

# Footprints

Casper College Alumni Magazine

Winter 2014

## Caught in Crisis

A Trip to POW Camp 344

## Why Teachers Matter

Students Pay Tribute

## How did the Antelope Cross the Road?

Five Questions



# Footprints

A publication of the Casper College Alumni Association

Mike Stepp ('80)  
President

David Long ('72)  
Vice President

Bill Brauer ('56)  
Treasurer

Charlotte Babcock ('49)  
Virginia Bodyfelt ('01)  
Derrel Carruth ('65)  
Janette 'Jan' Cundy ('80)  
Nancy Curtis ('67)  
Kyla Foltz ('02)  
Nancy Gerlock ('95, '97)  
Rich Hepner ('92)  
Luella Hinderliter ('66)

Doug Leonard ('87)  
Gigi Leman ('92)  
Trinity Holland Lewis ('12)  
Mary Litzel ('82, '87)  
Kevin Bromley ('77)  
Ron Salvesson ('74)  
Lea Schoenewald ('72)  
Deborah Werner Simon ('75)

## Editorial Staff

Paulann Doane, Foundation Executive Director  
Linda Nix, Associate Director, Alumni Relations  
Richard Fujita, Public Relations Director  
Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle ('79), Editor and News Coordinator  
Justin Pehrson, Online Communications Specialist  
Laura Lucero, Publications Coordinator

## Keep in touch!

E-mail: [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu)

Mail: Linda Nix, Associate Director, Alumni Relations  
Casper College • 125 College Drive  
Casper, WY 82601  
Phone: 307-268-2218 or  
800-442-2963 ext. 2218  
Fax: 307-268-3400

## Or drop by!

Casper College Gateway Building, third floor  
Foundation Office, Rm. 306  
Alumni Office, Rm. 306D

Follow us on Facebook or sign up for our quarterly electronic newsletter at [caspercollege.edu/alumni](http://caspercollege.edu/alumni).



## Cover Image

On the Road to Pine Ridge, S.D.  
Photo by Emily Wynn

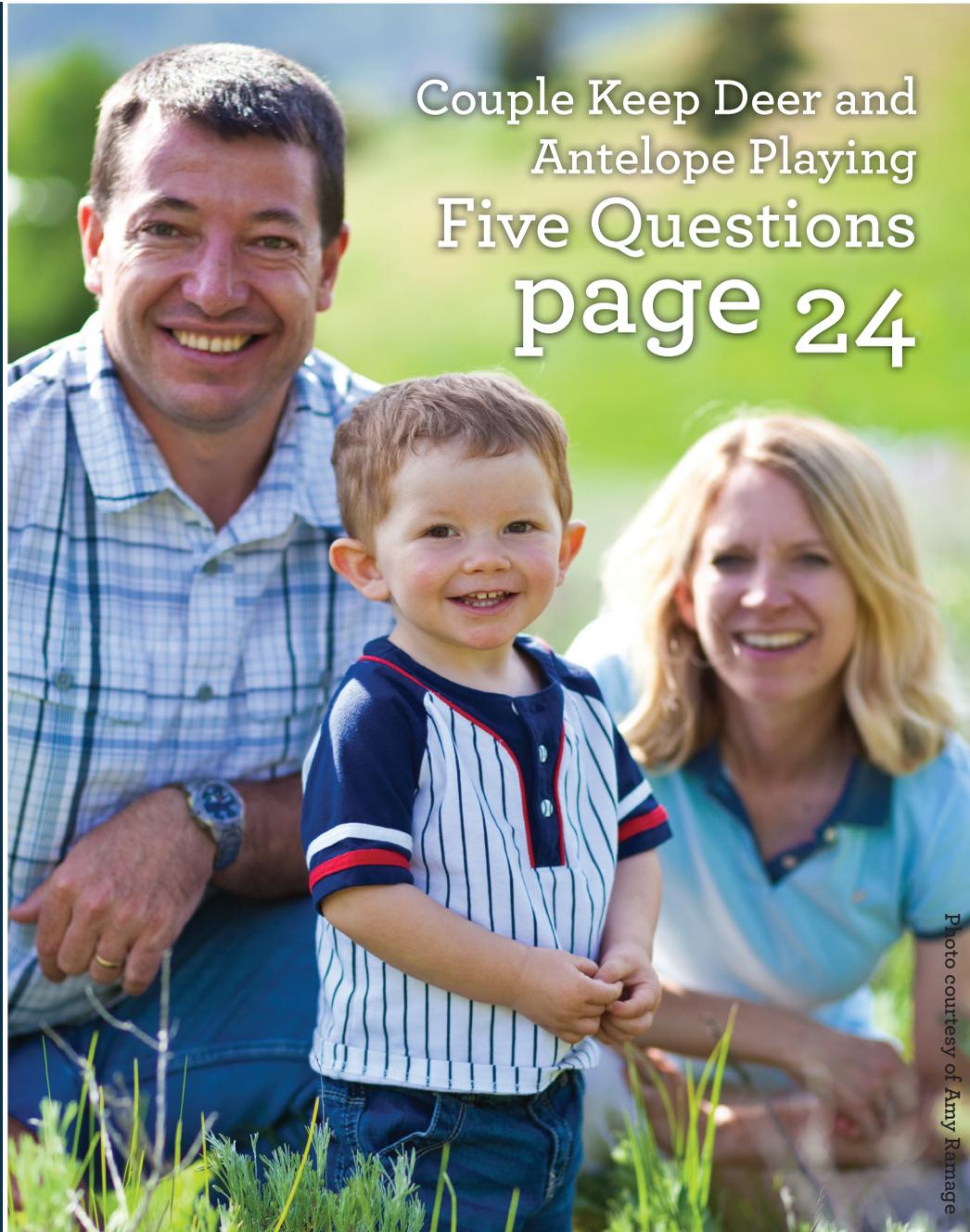


Photo courtesy of Amy Ramage

Couple Keep Deer and Antelope Playing  
Five Questions  
page 24



Footprints Magazine received a Gold Medallion of Excellence from Region IV of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations at the organization's annual conference in Lubbock, Texas in October 2013. This marks the third consecutive year the magazine was judged to be the best in the region, which includes Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.

## On the Cover

Return to POW Camp 344 .....8-12  
Pine Ridge, S.D.

## Main Stories

My Favorite Teacher .....14-17  
Wow!!! New Music Building sounds .....18-19  
as good as it looks  
Making His Mark on the Landscape .....20-21  
Aaron Rodolph

## Regular Features

Alumni News .....4-5  
Campus News .....6-7  
Notes from T-Bird Camp .....22-23  
Faculty and Staff Notes .....26-27  
People and Places .....28-31  
Friends We'll Miss .....32  
"Death Song" by Charlotte Babcock .....33

# In This Issue

## From the Alumni Association President

### Dear Friends and Fellow Alums,

It's really a terrific honor to be the new president of such a great organization. The association has a tremendous, hardworking, outstanding staff, and dedicated and enthusiastic board members that make it a real joy to be a part of helping our great college. As we head toward the 25th anniversary year of the Casper College Alumni Association, it is an exciting, fast-paced time to be involved at Casper College with construction and renovation activities on campus and many other projects.

In August we opened the campus year with free donuts, apples and lots of directions to "slightly befuddled" new students on the first day of classes. In September, there was the annual "Alumni Gala" held at the Casper Country Club, where we honored Dr. Lee Swanstrom as Distinguished Alum, and Tom Empey as the Commitment to Excellence recipient. Dr. Swanstrom's story of a true world class medical giant who started out and credits much of his enthusiasm for learning, innovating, and teaching new surgical techniques to his experiences in studying literature at Casper College, was amazing as well as inspiring. Tom Empey's simple, elegant, and humble description of his experiences building a theatre department from the old Penthouse Theatre to the Gertrude Krampert Theatre Complex gave us a quick view of how passion and dedication to an ideal can lead to great achievements.

October was the opening of the spectacular new Music Building, a beautiful jewel that was clearly designed around optimizing the entire building to benefit the students. The first concert given in the new concert hall was a delightful musical potpourri provided by the music faculty, showcasing their many talents and proving they can perform with exceptional ability.

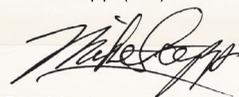
The ribbon cutting and grand opening was followed by a fanfare and later a musical suite by the student orchestra that proved the instructors can teach as well as they perform. "Self-guided" tours of the facilities included performances by the students in the various rehearsal venues (which are nicer, with better acoustic and performance values than many performance halls I have been in). The weekend was a great new beginning for an already outstanding music department.

As we head into the new year, the activity continues at a high pace. We recently had the opening of the new Student Union and University of Wyoming at Casper building. Thanks to the many generous contributions of alumni, along with matching funds, we sponsored the Summit Room, which will be one of the most heavily utilized student meeting areas of the building. In February there is the CC Alumni Homecoming basketball game with free chili provided by the Alumni Association, always great fun. Then comes a big project for which lots of volunteers are needed, scholarship reviews; this is a great opportunity for you to give back to your alma mater, by contributing a small amount of time to help screen scholarship applications. It's a simple online format and the staff provides lots of support. Just contact Linda Nix for more information.

Then we arrive at commencement, where your association will provide a strong presence, and will assist once again with a "class gift" to the college.

All in all a mighty busy year with plenty of opportunity for anyone interested to take part in giving back to a great school. I'm proud to have a small part in it.

Mike Stepp ('80)



President

Casper College Alumni Association, 2013-14



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Linda,

Just a quick note to thank you for the extra copies of the Summer 2013 edition of Footprints. It was very thoughtful of you to send them, and I indeed enjoyed them. It is a very well done publication. Of particular note was the eulogy to Leo Sanchez. Exquisitely done for an exquisite American. I was one of his ninth grade social studies students at Dean Morgan Junior High in 1976-77. He was the one who ignited my patriotic flame and appreciation for what America was, is, and can be. The last quote of the article applies to me as well:

“I believe that God must have a plan for me and that is why I must work to make my community and my state a better place for families to live. And I will continue until I die.” – Leo Sanchez (1935-2013).

Just one clarification in the “Service to Country” article on me is that I never moved to Wisconsin with my family, but rather stayed with friends (Bill and Kathy Schneider, to be exact) for a few months to finish the fall semester (1980) at CC before entering the Air Force in January 1981.

I am presently a volunteer at the USAF Academy in the Center for Character and Leadership Development and continue to serve as an admissions liaison officer for the schools in the Big Horn Basin and Central Wyoming.

Thanks again,  
Miles Dahlby



*Miles Dahlby ('11), an alumnus profiled in the cover story of the last issue, appreciated the eulogy for fellow alumnus and vet, Leo Sanchez ('59).*

Dear Alumni Director:

I am a 1969 alum of Casper College. I was recently visiting in Casper and my cousin showed me the Summer Footprints 2013 magazine. It was then I realized the Footprints magazine has lost track of me! My husband and I have retired to Central Pennsylvania, where we purchased 23 acres of mountain land with a lovely house on it. A year after we purchased the house/land we purchased 41 more acres of land nearby that we are turning into a nature preserve for hikers and photographers and people who generally enjoy nature. My husband is marking the trails with signs and I am researching the wild flowers along the trails and putting up markers for them. It is a work in progress and it is absolutely lovely even in its beginning stages.

Anyway, we retired from the Maryland area where we both found jobs after graduating from graduate school at the University of Wyoming. My husband taught for 44 years at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Maryland, in the computer science department where he was eventually the chair of the department. I taught in the English department at Howard Community College in Columbia, Maryland for 34 years before my retirement.

I remember receiving the Footprints magazine at our first house in Maryland; and, I enjoyed it very much. Then when we moved to our second Maryland house they must have lost my address and I somehow didn't realize it ... until I saw the copy in Casper during my recent visit. What a wonderful alumni magazine!

Could you please put my new address, where we are retired, on your mailing list so that I can once again receive the issues of this great magazine that tells about my college in my birthplace of Casper, Wyo.

I will truly appreciate your consideration and efforts in this matter.

Yours truly,  
Carleen Cole Grossman



*Carleen Grossman ('69) has embarked on a whole new endeavor following her retirement from teaching at Howard Community College.*

# An Addendum to the Summer 2013 Cover Story

The issue about vets at CC really sparked lots of memories. Here's one written by Casper College retiree Richard "Dick" Means acknowledging the contributions of co-worker Lyle Cox.

Sometime after graduating from Riverton High School in Riverton, Wyo., Lyle Cox enlisted in the United States Navy. He was selected to train for submarine service. Cox was honorably discharged from the USN the summer of 1966, and enrolled as a freshman at Casper College the fall semester of that same year.

During his two years at the college, in addition to majoring in education, he was active on the Casper College Student Senate and directed the Miss Casper College Pageant. Upon graduation from Casper College, he attended the University of Wyoming. After graduation from UW, he returned to Riverton where he was employed at the First National Bank for a brief period of time.

During the summer of 1973, Cox received a phone call from Bill Vance, the director of admissions and financial aid at Casper College. While attending Casper College, Vance advised Cox in the areas of academic planning and his use of the GI Bill, among other things. Vance asked Cox if he would be interested in being employed at Casper College, whereupon it is reported that Cox replied, "What time would you

like me to be there?" The new program at Casper College was titled the Veterans Cost of Instruction Program, of which Cox would become the director.

Cox began his duties as director of the VCIP at the beginning of the fall 1973 semester. As a previous student, he was well acquainted with the buildings on campus as well as with most of the members of the administration and faculty. This prior knowledge proved to be beneficial to him on advising veterans in their new environment.

During the next five years, Cox was responsible for the academic and career advising to about 250 veterans each year. In addition to being director of the VCIP, Cox was advisor to the Casper College Student Activities Board and a vets' club that he initiated. He also made student recruitment trips throughout the state during each school year.

Over the years high school graduation enrollment rose while veteran enrollment declined. In the fall semester of 1978, another employee was assigned as the director of the VCIP. At that time LeRoy Strausner, who had been the director

of student housing, became director of counseling services. Cox was appointed to the position of the director of student housing as well as, at a later time, associate dean of student services until he retired in 2005.

Cox often said that being the director of the VCIP and his contact with many veterans from diverse backgrounds and educational and career goals, was challenging as well as interesting and satisfying. If asked about his own experiences aboard a diesel submarine, Cox would share some stories. He enjoyed relating stories about submarine missions when they sailed north to the Arctic Circle and south to the Caribbean. When their sub was docked at New London, Conn., he and some friends sometimes enjoyed visiting small and historic towns that were located around their home base. Cox said that he was exposed to various cultures that were different from those in which he was raised. Viewing some of the quaint architecture and the change of fall foliage proved to be new, colorful, memorable, and interesting sights for him.



Lto R: Bet Leurs, Lyle Cox, and LeRoy Strausner. Photos courtesy of Lyle Cox.

# Alumni News

## Alumni Association Announces Scholarship Winners

The Casper College Alumni Association has announced the recipients for the 2013-2014 Outstanding Nontraditional Student Scholarship. Two nontraditional-aged students were each awarded \$3,000 to be divided equally between the fall and spring semesters.

**Brenda Jennings**, a nursing major at Casper College, will receive her nursing degree in May 2014. "After completing my degree this May, I will apply to the University of Wyoming to begin my bachelor's degree in nursing. I plan to earn my bachelor's in nursing in two years, graduating in May of 2016, which is the same year my youngest child will graduate from high school," said Jennings.

**Karen Redig** is an engineering major, and has already received her associate in geographic information systems from

Casper College. "My goal is a master's degree in mechanical engineering with a focus in petroleum," Redig noted.

"Support for alumni scholarships at Casper College continues to grow through donations and hands on help,"

said Linda Nix, associate director for alumni relations. "Alumni money not only enabled the awarding of several scholarships this past fall, alumni showed up last spring to help evaluate

scholarship applications. In a two week period community and campus volunteers, many of them alumni, helped sort through hundreds of student applications for scholarships. Volunteers participated in a first round review of applications for

completeness, clarity, and merit," she said.

According to Nix, the Casper College Foundation funded \$760,000 in scholarships in 2013, helping over 700 students. The amounts ranged from \$500 to \$5,000. Money donated by alumni helped fund a significant portion of those scholarships.

The Alumni Association Outstanding Nontraditional Student Scholarship recognizes high academic achievement, leadership qualities, and community involvement. Awarded to two students who have completed

12 hours at an accredited college with a 3.0 GPA or higher and are not eligible for the Hathaway Scholarship, the recipient must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at Casper College. Recipients must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher to maintain eligibility.



**Brenda Jennings**



**Karen Redig**

## Share Your Family Story

Footprints magazine is seeking stories from families with multigenerational ties to Casper College. Families with grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren who have all attended Casper College are urged to contact us with your stories about how the college made a difference in your lives across generations. Why did the first person

come here, and why did the others follow? Did you have any of the same instructors, extracurricular activities, majors, or live in the same dorm? Share your memories and photos. Email your story to [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu) or call Linda Nix at 307-268-2218, toll-free at 800-442-2963, ex. 2218.



# New Officers Elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Alumni Association Board of Directors elected new officers at the fall board meeting. Mike Stepp ('80), owner and operator of Donells Candies in Casper, was elected to a two-year term as president. David Long ('72) of Buena Vista, Colo. will serve as vice-president. Long is a retired Colorado Highway Patrolman, and a former Marine. Bill Brauer ('56), retired accountant,

will serve two more years as treasurer. The immediate past-president is Kevin Bromley ('77) of Bromley Real Estate of Casper. The alumni board is comprised of 21 members. Board vacancies occur periodically. If you are interested in serving on the board, please send a letter of interest to 125 College Drive Casper, WY 82601 or email [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu).

# T-Shirt Sales Result in Two Scholarships

Thanks to the sale of nearly 200 official Casper College Class of 2013 t-shirts, the Casper College Class of 2013 raised \$1700 to fund a class gift supporting two scholarships worth \$850 each. The scholarships will be awarded to two Casper College students during the 2013-14 academic year.

The bright red t-shirts were sold for a donation of \$10 or more and listed the names, divided by schools, of those who graduated from the summer and fall 2012

terms, and from the spring 2013 term, and some from the summer 2013 term.

"The generous contributions we received from those purchasing a t-shirt provided the Casper College Alumni Association and the class of 2013 with enough funds to continue the tradition of new alumni giving back to CC," said Linda Nix, associate director of alumni relations.

Another t-shirt fundraiser will take place for the Casper College Class of 2014 beginning in May, 2014.

# Shine a Light Nominations Sought for Distinguished and Commitment Awards

Each year the Casper College Alumni Association recognizes a Distinguished Alumnus and a Commitment to Excellence honoree. If you wish to nominate someone for either of these awards, please call the alumni office at 268-2218, toll free at

800-442-2963, ext. 2218 for the appropriate form or download the information at [caspercollege.edu/alumni](http://caspercollege.edu/alumni). The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 21, 2014.

**Help us use our money wisely.**

Let us know if you are receiving duplicate copies of Footprints.

# Where are you, Dena?



# Dena's Sweater Sparks More Memories

Another person has weighed in on the history of the hand-knitted Casper College sweater we featured in the two previous issues. Wilodyne "Dena" Roberts contacted us to say she owned the sweater and recounts that it was knitted by Mrs. Walt Schulenberg. When the sweater no longer fit, she passed it on to the Salvation Army. Dena was the director of Morad Hall for 17 years and remains a T-Bird fan.



# Campus News

## Volunteers needed for the Spring Scholarship Judge-a-thon

Here's a great volunteer opportunity to give a little time to a worthy effort at Casper College. Last spring, Casper College created a new process using volunteers to score student scholarship applications. The Scholarship Judge-a-thon is a one week event and an effective, efficient, inspiring, and fun way to involve alumni, donors,

retirees, and other nice people who care about extending educational opportunities to students.

This year volunteers are needed to review applications during the week from March 31 to April 4, 2014. Times of day vary, with both daytime and evening slots available. This effort helps hundreds of

eager students commit to attending Casper College, whether coming for the first time, completing their education, or coming back as nontraditional students. Volunteers are trained onsite and it's an easy process on laptops.

Please contact Elliott Ramage at [eramage@caspercollege.edu](mailto:eramage@caspercollege.edu) or

## Hank True Presents at CC Business Events

Hank True, co-owner of the True Companies, was the presenter at this year's Casper College Business Awareness 2013 event for high school students and the Casper College Enrichment 2013 event both held in October.

True, who was honored as the Casper College Alumni Association's 2012

Distinguished Alumnus, spoke to a crowd of high school students at the Thunderbird Gym for a morning presentation and then later that night to a crowd of adults. Both presentations touched on the True Companies and entrepreneurialism. The evening presentation was capped off with a question and answer session.



## New Certificate Program to Begin at Casper College

### Cognitive Retraining certification program first in state

A new certification program, "Cognitive Retraining," was offered for the first time at Casper College beginning with the fall 2013 semester.

"This certificate program was designed to prepare graduates to work with individuals with acquired brain injuries. Completing this program will assist individuals to prepare for the national examination as a Certified Brain Injury Specialist offered through the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists," said Shawn Powell,

Ph.D., ABPP, and dean of the Social and Behavioral Science School at Casper College.

The new certificate program can be completed in three semesters and will prepare students to provide care to individuals who have acquired brain injuries. "There is a high incident rate of brain injuries and this program will prepare individuals to provide care to this population. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention each year

an estimated 1.7 million people in the United States sustain a traumatic brain injury, and traumatic brain injuries are a contributing factor to a third (30.5 percent) of all injury-related deaths in the United States," Powell said.

The new certificate program relies on a number of classes already offered at the college. Two new courses, "Acquired Brain Injuries" (PSYC 2390), and "Cognitive Retraining Practicum" (PSYC 2970) were developed specifically for the program.

# T-Bird Women Receive National Academic Honors; Stewart Honored

The 2012-2013 Casper College women's basketball team was honored as one of the top academic teams in the country this summer by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Dwight Gunnare's Thunderbirds compiled a 3.4 team grade point average (GPA), which ranks them among the top 10 academically. "I am especially proud of this honor," Gunnare said, "because it is a team effort in the classroom. We place great emphasis on our players

earning their degrees and graduating. I am proud of each one of them."

Shelby Stewart ('13), Gunnare's all-region shooting guard from Glenrock, Wyo., received the NJCAA's highest academic honor – the Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence. Stewart recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA during her two years at Casper College.

Stewart was all-region and all-tournament and helped lead the T-Birds to a 24-8 record for the season.

## CC Recognized as Military Friendly School

Casper College was named to the 2014 Military Friendly Schools list compiled by Victory Media, Inc. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

"Inclusion on the 2014 list of military friendly schools shows Casper College's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," noted Sean Collins, vice president at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran.

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

Now in its fifth year, the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 10,000 schools nationwide approved for VA tuition funding.

## 27th Annual Literary Conference Success

The 27th Annual Casper College and ARTCORE Literary Conference was held on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13 and 14, 2013. The conference featured successful women writers who shared their works in both craft talks and workshops during the two-day event.

The writers featured at this year's conference were Annette Chaudet, Kelly Sue DeConnick, Tiffany Trent, Layli Long Soldier, Connie May Fowler, and artist Jeanne Stern.

## VISION CREATES "ESSENCE OF REX"

Thanks to the vision of many people, Casper College will soon be home to a 14 foot high, 27 foot long, and 7.5 foot wide bronze sculpture of a juvenile male *T. rex* by Casper sculptor Chris Navarro ('90).

"Through the combined vision of John Jorgensen, Paulann Doane, me and others, there will soon be a monumental bronze sculpture of a *T. rex* dinosaur on the Casper College campus created by award-winning artist and Casper College alumnus Chris Navarro," said Marialyce Tobin.

To commemorate her generous help in its creation, Tobin was recently presented with a maquette of the sculpture. "Because history is so important in the learning process and dinosaurs are indicative of Wyoming the *T. rex* sculpture will fit in nicely with the Tate Geological Museum, which is home to Dee the Mammoth and an actual skeleton of a *T. rex* currently in the preparation stages," said Tobin.

Navarro has been busy at work creating a contemporary bronze sculpture. In addition to its impressive size, the sculpture will feature a massive four-foot jaw lined with serrated teeth and will display the dinosaur's skeleton on one side, highlighted with electrical lights from head through tail, and a completely fleshed out body on the other side. "I've never sculpted a skeletal framework," Navarro said. "To bring it to life, I have to inject emotion into it. I want to give it the 'wow' factor." "The ultimate idea," noted Tobin, "was that people coming down from Casper Mountain or on campus would be able to see it lit up at night."

Jorgensen, president of the Casper College Foundation Board of Directors noted that the sculpture "will be one of the gemstones of the Casper College campus." Doane, director of the Casper College Foundation, added that the sculpture "will be installed sometime in the summer of 2014 to coincide with the completion of the final building project on campus, the Campus Plaza."

The five-ton sculpture will be located just south of the Tate Geological Museum.

Marialyce Tobin, was recently presented with a maquette of "Essence of Rex." The maquette, first in a limited production, is based on the large bronze sculpture of a juvenile male *T. rex* by Casper sculptor Chris Navarro. The large bronze will be installed on the Casper College campus in 2014 thanks in part to Tobin's generous help in its creation.



# RETURN TO POW CAMP 344 PINE RIDGE, S.D.

by Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle ('79)

**D**iana Quealy-Berge climbed aboard the van headed for POW Camp 344, or as it is more commonly known, the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota at 5 a.m. on May 11, 2013. The previous night she had been among the many Casper College faculty cheering on their students at the school's annual graduation ceremony.

The van was headed to the headquarters of Re-Member, located on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In addition to Quealy-Berge, Casper College addictionology instructor and chair of the school's psychology and addictionology department, Brandon Kosine, psychology instructor, would join her along with the remaining six students from the "Diversity in Education" (EDCI 2250) class.

Photo courtesy of Emily Wynn

A low-angle shot of a blue water tower. The tower is painted a vibrant blue and has the words "PINE RIDGE" written in large, bold, black capital letters across its middle section. The top of the tower features a small red light and some mechanical details. The background is a bright blue sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

**E PINE RIDGE**



Photos courtesy of Mary Beth Crawford, Emily Wynn, Brandi Smouse, and Rachel Judy.

## The Service Learning Component

Quealy-Berge had been on one previous “service learning trip” to the reservation. The trip had been sponsored by the Casper College Center for Learning through Service. But this service learning trip was unlike any other. The students on this May 2012 trip, and others who accompanied them, were moved and shocked by much of what they saw, felt, and experienced on the reservation.

“During this trip there were some acting out episodes with the students in the communal living situation at Re-Member. Students didn’t get along with others there – it was all stress related,” Quealy-Berge recalled. “After that trip I decided that the way to overcome those kinds of episodes was to prepare the students ahead of time

with a semester-long class to help them understand the history, people, and culture before going to Pine Ridge,” she said.

## Not for the Faint of Heart

The class, “Topics: Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment within the Pine Ridge Native American Culture,” would be worth three credits and would take place every Thursday between 3 and 5 p.m. It would be a three-part class, which she co-taught with Kosine. In addition to the class time students were expected to participate in a Casper College service project to benefit the Pine Ridge Reservation, and then finally travel to the reservation to spend a week “participating in service learning educational opportunities,” said Quealy-Berge.

Over the spring semester a number of students dropped and even another

instructor finally bowed out “I think because the material was so hard. It even got harder for me to go to class each week – I knew what we were covering and everyone in the class looked so sad,” Quealy-Berge noted. The students were assigned some pretty tough books to read (including Ian Frazier’s “On the Rez,” “Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto” and “God is Red: A Native View of Religion,” both by Vine Deloria, Jr.). Through lecture, discussion, small group work, multi-media presentations and service learning the class explored Native American substance use, prevention and treatment, and also learned about the current and historical cultural, political and sociological factors impacting substance use, and abuse in the Native American population. “This was a tough and emotional class that looked at not only the current state of the Pine Ridge Reservation but the history that helped to shape the residents,” Quealy-Berge explained.

“This was a tough *and* emotional class..”





# What is Service Learning?

The American Association of Community Colleges notes that “service learning combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility. Service learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community.” Service learning trips provide students with the opportunity to perform a needed public service for a specified period of time outside of their own community. Since 2010 the Casper College’s Learning through Service program has sponsored and headed up “Alternative Spring Break” trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, and for the 2014 spring break, Kanab, Utah.

Indeed the history of the indigenous peoples of the United States of America is one of suffering to greater and lesser degrees since the arrival of the first European, Christopher Columbus, who upon landing in the Americas referred to the natives as Indians. “The term Indian is problematic since it is based on the misdirection of Columbus, who thought that he was in India, when he had gotten lost and ran into the America’s in 1492,” Quealy-Berge remarked.

The history studied by the students included a look at Indian boarding schools, the treaties broken by the United States government, and “the reality of what really happened to native peoples, not what has been, until recently, portrayed in history books,” said Quealy-Berge. “We didn’t have any students who said ‘nobody told us,’ and I think that was a big reason why they were sensitive and open to learn this information,” Kosine added.

“The class was taught in a circle. We used ritual and every class made an intention, (what I want). A talking stick was used so that everyone had the opportunity to talk. No one could talk except the one who had the talking stick at any one time. We used Medicine Wheel lessons and talked of directions, colors, and nature as viewed through Native American eyes. In class, students really had to think ‘why’ so that when they were at the reservation they knew why,” said Quealy-Berge. The students were also asked if they could take an ancestor on the trip, who would it be, and why, as well as what each student intended to get out of the class and the trip. “We took many steps to introduce students into a different world and way of looking at things,” she added.

## The Week of Truth

Pulling out of the parking lot, the van made its way to Fort Robinson State Park located in the Pine Ridge region of northwest Nebraska. Following a tour of the historical site, the group stopped in Chadron, Neb. for lunch and then headed to the headquarters of Re-Member “for dinner, history, and sleep,” Quealy-Berge said.

A nonprofit organization, Re-Member has its headquarters on the Pine Ridge Reservation. According to its website, “Re-Member brings more than 1,200 volunteers to Pine Ridge each year for week-long working vacations, with an emphasis on cultural exchange.” “Coming to Pine Ridge is a life-changing experience,” said Ted Skantzze, executive director. “Re-Member will provide a ‘service-learning’ experience that gives volunteers not only the chance to work across Pine Ridge with our Lakota friends, but the chance to be immersed in Lakota culture.” Skantzze added, “At Re-Member, we believe that forming relationships with the Lakota people and studying their history, culture, and spirituality as we grow in our understanding about their lives and their culture is as important as the work we do.”

From the end of February through the first week of October, Re-Member hosts up to 75 volunteers each six-day period, Saturday through Thursday, who share a dorm-style living experience. Upon their arrival for their week at Re-Member all participants took part in an ice breaker, followed by dinner, a history immersion and lights out at 10 p.m. Individuals were placed in both cleanup and work crews.





Photo courtesy of Emily Wynn

## Stats from the Rez

Be prepared to be shocked, or perhaps dumbstruck at the information you are about to read. These statistics read like those of a third-world country and not somewhere in the United States. These statistics are courtesy of Re-Member ([re-member.org/pine-ridge-reservation](http://re-member.org/pine-ridge-reservation)).

### Pine Ridge Statistics as of 2007

- Unemployment rate of 80-90 percent
- Per capita income of \$4,000
- Eight times the United States rate of diabetes
- Five times the United States rate of cervical cancer
- Twice the rate of heart disease
- Eight times the United States rate of tuberculosis
- Alcoholism rate estimated as high as 80 percent
- One in four infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome or effects
- Suicide rate more than twice the national rate
- Teen suicide rate four times the national rate
- Infant mortality is three times the national rate
- Life expectancy on Pine Ridge is the lowest in the United States and the second lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Only Haiti has a lower rate.

**Also refer to:** [nativevillage.org/Messages from the People/the arrogance of ignorance](http://nativevillage.org/Messages from the People/the arrogance of ignorance)

*It is common to find homes overcrowded, as those with homes take in whoever needs a roof over their heads. Many homes are without running water, and without sewer...*

– Re-Member

## The Whiteclay Connection

With a population of between five and 11 people, Whiteclay, Neb. has a total of four bars. “Those four bars sell liquor to the Indians of Pine Ridge, which is alcohol free,” said Diana Quealy-Berge. According to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, 162,153 cases containing 24 12-ounce cans or bottles of beer were sold in 2012. That works out to nearly four million cans or bottles of beer a year, which are sold mainly to reservation residents. Members of the reservation have tried to put a stop to the sale of alcohol to residents, but have so far been unsuccessful.

The cleanup crews would rotate between breakfast and dinner, while the work crews were sent out on a variety of projects on the reservation. “Following breakfast the nine work crews would load up on Re-Member vans fully loaded with the needed supplies of that day’s projects. We were broken up into different groups, but everyone worked on a variety of projects,” said Quealy-Berge.

Re-Member work crews worked on bunk beds for children, trailer skirting for mobile homes, outhouses, wheelchair ramps, steps and decking, as well as roofs, indoor plumbing, performed general maintenance and repairs, and planted trees and gardens. “The system worked quite well,” Quealy-Berge observed. “A member of the tribe would call Re-Member about the needs of the people and Re-Member would go out and provide what they needed.”

“On the crew that I went with, one day we built bunk beds for some children who were living with their mom and grandma. There was one twin-size mattress with a frame that I assume the grandma was sleeping on and then a double bed mattress on the floor. That was it,” Quealy-Berge recalled. Two sets of bunk beds were built and each furnished with a new mattress, pillow, sheets, and a blanket. “I loved doing that. The faces on those little kids was pretty incredible,” Quealy-Berge said.

Each night after dinner a different tribal person would come and teach the group, said Quealy-Berge. Speakers included Inila Wakan Janis, Will and Lena Peters, and Larry Swalley, each with a personal connection to the Lakota and Pine Ridge Reservation. The group also took a hike in Badlands National Park, which is located both in and outside of the reservation and is managed by the National Park Service and the Oglala Lakota Tribe; visited Wounded Knee Massacre Monument, the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890; and took a Thursday tour of the reservation. “I can’t teach students in the classroom what they will learn by going there. The classroom teaching just doesn’t have any meaning otherwise,” Quealy-Berge noted.

## Reflections

It was hard for the students to reflect on the semester and especially on those six days spent on the reservation. Each one, however, knew that they would never look at their own lives as they had before. “With all the shit I think I have in my life, I still have it better off than the Lakota people. I have a lot to be thankful for, and I am very appreciative that I was reminded of this,” Steven Chenoweth wrote. He added, “It is so difficult to actually say what I learned through the Pine Ridge experience. I learned so much and I will not know completely the impact on my life probably for some time.”

“There is no easy place to begin because so much has changed in my perspective of the Lakota people. . . . Looking back at what was done by Europeans and westward expansion to the native people makes the trauma (they suffered) unimaginable,” Ryan Eger noted. “There are so many problems for the future of Lakota children: high suicide rates, high dropout rates from school, abuse due to alcohol, etc.,” wrote

Sarah Goff who added, “There is hope (however) because many people showed their concern and (desire) for a better future for these kids.”

Despite the harshness of the living conditions the Lakota currently live in on the reservation, Quealy-Berge also noticed the beauty: “Here we were staying in a compound out in the middle of nowhere, but it was beautiful out there – open and flat – real prairie.” In his notebook Kosine wrote: “As I crest the hill and look at the panorama, I am overwhelmed by the peace and beauty of this place. I turn to the east and close my eyes to slow my thoughts and focus my intentions for the day. I pray that somehow I make a small difference. I pray for openness to this experience and to listen with my heart, not my ears. I pray for the suffering to stop and for healing to begin. As I pray for these things, I open my eyes just before the sun crests the horizon, and the sun greets me with its brilliant light. I am thankful for this new day, here at Prisoner of War Camp #344.”

## Images by Aaron Huey

For a moving portrait of life on the Pine Ridge Reservation check out the photography of Aaron Huey, who captured the photos used for the cover story “In the Spirit of Crazy Horse: Rebirth of a Sioux Nation” in the August 2012 issue of National Geographic:

[aaronhuey.com/#/national-geographic-magazine---pine-ridge/Press\\_NG\\_cover](http://aaronhuey.com/#/national-geographic-magazine---pine-ridge/Press_NG_cover)

**In addition**, you will find the article from the above-mentioned National Geographic issue, along with a “Community Storytelling Project,” and much more here:

[ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/08/pine-ridge/fuller-text](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/08/pine-ridge/fuller-text)

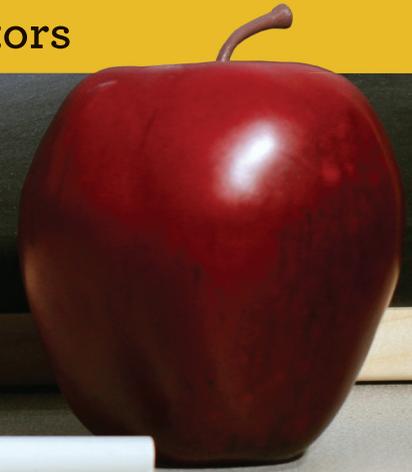
**Finally**, listen to a TED Talk that Huey gave in September 2010:

[ted.com/talks/aaron\\_huey.html](http://ted.com/talks/aaron_huey.html)



# My Favorite Teacher

Five CC Alums remember life changing instructors



by Kathryn Ann Archer Schofield ('71)

**In January of 1970, my family moved from the verdant and hip atmosphere of California's Marin County to Casper.**

**Imagine my shock as I went from the San Francisco Bay Area to Casper in the middle of a Wyoming winter.**

Not only was I freezing all the time, indoors and out, but also my natural shyness inhibited my ability to make new friends. Needless to say, I was a cold and unhappy student.

I signed up for "American Literature 101" (whatever it was called then) and discovered Margaret Demorest. Mrs. Demorest was a spot of color and warmth in my snowed-out world. Not only was she personally gracious and charming, but she also opened the door to literature, to worlds filled with fantasy, beauty, and truth that transcended the drab reality of my lonely existence.

For three semesters I studied with Mrs. Demorest: first American literature and then two classes of English literature, earning 15 semester units and straight A's. When I transferred to Brigham Young University, it was no surprise that I majored in English. The knowledge kindled in Mrs. Demorest's classes served me well as I progressed through university.

Although my Casper College units transferred to BYU with no problem, imagine my surprise several years later as I sat with the English department chair, ready to graduate, and she told me the 15 units from Casper College could not be counted toward my major. In vain I pointed out that the textbooks used for the disputed courses were the same as at BYU. I explained that the course work seemed as rigorous at Casper College as it was at BYU. None of this mattered to the professor who could not conceive of a Wyoming community college being up to her standards.

Finally, nearly in tears after 15 minutes of getting nowhere, I remembered that Mrs. Demorest had presented at a national convention for college English teachers. I asked the BYU professor if she had heard of Margaret Demorest. She said, "Yes, but what has that got to do with anything?" I mentioned that Mrs. Demorest was the instructor in the disputed classes. The professor replied, "She was not! What would Margaret Demorest be doing at some Wyoming community college?" After explaining that Mrs. Demorest's husband worked for the BLM in Wyoming, I finally convinced the professor that I had studied with Mrs. Demorest. "Well," she muttered, "if Margaret Demorest was the instructor

then I guess I'll have to accept the credits."

I will forever be grateful to Margaret Demorest for her inspired teaching and for her sterling reputation that softened the heart of a stuffy department chair and helped me graduate from college.

Although initially my reaction to Casper College was not the best, I came to love Wyoming for both its history and its beauty. (Winter, not so much. I live in the Palm Springs, Calif. area.)

After graduating from BYU I spent 10 years in human resources and then became a teacher, earning a master's degree in environmental education. I always carry the memory of Mrs. Demorest with me and hope to inspire my students in the way she inspired me.



Margaret Demorest

Looking Back

**After graduating from Natrona County High School and serving in the Korean War, I returned to Casper and entered into an apprenticeship to become a printer.**

There were two papers: The Casper Morning Star and Casper Tribune Herald. I worked on both papers until I became a journeyman printer in 1957.

At the age of 27, with a family, I became discouraged with the apparent future of a newspaper printer. I began classes at Casper College and worked full time at night attending classes during the day. CC was a friendly, crowded place. My advisor, Lawrence Lofgren, taught biology and gave me a good foundation for my further study in forestry. Russell Bender taught me to hate chemistry; but Willis Fenwick made physical geology come alive. Perhaps the teacher who made the most difference in my life was a demanding and effective English teacher at CC by the name of Bertha Davidson. She was not a social person. In those days, it was fashionable for teachers and students to smoke in class. There was always a cloud of smoke above her head. She could lecture with a cigarette hanging out of her mouth.

Writing was not difficult for me since I was a printer. I recognized good syntax, grammar and spelling. However, she would always find something to criticize. I never got an A on an assignment.

However, I did get A's for the courses. After class one day, I approached her through a cloud of smoke. "Miss Davidson, why can I never get an A on a paper?" Her response: "Mahaffey, your ego couldn't take an A."

At the beginning of the third semester I became depressed and discouraged. I had a good job as a printer. I owned my home and vehicles. I was making more than most of the staff at the college. Why did I need to go to college? I took my books to the small cage on the first floor that served as the bookstore and asked for my money back. The student employee told me she couldn't give me my money back but she would take care of it. She put the books on a shelf.



Bertha Davidson



Lawrence Lofgren

I worked the 4-12 o'clock night shifts at the paper. I was relieved as I slept in for the next three days, not having to worry about classes, tests and lack of sleep. On the fourth day at 9 a.m., the phone began to ring. "Mahaffey, this is Bertha Davidson. Why aren't

you in class?" "I decided to quit, Miss Davidson," I responded. "You get back to class. I have a lot of students who shouldn't be here but you are one who should be

here." I was in agony as I returned to bed and later through my night shift at the paper. Her words kept ringing in my ears: "You should be here; you should be here." By the next morning I had made up my mind. I would return to class. But what about my books? I had sold them. I approached the cage and looked inside. The books were still on the shelf, untouched. I asked the girl to give them back. I crept up the stairs to my classroom

and quietly slipped into a vacant seat.

Fast forward 25 years. I was in Casper and thought that I would go thank Miss Davidson and tell her that I not only finished Casper College but had earned a B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. and loved to write. The English department was in a new building. I wandered around until I found the main office. "I'd like to visit Bertha Davidson. Could you give me directions to her office?" The secretary looked at me strangely for a minute and then retorted, "Why, Ms. Davidson died a few weeks ago of cancer. Haven't you heard?" I slowly walked out of the building to my car, with tears in my eyes. I have never returned to that building.

Throughout the rest of my college career, there was always a mentor or friend to assist me. I am reminded that a great teacher doesn't fill buckets; he lights fires. Even now, there appears to be a few smoking embers left. In life, we seldom have the opportunity to assist our benefactors. But we can pass it on to others. Isn't that the essence of Christianity?

**Has it really been more than 13 years since I graduated from the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center in May 2000?** Since I waved good-bye to Gretchen (Wheeler) and Ebba (Stedille) and Gale (Alexander)? Well, when I think back at the life I've carved out for myself, I guess I can say, "Yes, and in great part thanks to you, I've had the most interesting careers and career choices since then."

I think about all of you often – mostly when I'm getting ready for work in the morning. Once in awhile, I go as far as constructing a letter in my head, and by the time I'm ready to apply a splash of lipstick and run out the door, I promise myself I'll write – someday. But work and life take over and the seemingly little tasks get pushed aside.

(There is) nothing like starting college at age 43! I had recently lost both parents to difficult illnesses when Mickey, my husband, said, "What's your one burning desire in life?" I could've said something like, spend a week in Bora Bora, but through tears of grief I said I wanted to go to college. I handed in my resignation the next day. Mickey's support never wavered.

The first couple of semesters at Casper College were spent getting caught up in math and English and simply learning how to study. Every class was a lesson in perseverance. One of the best moves I ever made was to enroll in one of Gretchen's communications classes.

I learned that I'd have to give a number of speeches – in front of the class. "I don't do public speaking," I said, and wondered if anyone else in the world had a phobia equal to mine. Gretchen

became my anchor and gave me buckets of encouragement. I practiced my first speech in my makeshift classroom at home, with a cardboard box on a table (the podium) and about 30 stuffed animals placed strategically around the room (the students). I practiced giving "everyone" eye contact. I practiced looking from side to side as I spoke, and to the back of the room just above everyone's furry heads.

I wanted to quit school for fear of failure. Mickey wouldn't let me. Not a day went by that he didn't say, "I'm so proud of you. You can do this!" Clinging to those words, I made my first speech. When it was my turn to speak, I stood in front of Gretchen's class and noticed her standing in the back of the room. Her eyes were riveted on me, and she was nodding her head, indicating that yes, I was doing well.

I was more comfortable behind a pen than a podium, and soon, Gretchen started to point out that I had a knack for writing. She taught me how to construct strong opening paragraphs and conclusions and everything in between. This groundwork helped me in each and every class from then on, no matter the subject. I began to excel.

Ebba's interviewing class was one of the most important classes I've ever taken. I've had the opportunity to interview people like Al Simpson, T.R. Reid of the Washington Post, Hal Holbrook, Lee Iacocca, Rulon Gardner, and the Lakers' owner Jerry Buss, not to mention the late Bob Durst, one of the most genuine human beings ever to grace the halls of Casper College. And I did it with confidence, thanks to

Ebba. Every person in college should take an interviewing course – because it will prepare you to listen, prepare you for your next job interview and how to discuss serious issues with loved ones. It'll teach you how to ask pertinent questions – whether speaking with your child's kindergarten teacher or the president of the local bank.

By the time I took Gale's business communication class at the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center, I had a strong focus on where I was going – and my backpack felt lighter. Gale's class gave me what I needed to go into the workplace armed with skills to conduct myself professionally.

In the last 13 years, my focus has been writing – journalism (in which I won a first-place national award), freelance writing, and editing books and magazine articles. I had to leave journalism behind when we moved to Utah seven years ago. In addition to freelance work, I found a part-time job in public relations for a Bristol-Myers Squibb executive from New York. Today, I work full time as an IT

technical communicator at Zions Bancorporation in Salt Lake City.

You might wonder how I ever managed to step through the front door of the CC Administration Building years ago, knees knocking. I could barely say my name in front of a room full of people. I had little confidence in myself to climb that

mountain called education. It's not something my parents took an interest in on my behalf. Education was a lofty goal meant for others.

I'm 61 now and feel as though I'm just getting started. I truly grew up at Casper College with the most wonderful, competent teachers. You helped me fulfill a dream – to discover my personal and professional strengths and to greet the world with a bachelor's degree in communication.

Thank you, my friends!



Gretchen Wheeler



Gale Alexander



Ebba Stedille

Looking Back

by Sandy Peterson ('00, '01)

**In the fall of 1998 I came to Casper College from Newcastle Wyo. on a theatre scholarship, not knowing exactly where I was headed in life, wary that I was not cut out for the kind of life I imagined myself living.** Thankfully, Doug Garland recognized both my naivety and my potential, and showed me there was a community and profession to which I could belong.

I got to know Doug Garland in several capacities: as a teacher (he taught the makeup design class that all theatre majors are required to take); as a costume designer (he also designed costumes for all productions); and as a mentor (my decision to attend the University of Utah to complete my bachelor's degree was, in large part, thanks to his guidance and support).

He was, of course, an amazing teacher in the classroom and in the costume shop, but it is his role as a mentor, support system, and cheerleader that has made him one of the most important people in my life.

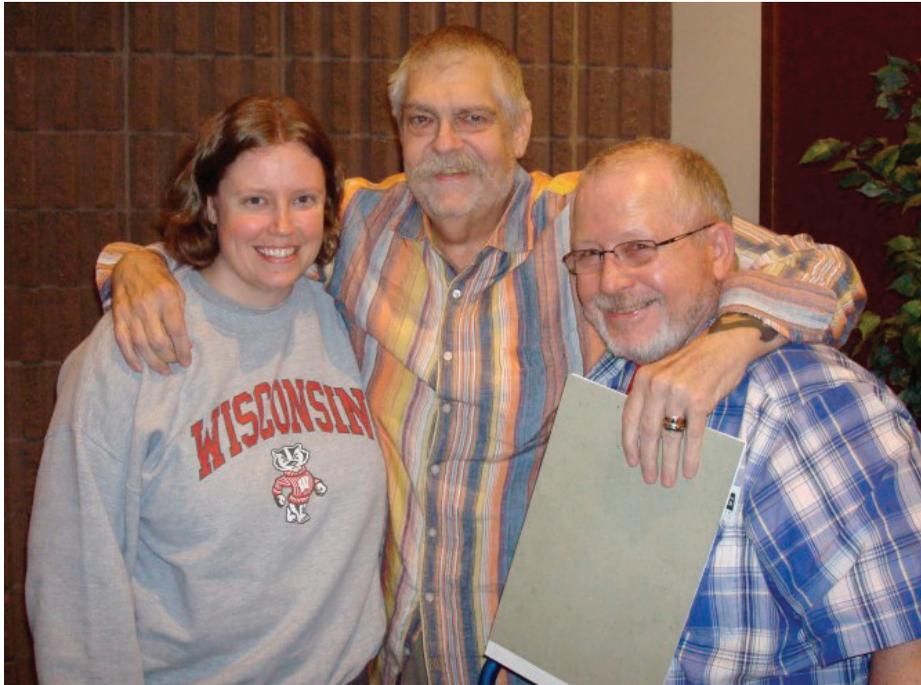
I have learned that earning a degree in theatre research is not enough, by itself, to

land me my dream job. I need to be well rounded enough that I can direct, or teach acting, as well as write journal articles and teach dramatic literature. I always tell people that the education I received at Casper College was more important than any other institution I've attended, and that's because the theatre department, and Doug in particular, emphasized a well-rounded education. Doug is not just a costume designer – he is a director, he thinks like a dramaturg, he can put plays

day. He was the teacher that supported every student, no matter his or her talent on the stage. He encouraged several of my classmates to pursue their passions – from drama therapy to set design. Long after we graduated from Casper College, we still return to visit Doug, see the summer production, catch up on all things, and, inevitably, receive a warm dose of encouragement.

I will soon graduate with a Ph.D. in theatre research from the University of

Wisconsin-Madison, and I can say without a doubt that Doug's encouragement and support has helped me get here. He has written numerous letters of recommendation on my behalf. We still chat on the phone every couple of months, and still he cheers for me. We talk about plays we want to direct, we talk about teaching, we talk about writing conference papers, we talk about my dissertation, and what I need to do to finish my degree in order to be as marketable as possible. As always, Doug doesn't sugar coat things. He has



Sandy Peterson, Douglas Garland, and Tom Jeffres

in their proper historical context, he knows how to collaborate.

Doug did more than set an example. He was the first teacher to see my potential as a scholar and teacher of theatre and drama, and his encouragement and support of my academic career continues to this

always been honest with me, an honesty that has served me well over the past 15 years.

Doug may have started as my teacher, but he has become my friend ... and I am all the more blessed because of him.

**I feel compelled to expound upon my Casper College career many years ago (1975-1979).** My mentor in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) electrical trade was my fourth year apprenticeship

instructor at Casper College, Ron Orszulak (1978-1979). I was also a second-year apprentice at Modern Electric where I did residential wiring on track housing here in Casper for more than 10 months and wired up a total of more than 200 houses. Ron Orszulak taught me the right values and attitudes: hard work, craftsmanship, and being the number one student in your

apprenticeship class, which has served me very well during the past 38 years, prior to my retirement in November of 2012. My wife and I still live in one of the track houses wired in 1976 in Casper.

by William Boyle



# Wow!!!

New Music Building sounds as good as it looks

**M**embers of the Casper community as well as faculty, staff, and students gathered on a blustery and overcast day to dedicate and view the new Casper College Music Building.

The October 13th dedication featured a ribbon cutting, speeches, a concert, and the chance for the public to take self-guided tours throughout the new facility. In addition a large buffet table was set up chock full of desserts and refreshments for everyone to enjoy.

Following the concert, presented by the Casper College Concert Band under the direction of Doug Bull, Casper College brass and band instructor, guests were encouraged to freely explore the new facilities and to also hear other Casper College groups perform in rehearsal.

While the concert band performed in the beautiful 420 seat Richard E. and Linda S. Wheeler Concert Hall, the Casper College Collegiate Chorale could be found practicing in the Ruth R. Ellbogen Family Choral and Recital Hall, while the Casper College Chamber Orchestra was in the instrumental rehearsal room.

As a new instructor at Casper College, Zachary Vreeman, the director of the Casper College choirs and vocal instructor, noted how beautiful the new facility was and how excited he was to be teaching at the college in such a wonderful space. Jennifer Cowell-DePaolo, strings instructor and chamber concert director, told those gathered that each of the four music halls had been built on its own foundation to assure a soundproof environment. The soundproof environment "is really wonderful from a musician's perspective," she noted.

The two-story, 32,000 square foot building provided a much-needed new home for the music department, and also afforded the new Mildred Zahradnicek Gallery. The new facility completed the "arts district" on the Casper College campus in conjunction with the Gertrude Krampert Theatre Complex and the Goodstein Visual Arts Center.



Aaron Rodolph graduated from Casper College in 2002 with a degree in paralegal studies.



Photo courtesy of the Casper Star-Tribune

# Making His Mark on the Landscape

Rodolph named 2013 Wyoming Small Business Person

by Leah Todd, Casper Star-Tribune staff writer

**A**aron Rodolph launched his first lawn-mowing business with his father's lawn mower at age 12.

A year later, his father, Pete, showed up with a commercial lawn mower and announced his son would be paying back every penny of the \$1,000 price tag.

By the end of the summer, Rodolph had paid his father back in full, plus bought the mountain bike of his dreams with his extra earnings.

That was 1993.

Today, Pete works for his son, now 34 years old and running Rodolph Brothers, Inc. in Casper. Rodolph's zest for business and knack for lawn care has grown the business from a one-man enterprise to a full-spectrum landscaping service that did \$2.2 million in sales in 2012.

"What really impassioned me was creating things – the building of landscapes," Rodolph said. "From mowing the lawns to being 50 feet up a tree to building landscapes, I learned the craft side of it first."

Rodolph's artistic visions made good business sense. He and his brother, Isaiah, joined a friend in 1998 to start Rodolph Brothers with some cash and a short-term credit line. Both the friend and Rodolph's brother sold out to Rodolph before 2001, leaving Rodolph the sole owner of the business.

He kept the plural name, he said, because running a business is such a team effort.

## A small business standout

The U.S. Small Business Administration named Rodolph its Wyoming Small Business Person of the Year in 2013, based on the company's staying power, response to adversity, community service, and increase in sales and employment numbers.

Rodolph spoke one Wednesday morning to a ballroom filled with local businessmen and women gathered at a Casper Area Economic Development Alliance quarterly breakfast. Rodolph thanked the business community for their guidance and support.

"You talk about tipping points," Rodolph said. "I was ready to end this thing in 2005."

A co-worker and friend who had been with the business nearly since its inception died that year on a restoration job behind Muddy Mountain, Rodolph said. He was killed by a falling tree after his saw ran out of gas and he looked the other way.

"As a young, young man that was the most devastating thing that ever happened to me," he said.

Words from a local banker and commitment from a Rodolph Brothers manager kept Rodolph going. Bills needed paying no matter what, the banker said. There's work to do, said the manager, and people are waiting.

It was their dedication that propelled him forward. That same year, Rodolph Brothers started renting their first out-of-home office in an old warehouse off Beverly Street. Rodolph Brothers now owns the warehouse and recently built a second warehouse to accompany it.

Walking through his company's outdoor nursery Wednesday morning, Rodolph paused next to a bristlecone pine tree. It's the world's longest-living organism, he said. The tree can live up to 5,000 years.

He tries to plant one in every landscape he creates.

"Because I guess when all this is gone, they'll be here," Rodolph said.

In many ways, Rodolph's story is every small business operator's dream. He borrowed, built, invested and diversified his business with the help of family members and friends, and a few good bankers along the way.

He has come a long way from the days when he bicycled through the streets of his neighborhood, pushing a lawn mower down the street with trimmers balanced on the mower's handle.

But Rodolph still finds ways to give back.

Rodolph, a certified arborist, took his company's entire arborist division to Mississippi after tornadoes devastated the region in 2010. He and his wife, Nicole, adopted a son from foster care and are in the process of adopting a daughter. He serves on the board of the Court Appointed Special Advocates for children in foster care.

"What really stood out was the amount of giving back to the community that [Rodolph]

has done," said Amy Lea, acting director for the Wyoming district office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Lea oversees U.S. Small Business Administration programs and services throughout the state. Her district provides business training, access to capital and government contracting assistance to Wyoming small businesses.

As project coordinator at Casper's Small Business Development Center, Candy Lane helps small businesses find the professional resources they need, free of charge. Rodolph first came to her for business advice in 2004 and the two haven't lost touch since.

Lane nominated Rodolph for the U.S. Small Business Administration award (in early 2013.)

"Where Aaron is at today, with his leadership and his growing company, is really an ideal picture of what we as the Small Business Development Center are designed to do," Lane said. "And that is, advise that small business person and assist them and guide them in areas that they aren't familiar with."

Nearly two-dozen employees work year-round for Rodolph Brothers now. An additional 8-10 seasonal workers join the company during peak times. Rodolph has hired a marketing consultant, and the company is about ready to outgrow its current facility.

At its core, however, Rodolph Brothers is still built around what inspired Rodolph, the 12-year-old entrepreneur, in the first place – doing what he loves, and doing it well.



# Notes from T-Bird Camp

by William Landen ('76)

## Perseverance, Work Ethic Have Sharman at the Doorstep of Lofty Milestones

**W**alk into Erickson Thunderbird Gymnasium and one of the first things you see are the big red banners hanging from the west side rafters. Many of them were hung by the building's namesake.

Not unlike the old Boston Garden, the banners have become part of the tradition at Casper College. For a long time the red banners dominated. Not so anymore. Look to the east side and you see plenty of white banners (women's basketball) and on the north side there are four black banners – championships won over the past 10 years in volleyball. It all adds a colorful balance to one of the best buildings in the region.

The Thunderbirds didn't hang a banner this year. They beat the team that won the tournament (Powell) twice but just not at the right time. It was a disappointing year for Angel Sharman, who is used to her teams playing in the title game. This time her team came up short of the ultimate goal: that fifth regional championship banner.

"That's the way it goes," Sharman said, reflecting on her 18th year of college coaching (13 at Casper). "You are dealing with 18 and 19-year-olds. You move on, it's over and done."

Anyone who knows Sharman knows it isn't that easy for her. It always takes a few days. Athletic seasons always come to an end too quickly. This year's disappointing finish will only motivate her to make another run next season. That determination, along with a work ethic that comes out of her family farm life in Nebraska, is what has made her so successful on the court. Sharman is the fourth active winningest coach in the National Junior College Athletic Association. Her teams have won 492 matches.

Ironically, the two people she calls mentors are ahead of her in all-time wins. Sally Thalken was her coach at Mid Plains Community College (North Platte) and has won nearly 900 matches at the Division II level. Verl Petsch, from Eastern Wyoming Community College, is a legend in these parts and has won more than 1,000 matches. He helped Sharman get the job in Casper.

Many times over the years Sharman has called Petsch for advice. Both he and Thalken have advised her on NJCAA and regional matters, too.

Sharman is known for playing things pretty close to the vest. Team matters are almost personal. The bond is tight in the volleyball flock. That's why so many of her players stay in touch.

"I had two of them come back for Christmas," she says. "They bring their kids over. When their kids get in trouble I just remind them that it's payback for all the grief they gave me."

Her players love to jab her about their kids becoming second generation Thunderbirds and playing for Sharman. "I tell them I will be retired," she laughs.

Sharman still has a "fire in the belly," however. Admittedly, the long bus rides that are necessary at the junior college level seem to have gotten a little longer of late. "Once you see how hard (the Thunderbirds) play when they get there and how hard they work, it makes the traveling easier," she says. "Just to see them succeed on the floor and in life is the real reward. We have sent players off into the world, to places like New York, and they are all grown up."

For now, Thunderbird fans can rest easy. No change in the volleyball nest. Sharman plans to keep coaching and keep teaching (she is chairman of the physical education department). Heck, she already has two new hitters and a setter signed for next season. That's enough right there to put some bounce back in her step.

If things go right, she might just get win No. 500 next season.





# T-Bird Athletics 2014 Schedule

[caspercollege.edu/athletics](http://caspercollege.edu/athletics)



## Women's and Men's Basketball

Feb. 1	W. Wyo. (W/M)	Rock Springs, WY	3/5 p.m.
Feb. 5	Sheridan (W/M)	Casper, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	<b>HOMECOMING</b> Northwest (W/M)	Casper, WY	3/5 p.m.
Feb. 12	Little Big Horn (W/M)	Crow Agency, MT	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Dawson (W/M)	Glendive, MT	3/5 p.m.
Feb. 19	<b>Central Wyo. (W/M)</b>	Casper, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Gillette (W/M)	Gillette, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	E. Wyo. (W/M)	Torrington, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
March 1-5	Region IX Tournaments (W/M)	TBA	TBA
March 17-22	National Tournament (W)	Salina, KS	TBA
March 17-24	National Tournament (M)	Hutchinson, KS	TBA



## CC Rodeo

Casper College finished the fall half of the Central Rocky Mountain Region circuit with a strong performance at the Laramie County College Rodeo in Cheyenne.

It was an outstanding fall for the Thunderbirds. Tyler Williams (Grantsville, Utah) won the bull riding, while Zach Phillips (Hobbs, New Mexico) and Seth Coursen (Casper) scored big points in the bareback bronc riding to lead the CC men's team to a third place finish at LCCC. The T-Birds scored 353 team points, good enough to keep them in second place in the region behind Gillette College. The top two teams at the end of the 2013-2014 school year qualify for the CNFR. Gillette leads Casper by a mere 140 points heading into the spring half of the season. Sheridan College is 390 points behind Casper for third.

Five different T-Bird cowboys would qualify for the CNFR in their individual events if the season had ended with the last fall rodeo, which was held at Laramie County Community College October 11-13: Phillips, Neil Williams, Coursen, Tyler Williams, and Riley Krassin. Ty Ollerich, Calvin Ophus, Bryce Burnell, Logan Murphy, Bailey Young, and Dantan Bertsch also contributed points along the way. Both Williams are in the top five in all-around points midway through.

The Casper College women's team stands in sixth place after the fall half, a big step ahead from a year ago. Toby Dunlavy and Hayli Bonham have led the way thus far. Mattie Hepp, Kaylee Reimler and Abbea Faris have all scored points.

Coach Tom Parker, his assistant Jhett Johnson and the team will take a break before resuming the CRMR season March 13-15, 2014 at Gillette.

## Second Generation Thunderbirds Have an Impact

Many different species of birds fly away but always come back.

Maybe that's true with Thunderbirds, too. This year's women's basketball team has two players with enough Thunderbird genes that they ended up at Casper College.

Perhaps for the first time ever on the women's team, two second-generation T-Bird daughters are on the same roster. Kendyl Nunn's father Melvin (Chicago) played for the T-Birds in the late 1980s, while Elissa Johnson's father Sly (St. Paul, Minn. and Cheyenne, Wyo.) played a few years later. Elissa's mother Adrianna Grace was also a Thunderbird.

Coach Dwight Gunnare knew he was getting two talented perimeter players.

Nunn spent a hardship season at the University of Toledo last year before transferring to her dad's alma mater in Wyoming.

Nunn went into the Christmas break as the T-Birds' leading scorer, while Johnson is a valuable contributor off the bench. Once again, Gunnare's team is in the thick of the Region IX race.

At the season's Tip Off Tournament, several former Thunderbirds, including Nunn, Grace, Johnson, Kendall Schmidt, Dave Dubay, and Art Steward were in attendance.

At the Thanksgiving Classic in November, the athletic department honored Ken Morgan Clark, one of the all-time T-Bird greats.

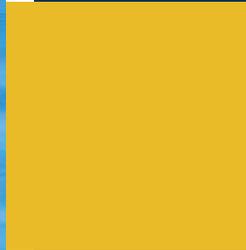


Right: Melvin Nunn. Below: From left to right, Tamiaka Johnson (Elissa's stepmother), Adriana Grace (Elissa's mother), Elissa Johnson, Sly Johnson (Elissa's father), Kendyl Nunn, Melvin Nunn (Kendyl's father), and Audrey Nunn (Kendyl's stepmother)

**T-bird Rodeo 2014 Schedule**

March 13-15	Gillette College	Gillette, WY
March 28-30	Colorado State U.	Ft. Collins, CO
April 4-6	Eastern Wyo.	Torrington, WY
<b>April 25-27</b>	<b>CC Ropin' &amp; Riggin' Days</b>	<b>Casper, WY</b>
May 2-4	University of Wyoming	Laramie, WY
June 15-21	CNFR	Casper, WY





Casper College graduates Amy ('93, A.S. physical science) and James ('93, A.S. agriculture) Ramage are co-owners of Valley West Engineering PC, located in Jackson, Wyo. They and their company were recognized, along with the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) and Reiman Corp. of Cheyenne, Wyo., with the Wyoming Engineering Society's 2012 Presidents Project of the Year for the design and construction of two overpasses and six underpasses covering a nine-mile segment on US 191 west of Pinedale, Wyo. The unique over and underpasses were designed and constructed to provide a safe highway crossing alternative for wildlife, notably mule deer and antelope.



# Five Questions

Amy ('93) and James ('93) Ramage

**Q** : Where are you both from, and how did you end up coming to Casper College?

**A** : **Amy**: I am from Glenrock, Wyo. and received several scholarships that covered all my tuition and expenses, plus it was close to home. **James**: I grew up in Lysite, Wyo. and Casper College was a good option for me because it was fairly close to home and affordable enough for me to find a career direction while I was there. I also had a tuition scholarship to go there.

Amy Hammersmark and James Ramage were introduced to each other through mutual friends while both were attending Casper College. From Casper College they went on to Montana State University, Bozeman where each earned a B.S. in civil engineering, James with honors. They were married on June 20, 1998 and son Tyler was born four years ago.

01

**Q** : When did you start your company, and what were each of you doing before that?

**A** : **Amy**: We started Valley West Engineering in 2003. I worked for a civil engineering consulting firm in Sheridan, Wyo. prior to that. **James**: I was the assistant public works director for the City of Sheridan and before that I worked for a consulting firm in Sheridan.

02

**Q** : What was the most challenging aspect of designing these over and underpasses?

**A** : **Amy**: The schedule was extremely aggressive. We went from preliminary design to completion in about nine months, which is extremely fast for a large WYDOT project. In order to attempt to receive some of the federal stimulus funds, which were going on at the time, the schedule had to be aggressive. In the end, the project specific stimulus funding was not awarded for this project, but some generic stimulus money was received by WYDOT, which freed up other funds to build this project. **James**: The Trappers Point project was very rewarding. In addition to what Amy said, the other challenging aspect was that overpasses had never been designed specifically for pronghorn, so there was a lot of discussion between us, WYDOT, the Game and Fish, etc. in determining the appropriate width.

04

**Q** : What role did your company play in the creation of the Trappers Point Wildlife Corridor Project?

**A** : **Amy**: We were the lead designers on the whole project, which encompassed all the over and underpasses. We were awarded the project based upon our qualifications and past work with them. **James**: The idea came from WYDOT and it was a collaborative design process with them. We handled the project management and overall project design. WYDOT's Bridge Program designed the structures themselves. We helped size, locate, and layout the structures and fencing and prepared the project plans for bidding. Amy and I both worked on the project, and she was the project manager.

03

**Q** : What is your favorite type of design project?

**A** : **Amy**: I enjoy WYDOT and municipal projects. It's fun to be involved in the design of infrastructure that's in your hometown/state. **James**: I enjoy working on a variety of design projects including highways, municipal infrastructure and utilities, pathways, and land development projects. As a small firm we have to wear many different hats and I like that variety.

05



Jeff Burrell Northern Rockies Program  
Coordinator Wildlife Conservation Society



WYDOT Motion Sensor Camera,  
courtesy of Hall Sawyer, West Inc.



WYDOT Motion Sensor Camera,  
courtesy of Hall Sawyer, West Inc.



Dan McGillivray, WYDOT

# Faculty & Staff Notes

**Will Robinson**, Casper College biology instructor, recently published an article in *The Journal of Apicultural Research*. His article documents how swarms of Asian honeybees, *Apis cerana*, leave their protective cavities in order to more effectively battle, and then escape, predatory hornets. Robinson has conducted extensive research on bees in Thailand.

1.  **Dale Anderson** ('89), Casper College fire science instructor and fire science department chair, was honored recently with the Judith Bailey Scully award. The award is presented to honor faculty who demonstrate academic excellence.

2.  **Nathan Long** ('02) and his wife Michelle Long ('02) welcomed their second daughter, Briella Marian Long on October 1, 2013. Briella weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz. and was 21.5 inches long. Briella joins big sister Nathellia Vera Long, who is 2 ½ years old. Both girls' middle names were first names of their great grandmothers. Nathan teaches web design at Casper College and Michelle teaches first grade at Mountain View Elementary School in Mills, Wyo.

3.  **Sissy Goodwin**, Casper College electric power technology instructor, spent some time in Africa this past summer as part of the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center Hillside Water Project Task

Force. The group of 20 traveled to Hillside, a high-altitude village near Nairobi, Kenya, Africa where they dug a waterline trench and laid more than 100 yards of pipe from a newly dug well to Hillside. Thanks to the well, women and girls living in the area no longer are required to regularly make a 20-mile round trip walk for fresh water. Among other things, the group also started a cleanup project in the Sinai Slum in Nairobi and visited the Hillside and Nakuru schools where they interacted with the children and provided them with health and personal supplies.

**Gretchen Wheeler**, CC communications instructor, and former faculty member, **Gale Alexander**, announced the East Coast premiere of *What Were We Talking About*, the play that they wrote and produced locally with two friends. Because of its success in Wyoming, the Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association (DebRA) requested that they bring the play to the East Coast as part of the EB National Awareness Week. The play premiered October 26, 2013 in Spring Lake, N.J., and has raised \$92,000 to help those suffer from EB.

**Chad Hanson** was the recipient of a 2014  Creative Writing Fellowship, granted by the Wyoming Arts Council through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2013, Chad placed 28 poems in 15 different literary journals, including: *The Fourth River*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Boston*

*Literary Magazine*, *The Cold Mountain Review*, and *Flyway: Journal of Writing and Environment*. He serves as chairman of Casper College's Department of Sociology and Social Work.

Three people associated with Casper College's Adult Education Center were recognized in summer 2013 during the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association and Wyoming Lifelong Learning Joint Conference with the awarding of Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association annual awards.

**Alberta Giraldo**, English as a Second Language instructor at Casper College's Adult Education Center received the Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association's award of Commendation for Outstanding ESL instructor; **Shawn Powell**, dean of the Casper College School of Social and Behavioral Science, received the Award of Commendation for Community Service; and Robert Saunders, GED graduate and 2013 Casper College graduate, received the Certificate of Commendation for the Outstanding Region Three Learner. The award of commendation is given to recognize "very special persons" in the field of adult, continuing, and community education, while the certificate of commendation is given to recognize special achievements.

**Shereen Mosier** ('06) and Chad Matheson welcomed their son Tanner Ray Matheson on November 13, 2013, weighing 6 lbs., 11 oz. and 19 inches long.

## FORMER FACULTY and STAFF

**Dr. Joanna Anderson**, formerly CC's vice president of student services, was honored as a Distinguished Alumna of North Central Missouri College. Joanna is currently the president of State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Mo. She is married to Ken Anderson and they have three children: Daniel and his wife, Beth of Kansas City, Kan.; Clayton, his wife, Hayley and their children, Adaline and Case of Trenton, Mo.; and Emily, a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

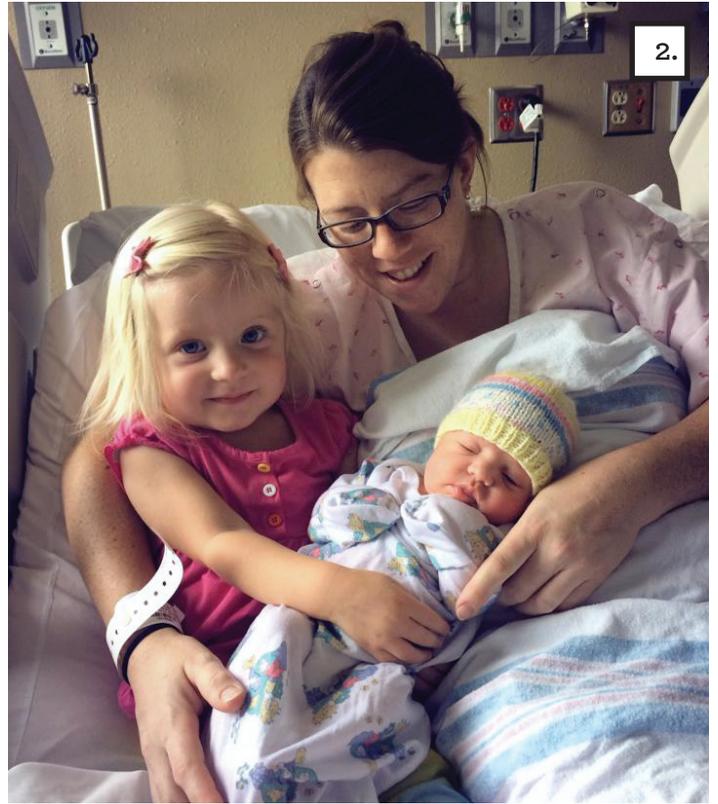
**Gene Bilodeau** is the new executive director at University Center-Rapid City, S.D. He was previously vice president of the Craig Campus for Colorado Northwestern Community College. Gene served in numerous capacities at Colorado Northwestern Community College and as a counselor and the director of counseling and student development at Casper College from 1990 to 1994.

5.  **Lynn Munns**, retired CC ceramics teacher, shared his art collection at the opening of the Mildred Zahradnicek Gallery in the new Music Building. The "Art of Teaching" represented artwork from each tenured art instructor, beginning with work by painting and drawing teacher Ed Gothberg, who taught in the early days of the college art department, to current teachers. Some of the artists have retired and some have passed away.

**Wilma Reever**, first director of the Inga Thorson Family Resource Center, now the Inga Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center, wrote with memories of recently honored 2013 Distinguished Alumnus, Lee Swanstrom. She was his fifth grade teacher and says he was distinguished even then. Wilma's oldest daughter Anne is assistant librarian for distance learning at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tenn. and has one son; **Sarah** ('95), her youngest, is a

veterinarian living in Wheaton, Ill, with a new baby boy. Wilma and her husband Mark visited Casper College the last time they were in Casper and were impressed with the new Inga Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center facility. They spend winters in Tennessee near their daughter.

**Christine Gangelhoff**, former CC adjunct faculty member in 1995, released a new compact disc entitled *Deep Blue* with her ensemble, C Force. The CD reflects their interest in preserving and promoting music from The Bahamas and the neighboring Caribbean region. The recording is comprised of original compositions, transcriptions, and arrangements with a distinctly classical bent while honoring Bahamian folk culture.



**Story to add?**  
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@casper  
college.edu



# People & Places

## 1940s, 50s, 60s

**Charles Dill** ('57) and Judith Dill celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 1, 2013. Charles served in the Navy after receiving an Associate of Arts degree from Casper College in 1957. After his honorable discharge, he returned home to Casper and reenrolled at Casper College, where he met Judy. She worked with Chuck and his newly formed barbershop quartet. Chuck retired after 51 years as an employee/manager of Albertson's, primarily in Loveland, Colo. He enjoys barbershop and church choir singing, Sudoku, reading, and gardening. Judy retired from Agilent Technologies/Hewlett-Packard and is an administrative assistant for the First Presbyterian Church in Berthoud, Colo. While working at HP, she completed her bachelor's degree at Regis University. She enjoys gardening, reading, knitting, crocheting, playing piano, singing in the church choir, and arts and crafts. Both love to be with their grandchildren and family in San Diego. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Tom and **Linda (Thompson) Bechtel** ('60) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a celebration in their home and a 10-day family trip to central Alaska. Linda taught at the Wyoming School for the Deaf and was also director of special education at the Child Development Center of Casper. Early in his career Tom was the Casper city planner, and then had his own architecture, planning and development firm.

**Ralph Mesa** ('62) has recently moved back to Wyoming. Ralph called and related the story of how he dressed in the Heyoka costume for the Central Wyoming Parade in the summer of 1961 and that it was terribly hot in that costume as he walked the entire parade route. He also remembered an apartment he lived in under the main floor of the gym.

**1. Larry Burgess** ('63) attended the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Alumni reunion during the CNFR in Casper. He rodeoed under Dale Stiles from 1961-1964. He reports that the CC team that won the National Championship in 1963 were honored at the 2013 CNFR. Larry says that although he wasn't one of the six members of that team, they were

all good friends and three of them attended the reunion: **Rod Prewitt** ('63), **Jim Johnston** ('64) and **Bill Mankin** ('64). Until retirement, Larry taught for 23 years at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix and served as faculty association president and chair of the mathematics division. His wife DeEtta was a CPA before retiring, and was the controller for Motorcycle Mechanics Institute for the last few years of her career. He writes, "We are doing some traveling, attending lots of reunions these days, and fishing and flying in between keeping track of our nine grandchildren."

**Don Loucks** ('64) is president of Safety and Security Audits, LLC, in Vero Beach, Fla. Don was nationally recognized by Bombardier Aerospace in 2010 when he was honored at their annual Safety Standdown with an individual safety award for the innovative safety promotion within his company. He spoke at two conferences this past fall, the 18th Annual Bombardier Safety Standdown in Wichita, Kan. and the AVM Maintenance Safety Summit in Orlando, Fla. He has three grown daughters and six grandchildren.

**Randall Hatcher** ('65) was visiting Riverton, Wyo. from Vancouver, Wash. this past summer and was lucky enough to find the Riverton Rendezvous Balloon Block, yielding him \$500 in prize money. He also won the opportunity for a balloon ride. After attending Casper College, he began a 20-year military career, and then worked as an aircraft mechanic before retiring a couple of years ago.

**Elaine McMichael Brooks** ('66) and Asa Brooks celebrated their 60th anniversary with four generations of family on Sept. 8, 2013, at the Douglas Community Club in Douglas, Wyo. They were married Sept. 10, 1953 in Laramie, Wyo. After a lifetime in Wyoming, they currently reside in Mesa, Ariz. Asa was a biology teacher at East Jr. High for three years and at NCHS for 23 years, retiring in 1988. Elaine was the Bookworm Lady at Natrona County Public Library, worked as executive secretary of the Natrona County Education Association for 10 years and was secretary for John Kerns Exploration for 10 years. They spent 27 summers in Glacier National Park, Mont., where he was a ranger naturalist. They have three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Victor McMurry** ('67) was honored with the Legacy Award from the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He made the lead gift for the Dean's Excellence Fund, which supports speaker presentations, panel discussions, guest lectures, short courses, and public forums that make science-based information available to the public.

## 1970s

**James Weinberg** ('71) graduated with his third master's degree, this one in public administration, last spring. He is now working on a post-graduate paralegal certificate at the University of New Mexico.

**Judge Michael Huber** ('72) will retire in February 2014 after 32 years on the bench. He is currently the longest-sitting circuit court judge in Wyoming. His legal career began in the Natrona County prosecuting attorney's office. He has served as Casper Mountain fire chief and has been an active member of the Hogadon Ski Area's ski patrol.

**Bob** ('74) and **Sue** ('73) (**Porter**) **Quinlan** recently celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary. They are living in Lakewood, Colo. but frequently visit family in Casper. They are both looking forward to retirement.

**Sue Lorimer** ('76) and her husband Bob Bruns stopped in Casper on a road trip and took time to visit campus. Sue is the vice chancellor of education and technology at Los Rios Community College District in Sacramento, Calif. Sue writes, "While I didn't stay in Wyoming, my experiences at Casper College introduced me to the value of community colleges, where I have since spent 30 years of my professional career."

**2. Dorrene K. Brown Butterfield** ('78) and her husband, Dr. Chuck Butterfield recently moved to Alpine, Wyo. and are very happy to finally be back in the mountains of Wyoming. Dorrene does freelance web design, content management/proofing, editing/virtual office assistance work. She writes "I work mostly sitting on my deck with my laptop while I work in the mountain splendor." Dorrene also enjoys photography. You can learn more from her website, [dkbb.org](http://dkbb.org) or read her blog at [theviewfromourdeck.blogspot.com/](http://theviewfromourdeck.blogspot.com/)

## 1980s

**Carolyn Edgcombe Philips** ('80) checked in and shared that she is now retired after a long career at Northwest Hospital in Tucson, Ariz. as a clinical nurse leader. Her final years were spent as a labor and delivery nurse. She is now enjoying retirement, which includes travel and more time with her seven grandchildren. Husband, **David Philips** ('78) is working for the City of Tucson, Ariz.

**3. Robin Nelson** ('85) was awarded the national *Smokey Bear Bronze* award for wildland fire education. The Smokey Bear program is a key fire prevention and education program for school children in Casper, Wyo. She began doing "Smokey" education in 1985. Robin earned an associate degree in retail merchandising at Casper College. She worked for the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior retiring in June 2013 with 34 years of service as a geographic information specialist.

**Nova** ('87) and **Larry** ('70) **Simons** of NoBe, Inc. are expanding their screen-printing business to include a retail location in Evansville, Wyo. They plan to offer logoed school apparel and other items for Casper College and the area high schools, and donate a portion of the proceeds back to the schools.

**Rondi Vollmar** ('88) was awarded the 2013 Tradition of Caring nursing scholarship from Newcomer Funeral Home. Rondi is back at Casper College pursuing a nursing degree after earning a degree in business from Casper College.

## 1990s

**Eva Flying** ('91) and Bryan Bagley were married in Grand Teton National Park on September 20, 2013. Eva is the athletic director and interim head women's basketball coach for Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, Mont. She played basketball under Coach Gary Becker at Casper College in 1990-1991 and remembers her first trip to Jackson as a freshman with the T-Birds when they played in Rexburg, Idaho. She and her husband currently reside in Lame Deer, Mont., Eva's hometown.

**Debra Harlow** ('91), a chief warrant officer and army helicopter pilot with almost 15 years of service in the Army, returned home from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan. She has previously been deployed to Columbia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Debra is the niece of Harold and Nancy Wright.

**Kathleen (Burke) Wilson** ('93) was recognized as Woman of the Year by Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce in Port Orchard,

Wash. Kathleen began as the children's librarian at the Port Orchard Library and currently holds the position of branch manager. Kathleen was recognized for her efforts to increase the profile of the Port Orchard Library, making it a vital part of the community. She volunteers at her children's schools, and participates on various community event committees. Kathleen's mother was former CC English instructor, Ellen Burke. She and her husband, Jonathon have two sons, Nicholas age 15 and Ronan age 10.

**Richard Spomer** ('93) self-published *The Journey Back: A Collaborative Effort*, an account of his journey of recovery and self-discovery following a series of traumatic brain injuries. Richard has a bachelor's of social work from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.

**Erin Kilbride** ('96), director of the Tongue River Valley Community Center, was honored as Woman of the Year at the FAB (For•About•By) Women's Conference in Sheridan, Wyo. this past autumn. As director of the center, Erin has overseen the expansion of the center from its first building in Ranchester, Wyo., to a second building in Dayton, Wyo. in late 2009. Erin and her family have lived in Dayton since 2006. She played basketball for Casper College and for Albertson College in Caldwell, Idaho, and later earned a degree in exercise and health science from the University of Wyoming. Erin and her husband Pete have two young sons, Camden and Caleb.

**Craig Ferris** ('97) is coaching basketball at the Wyoming Indian High School in Ethete, Wyo. Craig is a former T-Bird and has coached the team since 2005. He also works at Wyoming Indian Elementary School as the home school coordinator.

**Kelly Groene** ('98), former agribusiness instructor for CC, is busy raising her three young children; Klacie, Carter, and Colby, in Torrington, Wyo. Kelly is a land man and also owns a promotional company that sells a variety of advertising products. She taught online classes for Eastern Wyoming College for 10 years. The National Association of Agricultural Educators recently honored her husband, Jason, as Wyoming's outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher.

**Jason Gutierrez** ('98) was appointed director of the Natrona County Planning and Development Department, which enforces the county's zoning codes. Jason holds associate degrees in engineering and physics from Casper College and a degree in civil engineering from the University of Wyoming. He has constructed highway projects for the Wyoming Department of Transportation, worked as an associate engineer for the City of Casper, and was

planning and construction manager for new school construction at the Natrona County School District prior to working for Natrona County.

**Dandee Pattee** ('98, '02) had her pottery works featured at Margo's Pottery and Fine Crafts in December in Buffalo, Wyo. Her exhibit was titled "Coming Home." Currently residing in Maryland, Dandee is a Lander native and studied fine art at Casper College. She has an MFA in ceramics from the University of Florida and apprenticed for potters in Virginia and Iowa.

**India Hayford** ('99) and her husband Roy Hayford were featured performers at the Music and Poetry ARTCORE series at the Metro Coffee Company this past summer. The program featured a variety of music, poetry and prose. Roy plays French horn in the Casper College Band, the Casper Municipal Band and the Wyoming Symphony. India, who was in the paralegal program at CC, is an artist, photographer and belly dancer. She has been working on a book about Yemenite Jewish embroidery.

## 2000s

**Bryce Miller** ('01), a former Casper College rodeo team member, won the saddle bronc event at the Lynden PRCA Rodeo in Lynden, Wash. Bryce scored 83 points on C5 Rodeo Company's Biff.

**Missy Lee Meuli** ('05) and **Drake Alan Phipps** ('07, '08) were married Aug. 10, 2013 in Casper, Wyo. The bride graduated from Casper College in 2005, and from the University of Wyoming in 2009. She is employed at the Child Development Center of Natrona County. The groom graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2012. He is employed as a sales clerk. They are at home in Casper.

**Cynthia Hansen** ('06) and John Davis were married Sept. 7, 2013 at Camp Wyoba on Casper Mountain. The bride graduated from Casper College with an Associate of Art degree in Spanish in 2006, and from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Art degree in international studies in 2008. She is a client liaison for Rocky Mountain Recovery in Casper. The groom is a fire suppression apprentice for Rapid Fire Protection in Casper.

**Ryan Hieb** ('08, '09) attended Chadron State College in Nebraska earning a bachelor's in justice studies in 2010 following his time at Casper College. He moved back to Casper in February 2010 where he took a job with the Casper Police Department where he is a PORT (problem oriented response team) officer.

# People & Places

**Sarah Maluchnik** ('08) and **Christopher Neubauer** ('08) were married May 25, 2013, at Viva Las Vegas Weddings in Las Vegas, Nev. The bride graduated from Casper College in 2008, and from the University of Wyoming/Casper College in 2010. The groom graduated from Casper College in 2008, and from the University of Wyoming/Casper College in 2010. He is assistant manager at Enterprise Rental Cars. They are at home in Casper.

Theresa Podio and **Christopher Robinett** ('09, '10) were married Aug. 24, 2013, in Newcastle, Wyo. The bride graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2012. She is an occupational therapist with Aegis Therapies. The groom is employed as a cattle rancher.

**4.** **Rebecca Zook** ('09) is a biological technician and works for Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc. where she started working in June of 2009. Projects she has worked on include avian mortality surveys and golden eagle monitoring in Glenrock, Wyo.; white-tailed prairie dog monitoring in Pinedale, Wyo.; and lesser prairie chicken aerial survey density estimates in Texas, N.M., and Kan. Her nonwork life consists of cross fit, rock climbing, long distance running, spending time with friends and family, singing in a choir at mass, and oil painting.

## 2010s

Roberta Lynch and **Kirk Friend** ('11) were married Aug. 4, 2013 in Sturgis, S.D. The bride graduated from Cosmetic Arts and Sciences in 1986. The groom graduated from Paris Junior College in 1977 and from George Brown College in 2010 in music and electronics. He is an instrumentation, electronics and PLC technician for Whiting Oil & Gas in Dickinson, N.D. The couple says their happiness started before the ceremony and they continue to spread the love across the state lines. They divide their time between Casper and Dickinson, N.D.

**Shanae Hedlund** ('11) and **Matthew Wilfong** ('12) were married June 22, 2013 in Casper, Wyo. The bride graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in elementary education. She is employed as a third grade teacher at Evansville Elementary. The groom earned a degree in power plant

technology at Casper College. He is employed at Dave Johnston Power Plant. After a honeymoon to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, they are at home in Casper.

**Wade Holmes** ('11) and **Whitney Hill** ('11) were married on Casper Mountain. The bride has a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work from the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center. The groom also graduated from UW/CC. He is an elementary school teacher at Summit Elementary School in Casper.

**J.R. Vezain** ('11) Bareback bronc rider and former T-Bird rodeo team member had a great 10 days at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December 2013. He tied for sixth with an 81.5-point ride finishing third in the average and vaulting to seventh in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world standings. J.R. finished the year having won \$143,924, including nearly \$60,000 at the 10-day NFR.

**Rhiannon Cady** ('12) was recently named the assistant archivist here at the Western History Center. Rhiannon is a graduate of Casper College with degrees in museum studies and fine arts and has been working at the Western History Center in various capacities for a few years.

**Jaime Cantu** ('12) is attending the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy after earning an Associate of Science degree in chemistry and an Associate of Science in pre-pharmacy. Jaime has two children.

**Charlotte Jennings** ('12) and William Case were married June 1, 2013 in Las Vegas. The bride earned an Associate of Science degree in nursing from Casper College in 2012. She is a nurse at St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings, Mont. The groom owns Billy's Concrete in Billings. They are at home in Billings.

**Jodie Lundell** ('12) a Casper College Power Plant Technology program graduate, accepted a position with PacifiCorp's Dave Johnston Power Plant in Glenrock, Wyo. She is the ninth graduate of the program to be employed at that facility. Other power technology graduates are employed at PacifiCorp's Jim Bridger Plant, Gillette's Black Hills, Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station, Basin Electric's Laramie River Station in Wheatland, and electric generating facilities in Arizona, Colorado, and Michigan.

**Danny Matney** ('12) opened Northside Tire, LLC in Lusk, Wyo. this past summer, a business that specializes in changing tires on a variety of vehicles, from semi-trucks to lawn mowers. Danny earned certificates in both diesel mechanics and machining from Casper College.

**5.** **Makayla Moore** ('13) has joined the staff of the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra. Makayla worked for Lee Enterprises as the arts and community reporter for the Casper Journal and then within the marketing department at the Casper Star-Tribune. She has a degree in journalism and will finish dual degrees in communication and applied social science from the University of Wyoming at Casper College in the fall of 2014. Makayla comes from a family of artists and musicians and is a strong advocate for arts education and appreciation. "I am proud to be a part of the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra and I am very excited for the future of the organization," she said.

**Connie Rodgers** ('12) of Casper received the Maggi Murdock Scholars Award for her work and accomplishments at the University of Wyoming/ Casper College Center and her contributions to the community. The Maggi Murdock Scholars Award was created in 2013 to recognize and support outstanding nontraditional students attending UW through its Outreach Credit Programs or the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center.

**Delbert "Shorty" Garrett** ('13) won the saddle bronc riding at the Lyon County Fair PRCA Rodeo in Marshall, Minn., scoring 80 points on Barnes PRCA Rodeo's Classic Cruiser in early August.

**Jared Minchow** ('13) and Riley Rasmussen ('13) were honored for their work in the preliminary development of a recreation trail in Converse County on the state-owned Duncan Ranch, near Glenrock, Wyo. Jared and Riley designed trail markers, an information kiosk, and a parking area at the trailhead. Wyoming Secretary of State Max Maxfield presented the award at a meeting of the Wyoming State Loan Investment Board.



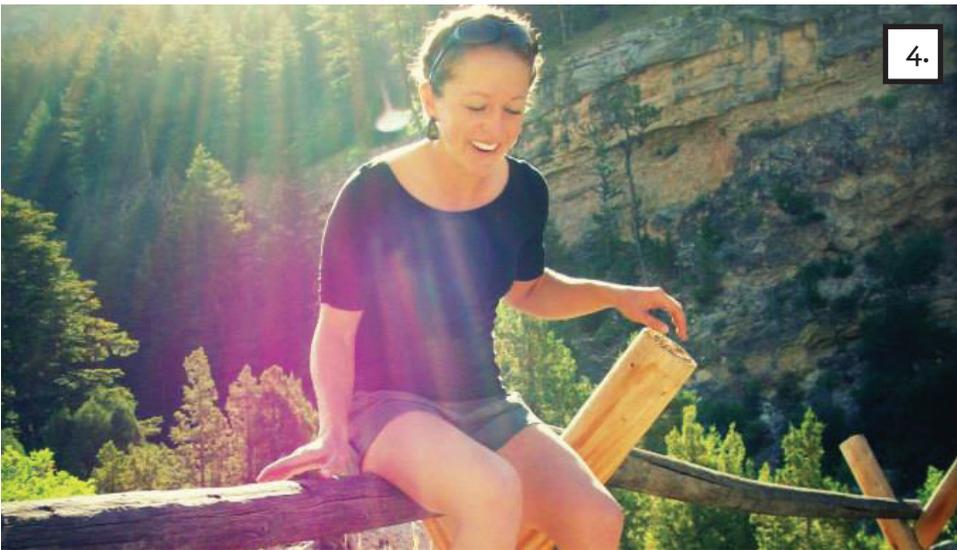
1.



2.



3.



4.



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; *e-mail* – [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu).

# Friends We'll Miss

**Catherine (Crabb) Lantis ('97)**  
February 1, 2013

**Flynn Robinson ('61)**  
May 23, 2013

**Mary Oliver Durham (T-Bird Booster)**  
June 9, 2013

**Beverlee Jean Halverstadt Frank ('57)**  
June 19, 2013

**Ruby Lynn (McIntosh) Winsor ('73)**  
July 10, 2013

**Richard Scriven ('66)**  
July 11, 2013

**Gigi Atkins ('97)**  
July 22, 2013

**Joyce A. Adami ('63)**  
July 27, 2013

**Michael William Gaines ('95)**  
July 30, 2013

**James Charles "Jim" Henry**  
(former CC basketball announcer)  
July 31, 2013

**Gloria Mathis Downing ('75)**  
August 11, 2013

**Helen Schmill ('77)**  
August 13, 2013

**Cindy D. Johnson ('89)**  
August 18, 2013

**Lewis Edgar Newman ('46)**  
August 27, 2013

**Bernard "Bernie" John Lensmeyer ('61)**  
September 9, 2013

**Michael W. Rogers ('92)**  
September 13, 2013

**Betty Edelman Crider ('63)**  
September 18, 2013

**Tola (Kelly) Miller Stewart ('70)**  
September 20, 2013

**Zack Brewer Barnett, Jr. ('51)**  
October 2, 2013

**James G. Sigea ('81)**  
October 3, 2013

**Miles Hecker** (former CC instructor)  
October 7, 2013

**Richard E. "Dick" Hubbard ('59)**  
October 22, 2013

**Peter Ray Person ('73)**  
October 26, 2013

**David R. Sutherland ('47)**  
October 26, 2013

**Linda Kay (Duke) Wenger ('71)**  
October 29, 2013

**Jack Thomas Dalton ('57)**  
November 1, 2013

**Elizabeth Elyne Howard ('07)**  
November 12, 2013

**DeVon Elaine Boden ('85)**  
November 19, 2013

**Hazel Amadio** (former CC employee)  
November 25, 2013

**Christopher Todd Kinkade ('09)**  
November 30, 2013

**Victoria L. "Vicki" Hicks ('68)**  
December 13, 2013

**Ashley Kay (Park) Lavering ('08)**  
December 17, 2013

**Glennnda (Lingle) Wilcox ('74)**  
December 21, 2013

## Get your print today!

**Casper Mountain** by **Rebekah Merlino** was featured on the cover of the Summer 2013 issue of Footprints magazine. The painting, created especially for the magazine, represents the six veterans profiled in the cover story titled *Service to Country, CC's Student Veterans*, all of whom served in the U.S. armed forces from World War II to the present day.

**About the artist:** Rebekah Merlino enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 2007 because of the educational benefits. After basic training, she attended Casper College and following the fall 2009 semester she was deployed to Afghanistan as one of only two women flyers who directly supported NATO forces. She returned to Casper College in 2011 to finish her study of art and that spring received her associate of fine arts. She stayed an additional year and earned an associate of fine arts in photography.

You can own a museum quality print of **Casper Mountain**, signed by the artist. These prints, produced by **Rod Knowlton ('76)** are printed on high quality paper with a lifetime guarantee against color fading.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(must match credit card)

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup  Ship

### Available in three sizes

24 x 30 (same size as original) – \$100 x \_\_\_\_\_ subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

16 x 20 – \$50 x \_\_\_\_\_ subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8 x 10 – \$25 x \_\_\_\_\_ subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please add shipping and handling \$5.95** **Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Cash

Credit card  MasterCard  Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Death Song

by Charlotte Babcock ('49)



**i.**

It was the moon of the beginning  
When the Spirit moved the earth from the sky.  
He sent his People through the log and said,  
"How (it is good).  
"Arise, my brothers, arise!"

**ii.**

In the moon of the dark red calves  
Of the sacred bison born,  
When the first frog croaked to stir Mother Earth  
And the snowblind of the North Giant subsided,  
When the popping trees awakened and lived--  
The children emerged from their tipis of frost  
Rejoicing with Mother Earth at the fresh dawn  
Bestowed on the People who were, forever.  
Sing, *how* (it is good), brothers, sing!

**iii.**

Mother Earth bestowed life and called them out.  
They answered, singing songs of worship and praise;  
Joyous hearts--accompanied by throbbing, pulsing drums.  
They knew the world and took heed of the powers.  
The road was red and good.  
Rejoice, *how* (it is good), brothers, rejoice!

**iv.**

Strengths streamed from the bison, and many there were.  
The prairie grass was high--  
The ponies shed the hair of the frost,  
It was the moon of making fat.  
Cousin honeybee flew from the hive of sweetness  
And taught his wisdom abroad  
While the flying-crookeds stirred and rippled the air.  
It was the time to dance for Father Sun.  
Dance, *how* (it is good), brothers, dance!

**v.**

The river shone in the moonlight  
Beneath Uncle, the Spotted Moon,  
Who spoke of the real world behind this one--  
It is yet to come.  
The time quickens...  
It may be soon, brothers, soon.

**vi.**

The hoop of the nations was sacred and safe,  
It was the moon when the cherries are ripe.  
The four-leggeds spoke with the two-leggeds  
For, truthfully, all were the children of One,  
The Great Spirit, who was Mother and Father to Earth.  
The smoke of the sacred pipe sent grateful homage aloft.  
Smoke, *how* (it is good), brothers, smoke.

**vii.**

Suddenly the river ran black and the shadows were deep,  
Soldier towns came to scar the earth.  
Their lodges arose from the rubbing out  
Of the Cottonwood, the holy talking tree,  
And the silence was great and dire.  
Mourn--it is sad--brothers, mourn!

**viii.**

The peace and the light went away from the East  
To dwell in an unknown land.  
The South was shed of its warmth.  
The sacred bison were bleached bones  
Atop grieving Mother Earth  
And the moccasins lost the way of the road.  
It was the moon when the cherries turned black  
And tears fell from lamenting eyes  
Like leaves from the quaking trees  
In the moon of the changing season.  
The red road sank into blackness and sorrow;  
The People were bathed in the ash.  
Cry--it is bad--brothers, cry!

**ix.**

The proud chief rode out at the head of the army  
Of feathered and painted braves  
In the moon of the blood-red plums.  
His People were slain by the talking guns  
While the arrows fell short and broke.  
Their bones returned to their mother, the Earth,  
And there was great fear in the land.  
The People were lost--there was no leading light  
When the sacred rainbow fell from the sky.  
Grandmother's land was far away;  
The road was brutal and bleak.  
Pray--it is gone--brothers, pray.

**x.**

It was the moon of death in the tipi.  
The Spirit called the souls away.  
Die--it is goodbye--my brothers, die.



This is part one of a narrative poem that was the result of a course Charlotte Babcock took in Native American Culture and History. Charlotte's book, *Shot Down! Capital Crimes of Casper* was recently reissued with updated information and a new cover.



125 College Drive • Casper, Wyoming 82601

**Change Service Requested**



# Change Lives Give Hope

Thanks to our generous donors, the Casper College Alumni Association changes lives using your gifts for scholarships, support for improved facilities, campus programs, and much more. You can help by giving through our secure website [caspercollege.cc/cc\\_alumni\\_donation](http://caspercollege.cc/cc_alumni_donation) or using the enclosed postage paid envelope.

**Giving feels good.**

