummis during the 2014 election cycle. He is in his second year at the University of Wyoming College of Law.



Casper College Debate Team has “Amazing Success” at National Tourney

The Casper College Debate team had what Director of Forensics **Douglas Hall** calls an “amazing success” at this year’s two-year Forensics National Tournament held in Costa Mesa, California. The team finished fourth in their division for individual events, second place in debate, and third place overall.

Individually four students brought home some “hardware” and included **Katie Stock** (Douglas, Wyoming) bronze in communication analysis; **Scarlett Miller** (Casper, Wyoming) silver in informative speaking and international public debate; **Tyler Pierce** (Casper, Wyoming) silver in extemporaneous speaking

and gold in international public debate, where he went undefeated in 12 rounds; and **Lucas Davis** (Gillette, Wyoming) gold in both extemporaneous speaking and international public debate, where he won 11 of 12 rounds.

Goodstein Foundation Library Features Reeb Exhibit

This spring the Goodstein Foundation Library featured the exhibit, “James Reeb: Wyoming Hero” as part of the 2016 Humanities Festival on Redemption. The exhibition featured documents and memorabilia on **James J. Reeb** ('46), who was raised in Casper and attended Casper College. After becoming an

ordained minister, Reeb advocated for human rights and was killed in a civil rights incident on March 11, 1965 in Selma, Alabama. His death provoked mourning throughout the country, and tens of thousands held vigils in his honor. President Lyndon B. Johnson called Reeb’s widow and father to express his

condolences, and on March 15, 1965 invoked Reeb’s memory when he delivered a draft of the Voting Rights Act to Congress. Reeb’s story is included in the Academy Award nominated film for best picture, “Selma.” Today, Casper College offers a memorial scholarship in his name.

Respiratory Therapy Program Receives Distinguished Success Award

The Casper College Respiratory Therapy program was chosen by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care to receive the Distinguished RRT (registered respiratory therapist) Credentialing Success Award at the American Association for Respiratory Care's

Summer Forum held in late June. According to CoARC President Brad Leidich, the Casper College program is among a select group of programs to receive the recognition. Programs awarded were required to have three or more years of outcomes data; hold accreditation

without a progress report; document RRT credentialing success of 90 percent or above; and meet or exceed established CoARC thresholds for certified respiratory therapist credentialing success, attrition and positive (job) placement.

Casper College Selected as PAVE Partner Campus

Casper College is one of 30 schools in the nation, and the only one in the state of Wyoming, to be selected as a new Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) partner campus. The program will start this fall. **Lisa**

Goss, veteran and Hathaway scholarship coordinator, noted that the program was "designed to help ease the transition from the military to higher education and to improve the student veteran's sense of connection onto

our campus." The Peer Advisors for Veteran Education Program is part of the University of Michigan M-SPAN network of programs providing services to service members, veterans, and military families.



Powell Selected as New VP of Academic Affairs

Shawn Powell has been named Vice President of Academic Affairs at Casper College. Powell, who began his career at Casper College in the fall of 2007 as a psychology instructor, took over as the Dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Science in 2011. In 2015 he was selected to serve as the interim vice president of academic affairs. "Over the past months I have had the opportunity to work very closely with Dr. Powell, and I have every confidence in his qualifications, abilities, and potential to not only succeed, but indeed to thrive in this senior leadership role," said Casper College President **Darren Divine**, Ph.D., adding "As the interim VPAA, Dr. Powell played a critical role in many different projects,

including helping to launch our strategic planning process, as well as taking the lead in increasing the visibility of many of our programs both within the college, and within the greater Casper community."

"I believe I understand the issues facing the college in terms of our ongoing reaccreditation efforts," said Powell. "I am aware of Wyoming's issues and demographics having lived and worked in the state since 1988 with the exception of a three-year active duty tour from 2001 to 2004. Like the other state's community colleges we are facing budget cuts and need to adapt to new economic realities while continuing to offer high quality programs for all our students," he said.

"School's Out" Recognition Picnic for Donors, Students and Staff

The Casper College Foundation sponsored a picnic for donors, scholarship recipients and staff at the end of the Spring 2016 semester. Cooks included CC President, Darren Divine, John Jorgensen and Tim Kugler. Masha Miller (AA, '16) spoke about her CC experience.



Digit Learn

A 'Secret Weapon'
Casper College S

by Susan Anderson,
columnist for the Casper Journal

Crystal Watts

for Many
Students

Crystal Watts' typical evening as a college student and single mom of an 8-year old son went like

this: "We do his homework, I do dinner, after he's in bed I get to do my homework." She had jobs as well in her three-year push that climaxed with Casper College graduation ceremony on May 13, 2016 when the proud graduate got her degree in business administration.

GRADUATION



CC
CASPER COLLEGE
THUNDERBIRDS

'16 M

Crystal Watts with her son Nicolau at CC's 2016 commencement.

Her secret weapon in tackling this challenge – taking courses online at Casper College.

For Crystal, the convenience of doing her work online until the wee hours of the morning was only one of the pluses. A little-known fact is that for shy people, online classes offer special advantages. Crystal, who says she would never ask a question in a classroom full of other students, can stop in the middle of her work and electronically ask for help. She never had to sit silently while the teacher moved beyond her understanding.

“I’m a socially anxious person,” she explains, “It’s hard for me to say ‘Wait, would you go back over that.’ You can check yourself to see if you got it right.” At Casper College she says she feels very connected with her instructors. For example, “At midnight if I’m having trouble with homework, I can send an email. It seems like we can have closer relations with online teachers, they expect they’re going to have to be there for you.” She says that accounting classes worked especially well in the online, go-at-your-own pace format.



A Growing Learning Style

Dave Siemens supervises digital learning at Casper College and the job is a natural fit for him. He earned his master’s degree in higher education online at Capella University. His own story is similar to many of the students he serves. He had four children at home and a full-time job when he went for his degree. “It fits around the student’s schedule,” he says of his years fitting in classes at night. “When dad’s doing homework, the kids go somewhere else in the house.”

When he started working in digital learning at Casper College nine years ago, there were four fully online degrees; now that number has increased to seven. The numbers of students have increased sharply. In the 2004-2005 school year, 13.18 percent of Casper College credits were earned online. Ten years later, in

2014-2015, that percentage had nearly doubled at 22.32 percent. The semester that ended in May, 2016 had 622 full-time equivalent student hours.

How exactly does an online class work? Siemens says there are many tools, including tutoring where a student can go online at midnight or 3 a.m. to get help or watch videos that flow back and forth between instructor and student. Teachers are encouraged to post a welcome video for their online students at the beginning of the course. And emails to teachers are generally answered within 24 hours.

Tests are taken at a center that is proctored (monitored) by a testing professional. They can also be taken online along with quizzes. In addition to classes that are taught totally online, there are hybrid classes that involve some on-campus work.

One of the major efforts by Siemens and his staff is training teachers to teach online. “It’s difficult moving from the traditional setting to the online environment; the instructor has to be involved,” he says. Some online techniques have spread throughout the faculty. “Just five years ago everyone used a gradebook that was paper. Now faculty and students are using systems such as Moodle, where the students log in and find their grades digitally and the teachers enter the grades online,” he says.

The Challenges

Students taking digital classes face particular problems. Spotty internet access is one. Kelsey Phillips, Ph.D. informs all her students at the beginning that “Computer crashes and technical problems are not considered legitimate excuses for tardy submissions.”

Textbooks can be a problem for students taking online classes from overseas. A textbook sent to one student studying political science in Spain was held in customs for months. Some books are available for download from the internet, but not all. Phillips again makes it clear to her online students, “I will not delay deadlines on account of not having the required text.” Planning ahead is especially important for distance students, who can’t always visit the bookstore for what they need.



From Russia Online

Misty Corlett wins the prize for the most distant of the distance learning students. She is working on her agriculture degree from a remote part of Russia, where her husband is a foreign specialist beef cattle managing consultant and trainer for Miratorg Agribusiness Holding.

“Our internet service was a problem at times and I would have to drive about a half hour away from the ranch to do my coursework in the pickup,” she writes. And books? A nightmare. “I could only choose classes last semester where the book was offered as an e-text because it was too close to the start of classes for any books to be shipped. Also, shipping would be very expensive and the postal service here can be sketchy.”

But she writes that the online option has allowed her to continue her education. And she would heartily recommend online learning to others. “In fact,” she says, “there are several people I know looking in to the ag program offered online at CC because of my experience.” The digital learning style worked for her. “I liked the supplemental videos and other media used,” she said, but she does wish she could “have hangouts with each instructor so that the learning seems more personal.” Her family’s experience in Russia was featured in a New York Times article at this link: nytimes.com/2016/01/29/world/europe/russians-learn-the-ways-of-the-cowboy-from-american-ranch-hands.html?emc=eta1&_r=0.

Brittany Bair is studying at Casper College from her home in Pennsylvania, where she works from a wheelchair. She chose Casper College because her courses will easily transfer to the university she hopes to attend. Digital learning is a natural for her for many reasons. “It helps because I don’t have to find doctors in Casper, Wyoming, just to go to school,” she says. And she is able to save money on housing and travel as well as work on her own schedule.



being able to show a dairy cow at the county fair and small obstacles such as picking up a spoon to eat,” says Brittany. For a link to a news report on her with her calf, go to wearecentralpa.com/news/a-show-of-redemption.

Surprising Learning

The variety of subjects that can be taught online is a surprise. Siemens describes how science labs develop boxes with all the tools for chemistry at home and ship them to the students. “Through discussions and the books online, students can do their experiments,” he says, adding that among the many online kits are fetal pigs that can be shipped to biology students for dissections.

Kelsey Phillips has taken pity on her science students and developed ways for them to do science experiments with ingredients they have at home, “so they don’t have to spend \$200 on a kit.” Using such common household items such as vinegar and eggs, they can do experiments to learn about osmosis or surface tension. And she says one plus of the online biology classes is that parents can involve their

She wondered if the online classes would seem personal enough. “At first I thought that since I wouldn’t be in an actual classroom, that I wouldn’t have an actual connection with anybody, whether teachers or classmates. However, I didn’t have any problem connecting with my teachers and classmates,” she writes. And she says that an unexpected benefit is becoming more “tech savvy.”

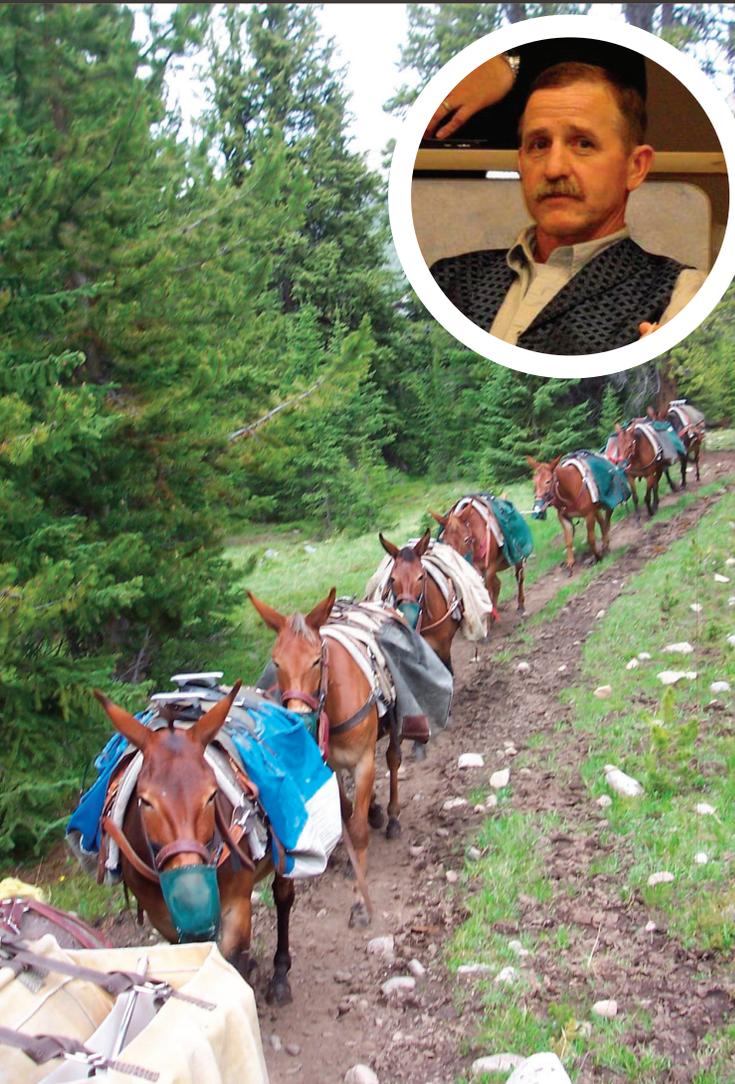
Learning from Pennsylvania is not much challenge for a woman who has been in a wheelchair since a spinal injury from a car crash in 2012. “I have overcome obstacles such as



children, making the work more fun and giving children an introduction to science.

Siemens imagines a future with 3-D printers playing a role for nursing students. And he’s convinced that “There’s going to be more of an acceptance of teaching at a distance.”

It’s already a lifesaver for some Casper College students such as Corlett, who writes from her ranch in Russia, “Being able to complete my coursework online was the ONLY option in pursuing my professional goals at this time. I am very thankful for the opportunity.”



DIY: Mule Packing

Todd Jones, who has taught online courses such as outdoor recreation and agriculture management for Casper College from his home in Hyattville, Wyoming, received a Master Distance Educator Award this year from the Wyoming Distance Education Consortium. He has found creative ways to teach subjects such as mule packing; he made instructional videos on knot tying and campground setup. Students record videos of their work regularly as part of their assignments. Jones has accepted a position on the Casper College campus for 2016-2017 as an Agriculture Business instructor.

Degrees offered fully online at Casper College

- Agri-Business
- Agricultural Business and Management
- Agricultural Business and Management
- Early Childhood Ed.
- Fire Science Technology
- General Studies
- Medical Laboratory Technician

The Revolution in Nursing Education is Here

by Heather Huber, MS RN CNE,
director of nursing at Casper College

Here comes ReNEW, (Revolutionizing Nursing Education in Wyoming)!

As part of a statewide consortium, the H.E. Stuckenhoff Department of Nursing at Casper College has joined with the other community college nursing programs and the University of Wyoming in the development of a common nursing curriculum to revolutionize nursing education for the state of Wyoming. Faculty have been preparing for this event, and the first ReNEW cohort will be welcomed into the nursing program in the fall 2016 semester.

Why a new curriculum, let alone a revolutionary statewide plan? The answer can be found in the proposal developed through a collaborative effort by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Beginning in 2008, these two entities worked together to explore transforming nursing education to meet the needs of the future. Recognizing the continual advances in healthcare and anticipating the challenges in the coming years, the IOM made several recommendations directed to nursing education, leadership and workforce policy. In their 2010 report "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health" the recommendation was made to increase the proportion of baccalaureate prepared nurses to 80 percent by 2020. They acknowledged that this would require collaboration and contributions from all sectors of higher education.

A recent Wyoming Workforce Services report projected the demand for nursing in the year 2020 at 5,800 RNs. The current number of 3,300 and the estimated retirement of nurses indicated a shortage of 57 percent. In addition, more employers are beginning to hire BSN prepared nurses, or requiring newly hired ADN nurses to obtain their BSN within a specified time. It was obvious that it would take a team effort to address the demand for nurses in the state. Following

the lead from the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education, nurse educators from around Wyoming joined with nurses from various fields of practice and medical facilities to meet the challenge of the IOM recommendations.

Hence, the ReNEW curriculum, which is a baccalaureate curriculum with an associate degree benchmark. Under the ReNEW curriculum, persons who enter a nursing program at a community college in Wyoming will be able to complete their ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing), take the national licensure exam (NCLEX-RN), and begin working as a registered nurse. Upon achieving their RN license and having completed their BSN prerequisites, the ADN graduate can then move seamlessly toward their baccalaureate degree in nursing through online classes at the University of Wyoming in two additional semesters.

In addition, references in the health sciences literature document the need for educational reform to adequately prepare nursing graduates to enter into practice. The ReNEW curriculum has been designed using principles related to concept-based curriculum and student-centered learning pedagogies. This departure from the historic content-laden curriculum offers the advantage of managing the ever-changing health care environment and facilitates best practice teaching strategies. The change to conceptual learning also promotes critical thinking skills and use of resources for evidence-based practice necessary for safe nursing care.

The profession of nursing has many challenges ahead while facing the evolving demands of an aging population and an ever-changing health care system. The nurses educated today need to be well equipped to meet the health care needs of the future for the citizens of Wyoming. ReNEW will help toward achieving that goal. For more information, contact one of the nursing programs in the state.



“Why a new curriculum, let alone a revolutionary statewide plan?”



**H. E. STUCKENHOFF
DEPARTMENT
OF
NURSING**

Five Questions

Laurel Schulze Burke (AS '83)



Laurel Schulze Burke (AS '83) came to Casper College following graduation from Campbell County High School.

At Casper College she received her associate in biology then attended Central Missouri State University where she received her bachelor's in biology and earth sciences. Burke currently lives in Bellingham, Washington, with her husband James and three sons Shawn, Ryan and Dane.

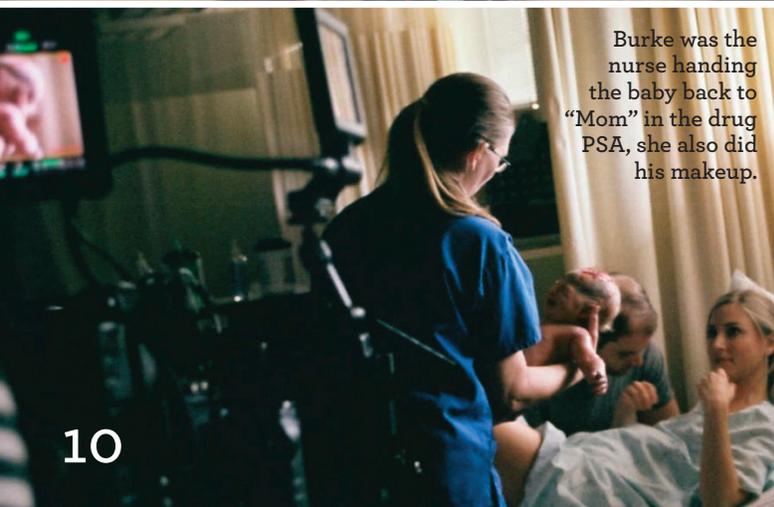
Biology, Makeup, Dummies, and Ghouls



Fishy face is Burke's son Ryan a few years back in a short film called "A Boy's Journey" - silicone prosthetic that moved when he spoke, which she sculpted and painted.



Burke was the nurse handing the baby back to "Mom" in the drug PSA, she also did his makeup.



Q : What brought you to Casper College, and were there any teachers that stood out for you or other memories from your time at CC?

A : I came to CC mainly because I could afford it, and preferred CC to other community colleges in the area. I had a scholarship too, which helped. I have great memories of several of the teachers. Mr. Howard was my biology teacher. When he was teaching hibernation he came into class tossing and catching a ball in one hand, which turned out to be a ground squirrel, “frozen.” Mr. Lofgren taught all my botany classes. His love for saguaro cacti is what led me to head to Arizona after graduation. Mr. Milek taught anatomy and physiology. He was cute; I always thought he’d make a great elf. He was inspiring beyond classwork. I lived in McIntyre Hall and made some life-long friends. I was the resident brow plucker and Halloween makeup artist. I remember sitting like clockwork in the common room surrounded by girls and boys, watching Luke and Laura on some soap opera (General Hospital).

01

Q : After Central Missouri State University you worked as a park ranger and then got a job with Arizona Game and Fish. What did you do in these capacities?

A : I entertained/educated park visitors in the South Dakota Badlands with different programs, and I even got bitten by a snake on one hike. A visitor picked a racer up by the tail, and it was swinging in toward his leg to bite him, so I grabbed him near his head, but not quite near enough, and he latched right onto my hand. I don’t tend to get very excited about such things, so I removed his teeth from me and held him properly, showed everyone how beautiful and smooth he was, let him go and continued with the hike. At AGF I worked in the field, identifying and counting plant species for a riparian mapping project, where I met my husband James who was mapping the data that we were collecting. We were out for four to seven days at a time, sleeping in tents. When my back gave out and I could no longer do field work I started writing for magazines, etc.

02

Q : How did you and he go from a gift store to Halloween?

A : We opened a gift store in the local mall, with then-trendy items like inflatable furniture, lava lamps, and sports/card collectibles. During Halloween season we could only carry a few items (another Halloween store had dibs on the mall at that time) so I opened a little 3000-foot store; I ran that and James ran the gift store. From there we had stores outside the mall for three seasons; then the mall courted us to replace the “Bootique.” That was 15 years ago.

03

Q : How did you get involved in mannequins?

A : My personal need for reasonably priced mannequins for the retail Halloween store led me to open MannequinStore. I needed mannequins to display costumes, and the one I ended up buying on eBay had no arms and was not in the best condition. I paid \$99 plus shipping for her. This price seemed ridiculously high to me, so I went in search of less expensive mannequins, all the way to China (online of course) and imported my first container in 2004. The following year I started developing new models. I also created a couple, with the male (vampire) leaning in to bite the female’s neck. I’d like to expand into a full “monster” line for Halloween stores.

04

Q : Then, for a completely different field, you and your husband have also been involved in movie making with Midnight Storm. Which of you got the “film bug”?

A : We both did. When I met James, his film experience was in scoring – he wrote music, but not scripts – until we got together. We moved to Bellingham to be between two major filming areas, Vancouver and Seattle. We were too naive then to know that unless you were a serious name, you couldn’t work in Canada, and that talent/hard work were not enough to get you “in.” It truly is not what you know, but WHO that counts. And Midnight Storm? I’d love to write, act and “do movie stuff” full time, but nobody is (currently) willing/able to pay me for it, so here I am doing all these other things.

05

Editor’s note: In 2014 Midnight Storm shot an anti-drug campaign public message for the Washington State Health Department. Burke was the production designer/co-producer on this anti-drug public service announcement, which you can see here: [youtube.com/watch?v=Zoc63rWguP8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zoc63rWguP8). You can also check out Burke’s two online stores at: spookshop.com and mannequinstore.com.



Looking Back

Casper College and Beyond

What Can't She Do...and into the Future

by Chris Hoffman Coats ('83)

A postcard couldn't capture the beauty of that day. Chalk it up to Casper Mountain as a backdrop that quickly evolved into a scene out of a Disney movie as antelope munched on the lush lawn at Casper College.

This moment lived up to the hype that I'd been prepping my kiddos for on the drive from Denver International Airport for a summer visit during July 2014 with family in Wyoming.

"This is it!" I said as we excitedly looked out the car windows. It takes a lot to impress our 22-year-old daughter, Lauren and 18-year-old son, Stephen. But finally getting to see the college that their dad, Rollyn and I not only attended, but where we met had them giddy.



Yet, there was reason to celebrate. Visiting Casper College was a homecoming. I credit the college and my experiences, while attending it, for pivotal moments in my life.

I graduated from Powell High School in 1979. I picked Casper College because I liked what I read about it. Didn't even tour it. After I arrived in August, the next few years became a blur of activities. My freshman year, I was elected to the student senate. I still proudly have a September 21, 1979 copy of the Chinook, with my newbie face on the front page, with a quote vowing to bring more student activities on campus.

As a political science major, I found refuge in a freshman composition class. I loved to write. My professor shared my stories with the class. Classmates called me, "teacher's pet." I credit this professor for instilling the idea that I could become a writer. I don't remember her name but would love to let her know the profound affect she had on my future.

I paid for all of my college. So I nabbed as many hours as possible at the Casper College Library working for librarian **Laurie Lye**. That's where I met **Rollyn Coats** ('77) or "Rollie" as he's known by family and friends. A Casper College alum, he just graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in finance. He was making copies and I noticed that he left his originals. I chased him down the sidewalk to give them to him. We ended up marrying three years later and will be celebrating our 34-year wedding anniversary this June!

One of Rollie's best friends was **Bill Landen** (AS, '76), sports editor of the Casper Star-Tribune. I just thought that Bill had to have the coolest job ever, writing for a newspaper audience.

I ended up working fulltime in 1981 for the Natrona County Public Library in downtown Casper as a library clerk, while still going to school. I used to write a staff newsletter for fun, even illustrating it with cartoons. That was a sign of things to come.

We built a strong group of friends, like **Tom** (ABUS, '75) and **Vicki Barrett**. Tom knew Bill from both serving on the Chinook during their Casper College years. Vicki was our powerhouse pitcher on our softball team, the Zales Diamondettes.

Rollie and I eventually moved to Laramie to attend school at the University of Wyoming and we both graduated in 1985 and wondered where we'd land a job. The Wyoming economy wasn't great and the chances of us both nabbing an accounting job in one town? Zilch.

Rollie's dad had moved to College Station, Texas. We heard that Tom and Vicki moved to Dallas. We contacted them and soon headed south to the home of J.R. Ewing and the Dallas Cowboys!

We nabbed great accounting jobs, passed our CPA exams, and loved life in Dallas. Our daughter Lauren was born in 1991. While I loved my career, I realized that I wanted to write – children's books for starters.

I became driven to become a writer. While on my maternity leave in 1994 with our son, Stephen, we had worked for me to stay home full time with our kiddos. I'd still work whatever odd jobs I could like bookkeeping, working from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. after the kids went to bed. I'd also started writing diligently in my spare time.

I secured a gig writing a weekly advice column that ran in 10 Texas newspapers (I wanted to be the next Ann Landers or Dear Abby) and I also was the newsletter editor for a newfound children's TV sensation, Barney, the Purple Dinosaur.

By September 1995, I landed my biggest writing gig – freelancing for People magazine, then eventually hired as a staff reporter. My reality existed in reporting on everything from breaking news stories to the celebrity beat. I became friends with many celebs, like Britney Spears, and their families.

In 2002, I accepted a senior editor position with Us Weekly, the celebrity magazine. I trained freelancers and covered stories across the country like the Country Music Awards to the Emmy's and even the Super Bowl – basically all A-list celebrity events.

I loved my job. The travel? – Not so much. After a while, I didn't care if I interviewed Brad or Angelina or any A-list celeb, I missed my family. I always wanted to make a difference by teaching and decided to give it my all.

I chose to teach at a school whose students came from predominantly low-income households and a highly diverse student population. I loved my role as a journalism

teacher and campus relations director. I still did my celebrity journalism gigs on the side, and as a weekly columnist for The Dallas Morning News. My routine – one day I'd teach then catch a flight the next morning for Nashville to be on the red carpet that evening interviewing Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood at the Country Music Awards. In 2013, I was awarded Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year by the Texas PTA out of thousands of candidates statewide for making a difference at our school.

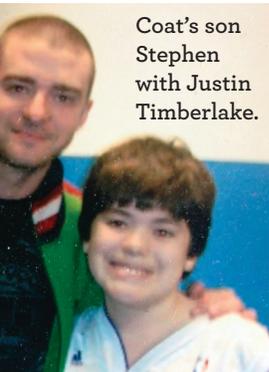
I dreamed of one day taking classes at Harvard. After winning my award, I applied for a leadership program through Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and got accepted. I've taken various classes (on campus and online) and continue to do so.

I dreamed about teaching college. Ironically, it started when I was studying for my CPA exam in 1986. I studied at a library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas every night after work.

In 2015, I was asked to speak to communications students at SMU about my career. I jumped at the chance. That led to a chain of events where I now teach at SMU. I teach students the ins and outs of what it takes to be a journalist and public relations representative. I've also started my own PR/social media firm, where my clients range from Hollywood celebrities to business owners. I still have books to write and I'm launching an online magazine.

I have two dreams yet to accomplish – to teach a summer school class at Casper College and the University of Wyoming – what full circle moments! If it wouldn't have been for my experiences, professors, and friends that inspired me along the way at Casper College, I wouldn't be the person that I am today – we're still friends with the Barrett's and stay in touch with Bill, too. More importantly, I wouldn't have met the most important person in my life, my husband Rollie, who has been my biggest supporter. He's now a senior tax manager for a multi-million dollar oil and gas company.

1. ... Coats, a lifelong fan of the Dallas Cowboys, was able to meet her childhood idol, legendary Cowboys' quarterback Roger Staubach. The meeting came when Coats was covering a Thanksgiving Day game for People magazine in then Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones' suite with Jones, his family and friends including Staubach.



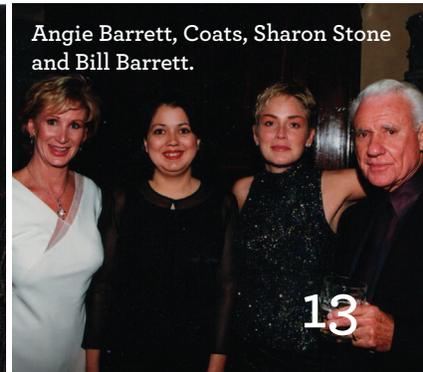
Coat's son Stephen with Justin Timberlake.



Chris, center, with the cast from "Everyone Loves Raymond."



1.



Angie Barrett, Coats, Sharon Stone and Bill Barrett.

13

Faculty & Staff

Walter Nolte, retired Casper College president came out of retirement to serve as interim president of Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, for the Spring 2016 semester. UCC officials said, "We are very happy to have Walter on our campus for the next few months. He understands the challenges we face and we are confident that he is the right fit for UCC right now," said UCC Board Chair Vanessa Becker. "Walter's expertise and experience is impressive. He understands and thrives in the community college environment."

Joshua Mietz, clarinetist and CC music instructor, and soprano Veronica Turner, adjunct music faculty member, performed Schubert's "The Shepherd on the Rock" at the Casper Chamber Music Society's spring concert accompanied by adjunct CC instructor and pianist **Diego Caetano**.

1. Evin Rodkey, Casper College anthropology and sociology instructor published three articles in professional journals this past year, "Disposable Labor, Repurposed: Outsourcing Deportees in the Call Center Industry" in *Anthropology of Work Review* 37 (1): 34-43; "Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) v. Lopez-Mendoza, et al., 468 U.S. 1032." in *Latinos and Criminal Justice: An Encyclopedia*, edited by José Luis Morín; and "The Innocence Project." in *Latinos and Criminal Justice: An Encyclopedia*, edited by José Luis Morín.

Eric Unruh, dean for the School of Fine Arts and Humanities at Casper College, recently appeared on the Yamaha Institutional Solutions Group website, yamahaisg.com/instrument-applications along with Alexander Kobrin,

Placido Domingo, Frederic Chiu, Philippe Entremont, Abbey Simon, and Paul Badura-Skoda. All artists were commenting on Yamaha and Bösendorfer pianos.

Nathan Baker, Casper College music instructor, performed his piano composition "Lamentation in B-minor" during his ARTCORE recital this spring. He also played trombone classics. He was joined by Casper College student Juliane Woodward premiering a piece she composed.

James Olm, Casper College music theatre and voice instructor, premiered his play "Mulberry" at the Gertrude Krampert Theatre and Dance Center this past spring. Playwright and composer Olm chose Richard White, the voice of Gaston in Disney's animated film "Beauty and the Beast" for the lead role in "Mulberry." Casper College theatre instructor Richard Burk directed the new play. Olm began writing the musical 13 years earlier.

J.P. Cavigelli, the museum collections specialist at the Casper College Tate Geological Museum, addressed the Western Interior Paleontological Society in May presenting "The Story of Lee Rex, Wyoming's Own T-Rex." The Western Interior Paleontological Society meets monthly at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in Denver. They are a nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific, educational and charitable activities related to paleontology – the study of fossils.

2. Michael Moline, Casper College physical education instructor, and his wife Cherry welcomed baby Malia to the family on March 7, 2016. An early arrival, Malia was 4 lbs., 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her big

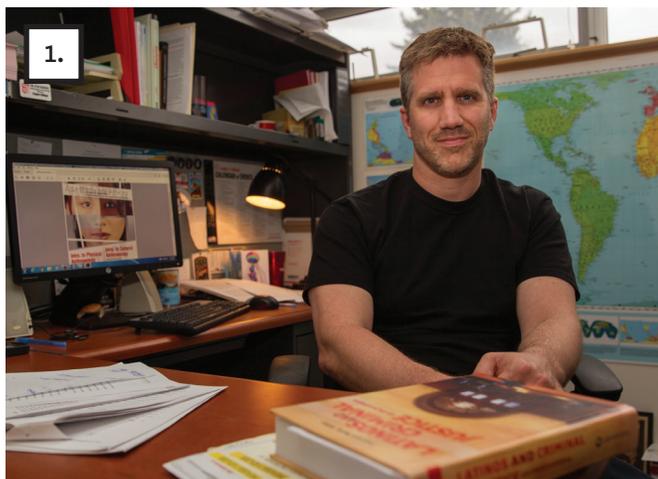
sister Ariah, 3 years old, has been a big help. Malia is doing well, and is now free of all the preemie equipment.

Will Robinson's article "Strong on Defense: Movers and Shakers, Shakers and Bakers" was published in *Natural History* magazine in June. The article recounts the interesting defense strategies Eastern hive bees use against predatory hornets and is based upon research he conducted in Thailand. Robinson, a Casper College biology instructor, returns to Thailand in the fall to continue his research.

Pam and Lance Jones chaired the Natrona County Library's Edible Book Fest in April sponsored by Friends of the Library. Pam is the coordinator for the Center for Excellence, which trains faculty and staff on campus. She came to the college five years ago from Make-A-Wish of Wyoming. Lance is the director of security and judicial review and has been at the college for eight years.

Everlee Grace Siems was born on February 2, 2016 to **Erin Siems** and her husband Justin. Everlee was 6 lbs. and 2 oz., 20.5 inches long, and healthy and happy from the start. Erin is a records specialist in the Casper College Enrollment Services Office.

3. Nick Whipps and his wife Courtney welcomed their first child into the world on January 6, 2016. Bennett James Whipps was 8 lbs. 4oz., and 21.5 inches. Bennett is another boy in the Whipps family lineage that hasn't had a girl born into the family in over 100 years! Nick is the student activities coordinator at Casper College and Courtney works in marketing and new construction at Broker One Real Estate.



Fifteen Retire from Casper College

Casper College said farewell to 15 employees who accounted for a total of nearly 279 years during the 2016 Recognition and Retirement Banquet.

Janet de Vries began working at Casper College on July 5, 1995 as a school-to-work coordinator. During her time at the school she advanced from that position to career specialist and then to director of career services, now known as student success services.

Lori Fichman began working for Casper College on August 21, 2002 as a nursing instructor.

Marty Finch began his career as agriculture instructor on August 9, 2005.

Michael Keogh was the photography instructor and had been with Casper College since August 19, 1991.

Ardell Knudson started working for Casper College on August 20, 1990. When he retired he was an engineering instructor.

Kenneth (Ken) Kreckel came from industry to teach extractive resources at Casper College on August 20, 2007.

Karen Moenkhaus began working for Casper College on September 1, 1996. When she retired, she was an English instructor in the Casper College Writing Center.

Margo Perry began her career as an adjunct instructor at Casper College in 2001. On August 23, 2005 she was hired as a full-time world languages instructor. Next, she was the international student coordinator, and international education director. When she retired, she was the coordinator of the Casper College Academic Testing Center (ATC), a position she has held since 2008.

Marilee Pickering began her career at Casper College on February 3, 1986. While employed at the college, she has had the following positions: placement center secretary, February 1986 to August 1995; employee benefits specialist, August 1995 to September 1998; and her current position, payroll specialist, since September 1998.

Thomas (Tom) Schellberg started his employment with Casper College on August 15, 1994 as an economics instructor, a position he held for his entire tenure at the school.

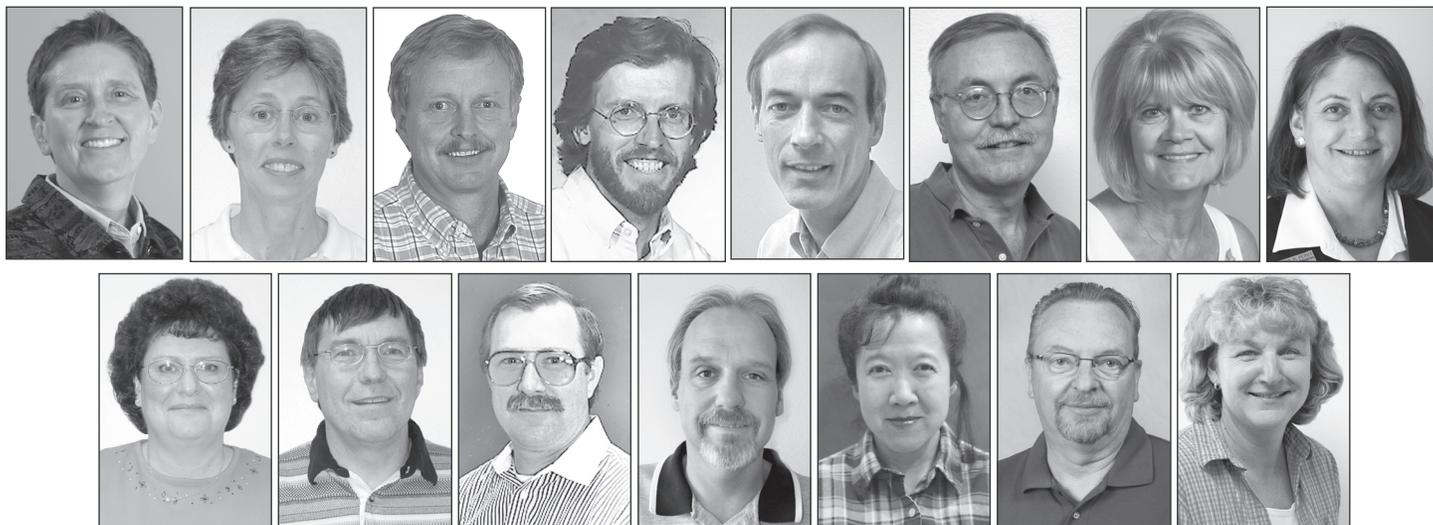
Mark Steinle began his career at Casper College on August 24, 1994 as an instructor. His final teaching position was in both construction and welding.

Daniel (Dan) Straka began working in the academic computing department at Casper College on June 19, 1995. His first job title was network applications specialist. He established the college's web presence in 1996 and was Webmaster until a full-time position was approved in September 2000. In 1998 he became the college's Novell administrator. His other titles over 21 years have been academic systems specialist, systems coordinator and when he retired, systems administrator. Dan was also an adjunct instructor in computer applications for the Casper College School of Business where he taught web authoring.

Tiptida Telck began her career at Casper College on July 14, 2003 as a custodian.

Darry Voigt retired as executive director of enrollment services and had been employed at Casper College since August 28, 1989.

Laurie Weaver began as an adjunct instructor in the Casper College Radiography Department, a position she held from 1985-1988. On October 3, 1988 she became the radiography program clinical coordinator until 2000 when she became the radiography program director.



People & Places

1940s, 50s, 60s

Leonard ('48) and **Dorothy 'Dottie'** ('56) (**DeWees**) Lang celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on January 15, 2016, three months before Leonard passed away in April. They were both raised in Casper, as well as their four children. They had numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Leonard was honored by the Wyoming Bar Association for his 50 year career as an attorney. Prior to retirement, Dottie was a realtor in Casper for 20 years. They met while roller-skating at the north Casper rink, after Leonard returned from naval service during World War II.

Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49) presented "New Books and Old Landscapes" in a May talk to the Pioneer Association. Her column from the Summer 2013 Footprints magazine entitled "I Remember" was reprinted in the Casper Journal in honor of Memorial Day 2016.

1970s

Jim and **Norma Parker** (former CC employee) celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016. They were married Feb. 14, 1966 in Casper. Norma worked at Wyoming National Bank for 10 years, and then worked at Roberts Commons at Casper College as an administrative assistant for 27 years until her retirement. Jim was employed by the Wyoming Highway Department for 10 years, then Pacific Power Coal Mine for two years, then Amoco Refinery for 17 years until retirement. They have enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing, and time at their cabin in the Big Horns, enjoying it the most with their children, grandchildren, other loved ones and friends. They love their home by the river west of Casper, where they have lived for 25 years.

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Fankhauser (AA, '71) and his wife Catherine Ann Fankhauser will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary July 31, 2016. Chuck earned his dental degree in 1978 and retired after 38 years in practice. The couple resides in Olympia, Washington.

Rod Mahaffey (AA, '71) writes that he "was born to be retired." He and his wife relocated to Denver because their kids and grandkids were all down there. He adds, "We also just like Denver: starting with the weather, then throw in some art and music and

great dining." They are excited that their first granddaughter arrived on April 12, 2016.

Samuel Loftin ('75) retired from the Western Area Power Administration in Salt Lake City after working there for 36 years. Sam and his wife Carol plan to remain in the Salt Lake area but travel to other places frequently.

Mike Lindahl (AA, '78), Building Coordinator for University of Wyoming at Casper, received UW's 2016 Off-Campus Staff award. Mike has been with UW at Casper for the past six years.

Ron Franscell (AA, '78) recently visited Casper to promote his latest book "Morgue: A Life in Death." Forensic scientist Vincent De Maio, M.D. is co-author of the book, which recounts some of the most interesting cases from his career. Ron is considered one of the most accomplished true crime writers in America and was the 2003 Casper College Distinguished Alumnus.

Lori Franzen ('79) was recently featured in a "Women in Rodeo" article by Alanna Robin Hamilton, Miss Rodeo America, that outlined her path to her career with Powder River Rodeo, LLC founded by Hank and Lori Franzen. Lori, who grew up in Gillette, Wyoming, competed on the Casper College Rodeo team in college where she met her husband **Hank** ('79).

1980s, 90s

Linda Anderson ('84) is retiring as the East Side Elementary principal in Worland, Wyoming, after 20 years. Prior to that, she served as the principal in Ten Sleep, Wyoming, schools. Her retirement plans include travelling to Tanzania to do mission work in a school there.

Shauna Smith ('86), formerly Sean Smith, is co-author of a biography "Shauna," along with Kiersten Harrison-Jack, to be released in the fall and is looking forward to co-teaching a class at the University of California San Diego on intersex studies. The community of La Jolla, the 'Water-Walking Foundation' and 'Soul Wise Coaching' joined together to support the former teacher and coach as she transitions into a new identity and life. According to the Water-Walking Foundation, "Shauna is working on creating a blog and website for herself as well, in order to promote anti-bullying and positive community efforts."

Charlie Robertson ('87), former T-Bird basketball player and a former Casper College trustee, has a daughter following in his footsteps. Emily Robertson, recent NCHS graduate and two-time Class 4A all-state player for the Fillies, joins the T-Bird women in the fall.

 **Chris Navarro** ('90) and **Brian Scott Gamroth** ('84) of Casper each received the Governor's Arts Award for 2015 on Feb. 26, 2016. Chris is a bronze monument sculptor. Over the summer, the Nicolaysen Art Museum is featuring a display of Chris's work, "Embrace the Struggle." His work appears around Wyoming at such venues as Cheyenne Frontier Days, the Old West Museum, and St. Anthony Tri-Parish School in Casper, as well as around the country. Brian's day job is morning announcer for KTWO Radio. He spends much of the rest of his time involved in promoting the arts. He's served on the boards of the Casper College Theatre Program, the Nicolaysen Art Museum, the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra, and the Casper Children's Theatre. Brian has also raised millions of dollars for arts in Wyoming as an emcee, including updates to the Gertrude Krampert Center for Theatre and Dance, as well as thousands of dollars in arts and humanities scholarships at Casper College.

Todd Feezer (AS, '91) is the director of Laramie Parks and Recreation Department, after serving as assistant director of Parks and Recreation in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Todd earned an associate's degree in physical education at Casper College, before heading to Chadron State College in Nebraska to complete a bachelor's degree.

Kathleen Herter ('92), **Valerie Innella-Maiers**, Casper College art history instructor, **Sharon Lockwood** (AS, AAS, '99), and **Linda Nix**, associate director for alumni relations, were recognized as nominees for the 2016 Casper Women of Distinction award. All the women were recognized at a special luncheon.

Blain R. Myers (AA, '95) is the play-by-play voice of Rock Springs High School sports. Blain is also employed by MRC Global as their branch manager in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Jennifer Taulealea (AA, '95, AS, '95) is a nurse practitioner at Healthcare for the Homeless in Casper. In addition to being a CC alum, Jennifer is a former Casper College nursing instructor.

Steve (AS, '98) and **Kristen Marler** ('96) and their family's story was featured in the *Prairie Wife* blog, December 23, 2015. Steve and Kristen met at Casper College in 1994 and married three years later. Kristen earned a teaching degree and Steve a mechanical engineering degree at the University of Wyoming. They are very committed foster parents, opening their hearts and home to children needing a safe place to land. Their family consists of three biological children, six adopted children, and two others in the process of being adopted. In addition, they have cared for more than 50 other children.

Michelle Giffin (AS, '99) was honored as one of the top four Wyoming nurses for 2016 chosen by Casper Star-Tribune readers. Michelle is a quality analyst nurse for Wyoming Medical Center.

2000s

Jamie Evans ('01) is running for a county commission seat in Glacier County, Montana. Jamie works for the family business, B&L Pumping. She is also a volunteer for the Blackfeet Country Chamber of Commerce and the Charging Home Stampede 4-H Fair.

Marc Sundstrom (AA, '02) is the new senior associate pastor at Madison Park Church in Anderson, Indiana. Marc previously served as lead pastor at Southridge Church of God in Charleston, West Virginia. Before that he was employed by Highland Park Community Church in Casper. Marc and **Heather (Rost) Sundstrom** (AS, '03) have four sons, Keaton, Ryan, Owen, and Carson.

Tiffany (Kiefat) Behunin (AAS, '03) has three children and has worked in hospice and home health care. She is also a substitute nurse at the elementary school in Mountain View, Wyoming. Her husband is employed in the trona industry.

2. **Johanna Wickman** (AA, '03, '09) recently authored the book "Lost Forts of Casper." Based on her master's thesis, "Lost Forts of Casper," describes the history of three army outposts built before and during the Civil War in Casper, Wyoming. The book chronicles the military efforts to keep the peace, wage war, and merely survive on the frontier. The book is published through The History Press and was released in June. Johanna serves on the board of the Fort Caspar Museum Association and is currently the president of two companies working with museums: Wickman Historical Consultants and Creative Museum Solutions.

Wendy Matteau (AA, '04, AA, '10) and Brad Haverlock were married on May 14, 2016 in Casper. Wendy is self-employed as a freelance paralegal, and earned certified paralegal status this past January. Brad is retired and enjoys woodworking out of their home in Casper.

Debra A. Mueller (AA, '04) has started Family Keepsakes Video Biographies, LLC, a video biography company that helps families develop and preserve family biographies.

Andrew F. Sears (AS '04) has become a member of the Murane and Bostwick law firm in Casper. Andy earned both his B.S. and J.D. from the University of Wyoming. His practice focuses on insurance defense, worker's compensation and criminal defense. He and his wife, Alyson, have three children.

Miranda Blajszczak (AS, 05) was recognized as one of the top four Wyoming nurses for 2016 chosen by Casper Star-Tribune readers. Miranda is director of nursing at Wyoming Behavioral Institute in Casper.

Jenna Gallegos (AS, '07) and Brennan Sargent were married on October 13, 2015 in Berthoud, Colorado. Jenna is employed by Centennial Health Care as a certified occupational therapy assistant. Brennan works as an operator at HollyFrontier. The couple is at home in Johnstown, Colorado.

Chelsey (Kiefat) Lawson (AS, '07) lives in Mountain View, Wyoming. She taught third grade in Gillette, Wyoming but will be teaching second grade this fall in Mt. View. Chelsey and her husband have two children and he works in the mineral extraction industry.

2010s

Jamie Lee Cascio ('10) and Boynton Nevling Clune, III (CERT, '15) were married April 9, 2016 at Haven Art Gallery in Casper. The bride is a certified dental assistant.

3. **Faith (Engen) Conaway** (AA, '10) is employed by the Casper Children's Theatre, and is a part-time fitness instructor. She also owns "Once Upon a Princess," a business where she performs as a princess at events and parties. During college she toured with the 2012-13 Sesame Street Live production. She is starring as Elle Wood in the Casper College summer production of "Legally Blonde, The Musical."

Kaylee Carlson (current) and **Christopher Jaques** ('11) were married July 18, 2015 in the Big Horns. The bride attends Casper College. The groom also attended

Casper College. He is employed by Scientific Drilling. They are at home in Casper.

Carlos Uriel Garcia Santiago (AS, '14) received a \$5,000 rural scholarship from the NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors Inc. Uriel is a master's student in the mental health counseling program at UW. The award is to support his counseling education and recognize his commitment to the underserved.

Annette Hein (AS, '14) received the Outstanding Graduate in Communication award from the University of Wyoming this spring. Graduating in May with her bachelor's degree in geology, Annette is interning over the summer with the United States Geological Survey in California working on a project on infiltration. She will begin work on her M.S. in hydrology at the Colorado School of Mines with full funding in the fall.

Trace Pierce (AA, '14) is working with the Casper Children's Theatre, primarily teaching the middle class and working on set building. He is also employed by the Arc of Natrona County working with children with developmental disabilities.

4. **Kristen Trumbull** (AS, '14) received the Outstanding Graduate in Communication award from the University of Wyoming this spring. While studying at Casper College, Kristen volunteered for the 'Help Yourself Academy' and after that gravitated to public speaking. Kristen interned with the oral communication lab at Casper College while working on her degree at the University of Wyoming at Casper.

Brianna Anderson ('15) captured second place in the "Teaching a Lesson Plan" category at the International Technology Engineering Educators Collegiate Association conference. Her lesson plan focused on renewable wind energy and its effect on the environment, a topic within the technological literacy standards. Brianna is a senior at the University of Wyoming at Casper.

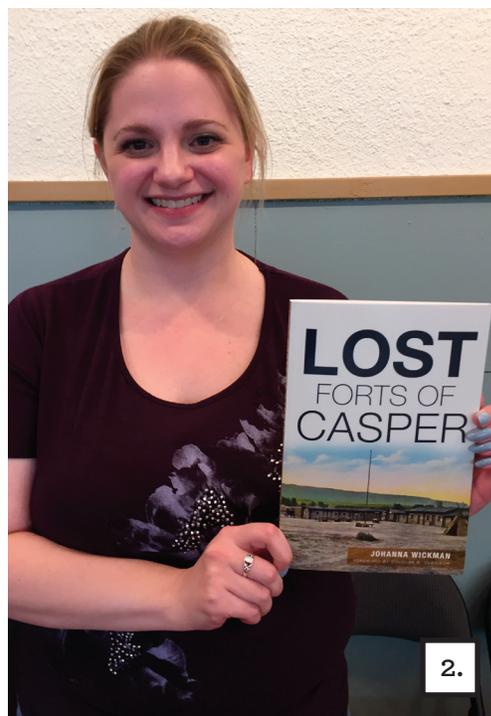
5. **Devon Shew** (AA, '15) received the Sue Jorgensen Excellent Student in Education award. John Jorgensen created the award in 1996, honoring UW-Casper education students who earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average, exhibit professional disposition toward mentors and peers, contribute to the education field through leadership and community service, and display a positive attitude to promote excitement and curiosity about learning. Devon was nominated and selected by UW-Casper's education faculty and staff.

1.



Left to right: Bill Landen, Brian Gamroth, and Chris Navarro.

2.



3.



4.



Left to right: Scott Seville, Devon Shew, John Jorgensen, and Dana Howie



5.

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.



Make it your Trek. 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
8 a.m.

5K run/walk
(with special fun fitness stations for kids)
9 a.m.

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

Register by August 15 and Save!

(Registrants after August 15, not guaranteed race shirt.)

Children under 12 **FREE** with registered adult

Sign up caspercollege.edu/tbird-trek

New CC Grad Starts Training Blog

Her First Half-Marathon, the T-Bird Trek

Recent graduate, Sarah Finch (AA, '16) is training for her first half-marathon, the T-Bird Trek, and she's inspiring others through her training blog. The Trek is Sarah's first foray into distance running. A competitive mountain biker in high school, Sarah also played high school volleyball as a freshman and sophomore, and now plays on two teams for fun. Sarah will join other runners and walkers in the T-Bird Trek on Sunday, September 18, 2016. Leif Johansson, a trainer with Trek sponsor, Wind City Physical Therapy, is helping Sarah with pre-race training and conditioning. The rookie distance runner heads to Laramie, Wyoming, this fall to complete her elementary education degree and minor in early childhood education at the University of Wyoming. Finch married Andrew Hill ('16) this summer. She was excited to be in great shape for the nuptials. Check out her blog at caspercollege.edu/tbird-trek/training.



Friends We'll Miss

Michael L. Franck, (AAS, '76)
September 13, 2015

Michael John Paul Porath (AS, '13)
November 14, 2015

Mary K. (Ondracek) Sanford (AS, '70)
December 10, 2016

Donna Messerli ('98)
December 13, 2015

Clarence John Pridgeon ('70)
December 15, 2015

Suzanne Eileen Pacshal (CERT, '87)
December 20, 2015

Donald W. Link (AAS, '79)
December 22, 2015

Kim Lea (Hendricks) Reddington ('73)
December 22, 2015

John Byron McLennan (AS, '77)
December 25, 2015

Michael J. Ito (AS, '74)
December 29, 2015

Clifford Dean Mathisen (AS, '77)
December 31, 2016

Ricky Dan Burgin (former CC employee)
January 4, 2015

Rev. Gordon E. Roe (AA, '58)
January 12, 2016

Lily May (Jenkins) Bevers (ABUS, '70)
January 15, 2016

Alanna J. Jaqua ('88)
January 19, 2016

Phyllis Cotherman (CERT, '89)
January 25, 2016

Jerome Miller (AA, '55)
January 27, 2016

Norene Clara (Marsh) Brauer ('54)
February 1, 2016

James Kent Kinniburgh (AS, '57)
February 2, 2016

June Ellen (Mosteller) Lewis (AS, '68)
February 3, 2016

Benjamin Harrison Howard (ABUS, '71)
February 10, 2016

Delwyn Attletweedt (AAS, '93)
February 19, 2016

Douglas Blain Byer (AFA, '05)
February 22, 2016

William James Shields (AS, '67)
February 22, 2016

Ronald Gibson Heward ('68)
February 23, 2016

Kristin Anne Olafson Kraft ('97)
February 27, 2016

Beverly A. (Samuelson) Lord ('78)
February 28, 2016

Dorothy Anna Fritts-Schultz (AS, '60)
March 1, 2016

William A. Peterson (AS, '65)
March 4, 2016

Anna Mae Anderson (AA, '51)
March 9, 2016

Richard E. White (former CC administrator)
March 10, 2016

Marisue Johnson (AS, '84)
March 13, 2016

Richard Reed (CERT, '11)
March 13, 2016

Richard Galley (AA, '61)
March 14, 2016

Randall Lloyd Copas (AA, '01)
March 17, 2016

Bob L. Ward ('50)
March 18, 2016

Thelma Ruth Greitl-Balden (CERT, '47)
March 22, 2016

Richard Lee McQuin (AAS, '79)
March 24, 2016

Cheryl I. (Griffis) Aleman (AA, '65)
March 28, 2016

Bruce Lee Cool ('69)
March 28, 2016

Richard 'Dick' Rhoades (AA, '55)
March 29, 2016

Sarah L. Hren (AS, '72)
March 30, 2016

Betty Gene Trimmer (AS, '53)
April 5, 2016

Patricia U. Holscher (AA, '75)
April 9, 2016

**Caroline "Carrie"
M. Neuenschwander** ('89)
April 14, 2016

Beverly Ann Filbert (AS, '71)
April 19, 2016

Harold Winterholler ('51)
April 19, 2016

Bertha Louella Powell (former CC faculty)
April 22, 2016

Michael Barry Fitzgerald ('68)
April 23, 2016

Leonard Emery Lang ('48)
April 23, 2016

Dan R. Jones (former CC faculty)
April 29, 2016

Joann Conway (AAS, '82)
May 1, 2016

Colter Day "C.D." Atkinson
(AAS, '03, CERT, '04)
May 4, 2016

Harley James Axe (AA, '50)
May 5, 2016

Robert James Axlund ('70)
May 10, 2016

Coelene "Coe" Grace Martin (ATE, '71)
May 16, 2016

Gary Alan Scharosch ('79)
May 27, 2016

Sherelene "Shag" Compton (CERT, '74)
June 6, 2016

Lidwina Mires (AA '62)
June 6, 2016

According to Charlotte

by Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)



Toaster Trauma

It was a day in my life, which I won't soon forget. It was a Tuesday in June. I got up and decided to have toast for

breakfast. I popped two slices of bread into the toaster, fed Honey (the cat) and left for the bathroom to brush my hair. Almost immediately I began to smell smoke – the kind of acrid smoke that smells like a real honest-to-goodness fire.

I dropped the brush and headed for the kitchen – fast! And there, on the counter, was the toaster spewing a cloud of white smoke from one side like an erupting volcano. I was transfixed and the smoke was filling the kitchen

“FOR HEAVENS SAKES, DO SOMETHING,” said a disembodied voice. I grabbed a dishtowel, opened the back door and started flapping desperately, but the flapping was futile. I flipped on the exhaust fan, which didn't help, either.

“PULL THE BLOODY PLUG,” said the voice. So I did, and the smoke still billowed.

At that point the smoke alarm went off and Honey, who had been watching all this with great interest, went into action. She careened down the kitchen floor, skidded around the corner and disappeared somewhere – and boy, did I want to go with her.

The smoke was now dissipating some and I could again see the toaster. One lonely piece of toast was sitting in one slot, but the other piece of toast had disappeared.

I approached tentatively and looked in the slot.

Nothing.

I picked up the toaster, turned it upside down and shook it over the sink.

Nothing.

I opened the crumb tray and shook it some more.

Nothing.

And, lo, it then became a mystery, which I have never solved.

I hauled the toaster out to the patio and plugged it in hoping it was now okay, but as soon as I pushed down the lever, the smoke billowed up. It's truly a wonder the fire department didn't show up.

That toaster was toast as far as I was concerned and, clearly, it was time for a new one.

So, up I went to my favorite specialty store and ordered one, which arrived at my door within days.

Eagerly, I unpacked it, plugged it in and dropped in the bread. The lever on the toaster went down but only about half way. The bottom half of the bread toasted beautifully and popped up leaving a half-moon of untoasted bread adorning the top. I couldn't believe it, so I tried it again – punching that lever hard – and got the same result.

So, I boxed it up and back to the store we went. The sympathetic clerk, Barb, reordered. The new toaster arrived again within days – and the exact same scenario repeated itself.

Enough, already!

On trip number three to the store, the lovely clerk also had enough and suggested we change brands. We did.

This third toaster turned out to be a gem and, at long last, my faith in toasters was restored.

So after three weeks, which seemed more like three months, my toaster trauma subsided – but, believe it or not, I can still smell smoke...





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