

Footprints

Casper College Alumni Magazine

Winter 2015



Fort Caspar Celebrates
Sesquicentennial
A Step Back in Time

See For Yourself
What Happened to Your Alma Mater

This
man is
retiring!

In Remembrance Page 20



Dr. LeRoy Strausner, CC president, 1991-2004.

Footprints

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

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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 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in October 2014. This marks the fourth consecutive year the magazine was judged to be the best in the region, which includes Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.



Cover Image
Casper College's fifth president, Dr. Walter Nolte.



From the Alumni Association President

Mike Stepp (AAS, '80)

President
Casper College Alumni Association, 2013-'15

Footprints

Casper College Alumni Magazine

Dear Friends and Fellow Alums,

We are fast approaching the spring semester looking not only back at current accomplishments, but also at the many activities and tasks to follow.

In August, a large, enthusiastic crowd attended the "Essence of Rex" statue dedication in front of the Tate Geological Museum. On the first day of classes, hundreds of doughnuts, along with apples, directions, and warm greetings, were given to the new and returning students by board members and staff. A good-sized audience appreciated the finale of the Wednesday Night Live Concert Series at The NIC, co-sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Your association honored distinguished alumnus Matteo Pistano, author and renowned advocate for Tibetan civil rights at the Autumn Gala, and also celebrated Commitment to Excellence Award recipients, long time educator and former CC Board of District Trustees member Bill Hambrick,

and Casper College benefactors and ardent supporters, John and Jane Wold. Beginning in 2016, the Distinguished Alumni and Commitment to Excellence awards will move to Commencement, reaching a wider audience. Look for new events in Fall 2015 beginning with a half marathon, 5K and 2K race involving the entire college community and Casper.

Long-time Casper College Foundation Chairman, John Jorgenson was recognized by the Council for Resource Development, as Benefactor of the Year for medium-sized rural institutions, a well-deserved honor for my overly humble friend. I'm not sure why they waited so long to recognize him.

For me the real meaning of "Footprints" is a transition; footprints behind us and in front of us that we follow willingly, left by someone blazing the trail. One transition is our fine President Walter Nolte retiring after 11 decisive years at the helm. His tenure includes not only the massive \$95 million Master Plan, but many great academic achievements by the college as well,

including becoming the first community college to accredit all four arts programs: dance, theatre, music, and visual arts. His quiet leadership leaves a great legacy for all of us to appreciate and to help drive us forward.

Sadly, there are many poignant moments to footprints and legacy building, as we contemplate the passing of one of Casper College's most dedicated servants, Dr. LeRoy Strausner. LeRoy devoted his entire professional career to not only making Casper College a great institution, but also changing the lives of thousands of grateful students. He was instrumental in my own success with his quiet advice that if you "don't know what to do with your life you might be doing it already," then constantly cheering me on. Many people have similar tales. His real legacy was his absolute dedication to helping others. He led by example and is one of the reasons I became involved with alumni activities.

I hope this finds all of you in peace and contentment, in each of your busy lives.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I graduated from CC in 1965 with a degree in drafting. The instructor, Mr. Walkinshaw, was great. After college I moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My degree in drafting helped me to become a product designer for two large corporations; General Electric and Cooper Industries. I am retired now and age 73. Also, I love the "Footprints" magazine.

Delbert Gravning (AS, '65)

Memories from Two Campuses

For those who might remember me, I was Betty Jean Alexander when I attended Casper Junior College (CJC). My first year was on the third floor of Natrona County High School (1954-55) and I was one of the first graduates across the stage in the new building (1955-56) because, if I remember correctly, we were called alphabetically. I was also involved in helping to pick furnishings for the student center in the new building.

While I was at CC (they dropped the J along the way), I sang with the girls' sextet, Choraleers, and two years in the large choir with Mr. Schwejda. My second year I fell into the job of choosing to either edit the yearbook or the school paper. Don Driscoll had just joined the staff, moving up from a reporter for the Tribune. He had no idea about any of us, so a different teacher presented him with my name and Patsy Fleming as choices. We were allowed to pick the one we wanted. I chose the yearbook and Patsy was happy to have the paper job. I wrote a column for the paper called "B.J.'s Mental Notes." (Unhappily, Patsy died while quite young). It was during Don Driscoll's time that the "Official Thunderbird" emblem was chosen. I believe it was the one that was on the back of the knit sweater shown in the last Winter Footprints magazine. Fred Hanselman, an outstanding English/French teacher, said I was the best secretary he had ever had. That was because I was the first secretary he'd had. I had also taken French from him, so I had no trouble typing and correcting French tests.

From Casper College I went to Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, where I met my first husband, LuRay Parker. You may recognize his name as he went on to become the official wildlife photographer for Wyoming Wildlife Magazine. He was very much involved with the wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone Park. He received several national awards for his photography. And I thought I was marrying a preacher! I graduated from Wichita State University where I received my B.S. in education and a Masters of Ed. I taught for 34 years in various elementary grades in Wichita, Kansas, and Cheyenne, Wyoming. I hadn't really intended to be a teacher, but when I had to pick a major for my second year in college, Mr. Hanselman said he thought I'd make a good teacher, so that's what I put down. I have never been sorry. When asked which class I preferred, I said "A good one." Luckily, I had many wonderful classes, and I couldn't believe I was getting paid well to have so much fun.

We had various motorhomes over the years in which we travelled throughout all of the states and Mexico and Canada. When my husband died in 1999, I continued to travel in our 34-foot diesel Safari. It was a great life, but I sold it in 2005. I went to spend some wintertime with my sister, Vonda Alexander Clark, in Tucson, Arizona, where she introduced me to my present husband, Alan Howard, at a motorhome rally in Tucson. We had a lot in common as I edited the yearbook and he spent much of his adult life as the CEO of Sundance Press, a company that prints many different magazines. We were married in 2006 and are both retired and enjoying our winter home in Arizona and our summer home near Shelton, Washington. Along the way we visit Al's many grandchildren and my three. For some reason my daughter decided that teaching must provide a great life. She has been teaching for about 20 years and is now one of the few nationally certified elementary teachers.

I hold many pleasant memories of my two years at Casper College and feel that all of my classes at CC were comparable to any of the many other classes I have taken at any academic level along the way.

Keep up the great work with "Footprints."

Betty Jean (B.J.) Alexander Parker Howard (AA, '56)

Alumni Gala

Highlights from the 2014 Annual Alumni Gala



1. Alumni board members Charlotte Babcock and Mike Stepp. 2. Guest bidding on an auction item. 3. Dr. Nolte chats with Alumni Gala attendees. 4. This year's event featured two Commitment to Excellence recipients; John and Jane Wold and Bill Hambrick. 5. Former Casper College employee Barbara Crews visits with a gala attendee. 6. Distinguished alumnus Matteo Pistano. 7. CC Foundation Executive Director Paulann Doane urges guests to bid in the silent auction.



Alumni News

SAVE
the
DATE

Homecoming 2015 No Excuses Necessary

Excuses aren't necessary, but if you're looking for a reason to come to **Homecoming on Feb. 14, 2015**, excuses abound. Kids enjoy the free face painting and balloons, parents enjoy great basketball. And after you've warmed up the afternoon with the free chili, it's still early enough that you can take your sweetheart out for a special dinner. The women's team tips-off against Northwest College at 3 p.m. followed by the men's game at 5 p.m.



Alumni Association Scholarships Awarded

Alumni scholarship funds are helping 15 students this academic year, with around \$21,000 in scholarship support. The recipients are **Shiela Fowler**, the Babcock Memorial Alumni Association Academic Scholarship; **Clay Caper**, the Harold Boedeker Alumni Scholarship; **Karen Snyder**, the Dr. Elynn E. Cavanagh Nursing Scholarship;

Kaitlynn Hoff, the James and Anita Crump Alumni Scholarship; **Kiernan Brandt**, the Dickensheets Family Alumni Scholarship; **Ashleigh Young** and **Breanne French**, the Maryles Jean Patterson Gronberg Scholarship; **Amanda Thorhildur Karlsson-Welker**, the Eileen Jeanette Pentecost Scholarship; **Kiana X. Pepper** and **Colton Sasser**, the

Dick J. Prosser Scholarship; and **Andrea Harrington** and **Robyn St. Clair**, the Casper College Alumni Outstanding Nontraditional Student Scholarship. The recipients of the Class of 2014 Scholarship and the Don and Donna Klinker Scholarship will be awarded after this issue has gone to press.

New Members Join Alumni Board of Directors

Three new members joined the Casper College Alumni Board of Directors. **Ron Baugh** graduated from Casper College in 1968 with a degree in geology. He has spent his career working in the extractive petroleum industry. **Makayla Hallford** graduated from

Casper College in 2013 and is currently deputy director of the Wyoming Symphony. Hallford previously worked for Lee Enterprises as the arts and community reporter for the Casper Journal and then in the marketing department at the Casper Star-Tribune. **Ryan Hieb** is a

2008, 2009 fire science and criminal justice graduate who subsequently attended Chadron State College. Hieb works for the Casper Police Department and is on loan to the Department of Criminal Investigation in Cheyenne.

Gobles to Present ARTCORE Concert at Wheeler Concert Hall - March 1, 2015



2011 Distinguished Alumni, **Dan** ('80) and **Patty Goble** ('80) return to Casper Sunday, March 1, 2015 at 4 p.m. for a special ARTCORE concert in the Wheeler Concert Hall located in the Music Building on the Casper College campus. Dan Goble is dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut. He has been featured with the New York Philharmonic and is the alto saxophonist for the New York Saxophone Quartet and the baritone saxophonist with the Harvey Pittel Saxophone Quartet since 2001. Patty Goble is a familiar face on Broadway and was seen in

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" starring Daniel Radcliffe and John Laroquette. Other Broadway credits include the original casts of the recent revival of "Bye, Bye Birdie," "Curtains," "The Woman in White," and the Tony Award-winning musical revivals of "La Cage aux Folles" and "Kiss Me, Kate" as well as the critically acclaimed "Ragtime." She performed the role of Carlotta in "The Phantom of the Opera," on Broadway, Toronto, and in the Music Box Tour as well as the role of Christine in the Toronto production opposite Colm Wilkinson. Both Gobles are Casper College alumni. They will be accompanied by noted pianist, Russell Hirshfield.

Get Ready for the T-Bird Trek and the Casper College Firefighter Fitness 5K



You can do it if you begin training now. The Casper College Alumni Association and Foundation are sponsoring a half marathon and 5K and 2K runs on September 20, 2015. The half marathon will incorporate the beautiful Casper College campus, with a chance to view the campus from various vantage points along the race route. The building projects

are completed and the new Jorgensen/Bryce Commons features a great place to gather. Bring the family, and let everyone choose what event fits them. Interested in volunteering? We need lots of hands on deck. Email alumni@caspercollege.edu to help.

Join the Casper College Fire Science program for a challenging 5K around the Casper College campus. The Casper College Firefighter Fitness 5K will be Saturday, April 11, 2015. Pre-registration is from 7:30-8:15 a.m. and the race begins at 8:30 a.m. The cost for the 5K is \$25 with all proceeds going to the Chief Mac, Adam Longo, and Casey Uhlich scholarships. For additional information email Dale Anderson, anderson@caspercollege.edu or Bill Bohman, bohman@cityofcasperwy.com.

Watch the Casper College website for more details on both events.



Help Judge Scholarship Applications

The next Casper College scholarship online judging process is March 23-27, 2015. Volunteers are needed in the vetting of hundreds of applications from traditional and nontraditional students so we can award

hundreds of scholarships in an efficient and timely manner. The judging process is simple, but volunteers need to be familiar with operating a computer. Instructions and coaching are offered at each of several available sessions.

If you would like to help, please contact Elliott Ramage at eramage@caspercollege.edu or call 307-268-2325.

Campus News

Casper College Veteran Center Holds Grand Opening

The Casper College Veteran Center held its grand opening on October 21.

The grand opening began with a ribbon cutting, followed by brief presentations by **Cody Lakner** (current), president of the Casper College Veteran's Club; **Daniel Gallegos** (AS, '09), military liaison for Sen. John Barrasso; **Lisa Goss**, veteran and Hathaway coordinator; and **Dr. Scott Bennion** (AS, '68), Casper College trustee.

"This center is an important new resource for students at Casper College who are veterans or active service personnel," said Goss, who added that all veterans and

service members were asked to wear their service awards to the grand opening.

The event was free and open to the public and featured hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. The Casper College Veteran Center is located on the first floor of the Goodstein Foundation Library, Rm. 108A.

Stan Lowe, U.S. Merchant Marine (Veteran) and Chairman Emeritus, Wyoming Veterans' Commission with Gallegos, Bennion and Lakner.



Dispatch is Newest Certificate Program at Casper College

Casper College began offering a one-semester certificate program in dispatch in the spring 2015 semester.

"A certificate in dispatch will train students in criminal law, professionalism and ethics, emergency telephone answering techniques, radio dispatching and codes, critical incidents, stress management, community policing and relations, in addition to software use for dispatch programs," said **Dale Anderson**,

fire science department chair and instructor at Casper College. "The program blends theory and practice into a learning experience that develops skills applicable to complex real-world problems. The program is designed to provide a solid foundation for future growth to help meet the growing demand for professionals in the world of dispatching emergency units," he added.

"Casper College decided to put together this dispatch certificate opportunity after we were approached by the City of Casper to offer a program to train dispatch operators," said Anderson. According to Anderson, dispatch persons are used in all 911-call centers throughout the U.S. and "there is a shortage of these persons throughout the state of Wyoming. Projected growth in this occupation is 10-19 percent, which is the national average," he said.

CC Foundation President Honored

Casper College Foundation President **John Jorgensen** was honored with the 2014 Council for Resource Development Benefactor Award in the Public Rural Medium-Campus Institution category. Jorgensen received the award during the CRD's Benefactor Awards Banquet on November 8, 2014 in conjunction with the CRD Annual National Conference in

Washington, D.C. According to the CRD, the CRD Benefactor Award "recognizes individuals, foundations, or businesses/corporations for outstanding contributions to community colleges. The CRD Benefactor Award embodies the ideals of philanthropy, leadership, and volunteerism in the service of community, technical, and junior colleges."



Casper College Recognized as Military Friendly School

Casper College has been named to the 2015 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 2015 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 for the fourth year in a row," said **Lisa Goss**, veteran 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 sixth year, the 2015 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 8,000 schools nationwide approved for VA tuition funding.



Casper College to Focus on Eight Programs with Grant

Thanks to a recently received grant totaling nearly 2.5 million, Casper College will work to address Wyoming's energy industry workforce needs, according to Lesley Travers, dean for the Casper College School of Business and Industry. The eight programs to receive funding from the grant are welding, extractive technology, diesel power, geology, electronics, GIS, process technology, and renewable energy, specifically wind.

"The grant will create and enhance learning opportunities to serve more students, provide student retention and accelerate student completion. We have hired a career navigator and will develop an online orientation and formal procedures for adoption of credit for prior learning," Travers said.

According to Travers, the eight programs will modularize curricula, develop competencies, align workforce needs, and "fulfill the Governor's wishes to 'achieve excellence in energy development, production and stewardship of natural resources.' This grant will also provide some much-needed equipment to add more students to already full programs. We will end up with self-sustaining college programs that have had some rigorous evaluations that will address program outcomes and implementation. And through this process, our programs will continually improve because we will have a project manager who will keep us working toward program excellence. This continuous feedback will ensure recruitment, assessment and workforce needs for students

who are Trade Adjustment Assistance-eligible adults, veterans, unemployed, underemployed, low-income, and workers who have been injured and need retraining," she noted.

The grant is part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) competitive grant program, through the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. Casper College was the only Wyoming institution to be selected from the pool of six applicants who applied for the grant, Travers said.

Casper College is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Don't forget to write (...call, email or post on Facebook)

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



President Walter Nolte, the fifth person to carry that title at Casper College,

will retire June 30, leaving a legacy of growth and change at Wyoming's oldest community college.

President Nolte announced his plans to faculty and staff at an August all-campus meeting marking the start of the academic year. He plans to serve through June 30, 2015 after serving exactly 11 years as president.

"This is my 38th year as a college administrator. I'm going to be 67 later this year, and will have been president two years longer than I ever thought I would," he says. "Life transitions are never particularly easy, but Becky and I are looking forward to having more time to spend with our family."

A Look at
the Impact
of CC's Fifth
President

President Nolte to Retire



Former nursing director Jolene Knaus wins over former VP of Student Services Jim Ochiltree at a sumo 'wrestling' match.

The Noltes plan to split their time between a home they currently own in Missoula, Montana, where their daughter Nicole and her family lives, and a condo they are purchasing in Fort Collins, Colo., where their son and his family lives.

Although he has been a college administrator in several states, he's sure he will miss none more than Casper. "My 11 years in Casper will be the longest I've ever been in one place," he says. "There are so many people that make this place so special. I'm just glad the route between our two homes will go right through Casper. I'll be visiting often."

He also says he may work on some short-term, professional projects, such as assisting community colleges through presidential transitions, serving as a consultant on community college issues, or doing some teaching. He may continue his popular noncredit lectures on the historical context of the television series *Downton Abbey*. This summer he is leading a Casper College continuing education trip to England, which will include a visit to Highclere Castle, the setting for the series.

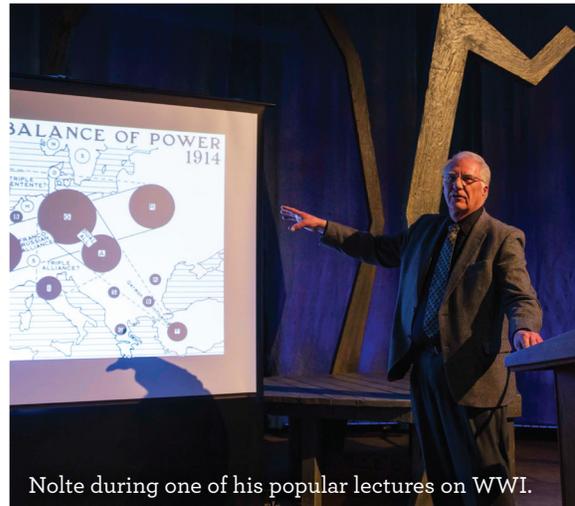
He's quick to point out that the enhancements at Casper College over the past 11 years were possible only because of the shared governance culture of the college. "My job has been to provide constant encouragement of people in the college community to make sure that everything we do helps us fulfill our mission."

When asked about the most satisfying parts of his presidency, he points to the 10 commencement exercises he has led, and the last one he'll lead this May. "Without a doubt, commencement day is my favorite of the year. It brings closure to all the efforts of the faculty, staff and other administrators at the college and celebrates our students' success. It's why we're all here."

Right: Photo taken the year Nolte started his career in administration in 1978. Pictured with Nolte, his wife Becky.



Santa Nolte and Becky Nolte out for a spin around campus.



Nolte during one of his popular lectures on WWI.

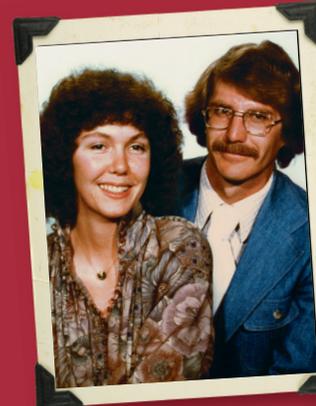
Career Highlights

Educational Background

- University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D., 1991 (Educ. Admin. - Community College Leadership)
- University of Puget Sound, B.A., 1972 (History), M.A., 1975 (History)
- Tacoma Community College, Associate of Arts, 1970
- University of Washington, 1966-1967

Professional Background

- Casper College, President, 2004-Present
- North Central Missouri College, President, 1997-2004
- Flathead Valley CC, V.P./Dean Instruction/Student Services/Chief Academic Officer, 1993-1997
- Tacoma CC, Dean of Continuing Education, Business Division Chair, 1987-1993
- Pierce College, Instructional Services Manager, 1978-1984; Adjunct History Instructor 1976-78
- University of Puget Sound, Graduate Teaching, History Department, 1972-1974



Nolte and then Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal at the groundbreaking for the Gateway Building.



Building on Academic Traditions

Despite the dramatic physical changes on campus, Nolte has always been quick to point out that those changes are only as valuable as the educational quality they support.

Dr. Nolte points to the Gateway Building as an example of form following function. “Consolidating student services in the Gateway Building was not just about having new desks or a rearranged space. It was about reducing barriers for students. Having to visit one counter instead of three makes a big difference to a young mother with small children registering for classes that will allow her to begin a new career, or for the family that just drove three hours to enroll the first person in their family to ever attend college.”

Numerous other academic initiatives were launched under his leadership. The Center for Learning through Service has enabled Casper College to build the highest rate of civic engagement of any Wyoming college,

with more than 750 students participating in service learning opportunities. The college’s first honors program was developed to attract more high-achieving students. An international education program led to partnerships with several foreign institutions. He also oversaw the creation of the college’s Learning Communities program, which pairs groups of students with collections of courses from various disciplines.

These and other enhancements contributed to Casper College’s placing in the top 15 percent of U.S. community colleges for student-faculty interaction, portion of area residents enrolled, and college completion rates for students.

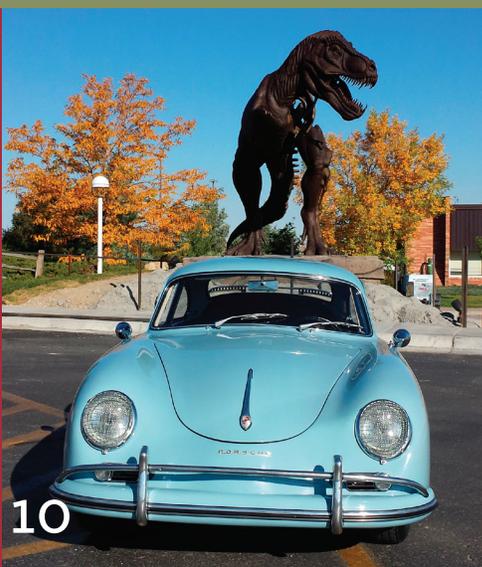
Dr. Nolte also guided a reorganization of the academic structure of campus, leading to the current structure of five separate schools within the college, and a consolidation of noncredit programs into a single college division. Since the reorganization, the college broke credit and noncredit enrollment records, highlighted by a record high 927 degrees and certificates being awarded in the spring 2014 semester.

Architect of Change

Shortly after President Nolte arrived on campus, he led efforts to develop a culture of continuous strategic planning. As part of that process, the college’s first master plan for facilities was developed with input from campus and community.

In order to fund much of the master plan, Dr. Nolte led efforts to secure voter support for a \$35 million bond issue on the 2008 ballot. Local voters approved the measure by a wide margin, even amidst the start of a national economic downturn.

The bond issue, combined with strong support from the Casper College Foundation and the State of Wyoming, has enabled more than \$100 million in improvements to the campus in recent years. Most visible are five new buildings, The Gateway Building; Residence Hall, Early Childhood Learning Center, Music Building, Casper College Student Union and University of Wyoming at Casper. Other portions of the master plan that were



Rex Rides 'round the World

CC President Walt Nolte backed his vintage ride up to Rex’s pen for this great shot that was featured in the *Porsche 356 Registry*, an international Porsche owners magazine. **If you have a shot of you and Rex** (or anything else CC-related) that you’d like to share, send it to alumni@caspercollege.edu and we’ll do our best to fit it into a future issue of **Footprints!**



Nolte at 2004 celebration welcoming him to campus.



Nolte and Becky Nolte chatting with the late Craig Thomas, U.S. Senator from Wyoming.

completed include the purchase of a ranch west of Casper to provide a permanent home for agriculture and rodeo activities, the use of a former city fire station for fire science training, and the completion of the Sharon D. Nichols Auditorium, in partnership with the Wyoming Trucking Association.

Soon after his arrival, he developed the College Council, which brings together representatives of each of the college's governance bodies to review all major strategic decisions made on campus. He later began the Casper College Leadership Institute, an internal employee development program to help provide a continuous flow of capable new leaders throughout campus.

Strong ties with the community have been a consistent theme at Casper College. Bill McDowell, chair of the Natrona County Commissioners, recently wrote, "Walt Nolte came to Casper and quickly realized the opportunity to expand the educational services to the community. Following successful previous executives he coalesced the community and expanded the role of Casper College significantly. The community was rewarded with an increased ability to garner both additional associate degree programs and bachelor's and master's degree programs through the still evolving relationship with the University of Wyoming."

Dr. Nolte has been active in legislative relations at the state level as well. He has

helped secure increased funding for community colleges, as well as several changes to state statutes that enable the colleges to operate more efficiently. Former Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal recently lauded Dr. Nolte, writing, "I turned to President Nolte when I wanted the unfettered truth about post-secondary education issues. Our numerous and candid conversations, his commitment to the college he leads, and my observations of his leadership and management style all support my decision to offer my highest endorsement on his behalf."

Dr. Nolte has been similarly recognized at the regional and national level. The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District #4 named him their 2011 Pacesetter of the Year. He was also named a distinguished graduate of the University of Texas at Austin College of Education, and in 2011 was named one of the first recipients of the Tacoma County Community College Distinguished Alumnus Award. John E. Roueche, Ph.D., arguably the foremost scholar on community college leadership, recently wrote, "Dr. Nolte is one of those rare leaders who practices well what he preaches, leading by his own excellent example. He is also a leader who is quite comfortable in his own skin and delights in the success of all on his team. He truly understands that the community college is of, by and for the community."

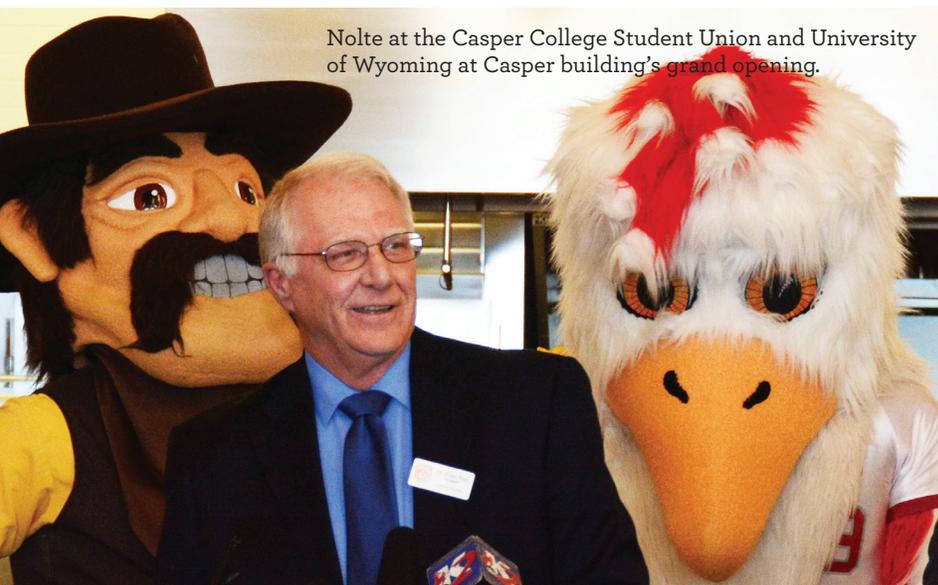


Presidential Search

At press time for Footprints, the college was nearing the end of the application period for President Nolte's successor. Updates on the search, and a schedule that includes the opportunity for the campus community and the public to meet the candidates and share their opinions, are available at caspercollege.edu/presidentialsearch.



Nolte with Dr. Stephen Nicholas (AS, '74) who was recognized as one of five American Association of Community Colleges' Outstanding Alumni in 2005.



Nolte at the Casper College Student Union and University of Wyoming at Casper building's grand opening.



Celebrating Christmas with trustees, including the late Sharon Nichols, Jane Sullivan, and Dr. Scott Bennion.



A Step Back in Time:

by Lisa Thalken (AAS, '05)

Fort Caspar Prepares to Celebrate 150 Years



Today when you drive through West Casper, you will see stoplights, pavement, houses, and business. But 150 years ago this was all untamed land, broken only by the dozen or so log buildings that made up the small military outpost called Platte Bridge Station. On July 26, 1865, history was made when a small group of cavalry soldiers, led by the young Lieutenant Caspar Collins, rode across the bridge to investigate a small group of Indian braves. Little did they know that this small band of warriors was actually more than 3,000 men, gathered from three different tribes and determined to right the wrongs that had been done to them. The soldiers were overcome and their comrades watched in horror from across the river as one by one they were cut down, out of range of the canon.

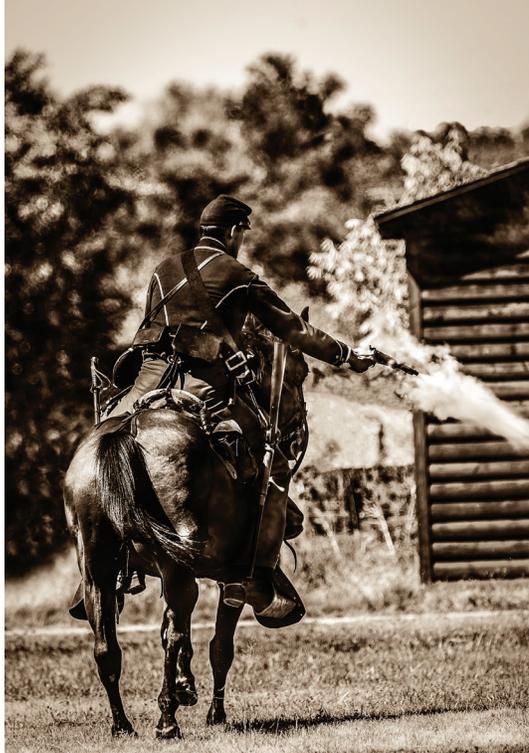
Now, we live in one of the largest cities in the state, bearing the name of the brave young man who gave his life that day: Caspar Collins.

The 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, along with the Fort Caspar Museum Association, is working hard to preserve and memorialize the memory of all who fought and died on that day. This upcoming summer, on the 150th anniversary of that battle, plans are in the works for one of the largest historical reenactments this side of the Mississippi. This three-day event has been in the planning stages for over a year already,

Native American dancers will perform at the event.



Thalcken and daughter, Liberty.



Cavalry soldier in action.

and with good reason. The logistics of handling not only the hundreds of living historians that are coming from all over the country but also the public, is monumental to say the least. The dates are set for July 24-26, 2015.

The event will start with the opening of the three living history camps with re-enactors in period dress portraying daily life in the area during that time. The fort will be alive with a military camp including infantry and Cavalry divisions, a civilian camp and an Indian camp. Living history demonstrations will be happening around every corner for the duration of the weekend. Friday will also be the beginning of the lecture series, which will continue throughout the weekend and feature the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and "The Story of George Bent and What Happened to the Indians after Platte Bridge." The headline events for that day will be the Dutch oven competition and a special performance by the Wind River Dancers from Riverton, Wyoming.

Saturday will be more lectures, more living history, and the pinnacle of the day, the battle itself, which will take place at Morad Park, just south of the fort. We are also pleased to invite world renowned wet plate photographer, Walter Zsabo, who will be demonstrating different period photography techniques and even offering wet plate photography to participants. The night will culminate in a period Victorian dance, complete with a live band and a caller who will ensure that everyone has a good time.

Things will wrap up Sunday with cavalry and infantry drills and the final lecture. And to add a bit of modern commercialism to the mix, there will also be vendors on site, with both modern food and drink and period items.

An event of this magnitude doesn't simply plan itself. The planning committee began meeting in 2013 and is made up of volunteers from the museum, living historians, community members, and good old-fashioned history lovers. Several Casper College alumni are integral parts of the committee. **Con Trumbull** (AS, '10), is co-chair and also sits on the Fort Caspar Museum Association Board. A member of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Trumbull has been kept busy coordinating the camp layout and the vendor and sutler registration. **Daniel Mattern** (AAS, '06) leans more toward the infantry side of the military, but he has been involved with living history at the fort since he was a child. Mattern is one of those volunteers who will help wherever he is needed. He is passionate about history, especially at Fort Caspar where his reenacting "roots" are planted. **Johanna Wickman** (AA, '03, and AA, '09) is the president of Wickman Historical Consultants and museum assistant at the Wyoming Veteran's Museum. She has been especially helpful with marketing and fundraising, plus her experience planning a similar event at the La Quinta Museum in Palm Springs, California has been helpful as well. Wickman will be lecturing on "The 11th Kansas and 11th Ohio Cavalry: Their Story and Life on the Plains" during the celebration. I am heading up the marketing and fundraising sub-committees. A Wyoming native, I have long been a sucker for history, especially when it involves living it. I especially love that I can have my 3-year-old-daughter, Liberty, join me at these living history events.

As the event draws near, the group is beginning to need more and more volunteers as well as donations and sponsorships to ensure that the event will be fully funded. The event itself will be free and open to the public, but additional funding is needed to bring in the re-enactors and lectures, supply food and water for the horses, provide public amenities and many other things. If you are interested in volunteering your time as a living historian or as an event volunteer, or if you would like to donate to the event, please visit fortcaspar.org for more information. In the meantime, be looking for us in July of 2015!

Thalcken is a Wheatland, Wyoming native, who moved to Casper in 2002 and promptly enrolled at CC. She finished her associate in management in 2005. She is currently living in Douglas, Wyoming with her 3-year-old daughter Liberty and black lab Sadie. Thalcken works as a document imager for an oil and gas leasing company as well as running her own portrait photography business, but wishes she could organize and participate in living history events full time.

Cody, Wyoming native Jason Whitman moved to Casper in 2012. He is a local eye doctor, ski enthusiast, western and wildlife photographer, and father to two beautiful girls. Whitman strives to bring the western spirit of Wyoming to life through his artwork and is thrilled to be the photographer for this historic event. To see more of his work, go to jasonwhitmanphoto.com.

Photos by Jason Whitman

The 150th Anniversary of the Battles of Platte Bridge and Red Buttes

What? Three day living history event and re-enactment showcasing living history camps, lecture series, Dutch oven competition, Indian powwow, Victorian dance, battle reenactment and more!

Where? Fort Caspar Museum, Casper, Wyoming

When? July 24-26, 2015. Friday's events from noon-9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost? Event is free but volunteers and donations are needed. Certain events will have a small fee, such as the pancake breakfast and Victorian dance.

Info? fortcaspar.org or [facebook.com/plattebridge150](https://www.facebook.com/plattebridge150)



Carleen and Bob tie the knot.

by Carleen B. Grossman (AA, '69)

A Fulfilled Life

An Oral History

Growing up in Casper, grandparents on both sides of the family would either come to visit our house or we would drive to visit them at my mother's parents' Wyoming ranch near Kaycee, Wyoming. I remember my maternal grandfather telling about the famous Dull Knife Indian Battlefield across from the ranch house and also about how Butch Cassidy frequented the area. Aunts and uncles from Montana, California, Colorado, and Utah were persons we saw often either in Wyoming or on their own turf.

My father always took an interest in genealogy so when I was in 6th grade he had genealogical research done for the Cole family. It was discovered that we were related to the outlaw, Jesse James. This research sparked my mother to do research on her family; she discovered our relationship to Oliver Wolcott who signed

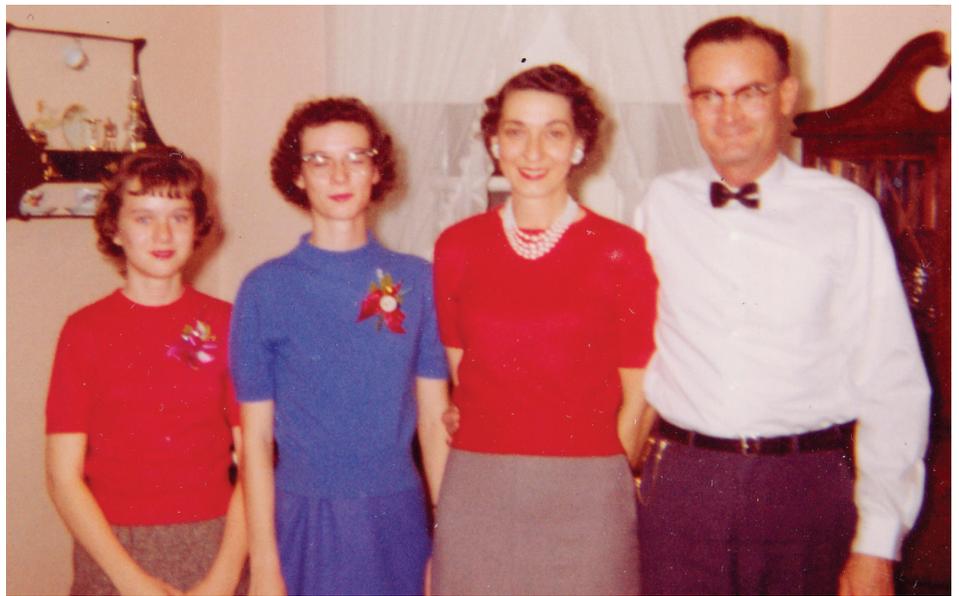


the Declaration of Independence and to Amelia Earhart. This research was humorously brought up at many of our holiday family dinners when my father would ask relatives which side of the table they wanted to sit on - the outlaw side or the other side!

I was born with a nasty hemangioma tumor on the side of my face. After my birth it began to grow and disfigure my face and frequently bleed. In those days hemangiomas were treated with radiation. So, during the first year of my life my mother flew frequently with me to Denver to have the tumor treated. I remember my mother telling me she used to hold me in her arms and cry while traveling back and forth for my treatments. However, it all turned out well and I was only left with a circular scar on my face where the tumor used to be.

When I was 5 or 6 years old, I had my first friend ever! She was the neighbor's granddaughter and was the child of a wealthy, Casper oilman and cattle rancher. Her parents appreciated her playing with me because it helped expose her to how other people lived; so they would bring her to her grandmother's house frequently so that we could play together. It was the reverse side of the coin for me, I got to see how the more affluent people lived. Our friendship grew and became extremely strong. We still, as of today, keep in touch and are good friends.

At Jefferson School, I made friends with schoolmates and Brownie Scouts. During my teen years at Dean Morgan Junior High School and Natrona County High School, I began to blossom. I became more assured and had more friends in school and in Job's Daughters, a masonic organization. Ninth grade earth science teachers Beecher Strube and **Dana Van Burgh** ('64) shaped and influenced my life the most. And I am still best of friends with them both, as is my husband. We telephone and even visit them in Wyoming whenever possible. During the 1980's, before they retired, they made multiple visits to our Maryland home. These two teachers are my heroes.



“I loved my experiences there (CC) and it helped to launch my career as a teacher.”



Looking Back

The Oral History Project

by Vince Crolla, Director
Western History Center

Several years ago, the Casper College Western History Center, Center for Excellence, Tate Geological Museum, and interested faculty and students, formed a cooperative to gather oral histories from the members of our community. The collection recently hit number 130 and we are thrilled with our progress to date. We intend to continue expanding this collection in the years to come, creating a valuable and enduring resource for the oral history of Casper.

The mission of the cooperative is not only to record these histories, but to preserve, transcribe, and make them freely available to interested people. To that end, we have partnered with Tom Rea, editor of Wyohistory.org, to place the audio files and transcriptions online alongside other oral histories from all over the state of Wyoming.

One of the first steps undertaken by the cooperative was constructing a list of potential interviewees. This resulted in almost 200 names. We have since interviewed people such as former Casper College Presidents Lloyd Loftin and LeRoy Strausner, Casper Mayors Bob Pettigrew and Kenyne Schlager, and Governor Mike Sullivan. Western History Center volunteer Dana Van Burgh has been instrumental to the project, conducting a majority of the interviews and encouraging Carleen Grossman and others to share their stories. Other volunteers and student workers have done a fantastic job on the often difficult and always time consuming task of transcription.

This project is made possible by dedicated volunteers and staff. We are always looking for people interested in conducting interviews, working on transcriptions, or suggesting interviewees. Please contact Vince Crolla or Rhiannon Cady at wyoref@caspercollege.edu or 307-268-2680 if you are interested in getting involved.

Travel was an integral part of our family life. By the time I was in my senior year of high school, my parents had taken us vacationing to all the states in the western half of the U.S. plus Canada and Mexico. That was quite an accomplishment for a blue collar family whose father worked as an in-plant truck driver at the Casper Standard Oil Refinery and whose mother was a housewife who did baby sitting in our home to earn extra income. My mother's extra income from babysitting put both my sister and me through four years of college to earn bachelor degrees. My mother, who wanted to go to college and never had the opportunity, had promised herself that her daughters would be able to do that, and she saw to it!

For fun my family would go for Sunday drives to Alcova, Pathfinder Dam, Goose Egg Ranch, and Casper Mountain. These outings with my father, mother, and sister usually would be in our Uncle Ray Cole's car. My father drove and Uncle Ray would relax in the backseat smoking a big, smelly cigar. Uncle Ray was like a grandfather to me and I adored him in spite of the smelly cigars. I was also involved in Job's Daughters, church, ice skating, and snowshoeing or skiing at Uncle Tom Cole's cabin on Casper Mountain.

After graduating from high school, I attended Casper College with much academic and social success. I loved my experiences there and it helped to launch my career as a teacher. Learning was fun and gave me much more confidence. When I first started Casper College, one of the things that made a big impression on me was getting to be with older people as some of my classmates; this was truly a broadening of my horizons. My education was extremely important for me. I went straight through four years of college, my first two at Casper College and my last two at the University of Wyoming. I married Robert Grossman, and then entered UW graduate school to earn a Master's Degree

in Education with a minor in English. Bob was and still is the kindest, most caring, gentle, and intelligent man I had and have ever known.

Fresh out of graduate school we moved to Ellicott City, Maryland, where I obtained a job teaching English at Howard Community College, in Columbia, Maryland. My teaching was extremely rewarding and satisfying and the most important thing about it was that it stretched me to continue to learn for the next 34 years that I taught at the college.

My greatest accomplishment was a book-publishing project that I designed for my college students at Howard Community College. Each student wrote a children's book under my guidance and the entire class had the opportunity to become published authors through a publisher. This experience was the highlight of my career. I watched my students grow throughout this process.

Retirement was perfectly timed for me, because I knew it could not get any better. I had just won an excellence in teaching award and published a children's book about the childhood of Amelia Earhart and gotten to attend several fully paid conferences related to my kudos. Now during my retirement in Pennsylvania, I devote time to writing a book review column for a local newspaper and helping my husband in developing a nature preserve for hikers and photographers.

At this point in my life, I feel very fulfilled. I have had a wonderful married life of 43 years with the best man in the world. Together for our recreation, we have been able to travel to many countries in the world.

I have had a tremendous career of teaching embellished by my creation of a book project for my students, a perfect retirement in a gorgeous mountain home on 23 acres in Central Pennsylvania, which has also expanded into developing our 41 acre nature preserve, and all the time making new and wonderful friendships.



Bob, Carleen and Ginger
enjoy a snowy walk.

Essence of Rex

Dedication Ceremony a Big Success



A large crowd gathered for the dedication of "Essence of Rex" in August.

Chris Navarro, Marialyce Tobin, Dr. Walter Nolte, and Foundation President John Jorgensen cut the ribbon at the August dedication.



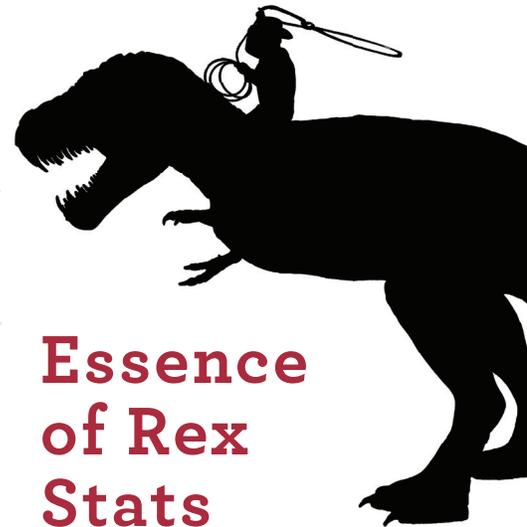
Life size at 13.5 feet in height, 28 feet long, and 7 feet wide, the size of a juvenile *Trex*.

Over 1,000 pounds of clay were used to sculpt the clay original.

Cut up in sections and then hauled to Caleco Foundry in Cody, Wyoming where it was transformed to bronze.

Bronze sculpture weighs more than two tons.

For visibility at night, the hollowed out sculpture is lit from inside with LED 12-volt white lighting on the inside running down through the skull, the spinal column, and the tail.

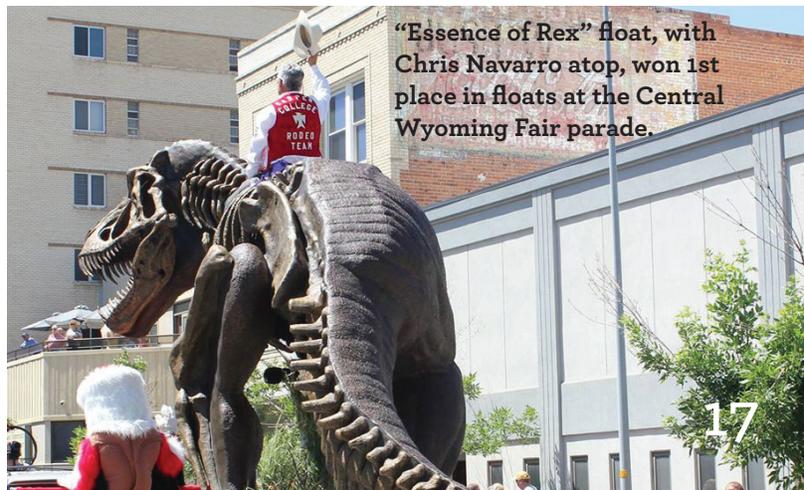


Essence of Rex Stats

Dr. Walter Nolte, Chris Navarro, and Marialyce Tobin, "Essence of Rex" donor.



"Essence of Rex" float, with Chris Navarro atop, won 1st place in floats at the Central Wyoming Fair parade.



Notes from T-Bird Camp

by William Landen (AS, '76)

Milestones and Memories Casper College Honors a Coach and a Fallen Comrade

When Casper College friends and alumni look back on the fall of 2014, they will likely remember two things: a milestone and a memory.

It was a fall to remember to be sure, both on the court and in the arena. **Tom Parker's** rodeo team is off to another great start; midway through the college rodeo season his men's team sits in third place, just off the pace set by Gillette and the University of Wyoming. Watch for rough stock riders **Neil Williams** and **Dantan Bertsch** to lead the way this spring for the red vests. The women's rodeo team had its best fall season in memory, too.

Meanwhile, the Thunderbird volleyball team endured an up-and-down season but rose up when it really counted, finishing runner-up in the Region IX tournament. The T-Birds fell in five sets to Northwest College, which eventually finished in the Final Four of the national tournament. Clearly the T-Birds were playing their very best volleyball come tournament time, placing four players on the all-tournament team

(Kacie Chinen, Ashley Seiler, Madison Legerski, and Kiarra Johnson).

And both basketball teams are off to solid starts on seasons that hold a lot of promise.

Hail to the Chief

Fall 2014 will be remembered for that milestone but also for a great loss. On the eve of the 2014-15 basketball season, Casper College lost a close friend and former Thunderbird.

LeRoy Strausner (AA, '60) was the fourth president at Casper College. He died after a long fight with pancreatic cancer.

Strausner first arrived on campus in 1958 and made it as a walk-on with Swede Erickson's basketball team. Complete with a big smile and a flattop haircut, Strausner set about helping Erickson build a nationally recognized basketball program.

Strausner went on to finish degrees at the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Wyoming. He returned to Casper College and served in many capacities, including president, until his retirement in 2004.

On November 1st, the college, the community and the Thunderbirds paused to remember the former president. Athletic Director Bill Landen announced that Strausner's No. 4 would be permanently displayed as the first inductee into a players' Ring of Fame. Swede's widow Artie Erickson, along with Strausner's family and many friends, were there to celebrate and remember.

There were some ironies that night. The T-Birds were playing their longtime nemesis and rival, Northeastern Colorado (somebody commented that LeRoy would have loved that). Late in the game the T-Birds trailed by as many as 13 points, before No. 4, **Hakeem Rogers** (Philadelphia), led a Casper comeback, scoring 10 of his 14 points in the final five minutes. The T-Birds overhauled the Plainsmen and wound up winning the game by four points.

"I'm pretty sure LeRoy was there and helped us with that comeback," said Coach

Dan Russell (AS, '06).

The exact location of the ring of fame has yet to be determined, but the No. 4 will always be there, close to the court and close to a lot of hearts.

Casper College President Dr. Walter Nolte and Bill Landen announce the Ring of Fame.



500

A Big Milestone

Despite those early inconsistencies it was the lady spikers who generated the biggest headlines of the fall. In early September **Madison Legerski** and **Ashley Seiler** and the rest of the T-Birds helped **Angel Sharman** win her 500th career match at a tournament in Sterling, Colorado, where they immediately donned 500-win t-shirts to honor their coach following the victory. When the team got back home Casper College celebrated with the team and their coach. Sharman was presented with a plaque honoring her milestone win, which will be placed in perpetuity in the Erickson Thunderbird Gym lobby.

Prior to this year's NJCAA National Volleyball Tournament, which is now held at the Casper Events Center, Sharman was honored by the Proud to Host the Best committee for her commitment on behalf of Casper to host that national event.

Sharman just completed her 20th year of college coaching and her 14th at Casper.

Photos by Jamie Legerski



Cindy and Don Sharman of Lodgepole Neb. with their daughter.

T-Bird Women's and Men's Basketball 2015 Schedule

Jan. 30	Gillette College (W/M)	Casper, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Sheridan College (W/M)	Casper, WY	3/5 p.m.
Feb. 3	Western Nebraska (W/M)	Casper, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	Miles CC (W/M)	Miles City, MT	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	Little Big Horn College (W/M)	Crow Agency, MT	3/5 p.m.
Feb. 12	Central Wyoming (W/M)	Riverton, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
HOMECOMING • HOMECOMING • HOMECOMING • HOMECOMING			
Feb. 14	Northwest College (W/M)	Casper, WY	3/5 p.m.

Feb. 17	Western Wyoming (W/M)	Rock Springs, WY	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Central Wyoming (W/M)	Casper, WY	3/5 p.m.
Feb. 24	Western Nebraska (W/M)	Scottsbluff, NE	5:30/7:30 p.m.
March 2-6	Region IX Tournament (M)	North Winner	TBD
March 3-7	Region IX Tournament (W)	South Sub-Region	TBD
March 16-21	National Tournament (W)	Salina, KS	TBD
March 16-19	National Tournament (M)	Hutchinson, KS	TBD

T-Bird Rodeo 2015 Schedule

March 20-22	Gillette College	Gillette, WY
March 27-29	Eastern Wyo. College	Torrington, WY
April 10-12	Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO
April 17-19	CC Ropin' & Riggins' Days	Casper, WY
May 1-3	University of Wyoming	Laramie, WY

What happened to your alma mater?

CC Alum and Community Members Visit Casper College Campus

by Kyla Foltz (AS, '02)
Director of Admissions



How long has it been since you made footprints on campus?

As the sun hung low in the Wyoming sky I left the office late as usual. I looked to the west and took in the view of the distant horizon beyond the overlook by T-Bird Gym. As I approached my car I encountered a van with out-of-state plates where a tall athletic man and his family lingered.

"Do you know someone with keys to T-Bird Gym?" he said.

I hesitated, "Yes. I do."

"Will you let me in? I used to play here," he inquired.

I had guessed as much based on his towering frame, well beyond six feet tall. "No, but I can go with you," I countered.

"I used to play for Swede," he said, brimming with pride.

For the next half hour I had the pleasure of walking down memory lane with **Mickey Penosky** (AA, '83) and his family. He recalled the games on the hardwood, told stories about college life, and showed his family his old stomping grounds.

As we stood back outside, I relayed the 25-year institutional history that makes up the Casper College story since his attendance. With pride I shared the growth and success of Casper College.

While Penosky's visit and encounter with me was happenstance, I began to notice a trend when I received a request to tour more alumni the next month. This group took me further back in time. The group consisted of CC alumni who attended Casper Community College in 1954-55 and 1955-56. These were some of the very first students to take classes on the new campus after the former Liesinger Administration Building was completed in 1955. Having students tell me their stories about attending Casper College during those formative years was a delight, and just as exciting was showing off the new buildings and sharing more recent tales about campus events.

Another opportunity to showcase our vibrant campus came during the fall semester when a local group of retired professionals visited campus. With the return of faculty to their classrooms and labs we rolled out the red carpet in Thunderbird Territory. Guests saw the best technologies in robotics, drafting, and

manufacturing; listened to a contemporary music ensemble, and explored the state-of-the-art learning environment of the health science simulation lab. Finally we met with representatives for the University of Wyoming at Casper who continue to expand the bachelor's, master's and doctorate programs available in Casper for more than 30 years.

As a former student I am in awe of how Casper College continues to reinvent and improve itself for students and the community. As a staff member, I am blessed to be a part of the CC family every day, watching the campus change brick by brick over the last decade. If you haven't stepped foot on campus in a while, you should definitely come for a visit. I invite you back to walk down your memory lane and discover what has changed and see what is new. There is no better time than now to support your alma mater. Casper College truly is the gem of the city and she now shines brighter than ever.

I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

For campus tour information please contact the office of admissions at 307-268-3605 or submit a request form online at caspercollege.edu/visit.



Kyla

(Cochran)

Foltz graduated from Casper College in 2002 with a degree in agriculture.

She received her bachelor's in secondary education-agriculture from the University of Wyoming, and just this past spring received her master's in organizational management from Chadron State College. While a student at Casper College she was a work-study in the public relations office. She returned to Casper College in July 2005 beginning as a recruiter for admissions services, and in 2011 was promoted to director.



Mickey Penosky and family

International Education

CC Students Travel the World

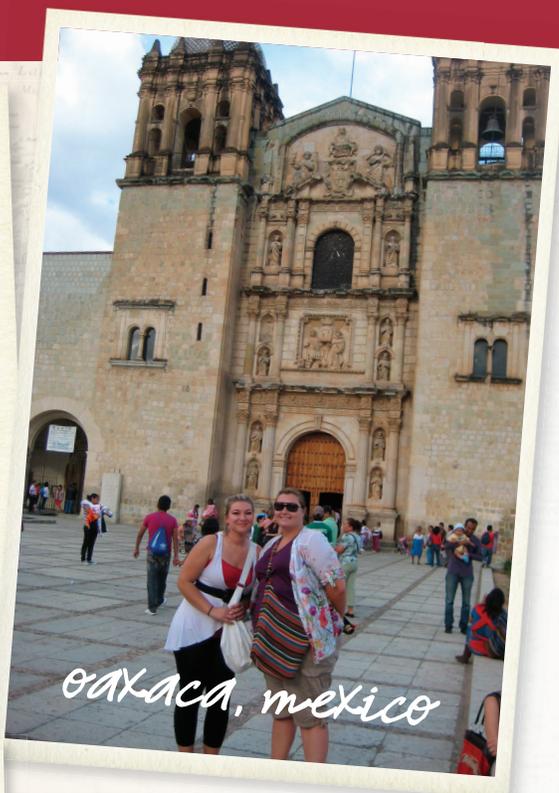
"Going to Oaxaca was one of the greatest experiences of my life! Visiting such a culturally enriched part of the world not only benefited my Spanish acquisition, but also enabled in me an appreciation for cultural differences that I carry with me in my everyday life. The experiences I had in Oaxaca will last a lifetime."

Julia Halbur

Casper College

125 College Drive

Casper, WY U.S.A.



"For me, this trip was nothing short of life changing. I was able to see world famous museums and specimens that I've been reading and learning about for years. I was able to dig in the coveted sites and talk to experts in the field. I can without a doubt say that this trip rekindled my inner fire and reminded me why I started studying geology and paleontology in the first place. It's because of this trip that I now know what I want to do with my life. I want to be a paleontologist."

Colter Reed

Casper College

125 College Drive

Casper, WY U.S.A.





peru

Here I am taking a patient history with the help of an interpreter. Often times, the whole family came to the clinic together. We performed patient assessment on each member of the family, one at a time, and provided health education and care based upon each patient's history and symptoms.

Bekka Smithers

Casper College

125 College Drive

Casper, WY U.S.A.

"Throughout our travels in Martinique, I amassed so many irreplaceable memories because I was required to step outside my comfort zone. I learned things, not only in a different culture, but also in a different language."

Sarah Snyder

Casper College

125 College Drive

Casper, WY U.S.A.



martinique



Maya Russell, Director of International Education

"Casper College students will be called upon to work in an increasingly global market. Study abroad is becoming a crucial part of a well-rounded education as it pushes students to get out of their comfort zones and experience another culture, language, environment, and education system. Not only is study abroad an amazing and fun adventure, but it teaches students how to interact with people from other countries and cultures, which is becoming an essential part of the workplace today. Simply put, study abroad is one of the most exciting and enriching opportunities available at Casper College!"

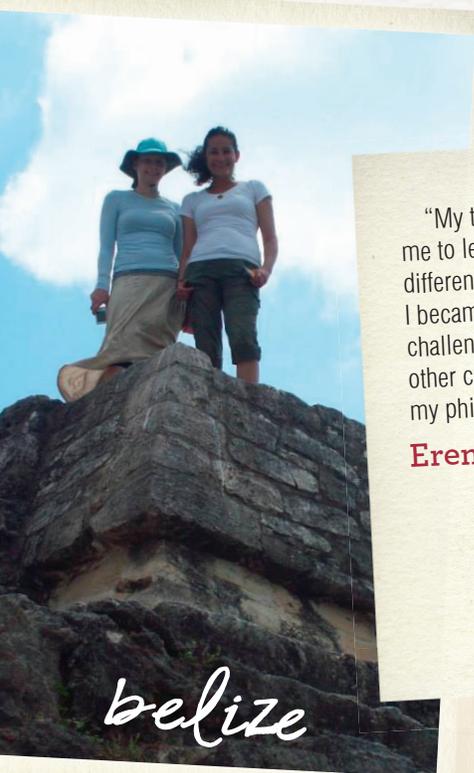
"My trip to Belize allowed me to learn and understand a different culture. As a result, I became more aware of the challenges that people face in other countries, which expanded my philosophy of education."

Eren Garcia

Casper College

125 College Drive

Casper, WY U.S.A.



belize



Former Seton House Resident

Helps Facility Grow by Giving Back

by Brendan Meyer, Casper Star-Tribune staff writer

Gale Schnee Bryden (AS, '93) was a single mom of two children, a 7-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy, when she lost her home.

She'd moved from Lander to Casper in the summer of 1990 to pursue a nursing degree at Casper College. Her young family lived in a cozy four-bedroom home with a double garage.

Her rent was an affordable \$300, but that summer, her landlord unexpectedly increased the price to \$350. Gale's child support paid only \$360. She couldn't live on \$10 a month.

Within weeks, the 26-year-old and her two children were homeless.

Photo by Alan Rogers, Casper Star-Tribune

Gale has never been the type to ask for help. She considered sleeping in her car and dropping out of college. Then a friend from school recommended a brand-new program for people in her situation. It was called Seton House.

Within two days of leaving her old home, Gale and her children were living in a one-bed, one-couch, two-chair apartment at Seton House in north Casper, free of charge for 90 days.

Gale was too embarrassed to tell her mother. Too embarrassed to tell most of her friends.

She went on welfare. She used food stamps, feeding her family cheap meals like macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper and casseroles. Deodorant and shampoo always ran thin. She wondered where the next roll of toilet paper would come from.

"Nobody knows about this story," Gale, now 50, said. "It's one of those dark times of your life where you just don't go telling everybody that you lived at Seton House and was homeless.

"But now, after all of these years, I'm OK with it."

This year marks Seton House's 25th anniversary. It's a transitional housing program for homeless single parents with children, providing privacy, security, and most importantly, a place to live.

The program has helped more than 1,350 families in its quarter-century.

"We have one goal, and that is to get our parents to self-sufficiency," said Executive Director Sharon Johnson, who has been with

Seton House for 17 years. "Whatever it takes. We are really working hard with the residents to help them understand that in order to make a living wage at all, you have to have some sort of education."

With help from Seton House, Gale continued to pursue her degree at Casper College. The program even assisted in finding her low-income housing after the 90 days.

In five years, Gale earned a bachelor's degree in social work along with a nursing degree. She's worked in hospital management, was an assisted-living administrator, is certified in gerontology and is a nationally certified legal nurse consultant.

Today, she and Jeff Bryden, her husband of 10 years, own the Quality Health Care Training Center, a business they started two years ago in a building that just so happens to sit next to Seton House.

"A lot of the women I teach are on welfare or (have) low-paying jobs, so I've been able to say, 'Hey, it's OK. I've been there, done that,'" Gale said. "I get to step out my back door and say, 'That's the building I used to live in.'"

The actual apartment Gale occupied is there. Back then, it was one of nine. Today, it's one of 30.

"It excites me (that there are more apartments), but yet it's really sad," Gale said. "It's sad to know that there are so many people out there that are homeless with children. And they're not all bad backgrounds. They're not all from abusive drugs and stuff. Some of them are,

but a lot of them are just like I was.

"Everybody just looks down on people who are on welfare, especially if you are homeless with kids. They think you're a drug addict, abused, and it's not like that at all."

There's no one reason that someone ends up at Seton House. Some residents are battered. Some run into legal trouble. Others have nowhere to go.

"Gale has done her best to give back. She's donated to Seton House, and last year, she created a scholarship. It's a free, three- to six-week class at the Quality Health Care Training Center for a member at Seton House to become a certified nursing assistant.

Today, residents of Seton House are required to pay 15 percent of their net income for rent and an additional 15 percent that goes into a mandatory savings account.

This way, when they leave, they already have money saved. If a resident does not have a job, he or she is required to earn credits by doing chores. Residents at Seton House are allowed to stay as long as two years.

Gale has come a long way from her days at Seton House. Without it, she claims she would not be here today. She started with nothing and, 24 years later, ended with her own business.

Sometimes, she'll look at the old apartment next door. The apartment that put her back on her feet when she needed it.

"I've always wanted to go knock and say, 'Hey, can I come in? I used to live here.'"

Read more from the Casper Star-Tribune at trib.com.

Faculty & Staff Notes

Mary Billiter, adjunct instructor at Casper College for the School of Social and Behavioral Science, recently published two books, her first work of suspense, a mystery, "The XYZ Affair," was released in June 2014. The book



Mary Billiter

features "a secret fraternity, lost love and a pile of buried bones." And her latest work of fiction, a holiday novella, "A Man For All Seasons" was released this December 2014. "A Man For All Seasons" brings a reporter, editor, and Wyoming community together – but not before a few minor comical mishaps occur. Mary's first novel, "Not My Kid..." was published in May 2011. She teaches fiction writing and genealogy courses as well as a web-based course through Casper College's Community Education Department. On top of that, she works part-time in the college copy center.

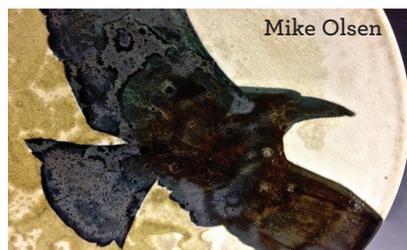
Janet de Vries, director of student success services, was elected president of the Wyoming Counseling Association.

Security Officer **Brandi Gosselin** (AAS, '10) competed in the NPC Jay Cutler Classic bodybuilding tournament in Cheyenne on August 9. This was her first tournament. She took first place in the women's physique division and the women's physique armed forces division. You can see more at npcnewsonline.com.

Brent Heuer, Casper College disability services counselor, has joined the Board of Directors for AHEAD (Association on Higher Education And Disability). According to AHEAD's website, the national organization "... is the premiere professional association committed to full participation of persons with disabilities in postsecondary education. AHEAD members represent a diverse network of professionals who actively address disability issues on their campuses and in the field of higher education." Heuer's two-year term ends

in July 2016.

Mike Olsen (AA, AAA, '93) ceramic instructor and visual art department chair, showed his work at Clay Paper Scissors in Cheyenne, Wyoming as part of the October event, Art Design and Dine. The pieces were stoneware, both hand-built and thrown pieces.



Mike Olsen

Retired Casper College music instructor, **Pat Patton**, created a new arrangement of "O Come All Ye Faithful," which was performed by the Casper Children's Choral; Alla Breve, the women's choir; and Bel Canto, a group of singers in grades second to fifth.

Dana Van Burgh ('64) received the Judge and Mrs. Percy W. Metz Memorial Award from the Wyoming State Historical Society. Van Burgh was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the history of Wyoming in the field of photography and oral history. He has

conducted nearly 100 oral history interviews for the Western History Center at Casper College, and has photographed many of Casper's streets. He has also organized and encouraged the collection of historical sketches of Casper architecture.

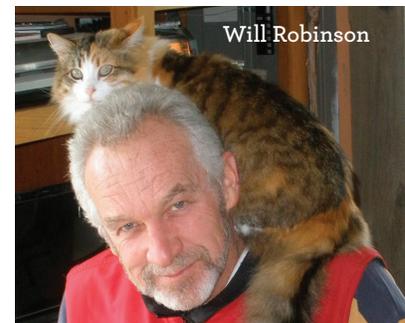
Casper College Statistics Instructors, **Brook Russell** and **Raymond Steinbacher**, had the results of their project on tuition caps published in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice in August 2014. The project examined the potential impact of increasing the tuition cap from 12 to 15 credits. Based upon the research, in December 2011 the Wyoming Community College Commission

decided to not go forward with a proposed increase.

Kevin and Kristen Lenth welcomed their son, Wesley Donald Lenth. He was born September 23 at 5 pounds, 15.3 ounces. Both parents teach at Casper College, Kevin's area is

computer science and Kristen's is vocal music.

Will Robinson, Casper College biology instructor gave a presentation on giant honey bee migratory stopover sites in Australia to the International Union for the Study of Social Insects. The talk focused on research Robinson conducted in Thailand in an orchard along the Pai River.

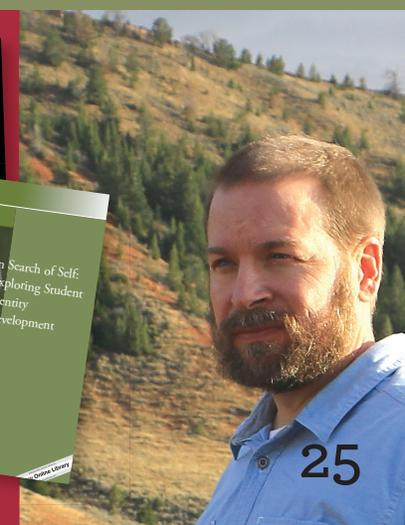


Will Robinson

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@caspercollege.edu

Chad Hanson's collection of poems, "Patches of Light," won the Meadowhawk Prize. The award is granted by Red Dragonfly Press of Northfield, Minnesota. He recently served as editor of a volume called, "In Search of Self: Exploring Student Identity Development." The book was published as part of the New Directions for Higher Education series by Jossey-Bass. The books are available in local stores and online through Amazon.com. For more information on Hanson's books, visit: chadhanson.org.



People & Places

1940s, 50s, 60s

Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49) was featured in an ARTCORE Music and Poetry event this past summer. She read portions of the sequel to her award-winning book, "Shot Down: Capital Crimes of Casper." She also read passages of her humor writing, fiction, and a little poetry. Charlotte writes the "According to Charlotte" column for Footprints magazine. The musical portion of the event featured the Casper College Flute Ensemble, under the direction of Delores Thornton. It was the last performance with the group for **Rachel Haass** (AFA, '14), who is now attending the University of Wyoming.

Kathryn and **Ray Putra** ('58) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 1, 2014, the same date they married in 1954 in Casper. Ray was in the 82nd Airborne Division, and then returned to Casper College before developing his own business. Kathy attended Ottawa University for one year before completing her college education at the University of Wyoming with degrees in social work and guidance counseling. She worked as a school social worker at Dean Morgan Junior High School and at Poison Spider Elementary School. The couple splits their time between Casper and Chandler, Arizona. They have three children, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mike Foreman (AS, '64) called to share memories of his time at CC. He recalled walking across the unpaved street to the two-building college for classes. One of his favorite teachers was Evelyn Sedar, wife of Mike Sedar, who taught him mathematics. Also among his favorites were Margaret Demorest and Leonard Brakke. He recalled the "Theatre in the Round" and how Coach Erickson took Casper College to the finals in the junior college tournament. During his time at CC Mike served as the vice president of the Young Democrats and still remembers that when they took the group picture for the 1964 annual, he blinked. He graduated from CC as a math major and went on to get a degree at the University of Wyoming.

Greg and **Barbara Wright** (ABus., '64) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2014. Married in Casper, Wyoming in 1964, both were born and raised in Wyoming, then met at Casper College. They have three

children and also have six grandchildren. The couple actively volunteers for the City of Longmont, Colorado's SeniorNet Learning Center, providing computer technology classes and teaching seniors interested in computers and the Internet. Greg and Barbara celebrated their anniversary in Lake Tahoe, California, on a paddleboard, surrounded by family and nature.

1. Richard Burnett ('66) and **Janice (Adams) Burnett** (AA, '92) recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married June 7, 1964 in Casper. In addition to both being alumni, Dick is the director of the Casper College Power Technology program and Jan is a CC retiree who served as an academic assistant and a continuing education computer instructor. Their children and grandchildren hosted a special party this summer at the site of their original wedding reception, the Isaak Walton Clubhouse in Casper. They also took a cruise to Alaska.

1970s, 80s

Rick Messina (AS, '72) donated a gold nugget he found when panning for gold to the Casper College Alumni Association. Rick spent his career as an addictions counselor at Central Wyoming Counseling and Crestview Hospital and now works with a moving company. His hobbies include furniture restoration, which he calls "sawdust therapy" and gold panning. He teaches gold panning as an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) course for Casper College and serves as president of the Casper chapter of the Gold Prospector Association of America.

2. Patrick Moenkhaus (AS, '73) retired from Honeywell Inc. in 2011, after 37 years in engineering. He lives with his wife, Sharon, in central Minnesota and still enjoys visiting Casper at least annually, mainly to see his uncle, Bob Moenkhaus, and enjoy some great golf and bicycling. He writes "Bob Moenkhaus has been giving me tours of the new buildings and facilities almost every time I get out there! Impressive expansions of the CC campus. Regards, and keep up the great publication!" Thanks to an inquiry from Pat, Footprints readers can now ask for a digital subscription to Footprints by sharing an email address with the alumni office at alumni@caspercollege.edu.

Guitarist, **Todd Scott** ('73) and bassist, **Bob Sellers** ('76) played together for ARTCORE's final 2014 Music and Poetry session this past summer. They began playing together in middle school, continuing through high school and college, then after many years came together again as "Two Blue Geezers." Todd earned both his B.A. and M.A. in musical performance at the University of Wyoming and his Ph.D. in music history at Boston University. He has also served as an adjunct instructor at Casper College. Bob also studied music at Casper College and spent his career as a carpenter.

Rhonda (Helwig) Knapp (AS, '79) was chosen as the 2014 Weston County School District #7, Teacher of the Year. Rhonda has been with the school district for 32 years teaching elementary physical education and health, as well as coaching volleyball and basketball on the middle school and high school levels in Upton, Wyoming.

Brenda Creel (AS, '82) principal of Alta Vista Elementary School in Cheyenne, Wyoming was one of 10 women selected by Wyoming Business Report for being "Women of Influence" in their industries and honored at an autumn awards luncheon. Several other women with connections to Casper College were also honored as nominees including: **Chelse DePaolo Lara**, director of the Adult Learning Center at Casper College; **Paulann Doane**, executive director of the Casper College Foundation; **Kathy Dolan**, trustee on the Casper College District Board of Trustees; **Cheryl Gillum** (AS, '75), deputy executive director of the Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA); and **Jaime Hornecker** (AS, '97), clinical associate professor of pharmacy at the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy/Casper Family Medicine.

3. Laurel Schulze Burke (AS, '83) was surprised to have her career become filmmaking after majoring in biology with an earth science minor, but she says, "that's where I've landed." She was the production designer and co-producer on an anti-drug public service announcement. Her next project is a feature-length science fiction thriller, *Eyes*. In addition to coproducing and production design, she is playing a small part. You can view her work at

<http://midnightstorm.com/eyes/index.htm>
 Laurel spent a season as a park ranger, and also worked for Arizona Game and Fish. She has also had extensive retail experience, but truly loves filmmaking and writing.

Donald Halberg (AS, '84) and his wife returned to Casper, Wyoming after working in the Pacific Northwest for around 17 years. Don writes, "When we thought about where to move, Wyoming was #1 on our list. It's where our friends are and we are happy to be back. We enjoy travel, seeing new sites, and spending time with our children."

Gregg Wilkes ('84) is currently the town administrator for Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming a position he previously held in Afton, Wyoming. Gregg's early career focused on retail management. He taught business education at Casper College in the 80s. His brothers, **Bart Wilkes** ('77) and **Kip Wilkes** ('82) are also CC alumni.

Brian Lund (Cert., '88) wrote to share his memory of running the committee on the "Students with Special Needs" committee during his time at Casper College, where he worked to make the institution more responsive to students with special needs. Brian has written an autobiography entitled "My Life with Epilepsy and Seizures" You can learn more about Brian and epilepsy on his website, <http://brianpl60-mybook.com>.

1990s

Leon Chamberlain (AS, '90), team leader at the Casper Vet Center and social work instructor at Casper College, received the F.L. Sievers Human Service Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the field of human services. He was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq as the primary mental health care provider for over 3200 soldiers, April 2009-April 2010. He currently serves as the senior behavioral health officer with the Wyoming Army National Guard. Chamberlain holds the rank of Major and works with soldiers and their families statewide.

 **Chris Navarro** ('90) was busy during 2014 and saw three of his monumental bronze sculptures dedicated: "Pride of the Rockies" at Glenrock (Wyoming) High School on August 3, "Essence of Rex" at Casper College on August 26, and "Wyoming Cowboy" at the University of Wyoming on October 24. In addition, Wyoming Public Broadcasting filmed an episode of "Wyoming Chronicles" on the

creation of his sculpture "Essence of Rex," He was also named as the 2015 Honored Artist for the 34th Annual Buffalo Bill Art Show and Sale in September 2015. On the rodeo side of things, the one-time T-Bird rodeo team member qualified for both the World Series of Team Roping, with a first-place purse of \$250,000 and a roping contest in Wickenburg, Arizona, with first-place worth \$100,000. Unfortunately Navarro missed both events due to a serious accident with his horse "Man" in September. Navarro tells *Footprints* that he is "excited about my recovery progress and looking forward to the coming year."

Kodi Meador and **Reed Merschat** ('96) were married Aug. 30, 2014, in an outdoor evening ceremony on Casper Mountain at the Mary Hester cabin. The bride is director of development at Community Health Center. The groom is a partner in Tetrad Resources, LLC. They are at home in Casper.

India Hayford (Cert., '99) was hired as museum assistant at the Werner Wildlife Museum. India earned a certificate in paralegal studies at Casper College, and a B.S. in plant science, and did graduate work in range ecology. She then worked as a CLA for a civil litigation firm. India's experience includes working as an environmental consultant, a fisheries biologist for Wyoming Game and Fish, and a range conservationist for the USDA Forest Service.

2000s

Heath Cameron Wood (AAS, '00) is working for KLJ as a distribution work group manager. He manages services that include the design, engineering, permitting, right-of-way acquisitions, and construction management of high voltage distribution infrastructure. KLJ primarily serves clients in Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota. His CC degree was in welding technology. Heath is a single father of a 13 year old son currently attending middle school in Billings, Montana. His interests and hobbies include hunting, fishing, dirt biking, and golfing. He writes that he provided extensive services to the coalbed methane boom in Wyoming for many years and spent much of his time based out of Buffalo, Wyoming.

Rochelle Plocek (AAS, '02) writes "Life in South Dakota is good; the Black Hills have been pretty cool and rainy this summer which has its upsides and downsides. I'm settling into my new position as Fire Management Forester for

Custer State Park which I started in May. As an alumnus from the fire science program it's cool to see how my education at Casper has helped me along in my career." Rochelle and her husband, Jake Anderson welcomed their baby daughter, Torunn on November 30, 2014.

Cheryl Mandich (AS, '05) is a conservation specialist with the American Bird Conservancy. The main company is located in Virginia, but she is based in the NRCS office in Hettinger, North Dakota. She works with landowners to improve habitat for grassland birds, especially the Long-billed Curlew in a new program that's involved traveling this past year to eastern Montana, southwest North Dakota, and western South Dakota.

 The Cundy family welcomed Evelyn Grace on June 24, 2014. She weighed 4.6 lbs and was 17 inches long. Her mother is **Dawn Cundy** ('06) and her grandparents are **Brad** ('79) and **Jan** ('80) **Cundy**. Jan is treasurer of the Casper College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

 **Sarah (Read) Boomgarden** ('07) and Andrew Boomgarden welcomed their first daughter, Emily Joy Boomgarden on February 27, 2014. Emily is also the first granddaughter for **David Read** ('75) and **Janice (Stewart) Read** ('76). Sarah is the event coordinator for Wyoming Medical Center Foundation and Andrew is a civil engineer for WWC Engineering.

Tyler Kralicek (AS, '07) was appointed the pesticide enforcement supervisor in the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA). Tyler earned degrees in agriculture from Casper College and from Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. He was previously a regional representative for a major manufacturer of feed supplements and then the Burleigh County extension agent for agriculture and natural resources. Tyler directs a seven-person staff, including six field inspectors.

Melanie Stull and **Alex Urwiller** (AAS, '09) were married Aug. 30, 2014 in The Rialto Theater in downtown Casper. The bride earned a bachelor's in accounting from the University of Wyoming in 2012. She is staff accountant at Lenhart, Mason and Associates. The groom earned an associate's of science in business management from Casper College. He is a marketing support specialist at Baker Hughes, Inc. They are at home in Casper and plan to honeymoon in Italy in the spring of 2015.

2010s

Brian Bull (AA, '10) has become a member of the United States Army as a high level military musician. He performed on trumpet at "An Alumni Recital" last May in the Wheeler Concert Hall. Brian is also a former student of brass instructor Douglas Bull. After graduating from Casper College, Brian attended Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington where he earned a bachelor's of fine arts degree in trumpet performance. During his studies at CWU Brian performed at the International Trumpet Conference and the National Trumpet Competition.

Frank Prosutte ('11) bought and is now running the Mountain Mudd Coffee Shop in Gillette, Wyoming. The shop is attached to the Clarion Inn and Convention Center.

Jennifer Johnson (AS, '12) and Andrew Bickel were married April 12, 2014, at the Frio Pecan Farm in Leaky, Texas. She received a degree in occupational therapy from Casper College and is a certified occupational therapy assistant at an orthopedic rehabilitation clinic in Texas. The bride attended the University of Wyoming. The groom received a degree in criminal justice from the University of Wyoming in 2010. He is a federal border patrol agent in Texas. They are at home in Laredo, Texas.

 **Makayla Hallford** (AA, '13) and her children helped prepare space for the Bart Rea Learning Circle in Casper's Amoco Park along with several other CC alums including **Art Boatright**, ('80) **Scott** (AAS, '07) and **Lena** (AFA, '05) **Cotton**, **Mike Olson** (AAA, AA, '93), and **James** (AS, '93) and **Amy** (AS, '93) **Ramage**. Many others

with Casper College connections including **Lindsey Grant** ('04), **Jason Eggemeyer** (CC instructor), **Maria Rose Wimmer** (CC instructor), and **Elliot Ramage** (CC Foundation) are diligently working on the citizen-driven community works project. The Casper College Alumni Association has a mile marker sign in this area, supporting the Platte River Trails nonprofit. To learn more, go to platterivertrails.com.

Kimberly Rose Haug (AS, '13) and **Scott Austin Rickabaugh** ('11) were married July 12, 2014 in Casper. Maids of honor were Caitlyn Urhammer and Carrie Pardee of Casper. The bride earned a BA in elementary education from the University of Wyoming at Casper in May 2014 and is teaching third grade at Paradise Valley Elementary School. The groom earned a BA in elementary education from the University of Wyoming at Casper in May of 2012 and is teaching third grade at Cottonwood Elementary. After a honeymoon in Las Vegas, they are at home in Casper.

Leon Miller (AS, '12) is currently living in Powell, Wyoming after graduating in May 2014 with his bachelor's in secondary education with an emphasis in biology and earth and space science. He works for Powell High School and Shoshone Learning Center as a college advisor for the Wyoming College Advising Corp. in a grant-funded position that places college advisors in areas around the state that have high numbers of first generation and lower income students in hopes of getting them to college. He and his wife Marsie have two children, son Onyx and daughter Jade. He hopes to stay in the Big Horn Basin where his children can play with their cousins and grandparents.

Patterson E. Oakes (current) and John C. Schmotzer were married June 7, 2014, in Casper. The bride is pursuing a degree in paralegal studies at Casper College. The groom graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in 2013 with a bachelor's in aeronautical science.

Jordin Weinrich (current) and **Cody Parke** (AAS, '12) married on July 18, 2014. The bride is attending Casper College, pursuing a degree in early childhood education. She is employed at Silver Fox Restaurant. The groom earned a degree in fire science from Casper College in 2012. He is employed as a firefighter at Station 12 in Evansville, Wyoming and as an EMT at Wyoming Medical Center in Casper.

Carli Holcomb (AA, '14) moved to Richmond, Virginia and began the MFA program in craft at Virginia Commonwealth University this fall. Her focus area is metalsmithing. She will be working as a graduate teaching assistant for Susie Ganch, as well as participating in the Student Committee of Ethical Metalsmithing. Her website is carliholcomb.com.

Marco Sanchez (current) is an assistant coach for the Kelly Walsh High School football team.

Carole A. (Fetchkan) Novotny (Former CC employee) and her husband Allen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past summer at the site of their wedding in Portage, Pennsylvania. Carol is retired from Casper College and Grey Wolf Drilling. Allen worked for the Game and Fish in Pennsylvania, and now is the owner operator of Cartridge Creek Hot Shot Service in Casper. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Casper College Department of Theatre and Dance

REVOLUTION

Revolution of Spirit

- The Art and Culture of Wyoming

Feb. 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
(Humanities Festival performance),
Feb. 26-27, 2015 and
March 4-5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.,
Feb. 28, 2015 at 5:30 and 8 p.m.,
March 1, 2015 at 2 p.m.

Julius Caesar

April 9-11, 16-18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
Matinee, April 12 & 19, 2015 at 2 p.m.
McMurry Mainstage,
Gertrude Krampert Theatre Complex

Lysistrata

Based on the play by Aristophanes

April 30, May 1, 2, 6-9, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
May 3, 2015 at 2 p.m.

For ticket info. call 268-2500, 800-442-2963,
ext. 2500 or visit caspercollege.edu

 **Casper College**



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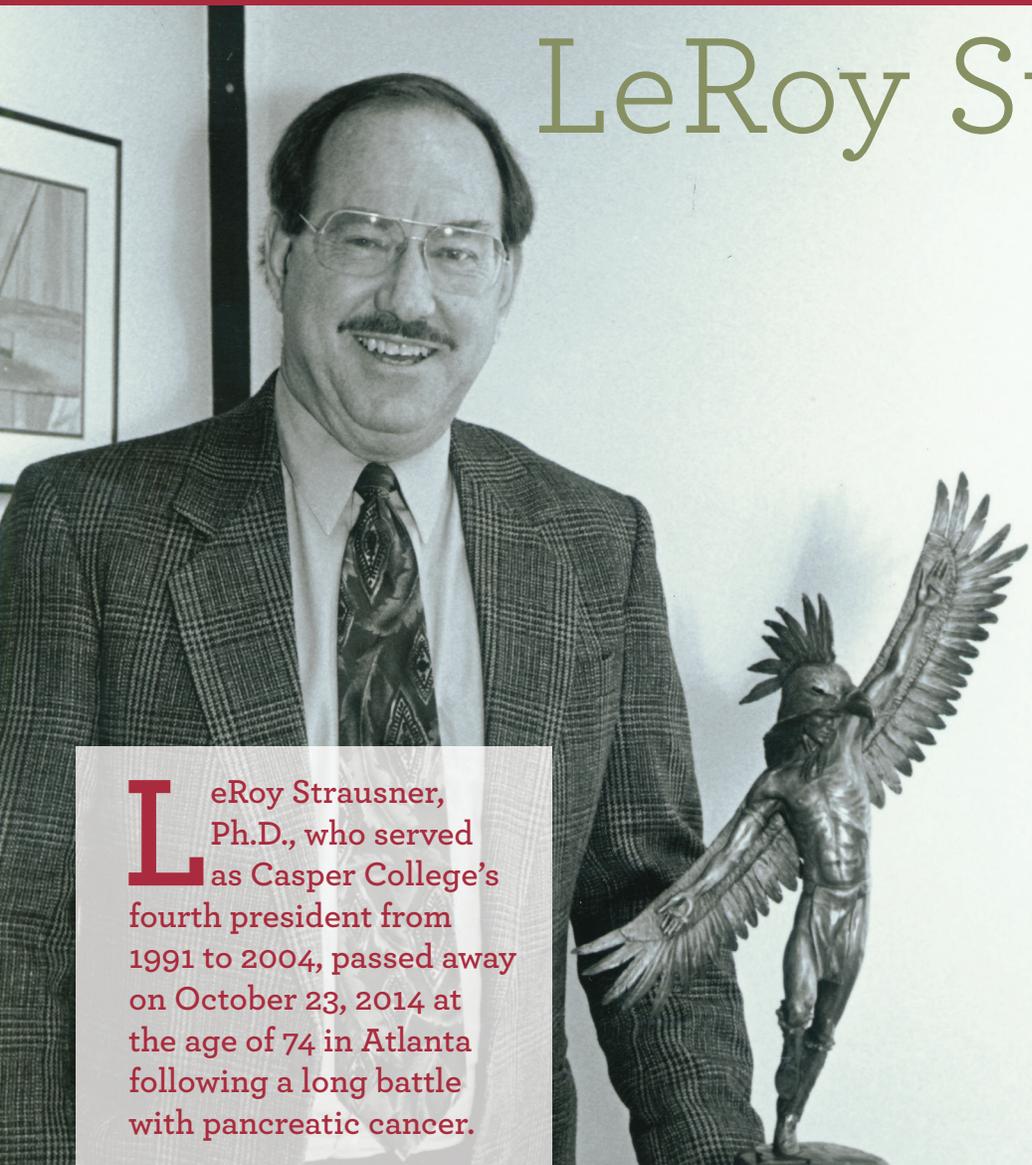
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Recently married? New job? New baby? Other news? Send information to: Linda Nix, Associate Director, Alumni Relations, Casper College, 125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601; Phone – 307-268-2218 or 800-442-2963 ext. 2218; e-mail – alumni@caspercollege.edu.

In Remembrance:



LeRoy Strausner



LeRoy Strausner, Ph.D., who served as Casper College's fourth president from 1991 to 2004, passed away on October 23, 2014 at the age of 74 in Atlanta following a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

"President Strausner had a major positive impact on this campus for nearly six decades. From his leadership as a student and T-Bird in the late 50s, through his long presidency, and until the end of his life he was one of the brightest faces representing Casper College. We are mourning his loss, but we are also celebrating a man who gave so much for so long to everyone in the college community," said Walter Nolte, current president of Casper College.

Strausner began his association with Casper College as a student and member of the Thunderbird basketball team in the fall of 1958. During his sophomore year his fellow students elected him student senate president. He received his associate's in 1960 from Casper

College and went on to earn both a bachelor's and master's from the University of Northern Colorado and his Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming.

He returned to the college in 1965 to teach psychology and sociology courses, and in 1967 moved into the role of administrator as the college's director of housing. He was director of counseling from 1975 to 1985, dean of students from 1985 to 1989, and vice president for student services from 1989 to 1990. He was named interim president on July 1, 1990 and on March 6, 1991, after a nine-month search that involved 60 applicants, Strausner was hired as the fourth president of Casper College. "Is a Ya-hoo in order?" he remarked immediately after the board's unanimous voice vote," according

to a report the following day in the Casper Star-Tribune. He retired from the school on June 30, 2004 after 39 years of service.

During his tenure as president, the Wold Physical Science Center and the expansion of the Gertrude Krampert Theatre, which included the Scifers Dance Performance Theatre, were added to the campus and several facilities underwent extensive remodeling and updating including the Gertrude Krampert Theatre, the Loftin Life Science Center, the Saunders Health Science Center and the College Center building, which was renamed the Strausner Student Center, now Strausner Hall, in Strausner's honor.

Always an educator at heart, Strausner continued to teach a class or two throughout his time at Casper College. "You may remember during my years here, especially when I started as president, I picked up a little slogan that I still believe in," Strausner recalled in a September 2013 conversation. "At our back to school, presumably the inspirational talk at the start of school, I used to always remind everybody that we were merchants of hope, and I think that is still the case to this day that no matter the age, you can see that hope that they (students) want to succeed, but it's more than that. It goes beyond that, it's that the successes are a stepping ladder up to something better."

Following his retirement, Strausner and his wife Marcia traveled extensively and visited their daughters and grandchildren. But, they always returned home to Casper and Casper College where they were often seen at athletic and cultural events on campus.

"LeRoy literally gave his adult life to this college," said Bill Landen, associate vice president of student services, who began work at the college in 1985. "He came here out of Hot Springs High School and played basketball for Swede Erickson. Years later he would become president. His humble beginnings I believe shaped the way he reached out to every student who came here. He made sure that students felt valued. He made sure those who worked for him felt valued. He truly cared about the Casper College family."

Friends We'll Miss

Thomas Mitchell Jones (AA, '60)
May 3, 2013

Norman James Brown
(Former CC faculty)
June 1, 2014

Bruno Dominguez ('97)
June 16, 2014

Nicholas Scott Morgan (current)
June 27, 2014

Earl H. Johnson (AA, '57)
July 3, 2014

Michael Ray Ingram ('68)
July 4, 2014

Brandi Galles ('94)
July 12, 2014

Allen George Sundquist ('87)
July 9, 2014

James "Jay" Lawson
('71, former Alumni
Association Board member)
July 15, 2014

Ryan Alan Moffat ('11)
July 20, 2014

Elwood Faye (Fox) Aylward ('52)
July 25, 2014

Terry Roseanne Selby (AAS, '97)
July 29, 2014

Ray "RP" S. Powders ('74)
July 30, 2014

Rhonda Kay (Dewald)
Huckabay Cashel ('93)
August 6, 2014

Earl Dwayne Freeman (AA, '58)
August 7, 2014

Gary M. Donnelly
(AA, '72, former CC instructor)
August 8, 2014

Gary L. Dyer ('04)
August 8, 2014

Berneice M. Hardman
(former CC employee)
August 9, 2014

Patrick S. Bishop (AA, '52)
August 15, 2014

Diane Merrill Weiss
(former CC instructor)
August 21, 2014

Jonelle 'Jo' Lea Palato ('76, '82)
August 27, 2014

Becky (Elizabeth Alice)
Wood (AS, '89)
September 2014

Brian James Harshman ('77)
September 8, 2014

Jeffrey Atkinson
(Fire science adj. instructor)
September 11, 2014

Brandon Whitmire (AAS, '04)
September 16, 2014

Billy "Bill" Blakeley Brauer
(AA, '56, Alumni Association
Board member) September 25, 2014

Teresa (Sutton) Y. Fink ('79)
September 27, 2014

Billie Baker (cont. ed. student)
September 28, 2014

Dale LeRoy Alberts (AS, '86)
October 11, 2014

Donald Stepp (CC supporter)
October 11, 2014

LeRoy Strausner
(AA, '60, former CC president)
October 23, 2014

Angus "Angie" McLeod
Morrison ('67)
October 25, 2014

Pam Deist Fagnant
November 5, 2014

Norma Jean Murphy
(UW at Casper employee)
November 21, 2014

Leah Bryan (AFA, '14)
November 25, 2014

Ronald Fred Ampe (AA, '95)
November 26, 2014

Rodney Alvin "Rod" Pepper ('71)
November 30, 2014

J. Charles Knerl (former CC instructor)
December 4, 2014

Pauline "June" Aley (CC friend)
December 12, 2014

David Henry Williams (AS, '12)
January 3, 2015



The T-Bird Trek Half-Marathon, 5K and 2K Races is coming!

Sunday, September 20, 2015

For runners, family, and friends, showcasing the Casper College campus and community

Register online at caspercollege.edu/tbird_trek/index.html
or call 307-268-2256

Hidden Campus

by Justin Pehrson

On the second floor of the Wold Physical Science Center, tucked back in the eastern-most corner, sits a fairly ordinary display case staged in front of a lunar landscape backdrop. You may have hurried past it a hundred times on your way to and from class. Perhaps you were unaware it was even there. Roughly the size of a refrigerator, the unassuming wood and plexiglass box contains artifacts that are anything but average.

Casper College's **Melissa Connely** (AA, '93) is always on the look out for opportunities to inspire students and develop awareness for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. It was 2009 when

she noticed a NASA newsletter advertising a surplus giveaway from shuttle missions. The space program artifacts on the list represented significant human spaceflight technologies, processes, and accomplishments of the shuttle program and were made available exclusively to eligible educational institutions and museums. The competition was stiff and a mountain of paperwork stood in the way, but Connely knew her efforts would be worth it.

One of the first challenges Connely faced was deciding what artifacts to apply for. The exhaustive list was like the ultimate air and space garage sale! There were engines, tiles, spacesuits, tools, and equipment of all kinds, even a space shuttle. It crossed Connely's mind to go big for the shuttle, but NASA had very precise display requirements for the artifacts and required the recipients to cover shipping costs. As cool as it would be to have a shuttle

on campus, the 1.2 million dollar delivery bill on the spacecraft forced Connely to focus on a more realistic acquisition.

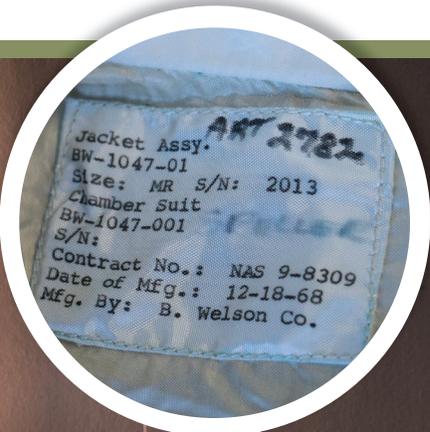
The paperwork and communication process was a daunting task that took the length of a full year and, according to Connely, would have been an impossible feat without the extensive assistance from Casper College Grants Coordinator, **Katie McMillan**. The day finally came in 2010 when Connely received a letter from NASA notifying her that Casper College had been awarded a selection of artifacts including: a space shuttle engine blade, test plates that measured meteorite impact, ceramic heat shield tiles from the space shuttle, astronaut food, and an Apollo in-flight coverall space suit identical to the one Neil Armstrong wore home from the 1969 moon landing.

Of the acquired NASA treasures, the space suit is the most remarkable. The garment consists of a jacket and trousers made from Beta cloth – finely woven silica fiber covered in teflon and able to withstand temperatures exceeding 650 °C. It is small in size and the “slippery” qualities of the teflon fabric enabled the astronaut to don and doff the garment with ease in a weightless environment.

The jacket has a US flag on the left shoulder and the traditional NASA “meatball” logo on the upper torso. The suit was constructed in December of 1968 by the B. Welson Co. out of Hartford, Conn. and would have cost the government about one hundred dollars at the time. NASA was unable to confirm whether or not the suit actually made it into space, but the faint outline of a name written in permanent marker on the original tags sparks the imagination of the suit's past adventures.

Connely said that she wanted “to show the students what science has done in the past, what we are able to achieve, and that everybody is part of that legacy.”

The next opportunity you find yourself on campus, walk a little slower, look a little closer. Take notice of the hidden treasures that contribute to the wonderfully unique experience of Casper College.



Have a suggestion for a “Hidden Campus” feature? Send your request to Justin Pehrson at jpehrson@caspercollege.edu or call 307-268-2266.

According to Charlotte

by Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)



All the Pretty Boxes

One of the most painful periods of the frenzied Christmas season for me comes about not before Christmas but after Christmas – the day after Christmas, to be precise. I have always believed that it was just I who harbored this perverse post-Christmas secret, but I have found out that I do not endure it alone and I am delighted. My misery loves company and, thank goodness, I have found that this particular misery is more widespread than I ever imagined.

It's boxes I'm talking about – lots and lots of pretty boxes that hold everybody's Christmas presents and which I am one-hundred-and-ten percent psychologically incapable of throwing out. It made my husband crazy while I'd be ready to do him in when he tried – and sometimes succeeded – to hustle all of them out to the trash behind my back.

Remember how, when our children were young, they couldn't open the boxes fast enough to get out what was in them on Christmas day? The contents were just what they knew they couldn't live without, but by evening all those "couldn't live without" things were cast aside and they were blissfully playing with the boxes. It used to choke me up. Well, nothing has changed with adulthood that I can see. In my opinion, this fascination with boxes is a primeval instinct that we who are true to ourselves don't deny. The rest of humankind who think we're obsessed need to see a

therapist to find out why they're in such denial.

Is it just we women who can't throw out the pretty boxes? No, siree. My careful inquiries have turned up equal confessions from men uncovering the same box-saving behavior, so there. One fellow confessed to me that he takes every box apart – being very careful not to damage any slot or crease – and stacks them in his tool shed, which has a big, sturdy padlock on the door that he never forgets to lock. He's planning a sizable addition to his shed anytime now, he confided, because he needs to have some room for his tools.

My friend, Ann, told me that because of the superabundance of boxes in her barn she was going to have to move her horse to her garage. She looked at me with an expression that dared me to condemn, but she needn't have worried. Horses versus boxes? There's no comparison.

I found a couple of husbands who, in contrast to mine, think this box-saving quirk of their wives is really funny and are glad to tell me all about it. One of the husbands calls his wife "the box lady" and refers to their home as "box haven." I liked him.

The other husband persuaded his wife that since the kids were all married now, they could sell the over-sized house and move to a smaller one. And, guess what? When they moved they had to trash about a ton of boxes. It was a calculated deceit on his part and she's still recovering from the trauma and talking about it;

not the move, but the cruel casting out of her pretty boxes. She worries that she may not live long enough to replace them. He's grinning. She's not.

We "box gatherers" do have a tiny, nagging problem, though, and it is that no matter how many pretty boxes we have saved, there is never one that is just the perfect size for whatever it is that we want to put in it. I don't know why that is and neither does anyone else. My theory is that we're into box saving, not box giving.

I have a dream about all my boxes and it is this: I dream of a "box barn" out in the backyard that I can put all the pretty boxes in until the barn is full – from side to side and from top to bottom. Then I can go out there and wade through them with abandon for as long as I want. But that's not going to happen until the cows come home which, I'm pretty sure, is not going to happen anytime soon.

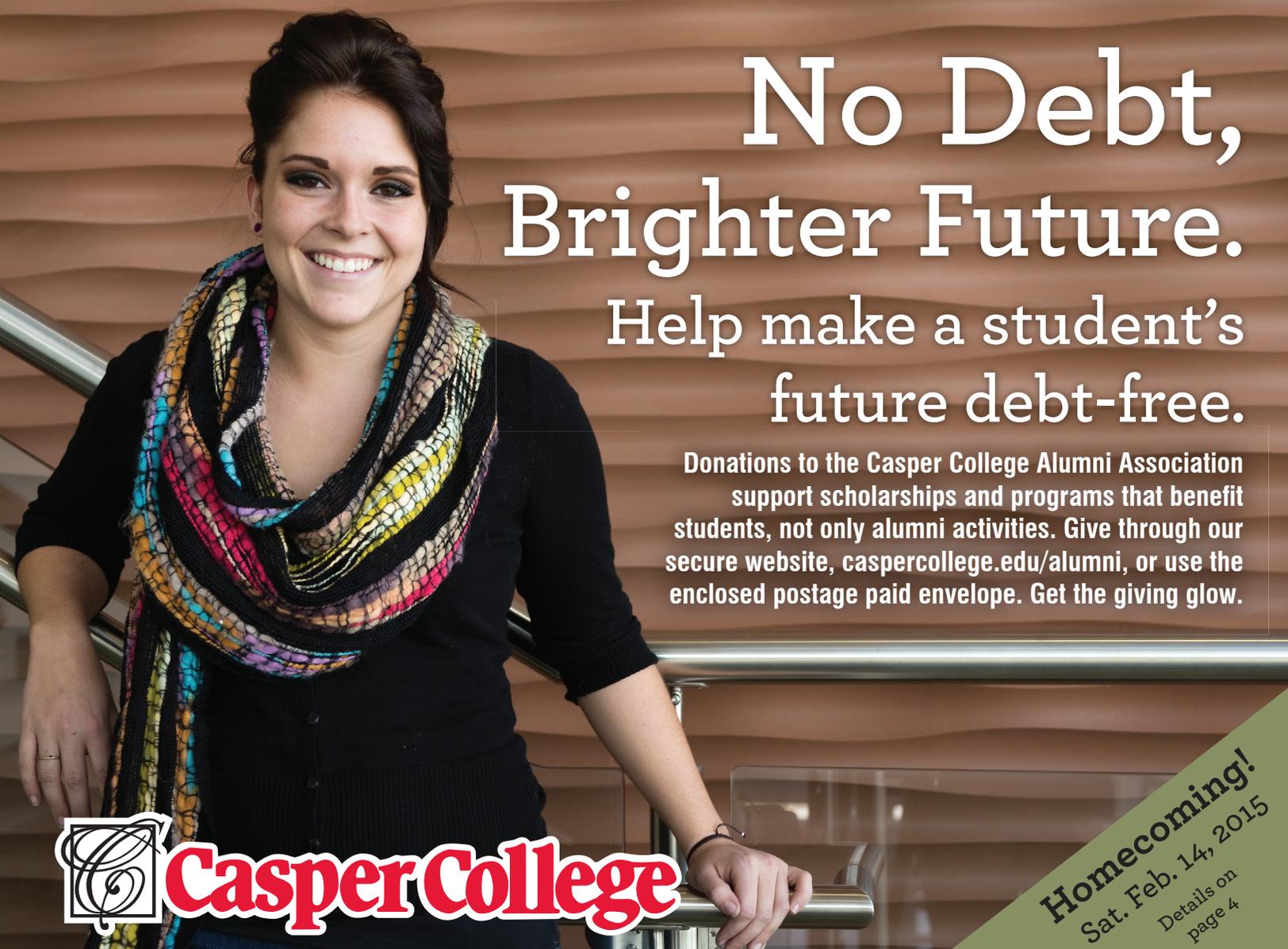




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