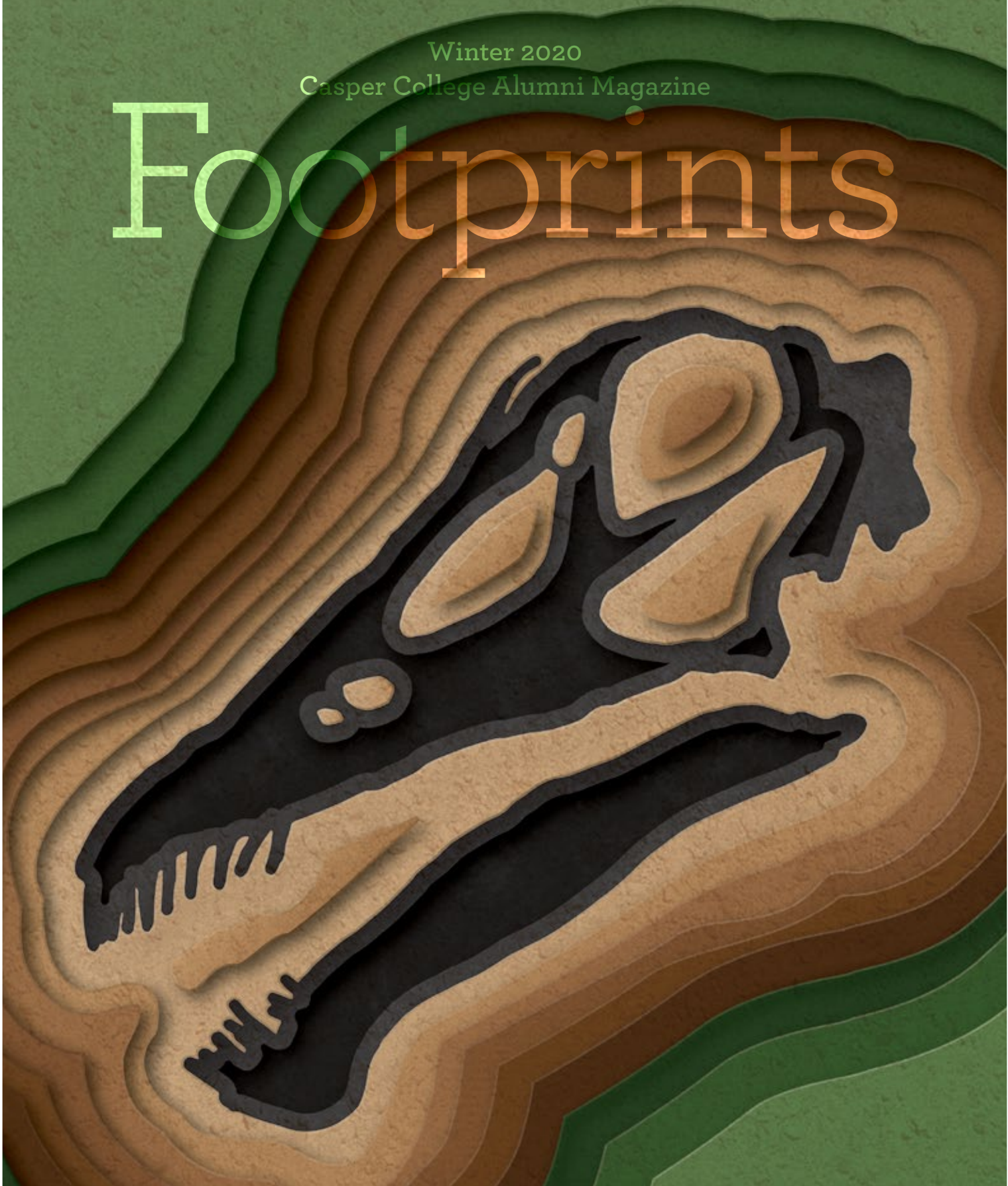


Winter 2020
Casper College Alumni Magazine

Footprints



Looking Back:
CC Advantages and
Adventures

“Prehistoric Road Trip”

Barbara Crews Retires

Footprints

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

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Cover

Cover illustration created by Eric Valdez.

The image depicts a *Diplodocus* unearthing.



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According to Charlotte Inside back cover

Casper College is an equal opportunity institution and as such, does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state, or local law in admission or access to or treatment or employment in its educational programs or activities. Direct inquiries or complaints concerning Title IV, Title IX, and Section 504 to Linda Toohey, associate vice president for student services, at 125 College Dr., Casper, WY 82601, 307-268-2667, or linda.toohey@caspercollege.edu, or the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 1244 Speer Blvd., Ste. 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582, 303-844-5695 or TDD 303-844-3417.

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alums and Friends of Casper College,

I am honored to be serving as the new president of the Casper College Alumni Association.

I want to thank **Lea Schoenewald** (AA, '72) for being a wonderful president for our organization. I look forward to working with all of our board members and staff over the next two years.

My experience with Casper College began 41 years ago. I was newly married and living in Wheeler Terrace, which was married housing at the time. As a Casper and Wyoming business owner, I am continually in awe of how much Casper College has grown and kept pace with the needs of employers by offering outstanding educational opportunities. Casper is lucky indeed to have an excellent institution with the flexibility to respond to the Wyoming economy. Casper College has been instrumental in my success as well as many of my family members.

This year is an exciting one for Casper College. The 75th anniversary of Wyoming's first community college will be celebrated starting the fall of 2020. The Casper College Alumni Association is celebrating this milestone with a special edition of Footprints magazine that will commemorate each decade of the institution. The staff at Footprints would like to share your personal stories about your time as a student. After all, the college is but a collection of buildings if it were not for our former and current employees, students, and alumni. Please consider sharing your stories with our alumni staff.

A big thank you to all the runners who came out for the Fifth Annual T-Bird Trek. The proceeds support Casper College students and college initiatives. This year a new downhill course was added, and it was very popular. The course began at the top of Casper Mountain and finished on

campus. The people crossing the finish line were able to enjoy the upbeat tunes of Last Coyote and enjoy a Qdoba breakfast burrito in the glow of a warm fire.

The Casper College Foundation sponsored the first Dog Trek before the registration for the T-Bird Trek. It gave families an opportunity to come to campus with their families — furry and not furry — to take a walk and sign up for the race the next day. Over 50 dogs attended with families in tow. The entry fee was \$10 for each dog, and all proceeds went directly to the Casper College Student Veterans Club on campus. It was a fun way to kick off the T-Bird Trek weekend.

There are a lot of great stories in this issue of Footprints. The Tate Geological Museum will be featured in a national documentary called "Prehistoric Road Trip" on Public Broadcasting Service this summer. Our "Looking Back" article was written by **Patricia McInroy** (AA, AA, AA, '89), who reflects on her time at Casper College and the travel opportunities CC provided. You'll also find out who next year's winners of the Casper College Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni and Commitment to Excellence awards are.

I look forward to working with the great community that is so supportive of my alma matter, Casper College.

Thank you for all you do!



Jan Cundy ('79)
President
Casper College Alumni Association,
2019-21



Jan Cundy ('79), Casper College Alumni Association president.

Campus and Alumni News

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

Bill DeGraeve Appointed to Casper College Board of Trustees



The Casper College board of trustees appointed Bill DeGraeve to fill the vacancy on the board created by the departure of Suzanne Sandoval until the election in 2020.

Chair Kathy Dolan said, “Bill is well-known for his commitment to our community and tireless energy he puts into everything he does. He is a great addition to the board, and we’ll benefit greatly from his leadership.”

DeGraeve is director of drilling for True Drilling, LLC in Casper. He has a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla and has spent the majority of his professional career in the oil and gas industry. He held technical and management roles domestically and internationally for

Conoco from 1980 through 1999, and it was his employment with Conoco that first brought him to Casper, from 1984 through 1988.

He returned to Casper in 1999 and was an owner, and general manager, of First Choice Mitsubishi through 2006. He then served in a business development role at True Companies and helped progress the commercial wind energy industry in Wyoming, during its significant growth from 2007 through 2010. Following that, he was vice president of energy lending at First Interstate Bank in Casper, then became district manager of production and drilling for Denbury Resources from 2012 through 2017. He rejoined to the True Companies in 2017.

Free Press and Media in Politics Topic of Seminar

The Casper College Constitution Day Seminar spent four days looking at “The Roles of a Free Press/Media in American Politics” in September 2019.

“This year, the Constitution Day committee members decided to plan a nearly weeklong series of events around the theme of the roles of the press and media in our democracy,” said **Erich Frankland**, political science instructor. “In regards to politics, the media performs three invaluable functions, which are helping cultivate an informed citizenry,

promoting the exchange of ideas within our society, and serving as watchdogs over the powerful in and out of government,” Frankland noted.

According to Frankland, the media performs additional roles in our society, economy, and democracy, including socialization of values, spotlighting candidates, products, etc., providing news, and providing entertainment. These roles, Frankland said, “... generate debates and concerns about bias, access, influence, censorship, etc.”

Seminar events explored the interplay between the media and democracy in the United States.

The 2019 Constitution Day Seminar was sponsored by the Casper College School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Central Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services, and Casper College. In addition, the Casper offices of U.S. Senator John Barrasso and U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney provided copies of the U.S. Constitution for attendees.

Rare *Torosaurus* Skull Debuted at Tate

A rare *Torosaurus* skull, *T. latus*, was “unveiled” at the Tate Geological Museum in October to an enthusiastic crowd of adults and children.

“This skull is a unique Wyoming specimen, and possibly the best *Torosaurus* skull from our state,” said **J.P. Cavigelli**, museum collections specialist. According to Cavigelli, the skull was found buried in sandstone on a ranch in Natrona County in 2013.

The skull spent three years in the Tate’s prep lab before heading to Triebold Paleontology for mounting earlier this year. “It is one of only a handful of *Torosaurus* skulls in existence. *Torosaurus* is quite similar to the more well-known

Triceratops, but has holes in its frill, the large shield on the back end of the skull,” said Cavigelli.

In addition to those “holes,” the skull, named “Nicole,” “... has potential predator wounds on the left side of the frill, possibly from a *T.rex*. Her nose horn also shows signs of a healed wound,” Cavigelli noted, adding, “Almost all of Nicole is real bone with only a few reproductions to fill in any missing parts. *Torosaurus* fossils have been found in various areas of this region, but large, mostly complete skulls such as Nicole are rare.”

The Tate Geological Museum is located on the Casper College campus.



The front view of the skull of a *Torosaurus* named “Nicole” at the Tate Geological Museum.

Respiratory Therapy Program Receives Award

The Casper College Respiratory Therapy program, for the fourth year in a row, was chosen by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care to receive the Distinguished RRT (registered respiratory therapist) Credentialing Success Award.

According to CoARC President Allen Gustin Jr. M.D., the Casper College program is among a select group of programs to receive the recognition.

“From a program effectiveness perspective, the CoARC views the RRT credential as a measure of a program’s success in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations,” Gustin said.



According to Gustin, “... the CoARC Board used objective criteria based on key accreditation metrics documented in the 2018 Annual Report of Current Status in selecting programs for the recognition.” Programs awarded were required to have three or more years of outcomes data, hold accreditation without a progress report, document RRT credentialing success of 90% or above, and meet or exceed established CoARC thresholds for certified respiratory therapist credentialing success, retention, and on-time graduation rate.

“It’s easy to take for granted this award considering it’s the fourth of its kind in four straight years. The truth is, this recognition is difficult to obtain, putting our program in the top of its class nationally. I am proud of our program and its excellent instructors, teaching adjuncts, and clinical preceptors who make this program better and better each year,” said **Doug Neubert**, Casper College Respiratory Therapy Program director.

Casper College Student Devin Pike Selected as a Coca-Cola Leader of Promise

Casper College sophomore **Devin Pike** was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as a 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar.

Selected as 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars, 207 Phi Theta Kappa members have been awarded a total of \$207,000 in scholarships. Chosen from nearly 900 applications worldwide, the scholars receive scholarships of \$1,000 each to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Independent judges evaluate the applications based on scholastic achievement, community service, and leadership potential.

“This scholarship will make a huge financial impact on my education, especially as a student who is paying out-of-state tuition. Alongside that, it is also an honor, and quite the confidence boost, to be recognized as a ‘Leader of Promise’ by Phi Theta Kappa, as well as the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation,” said Pike. Pike, a 2016 graduate from Wellington High School in Raumati Beach, New Zealand, is a communications-journalism major at Casper College. Pike said he would use the scholarship funds “... to further my journalism studies at Casper College, which will eventually lead to working

in the field of investigative journalism. Through honest reporting and talking about issues that do not get enough attention, I want to be a leader and a symbol of hope in the media,” he added.

According to PTK, funds provided by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation not only aid college completion but also give students the opportunity to engage in social programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in their communities. “Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers,” said Dr. Monica Marlowe, executive director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. “The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn’t an obstacle to achieving their academic goals.”

Pike will graduate from Casper College in May 2020. “Devin is only the second student that Casper College has had who achieved this recognition. He is being set aside as one of the future leaders of tomorrow. We are proud to call him our own,” said **Debra Swedberg** (AS, ’79), Casper College math instructor and co-sponsor of the college’s PTK chapter.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship is the society’s first



Devin Pike.

scholarship program available to members to be used during the time they are enrolled in their community colleges. Students must be a Phi Theta Kappa member in good standing and currently enrolled in a community college, have a minimum 3.5 GPA at the time of application on all college-level coursework, and have completed 12-36 semester hours of college-level coursework by Jan. 31. Students with fewer than 12 credits or more than 36 total credits are not eligible to apply.

33rd Annual Casper College Literary Conference Success

The 33rd Annual Casper College and ARTCORE Literary Conference titled “Re:Writing” was held in September 2019. The conference featured five writers who gave both presentations and workshops during the two-day event.

Authors featured included: Joy Ross Davis author of “Countenance” and

“The Madwoman of Preacher’s Cove;” Bethany Schultz Hurst, author of “Miss Lost Nation;” **Jamie Smith** (’91-’19), a poet whose works have been published in various magazines such as Jane and Expression Art and Literary Magazine; and **Tammy Dominguez** (AA, ’11, AA, ’12), a poet and writer whose work has

appeared in Wyoming Writer’s Expression Art and Literary Magazine, Crack the Spine Literary Magazine, North Central Review, and Pilot/Flying J Magazine. The conference was rounded out with Jill Hannah Anderson, author of “The To-Hell-And-Back Club,” and “Crazy Little Town Called Love.”

Casper College joins SALUTE

A chapter of SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society has been established at Casper College.

According to the honor society's website, SALUTE was formed in 2009 by the Colorado State University Veterans Office. SALUTE is the first national academic honor society established for student veterans and active military in two- and four-year institutions of higher education.

SALUTE, which stands for Service, Academics, Leadership, Unity, Tribute, and Excellence, "... is an acronym of the foundation blocks and core-values of

the honor society, and is the basis of our success. SALUTE supports our members through scholarships, and we encourage our members to be peer mentors and sponsors at their colleges to incoming military members."

"The implementation of this honor society on our campus will be another influential part of the growth and development of our military-affiliated students here at Casper College," said **Nicholas Whipps**, veteran and international student coordinator. "We are excited to be starting a new academic honor society specifically for military-

affiliated students this fall," added Whipps who noted that the honor society will "... be a great way to recognize those students for their academic achievements and give them another outlet for professional development and resume building before they transfer to a four-year institution or enter the workforce."

According to the SALUTE website, there are currently 326 colleges in the honor society. Casper College is the only community college in the state with the program.

Young post-secondary STEAM educator of the year

Casper College physics and astronomy instructor **Andrew Young**, Ph.D., was recently named the STEAM Post-Secondary Educator of the year by the Wyoming Department of Education.

According to the WDE, Young has played an active role in mentoring teachers and students across Wyoming. His lecture series that covers physics and astronomy are available in podcast form. Young's past research interest includes blazars, space weather, aurora borealis, and astrophysical search engines. His current primary academic duties consist of teaching live and online astronomy and physics courses at Casper College. He serves as a board member for the Wyoming NASA Space Grant and also is the Wyoming RadNet systems operator for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Young was nominated by James Stith, a science instructor at Newcastle High School. "Dr. Young has dedicated his time and resources to personally deliver (science-related) kits to my school. He has also made himself available for any assistance or professional development so

that we can best utilize the equipment that he has provided," said Stith, adding, "Dr. Young is a science rock star and should be thusly recognized."

"These educators have a passion for STEAM that is passed on to their students — and students well-versed in STEAM are essential to the economic well-being of our state," said Michelle Aldrich, Ph.D., supervisor of the WDE Career Technical Education Section. "The department is privileged to honor these educators and thank them for preparing Wyoming's children for the future."

Young has been teaching physics and astronomy at Casper College since August 2005. He received his bachelor's in astronomy and physics from Boston University and his master's and doctorate in astrophysics from the University of Minnesota. Past honors include the Wyoming First Lego

League Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2014 and the Wyoming Science Teachers Association Friend of Science Award in 2017.

Young was honored at the 2019 Roadmap to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) Conference. Each year, the Wyoming Department of Education recognizes exemplary STEAM educators from elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels of education.



Andrew Young, Ph.D., in a lab in the Wold Physical Science Center.

Vets Organization Donates to CC Veterans Club



Dan Currah (AB, '71) hands a donation check to Jordan Janski (AS, '18), for \$10,000. Also pictured, l to r, Bill Williams, Dustin Smart (AS, '18), and Nicholas Whipps.

Hunting With Heroes has donated \$10,000 to the Casper College Veterans Club. According to **Dan Currah** (AB, '71), co-founder of Hunting with Heroes, the group decided to share their earnings from a recently held Thankful Thursday at

the Beacon Club. “We have been very lucky as an organization with fundraising. Co-founder **Colton Sasser** (AS, '16) and I approached these guys to help us gather auction items for Thankful Thursday and to help at the event,” said Currah. “When I went to Casper College back in the early 1970s, there wasn’t a veterans program, and Colton and I both wanted to share and give back to another veterans organization.”

“This generous donation will go back to all our student success activities we have here at Casper College for our veterans,” said **Nicholas**

Whipps, veteran and international student coordinator. The money will go to the Peer Advisor program, scholarships, the annual trip to the Student Vets of America conference, and upkeep for the club’s

headquarters on campus. “This donation is really a big deal for us,” noted Whipps.

“Working with Hunting for Heroes was a great opportunity for our club members. When they contacted us to help, we jumped at the chance. It was a very positive experience,” said **Jordan Janski** (AS, '18), Casper College Veterans Club president.

The mission of Hunting with Heroes Wyoming is to give back to disabled veterans by honoring them with unique hunting, fishing, and other outdoor experiences. The organization offers a progressive healing environment where disabled veterans are welcome and supported — a community where they can discover hope again, no matter what battles they continue to fight physically or emotionally.

The Casper College Veterans Club is a student-led organization that supports active military and veteran students and their dependents through empowering them and their families to foster collective success and positive campus and community interactions. The Casper College Veterans Club is a partner with the Student Veterans of America. You can find the club on Facebook at facebook.com/CasperCollegeVeterans.

Casper College Recognized as Military Friendly Silver School

Casper College has been named to the 2019-20 Military Friendly Schools list as a Silver Award recipient. The list, compiled by Military Friendly, honors those 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.

According to Military Friendly, schools that receive the Silver Award designation “... meet the requirements and score

within 20% of the 10th ranking school in their category. Only a select group of institutions achieve this honor.” **Nicholas Whipps**, veteran and international student coordinator, noted that being a Military Friendly Silver member “means that Casper College provides ample opportunity and support for veterans.” Casper College is also the only Military Friendly designated school in the

state of Wyoming for 2019-2020.

The 2019-20 Military Friendly Schools list was compiled using public data sources for more than 8,800 schools nationwide, input from student veterans, and responses to the proprietary, data-driven Military Friendly Schools survey from participating institutions.



Debate Team Shines at Pioneer Trails Forensics Tournament

The Casper College Talking T-Birds had an impressive showing at the 37th Annual Pioneer Trails Forensics Tournament hosted by Casper College in November 2019.

Individually, **Hannah Arnold**, Lander, took two championships, one in dramatic interpretation and the other in speech to entertain. **Jaе Fletcher**, Box Elder, South Dakota, placed third in informative speaking, second in top speaker for the International Public Debate Association, and champion in both impromptu speaking and communication analysis.

Jasmin Atkins, Cheyenne, took the IPDA championship and was undefeated throughout the IPDA competitions.

Thayne Macy, Casper, was a semifinalist and took second in IPDA, and also took second place in both extemporaneous speaking and communication analysis.

Kaelan Rodriguez, Casper, was fifth in prose interpretation and champion in program oral interpretation.

Stephanie Barella, Casper, placed fifth in informative speaking, fourth in extemporaneous speaking, and was a semifinalist in IPDA. **Jacob Dickinson**, Encampment, took second in dramatic interpretation; **Violet Wright**, Casper, placed third in pervasive speaking; **Alex Walters**, Rapid City, South Dakota, took fifth in informative speaking and

competed in the IPDA quarterfinals; while **Izac Garcia**, Cheyenne, placed fifth in impromptu speaking.

The team was also the tournament champions, but as **Doug Hall**, forensics head coach and communications instructor explained, “As the host school, we don’t count our points.”

The team also placed well at its first tournament of the year, the Trapper Rendezvous in Powell, Wyoming. There the team took first in the community college sweepstakes and third in the overall sweepstakes.

Individually, Dickinson was first in dramatic interpretation. **Braxton Sambrano**, Casper, took second in prose, while Garcia took fifth in prose. Fletcher placed third in informative speaking and was an IPDA semifinalist. Walters was also a semifinalist in IPDA and took fourth in informative speaking.

Macy placed fourth in communication analysis and second in IPDA. Atkins, Barella, and **Stephen Koch**, Casper, were all quarterfinalists in IPDA. Rodriguez placed fifth in program oral interpretation.

“I’ve been really pleased with the way the team has performed so early in the season,” said Hall, adding, “If they continue their hard work, I see more wins for this team.”



The Casper College Talking T-Birds display the team’s many awards from the Pioneer Trails Forensics Tournament.

College Now Offers Bookkeeping Certificate and Degree

A new Associate of Applied Science degree in bookkeeping and a new certificate in bookkeeping are now offered by Casper College.

“Casper employers are willing to hire bookkeepers with a one-year certificate,” said **Mark Oxley**, accounting and business instructor. According to Oxley, both the certificate and degree are for those “... wanting to start or extend their career in bookkeeping.” According to the Bureau

of Labor Statistics, as of May 2017, bookkeepers in Wyoming earn \$10.68 to \$27.78 an hour and \$22,220 to \$57,780 annually.

“Both the bookkeeper certificate and bookkeeper degree can be obtained entirely online, and many classes can be taken as an online or lecture class,” Oxley noted. Some of the class topics that both degree and certificate programs cover include accounting principles,

QuickBooks, payroll accounting, and spreadsheet applications, while the degree goes further in-depth to cover business law, intermediate accounting, management, marketing, and other areas.

PBS Documentary Features Tate Outting

By Danica Sveda (AA '09)

J.P. Cavagelli and Tate volunteer Steve Pfaff move a plaster jacket with dinosaur bones out of the quarry. The bones were taken back to the Tate for further preparation.

It was during an unusually wet spring that had bled into a cold, wet start to the summer when the film crew arrived in Medicine Bow, Wyoming. Thunderstorms had been raging all over the state for two weeks before the filming, making for less than ideal conditions for driving dirt roads and digging up fossils. The weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the group of amateur fossil hunters who had paid to join the Tate Geological Museum in the excavation of a *Diplodocus*. The Tate

“Dee,” an 11,600-year-old Columbian Mammoth and “Lee Rex,” the first *T.rex* found in Wyoming to stay in Wyoming, call it home. Despite the museum’s small size, there are treasures tucked in every corner. The Tate’s reputation and collection must have gotten Emily Graslie interested in including the Tate in her three-part documentary series titled “Prehistoric Road Trip” to be released on the Public Broadcasting Service in the summer of 2020.



The camera crew films diggers at a fossil site in Como Bluff for the upcoming documentary “Prehistoric Road Trip.” The documentary will be shown on Public Broadcasting Service this summer.

offers opportunities in the summer for the public to join them for five-day trips in the field. The digs are educational experiences for the participants while also helping add to the museum’s collections for display and research.

The Tate is an educational wonder at Casper College and houses a collection of over 6,000 fossil and mineral specimens.

The documentary film crew gathered at the Virginian Hotel in Medicine Bow at 7 a.m. to plan the day’s filming and eat breakfast. There was a comradery over coffee when the participants and film crew mingled, each group excited for what the day might bring. The Tate group had been working on carefully removing the fossil of *Diplodocus*. After plans were made,

the crew took a few takes outside the hotel while participants stayed out of sight and hearing.

The team was then underway in a large caravan. Eight vehicles headed out toward the dig site. The sky was overcast, but the prairie was bursting with wildflowers and tall grasses with Como Bluff rising like a vertebra out of the verdant ocean of green. The trip into the dig sight was made more exciting by the rain, and after about 40 minutes of variable off-road conditions, everyone arrived at the site. The only indication that a dig was underway was a blue tarp placed over a small area to protect the fossils and the Tate’s trailer.

Those who paid to be on the dig immediately got to work. They knew exactly where they had left off the day before and unloaded tools from the trailer, pulled the tarp back, and set to work despite the less than ideal conditions of winds and cold temperatures. Through the course of removing the juvenile *Diplodocus*, the group discovered other interesting fossils. A few *Allosaurus* teeth, crocodile teeth from *Goniopholis*, and various other, as of yet, unidentified fossils.

While the members got straight to work, **J.P. Cavagelli**, museum collections specialist at the Tate, was pulled aside by the film crew to be interviewed about the dig and the fossils they had been finding. Everyone was dressed as well as they could for a frigid June day, but Cavagelli outshone everyone wearing a whimsical corn hat through the entire interview while explaining the purpose of the day's dig. Cavagelli walked Graslie through the process of mapping and taking notes for each fragment of important bone to help the scientists better understand the fossil and the context in which it lies.

The star of the documentary is Graslie. She holds the title of chief curiosity correspondent at Chicago's Field Museum. As a science communicator, Graslie considers herself "professionally curious."

Her career started by wanting to tell people about the interesting work that takes place inside natural history museums. According to her website, "I feel a great sense of responsibility to use the attention I've garnered to not only share wonderful stories about nature but to help inspire the sense that we can all be agents for positive change." Her Instagram account documents her travels this past summer throughout the West visiting museums and geologically important sites



Interviewer Emily Graslie and J.P. Cavagelli share a light-hearted moment at a dig site in Como Bluff.

that will be included in the series. You can find out more about the documentary series at interactive.wttw.com/playlist/2019/07/29/prehistoric-road-trip.



J.P. Cavagelli (yellow hat) discusses the Como Bluff site with Emily Graslie. Graslie and a film crew spent a day filming Cavagelli and dig participants as part of an upcoming Public Broadcasting Service documentary "Prehistoric Road Trip" to be released this summer.

History of Como Bluff, Wyoming

By Melissa Connely, Casper College earth science instructor and Klaenhammer Earth Science Chair

Como Bluff, a famous area for finding impressive dinosaur fossils near Medicine Bow, Wyoming, was also a key site in the 19th century "bone wars." The actual ridge is a feature known as a hogback. It is several miles long and was created by an upward fold in the rocks known as an anticline. It is because of this uplift that rocks and sediments from the Late Jurassic — about 145 million years ago — have been exposed.

In 1877, two off-duty railroad workers near Medicine Bow were exploring the surrounding area and found fossils. The two employees of the Union Pacific Railroad sent a letter to professor O.C. Marsh of Yale College, and signed it

Marsh hired the two men, along with S.W. Williston and later A.C. Lakes and others, to quarry the area and send the specimens to the Peabody Museum. They were instructed to keep the location as much of a secret as possible as Marsh was in competition with a fellow colleague, professor E.D. Cope. Cope eventually found out about the discovery and sent his own team to investigate and collect many new specimens. Thus, the famous "bone wars" began. Each team was trying to one-up the other using all means necessary to include smashing fossils to prevent the collection by another team.

Marsh continued to collect fossils at the site for about 12 years. By the time he had finished, he had collected over 100 specimens, 81 of which are holotypes, or the type of specimen used in the original description of a species. Unfortunately, as the competition heated up, the collectors moved to other localities nearby, including the Freeze-out Hills and Sheep Creek taking their collections with them. Many of the historical collections of Como Bluff fossils are found outside of Wyoming and housed in museums around the world.

Members of the Tate Geological Museum started working in the Como Bluff in 1994 and helped excavate many dinosaur specimens, including *Apatosaurus* and *Allosaurus*. The museum started collecting their own specimens in 2014 and continues today. Each year they take a small group of "fossil diggers" down for a week at a time to help discover, quarry, and remove fossil remains for the museum.

Fossils collected so far include *Camptosaurus*, *Camarasaurus*, *Diplodocus*, as well as unique turtles, crocodiles, and plant specimens. Each year



Unidentified 140-million-year-old dinosaur bone pieces at Como Bluff.

new and exciting finds are being made, proving that the Como Bluff region is still a valuable paleontological resource for Wyoming. The added bonus is that those finds stay in Wyoming for all to enjoy.

To find out how to participate is a summer dig with the Tate visit: caspercollege.edu/tate-geological-museum/events/digs.



Unidentified 140-million-year-old dinosaur bone pieces at Como Bluff.

Harlow and Edwards, alias Carlin and Reed. They later sent a crate containing a sample of the fossils. Some of the bones were identified as specimens of *Apatosaurus grandis*.



Giving Back: Carl and Georgina Grosz

By Danica Sveda (AA '09)

This past September, Casper College hosted its first Grosz Health Science Lecture Series.

Dr. Carl Grosz and his wife started the lecture series as a way to give back to the community where he grew up. As a retired surgeon, he and his wife wanted a lecture series that would be motivational and instructional for students and faculty as well as the community. Working with students benefited him during his career as a physician and faculty member, and he recognizes their importance to medicine.

Born in Casper, Grosz graduated high school in 1950 from Natrona County High School. He left Casper to attend the University of Colorado and then its School Of Medicine. Grosz then spent 14 years in New York working in King's County Hospital and at the State University of New York. He started his residency there and stayed on to become a member of the faculty.

Carl's wife Georgina, a native New Yorker from Manhattan, was a nurse at the University of New York. The tug of the west became too great, and he eventually left New York to begin his practice in Boise, Idaho, where he eventually retired.

Grosz and his wife Georgina have ensured that there will be more health lectures to come through their generosity. The campus and the community of Casper are grateful for their contribution to continued learning for all.



Dr. Vincent Felitti gave a talk titled "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Their Relation to Adult Emotional State, Social Function, Disease, and Premature Death" in the college's Wheeler Concert Hall in September.

New Lecture Series Begins

A new lecture series, The Grosz Health Science Lecture Series, debuted with guest speaker Dr. Vincent Felitti in September 2019.

Dr. Felitti's presentation was titled "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Their Relation to Adult Emotional State, Social Function, Disease, and Premature Death," Felitti discussed the powerful relationship between the emotional experiences people have as children and their physical and mental health as adults.

A renowned physician and researcher, Felitti is one of the world's foremost

experts on childhood trauma and is co-principal investigator of the internationally recognized Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, a long-term, in-depth, analysis of over 17,000 adults.

A second lecture was held, Jan. 14 and continued to explore childhood trauma with a lecture titled "Trauma Informed Education" by Brenda Morton, Ed.D. A workshop followed the presentation. Find out more at caspercollege.edu/news/2019/12/childhood-trauma.

Van Burgh 2020 Commitment to Excellence Recipient

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

Casper native **Dana Van Burgh Jr.** ('57) has been selected to receive the Casper College Alumni Association's 2020 Commitment to Excellence award.

Van Burgh and his late wife, Nora (AA, '57), became connected to Casper College shortly after they returned to Casper following Van Burgh's time in the Air Force. He had graduated two years prior to his time in the Air Force with a degree in geology from Coe College.

After his stint in the Air Force, Van Burgh and Nora returned to Casper, where he looked for a job in geology. Unfortunately, there were no jobs in geology to be had. His mother, who happened to be the deputy clerk of the court for Natrona County at that time, suggested that he walk across the hall and talk to the county's superintendent of schools; perhaps there was a way that he could get into teaching. When Van Burgh found out that all he needed was a teaching certificate from Casper College, he quickly changed his career direction. Van Burgh recalled that Casper College was "wonderful" and that his time at the school was "great fun." That year, both Van Burgh and Nora attended classes in the college's first building. "It was a really great new building, like paradise, just beautiful and a great view of town," he noted.

One day, Van Burgh was heading back to Natrona County High School, where he was student teaching. He stopped by the relatively new Dean Morgan Junior High School to say hello to his former fifth-grade physical education teacher, Quincy Tarter. Tarter was now the principal of DMJH, and out of the blue Tarter offered Van Burgh a teaching job. "After I said 'hello,' Mr. Tarter just suddenly said, 'Superintendent Dean Morgan,

was up here the other day, and he wondered if you would mind teaching here instead of at NCHS when you finish up your certificate at Casper College."

Van Burgh realized that he had a job, and he hadn't even applied yet. He told Tarter "yes," and the next day, he returned to the school. Tarter took him up to the third floor, and they entered one of the classrooms where Tarter simply said: "This is your classroom. Here are your books. Any questions, come see me."

In 1995, 38 years later, Van Burgh, who had remained in that same classroom all those years, retired from his beloved job. Van Burgh started out teaching general science, but somewhere over the years, that changed to geology. Along the way, he earned his master's degree and was recognized with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for outstanding teaching in the United States. Van Burgh loved teaching, which was ironic considering his dislike for school as a kid. "I believed that I could do a job that would make kids more willing to be at school, then I was when I was a kid."

Since his school days at Casper College, Van Burgh has kept close ties with CC. "Nora and I had a love affair with Casper College. The happiest years of our lives were when we were going to Casper College," he said. Nora worked in the Casper College library for 25 years before her untimely passing. Two of their three children are Casper College graduates: **Christine Van Burgh** (AS, '76) and **Gabrielle (Van Burgh) Pieroni** (AS, '80).



A recent photo of Dana Van Burgh ('57).

For a period of time after his retirement, Van Burgh taught geology for Casper College. Even today, he continues to have a significant interest in the school. In addition to serving on the Casper College Alumni board from 1997-2001, he has also set up several scholarships at the college, all with an eye toward helping students in their learning.

Dana Van Burgh Jr. will be presented with the Casper College Alumni Association's Commitment to Excellence award during the 2020 commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 15.

The Commitment to Excellence award was established by the Casper College Alumni Association in 1991 to honor those who have given exemplary service to and have made a significant difference in the growth and development of Casper College.

Wrestler, Teacher, 2020 Distinguished Alumnus

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

Casper native **Jerry Quinlan** (AA, '59) has been selected to receive the Casper College Alumni Association's 2020 Distinguished Alumni award.

Quinlan is well known in not only the Casper community but also the state of Wyoming, particularly in wrestling, both as a competitor and coach. During his senior year in high school, Quinlan was crowned the Wyoming State Champion Outstanding Wrestler.

Following a four-year stint and honorable discharge from the United States Air Force in 1958, Quinlan returned to Casper, where he enrolled at Casper College. While at Casper College, Quinlan was a member of the wrestling team. Quinlan, who received a bachelor's degree in social studies from San Jose State College, began his teaching career in 1961 at East Junior High School. A year later, Quinlan joined the teaching staff at Natrona County High School, where he taught English and history. While at NCHS, he also served as the department chair of the social studies department, was the activities director, and coached not only wrestling but also football and track.

Randall Hall, principal broker and commercial director at Broker One Real Estate in Casper, who attended NCHS in the early 70s, clearly remembers Quinlan as an influencer and mentor. During the 1971-72 school year, Hall was student body vice president, and Quinlan was the student council advisor. "While Mr. Quinlan was widely known for his coaching ability, his influence on me as an advisor and mentor helped me become the father, husband, and professional I am today," said Hall. "I can only point to a few men who have impacted my life in equally positive and beneficial ways. There are teachers who teach, and there are teachers who lead. Jerry was definitely one of the latter," Hall noted.



Jerry Quinlan (AA, '57), stands inside the new gym at Natrona County High School.

In addition to his excellence in the classroom, Quinlan racked up a string of impressive statistics as a wrestling coach at NCHS, including an overall record of 126 wins, 15 losses, two ties, five regional championships, two state runner-up titles, and four state championships. During his time as a wrestling coach, Quinlan was named the Wyoming Coaches Association Wrestling Coach of the Year three times, established the record of most consecutive dual wins, 35, in Wyoming wrestling, coached 22 individual state champions, and was inducted into the Wyoming Coaches Hall of Fame in 1984.

Current NCHS Football Coach and teacher **Steve Harshman** ('81) first met Quinlan in 1991 when Harshman began his career at the high school. "I have known Jerry since I first started at NCHS, and his leadership and knowledge were evident through his intentional work and planning. He builds people up, is not afraid of hard work, knows what needs

to be done, and is not afraid to be honest. He always put people first. He is a doer and a winner, and a gem of Casper and Wyoming," said Harshman.

In evidence of his qualities as a leader and coach, the Quinlan Trophy was established in his name and is awarded yearly to the outstanding wrestler at NCHS.

Quinlan will be presented with the Distinguished Alumni award during Casper College's 2020 commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 15.

The Distinguished Alumni award winners are nominated by their peers and chosen by the board of directors of the Casper College Alumni Association.



Natrona County High School.

Looking Back: McInroy Recalls CC Advantages and Adventures

By Patricia McInroy (AA, AA, AA, '89)

I had just taken my seat in orchestra class at Natrona County High School when my teacher handed me a sealed envelope. This envelope would change my life. Inside was a one-page letter offering me full tuition at Casper College. It was hard to take seriously at the time. I was only 15 years old and not sure of where I wanted to go to college or what I wanted to study. But I had just landed a spot on the back row of the cello section of the Casper Symphony — now the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra. Apparently, that was enough to get the attention of someone, with the idea that I would continue playing cello into college with both the symphony and the Casper College Baroque Ensemble.

At the time, my goal was not to stay in my hometown after high school. My idea of college was to travel widely and meet people with different experiences than me. So why would I want to go to the local community college? The letter planted a seed, though. My sister **Brenda McInroy Trippel** ('81) and brother **John McInroy** (AS with distinction, '84), who I looked up to, had both attended Casper College and had positive experiences there. They saved money by living at home and were able to transfer to the University of Wyoming and continue in their majors of home economics and engineering. But my interests were different from theirs; I loved



Patricia McInroy at her Casper College graduation ceremony in May, 1989.

music, photography, and foreign languages. My biggest goal was to be a photographer, a major not offered at the University of Wyoming. It turned out Casper College did have a photography major, adding weight to that option.

As my high school career continued, my dad lost his job in the boom/bust cycle of the oil business, which made attending school far away and traveling a more distant goal. So, I decided to explore more about my options if I did attend Casper College.

It wasn't long before I learned that I could earn more scholarship money if I worked at the Casper College newspaper, the *Chinook*, and took journalism classes. Those added on to all of the music classes I was already taking. I tested out of the entry-level German classes and took more advanced classes in German with Herr **(Paul) Wolz**. I remember **Curtis Peacock**, my music instructor and also the conductor for the Casper Symphony, looking at my class schedule and saying incredulously, "But you're taking everything you're interested in!" The truth is, I wasn't sleeping much between classes and delivering pizzas on the weekends. My dream to live on my own was realized, as I could afford to move out of my parent's basement in Bessemer Bend and move into a small basement apartment just a mile from the college.

Although many of the Casper College students were young and rural like I was, the college also had the benefit of "nontraditional" students, and I found myself in classes with peers who also had life experience. One student, **Dee Gould** ('89), wasn't afraid to speak up in class. She'd already been to West Germany in the military and had life experience as a photographer in the Army. We bonded over photography, German, and journalism interests.

One day, Wolz made an announcement to our German class about a scholarship specifically for foreign travel. I had never heard of such a thing before or since. The scholarship was designated for a Casper College student to visit a country of the language they were studying. My award was \$600. With some research, it was enough to buy a plane ticket to West Germany. But just flying to Frankfurt and staying with friends in Bonn was not enough. Wolz said I needed to do



Patricia McInroy's East German visa used on an immersion opportunity.



A view of East Berlin from the Fernsehturm (television tower), also located in East Berlin.

some kind of program while I was there, something educational. We searched through brochures for programs costing several thousands of dollars at German universities, and things were not looking promising. But, then he came across a program that only cost \$150 with meals and lodging included for a full three weeks! The catch: the program was a kind of work camp in East Germany. At that time, the Berlin Wall was still up. I was nervous, but also super excited.

During my first two months abroad, I stayed with friends in two German towns so that by the time I traveled to Berlin by myself, I was at least able to conduct a conversation and ask directions more confidently in German. Those three weeks in East Germany were eye-opening. I made friends with a former border guard for the Berlin Wall and a government translator, as well as lots of other college-aged young people from East Germany and the United States. We worked together on local construction sites building government housing. I gained a new appreciation for capitalism and all of the comforts of home. In the process, I was able to practice my German a lot more with a population that had not grown up on American music and television shows. Everywhere we went, East Germans explained to us why the wall could not come down. I was more in shock than anyone a year later watching the wall

come down on live television.

But one trip to East Germany wasn't the end of my travel adventures with Casper College. I also took a trip to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, with the Chinook newspaper group and **Bill Landen** (AS, '76). We met other student journalists from a variety of junior colleges at a competition there. Our group did well there, seeing how our work compared with other college students in the region and winning awards in various categories. We returned proudly and more energized than ever to pursue our interests.

When I had a photo published in the Casper College Expressions magazine, a woman named Mary Thomas came to see me as she noticed the photo and needed



The remaining ruins of Dresden Frauenkirche, a Lutheran church bombed during WWII.

artwork for a social justice poster. Thomas was the director of the Newman Center at the time and invited me to take a spring break trip with other Casper College students to help people in rural Appalachia. I was interested in seeing rural Kentucky and helping people, but the Newman Center was a Catholic group, and I grew up in the Methodist Church in Casper. I didn't know any of the other students, but it quickly became another opportunity to



Casper College students pose outside of the propane-powered Newman Center bus on a service trip to Appalachia. Patricia McInroy is located bottom center.

make new friends and travel.

We all rode in a bus fueled by propane. It was more economical to use propane, but difficult to find gas stations that sold it. When we ran out of gas outside of St. Louis, a few of us had to hitchhike to the nearest gas station before continuing our adventure. I made a life-long friend in Casper College student **Amy Kopperud (McCormick)** (AA, '89) on that trip, who also was into art and travel but was not in any of my classes.

While I was working at the Chinook, a photographer named Zbigniew Bzdak, who worked for the Casper Star-Tribune, stopped in. He was looking to see if there was a college student who would like to gain experience working at a professional paper. Bzdak mentored me as I worked on Mondays as a photographer at the Casper Star-Tribune for a year. The college helped me arrange all of my classes around the job. It was officially an internship with college credit. This internship gave me hundreds of published photos and on-the-ground practical experience that helped pave the way toward my career goals.

A credit-check a semester or so before graduation told me that I had enough credits to get three degrees at the same time from Casper College. One for foreign language, one for photography, and one for liberal arts — a combination of my music and journalism classes. This was a result of testing out of some classes, taking lots of music classes in addition to the courses of my major, and also carrying a heavy course load.

Some would think that graduation from Casper College and moving out of state to pursue my photojournalism major at the University of Missouri would be the end of

my story at Casper College, but it was not. After interning at a Spanish-language paper in Costa Rica called *La Nación*, I returned to Casper in 1995 to work full time as a

came to class and said she had found round trip airfares from Denver to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for \$300, including the hotel. She generously offered to pay half the

"A credit-check a semester or so before graduation told me that I had enough credits to get three degrees at the same time from Casper College."

photographer at the Star-Tribune. I wanted to improve on my Spanish skills, so it only made sense to enroll in Spanish classes at Casper College. Now in my mid-20s, I knew that Spanish would be useful to me as a journalist.

We had a small, eclectic class of about five advanced students with **Lynda Durham** as our instructor. She loved our class, and it showed. One day, Durham

way for each student who wanted to go. We car-pooled to Denver, and when we landed in Mexico, she intercepted each person who tried to speak English with us, insisting we were all Spanish students, and we were there to speak Spanish! One highlight of our trip was watching a genuine Wyoming cowboy in our group as he exclaimed loudly and ran toward the water shouting "Wow" over and over. Only later did he



At the beach in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on a Spanish language trip led by Lynda Durham, Casper College Spanish instructor.



Patricia McInroy, left and Lynda Durham, CC Spanish instructor, center pose with other students at their hotel in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

explain that it was his first time seeing the ocean.

Durham really wanted to take us to an authentic Mexican market that wasn't just for tourists but sold food to the locals. She also thought it would be a great place to practice our Spanish. As we all piled into a taxi, Durham said to the driver in Spanish, "Take us to the market, but not the one where the tourists go. The market where real Mexican people go. The market with food." He confirmed, "The market where Mexican people shop for food." We all got out of the car when he stopped. He was about to take off when we realized he was dropping us off at a large grocery store. We piled back in the car, and she said, "Take us to the tourist market." We laughed all the way there and walked from the tourist market to the local outdoor food market,

where we all made a point to use our Spanish.

I went on to work as a photojournalist in Tucson, Arizona, and covered issues along the U.S./Mexican border, making several trips into Mexico and using skills learned in photography, journalism, and Spanish from Casper College. My brother is now an engineering professor at the University of Wyoming, and my sister teaches family and consumer sciences at Worland High School in Worland, Wyoming. My friend, Dee, who I met in my very first classes at Casper College, lives just a block from my mom in Casper and is about to retire from Park Elementary School. Her daughter, still in high school, just took a summer drawing class at Casper College. And I still meet up with my friend Amy, who also went on the trip to Appalachia. She now teaches art to

elementary kids in Casper, and we exchange creative ideas and laughs over coffee.

There are many other Casper College connections I still keep, including mentors like **Janet de Vries** and **Linda Ryan**, who continue to offer valuable input on career and art when asked. I now have a master's degree and teach photography and video at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design and The Denver School of Photography. I make short documentary films in my free time. Things came full circle for me when I taught an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) class at Casper College in 2018, screening one of my films that had aired on Public Broadcasting Service.

Documentaries

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

Another documentary, "Nicodemus," which was made after "Clara," won the Juror's Award at the Doc Sunback Film Festival. To see all of McInroy's completed documentaries go to patriciamcinroy.weebly.com/documentary-video.html.

Casper College Goes to the Dogs!

By Danica Sveda (AA '09)

September 14, 2019, kicked off the T-Bird Trek weekend with a lot of wagging tails and slobbery kisses. The first T-Bird Dog Trek was held on campus to raise money for the Casper College Veterans Club. The entry fee was \$10 a dog to take a 1.5-mile walk around the inner loop of campus. There were dog treats and water stations located throughout the walk for the dogs.

The event hosted 54 dogs and their owners, which raised over \$500 for the club. "People really enjoyed having an opportunity to come up to the college for a dog-specific event. The community of Casper has a ton of events, but ones that cater specifically to our community members and their dogs is something we don't have a lot of. This fills a niche, supports an awesome cause, and is located in a beautiful place," said **Nicholas Whipps**, veteran and international student coordinator.

Next year will bring more fun to the dog walk with ideas such as a best-dressed dog contest, a dog version of musical chairs, and perhaps a small obstacle course.

Having the T-Bird Dog Trek start off the weekend for the T-Bird Trek was a fun way to begin. After the Dog Trek, walkers and runners could register for the T-Bird Trek and pick up their race packets." It really exemplifies what the T-Bird Trek is about, helping all of our students on campus, in a healthy, fun way," said **Ann Dalton**, race director.



Dogs and their people head out on the trek.



Above: This pup took a rest following his participation in the T-Bird Dog Trek.



Right: Friends were made during the T-Bird Dog Trek.

T-Bird Dog Trek

Mark your calendars for a fun way to show off your best friend while helping campus veterans at the same time.

**T-Bird Dog Trek,
Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.**

————— And don't forget the —————

**T-Bird Trek
Sunday, Sept. 13.**

caspercollegefoundation.org/t-bird-trek

Twenty Years, and Twenty Trips to D.C.

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



Erich Frankland began teaching political science at Casper College in August 1999. That same year he began teaching a class, “Issues in Foreign Relations,” POLS 1020 and 1030.

According to Frankland, the class

is a year-long seminar that provides an introduction to the concepts, institutions, and issues of contemporary foreign relations from the perspective of the United States. “Both courses provide an essential foundation of the theories, histories, and approaches that affect foreign relations,” he said. The highlight of the class is a trip taken during the spring semester to Washington D.C., where Frankland and his students attend the annual American Committees on Foreign Relations Conference.

Last spring’s conference was titled “U.S. Interests in Latin America” and

allowed the students to hear first-hand from a variety of experts in the subject area. Prior to the two-day conference, students enjoyed an evening walking tour of the national monuments, meetings in the offices of Senator John Barrasso and Representative Liz Cheney, and a tour of the U.S. Capitol.

The group had meetings at the U.S. State Department with Peter Howard, the Near Eastern Affairs Chief Analyst, on the Middle East; Ambassador Tim Lenderking, deputy assistant secretary of state for the Arabian Gulf; and Farhan Akhtar, lead climate change scientist in the Bureau of Oceans and International Scientific and Environmental Affairs.

A group dinner was spent with Hristiana Petkova, policy analyst for Cyber, Infrastructure, and Resilience Policy at the Department of Homeland Security, and Eric Shibuya, political science faculty at the Marine Corps University.

The next two days, the group attended the ACFR Conference. The first day included presentations and meetings at the Organization of American Studies.

The day was capped off with a diplomatic reception at the Argentine Embassy.

The final day of the conference was spent at The University Club of Washington D.C. The day began with an opening keynote by Ambassador Jorge Heine, public policy fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center and former ambassador of Chile to China. The students then attended morning and afternoon panel sessions.

In addition to classes and the conference, students are also required to attend the nine evening dinner sessions hosted by the Casper Committee on Foreign Relations during the school year. Each dinner event includes a talk by a foreign relations expert followed by a Q&A session.

“It makes such a learning difference when students can actually hear from those involved in foreign affairs,” said Frankland. “Each year, students hear from those they would otherwise never be able to hear from, and this allows them to broaden not only their horizons but their understanding of the world and world affairs that affect the United States,” he said.

Alternative Spring Break 2019: New Mexico

For most Casper College students and instructors, spring break means getting away from school and studies and relaxing. However, a group of Casper College students, under the leadership of instructors **Erich Frankland**, political science, and **Greg Denke**, psychology, spent five of their seven break days in New Mexico during the 2019 spring break participating in social and environmental justice work.

For a number of years now, Casper College has sent students and instructors on what is billed as an “Alternative Spring

Break” with the goal of spending several days learning about and working to create social and environmental justice. The trips can be likened to community service projects and serve to provide Casper College students with a heightened understanding of social discrepancies between different population groups in the United States of America. The trip to New Mexico gave students the opportunity to help those struggling with poverty and homelessness.

According to Frankland, the students first volunteered at the El Caldito Soup

Kitchen. There the students helped the staff of El Caldito prepare and serve hot meals. The group helped homeless and underprivileged children the next day as volunteers at Jardin de los Ninos. The final day, the students volunteered at Casa de Peregrinos, a food pantry and social services center.

Students returned from this adventure with an understanding of the effects of poverty and how they can be a part of the solution.

KEY: Creator and Director Retires

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

KEY, which stands for Knowledge Enrichment Program for Youth, was started in the summer of 1986 after several community members approached then Casper College President Lloyd Loftin asking if the college could develop something for gifted and talented students.

Loftin contacted **Barbara Crews**, who at that time was the only education instructor at the college for the school's students working on their teaching degree. "I got so excited about bringing master teachers and children who wanted to learn together. Magic happens with teachers who love to teach, and students who love to learn come together," Crews said, adding, "I started planning and dreaming."

That planning led Crews to visit several summer enrichment programs in Louisiana and Colorado. She knew a number of instructors in Louisiana and the programs that were in place there. Following her visits to both states, Crews told Loftin that the college could do a summer enrichment program. She hired Jeanie Spawn to work with her as Spawn was a gifted and talented coordinator for the Natrona County School District. Crews knew that Spawn already knew many talented instructors that could be hired to teach in the camp.

Crews and Spawn contacted the Wyoming Association of Gifted Education to find gifted instructors. That first year about 20 instructors responded to the letter, which asked each applicant to "send lesson plans and examples of what they would do," said Crews. From that group of 20, Crews hired 12 instructors. Her criteria for selection were simple: The chosen instructors had to have experience teaching gifted and talented students, a love of their discipline, and present something that kids would want to learn.



Denise (Neville) Bressler ('84), Casper College Foundation executive director, and Barbara Crews look over a book of memories.

In 1986, the first KEY Program, also known as KEY Camp, began. The name for the enrichment program was the result of Crews and Spawn "thinking of many different names and ending up with Knowledge Enrichment for Youth, or KEY," said Crews. The camp ran for one week that summer and hosted 84 students who were entering fifth through eighth grades.

KEY Camp was expanded to three weeks. "Before we went to that third week, we were turning away 100-150 eligible kids each year," Crews noted. Today, the program hosts 128 "campers" each week, for three weeks, for a total of 384 students for the summer. During Crews' time as director, the program has hosted more than 10,000 students. KEY provides middle

"Magic happens when teachers who love to teach, and students who love to learn come together."

"That first year was a tremendous success. It was so exciting to work with the teachers, counselors, and students and watch those students blossom," Crews said. Due to the demand, another week was added to the summer program the next year, and later on, the grade range changed to those about to enter sixth or seventh grade. Eventually,

school students with unique learning opportunities that are usually not available in their regular classrooms.

This past summer, students were taught a variety of subjects by 12 instructors, each a master instructor in their area of expertise. These classes included "CSI Young Scientists," "Chemistry Chaos,"



Barbara Crews and Denise (Neville) Bressler ('84), Casper College Foundation executive director, hold up a quilt given to Crews in honor of all her years directing KEY.



Barbara Crews holds up the corner of a quilt made in honor of all her years at KEY for her retirement.

“Anatomy and Physiology,” “Engineering Mashup,” “Flight Simulator Training,” “Sign Language,” “Taste Sensations from Many Nations,” “KEY Theatre: Stories on Stage,” and much more.

In addition to the instructors, an evening nurse, evening activities director, and counselors were also hired to keep watch over the young learners throughout the day and night. According to Crews, counselors are selected through recommendations of school principals and counselors. Counselors must have graduated from high school and be in college. Each student chosen to be a counselor must “have high moral standards and high energy, be academically strong, and be an exemplary role model,” Crews said. Many of those

counselors repeat year after year, “some for five years in a row,” Crews noted.

The campers live in the Residence Hall for a week and eat their meals in the college’s Tobin Dining Hall. They learn during the day and then are treated to a variety of fun activities in the evening, including picnics, games, swimming, and more. Some students suffer from homesickness the first few days, but then at the end of the week, “are crying because they don’t want to leave,” Crews said.

Crews announced her retirement from the program following the conclusion of the 2019 camps after 34 years. “I will miss seeing the awesome reactions of young KEY students as they make new discoveries not only about themselves and the world

around them but also as they learn and grow as productive citizens in our community,” said Crews.

Despite retiring from KEY, Crews remains active in the Casper community. The KEY Program also remains active at Casper College, with the 2020 sessions already scheduled. Applications will be available for the 2020 sessions beginning Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, at caspercollege.edu/events/key-camp.

For the Love of Barbara

Barbara Crews has long been admired for her compassion, commitment, love, energy, and optimism. These traits and others were the factors that led the 2015 KEY Camp faculty and staff to establish a KEY Scholarship fund to celebrate the program’s 30th year and honor Crews. The group, in its scholarship letter, wrote: “Through Barbara’s efforts, Casper College

serves students beginning in elementary school, continuing throughout their lives. During her tenure at Casper College, Barbara taught future educators, inspiring them toward excellence in teaching. She served as director of summer school and director of conferences and seminars, established the Network for Teaching Excellence, and was the associate dean

for academic affairs. Barbara’s leadership extends beyond Casper College, encompassing her church and the Casper community.”

The scholarship is open to all former KEY students who plan to attend Casper College. Donations can be made online by going to caspercollegefoundation.org.

Associate Degree Nursing Program Celebrates 50 Years

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

The Casper College Nursing Program celebrated 50 years on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, with an open house during the afternoon and a banquet that evening.

The open house was attended by Casper residents, current students, graduates, and faculty, both past and present. The attendees were treated to celebratory cake and refreshments and tours of the Saunders Health Science Center, where nursing classes are taught.

The banquet that night was held at the Casper Shrine Club. Current students and faculty mingled with graduates and former faculty of the program. "We all had a wonderful time," said **Marge Christiansen** (AS, '97), director of the nursing program. Christiansen noted that attendees shared stories of their time at the college and also their successes in their subsequent careers as nurses and/or teachers.



Top left: The current director and former directors of the Casper College Nursing Department, l-r, Judy (Cavanah) Turner ('73), current director Marge Christiansen (AS, '97), Jolene Knaus (AS, '68), and Heather Huber.

Top right: Current nursing instructor Heidi Loucks, (AS, '98) and current director Marge Christiansen (AS, '97) cut the cake at the banquet.

Right: Former nursing instructors of the Casper College Nursing Department, l-r, Judy (Cavanah) Turner ('73), Helen Byrd, Janice Traylor (AA, '60), Cheryl Wrasper (AS, '68), Jolene Knaus (AS, '68), Heather Huber, Lori Fichman, Ruth Anne Atnip (AS, '66), and Darlene Pisani.



Five (Plus One) Questions: From Student to Director

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

Casper College's **Marge Christiansen** (AS, '97), director of nursing for the H.E. Stuckenhoff School of Nursing at Casper College, received her first associate degree from Arapahoe Community College in Denver in 1979 in medical assisting and received her emergency medical technician basic certification at the same time.

In November 1979, Christiansen moved to Rawlins, Wyoming, where she worked for a physician and on the Carbon County Ambulance Service. The next year she began full time as an emergency room technician. Christiansen continued with the ambulance service and worked toward her EMT intermediate certification. She left 15 years later with her two young daughters, **Kendra Blackman** (AAS, '04) and **Jessica Blackman** (AS, '08, AS, '09), to attend nursing school at Casper College.

While attending Casper College, Christiansen stayed busy working in Rawlins and working at the Wyoming Medical Center beginning in January 1996. After she graduated from Casper College, she continued to work at the WMC in the emergency department, Lifelight, and the intensive care unit. During her time at the WMC, she was the manager of the neurology unit for three years and worked in the surgical prep area and with outpatients and in outpatient surgery.

Christiansen also worked on furthering her nursing education and received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wyoming in August 2007. On March 1, 2015, she joined the Wyoming Board of Nursing as the education representative. She is currently president of the board, a position she will hold until Feb. 28, 2021.

Q: Why did you decide to become a nurse, and why did you decide to attend Casper College?

A: I was an EMT Intermediate in Rawlins, and after getting a divorce, I decided to move to Casper and go to nursing school at Casper College to further my career.

Q: Who were some of the people that helped you the most while you were at CC, and what is your best memory from your student days at CC?

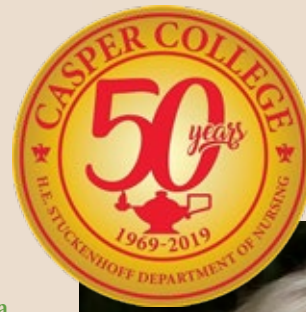
A: **Jolene Knaus** (AS, '68), **Cheryl Wrasper**, **Pat Lansing**, **Darlene Pisani**, and **Helen Byrd** were all instructors that helped me get through nursing school, especially being a single mom. Clinicals were the highlight of the program, including a rotation with **Heather Huber** at the Child Development Center and home health.

Q: Following Casper College, did you immediately get a job?

A: Through the nursing program, I worked at Wyoming Medical Center in the emergency department as an emergency room tech and on the ambulance. I was fortunate to be offered a job in the emergency department after graduation. I then started on Lifelight six months after starting in the emergency department. It was a combination of the two departments at that time. I was lucky to get a job there because only two people in my class were offered jobs that year at the hospital.

Q: When did you become an instructor at Casper College?

A: I started teaching at Casper College in August 2007, Jolene Knaus had talked to me about working at Casper College. While teaching, I also started working on my master's degree in nursing education. I completed my master's in December 2009. I also continued to work as needed



in the emergency department until October 2018.

Q: When did you become the director of nursing, and what is your best memory from working at Casper College?

A: I became the director of nursing in July 2017. My best memories are the pinning ceremonies. I absolutely love it when the students have made it through the program and get pinned by their family or friends.

Q: Your husband is also a CC alum. How did you meet him?

A: **Russ Christiansen** (AS, '79) and I worked on the ambulance service in Rawlins together. After I moved up here, he also came up to Casper. While I was in nursing school, he went to Denver and went through the paramedic program. We were married in 1998.

People & Places: Alumni

40s, 50s

Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49) read her original poetry for ARTCORE's 2019 Music and Poetry series at the Bourgeois Pig in July. Charlotte is the author of "The Saint Patrick's Story," "Shot Down! Capital Crimes of Casper" and "The Meadowlark's Song...and More." Charlotte also recently celebrated her 90th birthday at St. Patrick's Commons with many friends and admirers in attendance.

60s, 70s, 80s

Dan Merle Currah (AB, '71) and **Colton Sasser** (AS, '16) through their organization "Hunting with Heroes" recently donated \$10,000 to the Casper College Veterans Club. See story on page 6.

The Wendy Larsen Memorial Senior 4-D was held this September during the Fizz Bomb Classic. The Fizz Bomb Classic is a barrel race founded by **Jane Christian McGinley** ('72) and friend Eva Edwards in honor of their friend Wendy whose untimely death resulted from a horse accident. The Wendy Larsen Memorial is the first-ever Senior Division barrel race connected with the Fizz Bomb. The Fizz Bomb (Barrel Race) Classic was established in 1982 and takes place each year in Gillette, Wyoming.

Lea Schoenewald (AA, '72) participated in the national senior games in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the 5k and finished with a time of 50:00. Her husband TJ also participated, getting fifth in the 50 backstroke and sixth in both the 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke. Thirteen thousand athletes participated in the games.

Open country is what inspired **Joel Ostlind's** (AS, '74) past exhibition at the Brinton Museum in Big Horn, Wyoming. He displayed 60 works inspired by Wyoming landscapes. His work features ranches, cowboys, horses, and fishing. These images come from his own life in Wyoming working as a cowboy.

Author **Ron Franscell** (AA, '78) recently spoke to County 10 about his newest work, "Alice and Gerald: A Homicidal Love Story." According to Franscell's website, the book "... tells the grisly story of a loving couple who killed at least four people, and lived happily ever after — while cops desperately tried for decades to piece together a petrifying tale of murder and secrets." You can listen to the interview at county10.com/author-reflects-on-fremont-county-based-true-crime-book-alice-gerald-a-homicidal-love-story-podcast.

Timothy Jackson (CERT, '84) called to update his address and shared a little story from his time in Casper. He took EMT classes at Casper College, EMT 1 and 2. As a result of this education, he became the first EMT to ride on the new Wyoming Medical Center helicopter to an onsite call. The helicopter had made several hospital transfers, but not been called to an accident. When they were called out, the pilot saw blue lights flashing on Outer Drive near Casper Mountain Road and landed in the middle of the road. Tim jumped out and met the trooper, only to find out that it was a traffic stop. The accident was just over the hill in a residential area, so they had to crank the copter back up again to get to the scene. He said it took them quite a long time to extract the patient from the wreck before they could load her on the flight. Tim and his wife **Judy (Herndon) Jackson** (AAS, '82) now live in Danville, Virginia.

Former student and CC Instructor **Anna Kinder** (AS, '87) has been named as the new director of the Natrona County Health Department. Kinder previously held the position as the director of the Wyoming AIDS Education and Training Center.

90s

Alison Youngberg (AS, '90) works at Wyoming Medical Center, educating patients and staff about the care of their hearts, so they have more control over their diseases. She is able to provide this education after successfully getting a grant from the American College of Cardiology to reduce 30-day hospital readmissions. Alison's career has been spent working with surgeons assisting them with heart surgery and organ harvesting. In 2013 she was awarded the Nursing Excellence Award for evidence-based practice.

Malik Hamilton ('92) and his wife, Jennifer, live with their children in Pittsburgh, where he is the purchasing supervisor for the food service department of Pittsburgh Public Schools.

▼**Tim Crowe** (AAS, '94) and **Pauline Bowman** (AS, '13) were married on July 13, 2019, in the Big Horn mountains. Tim is manager at Flannery West Machine in Casper and recently worked with the Casper College Student Success Center to hire students from the school's



manufacturing technology program. Pauline is the Radiation Safety Officer for Energy Fuels in Casper. Tim spoke highly of his time at Casper College, “I think they have a great vocational program, and great instructors,” he said.



▲ **Dr. Josh Hamilton** (AS, '95, AS, '99) earned the Certified Master Clinical Psychopharmacologist designation from the Neuroscience Education Institute. Hamilton practices professionally and also teaches the psychopharmacology course in the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner certificate program at the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

Misty Dawn Atnip (AS, '96) was named a 2020 District Teacher of the year for Fremont County School District #1. The Wyoming Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program honors excellence in teaching around the state of Wyoming.

Suzette Demaree McIntyre (AA, '96) recently had her show, “Reflections on Casper, Then & Now,” on display at Fort Caspar Museum. The show featured her photography of her hometown taken during summer 2018 along with historical photographs of Casper. McIntyre pursued a successful photography career in Ohio after her time at Casper College. She now lives in Colorado where she operates her business Photography by Suzette. You can see her work at photographybysuzette.com.



▼ **James T. Stress (TJ)**, ('98) returned to Casper College after 20 years away to portray Noah, in “Children of Eden,” the fall of 2019. After his time in Casper, he attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He then went on

to star in Las Vegas, New York City, and overseas in many productions. Some of these included Snoopy in “You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown” and “Twelfth Night” at the Nevada Conservatory Theatre, and Frankfurter in “A Rocky Horror Picture Show” off-Broadway at the New World Stages. TJ also headlined as the featured singer for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and performed with the Aquila Theatre in Athens, Greece.

Lori Brown-Wirth (AA, '99) recently launched her first book “Papas with Ponytails” under her pen name Alexandra Flowers. Lori recounts the kidnapping of her 2-year-old son in 1980, her trip to Iran to recover him (she didn't), her fall into drug and alcohol addiction, her recovery, and much more. You can find additional information on Lori's book by going to papaswithponytails.com.

2000s

CC graduates **Scott Hartman** (AS, '01), **Jessica Lippincott** (AS, '13), and **David Lovelace** (AS, '01) recently co-authored a scientific paper about a new small dinosaur nicknamed “Lori.” The *Hesperornithoides miessleri* was found in the Morrison formation in 2001 when members of the Tate Geological Museum were excavating a large sauropod dinosaur *Supersaurus vivianae* called “Jimbo.” The authors of the paper believe that Lori provides a link to land-dwelling dinosaurs and today's modern birds, making Lori a significant find. The paper is titled, “A New Paravian Dinosaur from the Late Jurassic of North America Supports a Late Acquisition of Avian Flight” and can be found online from an open-source peer-review platform.

▼ **Chancey Williams** (AA, '03) and the Younger Brothers Band opened for **Ned LeDoux** ('97) at the Park County Fair this summer. Chancey came to Casper College on a rodeo scholarship. He and LeDoux are the only pair to have ridden in the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo and performed on the Frontier Days' main stage as a featured entertainer — a distinction he's proud of.



The mural painted in honor of James Reeb ('47), located in downtown Casper.



Lucas Howell (AS, '01) recently started a new job at Nexleaf Analytics in Los Angeles as a senior software engineer. Nexleaf Analytics is a company that designs sensor technologies, generates data analytics, and advocates for data-driven solutions to global challenges.

is a former Broadway World award-nominated actress. While at Casper College, she gained theater education under the direction of the late **Tom Empey**. She earned

her professional credits in regional productions such as “Big River,” “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,” and “She Loves Me!” Lately, her focus has shifted from being onstage to teaching at CY Middle School and taking on the job of production coordinator for the Casper Children’s Theatre.

Kodi Swanson (AFA, '02) has joined First West Insurance of Bozeman, Montana, as a commercial lines account manager in the select business unit. She is licensed in Montana for property and casualty insurance, as well as surety. Swanson graduated from the University of Wyoming at Casper with a degree in fine arts. She has worked in the insurance industry for 16 years. She is the recipient of an award for excellence in client service and holds a Certified Professional Insurance Agent designation. Swanson loves a good podcast and can always be found enjoying the outdoors with her kids and dogs.

The Seventh Annual Women of Influence awards banquet was held this fall at the Casper Events Center. Among the honorees, **Erin Campbell** ('03) received the award for the government category as the Wyoming State Geologist for the Wyoming State Geological Survey.

▲ **Leah Reeb Varela** (AS, AA, '04) recently attended the unveiling of a new memorial mural in downtown Casper in honor of her late grandfather Reverend **James Reeb** ('47). Reeb was an American Unitarian Universalist minister, pastor, and activist during the Civil rights movement. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Casper launched a fundraising campaign to pay for the mural project. The group met their fundraising goal for the mural and donated the remaining money to the James Reeb Memorial Scholarship fund at Casper College. The fund was started by a group of Casperites on the night of Reeb’s death to help his family and commemorate his name. Leah continues to keep her grandfather’s message of compassion, love, and justice alive through her advocacy work.

Adam Pauli (AA, '06, AS, '08) took first place in the 2019 Casper Start-Up Challenge. The challenge attracted 50 submissions from entrepreneurs looking at starting a new business in Casper. Adam’s company, Symmetry Trailers, creates custom-built trailers that are not only affordable, but tough. For his win, Adam received \$5,000, the opportunity to apply to a \$50,000 seed fund, and access to free space and business mentoring from the University of Wyoming’s Wyoming Business Technology Center in Casper.



▲ **Zachariah Becker** (AS, '06) was a presenter at the K-12 Integration Conference held recently in Casper. Zach started his 12th year of teaching elementary school in Casper this fall. He has taught third grade, first grade, and is beginning his first year as a kindergarten teacher. Zach tries to bring music and performing into the school setting, as well as find new ideas and ways to enrich curriculum and help students learn.



◀ **Dominique N. Simmons** (AS, '06) portrayed Mama in the 2019 Casper College fall musical “Children of Eden.” Dominique

Brice McIntosh (AA, '09) was named a 2020 District Teacher of the year for Platte County School District #1. The Wyoming Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program honors excellence in teaching around the state of Wyoming.

Tyler Padilla ('09) worked on his certified nursing assistant certificate under the watchful eye of former nursing instructor **Nubia Arana** in 2009. No longer in the nursing field, Tyler is on track to receive his Associate of Science degree in psychology from Casper College this summer. In addition to his studies he is a campus supervisor at Natrona County High School.

▼ Artist **Gabrielle Reeves** (AFA, '06), and Casper College art instructor **Maria Wimmer** collaborated on a portrait project that was displayed in the Goodstein Visual Arts Center at Casper College last fall. Maria and Gabrielle met at an art opening and immediately hit it off. Since then, they have shared daily drawings with each other despite the distance between them. Maria now lives in New Mexico and Gabrielle lives in Turkey. Despite different styles of artwork, they enjoy sharing and collaborating on art.

2010s

Joe Budd (AS, '10) has joined Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon's team according to a recent news release from Gordon's office. Joe will serve as policy adviser with a focus on natural resources. He grew up in Lander, Wyoming, and furthered his education at Casper College and the University of Wyoming. Before joining the Gordon administration, Joe spent five years at the Wyoming Department of Agriculture as a senior policy analyst covering multiple agriculture and natural resource topics throughout the state and beyond.

Casper College Alumni Association board member **Chad Pollock** ('10) and his family have opened a new location for locals to relax with a custom-made beverage from spirits distilled by the family's Backwards Distilling Company located in Mills, Wyoming. The Backwards Distilling Company's new tasting room is located in downtown Casper. They have also launched a new venture through the 2019 Casper Start-Up Challenge. They were awarded \$5,000 in seed money to start Piggyback Cocktail. Piggyback Cocktail will obtain its distilled products from outside sources but will mix and can the ingredients to meet demand.

In addition to the \$5,000, Chad and his family have access to free space and business consultation from the University of Wyoming's Wyoming Business Technology Center in Casper for Piggyback Cocktail.



▲ **Zhanna Gallegos** (AA, '11) holds the title of curator of education at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper. She is responsible for the operation of the educational department, including researching, planning, developing, implementing, and assessing education programs and events. She recently collaborated with the University of Wyoming at Casper to host a K-12 art integration conference to show educators how to incorporate art into STEM-based learning to create STEAM-based learning.

Photographer **Chris Luse** (AFA, '13) talked about his photographic encounters and experiences with wild animals at the Werner Wildlife Museum in a wildlife study series presentation titled "Stalking the Perfect Picture: The Art of Wildlife Photography." He also shared his best wildlife shots and discussed the photographic equipment he used in the field. Chris says he "specializes in not specializing" and enjoys photographing everything from wildlife to landscapes. He began his career in photography 15 years ago at the age of 17. He attended Casper College and Florida State University and studied film photography



with retired Casper College photography instructor **Mike Keogh**. Upon receiving a degree in fine art photography, Chris became general manager of Wyoming Camera Outfitters. He is a certified Canon instructor and teaches weekly photography classes at WCO. He became president of Wyoming Photo Fest in 2011, accepting responsibility for organizing the state's largest photo festival, planning workshops, and arranging for guest lecturers. Last year's photo festival was held Sept. 5-8.

Jared Patterson (AS, '13) joined the American Angus Association Sept. 30, 2019. He was selected as the American Angus Association regional manager for Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.



He joins the Association from the American Hereford Association, where he was the western regional representative. Before joining the Hereford Association,

he was the northwest regional manager for Allflex after being a ranch manager for Genoa Livestock in Minden, Nevada. He also runs a small commercial cow-calf operation in southern Idaho. Jared grew up on a commercial cow-calf operation in southern Idaho and showed Herefords in the junior program. He graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in animal science after getting his associate degree from Casper College, where he was also on the livestock judging team.

The Casper College Theatre Department's fall 2019 musical "Children of Eden" featured **Zach Walker** (AFA, '13) in the pit orchestra. He currently attends Valley City State University and is pursuing a degree in music. Walker resides in Casper where he works as a guitar instructor and plays lead guitar for the local band IndiSoul.

◀ **Kodee Williams** (AS, '14, '16) won her first Jackson Hole Rodeo saddle for her performance in barrel racing on her horse Rosie. Kodee's two sisters barrel race as well. Sister **Kassidy Williams** (AA, '18) took second at the JH Rodeo, and younger sister **Kristen Williams**

became a Casper College student last fall. Kodee is an X-ray tech at St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming.

Casper native **Hunter McCurdy** (AS, '14) headed to Yale Medical School this fall on a full-ride scholarship after a successful student career at Casper College and the University of Wyoming at Casper. He received a top-notch education at the Casper College biology department that prepared him for his work at the University of Wyoming at Casper. He was able to conduct research through the Wyoming IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Program. After transferring to UW-Laramie, Hunter graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in physiology.

Ginny Nading (AS, '14), was named a recipient of the 2019 Celebrate Literacy Award from the Wyoming State Literacy Association. She is currently the librarian at Journey Elementary in Casper. She has worked in the Natrona County School District for 13 years with the last six years as an elementary school library media technician. Ginny will graduate with her bachelor's degree in library sciences from Valley City State University this spring.

Marcus Rieker ('14), founder and CEO of Rieker Designs and his partners **Clayton Alleman** ('18) and Mason Johnson had their company selected as one of five finalists in the 2019 Casper Start-Up Challenge. The challenge attracted 50 submissions from entrepreneurs looking at starting a new business in Casper. The trio won \$1,500 for the audience choice award and access to free space and business consultation help from the University of Wyoming's Wyoming Business Technology Center in Casper. Rieker Designs' focus will be on the development of mobile applications and custom software packages, according to Rieker.



◀ **Catalina Pedroza** ('17) and **Allen Pino** (AA, '15) sat down with Wyoming Public Media to talk about being Hispanic in Wyoming and growing up in the state. The WPM series is titled, "Belonging" and can be heard at wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/we-kind-live-middle#stream/0.

Corey Scott McCallister ('15) was one of 18 cadets the Wyoming Highway Patrol recently commissioned to the rank of trooper following intensive training at the patrol's trooper training academy. Corey, along with his fellow graduates, participated in a swear-in ceremony at the Wyoming Supreme Court, which was the 97th class to graduate from the Wyoming Patrol Academy. Corey is stationed in Elk Mountain.

Tyler Patterson (AA, '15) completed basic training at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy in November, and will now assume his duties as a patrol deputy in the Powell area. Tyler had previously worked in the Park County Detention Center, transferring to patrol to assume a position that opened after a retirement. He joined the sheriff's office as a detention deputy in November 2017. He has an associate's degree in emergency medical technician and fire science from Casper College. Originally from Seattle, Patterson moved to Powell with his family in 2006.

▶ **Holly Nichole Adamson** (AA, '16) and **Devon M. Shew** (AA, '15) married June 15, 2019, in Casper. Both Holly and Devon work for the Cartwright School District in Phoenix.

The Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame named **Abbea Faris** (AS, '16) as the Region 3 director on its board. Abbea's

love of ranching and learning from experienced cowboys and cowgirls made her a perfect fit for the position.

Jim MacKearney (AS, '18) graduated with a design and drafting degree and started a new position as an architectural drafter at Amundsen Associates in June 2019.

The Fort Lewis Men's basketball team recruited **Levy Miguel** (AS, '18) to join their team. While at Casper College, Levy started 17 of 31 games and averaged 6.2 points, 3.1 rebounds, and 2.6 assists per game. According to his new coach Bob Pietrack, "He comes to Fort Lewis with a bunch of basketball experience. ... Levy is a very versatile player and will be able to play multiple positions for us while being able to guard the other team's best outside player."



Former Casper College T-Bird **Wilfried Likayi** (AS, '19) will miss his first season playing for the New Mexico State University Aggies. The junior forward underwent surgery after tearing his meniscus and his lateral collateral ligament. Likayi averaged a team-high 16.8 points per game for the T-Birds last season.

Rebecca Travers (AA, '19) was a speaker at this year's Wyoming Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Seminar. She is a volunteer Wyoming program assistant for ServeWyoming. She is enrolled at the University of Wyoming in their Organizational Leadership Degree program through the University of Wyoming at Casper.

The Old Yellowstone District in downtown Casper gave out its annual Oscar awards last fall. Among the winners was **Joy Clark** (AA, '15), who won a "Redevelopment Partner" award for helping businesses secure community development block grants that helped facilitate a facade grant program in the OYD.

Faculty, Staff, & Retirees



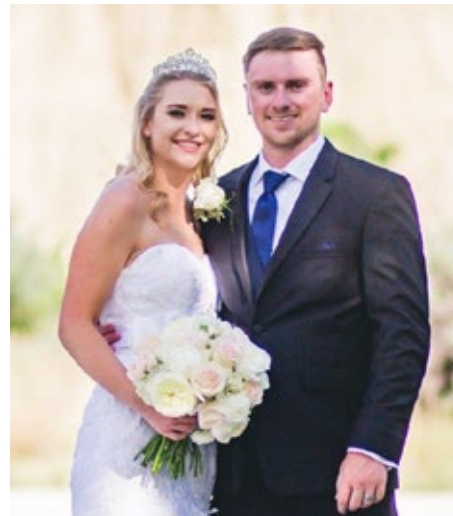
▲ **Chris Raymond**, automotive technology instructor, competed in last summer's 2019 Idaho Rally International near Idaho City, Idaho. **Benjamin Garvin**, automotive technology student, joined him and filmed the event. Chris was driving with his co-driving partner, his brother, Patrick. The team finished fourth in class. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/DkRA8i8COvU>.

Jeannine Earl (AB, '13), was welcomed by the Casper College Foundation as its new chief financial officer. She joined the foundation in June 2019. Before joining the foundation, Jeannine worked in the business office at Casper College as an accountant. Her background in accounting, as well as her steady presence, was a natural fit for the position. Jeannine has three children and can be found during the weekend and some weekdays hitting the links.

Andrew Young, Ph.D., physics instructor, was credited in the astronomy textbook "The Cosmic Perspective," ninth edition. Andrew is a Wyoming NASA Space Grant board member and is the Environmental Protection Agency's Wyoming RadNet systems operator. He plays an active role in mentoring teachers and students across Wyoming. His lecture series about physics and astronomy are available in podcast form.

► **Will Robinson, Ph.D.**, biology instructor, gave a talk at the AMK Ranch in Jackson, Wyoming. The AMK ranch is the University of Wyoming/National Park Service Research Center. Will gave a talk titled, "The Bees Just Keep Coming! Adventures with the Giant Migrating Honey Bees of Thailand." While conducting his research on honey bees, Will discovered bee bivouacs that the honey bees used to rest on their 150-mile migration route. Scientists had believed that perhaps the bees rested along their journey, but Will was the first to discover and document a location where they stopped over. Understanding more about the behavior of these giant migrating honey bees could aid in conservation efforts.

▼ **Cory Garvin** (AA, '15) married **Nicole White** (CERT, '16, AS, '17) Aug. 3, 2019. It has been a busy year for Cory as he graduated from the University of Wyoming in May 2019 with his degree in organizational leadership.



Chad Hanson, sociology instructor, was awarded a 2020 Creative Writing Fellowship by the Wyoming Arts Council in creative nonfiction. Two other Casper College faculty, **Dave Zoby**, English instructor, and **William Conte**, theater instructor, were awarded honorable mentions. According to the WAC, fellowships are merit-based and are awarded to Wyoming artists based on their submitted portfolio of work that reflects serious and exceptional artistic investigation. Recipients each receive a \$3,000 award and the opportunity to share their work with the community.

The Inga Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center at Casper College has reorganized its team. **Melissa Litke** (AA, '88), who was a team leader, is now the assistant director, and **Emily Calmes** (AS '08, AA, '16), who was the receptionist/bookkeeper, has moved to the preschool teacher lead. The ECLC is a preschool and child-care center for students and staff of Casper College while operating as a teaching lab for early childhood majors enrolled at Casper College.



▲ **Nate Macy** and his wife Rachel welcomed their first baby, Xander, this summer. Xander was born August 8, 2019, weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 22 ½ inches long. This is Nate’s third season as the women’s assistant basketball coach at Casper College.

Zach Vreeman, DMA, choral instructor, is now serving as president of the Wyoming Chapter of the American Choral Director’s Association. He will remain as president until 2021. Zach has worked at Casper College since 2013 and is also the director of choral activities. He conducts all four choirs at Casper College and teaches music education.



▲ **Nicholas Whipps** and his wife Courtney welcomed their second child, Carter John, on April 10, 2019. Carter weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 21 inches long. Nick is the veteran and international student coordinator at Casper College. In addition to the new baby, Nick also recently received his Ed.D. in education from the University of Wyoming.



▲ In 2012-2013, Career Advisor **Anneke Geerts** and Casper College Director of Student Success **Janet de Vries** participated in the Casper College Dutch Exchange program. This international friendship has remained solid and the two reconnected in Utrecht, Netherlands, in October, 2019.

Kerri Mahlum (AS, ’90), early childhood instructor and education department chair, was a presenter at the K-12 Art Integration Conference designed to encourage teachers to utilize art in conjunction with other subjects such as science, technology, and math. Her presentation focused on development through drawing in the early years with a hands-on demonstration.

Casper College music instructors **Joshua R. Mietz, DMA**, and **Paula Flynn**, were selected and performed at a recital in July at the International Clarinet Association’s Annual ClarinetFest in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Theater costuming instructor **Darrell Wagner** co-authored an article for peer review with the Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism on how the developing field of intimacy coaching should be reflected in the actor/costumer relationship.

▼ **Dave Zoby**, English instructor, was recognized as an award recipient for the 2019 Outdoor Writers Association of American Excellence in Craft contests for his first-place finish in the fishing category of the

magazine contest for “Eggs in Your Beer,” published in the Summer 2018 issue of *The Drake*. The annual awards program recognizes and honors the best work of outdoor communicators who are members of OWAA. Dave had his feature article “Mosquito and Char” published in the Winter 2018 issue of *The Drake* and an



essay published in *True Story*. Dave also writes a blog, “The Cast,” for the Casper Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Dave often uses Casper College students and fellow faculty in his blogs. The blog “... celebrates the fly-fishing culture in Casper and beyond. ... I’m finishing my first year with them, and we’ve decided to go for another year,” Dave told us. To read Dave’s blogs go to visitcasper.com/blog/post/river-revival.

Notes from T-Bird Camp

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



Lester Stewart, men's assistant basketball coach.

Stewart Chosen as New Assistant Coach

Casper College has hired **Lester Stewart** as the school's new assistant men's basketball coach. Stewart replaces **Shaun Gutting**, who replaced head coach **Dan Russell** (AS, '06), in May.

Most recently, Stewart was an assistant men's basketball coach for the College of Southern Idaho. Before his time at CSI, Stewart spent six years as a head high school coach in Idaho from 2011-2017. His teams qualified for the state tournament three times, and he led two different teams to the state tournament. He was also named coach of the year in 2012 and 2013.

Originally from Chicago, Stewart received his bachelor's in physical

education from Idaho State University and is working on his master's in human resources development.

"Casper College is a program that I have known about for quite some time, and it's a program that is well respected nationally. ... I plan to add value in all facets of the program, college, and community of Casper," said Stewart.

"I couldn't be more ecstatic about Lester joining our staff and program. He is an extremely diligent worker who has had experience as a former high school head coach," said Gutting. "Combining that with his experience on the recruiting trail will provide a huge uplift to our winning tradition here at Casper," he added.

T-Bird Early Signee for Division 1 Jaguars

Casper College sophomore guard **David Walker** has signed with the University of South Alabama Jaguars basketball team.

Walker took advantage of the first official early signing day for Division 1 schools. "With help from my family, I was ready to make that decision now rather than later. Now that my decision has been made, I will be able to have time to concentrate on my grades and playing for the T-Birds," said Walker.

The Jaguars finished the 2018-2019 season with a record of 17-17 and 8-10 in



the Sun Belt Conference. Third-year head coach **Richie Riley** was pleased to have Walker sign early saying that his signing was "... a huge day for South Alabama basketball. There can't possibly be another coach in the country that's happier to sign a player than I am about David," Riley added.

According to Riley, Walker was a top priority of the coaching staff. "His combination of skill, size, and athleticism make him one of the premier junior college players in the entire country. He will have an immediate impact on our program with his ability to score the basketball and defend at an elite level."

Walker, who hails from Toronto, Ontario, transferred from the College of Southern Idaho to Casper College following his freshman year. During his first 14 games as a T-Bird, Walker has shown his exceptional scoring capabilities on the court, averaging 22.5 points per game.

"It truly has been a pleasure to coach David so far this season, and the start to the year has been exceptional for him," noted **Shaun Gutting**, T-Bird head coach. "He has really matured both on and off the floor but is still just reaching the surface of his abilities with basketball. I am looking forward to his contribution as a player, teammate, and student the rest of this season and beyond," Gutting said.

"David is a winner period! Not only is he a winner, but he is coming from a big-time culture at Casper where he plays for coach Gutting," Riley added.

David Walker signed early to the Division 1 South Alabama Jaguars.



A family affair: All three Robertson daughters — Emily (AA, '18), new recruit Kate and Megan (AA, '16), have made Casper College their educational stop along with dad Charlie ('87). Mom Nancy, far left, supports them all.

Robertson Commits to Casper College

Natrona County High School athlete Kate Robertson committed to play basketball for the Lady T-Birds beginning with the 2020-2021 season.

During her high school career, the 6'2" senior was a 2018-19 All-Conference Basketball selection, 2018 All-Conference Volleyball selection, named to the 2019 All-State Volleyball team, and was a 2019 All-Conference Volleyball selection. Last year as a junior in basketball for the Fillies, she averaged 8.7 points and 9.6 rebounds per game.

"We are super excited to sign Kate," said **Nate Macy**, assistant women's basketball coach. According to Macy, Robertson, the younger sister of T-Bird standout **Emily Robertson** (AS, '18), will play the forward/guard position. "She is long and athletic and will be a great addition to the class of 2020 for the Lady T-Bird Basketball team. We look forward to her doing great things as a Lady T-Bird," Macy said.

Robertson is a second-generation T-Bird. Her father, **Charles Robertson**, ('87), played for Swede Erickson from 1985-87. Robertson's older sister, Emily played for **Dwight Gunnare** from 2016-18. Robertson's oldest sister, **Megan Robertson** (AS, '16), is also a Casper College graduate.

Meadow Kuntz is the first signee to the 2020-2021 T-Birds.

Gunnare Signs Thunder Basin Player for 2020-2021 Year

Dwight Gunnare, Casper College Women's Basketball Head Coach, has announced that the team has signed its first player for the 2020-2021 season, Meadow Kuntz.

Kuntz is currently a senior on the Thunder Basin High School Bolts from Gillette, Wyoming. Last spring, the 5' guard was instrumental in helping the Bolts secure their first-ever state title in basketball.

"I am very excited about the signing of Meadow," said Gunnare. "Meadow is an outstanding defender and a very good guard who has a good basketball IQ," added **Nate Macy**, women's assistant coach.

Kuntz, a Wyoming All-State guard, is known as one of the best defensive guards

in the state. "We have been watching her play for several years now and have been very impressed, especially with her passion, leadership, and defensive skills. I think she has a chance to be one of the better on-ball defenders in our region. She is a good addition to our team and the point guard position," said Gunnare.

Kuntz, who said she has dreamed of playing basketball at the college level since she was 2, scored 102 points for the Bolts during her junior season, with a game-high of 13 points against crosstown rival Campbell County High School.

Bailey Johnson Signs to School of Mines

Casper College sophomore **Bailey Johnson** has signed to play basketball this fall with the South Dakota School of Mines Hardrockers.

The 5'7" guard from Rapid City, South Dakota, will be playing the last two years of collegiate basketball in front of a hometown crowd. Johnson was well-known in the community as a star high school athlete for the Central High School Cobblers.

"We are thrilled to have Bailey coming back 'home' and joining our Hardrocker family as our first signee. She comes from a fantastic family here in Rapid City and has multiple Hardrocker connections," said **Jeri Jacobson**, Hardrocker women's basketball head coach.

Dwight Gunnare, head coach for the Lady T-Birds, was equally enthusiastic: "I am really happy for the opportunity Bailey will have to play at South Dakota School of Mines. I think it is a perfect fit for her both academically and from a basketball standpoint. I know that the Hardrockers are going to be very happy as well. Bailey has been so fun to coach, and I am super





Bailey Johnson prepares to sign her commitment papers to South Dakota School of Mines.

and grandpa — Johnson’s father is currently the vice president for the SDSM Foundation — I realized that I could do anything in engineering, and industrial engineering just stuck out and really sounds like me,” she said. “I am very excited to be coming back to Rapid City, attend the school that my grandpa, dad, brother, and two uncles attended, plus play in my hometown again for my family and friends.”

Rodeo Team Enters Spring Season Strong

Helping add to those points are Johnson’s sons **Kellan** and **Carson Johnson**. The two are first in the region in team roping and also first in the nation. Others adding to the total include **K’s (Kenneth) Thompson**, who is first in the region and second in the nation in saddle bronc. Two other team ropers, **Tanner McInerney** and **Braden Pirrung** are second in the region.

On the women’s side, the University of Wyoming women’s team has a total of 1866.66 points. Casper is in second with 1036.66, a difference of 830 points. Overall, according to Johnson, the women’s team has finished in the top four in four out of the five rodeos. “I would love to have a women’s team at the College National Finals Rodeo,” Johnson said.

“I can only put six men and four women on a team, but I have a lot of people that might not be on the points team that weekend that are playing a tough defense for us, too, by keeping points out of the hands of the other players,” noted Johnson.

The CNFR will be held this year in Casper June 14-20. The CNFR is considered the “Best of the Best” of college rodeo and will feature over 400 contestants from more than 100 universities and colleges. If the T-Birds have a strong season this spring the chances are good that Casper College will be well represented in the CNFR.

happy she decided to come to Casper College for her first two years!”

“Bailey is one of those players who can do it all — she is a very smart defender, always in the right place, and she can score the ball,” Jacobson said. “To have an all-around person, student, and player like Bailey joining our program is extremely exciting for us. The Hardrockers got better today with the addition of Bailey.”

Johnson, who anticipates graduating from Casper College in May with her Associate of Science degree in general studies, will pursue her bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering at SDSM. “Nearly everyone in my family is an engineer, and all of them attended the School of Mines. After talking to my dad

The Casper College Thunderbirds Rodeo team had an excellent fall rodeo season, and currently sits in the number two spot in the Central Rocky Mountain Regional Standings right behind the University of Wyoming in both men and women.

“So far it’s gone just right for our men and women,” **Jhett Johnson** told local sports reporter Carmine Gemei recently. “This season my teams are deeper than they have ever been,” he added.

Here is the point breakdown. The University of Wyoming men’s team sits in first place with 3000.00 points. The T-Birds are 185 points behind in second with a total of 2815.00.



Homecoming, Saturday Feb. 15

Women @ 2 p.m. — Men @ 4 p.m. vs. Northwest College

Friends We'll Miss

Verla A. Carter ('53), former instructor
December 16, 2018

Judith A. Hamnergren ('87)
January 29, 2019

Wendell Bray (CERT, '74)
February 6, 2019

**Connie Lynn (Shellebarger)
Chamberlain** ('76)
March 7, 2019

Anna Mae Landon (AA, '71)
April 5, 2019

Shirley (Reynolds) Estelle ('51)
April 6, 2019

Linda K. (Pouttu) Schumacher ('68)
April 7, 2019

**Joellen Shirley "Jody"
(Carubie) Garner** ('96)
May 8, 2019

Marlyn Corbett "Lyn Brown" Black ('67)
May 14, 2019

Marjory Fern Haigh (AA, '63)
May 16, 2019

John "Jack" Ryan ('81)
May 19, 2019

Ellen F. (Noonan) Gerdom ('55)
May 28, 2019

Carol Jean McMurry (AA, '64)
June 1, 2019

Betty Z. (Smith) Ward (CERT, '73)
June 5, 2019

John Michael Jackson (AAS, '93)
June 8, 2019

Albert R. LeBlond (AS, '76)
June 8, 2019

Catherine 'Jane' Bidwell Norman ('49)
June 14, 2019

Dannette O. Stone ('90)
June 17, 2019

Scott Low (AAS, '98)
June 19, 2019

John F. Hutchinson ('60)
June 20, 2019

Teresa Petrosky Wallace, retired counselor
June 22, 2019

Larry Lee Peterson ('89)
June 24, 2019

Beverly Louise Dowdell (AS, '64)
June 28, 2019

John Richard Gardner ('65)
July 1, 2019

Carol "Ann" Rebish ('65)
July 1, 2019

Pamela Marie Trujillo, former CC employee
July 6, 2019

Frederick H. Savage (AS, '03)
July 11, 2019

Duane Ackerman (AA, '68)
July 12, 2019

Kerry Van Clark ('69)
July 13, 2019

Carol (Horton) Roemer (CERT, '69)
July 16, 2019

Earl B. Dennis (AAS, '87, CERT, '88)
July 17, 2019

Donald Hines ('69)
July 20, 2019

Troy "Turbo" "T-Roy" Ankney (AS, '98)
July 21, 2019

Carl William Bowman ('69)
July 21, 2019

James L. Parker (AA, '63)
July 23, 2019

Vicki L. Simpson (CERT, '87)
July 28, 2019

Riley Owen Beck ('18)
July 30, 2019

Brian K. Krupp (CERT, '76)
July 31, 2019

Deante Strickland (AS, '17)
August 2, 2019

Louis T. Carubie Jr. ('81)
August 8, 2019

Betty Jo Noel ('68)
August 11, 2019

Nyle K. Wright (ATE, '69)
August 13, 2019

Anita Kaye (Wollam) Harrand (AA, '65)
August 15, 2019

Richard J. Webb (AAS, '00)
August 20, 2019

Bob Nagel, former trustee
September 6, 2019

Gerald "Jerry" Edward Bullock (CERT, '79)
September 9, 2019

Justin Edward Maes (AS, '10)
September 9, 2019

Lorraine "Jade" McKenzie-Moore
(AAS, '06, CERT, '06)
September 13, 2019

Betty Jo (Putney) Miller (CERT, '69)
September 14, 2019

Ricci Marie Patterson (CERT, '12, AS, '13)
September 15, 2019

David Paul Hubble (CERT, '86)
September 23, 2019

John Orion Watson (AAS, '07)
September 24, 2019

Alice M. Weaver ('47)
September 25, 2019

Lois Hughes ('90)
September 28, 2019

Arlene Larson, retired instructor
September, 2019

Ray E. Marley (AA, '56)
October 4, 2019

Barbara B. Wright (AB, '64)
October 19, 2019

Lola Ellen (Bradley) Martin ('68)
October 22, 2019

Steven E. Thompson (AAS, '85)
October 31, 2019

Donald Wayne Boyles II (AAS, '87)
November 2, 2019

Crystal Ann (Davis) Mueller ('90)
November 2, 2019

Robert I. Yeamans (AA, '58)
November 2, 2019

Keith Richard Boyd ('69)
November 6, 2019

Douglas R. Fleetwood (AAS, '97)
November 8, 2019

Bryce E. Bay (AS, '65)
November 16, 2019

Alice Mae Hawley, former instructor
November 19, 2019

Paul Ackerly ('68)
November 24, 2019

Phillip A. Kuhn (AAS, '84)
November 25, 2019

Hidden Campus

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

It seems as though Casper College has always had a guardian watching over campus, but the 8-foot metal Thunderbird first appeared on campus in 1966.

Two geographic information system students, **Shalyn Anderson** and **Jeston Schneider**, are working on a geographic information system mapping project. The goal of the project is to have a guided tour of the fabulous art on campus. While researching the project, they wanted to find out more about the metal Thunderbird in the Walter H. Nolte Garden. They have found a few news clippings with some detail as to its origins. Their research, however, has left them with more questions than answers.

According to the news clippings, the original T-Bird was funded by the Casper College Student Senate. What isn't known is what sign company built the original T-Bird. The news photos seem to indicate that the Thunderbird that now occupies the location may not be the original. The wings on the original T-Bird had sharper wings and were painted with lines. The current resident has rounded wings and is painted red and white.

If you have any knowledge of the T-Bird on the hill, write to us and let us know! We will feature the complete story of the silent guardian in our 75th anniversary issue of Footprints, scheduled for this summer.

The Thunderbird today.



THUNDERBIRD IN THE SKY: Rising high above Casper College, the eight foot mascot cocks a wary eye over the campus. The Student Senate appropriated funds for the symbol that was erected and lighted this week. The sign gives a ghostly feeling to the Thunderbird at night as it appears suspended in midair, hovering like a true "dream spirit" over the fortunes of Casper College. (Photo by James Stewart)

Newspaper caption: Thunderbird in the Sky: Rising high above Casper College, the eight foot mascot cocks a wary eye over the campus. The Student Senate appropriated funds for the symbol that was erected and lighted this week. The sign gives a ghostly feeling to the Thunderbird at night as it appears suspended in midair, hovering like a true "dream spirit" over the fortunes of Casper College. (Photo by James Stewart)



Newspaper caption: New Gymnasium: The Thunderbird seems to be watching over construction on the new gymnasium on the hill. The gym will seat about 3,100 for athletic events and the Thunderbird — as well as students and faculty — hopes it will be ready for the next basketball season. (Photo by Steve Van Maren)

According to Charlotte

by Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)

Brief Bits of Wisdom

Do you remember the movie “Network” when Peter Finch gained the country’s attention when he began yelling, “I’m mad as hell, and I’m not going to take it anymore”? Somehow, his sentiment seems to be how many people feel nowadays and I have to admit that sometimes I feel like that, too.

Since this year is an election year, I have decided to write to you about politics and the government. Now, my mother always cautioned me that politics, money, and religion were never to be mentioned in polite company. I am sorry to say, however, that I am here and now not going to live up to her admonition because it’s clear to me that “no man’s life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session” — Gideon Tucker.

It really makes me wonder why any honest, sane person would want to run for any political office, including dogcatcher, in these times. Running for office is like coaching a team: “You’ve got to be smart enough to know how to win and dumb enough to think it’s important” — Eugene McCarthy.

There’s no doubt that the government’s in trouble over lots of things, and Ronald Reagan expressed it best when he remarked that, “The most terrifying words in the English language are, I’m from the government, and I’m here to help.”

Actually, a number of presidents and heads of state — and they are the ones who should know — have uttered statements from their seats of power which have resonated with me.

Fiorella LaGuardia: “A politician can’t be so far ahead of the band that he can’t hear the music.”

Harry S. Truman: “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.”

Adlai Stevenson: “In America, anyone can become president. That’s one of the risks you take.”

Bill Clinton: “Being president is like running a cemetery. There are a lot of people under you, and nobody’s listening.”

F.D.R.: “Be sincere; be brief, and be seated.”

Abba Eban: “You can count on Americans to do the right thing once they have exhausted all other possibilities.”

Note: Eban’s quote is often wrongly attributed to Winston Churchill.



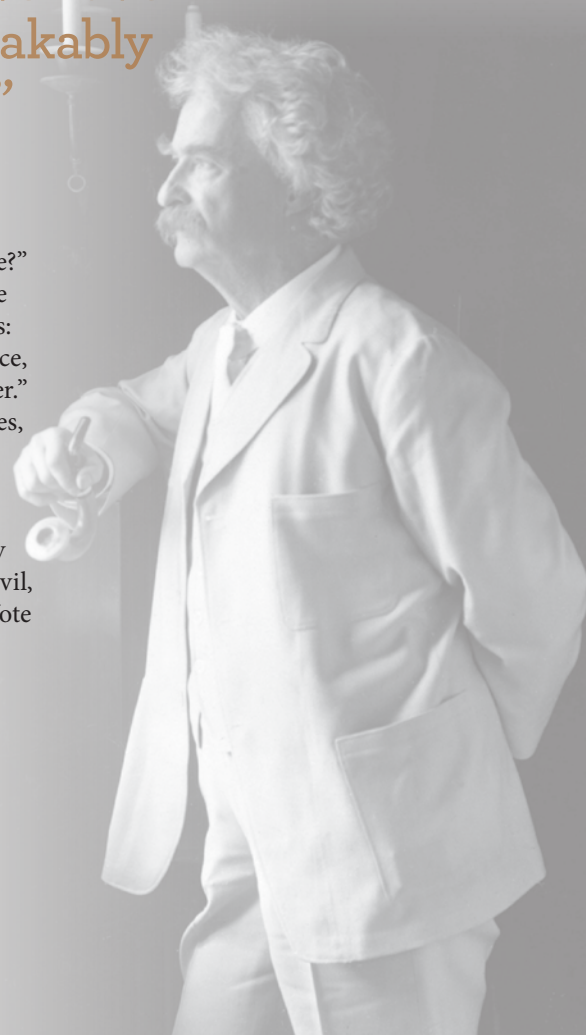
“In our country, we have those three unspeakably precious things ...”

— Mark Twain

Vince Lombardi: “If winning isn’t everything, then why do they keep score?”

Mark Twain: “In our country, we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either.”

So, in this election year, close your eyes, bow your heads, and vote for whoever looks good to you and don’t complain if your “whoever” doesn’t work out. My advice here is to vote for your own party because we all know the other party is evil, and as bad boy Al Capone once said, “Vote early and vote often!”



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