

Summer 2019
Casper College Alumni Magazine

Footprints



Catching Up with
Diana Ohman

Rodeo Photographer
Extraordinaire

Three-Time
Doornbos Lecturer

Footprints

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

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 According to Charlotte Inside back cover

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President's Letter

Holy smokes! It felt like the roof was going to blow off of "Swede" Erickson Thunderbird Gymnasium during the 2019 Homecoming games! Casper College President **Darren Divine**, Ph.D., had to tell people the gym was at capacity, so MANY folks stood by the lobby doors, cheering. Both the men's and women's teams won their games, and the huge, boisterous crowds certainly gave the players an added boost. Let's keep that wonderful support going for all of our sports teams next season and beyond. An additional happy note, both **Dan Russell** (AS, '06), then men's head coach, and **Dwight Gunnare**, women's head coach, went on to be named Region IX Coach of the Year.

Every higher education institution must stay responsive to the constantly changing employment landscape. During the spring alumni association board meeting, we heard about the wonderful additions and updates to the Casper College Paramedic Technology Program. **Russ Christiansen** (AA, '98), program director, was very excited as he told the board about the rigor of the curriculum. Only 12 students are accepted into the program every year. And so far, 90% of the students taking the required national exam have passed on the first try.

An exciting new offering will be the "Community EMS" program starting in the fall of 2019. Current emergency medical providers will be coming back to the college or going online for this training, which will then allow them to make "house calls." In certain 911 situations, they will go to a home and conduct a medical assessment to determine the best course of action. These house calls will hopefully reduce the

incidence of hospital readmission and the use of the ER, and also provide a reduction in the need for all first responders to go on all 911 calls. Also, at the board meeting, I had the pleasure of introducing **Denise (Neville) Bressler**, CPA, ('84) as the new director of the Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association. Denise has been with the foundation since 2006, serving as the chief financial officer since 2012. She took on the additional duties of director in early 2019. We are thrilled that the office will continue to be in Denise's and very capable hands.

This issue of Footprints contains a wide variety of exciting features including getting to know Denise better, looking back over **Jim Milek's** (AA, '62) 50-plus-year relationship with Casper College, learning about **Valerie Innella-Maiers'** art history trips, and the upcoming 75th anniversary of the founding of our beloved Casper College. The list goes on and on.

As promised in the Winter 2019 issue, here are the new lyrics to the Casper College Fight Song. This is a joint effort between **Jack Romanek**, author of the original lyrics, **Mary McGillivray** (AA, '01), and me. **Eric Unruh**, D.M., dean of the Casper College School of Fine Arts and Humanities, helped with the music.

*Dear Casper College,
 three cheers to you!
 Ever you'll find us
 loyal and true!
 Proud and courageous
 ever we'll be!
 Here's to the school we love,
 On to vic-to-ry!*

*T-B-I-R-D-S
 T-Birds! T-Birds! T-Birds!*



Lea Schoenewald, Casper College Alumni Association president.

My tenure as president of the Casper College Alumni Association board of directors has truly been one of the greatest honors of my life. This will be my last column written as president, as our wonderful President-elect **Jan Cundy** ('79) will take over these duties in the fall. I thank the board members for their faith in me and for this fantastic opportunity.

Lea Schoenewald
 Lea Schoenewald (AA, '72)
 President
 Casper College Alumni Association,
 2017-19

Campus and Alumni News

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

Forensics Team Ends Season with Wins at Nationals



Front row, from left, Jae Fletcher, Chloe Adkins, Hannah Arnold, and Izzy Garcia. Back row, from left, Thayne Macy, Carter Dunn, and Kaelan Rodriguez.

The Casper College Forensics team recently returned from the 2019 Phi Rho Phi National Forensics Tournament with both individual and team awards.

Bovero-Tabor Individual Sweepstakes.

Jae Fletcher, Boxelder, South Dakota, was a gold medalist and top speaker in international public debate and finished

Individually, **Carter Dunn**, Casper, was a gold medalist in extemporaneous speaking and impromptu speaking, and a gold medalist and top speaker in international public debate. In the international public debate category, Dunn beat out 156 other debaters. He received a bronze medal in informative speaking and third place out of more than 350 students in the

as the third top speaker in international public debate.

Chloe Adkins (AA, '19), also from Boxelder, was a gold medalist and top speaker in international public debate.

Thayne Macy, Casper, was a bronze medalist in both international public debate and extemporaneous speaking.

Izzy Garcia, Cheyenne, Wyoming, received a bronze medal in impromptu speaking.

The team took silver medals in debate events and overall, and a bronze medal in individual events.

Doug Hall, forensics team head coach and communication instructor, was also recognized at the nationals with the Phi Rho Phi Service Award for his service to Phi Rho Phi during his time as a student and in the past six years as a coach. "It is special, and I'm flattered to have won it," said Hall.

Veronica Garcia, 2019 Graduate, Chosen as Commencement Speaker

Veronica Garcia (AS, '19) was this year's commencement speaker. Garcia is a first-generation college student.

During her freshman year at Casper College, Garcia played both the clarinet and saxophone in the Casper College Concert Band, Casper College Jazz Band, and clarinet in the Casper College Clarinet Ensemble.

She portrayed four different characters in the Casper College Theatre Department's production of "Around the World in 80 Days" in late 2018, and also acted in the Casper College student-led production of "He Who Gets Slapped."

Garcia was a member of the Casper College chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success and was on the Success Networking Team. She is a member of the Zeta Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and was a Casper College Student Senate

representative for the Casper College chapter of Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society. She was also a board member of the PBP Honor Society.

Garcia is transferring to North Dakota State University where she will be majoring in elementary education with a minor in theatre and music.

In addition to an outstanding speech and presentation, the winner of the 2018-2019 Student Commencement Speaker Contest had to have a minimum 3.0 GPA, graduate in the 2018-2019 school year, and be in good standing with Casper College. Garcia graduated in May with her degree in psychology.



Veronica Garcia, 2019 commencement speaker.

Vietnam Wall at Casper College

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute Vietnam Wall was on display at Casper College from Thursday, May 2 through Sunday, May 5. Prior to the opening of the wall, on Wednesday, May 1, over 100 motorcycles and vehicles escorted the wall to campus through an American flag honor column nearly three blocks long, with the flags held by Casper College employees.

The opening ceremony on Thursday featured Casper Mayor Charlie Powell, Casper College President **Darren Divine**, Ph.D., and Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon. The keynote address was given by **Eric A. Distad** ('70), a Vietnam veteran from Casper.

The wall replica is the largest traveling Vietnam Wall replica and is 80% of the size of the actual wall in Washington, D.C., and stands 8 feet tall and 360 feet long. The wall is engraved with the 58,318 names of those lost in the Vietnam War. In addition to the wall, 123 flags were posted in honor of the 123 Wyomingites lost in the Vietnam War.



The wall display, which was presented by the Casper College Veterans Club, was open all day and night from the opening to the closing ceremony.

"We were humbled and honored to get the opportunity to host the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Vietnam Wall," said **Nicholas Whipps**, special population coordinator.

According to the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, "This memorial creates a platform to forever remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice along with the ability to teach future generations that freedom comes at a price. And that price is written on the wall."

Casper College Responds to Training Need with New Partnership

Casper College has partnered with Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to offer area residents the opportunity to earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in surgical technology from LCCC.

The Casper Area Economic Development Alliance first identified the need for the degree in Natrona County. The program will be offered in Casper beginning with the fall 2019 semester.

Students will be able to take the first 30 hours of the program at CC

and then transfer and finish at LCCC. Surgical technology courses will be offered to accommodate the schedules of traveling students. All clinicals may be done in Casper for Casper students. "... The intensive 11-month surgery core program combines classroom lectures and discussions, laboratory demonstrations with hands-on practice, and supervised clinical experiences in actual patient care settings ...," according to LCCC.

Casper College President **Darren Divine**, Ph.D., stated, "This is a good

example of the role that community colleges play in supporting the educational needs of the community."

The AAS surgical technology program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

For more information:

Jeff McCarty, dean for the Casper College School of Health Science at 307-268-2495, toll-free, 800-442-2963, ext. 2495, or jeffrey.mccarty@caspercollege.edu.

Casper College Students Nominated to 2019 Academic Team

Two Casper College students, **Owen Burbank** (CERT, AAS, '19) and **Jamey Olson** ('19), were nominated to the Wyoming All-State Community College Academic Team.

To qualify for the nomination, all students must be a member of their local Phi Theta Kappa chapter, complete an All-USA Academic Team application, demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society.



Pictured, from left, Owen Burbank, CC Vice President of Academic Affairs Brandon Kosine, and Jamey Olson.

Engum Memorial Scholarship Available to Casper College Students

The first scholarship available through the Marcia and Richard Engum Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund will provide a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year.

To qualify, the recipient must have an overall GPA of 2.5 and maintain a 2.5 GPA each semester during the scholarship

year and be 30 years of age or younger. The scholarship also gives preference to students who do not qualify for the Hathaway Scholarship.

"The Engums were just average hard-working individuals who invested so that they could leave something behind to help future students," said **Ann Dalton**,

associate director of development for the Casper College Foundation.

Established in September 2017 as the Marcia and Richard Engum Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund, investment monies earned by the fund are used to finance the scholarship in perpetuity.

Four Community EMS Classes Offered for Fall

The Casper College School of Health Science Paramedic Technology Department will offer four community emergency medical service courses beginning with the fall 2019 semester. The classes are designed for currently licensed emergency medical technicians, intermediate emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics.

According to **Russ Christiansen** (AA, '98) paramedic program director,

community EMS is new to Wyoming and will allow currently licensed individuals the opportunity to expand their skills and practice in the areas of primary care, prevention and wellness, public health, mental health, disease management, readmission prevention, and human services.

Community EMS is a new resource that will work to fill critical gaps in our communities' health care systems. "Many of these gaps lie within the underserved

communities or chronically ill that either lack access to appropriate care or need additional help," said Christiansen. "Certified community EMS providers work to assist patients in navigating healthcare challenges, overcoming barriers, and establishing ties within community resources," added Christiansen.

New American Sign Language Degree Graduates Four

In the fall of 2018, Casper College began offering an Associate of Science degree in American Sign Language Studies, the only degree of its kind in the state of Wyoming.

This year's graduates include **Mala Stagg** (who graduated in December 2018), and spring 2019 graduates **Chance Brauburger**, **Angela Mock**, and **Riley Thomas**. **Gail Schenfisch**, ASL instructor, asked each student how they will use their ASL degrees.

"I am currently pursuing music therapy and hope to be able to use ASL to offer services to those individuals that would

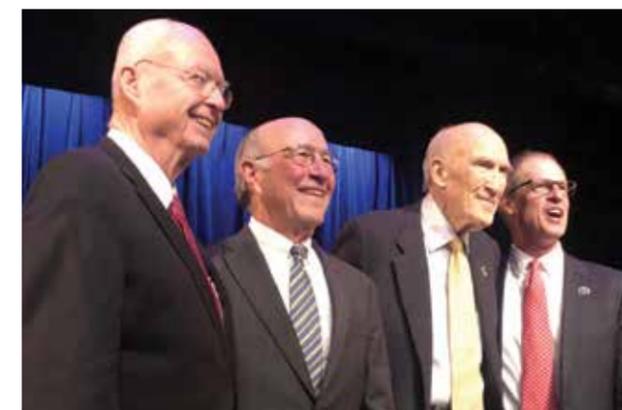
have been out of my reach otherwise," said Stagg.

Brauburger told Schenfisch that he had been accepted into the Interpreter Training Program at the University of Northern Colorado for the fall of 2019 and upon completion of the program plans to become a community ASL interpreter. Mock told Schenfisch that her "... ultimate goal is to become a speech pathologist with an interpreting degree." Finally, Thomas said that he planned to study speech pathology. "I'm using my American Sign Language degree to help

children and adults communicate not only through voice but a different language. I'm excited to incorporate ASL into my studies as a speech pathologist," he noted.

According to Schenfisch, the American Sign Language Studies degree is designed to provide a foundation for students to transfer into bachelor's programs to become professionals who work specifically with the deaf. Some of those high-demand jobs include sign language interpreter, social worker/counselor for the deaf, teacher of the deaf, and others, said Schenfisch.

CC Hosts a Fireside Chat About the American Government



Pictured, from left, Judge Alan Johnson, former Wyo. Governor Mike Sullivan, former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson, and Judge Scott Skavdahl, who moderated the event.

The public was invited to a rare opportunity to hear Wyoming's senior statesmen talk about the balance among branches of government in April. The fireside chat featured former Senator Alan Simpson for the legislative branch, former Wyoming Governor Mike Sullivan for the executive branch, and

Wyoming Federal District Court Judge Alan Johnson for the judicial branch. United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, Scott Skavdahl, moderated the event. In the lively session, the three discussed their views and highlighted some current events in which one branch or another had been accused of crossing lanes.

The well-attended event was organized by the Casper College Department of Political Science, History, and International Studies.

Two Receive Brady Award

For the first time ever, two Casper College students have been selected to receive the 2019 Jon E. Brady Award in Political Study at Casper College.

Landree Adams (AA, '19) is the 18th recipient and **Emma Rogers** (AA, '19) the 19th recipient of the annual award. "Both students were so outstanding that the selection committee decided to break precedent and choose two winners this year," said **Erich Frankland**, political science instructor.

According to Frankland, Adams is a political science major who will continue at the University of Wyoming at Casper to pursue her bachelor's in social work.

Rogers, who is also a political science major at Casper College, will attend New Mexico State University after graduation and pursue her bachelor's degree in political science with a focus on border politics.

The award is named after Jon E. Brady, instructor emeritus of political science at Casper College.

Donors Enjoy Luncheon

The Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association hosted its second annual donor appreciation luncheon on Friday, April 5, 2019, at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper.

The event hosted both scholarship donors and recipients and allowed everyone an opportunity to mingle and chat.

Two students spoke: **Garrett Merrell** (AB, '06, CERT, '17, ADN, AS, '18) and **Raquel Quesada Araya** ('19). Both shared their appreciation for the scholarship support they received while attending Casper College.

Not Slowing Down – Catching Up with Diana Ohman (AA, '70)

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

There is security in small-town life, and many people choose to stay and raise families in that security. Others leave and venture far from home. Diana Ohman's (AA, '70) journey away from small-town life began at Casper College. Her mom drove her to college with the faith that Ohman had the tools to succeed even if Ohman herself was unsure of her newfound independence. "It was that freshman year of standing on my own two feet with the caring guidance of many faculty and staff that I began to believe in myself and know that my life could be worthwhile," she said.

Ohman immersed herself in college life. She was elected to the student senate and became acquainted with then Casper College Housing Director and later CC President LeRoy Strausner, Ph.D., (AA, '60)

whom she considers to be synonymous with the college. She looked to him as an ideal leader and rock that helped guide her through her time at Casper College. The admiration was mutual as Strausner was the person who nominated Ohman for the honor of distinguished alumni in 2009.

After leaving Casper College, Ohman went on to be an accomplished academic earning her bachelor's in elementary education and her master's in education from the University of Wyoming. She also earned her private pilot's license. After college, she began her career as an educator teaching in a K-8 school. She developed exceptional organizational skills by meeting the needs of all the students who were at different grade levels.

Her experience as a teacher and principal in a rural school gave her the

confidence to run for office as the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Wyoming. After winning the election, she found that Wyoming's unique geography and the unpredictable weather added special challenges to overseeing all of Wyoming's schools. Trusting her workforce to meet her high expectations without being micromanaged was a must. Thankfully, her staff was up to the challenge making her time as superintendent a successful one. She was most happy in that term attending high school graduations, spending



lunchtime with the students, and speaking to educators and citizens.

After her term ended, Ohman decided to run for Wyoming's second highest office, secretary of state. She felt that her time as the superintendent of public instruction gave her the tools needed for that office. She won handily, and that term became a fascinating four years of her life. Despite encouragement to run for governor, she chose not to. Her belief was, and still is, that political officials should perform no more than two terms to give other citizens the opportunity to serve.

While she was looking for a new position after her governmental service, she was sent a newspaper clipping by a former boss. It was a job posting for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools for the U.S. military bases in Europe. She applied, and after surviving three grueling interviews, she accepted the position as the director of U.S. Military Schools. She spent 10 years in Europe

Photos courtesy of Diana Ohman.



Wyoming Secretaries of State: Thyra Thomson (left), Diana Ohman (right) and Kathy Karpan (seated).

and two years in the Pacific. During her time in Europe, 9/11 occurred, and while in Japan, the tsunami at Sendai and the ensuing nuclear crisis at Fukushima took place. In those trying times, she used the experience gained while working in Wyoming – having good organizational skills and trusting experienced staff.

After her time overseas, Ohman returned to the United States to become the director of the National Cemetery Administration Midwest District. She managed 47 national cemetery sites in 12 states. She retired from federal service in January of 2018. Since then, she has been anything but retired. She is an avid traveler and has explored many parts

of the world including Prague; Seville, Spain; Heidelberg, Germany; Edinburgh, Scotland; St. Petersburg, Russia; Seoul, South Korea; Sapporo, Japan; Singapore; Sydney; Ottawa, Ontario; Cusco, Peru; and many others.

One of her favorite trips was her recent walk of the Camino de Santiago. It is a 500-mile pilgrimage from St. Jean Pied de Port, France, to Santiago, Spain. Standouts of the pilgrimage were the poppy fields and vineyards. The people she met along the way were cordial and friendly. "It was a trip that will be hard to top," she stated. She is currently planning an African safari in July, with future trips in mind to Japan, Korea, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil.

Love of adventure and knowledge have led Ohman to fascinating experiences in her long career in public service. "No matter what I was doing or where I went, the backbone of my career was the marvelous people with whom I worked: students, educators, parents, and employees. The joy of my career has been in their accomplishments, and I had 46 wonderful years of working with amazing people. I am blessed," she said.

Casper College is lucky indeed to have been a small part of her journey, and it is an honor to have her as one of our very own alumni.



Diana Ohman spoke at the 2009 Casper College Autumn Gala when she was honored as the Casper College Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni for 2009.

Nix Retires – Sets Off on New Adventures

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

It's a pleasure to work with people you like and admire, but the Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association office has been lucky enough to work with someone who also inspires. **Linda Nix** is saying good-bye after working at the office since 2006. Her coworkers will miss the daily doses of inspiration and humor that are her trademark. She freely lent her talent to every project that has come out of the foundation since her arrival.

Nix brought a multitude of experience to the foundation and alumni association office. Her academic achievements include a master's degree and a law degree, while her professional experiences were varied and accomplished. Nix served as the assistant director of the Health Insurance Association of America in New York City.

After relocating to Wyoming, she ran an independent law practice while also serving as director of medical affairs at the Wyoming Medical Center. Additionally, she was the executive director of the Natrona County Medical Society. In 1986, she and Pat Nagel were selected to co-direct the Wyoming Futures Project, which led to a consulting partnership spanning more than two decades, specializing in organizational goal setting, team building, and board training for small businesses and nonprofits. Nix also served as a trustee of the Casper College District board from 1988 to 1996 and was a founding member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

Bringing those talents to the foundation and alumni association, she was a benefit to the whole team, asking everyone to think about ideas from multiple perspectives. Nix is endlessly optimistic

about any situation which encourages everyone to aim high.

Nix was initially hired to represent the alumni association and served in that primary role for 11 years. She was instrumental in bringing the T-Bird Trek to life as well as fostering a professional presentation of the award-winning alumni magazine, Footprints. She began working "part time" as the communications director for the foundation in 2017.

Nix reflected on her tenure at the college laughing about the time she nearly passed out at the Casper parade wearing an inflatable T.rex costume. She was always willing to go the extra mile, even if it meant donning a blow-up dinosaur suit. Nix also enjoyed watching the T-Bird Trek grow from an idea at a board retreat to an annual event that brings campus and community together in support of students. "It sounds clichéd, but it is a joy to have a job that involves doing good every day," Nix said.

With her newly found free time, Nix plans to travel more extensively and share retirement with her husband, Neil Short. An avid traveler who has already visited six continents, her thirst for knowledge is never-ending, and she has a stack of



books lined up to read. The foundation office will still look forward to her reports on her explorations while the office lives vicariously through her journeys to exotic locations. To say the staff of the foundation office will miss Nix would be a profound understatement. However, the footprints she left behind will guide us as we move towards the future.

A Matter of Judgment: Scholarship Judging

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

Twice a year, volunteers evaluate around 1200 scholarship applications students submit in hopes of reducing their financial burden to attend college. Since 2003, when she joined the Casper College Alumni Association board, **Luella Hinderliter** ('66) has been a dependable volunteer.

Originally all scholarships were submitted in paper form. At that time, the evaluators would take into account neat and legible handwriting. The process is now digital, making the process easier for evaluators and students. Hinderliter never fails to partake in the evaluation process to award scholarships to deserving students.

Hinderliter enjoys the connection she feels to the students, their voices coming through in their applications. "When you read applications, it's easy to get a sense of the students, what their challenges are, their successes, and what their hopes are for the future. And in the end, you hope their dreams come true," she said.

The process of granting scholarships to students in need is a great way to give back to the community as well. When students graduate, they go into their communities with new skills. Being able to say "yes" to someone who is looking for a fresh start from a stale career, a new student who wants to change the world, or maybe someone who wants to brush up on a

topic that will help them in their current occupation is a great feeling.

Evaluating scholarships is a responsibility not to be taken lightly, said Hinderliter. A lot of time, effort, and energy is spent on the selection process – many deserving students apply for the scholarships, but there is only so much scholarship money to go around. The volunteers who evaluate scholarships have a rubric to help them with the process. Hinderliter suggests students make sure to submit all of the required

materials to ensure getting the most points available, and while financial need is a significant consideration, writing a good essay along with references can make a big difference. It's essential that students take the application process as seriously as the evaluators do. Missing a step can mean missing out on scholarship assistance.

Casper College is fortunate to have a community that supports the foundation with funds to help students. The foundation has a multitude of scholarships available to a wide variety of students in all of the college's various programs. The college is also very fortunate to have volunteers who are willing to spend time ensuring the funds are bestowed on worthy students. For Hinderliter, it feels good to help students get a leg up on a brighter future. "There are times I want to tell the students that everything will be all right, to stay in there and fight for what they want in life, and to never give up," Hinderliter said.

Scholarship judging occurs every fall and spring. It is a rewarding experience and a great way to give back to the college and the community. For more information, reach out to **Ann Dalton**, associate director of development at the Casper College Foundation at 307-268-2325 or by email at adalton@caspercollege.edu.





Dan Hubbell: Rodeo Photographer Extraordinaire

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

Pro rodeo photographer **Dan Hubbell** ('68) is no stranger to the rodeo arena. He came to Casper College from a ranch in Pinedale in the fall of 1967 to study and rodeo. The young bareback rider soon discovered that he really didn't like the study aspect of college, but what he did get from his year at CC provided him with the tools he needed to become a world-class rodeo photographer.

While Hubbell was still in high school, **Mike Hubbell** (AS, '72) returned from Vietnam with a gift for his younger brother: a Minolta camera. At Casper College, Hubbell found himself taking photos at the rodeos he competed in after he made his ride. Somehow, Hubbell isn't really sure how, but Casper College physical science instructor **Norm Weiss** found out that he liked photography. "Norm Weiss was a good photographer himself," said Hubbell. "One day, he asked me if I would like to learn how to use a darkroom. 'I have a darkroom at my home, and I can teach you how to do what you need to know,' he told me, and then asked if I was interested. 'Yes, sir,' I replied."

With Weiss' teaching, Hubbell discovered that he liked darkroom work. On weekends, Hubbell would travel with the Casper College rodeo team, compete in bareback, run to his vehicle, grab his camera, and then shoot photos of the other events. Back in town, he would develop the photos from that weekend's rodeo in Weiss' darkroom.

To be successful, however, Hubbell knew that he needed to have his own photo enlarger and equipment to develop his film and photos. The chance appeared when a former Casper College student, **Bob Clore** (AA, '66), decided he was going to quit

Neil Williams (CERT, AAS, '14, AS, '15) worked to hang on while Dan Hubbell captured the moment in this image.

taking photos, and Hubbell asked him if he was willing to sell his equipment. Clore was.

After his year at Casper College, Hubbell and Mike went to California to rodeo. Hubbell soon discovered that he was going broke rodeoing; however, he was able to sell some of his photos to other contestants. As in college, after he finished competing, he would take photos and then develop the film and print the photos. "I had darkrooms all over the place," he said. In those early days, Hubbell would find a motel room that wasn't too expensive with no windows or develop the photos in a camper on the bed of a pickup. In all these makeshift darkrooms, "space was cramped, and nothing was large enough."

He returned to Casper and began work as the janitor at Casper Color, a photofinishing lab. "I learned everything

about color photography developing and printing and worked my way up to manager," said Hubbell.

Ten years later, when Casper Color closed its doors, Hubbell searched for a location to open up his own photofinishing business but instead ended up managing Shakey's Pizza for three years. After Shakey's, he went to work for Stoval Beverage.

It was during his time with Stoval Beverage that Hubbell got back into rodeo photography to take photos of his daughter, barrel racer **Denise (Hubbell) Olson** (AS, '91), who was competing in high school rodeo. Following high school, Olson attended Casper College and competed on the CC rodeo team, which was undergoing a coaching transition as her dad's coach, **Dale Stiles**, retired and **Tom Parker** took over the reins. From



Dantan Bertsch (AS, '15) was launched out of the chute atop this horse as Dan Hubbell froze time with his camera.

Casper, she went to the University of Wyoming and then turned pro with “a high-caliber barrel horse named Lucy.” Hubbell went to all of Olson’s rodeos and snapped up the action.

Of course, Hubbell had graduated to color photos thanks to his time at Casper Color, and as things progressed, through taking photos at Olson’s rodeos, he was able to leave his job at Stoval Beverage in 1989 and pursue rodeo photography full time as Hubbell Rodeo Photos. Hubbell moved up to a fifth wheel to travel to rodeos and develop film, and then finally to a 40-foot trailer with a custom-built darkroom. However, that all changed with digital photography.



Hannah Ostheimer.

Miss Rodeo Wyoming

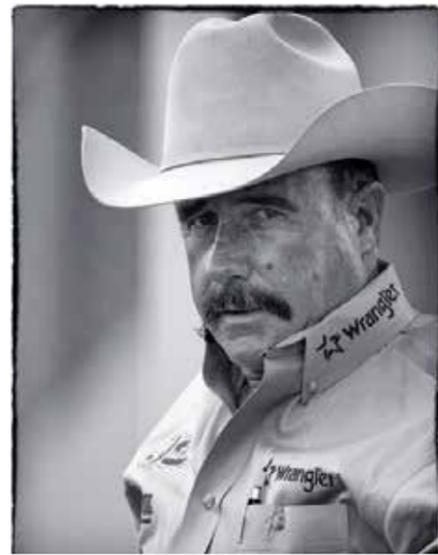
Hannah Ostheimer (AS, '16) graduated with distinction with a degree in agriculture from Casper College, and that same year won the American Quarter Horse Youth Association Show Jumping World Championship. In 2018 she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Wyoming with her bachelor’s in biology. She has put her education on hold temporarily since August of last year when she was crowned as the 62nd Miss Rodeo Wyoming.

“Dad taking photos at my rodeos helped his career, and he was able to help me along the way too,” Olson recalled. She also remembered her father’s darkroom work: “He had the best color out there; the color was amazing.”

The first rodeo that Hubbell shot all digital was the National Western Livestock Show in Denver in 2002. According to Hubbell, the “speed” of digital gives him more free time and, “It’s nice to be able to view your image.” However, he also feels that much of the skill and technique of the darkroom has been lost. Digital has also increased the number of people who have become photographers, including those in the rodeo arena. Currently, 59 photographers are recognized by the PRCA, so the competition between photographers is real.

This past December, Hubbell was named the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Photographer of the Year at the PRCA Awards Banquet on December 5, 2018. Interestingly enough, when the PRCA established the award in 2000, Hubbell was also the winner.

Hubbell has been the official photographer for the PRCA’s National



Rodeo photographer Dan Hubbell.

Finals Rodeo 19 times in a row and a total of 21 times. He is also the official photographer for the College National Finals Rodeo and has shot it for the last 21 years.

Nine months out of the year, Hubbell and his wife Linda live in a fifth wheel. “I like to travel and don’t like to wake up in the same place,” Hubbell noted, adding, “I’ve met some really great people along the way.”

He gave up his customized darkroom when he went digital. When he is finished shooting for the day, he hands Linda the photo card from his Nikon D4S. She

The Casper College Agriculture Department is one of the college’s top departments, and each year graduates outstanding students. Hannah Ostheimer, left, and Trey Yates, right, are just two examples.

Ostheimer, who grew up along the Tongue River at the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains chose Casper College, she said, for a few reasons. “Partly because it was close to home and also because I could have my horses and ride whenever I wanted to, which has always been important to me. Plus, CC is affordable, I loved my teachers and the students, and it is a wonderful size, which was why I chose to return to Casper for my last year of my bachelor’s and did the UW at Casper distance program.”

During her last year at Casper, when she was working on her bachelor’s degree, Ostheimer was a teaching assistant for

Casper College biology instructor **Will Robinson’s** animal biology class. She was also the Sheridan WYO Rodeo Queen.

Following her time as Miss Rodeo Wyoming, Ostheimer will head back to UW to work on her doctorate in animal science with a focus on equine nutrition. “I am an equine nutrition nerd! I love to read the labels on horse feeds, research what is good for my horses, and pick a diet plan that works for each horse. I would love to work for a company like Platinum Performance, creating feeds for performance horses of all disciplines, including rodeo horses,” she said.

downloads those images onto her laptop and then prepares them for sale and distribution using Adobe Photoshop, Elements, and Lightroom. She has a photo printer as well to print out any photos that a client wants right away.

Their year starts in February at the Tucson Rodeo. From there Hubbell, Linda, and their pets, Tally the cow dog and Winslow the Siamese mix, work the April rodeos in California and return to Casper, where they have a home, in May

to catch up on printing photos. In June they work the CNFR and the Greeley Stampede followed by Cheyenne Frontier Days in July. They catch up with printing again in August and then from the latter part of August through September cover the rodeos in Washington and Oregon. In October they might come back to Casper before heading to Amarillo, Texas, for the Working Ranch Cowboys Association World Championship Ranch Rodeo. They then spend a few months in their Tucson,

Arizona, home and start all over again in February.

Hubbell likens his profession to ranching: “You are married to it and doing it all the time but despite the hard work and occasional disappointment you love doing it. That’s simple enough. I just love what I do, and I am lucky I have been able to make a living out of being a professional rodeo photographer.”



Trey Yates was captured by Dan Hubbell’s camera as he roped the back legs of a steer at the 2018 College National Finals Rodeo.

Team Roper

Trey Yates ('18) is keeping up a family tradition. Both his grandfather, Dick Yates, and father, J.D. Yates, were team ropers. J.D. Yates is well-known in the rodeo business himself, having qualified for 21 National Finals Rodeos competing as a team and steer roper. Yates qualified for and appeared in the 2018 National Finals Rodeo for the first time. Yates paired up with third-time qualifier Aaron Tsinigine, and the pair took first place in the average standings following 10 rounds of competition.

But before the excitement of the NFR, Yates, along with team roping partner Kellan Johnson, took the gold in team roping at the 2018 College National Finals Rodeo. Yates was riding for Casper College, and Johnson, son of **Jhett Johnson**, (Casper College rodeo coach and 2011 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world champion team roper), was riding for Gillette College.

Yates spent three years in college rodeo, rodeoing for Eastern Wyoming College, Laramie County Community College, and his final year for Casper College. Yates decided to come to Casper for his last year

because he wanted to be coached by Jhett Johnson, and it made sense because he was competing in college rodeo with Kellan.

At the close of 2018, Yates found himself in third place in the world standings with \$226,900. His first place in the average standings at the NFR alone netted him \$129,308. When he is home at the family ranch near Pueblo, Colorado, he helps with the work and practices roping every day.

CC 75th Anniversary Next Year! Help Us Celebrate

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

Aley Fine Arts Center now known as Aley Hall.



Submit your story and pictures

Casper College will be celebrating its 75th anniversary during the 2020-2021 academic year. To celebrate, the alumni association will be issuing a retrospective collector's edition of Footprints which will look back at the last 75 years, and we need your help!

Please share your photos, stories, and memories of your time at Casper College and be part of our 75th Anniversary Edition. The issue will be published in the summer of 2020. We are especially in need of your memories from 1980-present. Share your Thunderbird experience, contact 307-268-2218, toll-free at 800-442-2163, ext. 2218, danica.sveda@caspercollege.edu, or submit them online at caspercollegefoundation.org/75th-celebration.



"First Community College to Win a National Championship." 1963 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association National Champions, Casper College. Front row, from left, Denny Wall, Rod Prewitt ('63). Back row, from left, Coach Dale Stiles, Dick Claycomb (AA, '63), Bill Mankin ('64), Larry Hall (AveD, '63), and Jim Johnston (AS, '64).



1972 Casper College rodeo team. Back row, from left, James "King" Merritt ('72), Jack Duce (AS, '74), Daryl Brown, Mike Hubbell (AS, '72), Unknown, Bruce Segelke ('73), Mike Latting ('72), Steve Chandler ('72). Front row, from left, Nathan "Dode" Givens ('72), Unknown, Randolph Nez ('72), Gene Walker (AAS, '74), Guy Givens ('73). If you can identify any of our unidentified cowboys in this photo, please let us know.

The Casper College Library when it was housed in the then Liesinger Administration Building, 1966. The building is now known as Liesinger Hall.



From left, William (Bill) Vance, director of admissions and financial aid, Tim Aley, Ph.D., Casper College president, and Jean Wheatley, tennis coach, with the men's and women's tennis team. Two of the team members are holding National Junior College Athletic Association trophy plaques, one of which reads: "Region IX, Women's Tennis Champions, 1979." The other cannot be read in this picture. If you can identify any of our unidentified team members in this photo, please let us know.



Debbie Nickerson ('76, '80, '92) and John Dill ('73) at the 1975 Center Board dance.

All photos courtesy of the Western History Center.

Lowell Catlett: Three-time Doornbos Lecturer

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

Lowell Catlett, Ph.D., is the only person in the 19-year history of Casper College's Doornbos Lecture Series to have been invited to speak at the yearly event more than once. Catlett has been the lecturer three times, in 2013, 2017, and 2019.

Retired agriculture instructor **Marty Finch**, who in 2012 was in charge of the lecture series, had seen Catlett speak and knew that he wanted to hire him to be the speaker for the 2013 lecture series. "I need to get him to come speak at the Doornbos," Finch remarked to fellow ag. instructor **Todd Jones** (AS, '83). "I know him," said Jones. "I'll just call him up."

Jones knew him, because Catlett had been the head of Jones' thesis committee when Jones was working on his M.S. degree in agricultural economics at New Mexico State University. Catlett was happy to come and speak, he told Jones.

For that 12th year of the event, Catlett presented "... a thought-provoking and entertaining presentation infused with his sense of humor," noted **Heath Hornecker** (AS, '97) Casper College instructor. The attendees that year found Catlett to be not only an entertaining speaker but also knowledgeable and relatable. "But most importantly," said Jones, Catlett "... came inspired and motivated our students."

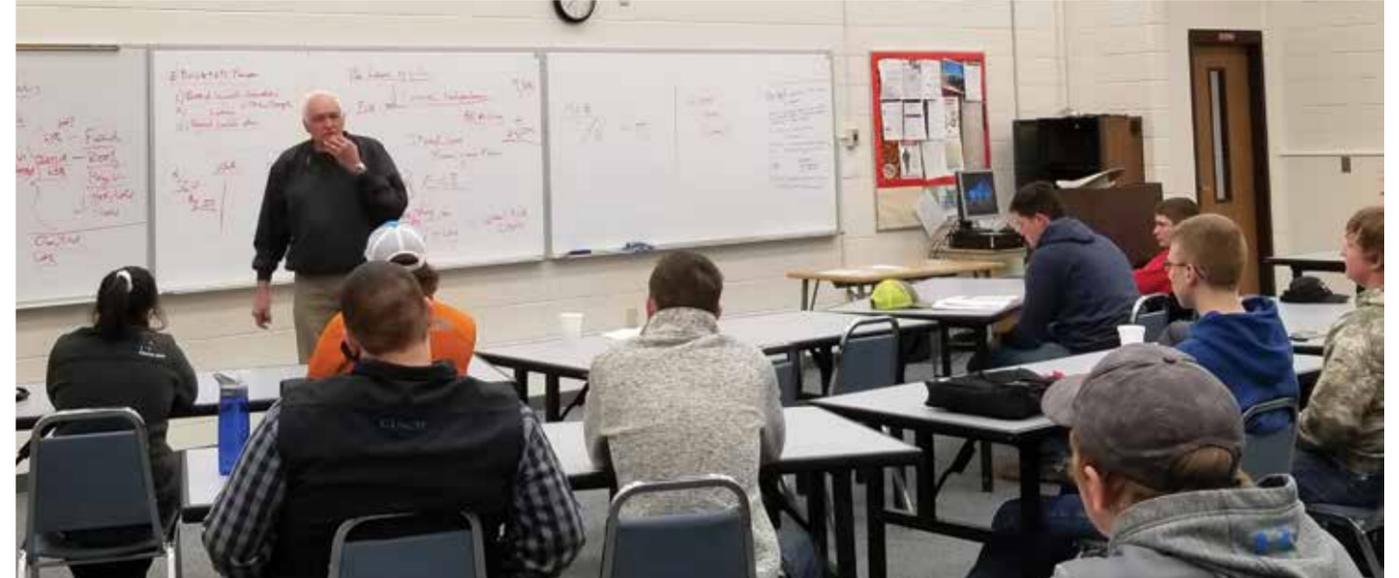


Lowell B. Catlett, Ph.D. Courtesy photo.

Following his presentation, Catlett, who is a speaker for the company Convention Connection, told Jones that he wasn't going to charge Casper College his portion of the fee charged by Convention Connection. "I was surprised and told Lowell that we had an endowment, so it wasn't necessary for him to do that," recalled Jones. "But, a few months later we received a personal check from him for his fee," Jones said. It has been that way for the other two times that Catlett spoke at the Doornbos Lecture Series.

According to Jones, the money has gone to the Casper College Foundation for safe keeping until members of the agriculture department decide on what is needed for the department and its students. One year they were able to purchase "... six or seven laptop computers for the use of the department's faculty and students," said Jones. For each presentation that Catlett has made, he has customized it, not only for Casper College students, but also for Natrona County and Wyoming audiences.

Casper College School of Science Dean, **Jerry Hawkes**, is well acquainted with Catlett. "Dr. Catlett's classes were always full, and his students, highly



Lowell Catlett lectures the combined 8 and 9 a.m. agriculture classes "Agricultural Economics II," "Crops," "Beef Production," and "Agricultural Economics 1020." Casper College photo courtesy Heath Hornecker (AS, '97), ag. instructor and department chair.

successful. Lowell advised thousands of students throughout his career and was the major professor for greater than 175 graduate students. His mentorship has been reflected across the globe through his students, invited lectures, and board positions," said Hawkes, adding, "Many students feel this impact through his guidance, both in and out of the classroom today, and I am incredibly fortunate to be one of these." Hawkes earned his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from NMSU.

When asked why the agriculture department continues to invite Catlett back to speak at the Doornbos, Jones responded that Catlett is always "... informed, entertaining, and very popular with audiences who have been wowed by his presentations."

Catlett has a slightly different answer: "I think the real reason that I was invited

to speak three times was that they hoped beyond hope that I would finally get it right. But alas, three times is not the charm," he joked.

But why has Catlett agreed to come on three different occasions? "The agriculture program at Casper College has an excellent reputation nationally, so I was very honored to be asked to speak at the Doornbos Lecture Series and to guest lecture in some classes while on campus," said Catlett. "The faculty, staff, and students were a joy to work with, so it was easy to accept a second and third invitation," he added. It also helped that Jones and Hawkes (once he joined Casper College in August of 2018) had a past relationship with Catlett. "It was my pleasure when I was a professor to work with both Todd Jones and Jerry Hawkes, so to get a chance to work with

them again, I jumped at the opportunity," Catlett said.

Catlett also had high praise for both Jones and Hawkes: "Casper College is lucky to have both Todd and Jerry as they are outstanding individuals and great mentors for students and staff alike," he said.

Because Casper College and its employees and staff have made such a positive impression on Catlett, donating his speaking fees back to the agriculture department wasn't a hard decision to make. "The agriculture program at Casper College helps add value to students and they, in turn, add value to agriculture - donating the speaking fee back was just my way of saying that I value what they do and hope they continue doing great things," Catlett said.



Lowell Catlett has been the speaker three times for the Doornbos Lecture Series.

Seventeen Retire from Casper College

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

Casper College said farewell to 17 employees who accounted for a total of nearly 305 years combined. These employees retired during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which ran from July 1 to June 30.

1 Cindy Burgess began working at Casper College on October 16, 2006, as the switchboard operator. Originally the switchboard was in the admissions office when it was located in what was then known as the Liesinger Administration Building. The office then moved over to career services across the hall and then for a while was located in the Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center. When Cindy retired, the switchboard had moved back to Liesinger Hall, but on the first floor right next to the copy center. Cindy retired on May 31, 2019.

2 Peggy Candelaria (AAS, '17) began working at Casper College on February 18, 1981. She had two positions while working at Casper College: accounting and finance accountant, which she held until she moved to student services as the administrative assistant on July 1, 2006. Peggy retired on June 28, 2019.

3 Paulann Doane began her career at Casper College on July 6, 2011, as the

executive director of the Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association. Paulann retired on January 31, 2019.

John Dyrek began working at Casper College on November 13, 2000, as a custodian. He always worked the evening shift. John retired on January 31, 2019.

4 Blake Harkins began working in the maintenance department as a carpenter on April 17, 2006, and then advanced to the position of carpenter II on July 1, 2010. Blake retired on January 31, 2019.

5 Mary Kubichek started her employment with Casper College on August 22, 1988, as the paralegal instructor and paralegal program director. She taught all eight legal specialty classes, the Certified Paralegal Review course, and developed the Casper College Legal Service Clinic. The clinic won the only Bellwether award ever won by Casper College. Mary won the Rosenthal Award from Casper College, the first Terrific Learning Coach award voted on by Phi Theta Kappa students, and received the Excellence in Teaching award from The National Society of Leadership and Success in May 2019. Mary retired on May 20, 2019.

6 Karel Mathisen (AA, '06) began her career at Casper College on November 1, 2001, in the academic affairs office back in the day when the offices for the vice president for academic affairs, continuing education, institutional research, distance education, and facilities scheduler were all in one space, and she worked for them all. She then worked as the academic vice president's executive assistant, the academic assistant for what was then called the business division, and in 2008 finally landed in public relations in her final role as the PR assistant. She was elected chair of the Casper College Staff Alliance in 2012 and served in that capacity for two years. In 2014, she received the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) award for excellence in leadership, presented by the University of Texas at Austin. She retired on June 28, 2019.

7 Barb Meryhew began working at Casper College on August 17, 1992, as the assistant to the director of student activities. During the next two years, she oversaw the Casper College Student Activities Board and various intramurals. In 1994 she was named the student activities specialist. In 1998 she received

the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees Classified Staff Award and shortly afterward was moved from her staff position to administrative where she became the director of student activities. In 2005 upon **Lyle Cox's** (AA, '68) retirement, she was appointed to the director of student life position, overseeing campus activities, intramurals, and campus housing. Barb retired on June 28, 2019.

8 Linda Nix began working at Casper College on September 26, 2006, as the part-time alumni association coordinator. Her role grew as the foundation absorbed the alumni association. See the story on page 14. Linda retired on May 31, 2019.

9 Jim Olm began working at Casper College on August 23, 2005, as the music theatre/voice instructor. His love and excitement of the fine arts was evident to his students and has had a significant impact on the fine arts department at Casper College. Jim retired on May 20, 2019.

10 Shawn Powell started his employment with Casper College on August 20, 2007, as a psychology instructor. Starting on August 1, 2011, he served as the dean of the Casper College School of

Social and Behavioral Science through July 31, 2015. Shawn was the vice president of Academic Affairs from August 1, 2015, until August 31, 2018. Shawn retired from Casper College on August 31, 2018, to become the president of Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell.

11 Diana Quealy-Berge, Ph.D., (AAS, '74) started working for Casper College on August 1, 2009, as an addictionology instructor. During her time at Casper College, the addictionology program received National Addiction Studies Accreditation and became a NAADAC Educational Provider. Diana integrated Wellbriety into the curriculum, participated in professional development for addiction professionals across the state, and mentored many students into bachelor's and master's degree programs. Diana retired on May 20, 2019.

12 Glen Roberts (AAS, CERT, '09) began his career as a diesel power technology instructor on August 16, 2004. He was also the department head for the diesel power and automotive technology program. Glen retired on May 20, 2019.

13 Chancey Rogers (AS, '75) began working at Casper College on August 24, 1978, where he was employed as a security officer for over 40 years. Chancey graduated from Casper College with an associate degree in law enforcement/criminal justice. Chancey retired on February 19, 2019.

14 Darby Sawyer began working at Casper College on August 16, 2004, as an English instructor where she began teaching developmental English. She became director of the Casper College Writing Center in 2014 and continued to teach. She mentored many students and tutors during her time at Casper College and served as the English department chair from 2016-2017. Darby retired on May 20, 2019.

15 Mike Sawyer started working at Casper College on June 6, 2003, as the facilities operations director. Mike retired on August 3, 2018.

16 Karen Trohkimoinen began working as the benefits specialist in the Casper College Human Resources Department on August 16, 2006. On January 15, 2011, she began working as the payroll specialist and continued in that role until she retired on January 9, 2019.



Bressler Named Foundation and Alumni Director

By Linda Nix

Denise (Neville) Bressler ('84) has been chosen as the executive director for the Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association. A Casper native, Bressler began working at the foundation in November 2006, as the foundation accountant under then Foundation Director **Paul Hallock** (AA, '65). Her job and duties changed in February 2012 when she was promoted to the position of chief financial officer for the foundation by then director **Paulann Doane**. Bressler replaces Doane who retired in early 2019.

"My background as a certified public accountant, many years in public accounting, and 12 plus years at the Casper College Foundation has prepared me to be successful as its executive

director," said Bressler. Bressler also noted that working under both Hallock and Doane "... (has given) me insight into the history and the unfolding future of the foundation."

Bressler began as an independent contractor for the foundation in 2003. "By the time I was offered a position in 2006, I was hooked." The foundation's mission matters to her because she believes in helping both the students through scholarships and the college through the support the foundation provides for buildings, grounds beautification, and program support. Bressler noted that "By investing in the students, we are investing in our future as well."

"Denise's extensive institutional knowledge of Casper College and her

good working relationship with college administrative leaders is an added plus for us," said John Jorgensen, president of the foundation board of directors. "We are able to continue the work of the foundation without any real issues thanks to Denise's vast knowledge of the foundation and its inner workings," he added.

As she enters this new role, Bressler sees her background as a Casper native as a significant advantage. Bressler is the daughter of attorney **Frank Neville** (AA, '66), the late **Josephine Neville** (AAS, '96),

and Rita Neville. "Having lived here all my life I know the 'old' Casper, what it has taken to get it where it is today and where many of us would like to see it go. I've lived through its booms and busts and know that we will come out of the busts, we just have to be patient and tighten the purse strings for a while. Perhaps most importantly, I know many of the people here in Casper and their connections. There aren't six degrees of separation in Casper; it's more like one or two," she observed.

Bressler began her education at Casper College in 1983, then earned her Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Wyoming and became a certified public accountant in 1989. Prior to her employment at the Casper College Foundation, she worked as a CPA for Macy and Associates* in Casper.

In addition to her working experience, Bressler has been a member of both the Wyoming Society of Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for the past 29 years. She has also served on the boards of the Child Development Center of Natrona County, the Arc of Natrona County, the Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance of Casper, Sinclair of Casper Advisory Board, and was a volunteer on the Casper Police Department's Victim Support Services. In 2014, she was honored as a nominee for the Casper Woman of Distinction award. Bressler and her husband Bryce live on their ranch west of Casper where they raised three daughters, Miranda Bressler, **Elaine Bressler** (AA, '15), and Yvette Bressler. Now, in addition to ranching, they raise exotic chickens. A small pack of dachshunds keeps everyone in line.

*Macy and Associates is now Lenhart, Mason, and Associates.



Costa Rica Native calls Rawlins Home

Adapted by Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle (AA, '79) from a story by Dean Michel, February 6, 2019. Courtesy of the Rawlins Times in Rawlins, Wyoming.

The process of becoming a citizen is arduous and time-consuming, but **Jessica Call** (AS, '18), a native of Costa Rica, surmounted this challenge to become an American citizen.

Born in Nicaragua, Call began her life as the member of a poor family, though they soon moved to neighboring Costa Rica in the hopes of better living conditions. Despite the better living conditions than the country of her birth, Call found crime to be a constant throughout her time in Costa Rica, and she was the victim of robbery several times throughout her life. The one that stood out to her was her robbery after having purchased an ice cream cone.

The thief demanded all the cash she had, to which she replied, "What money?" Once in school, Call found chemistry her most engaging and interesting subject, so she decided to make her interest a career.

During her final year in university, Call was offered a choice to immigrate to the United States or remain in Costa Rica. As her grandmother was a U.S. citizen, her grandchildren could immigrate to America, though only before the age of 21. Call was only six months away from her 21st birthday, and the opportunity to move had nearly ended.

After careful consideration, she decided to move with her family to Miami, though a few credits short of her degree. ...

During this time in Miami, Call met the man she would eventually marry, Joshua Call, a Mormon missionary from Star Valley, Wyoming. After marrying, they would stay in Miami for several years, before moving to Wyoming for employment ...

Call decided to become a citizen, as she wanted to spend the rest of her life in the states, and she felt it was the best place to raise a family. She also felt the safety of the U.S. sealed the choice to naturalize. "You can walk down the street without the fear of robbery," Call said of her new country.

Her journey to American citizenship began two years ago. Now a naturalized citizen of the United States, Call plans

to live the remainder of her years in the U.S., though she plans to visit friends and family still living in Costa Rica.

Call works at Memorial Hospital of Carbon County in Rawlins, Wyoming.



Jessica Call (left), husband Joshua, (right), and their son Gabriel at their home in Rawlins, Wyoming. Photo courtesy of Dean Michel, Rawlins Times.

The above is a wonderful story on one of our alumni, but we wanted to learn a bit more about her journey to Casper College and recently visited with her over the phone for this short Q & A.

Q: We know that you were in Miami and then moved to Rawlins, but how did Casper College figure into all of this?

A: When I was living in Costa Rica and going to college I was studying organic chemistry, which is not the same as a medical lab technician, but I loved the lab part of my studies. When my husband and I moved to Rawlins five years ago, I really thought that a university

would be nearby. I started working in the lab in the hospital here, and a co-worker, Brittany, and I were talking one day. I was telling her my discouragement because there was no university near Rawlins and how I wanted to be able to work in a lab as a technician.

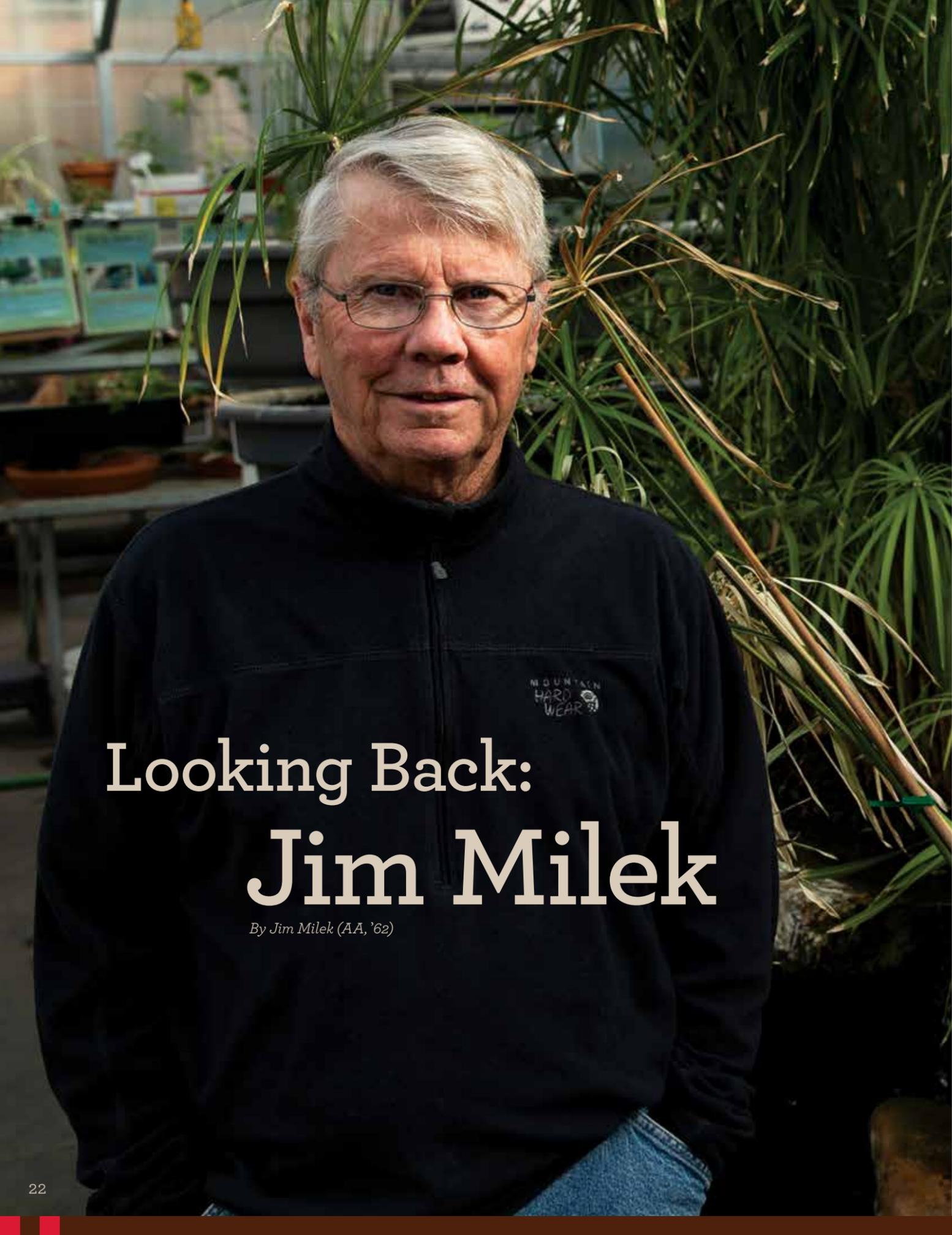
Brittany immediately told me that she had just graduated from the medical lab technician program at Casper College. I was very excited and looked into it and ended up getting my degree through a combination of online and some travel.

Q: What do you think about the MLT program at Casper College?

A: I really loved the Casper College program. The instructors were excellent and amazing, were willing to help students a lot, and taught us very well.

Q: What do you do at Memorial Hospital of Carbon County?

A: I'm a medical lab technician! I was doing my internship for my degree at Memorial, and Brittany, the girl who had told me about the Casper College program, had left Memorial. Following my internship, I was hired to fill the position that Brittany had had, and have been there ever since.



Looking Back: Jim Milek

By Jim Milek (AA, '62)

It all started in 1960. I remember hearing about Casper College when I was a senior at Hot Springs County High School in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Casper College had a group of talented students called the Contact Troupe under the direction of **Ken Ury** that traveled to different high schools promoting the college and its programs through entertainment. It was a very successful recruitment tool, and it recruited me, not only for two years of my education, but for my life.

I began classes at Casper College in the fall of 1960. It was a great experience. My instructors were all fantastic and inspired me to keep learning. My plant science class (now called botany) was taught by **Larry Lofgren**. His teaching and that class

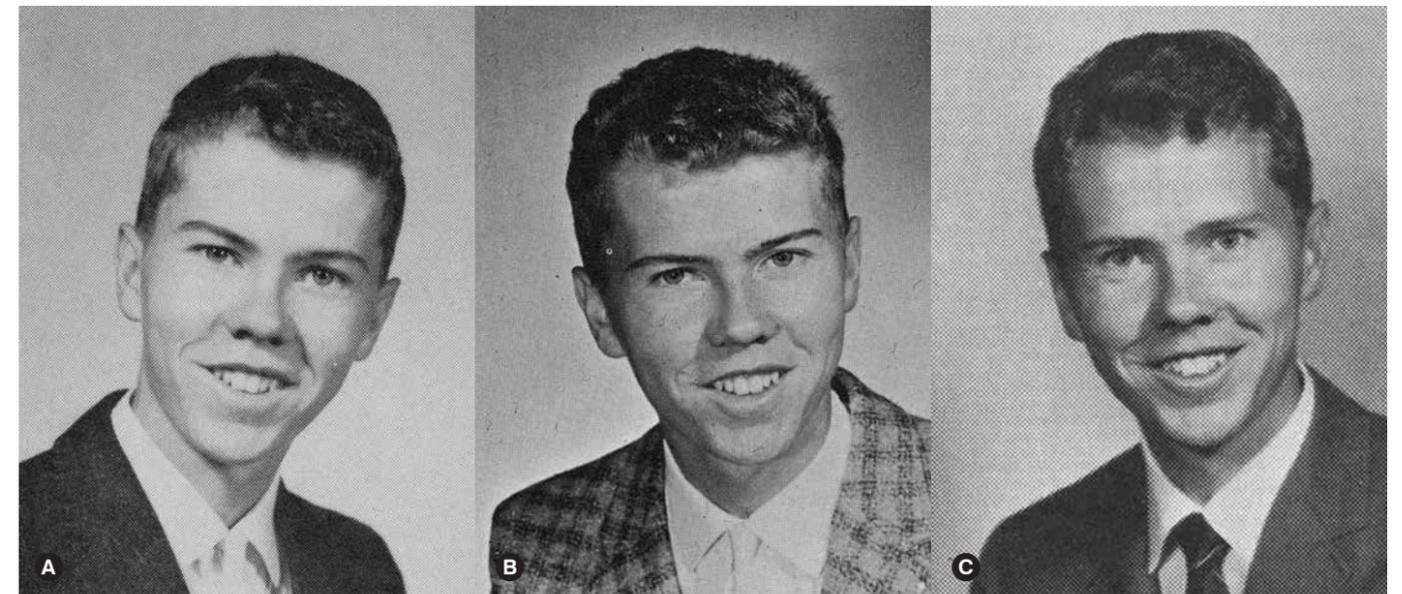
led me to major in biology. One person really can make a difference.

The campus was smaller then, but the college had many clubs and activities for students including a pep band, mixed choir, mountaineering club, Phi Theta Kappa, cheerleaders, rifle club, business club, a club for just about any interest and one for each major. It was a happening place, and young people were everywhere, all of them, all there to learn. As a student I participated in mixed choir and played trumpet in the pep band, then later as a faculty member, I sponsored the rifle club along with my colleague, **Jim Howard**.

After attending CC, I transferred to the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965. I did

my student teaching at Sheridan High School, in Sheridan, Wyoming, under the direction of a highly respected and talented teacher, Tom Allen.

On returning to the UW campus after my student teaching, a zoology professor encouraged me to pursue a master's degree in biology. My head research professor was genetics professor Gene Pratt, Ph.D., who started me on a research problem and a teaching assistantship. In 1967, I graduated. As with Casper College, I was taught by great teachers, so I loved the teaching aspect of biology. Most teachers I encountered in my education made it seem like the best job in the world. When I was finishing up my masters, I saw an opening at Casper College for a biology instructor and knew that was what I



James Milek, Thunderbird yearbook photos: Student (A) 1961 and (B) 1962 ; Faculty (C) 1968.

wanted to do. I contacted my old botany instructor, and Larry Lofgren encouraged me to apply.

That was where 52 years of teaching at Casper College started. I was hired by **Lloyd Loftin**, Ph.D., and **Tim Aley**, Ph.D. For my first class in the fall of 1967, I had 200 biology students. Labs were in the science building, now known as the Saunders Health Science Center, lectures in Leik Auditorium, students were everywhere on campus, and I got to meet the most interesting and talented people. Faculty in the biology department at that time consisted of **Gail Zimmerman**, Ph.D., Larry Lofgren, and Jim Howard all characters in their own right. And in 1972 our long-time biology team was rounded out with **Tom Clifford**, Ph.D.

We all were friends and complemented each other's talents. Our teamwork and commitment to the students had us offering more biology classes for the students than ever before – fun, new and different classes. I believe the students felt our camaraderie, respect for each other, and our commitment to excellence in education and they, in turn, thrived as



Jim Milek lectured students during a biology class in March 1973.

Jim Milek received teacher of the month recognition as he shook hands with a student and Casper College President Leroy Strausner in March, 1998.



biology majors. Many of the students over the years became lifelong friends, and we as a department always enjoyed hearing about the places our students went and careers they followed.

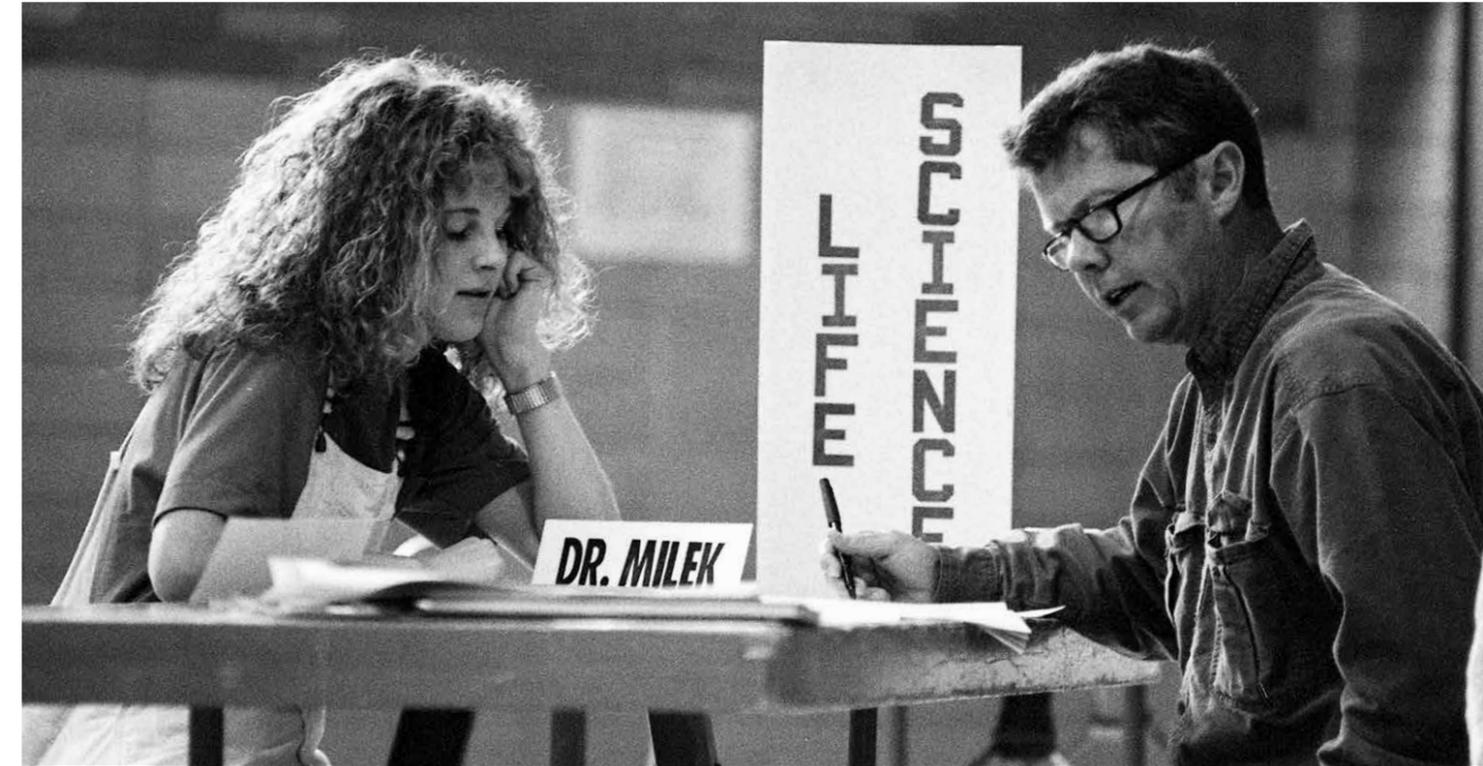
Casper College was growing under the direction of Dr. Aley as president and Dr. Loftin as vice president. Enrollment was increasing, new programs were added, sports were thriving. It was an active campus, to say the least. In later years, Dr.

Loftin and **Leroy Strausner**, Ph.D. (AA, '60) became Casper College presidents and they continued the robust academic and learning environment on campus. During this time, I worked toward a doctorate at the University of Northern Colorado, which I completed in 1988.

Over the years, the college evolved and changed. New buildings were built, faculty retired, new faculty hired, departments were dissolved, departments were created, but one thing that stayed consistent was the biology department. No matter who was hired, it was a privilege to work and teach with them.

Here I am, 59 years after I first heard about Casper College. While I officially retired in 2006, I have been back every year since as an adjunct professor. Turns out when you have a career and a place you enjoy as much as Casper College, work is fun, even for 52 years. And the great thing is always hearing where students have gone with their lives. I hope the biology department and Casper College has inspired some great careers over the years; I know it inspired mine.

Jim Milek helped Rachel Madzey (AA, '96) of Casper choose classes during registration day on June 19, 1992.



Jim Milek's Honors

Burlington Northern Teacher of the Year, 1988
Exemplary Alumnus, 1995
Phi Theta Kappa TLC, Teacher of the Year, 2005-06

An All CC Family

The entire Milek nuclear family are alumni of Casper College. In addition to Jim, his wife **Marsha (Huson) Milek** (AS, '95), son **Doug Milek** ('96), and daughter **Janet Milek** (AS, '95) all studied at Casper College. Marsha's father, **Harry Huson** (AS, '67) and her two sisters went to CC, as well as three nieces, three nephews, one grandniece, and one grandnephew. Marsha's uncle, **Russ Huson** (AA, '57) was honored as the 1992 Distinguished Alumni and often talks about taking math classes from **Norman Ball**.



Pictured, from left, daughter Janet Milek, son Doug Milek, wife Marsha (Huson) Milek, and Jim Milek.

CC Trips Help Participants Navigate The World

By Valerie Innella-Maiers, Ph.D., CC art history instructor

Education allows us to better negotiate our world. We learn to observe, cultivate mindful decisions, and navigate with our skill sets. A spring art history course connected students to these concepts in March 2019.

Many travel reminiscences focus on the “where” and “what.” In contrast, a recent Casper College art history course titled “Moorish Art and Design” explored the “why” through campus lectures and travel abroad. The primary “why” was to learn more about new cultures. Drawing upon individual strengths and interests, students provided researched presentations on Moorish art elements, Berber tribal history, Portuguese explorers, and the landscape itself. The land has been used to create art for centuries, and in Lisbon, Portugal, we watched ceramicists using local clay to create intricately patterned tiles that fill palaces and grace building facades. We explored like Magellan and his crew to learn, push our boundaries, and better negotiate a city new to us. Cultivating empowerment to embrace navigational challenges, new situations, and unfamiliar terrain was also part of our “why.”

Shifting Planes

The travel course had our participants leaving a frozen landscape, the ground still amber and white with snow patches, to embark on a journey to a foreign land albeit late due to a spring blizzard. We “made lemonade” out of lemons and visited the brilliant Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey. With antiquities that would be a prelude to the Roman art inspired monuments and intricate jewelry that would speak to the sophisticated

metallurgy we would see in Lisbon, we had an amazing afternoon. Anthony Bourdain said, “Travel isn’t always pretty. It isn’t always comfortable ... But that’s okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind.” We met so many people, all friendly. They asked where we were from and offered insights on their home. This face to face communication is so important in a time of electronic messaging. The nuance of expression, the genuine smile – rather than an emoji – so endearing. This is why we enroll in Casper College courses, to learn, to connect, to be inspired by humanity.

Star Taking

We alighted in Lisbon on a new time; a place of cobbled textures, tiled walls, and the sound of seagulls at the coast. Situated on the Tagus River, the city was the home to the Romans, Moors, and later Christian kings who sponsored explorers such as Pedro Alvares Cabral and Vasco da Gama.



Exploring the history of the Iberian Peninsula included Catholic gothic cathedrals with carved stonework and colorful stained glass windows. Moorish and Christian iconography was studied before and then compared during travel in Portugal.

The Portuguese mariners brought spices we use today, including cinnamon, pepper, and cloves. These goods translated to wealth and amazing structures such as the St. Jerome Monastery, financed with the so-called “Pepper Tax.” In the monastery, we paused for a moment in the footsteps of these explorers who prayed for a safe sea voyage at the church altar. The connection of the sea and exploration was found in cloister carvings of armillary spheres that mimic the equator and celestial bodies around the earth.

In the Mariners Museum, students examined ornate brass astrolabes. Astrolabe is Greek for “star taking,” and this navigational device was used by aligning ships to stars. Constantly orienting ourselves, we found winding alleys leading to the Moorish castle San

Originally the residence of Moorish rulers, then Portuguese royals, the coastal palace features artwork inclusive of ornate furniture and intricately glazed ceramics. Many designs stem from patterns in Islamic Moorish art.

Jorge overlooking the city. Along the river, we saw the sun glinting off the white stone of the Torre de Belem, a crenelated monument embellished with nautical relief sculpture that once housed royal quarters, the last view of sailors as they set off on the Tagus River to the ocean. Did they, like us, think of learning as an adventure – simultaneously anxious yet embracing a new understanding of the unknown?

We all took time to reflect in journals on the soulful Fado ballads heard, the salt air smelled, and the fruits of the adjacent verdant landscape tasted. Reviewing the material culture of Portugal in situ provided sensory impact, allowing maximum cognitive understanding of their history, art, and culture. Calligraphy, floral patterns, and repeated organic forms bloomed from every corner of textiles, tiles, and metalwork pieces, all a delight to behold including the omnipresent eight-pointed star motif.

When we stop and consider all we see, hear, or experience and truly reflect

At the coastal city of Sintra, Portugal, travelers toured the National Palace: Helen Brown, Stephen Brown, Carli Holcomb (AA, '14), Valerie Innella-Maiers, Jade McMichael (AS, '08), Pam McMichael, Linda Nix, Scott Olheiser, Amber Olson ('04, '10, '19), Elliott Ramage ('19), Neil Short, Debra Swedberg (AS, '79), Jay Swedberg, Bucky Walker, Heather Watson (AS, '79), Mark Watson, and Kathleen Wille ('19).

on how this information integrates into our worldview, we gain insight on ourselves and others in our world. In Lisbon, enclosed in a garden cloister in stillness, white stone ornately carved by generations living centuries ago, we found that reflective moment. Delays and frustrations, euphoric moments, and personal interactions are part of the charm. This is “why” we were part of a travel course: to engage and navigate new territory.

A majority of the students elected to continue their exploring on the optional extension of the trip to Marrakech, Morocco, and the Atlas Mountains. Read Innella-Maiers' commentary on the visit to Northern Africa online. See photos of Morocco and additional photos from Portugal. caspercollegefoundation.org/footprints-morocco



Student Jade McMichael (AS, '08) admired traditional Portuguese tiles in the Chapel of Santa Maria, Sesimbra, Portugal.

This journey has also inspired two upcoming exhibitions.

Artist Kathleen Wille ('19) will present “The Viewfinder’s Journey: A Visual Response to Wanderings in the Iberian Peninsula” in the Mildred Zahradnicek Gallery October 16-December 12, 2019, with a gallery reception on October 25 at 6:30 p.m., prior to a RedStone Recital at 7:30 p.m. Wille will lecture on Thursday, October 24 at noon in the Goodstein Visual Arts Center, Room 102.

Artist Amber Olson ('04, '10, '19) will present a trip-inspired exhibit next spring in the Goodstein Gallery March 23- April 23, 2020.

Casper College photos courtesy of Valerie Innella-Maiers.

People & Places: Alumni

60s, 70s, 80s

Ronnie Lasco ('63) was profiled by the Rawlins Times as "Neighbor of the Week" in March 2019. Ronnie grew up in Rawlins, Wyoming, lived in Denver for five years working on his doctorate in chiropractic medicine, then spent two years at Casper College completing degree requirements. He returned to Rawlins and opened his office in 1965. He retired in 2010.

Ron Franscell (AA, '78) ¹ returned to Wyoming in the spring on his premier book tour for "Alice & Gerald – A Homicidal Love Story," a true crime story based in Wyoming. Ron is the 2003 Casper College Distinguished Alumnus and is the author of a host of other true crime books.

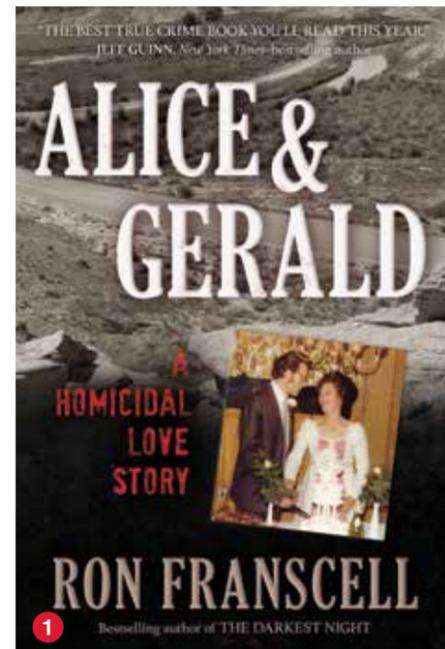
Gerald Mattinson ('78) is the new head coach of the University of Wyoming Cowgirl basketball program. He began serving as the assistant coach in 2003. Gerald played for **Swede Erickson** at Casper College on an extremely successful team that went 36-4, finishing sixth at the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament. Following his time at Casper College, he played basketball at Weber State, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business education in 1981 and then earned a Master of Sports Science degree from the United States Sports Academy in 1988.

Janette "Jan" (Sorenson) Cundy (AS, '80) was honored with a nomination as a Casper Woman of Distinction. Jan is the vice president of the Casper College Alumni Association board of directors. She has served on the board since 2010.

Tom Glause (AB, '82) is the new chief operating officer and director of rodeo administration for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Tom previously served as Wyoming's State Insurance commissioner. He was a saddle bronc rider at both Casper College and the University of Wyoming. After his time at Casper College, he earned both a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a Juris Doctorate from UW.

Deirdre Pilch (AA, '84) was recently honored along with 11 other women at the BizWest Women of Distinction event in Loveland, Colorado, in April. Deirdre is the superintendent of Greeley-Evans School District 6, a position she's held since July 2015. According to a press release from the school district, she has worked in public education for more than 30 years.

Curtis Claar ('86) founded EV Trail, based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. According to a company press release, EV Trail is geared towards bringing EV Fast



Charging Stations to the lower populated areas in the mountains and other regions of America as a bold move that will provide electric vehicles the capacity for long-distance travel to popular destinations.

Jeannie (Holyoak) Lundahl ('88) stopped by the alumni office this spring, and we asked about her time at Casper College. Jeannie shared that both she and her husband, **David Lundahl** (AAS, '95) were work-study students at Casper College when they met in 1988 thanks to an introduction by former Casper College employee and now retiree, **Robin Johnson**. David was helping with carpentry, and she was in the student center. Although they met in 1988, they didn't start dating until 2012. Jeannie has worked at CC in the past and now works as an office assistant in the school of science. David was a firefighter for 26 years and an adjunct instructor at CC for 25 years teaching CPR. After retiring from the fire department in November of 2017, he went to work at Wyoming Medical Center. He works in fire safety, emergency management, maintenance, and security. Jeannie has two children, Michael Hollister and Samantha Hollister. Michael just graduated from Natrona County High School, and Sam finished her freshman year. They both play sports and are in the National FFA Organization.

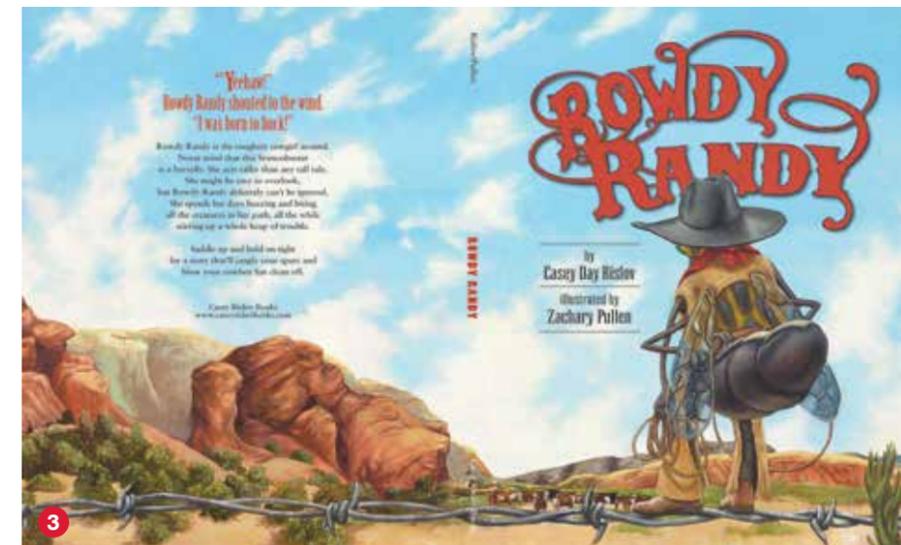
90s

Kerri Mae Johnson (AAS, '90) was appointed as Natrona County's newest district court judge by outgoing Governor Matt Mead in December 2018. Prior to her appointment, the new judge was in Natrona County's Office of the Public

Defender, a position she had held since 1998. Following her time at Casper College, she earned degrees from Chadron State and the law school at the University of Wyoming. Judge Johnson succeeds Judge **Tom Sullins**, a long-time member of the Casper College Foundation board.

Matteo Pistono (AA, '91) recently published his book, "Roar: Sulak Sivaraksa and the Path of Socially Engaged Buddhism." Matteo is Casper College's 2014 Distinguished Alumnus and the founder of Nekorpa (www.nekorpa.org), a nonprofit foundation working to protect sacred pilgrimage sites around the world. He also sits on the Executive Council of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists.

Andy Watson ('92) photographs professional bull riding events for the Professional Bull Riders, LLC. As a rodeo photographer, he's up close to the action, often in the land equivalent of a shark cage positioned in the center of the arena. Traveling for the PBR keeps him on the road much of the year. Andy is based out of Montana and developed his interest in photography at Casper College.



²

Nina Stairs (AA, '93) is the new office assistant in the Casper College School of Health Sciences. She previously worked in customer assistance and was also in the U.S. Army.

Tina Opp's (AS, '97) (AFA, '06) ² ceramic work was on display this past spring in the Goodstein Visual Arts Gallery. The display, "Artifacts of Nature" presented a variety of unique shapes and forms.

Casey Rislov (AS, '97, AS, '01) and **Zak Pullen** ('99) ³ collaborated on the children's book "Rowdy Randy." Casey and Zak attended Natrona County High School in Casper, together. "Rowdy Randy" is Casey's fifth children's book and Zak's 20th. According to their website, growing up in Wyoming inspired them to create a tall tale of how a very small horsefly can create total chaos. "Rowdy Randy" is a playful way to think how even

something (or someone) small can have a big impact. Casey holds a master's degree in elementary education and is endorsed in early childhood and special needs. She lives in Wyoming with her three favorite cowboys. Her father **Ron Day** was a drafting instructor at Casper College. Zak has won awards and garnered starred reviews for his picture-book illustrations. He has been honored several times with acceptance into the prestigious Society of Illustrators juried shows and the Communication Arts: Illustration Annual, featuring the best in current illustration. Zak lives under the big blue skies of Wyoming with his wife and son. His mother, **Glenda (Archer) Pullen** (AAS, '06), was an academic assistant at Casper College.

Dandee Pattee (AFA, AA, '98) opened Sanctuary Pottery Studio in The Landing, which formerly housed Roosevelt High School in Casper. According to its website, the studio offers wheel-throwing and hand-building classes, private classes, sculpting classes, and studio memberships.

2000s

Dustin Hebert (AA, '02) theater director at Kelly Walsh High School in Casper, directed "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" this spring, citing as his inspiration the late **Thomas Empey**, theater director and instructor at

People & Places: Alumni

Casper College. Empey was Dustin's self-avowed mentor and friend, as well as the reason he pursued a theater degree. Some of the costumes and props used in the high school production were borrowed from the college's theater department.



Lori Abrams (AS, '04) is the safety and security coordinator for Casper College. She started working full time for Casper College Campus Security in March 2017. Lori says she retired from the Natrona County Sheriff's Office in 2003 on medical retirement and worked a variety of other jobs before finding her way to Casper College. "I love my job (most days) and love the people," Lori wrote.

Jessica Beirau Barnes Bell (AFA, '05) created a new mural for downtown Casper on the wall of a newly renovated building opposite David Street Station. The image

is of a Victorian-era pioneer woman, dubbed "Davida." The oval-shaped mural includes a meadowlark, Indian paintbrush flowers, and other local flora and fauna. Wyoming images, including the state seal, the state flag, and other Wyoming icons grace the mural. According to the artist, "Davida" represents the spirit of Wyoming. The building is owned by **Peter Wold**, a long-time college benefactor. Jessie earned degrees in commercial art and fine art at Casper College.

Joe Lachowski (AAS, '06) checked in to say he is continuing to work for the National Park Service doing law enforcement and emergency services. He recently transferred to Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania where he now serves as the chief ranger. In 2014, Joe was presented with an award for valor by the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewel, in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award honors employees of the Department of the Interior who risk their own lives while attempting to save the life of another. At that time, he was a U.S. Park Ranger at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Ryan Atkins (AAS, '08) recently showed his artwork at Scarlow's Gallery in a show called "Hypercolor." Ryan works



in several media, but this exhibit focused on his watercolors, in particular, his portrait work. Ryan's degree from Casper College was in computer science, and he is the owner of Casper Car Bra.

Danielle Devonne (Hunt) Hendricks (AS, '08, AA, '09, AS, '12) and her husband Cody welcomed their son Dawson Sage into the world on April 18, 2019. Upon arrival, Dawson weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Danielle has degrees in general studies, elementary education, and wildlife management from Casper College.

Jennifer Garcia Polonia (AA, '08) is living and working in Los Angeles as an actor. Jennifer is a graduate of Second City Hollywood and is the co-creator of a sketch duo SlyChum that travels around the U.S. SlyChum can be seen on YouTube and on all social media platforms.



2010s

Lance Robinson (AA, '10), is the resident designer and technical director at Rainbow Company Youth Theatre in Las Vegas. His Associate of Arts degree in technical theatre from Casper College has allowed him to work all over the country. According to its website, the Rainbow Company Youth Theatre has been in operation for over 40 years and is a nationally acclaimed, award-winning youth theater group.

Con Trumbull (AS, '10), a local rancher, author, and historian, was the featured speaker for this year's 36th Annual Western History Center Celebration at Casper College. Con discussed the "Wyoming" schooner beginning with its construction in 1909, its history as a coal-hauler, and its demise in a gale off Cape Cod in March of 1924 when it and its crew were lost in 65-70 feet of water.

Con also provided the background to how the schooner got its name, "Wyoming." The "Wyoming" was built by the Bath, Maine, ship-building firm of Percy and Small in 1909. It was the world's largest sailing vessel complete with six masts and the ability to carry 6,004 tons of cargo, usually coal, in its hold.

Emily Brantz (AA, '12) is stage manager for Laugh Out Loud Theatre, a comedy improvisation group in Chicago. Emily graduated from Columbia College in 2014 in theatre performance. She was proud to direct a new adaptation of "Lysistrata" at the Fury Theatre and is a member of that company.

Caitlyn Kumpula (AA, '14) is working with the Missoula Children's Theatre in Missoula, Montana. Prior to that, Caitlyn was on tour with a national theater group for children. Growing up in Missoula, she had the opportunity to perform in

many Missoula Children's Theatre shows. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Paulina Strayer (AA, '14) is a Chicago-based theater director. She credits Casper College with much of her success and is grateful to have a background in directing, set design, costuming, and dramaturgy. According to her web page, Paulina was a co-founder of Theatre Brüt: a group dedicated to creating fresh, risky arts experiences for Wyoming audiences through showcasing "art in the raw" theatrical pieces that provoked thought and pushed boundaries. Paulina holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre directing from Columbia College in Chicago.

Alyssa Kirby (AA, '17) is majoring in dance at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. After graduation, Alyssa plans to pursue a Master of Arts degree in dance. Alyssa credits Jody Youman-Jones for her inspiration and support while at Casper College.

Jordan Janski (AS, '18), a Casper College biology graduate and Marine Corps veteran, was honored recently as the Casper College Student Veteran of the Year. Jordan currently attends the University of Wyoming at Casper. Following graduation, the father of two plans to become a teacher. He is the first recipient of the Casper College Student Veteran of the Year award. According to Nick Whipps, special population coordinator for Casper College, the award will be given annually.

Faculty, Staff, & Retirees



Janet de Vries, Casper College student success director emeritus and Wyoming Counseling Association past president, visited with Casper College criminal justice instructor and Wyoming House Representative **Art Washut** (AS, '78) during a reception at the 2019 Wyoming Legislative session. The reception was hosted by the local chapter of the American

Employee of the Year, by the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees. Tara began her career at Casper College in 1999 as a work-study teacher assistant at the ECLC and then worked as a part-time assistant while working on her early childhood education degree at CC. She became a full-time teacher in 2004.

Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The T-shirts in the background represent the 144 people who died by suicide in Wyoming in 2016.

Tara Goltermann (AS, '01), Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center teacher at Casper College, was recognized as the 2018-2019

Mark Mehn, chemistry instructor, recently co-authored an article in *Inorganica Chimica Acta*, Volume 486. The paper is titled "Synthesis and coordination chemistry of sterically hindered cobalt(II) β -ketoiminate complexes."

Pat Patton, Casper College instructor of music emeritus, shares his love of music by teaching Ukulele 2.0 at Art 321 in Casper. Pat retired from Casper College as choir director and vocal instructor in 2013.

Art Washut (AS, '78), criminal justice instructor at Casper College, was named the 2018-2019 Faculty Member of the Year by the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees. Art is also a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives. He was formerly a member of the Casper Police Department and began working at the college following his retirement from the police force.

Tell Us Your Business



Cynthia Duke ('87) of Christie Technology Corporation is transforming old electronics as the first technology recycling business in Wyoming. The company, which was founded in 2009, provides IT asset reuse, recycling, and remarketing services. Cynthia saw that businesses were struggling to get rid of their retired IT equipment during her time working for IBM. She researched the electronics recycling industry, then jumped in and formed Christie Technology.

"We obtained our R2:2013, ISO 14001, and OHSAS 18001 certifications – making us the first and only certified company in Wyoming," she said. The business works with a nationwide network to minimize the distance from the customer's site to the recycling facility, helping the environment, and saving on transportation costs. The company strives to keep electronics out of landfills and works to strengthen the integrity of the electronics recycling industry.

Friends We'll Miss

William J. Phillips (AA, '52, Distinguished Alumni 1996) November 24, 2018

Mary Francis (Wheeler) Pennell ('50) January 2, 2019

Irvin E. Brimmer ('62) January 4, 2019

Katherine A. Bakken ('91) January 5, 2019

Lola M. Freeman (AA, '53) January 9, 2019

Cheryl L. Daily (AAS, '76, CERT, '76) January 17, 2019

David F. Taggart ('83) January 20, 2019

Lesley J. Jackson (CERT, '82) January 23, 2019

Patricia Marie Mangan Guenther (AA, '57) January 26, 2019

Bernadine Watts-Wiberg Taylor (CERT, '73) January 26, 2019

Isla E. Morton (AAS, '84, Retiree) January 28, 2019

Thomas D. McClew (AAS, '64) February 5, 2019

Roger Lee Dunn (AAS, '74) February 7, 2019

John W. Allison (CERT, '75) February 9, 2019

Betty J. Masterson ('77) February 11, 2019

Kenneth Endsley (AA, '57) February 14, 2019

Nancy Jean Reeves (CERT, '82) February 25, 2019

Merry Louise (Vance) Watson (AS, '72) March 13, 2019

Dale R. Hendrickson (AA, '57) March 14, 2019

Eugene S. Wallace (AS, '75) March 14, 2019

Derreleen Pearl "Cutie" Alexander (AA, '72) March 16, 2019

Randall J. Holmes (AA, AAS, '88) March 16, 2019

Georgia Kamboris (CC Benefactor) March 18, 2019

Matthew W. Neuman (AAS, '14) March 18, 2019

Dennis V. Noonan ('50) March 28, 2019

Keith E. Cooper (AA, '95) April 4, 2019

Rachel (Ikard) Galli (AA, '76) April 12, 2019

Glory Thelma Walkin (AA, '93) April 13, 2019

Linda Farrar (AS, '71) April 14, 2019

Cheryl Anne (Roper) Yates (AAS, '00) April 16, 2019

Janice M. (Tighe) Griffin (CERT, '72) April 22, 2019

Sandra "Sandi" Henderson (AB, '09) April 24, 2019

Doyle R. Harrison (AA, '78) April 25, 2019

Pamela K. Wildeman (AS, '10) April 26, 2019

John Paul "Johnny" Miller ('88) April 29, 2019

Jean Marie (Rettig) Green (AAS, '00) May 1, 2019

Raymond William "Monk" DeVries Jr. (CERT, '87) May 3, 2019

John O. Mayer (AA, '62) May 5, 2019

Carol Lynn (Adams) Bidwell (AA, '57) May 6, 2019

Joellen Shirley "Jodi" (Carubie) Garner (AS, '96) May 8, 2019

Bobbi Jo (Roberta Jean) Heald (AAS, '89) May 9, 2019

Carol Ann (Bollum) Pickett (AA, '51) May 9, 2019

Robert Elmer Goff (AA, '71) May 10, 2019

John J. McCue (AA, '48) May 10, 2019

Rhonda D. (Davis) Kraus (AS, '09) May 12, 2019

Marlyn J. (Brown) (Corbett) Black ('62) May 14, 2019

Marjorie Fern (Moser) Haigh (AA, '63) May 16, 2019

Judith (Young) (Mirabello) Farley ('63) May 19, 2019



In Memoriam

Paulann Tanner Doane passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 28, 2019. Doane had served as the executive director of the Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association since July 2011 and retired in January 2019. She was awarded the 2019 Commitment to Excellence award for her efforts to improve the college environment and students' lives. She left a deep impact on all those who knew her and will be profoundly missed.

Notes From T-Bird Camp

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



Casper College Soccer Teams to Take Field in 2020

Casper College will have both men's and women's NJCAA soccer teams ready to compete beginning in fall 2020.

Each team will consist of 24 players, and a head coach and assistant coach will be hired for each team. The search for both head coaches will begin later this summer.

Casper will compete in Region IX which includes Central Wyoming College, Gillette College, Laramie County Community College, Northwest College, Sheridan College, and Western Wyoming College. Other schools in Region IX include three Colorado schools; Northeastern Junior College, Otero Junior College, and Trinidad State Junior College; and Western Nebraska Community College.



Casper College Names New Men's Basketball Head Coach

Shaun Gutting has been named the new men's basketball head coach for the Thunderbirds going into the 2019-20 season. Gutting replaced **Dan Russell** (AS, '06), who took an assistant coaching job with Montana State University in Bozeman.

Gutting is entering his seventh season as a college basketball coach, and his second at Casper College. During his first year at Casper, the team went 32-3 overall, won the Region IX championship, finished No. 6 in the final regular-season rankings, and made an appearance at the NJCAA National Tournament for the first time since 1996.

Before coming to Casper, Gutting was an assistant coach at New Mexico Junior College. He graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's in liberal arts in 2011 and earned his master's in secondary education – sports administration from East Central University in Oklahoma.



T-Birds Win Region IX Men's Basketball Championship

For the first time since 1996, the Casper College men's basketball team won the Region IX championship and made an appearance at the national tournament. The team under then head coach **Dan Russell** (AS, '06) went 32-3 overall, and Russell was named Coach of the Year in Region IX for the 2018-2019 season.

On May 2, Russell announced that he had accepted a position as an assistant coach at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

Four T-Birds Recognized for Athletic Skills

Four sophomores from the Casper College Thunderbirds Basketball team have been recognized for their outstanding play during the 2018-2019 season.

Isaac Bonton (AA, '19) was named to the Region IX All-Tournament Team, as Region IX Co-Player of the Year, and First Team All-Region. The National Junior

College Athletic Association also named Bonton as a Second Team All-American. During the season, Bonton scored an average of 21.4 points per game and had a free-throw percentage of 84.3.

Forward **Wilfried Likayi** (AS, '19) was named to the Region IX All-Tournament Team and the Second Team All-Region. Likayi averaged 16.8 points per game and had a free-throw percentage of 77.2.

Amin Adamu (AA, '19) was named to the Region IX All-Tournament Team and the Second Team All-Region. Adamu averaged 15.1 points per game and had a free-throw percentage of 78.9.

Broc Finstuen (AS, '19) was named to the Third Team All-Region. Finstuen averaged 13.0 points per game and had a free-throw percentage of 75.4.



Gunnare Selected as 2018-2019 Coach of the Year

Casper College's Women's Basketball Head Coach, **Dwight Gunnare**, was named Coach of the Year in Region IX for the 2018-2019 year and for the second year in a row.

"It is an honor to receive this recognition from my coaching peers because there are a lot of outstanding coaches in our region. I feel very strongly that this recognition also includes Coach Nate Macy and Coach Cheyenne Balster," said Gunnare.

The Lady Thunderbirds went 27-7 overall, 13-1 in the sub-region IX North, and are back-to-back Region IX North Champions.

Talented Lady Birds Named to All-Region Team

Players from the Casper College Lady Thunderbirds basketball team have been named to the 2018-2019 North All-Region IX Team, All-Defensive Team, and All-Region IX Tournament Team.

The team finished the regular season 27-7 overall, 13-1 in the Sub-Region IX North, and are back-to-back Region IX North Champions. In the two years the sophomores have played at Casper College, "... they have an astounding overall record of 58-10, and a 27-1 record in the Sub-Region IX North Conference play. These sophomores had an amazing run while at Casper College," said **Dwight Gunnare**, head coach.

Those named to the North All-Region Team include **Nerea Baena Criado** (AS, '19), **Lucie Hoskova** (AS, '19), and **Maggie Justinak** (AS, '19).

Named to the North All-Region IX Defensive Team was **Jaye Johnson** (AS, '19).

Hoskova, Johnson, and Justinak were also selected to the All-Region IX Tournament Team.

Fifth Time in Seven Years, CC Men's Rodeo Team at CNFR

For the fifth time in seven years, the Casper College men's rodeo team returned to the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, June 9-15 at the Casper Events Center. Joining the team was a barrel racer.

When the dust cleared after the week-long event, the T-Birds placed 10th out of a field of 54 teams. The team finished second in the Central Rocky Mountain Region, which got them to the CNFR, thanks to an impressive 770 points at the final college rodeo held in Laramie, Wyoming, where they took first place beating out second place Laramie County Community College by 76.67 points.

This year's Casper College CNFR men's team included **Lane Schuelke**, Newell, South Dakota, and **Garrett Buckley**, Craig, Colorado, in saddle bronc; **Jerron Johnson**, Casper, and **Cash Hetzel**, Lemmon, South Dakota, in team roping; **K's Thompson**, Okotoks, Alberta, in bull riding; and **Cole Reiner**, Buffalo, Wyoming, in bareback. CC rodeo team member **Makayla Seely**, Riverton, Wyoming, represented Casper in barrel racing.

Individual winners at the CNFR included Schuelke sixth and Buckley ninth in saddle bronc, Reiner fourth in bareback, Thompson 21st in bull riding, Johnson eighth in team roping, Hetzel 42nd in team roping, and Seely 8th in barrel racing.



Hidden Campus

By Vince Crolla (AA, '03) and Johanna Wickman (AA, '09)

The Casper College Western History Center is home to historical archives from Casper, Natrona County, and the West. This includes photographs, newspapers, blueprints, maps, books, and some artifacts. Nearly everything here is donated, and among the more unique items we have acquired are two swords given by Robert Pettigrew Jr. in 2011. While they are not directly related to the West, they have a rich history and are currently on display in the research room.

Pettigrew was born in Georgia in 1923 and spent his early years in Haiti. He eventually made his way to Casper, having a successful business career and serving on the city council and as mayor in 1975. The swords belonged to his father, Robert Pettigrew Sr. One of them was his commissioning sword when he served in the United States Navy, presented in 1915. The president at the time was Woodrow Wilson. He achieved the rank of lieutenant commander, Civil Engineer Corps, and was stationed in Haiti. The sword is etched with Pettigrew Sr's name, along with decorations along the blade. The wooden handle is wrapped in snake skin and gold wire.

Pettigrew Sr. acquired the other sword during his tenure as the manager of the Dauphin Plantation in Haiti from 1926-1955. It was discovered while clearing ground for sisal production in 1927. Sisal is a plant cultivated for its fiber and was commonly used for rope and twines for maritime and military use in the early twentieth century.

The sword is rusty, but the maker's mark indicates it was forged by a French company called Francois, Delacour, & Backes, probably between 1860 and 1900. Based in Paris, FDB provided swords to France, the United States, Haiti, and



other countries. It is an officer's sword and would have originally had a sword knot. It also has an oval towards the top of the hilt that may have allowed for personalized initials, though none are visible today.

Robert Pettigrew Sr. wrote a book titled, "The Story of Fort Liberty and The Dauphin Plantation," which traces the agricultural and military history of the area. Haiti experienced a period of political upheaval from about 1911 to 1915. The sword may have belonged to one of the "Cacos," who were either Haitian bandits, rebels, militia, or revolutionaries, among other descriptions, depending on the source. Pettigrew noted that such weapons were found when clearing the land for the plantation, "Many a brave man lost his sword or his gun in the Dauphin Plantation for many of these implements of war were found in clearing away the jungle," he stated.



Pettigrew Sr.'s book is currently on display with the swords, so come by and see a unique piece of history at the Casper College Western History Center.

Vince Crolla is the Western History Center archivist, and Johanna Wickman is the

Western History Center specialist.

According to Charlotte: Science Class

by Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)

I think scientists are among the smartest people in the universe. I admire them and, I envy them – and I am not one of them.

Science was a mystery to me from the beginning, years and years ago ... from grade school through junior high, high school, and college. And, oh, the chemistry labs. They terrified me! There was a small explosion in my high school lab one time. It was the one lab I kind of enjoyed since everyone in it was about as dumb as I was, although I did know how to boil water. I didn't cause the explosion, and it didn't blow a hole in the ceiling or anything, but I reveled in it since we had to flee to the library to escape the horrible stench.

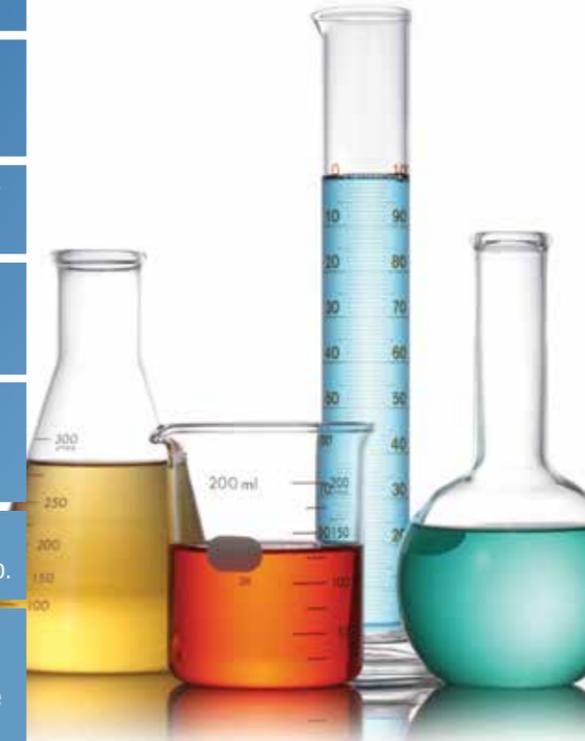
There was another explosion I'll always remember. It happened when the root beer my folks made blew up in our basement in the middle of the night, which was really exciting – to say nothing of my father's extraordinary language and my mother's near hysteria because as the tops blew off the bottles, it all sounded remarkably like gunshots.

How either of the explosions happened was never explained to me. Neither my chemistry teacher nor my father seemed to be in explaining moods.

Popular Science magazine, the venerable publication for serious scientific explanations, once explored some science class test answers and found some surprising and ingenious answers to various topics.

My sentiments and sympathies land squarely on the side of the students – even if they can't spell. Read on.

- When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.
- To collect fumes of sulfur, hold a *deacon* over a flame in a test tube.
- Water is composed of two *gins*, oxygen and hydrogin. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water.
- When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire.
- The moon is a planet just like Earth, only it is even deader.
- A permanent set of teeth consists of 9 canines, 8 cuspids, 2 molars, and 8 *cuspidors*.
- A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.
- The equator is an imaginary *lion* running around the Earth through Africa.
- The skeleton is what's left after the insides have been taken out – and the outsides have been taken off.
- The purpose of the skeleton is so that there is something to hitch the meat to.
- For fainting: rub the person's chest – or if it's a lady, rub her arms above the hand. Or put her head between the knees of the nearest medical doctor.
- Rhubarb is a kind of celery gone bloodshot.



And there you have it, folks – my kind of science.

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NEW

Downhill half-marathon
option in addition to the standard
three courses.



DOG TREK SAT., SEPT. 14

Proceeds benefit the Casper College
Veterans Club

Register the day of the event. The dog
walk begins September 14, 11 a.m.,
Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center,
Casper College campus.



T-BIRD TREK SUN., SEPT. 15

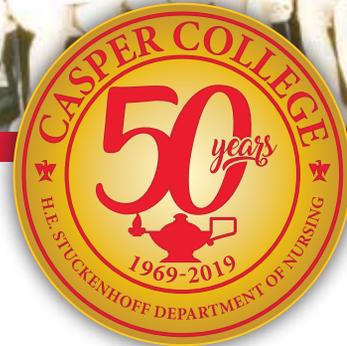
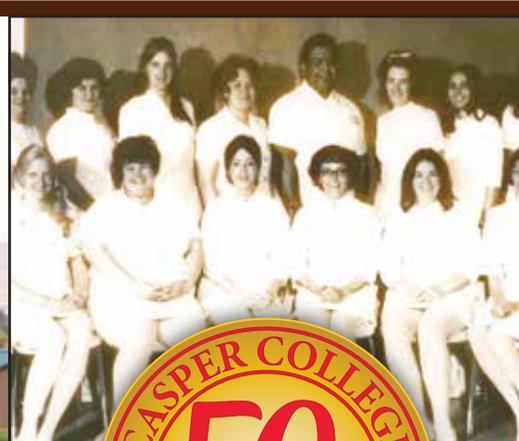
Starts on the Casper College campus

T-Bird Trek packet and swag pick up is
Saturday, September 14, noon-4 p.m.,
Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center, Casper
College campus.

Sign up! caspercollegefoundation.org/t-bird-trek

Questions? Call 307-268-2325 • Toll-free: 800-442-2963, ext. 2325

Casper College
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We're celebrating 50 years
of Nursing at Casper College
on Sat., Sept. 7, 2019, with
an open house and banquet!

Help us find our nursing alumni.
Call or send an email to: 307-268-2213,
toll free 800-442-2963, ext. 2213 or
alumni@caspercollege.edu

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