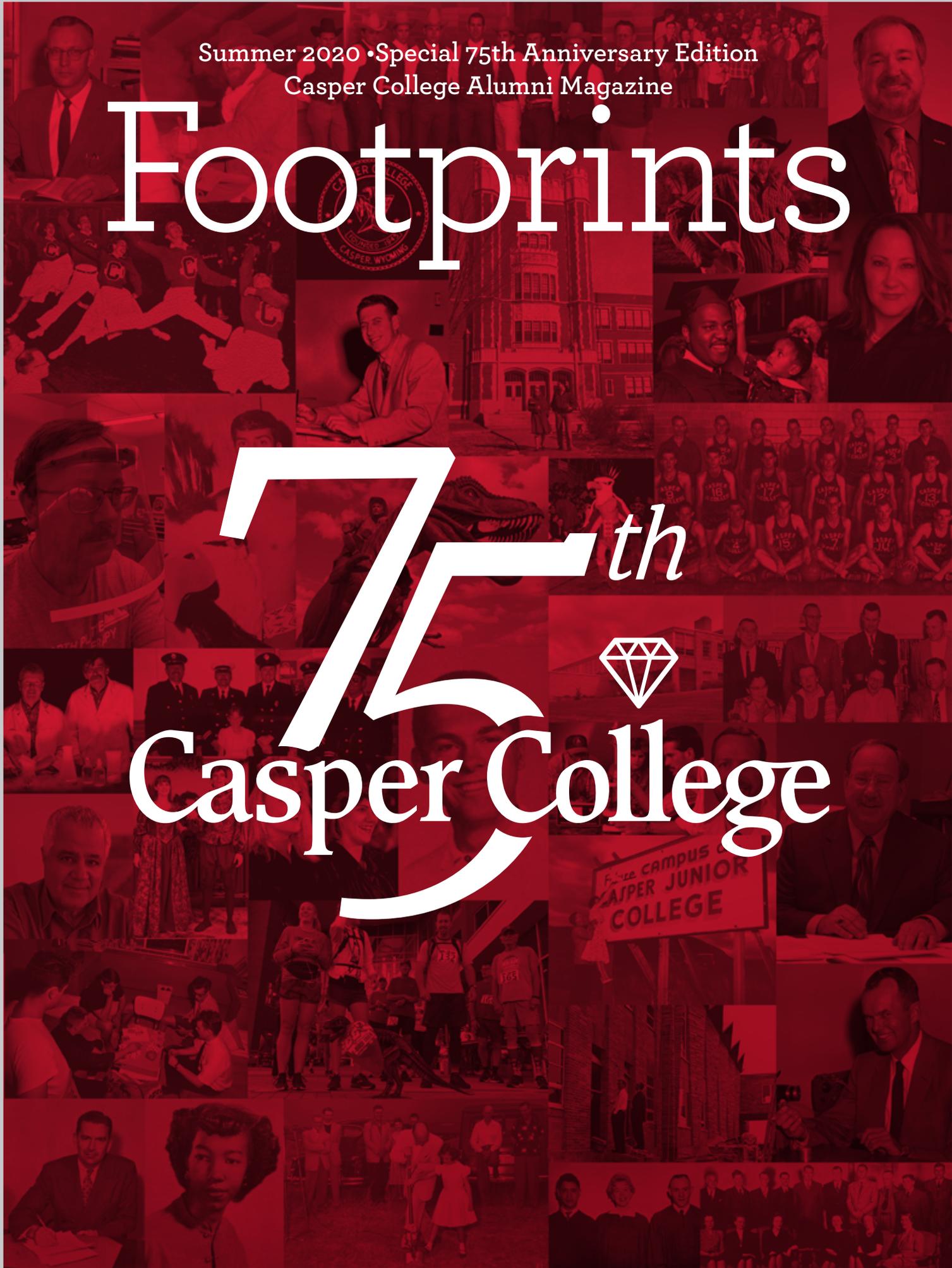


Summer 2020 • Special 75th Anniversary Edition
Casper College Alumni Magazine

Footprints

75th

Casper College



Footprints

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

Alumni Board Members

Janette 'Jan' Cundy ('79), President
Ben Winckler ('04), Vice President
Ryan Hieb ('08, '09), Treasurer

Dale Anderson ('93) Luella Hinderliter ('66)
Samantha Andrew* Baleigh Hite ('11)
Virginia Bodyfelt ('01) Brenden Lamb ('05)
Kevin Bromley ('77) Odessa Oldham ('18)
Derrel Carruth ('65) Chad Pollock ('13)
Donnie Claunch ('12) Lea Schoenwald ('72)
Nancy Gerlock ('95, '97) Mike Stepp ('80)
Joni Hedstrom ('94) Hannah Wille ('13)

*Nondegree

Editorial Staff

Denise (Neville) Bressler ('84),
Foundation Executive Director

Danica Sveda ('09), Associate Director of Donor
and Alumni Relations

Chris Lorenzen, Public Relations Director

Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle ('79), Editor and
News Coordinator

Cory Garvin ('15), Photographer/Videographer

Eric Valdez ('87), Art Director

Keep in touch!

Email: alumni@caspercollege.edu

Mail: **Danica Sveda**, Associate Director of
Donor and Alumni Relations

Casper College, 125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601

Phone: 307-268-2218 or 800-442-2963 ext. 2218

Fax: 307-268-3400

Or drop by!

Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center, third floor,
Foundation and Alumni Office, Rm. 306

Follow us on Facebook or sign up for our quarterly
electronic newsletter at caspercollegefoundation.org.



Page 16

What's Inside

Main Sections and Stories

1940s.....	2
According to Charlotte.....	3
1950s.....	9
1960s.....	18
1970s.....	33
1980s.....	46
1990s.....	54
2000s.....	66
2010s.....	76

Regular Features

Friends We'll Miss.....	85
People & Places.....	86
Faculty, Staff, & Retirees.....	88

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

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alums and Friends of Casper College,

Wow, 75 years is quite a milestone for our alma mater. This is a special issue of Footprints which takes us on a stroll through memory lane, and what a journey the campus has had from starting on the third floor of Natrona County High School to becoming "Harvard on the Hill."

We all have to realize 2020 is definitely about making history as well as celebrating history. Casper College virtually shut down in March as everyone across the country was figuring out how to cope with COVID-19, and we had students making masks, faculty and staff making face shields, and nurses serving across the country. We went from being a bustling campus to virtual learning and even a virtual graduation. This has been a very difficult time for many, but as always, you just have to "look for the helpers," and our campus had many stepping up and making a difference in a time of need all across our communities.

Let me share some of my memories from my time at Casper College, from August 1978 to December 1979. Brad, my husband, and I were living on the second floor of Wheeler Terrace, I was going to school from 8 a.m. to noon every day, and then working at a local day care/preschool 30 hours a week. I was not a traditional student and did not participate in many extracurricular activities. I did have scholarships that paid for my tuition and books, and I was studying to be a dietitian.

Our neighbor was an Iranian exchange student, and he and his wife had an adorable big brown-eyed daughter. We spent time with them sharing dinners, playing games, visiting their relatives that lived here, and occasionally babysat. They were a wonderful family, and we enjoyed our time with them.

In November 1979, Iranian students stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took many Americans hostage for over a year. We awoke one morning right after that to discover our neighbor's apartment empty — they just vanished, moving out in the middle of the night. We have often wondered what happened and assumed they went home to Iran out of fear. Unfortunately, we do not remember their names, but 40 plus years later, I still wonder about them.

November 1979, right before Thanksgiving, brought a blizzard with over a foot of snow and those usual Wyoming winds. As the alarm clock went off, we awoke to total darkness, wondering what in the world was going on. The wind had blown so hard that it had completely filled the area between the screen and the windowpane with snow and dirt. It was like awakening in a dungeon and what a mess to clean out. Walking to class that day was like being sandblasted.

While we cannot possibly include everyone, who is important to the history of Casper College, we have tried to highlight many and hope the stories bring back fond memories for you. Please correspond with the alumni staff if you have ideas for future issues.

We hope you enjoy reading this special 75th anniversary issue as much as we enjoyed writing it. At the end of this 75th year, please join me at the celebration gala we are hosting in June 2021.

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



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

1940s

1945-1949

The first day of classes at Casper Junior College was Monday, Sept. 17, 1945. There were 73 daytime students and 83 evening students enrolled. World War II had officially ended on Sept. 2 when the Japanese Imperial Empire surrendered. Here's a look at some other national and international events that happened between 1945 and 1949.

1945

- Computer operators programmed ENIAC, the first electronic digital computer.
- The United Nations was founded in San Francisco, by representatives of 50 countries.
- The Slinky toy was demonstrated at Gimbel's department store in Philadelphia.

1946

- Bikini swimsuits made their debut in Paris.
- Department stores began selling Tupperware.

1947

- Polaroid cameras were introduced at a meeting of the Optical Society of America.
- Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first African American baseball player in the major leagues.
- Raytheon built the "Radarange," the first commercially available microwave oven.

1948

- The philosopher and leader of India, Mahatma Gandhi, was assassinated.
- NASCAR held its first modified stock car race in Daytona Beach, Florida.
- Velcro was invented.

- The first Frisbees were produced.
- Harry Truman won the presidential election.
- President Truman signed an executive order to end segregation in the United States military.
- "The Ed Sullivan Show" premiered on television.
- The Polaroid camera developed pictures in one minute.
- The Bic ballpoint pen was on the market.
- Long-playing records, known as LPs, were introduced and played 25 minutes per side.

1949

- Starting Sunday, Jan. 2, and lasting for three days, the Great Blizzard of 1949 dumped so much snow that it was nearly impossible to travel in southeast Wyoming, northern Colorado, western South Dakota, or western Nebraska for weeks before roads were plowed out. Both railroad tracks and roads experienced drifts of 20 feet or more. The federal government responded with Operation Haylift, airlifting food and hay for livestock. The official death toll from the blizzard was 76 people and 1 million livestock.
- George Orwell's classic novel about a dystopian future, "1984" was published.
- After the Chinese Communist Revolution, leader and party chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the creation of the People's Republic of China.

From the United States Census Bureau: In 1940 the country's population stood at 132,164,569, which figures out to be 37.2 people per square mile of land. The population of the country increased by 7.3% between 1930 and 1940.

According to Charlotte:

By Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)

The Great Flood of '49 ...



1949 — The fourth year that Casper Junior College operated on the third floor, the west wing of the magnificent Natrona County High School, a building that would have been at home on any Ivy League campus. That west wing hall was long, and it was lively. It held 16 faculty,



Florence Porter.

not counting the fashionable **Florence Porter**, registrar, and dignified **Maurice Griffith**, the dean, or president, of the fledgling college. There were 53 lofty sophomores — I was one of them — and 100 freshmen. A majority of these students were males, which we girls loved, of course. There were numerous busy clubs doing their chosen duties, and the social scene was always in full swing which included dances and mixers like "Fall Frolic," "Shamrock Shuffle," "Hobo Hop," "Pumpkin Pie Prom," and "Bearded Brawl" to name a few. Plainly alliteration was really popular! There were also the more formal occasions like the Sweetheart Ball and the May Queen formal.

I was society editor of the school paper, the *Chinook*, and I always had more to write about than the paper had room to

publish. I wanted the paper to expand, but **Pat Winborne**, editor, said, "Forget it!"

The college had a hugely popular 70 member choir, which I also wrote about, directed by CJC's "Music Man," **Russell Schwejda**, who ruled with an iron hand holding his baton. He never failed to tell us that if we died the night before the twice-weekly rehearsals, we didn't need to show up — and that's surely why we were so good — everybody showed up! We sang all over Casper at all sorts of functions, which included appearances at numerous churches.

Another hugely popular class at CJC was the theater program — I wrote about that, too, directed by

Kenneth Ury, the dramatics instructor who also taught science. Mr. Ury was brilliant at picking a person for a part. He developed a corps of fine talent for the three plays, all of which attracted packed houses that year — "Charlie's Aunt," "Ladies in Retirement," and "Arsenic and Old Lace" — all of which were immensely entertaining.



Girl's lounge at Natrona County High School. Taken from the *Chinook*, special yearbook supplement, 1946.

1949 became the winter of the "Great Blizzard of '49," which shut down not only the whole of Wyoming but several surrounding states. It was also the "Great Flood of '49" at CJC, which shut down the north end of the third floor for quite a while.

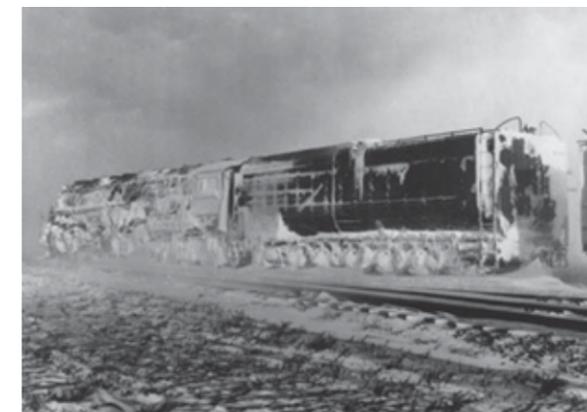
We coeds had a "ladies lounge," as it was called, down at the end of the hall, no boys allowed, and it was in there that a pipe — or pipes

— burst. Water just rushed everywhere through the lounge and out into the hall. We who formed the frantic broom, bucket and mop brigade were in water up to our ankles. While the girls screeched, the boys hollered, and as far as I was concerned, it was the most excitement I'd had for some time — and besides that, the water was cold! Naturally, it had to be called the "Great Flood of '49" so it could hold its place, however small, in the saga of that year's history.

After the flood, the lounge had to be redecorated. It happened that I was taking a design course from **Mr. Reed**, so I was called on to be the decorator — and this

is what happened. One wall was painted blue, and one wall was painted yellow. In decorating parlance, those are said to be complementary colors I had learned in my design class. The new carpet was green.

I sometimes thought about that scheme in the following years, and to this day, I have never figured out what in the world I was thinking of. — Yes, I know this sentence ends in a preposition, and I don't care!!



Blizzard of 1949. Photo courtesy of Wyoming State Archives.

Griffith's Leadership Set the Tone

By Anne Houser (AA, '48) taken from the 50th Anniversary issue of Footprints, Summer 1995

Great institutions have an identification tone about them. **Maurice F. Griffith**, Casper College's first dean, set the tone of the fledgling institution: he called it "Excellence."

A native of Colorado, Griffith came to Casper in June 1945, facing the task of creating a college from a legislative-approved idea concerned with offering additional training to returning veterans. Rooms were cleared on the third floor of Natrona County High School for college classes, but Griffith had to hire staff and faculty, provide materials, entice students, and be ready to open in September. Full of enthusiasm and leadership, Griffith had a clear idea what this first Wyoming junior college would look like and would achieve at a time when many citizens and board of trustee's members said they'd be satisfied with "three or four job-training classes." Griffith remembered that first summer as one of constant motion: interviewing faculty, speaking at a service club, meeting with prospective students and parents in Douglas, Wheatland, and Buffalo, back in Casper to speak at two different organizations all in the same day.

From the very beginning, he stressed that this would be a complete, real college that would give students firm and excellent footing for their first two years — and perhaps, only — college experience. He was determined that students would have no difficulty in transferring credits to senior division schools. And they didn't.

Griffith was pragmatic; he believed in trying out an idea, not talking it to death. If the idea didn't work, modify it or drop it, taking what had been learned in the experience and going on. In addition to excellence, compassion was a keynote of Griffith's leadership. More than half of the student body in the first five years were World War II veterans trying to adjust to

normal life while living on the G.I. Bill. Many had experiences that reshaped their lives, and he designed courses and schedules that helped them make up for lost time.

In addition to a full offering in the daytime, Griffith created a night school that saw 250 enrollments the first semester. Casper citizens swarmed up three flights of stairs in all kinds of weather, demanded more classes, and soon swelled to 400. High school faculty and talented noneducation people became teachers of their specialty. A dream of a college education, something only 5% of



From the 1948 Casper Junior College Yearbook: "There is plenty of room in the halls except after choir. Then life and limb are in danger." Photo taken on the third floor of Natrona County High School.



Dean of Casper College, Maurice F. Griffith. Photo from the 1946 Chinook, special yearbook supplement.

the population could afford before WWII, became a reality.

In 1958, Griffith became superintendent of schools for Natrona County, a post he continued when the college formed its own district and split from the high school district. He retired in 1975 and became active in improving health care facilities for the elderly. Maurice Griffith Manor at Shepard of the Valley Health Care recognizes his contribution. He also spent time as a television commentator and community activist. He died in 1984.

Casper College Arrives in Time for GI Bill

By Danica Sveta (AA, '09)

The story of Casper College wouldn't be the same without the story of World War II. When service members returned from the war, the country was nervous about putting millions of men back to work. Prior to the war, the country had gone through the Great Depression, and there was the fear that those returning from service would not be able to find gainful employment. Congress acted and passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act in 1944, which later became known as the GI Bill. This allowed servicemen to get more education to improve their employment outlook after the war. Casper College's halls on the third floor of Natrona County High School were filled with many students returning from the war.

The Chinook devoted much space to educate the student body about those who had served. In the second issue of the Chinook published Feb. 14, 1944, a two-page article titled "Student Veterans at CJC Are Interviewed by Staff" appeared. The article highlighted many acts of bravery. One particularly harrowing story was that of **W.R. "Bob" Fordham** ('46). He joined the paratroops of the 17th A.B. Division, Artillery. He was captured by the German army Dec. 21, 1944, "... after a heroic but futile struggle with rifles against tanks." Of 15,000 men, only 600 men survived the onslaught. Fordham had to march over 800 miles to Poland. He was liberated April 5, 1945, and sent to Paris to recover. He weighed 100 pounds after his ordeal of being held prisoner for 112 days. He came to Casper College to study optometry. He practiced optometry in Powell, Wyoming. Fordham died in 2016.

There are interesting mentions within the pages of the Chinook that highlight the importance of the veteran student population. As the country was readjusting to postwar America and making sure the recipients of the GI Bill were being taken care of, an article titled,

"V.A. Establishes Program for Closer Supervision" was written. The article was written because some GI's were being taken advantage of by fly-by-night schools. A 1946 Chinook article was based on the large numbers of veterans attending under the GI Bill; 78 students of the entire student body were those that had returned and were attending, while 34% of the male student body were veterans.

Casper College was surely established in the right place at the right time to allow so many of our returning heroes to be able to obtain much-needed job training to return to civilian life. The majority of stories in the Chinook have veterans going back to school for engineering, law, and flight training. Many vets also went on to become leading figures in the growth of Casper College and included former Casper College presidents **Tim Aley**, **Lloyd Loftin**, and many others.

Casper College continues to excel in helping veterans obtain quality life skills after service through the Casper College Veterans Center, student veterans club, and **Nick Whipps**, veteran and international student coordinator,



Front page of the Casper Tribune-Herald, May 7, 1945.

who specializes in helping the veteran population. Recently, Casper College was named to the 2020-21 Military Friendly Schools list as a Silver Award recipient. The list, compiled by Military Friendly, honors those colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus. Casper College was also the only Military Friendly designated school in the state of Wyoming for 2020-21.

A Brief Timeline of Casper College

Condensed from "Spirit of the Thunderbird," by Kevin Anderson (AA, '74)

The creation of Casper College, home of the Thunderbirds, is a story of the grit and commitment of the community that fought for it. The talk about a junior college in Casper began in 1929. A study was conducted in 1931 and found that many more residents in Wyoming would attend college if it were available closer to home. In 1933 H.H. Schwartz of Casper introduced Senate Bill 32 for the authorization of junior colleges. The bill was defeated by one vote on the Senate floor.

In 1935, Senator Schwartz made another attempt to pass the community colleges bill as SF No. 79. That bill failed. Another Senator, Charles S. Bream, made another attempt in 1937, SF No. 37, which was postponed indefinitely. HB No. 101, was introduced in 1939 with representatives Raymond G. Corbett, C.A. Smith, George Hicks, and David Foote. That bill was defeated 29 to 21.

The final push began in the spring of 1944. A group of Natrona County community leaders met to discuss the need for a junior college in Casper. They began to involve key leaders in the community and government to lay

out a meticulous plan to bring a junior college to Wyoming. One major foundation was that the college would be more than a trade school; it would be an academic institution. HB No. 10 was introduced in January 1945. After much debate, the bill passed the Senate but was defeated in the House 25 to 26.

Two days after the defeat, HB No. 83 was introduced with a simple amendment. The amendment included all the same language as HB No. 10. It was a maneuver that had to be kept a secret. Luckily the Casper newspaper wasn't on the newsstand in Cheyenne, and the newspapers bound for hotel rooms from Casper had been intercepted and confiscated. The bill passed with the amendment allowing for an additional two years of education past high school. Governor Hunt reluctantly signed the bill into law, and by fall 1945, classes began at Natrona County High School on the third floor.



From the 1948 Casper Junior College Yearbook: "With books tucked under their arms for the last time, a pair of graduates take leave of CJC that leads to future college education, work, or play backed by the knowledge that the two years just spent have provided them with a secure background to meet any obstacle." Photo by Dean D. Conger (AA, '48).

1946 Faculty

Seated l-r: Winifred Thompson, Ione Petersen, Christine Gustafson, Edna Furness, Marie Thayer, and Ethel Lindsey. Standing, l-r: Jim Crawford, George Scullen, Hugh Hinds, Norman Ball, Kenneth Ury, Maurice F. Griffith – dean, V.G. Schrodermeier, Theodore Buchholz, Olen Thompson, Otis Johnson, and Charles Crowell. Photo from the 1946 Chinook, special yearbook supplement.



Remembering Ken Ury

by Ron Ury (AA '56), Kenneth's son



Theater goes enjoy a performance in the Penthouse Theater in the mid 1950s. The theater was located on the first floor of the Liesinger Administration Building. Casper Area Chamber of Commerce Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Kenneth Ury and his family lived in Grand Junction, Colorado, during World War II, where he was a teacher at Mesa Junior College. After the war, Maurice Griffith, the first dean of Casper College, decided to move to Casper, and Ury decided to follow him. They were both on the third floor of Natrona County High

School in 1945 at the beginning of Casper Junior College. Griffith was the dean, and Ury was the dramatics instructor. He directed several plays each year with performances in a "meeting room," and the audiences were seated in chairs around the performers. This began the "theater in the round." Ury worked at Casper College

until 1973 and was one of the original faculty that laid the foundation for an outstanding educational institution.



Kenneth Ury.

The "Thunderbird"

The "Thunderbird" as a school mascot was officially adopted in February 1946. Kenneth Ury and Maurice Griffith, dean, came up with the idea. The first graphic image of the Thunderbird was drawn by Warren Weaver ('48), a veteran of World War II. After leaving Casper College, Weaver went on to attend the Parson's School of Design in New York City. He had a successful career in designing homes.



1940s Distinguished Alumni



Dean D. Conger, AA, '48

At the time of his award, Dean Conger had been a recipient of numerous outstanding national and international photographic and press awards as a photographer for National Geographic.



Paul R. "Bob" Streich, AA, '48

At the time of his award, Streich had served as chief pilot for Admiral Byrd during the exploration of the Antarctic continent during the 1950s. Later he flew photo and surveillance missions and served the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C.



1946 Student Council

"Reconversion, the man-power shortage and lack of material have made it impossible for CJC to present a regular school yearbook for its first year portraying its first year's activities. However, through the efforts of the Student Council this special edition of the Chinook, containing class pictures and other scenes representing activities of the school, has been prepared."

Front row, l-r: Teddy Mae (Gaylord) Stewart ('46), class representative; Lyle Slaughter ('47), treasurer; Margaret Günther (AA, '47), president; Ann (Holscher) O'Keefe ('46), Chinook editor; and Eileen (Johnston) Peters ('47), secretary.

Back row, l-r: Christine Gustafson, faculty sponsor; Jack Wonderly ('47), president of men students; Harvey Beasley (AS, '47), class representative; Charles McLean ('47), vice president; and Ellen Krueger ('48), faculty sponsor.

1946 National Junior College Athletic Association Champions

*Front row, l-r: Leonard, G. Scott, Crouch, Afflerbach, Sheelly and D. Scott
Second row, l-r: Buchan, Begovich, Elrod, Winterholler, Hill and Brown.
Back row, l-r: Coach Dowler, Iglehart, Walker, Kush, Lane, Nickeson, Walsh and Maxon, Manager. Can you help us identify any of the students in this photo?*



1950s

1950-1959

Casper College moved from the third floor of Natrona County High School to its brand-new \$800,000 building in the fall of 1955. Another new building, the Vocational Building, also opened that fall. Soon, the school was no longer referred to as Casper Junior College, but Casper College. A record number of students that fall, 415, filled the Lulu and Leroy Liesinger Administration Building, which boasted not only administrative offices but 20 classrooms, a student union/lounge, library, bookstore, and gymnasium.

1950

- The Korean War began.
- Diners Club, the first modern credit card, was introduced.
- Charles Schulz's first "Peanuts" cartoon strip is published.

1951

- J. D. Salinger's novel "The Catcher in the Rye" was first published.
- "I Love Lucy" made its television debut on CBS.

1952

- Britain's Princess Elizabeth began ruling England.
- Tinted glass became available in Ford automobiles.

1953

- The Korean War ended.
- Francis Crick and James Watson discovered the spiral structure of DNA.
- Memphis Disc Jockey Dewey Phillips introduced radio listeners to Elvis Presley.
- The first color televisions went on sale.

1954

- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled segregation was illegal.
- NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color broadcast of the "Tournament of Roses Parade."

1955

- Casper College received a quitclaim deed to the wooden "C" resting on "C" hill from representatives of the Natrona County High School student body.
- Disneyland Park opened in Anaheim, California.
- Ray Kroc opened his first McDonald's.

1956

- U.S. actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier III of Monaco.
- The TV remote was invented by Robert Adler.

1957

- Theodor Geisel — Dr. Seuss, published the children's classic "Cat in the Hat."
- CBS debuted "Leave It to Beaver."
- Gordon Gould invented the laser.

1958

- **Maurice F. Griffith** was named president of Casper College.
- **George L. Hall** was named dean of Casper College.
- President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the act establishing NASA.
- Hula hoops were invented by Arthur K. "Spud" Melin and Richard Knerr.
- LEGO toy bricks were introduced.

1959

- Casper College received its first initial accreditation.
- Fidel Castro became the dictator of Cuba.
- Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states.
- Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone" began airing.
- The first Daytona 500 stock car race debuted.

From the United States Census Bureau: In 1950 the country's population stood at 151,325,798, which figures out to be 42.6 people per square mile of land. The population of the country increased by 14.5% between 1940 and 1950.

College Becomes a Reality

By Dan Penovich (AA, '58)

What started as a prayer turned into a reality — I was able to go to college. I owe it all to my good friend and lifelong classmate, **Ben Hurley** (AA, '58). For the past 12 years, the two of us had attended grade and high school together. We were totally committed to sports, especially basketball. Ben had been varsity material since his freshman year of high school. For me, I was barely able to letter my senior year. It was a case of desire that brought me up to his level.

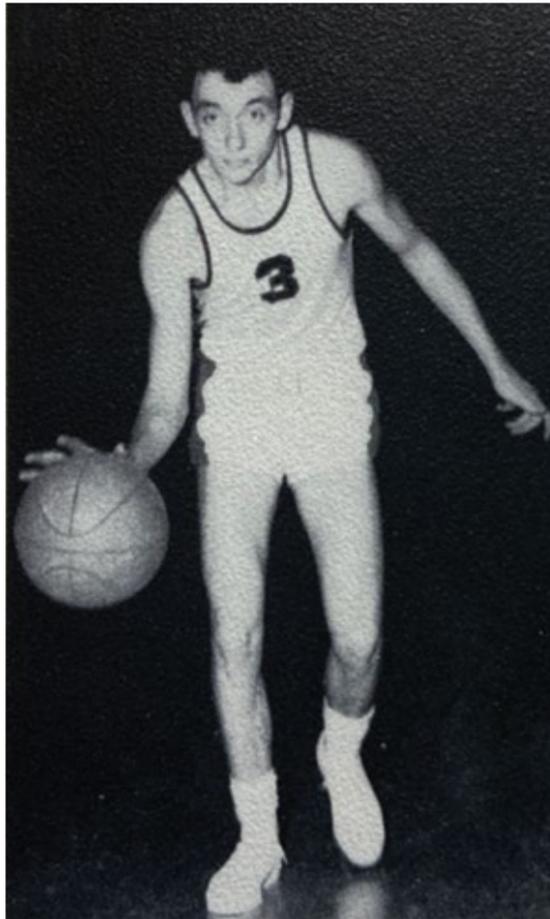
I remember clearly the day in the middle of September 1952. I had worked all summer as produce manager at Safeway supermarket. A co-worker had invited me to attend Chadron College in Nebraska, but I had decided against it. When Ben came along and said he had a scholarship offer to attend Casper College and invited me to go along, I didn't hesitate because Casper was only two hours away.

We packed up our bags and hopped on the bus east to the big city. It was the beginning of a new adventure. We got directions to the gym and met Coach **Mike Sedar**. He introduced us to **Russell Schwejda**, who helped us find an apartment up the road.

The next day we enrolled in classes. Ben chose agriculture, and I chose journalism. It didn't help that we were a week late and study books were hard to find, but for the next nine months, it was one success after another. I became chief cook, and I even took a college cooking course. I became a walk-on for the

basketball team and received a scholarship too. I was elected editor of the Chinook and the annual yearbook staff. I joined the choir and worked a part-time job. Even with all of that, I found the time to study.

I made great friends at Casper College, including roommate and teammate **Bill Milliken** (AA, '55). Ben and I got to share the experience of being on a championship basketball team. I was also elected student body president. I thank the Lord to this day for everything that happened to me. Most importantly, I proved to myself that I could go to college and survive.



Dan Penovich. Taken from the 1957 Casper Junior College Yearbook.

Top Notch Teachers at Casper College

By Dave McReynolds (AA, '56)

I was in the first class to graduate from the new location on "C" hill. I studied engineering in college because I could see that they were making the most money. I got a good foundation from instructors like **Norman Ball** from whom I took physics and calculus. My English teacher, **Fred Hanselmann**, gave me an "excellent, A+" on a paper that I wrote on the first atomic submarines. The instructors at Casper College were top-notch and gave me the skills to continue my education.



Fred Hanselmann.

After graduation, I moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming. I helped establish the Wycon Chemical Company and discovered that it was the salesmen who made the big money, so I went to work for them selling. I traveled to 45 countries in five years and lived in New York for a short time. The best thing to happen to me was meeting my wife, to whom I am still married to.

I then moved to Colorado and worked for Colorado gas and then started my own propane company in Denver. When I sold my business in 1996, it was the second-largest propane company in town. Since I retired, I have spent my time traveling.



Norman Ball at his desk in the 1960s. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Norman Ball

By Marlan Scully (AA, '59)

Norman Ball was simply the best teacher I ever had. From Casper College to the University of Wyoming to Rensselaer Polytechnic and Yale, he was the best. He taught us calculus, a subject he knew well. He cared about us and was a dedicated, hardworking instructor. Each day, five days a week, the lecture began with his handing back the graded quizzes from the day before. Then 45 minutes of lecture, followed by a 10-minute quiz. Three tests and a final were also carefully graded and handed back promptly. In 50 years of teaching at half a dozen state and Ivy League universities, I have tried to live up to his dedication to the student and to the subject. Norman Ball and Casper College — two of my favorite things!



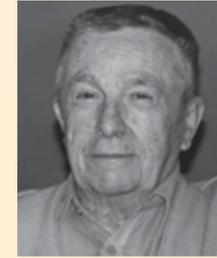
Three distinguished alumni pose in 2007 with the instructor who made a difference in their lives as students. L-r: Marlan Scully; Norman Ball, instructor; Charles Hord; and Russell Huson. Casper College Public Relations.

1950s Distinguished Alumni



William J. Phillips, AA, '52

At the time of his award, William Phillips had helped improved technologies in the fields of telecommunications and signal processing related to strategic and tactical initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.



Richard A. "Dick" Tobin, AA, '53

At the time of his award, Richard Tobin had been a distinguished attorney and public servant.



Dr. Charles W. Hord, AA, '57

At the time of his award, Charles Hord, Ph.D., had been an astrophysicist for the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.



Dr. Russell Huson, AA, '57

At the time of his award, Russell Huson, Ph.D. had been a physicist specializing in elementary particle physics, accelerator technology, and superconductor magnets.



Dr. Raymond Jacquot, AA, '58

At the time of his award, Raymond Jacquot, Ph.D., was the professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Wyoming.



Dr. Marlan Scully, AA, '59

At the time of his award, Marlan Scully, Ph.D., was a pioneer in the field of theoretical quantum optics and laser physics.

Eleven Fall Term Students Leave for Military Service

From the *Chinook*, Jan. 19, 1951 issue

The present world situation has caused a drop in the winter enrollment this year. Most of these men have enlisted in one service or another. Others will be leaving soon for their physical examinations or induction due to the draft. If and when the 18-year-old draft law is enacted, many more CJC men will probably have to leave.

The biggest group of enlistees to leave Casper for a branch of the services left Jan. 7. At least 39 men went in the group, all of which were U. S. Air Force enlistees. Out of this group, nine of the men were enrolled in junior college.

We have here a list of the men that enlisted in the Air Force and left Jan. 7. All these are graduates from Casper High School.



Gerald Byron.

Gerald Byron ('51) sophomore, has been very active in dramatics in CJC.

Dick (Louis) Henderson (AA, '51) sophomore,



Dick (Louis) Henderson.

was a transfer from the University of Wyoming and was on the basketball teams both here and there. He had been the publicity chairman of the student government and sports editor of the *Chinook* this year.

Mike Bruckert ('51) sophomore, has been a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honorary fraternity of junior colleges.

Bill Matthews ('51) sophomore, was also active in dramatics.

Wayne Whetham ('51) sophomore, has been one of the outstanding basketball players at CJC and quite active in dramatics.

Also, among this group were



Bill Matthews.

sophomores **Don Robb** (AA, '58) and **Nick Kamboris** ('51).

Dean Griffith said that according to the present local draft board agreement, those students who maintain satisfactory grades and continue their enrollment in school may be eligible for reclassification. First-year college students are entitled to have their induction through selective service postponed until the end of the current school year. Men of more than one year of college may be entitled to a 2-A classification, which enables them to remain in the college for the rest of the school year and also have a choice of service at the completion of the year.



Wayne Whetham.



Nick Kamboris.

My Two Enlightening Years at CC

By Raymond Jacquot (AS, '58)

I have previously written for *Footprints* extolling the quality of academic preparation that I received at Casper College relating to my future education and career. Those comments mostly focused on my preparation in mathematics, physics, and chemistry. Looking back after 18 years of retirement, I find that there are some important things about my years at Casper College that I had previously failed to acknowledge that now contribute to a full life.



Ray Jacquot (AS, '58) climbing Devil's Tower.



Bill Curry lecturing in a class.

About a decade ago, I renewed my 50-year dormant interest in landscape painting first kindled in a drawing and painting class I took from **Ed Gothberg** in the fall of 1956. I continue to explore how composition, color, and value contribute to the depiction of nature's masterpieces in the American West. Kudos, Ed!

For decades I read and wrote only technical engineering literature because it was a necessary part of my career. But in retirement, I have developed a taste for reading fiction, biography and history, and

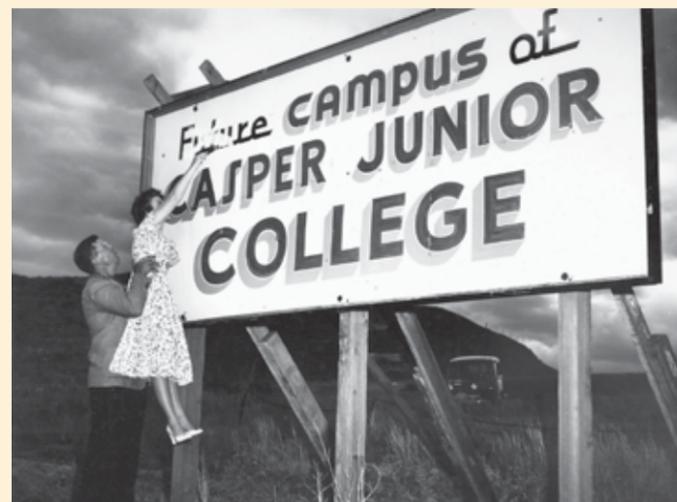


Ed Gothberg working at a drafting table.

writing of historical materials. This has been greatly aided by several semesters I spent under the tutelage of **William "Bill" Curry**. Bill was a teacher who gently encouraged his students to appreciate literature and to develop their skills as writers. The expository writing skills gained have been continuously useful over the past six decades. Well done, Bill!

My two enlightening years at Casper College continue to provide value and joy in my post-career life. What a bargain!

Breaking ground



Left: Groundbreaking ceremony for the first building on the new Casper Junior College campus, July 1954. Above: That same day, Gaynell (Logan) Park ('54) and Gerald Radden (AA, '55) painted through the word "Future." Both photos, College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



Lloyd Loftin, left, and Norman Ball, right, look over the construction of the Casper College Student Center. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



Faculty of the 1950s. Seated, l-r: Sara Suyematsu, Marie Thayer Stewart, Florence Porter, and Bill Curry. Standing, l-r: Russell Schwejda, Norman Ball, Kenneth Ury and Mike Sedar.

Hitting All the High Notes

Adapted from *Footprints, Summer 2015, "Looking Back"*

Ola Belle (Smith) Burley (AA, '51) is the second oldest of five children, consisting of three brothers, Calvin Smith (deceased 2003), **Ervin Smith** (AA, '55), George Edward Smith, and one sister, **Marietta (Smith) Jones** (AA, '53) (deceased 2013). Ola Belle's life in Casper was a happy one, filled with love and admiration from family and friends.



Ola Belle's 1951 Casper Junior College Yearbook photo.

Ola Belle grew up in a house on Burlington Avenue in east Casper. After graduation from Natrona County High School in 1949, she attended Casper College.

During Ola Belle's junior year at NCHS, she began to take formal voice lessons from **Ava M. Shields**. She continued her musical path, and at Casper College Ola Belle was in the Madrigal Choir. She remembers Shields and **Russel Schwejda** as instructors, and classmates **Pat** (AA, '53) and **Kathryn Tripeny** (AA, '51), **Dick Sedar** ('51), **Mary Karantzias** ('52), and **Louis Henderson** (AA, '51). While in Casper, she also sang with the City Band in Washington Park.

In Denver Ola Belle was employed at the Air Force Accounting and Finance

Center. She married, and subsequently became the mother of two sons, Michael and Brian. During this time, she auditioned for the Metropolitan Opera Company, where she placed as a finalist. She was also offered the opportunity to accept a role in the opera "Porgy and Bess," during the performances in Detroit, Michigan, but Ola Belle had to decline due to travel requirements.

Already well-known for her many performances in Wyoming, Ola Belle continued to gain recognition in Colorado by performing in many recitals and concerts. One of her proudest memories is when she was selected as the soloist to sing at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Denver, where Martin Luther King Jr. appeared as a guest speaker. He requested her to sing one of his favorites, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee," and shook her hand and thanked her afterward.

In 1970 Ola Belle received a promotion to chief of the Coast Guard Allotment Branch, Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. She worked for the U.S. Department of Transportation and retired after more than 44 years of service as a travel regulations specialist, having received the Distinguished Service Award for sustained and excellent service.

After her retirement, she took a position with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System for eight years and subsequently retired in 2008. Ola Belle particularly enjoys performing at events that benefit children. A few years ago, she organized a concert in Maryland to benefit the children of Rwanda. When she tells people she grew up in Casper, Wyoming, they are skeptical, and tell her that there are no black people in Wyoming. She quickly corrects them. People also ask what schools she attended in Casper, and she explains she attended the same schools as everyone else in town, laughs and asks, "You think they'd have a different school for six African American families?"



Classical Music Commentator

Russell A. Schwejda, director of the Junior College Choirs, and instructor of music at Casper Junior College is seen as classical music commentator of the KVOC Concert Hall. The program series is featured five nights a week over radio station KVOC from 11 p.m. to midnight. The program is composed of selections of a great variety of concert hall music, recorded on RCA Victor records. This program has become increasingly popular since its inception in October 1953. Taken from the 1954 Casper Junior College Yearbook.

Albert Walter Bailey and the Wyoming Mountaineers of Casper College

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

"Whatever you take on the climb, it will not be enough. You will be very cold, very hungry, very thirsty, very miserable — if this sounds bad now, better stay home, it will be worse when it happens," — **Walt Bailey** in a memo to climbers going to Shiprock, New Mexico, on a climbing trip.

Albert Walter Bailey began his career at Casper College in 1948 and worked there until his untimely death in 1958 from high altitude pulmonary edema. He died during the North American Andean Expedition of the Cordillera Blanca of Peru at Camp 1 at 16,000 feet.

Through his career, he influenced many of Casper College's notable students in the classroom teaching mathematics and in the

mountains. He shared his quiet confidence with others. Most of the students taking his mountaineering course had never climbed a mountain before. By the end of the class, each student had to climb Devil's Tower to get a passing grade.

It was at Devil's Tower that the Wyoming Mountaineers of Casper College gained national fame. The club celebrated the 50th year of Devil's Tower becoming a national monument by inviting climbers from all over the world to join them during Mountaineers Week, July 14-22, 1956. The event attracted climbers from 10 states and two foreign countries. There was also a contingent from the U.S. Army's Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command stationed at Fort Carson. Three new routes were established during the festivities, and the Casper College route established earlier by Bailey was scaled a second time. The event made the Aug. 27, 1956, issue of *Life* magazine, and the climbers were treated to a steak dinner delivered by helicopter.

Bailey was described by all who knew him as a patient and mellow man. He always went out of his way to help students in the classroom and in the mountains. **Dave Reynolds** (AA, '58), one of Bailey's students, said, "Walt was the best example of positive teaching by example I ever met. I am sure that this whole 'team' of us (climbers) have been 'living forward' with some of his values, and, in that sense, part of him has lived on through us. What an honor."

Many of Bailey's students went on to become accomplished mountaineers, and even after his death, the group moved forward with planned climbs. The college did not keep the class active due to the liability of not having an experienced guide to lead the class, but the students kept the club alive. They renamed the club the Wyoming Mountaineers Climbing Club. Many of the pioneering climbs by these members are outlined in a work titled "Select Peaks of Greater Yellowstone" by Tom Turiano. To this day, there is a Walt Bailey route on Devil's Tower that was



Walt Bailey. Photo taken for the 1958 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

pioneered by **Gary Cole** (AA, '58), **Ray Jacquot** (AA, '58), and **Charlie Blackmon** in July 1959. There is also a peak in the Wind River Range named Bailey Peak in honor of Bailey after Jacquot and Cole accomplished the first ascent. Unfortunately, Gary also died of pulmonary edema on Denali in 1969.

During a eulogy given at Bailey's service, a student and fellow climber, **Don Watson** (AA, '58), commented that "Mr. Bailey opened up a new world" to many of his students who otherwise would have never contemplated climbing a peak or scaling a wall and learned something along the way. "One of Mr. Bailey's favorite quotations sums up his attitude toward us very well. 'We expect to pass through this world but once. Any good we can do, therefore, or any kindness that we can show to any fellow creature let us do it now, let us not defer or neglect it for we shall not pass this way again.'"

To learn more about the many exploits of the WMCC read "CC on the Rocks: The Story of the Wyoming Mountaineers of Casper College 1955-1959" by Jacquot and Reynolds.



Members of the Wyoming Mountaineers of Casper College with a display of the climbing equipment in the lobby of the Gladstone Hotel, sometime in 1955 or 1956. Top, l-r: unidentified person, Walt Bailey, and Chic Brothers ('57). Bottom, l-r: David Sturdevant (AA, '57) and Noel Tanneur (AA, '57). Harold Shatsoff for the Casper Tribune-Herald. Wyoming Mountaineers Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Leo Sanchez: Heyoka the Mascot

Reprinted from *Footprints*, Winter 2004

Leo Sanchez (AA, '59) was a natural. He could sing and dance and — let's face it — he was a bit of a ham. He would be a perfect Heyoka. Norm Weis called the young man over, upon seeing Sanchez dancing around in the lunchroom. Heyoka was Weis' brainchild, a mascot for Casper College that would add more atmosphere and more fun to Thunderbird basketball games.

The Casper College mascot's job was to create the right kind of team spirit to beat the other teams. Sanchez took to the costume like a third-grader to bubble gum, but it was mostly due to Weis' efforts that it worked. Fans loved the mascot. When Sanchez raced into the Administration Gym in 1958, the crowd erupted in delight.

Sanchez was in choir that year, thanks to the encouragement of **Russell Schwejda**, and traveled with the Casper College Contact Troupe. In short, he said, he learned "how to be involved in a community," something he took with him for the rest of his life.

The mascot has since been retired, but the spirit of the Thunderbird lives on. Sanchez died in 2013 at the age of 77. He taught for 38 years at the junior high level and was committed to the Casper community and the college.



Photo of a page from the 1959 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

Leo Sanchez was an officer of the Casper College Mixed Choir while a student at Casper College. Pictured l-r: Leo Sanchez (AA, '59), vice president; Lois (Bemis) Wragge (AA, '59), secretary treasurer; and John William "Buck" Buchanan (AA, '59) president. Photo from the 1959 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.



Casper College had a great coed cheerleading squad in 1957. Pictured l-r: Karen (Smith) Sinner (AA, '57), Owen Jones (AA, '57), Joyce (Kerns) Barnard (AA, '58), Clyde Bond ('57) and Barbara Dudley ('57) cheered the team to victory at the basketball games. Photo from the 1957 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.



The Architect of Casper College

Reprinted from the 50th Anniversary Issue of *Footprints*, Summer 1995

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

June 1961 marked the beginning of the 18-year reign of **Tilghman Aley, Ph.D.**, as president of Casper College. Aley really did rule all that he observed, and it was because of his leadership, insight, and dogged determination that Casper College became what it is today: Wyoming's and one of the nation's leading junior colleges.

When Aley arrived in Casper to assume his new position, Casper College was still a fledgling institution. The college had been established in 1945 but was still part of the Natrona County School District until 1961. However, in July 1961, the high school board contested the legality of the creation of the new college district. The issue was not settled until October 1963 when voters approved, for a second time, the creation of a separate community college district.

Once the separation of the college from the county school district was official, Aley was able to move on to bigger and better avenues, namely, the construction of more structures and the acquisition of more land for the college. Beginning in the spring of 1964, and until his death in August 1983, Casper College grew to nearly 25 buildings and more than 125 deeded acres. It is easy to see why Aley is often referred to as "The Architect of Casper College."

Aley also was keenly interested in the growth of Casper College academically. He led the charge on establishing an upper division at Casper in '71, '73, '75, and '79. Each of those attempts, however, ended in defeat in the Wyoming legislature. As Aley noted in late 1978, "It has been an uphill battle all the way."

Aley had an inimitable quality that most admired, and some feared. He knew what he wanted for Casper College and why. His reasons were always eloquent yet succinct. He never backed down from a cause he believed in.

One cause Aley believed in was the necessity of college students to stay in college. In Aley's mind, with very few exceptions, dropping out of college was "... the most serious calamity of your life ..."

As might be expected, he was a firm believer in the advantages of a college education. "The person who goes to college will have a richer and happier life. I might add parenthetically that the person who finishes college will, in his lifetime, triple his earnings."

According to **Richard Reitz** in his essay, "Contributions to Casper College," from the tribute book to Aley titled "Miles to Go," Aley's passion for higher education was shown in many ways, not the least of which were the intangibles. "This is seen in the instances when, for example, he reached in his own pocket to help a student buy a textbook or pay for a meal ticket, or when he spent hours mopping water from a campus basement ..."

The book reminded readers that Aley was bestowed with a quick wit and feisty sense of humor; one need only spend some time with him to discover that. Alex Lazzarino, in his essay "The Country Boy Administrator," also from "Miles to Go," noted that Aley "... was never at a loss for a barbed retort" and provided a perfect example of this. At an event one time, Aley was introduced as "the doughty little warrior from Casper College." Aley is reported to have responded, "You are quite the wit. Whether it be half or nit, I am not prepared to say." Never at a loss for words, he easily conversed with both statesman and plowboy.

An entire book could be filled with wonderful, and even a few not so wonderful anecdotes relating to Aley. Anyone who ever served on the student senate at Casper College during Aley's presidency certainly remembers the special "dinner with the president." Aley would hold court while, mostly in awe, students would eat their prime rib dinner and listen attentively to every word he spoke. Occasionally a question would be asked, and Aley, always endeavoring to make students feel that they were important too, would take the time to answer and explain if necessary. At the end of the dinner, each student felt just

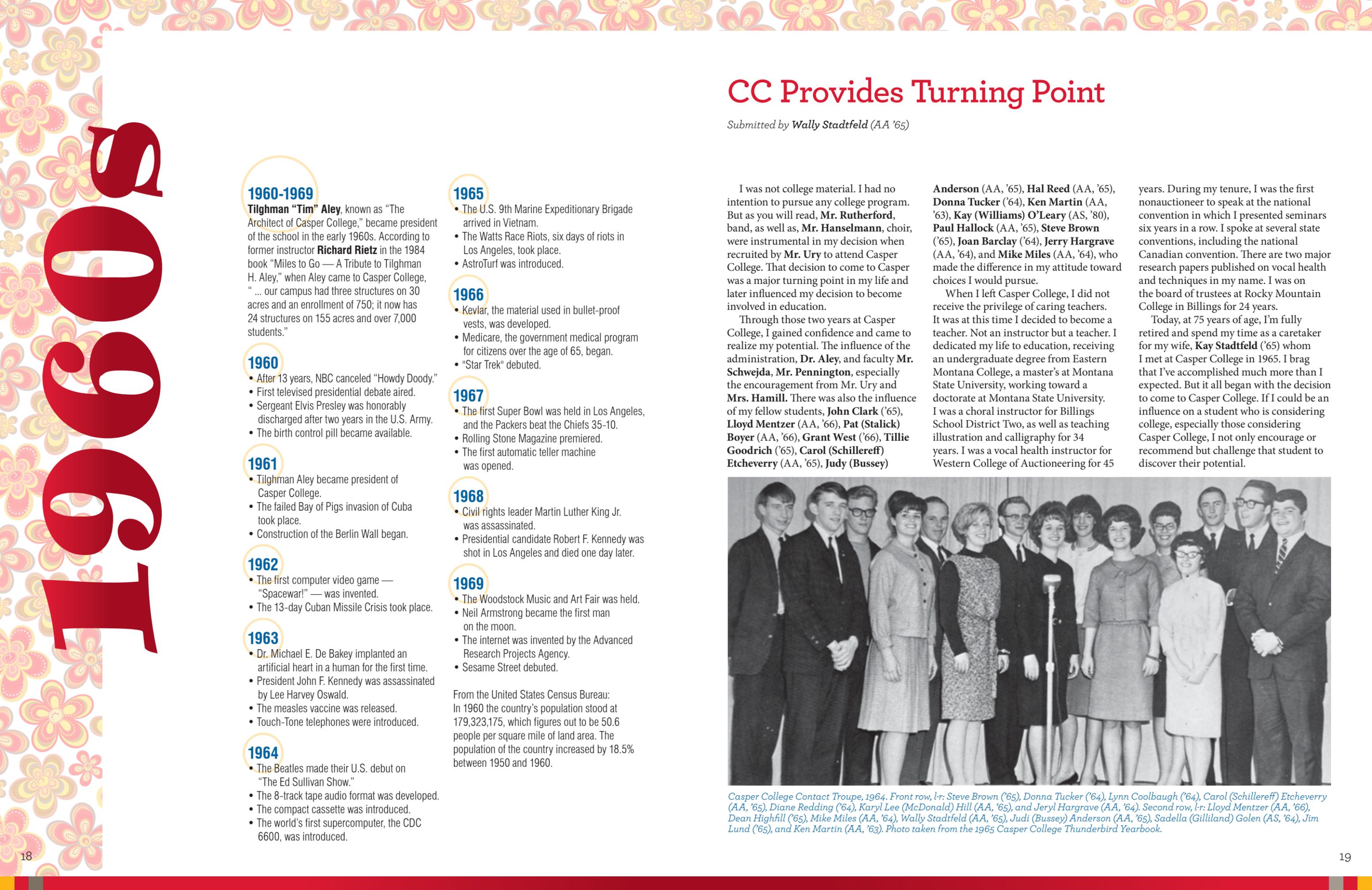


Tilghman H. Aley, Ph.D. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

a little more important, as if they had been included in the politics of higher education. But it was because of who he was that Aley could make anyone feel important. And it was because of this trait that everyone who knew him, whether they liked or agreed with him or not, admired and respected the man.

Lazzarino recounted driving long distances with Aley at the wheel. "He would regale you for hundreds of miles with vivid stories ... He provided nourishment for mind and spirit on those long drives, but never for the stomach. And after you had driven 'from can see to can't, you'd practically have to force the car off the highway at the next vacancy sign. When that happened, Tim would tell you to wait in the car while he checked out the motel, and he would invariably return with some demurral like, 'Let's keep driving. That place is so bad, even the roaches have packed up and left.'"

Until his death, Aley did keep driving, and he drove hard day and night for both Casper College and the realm of higher education in Wyoming. It was this drive, this tenacity of his that brought Casper College to what it still is today: Wyoming's, and one of the nation's, leading junior colleges.



1960s

1960-1969

Tilghman "Tim" Aley, known as "The Architect of Casper College," became president of the school in the early 1960s. According to former instructor **Richard Rietz** in the 1984 book "Miles to Go — A Tribute to Tilghman H. Aley," when Aley came to Casper College, "... our campus had three structures on 30 acres and an enrollment of 750; it now has 24 structures on 155 acres and over 7,000 students."

1960

- After 13 years, NBC canceled "Howdy Doody."
- First televised presidential debate aired.
- Sergeant Elvis Presley was honorably discharged after two years in the U.S. Army.
- The birth control pill became available.

1961

- Tilghman Aley became president of Casper College.
- The failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba took place.
- Construction of the Berlin Wall began.

1962

- The first computer video game — "Spacewar!" — was invented.
- The 13-day Cuban Missile Crisis took place.

1963

- Dr. Michael E. De Bakey implanted an artificial heart in a human for the first time.
- President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald.
- The measles vaccine was released.
- Touch-Tone telephones were introduced.

1964

- The Beatles made their U.S. debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show."
- The 8-track tape audio format was developed.
- The compact cassette was introduced.
- The world's first supercomputer, the CDC 6600, was introduced.

1965

- The U.S. 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade arrived in Vietnam.
- The Watts Race Riots, six days of riots in Los Angeles, took place.
- AstroTurf was introduced.

1966

- Kevlar, the material used in bullet-proof vests, was developed.
- Medicare, the government medical program for citizens over the age of 65, began.
- "Star Trek" debuted.

1967

- The first Super Bowl was held in Los Angeles, and the Packers beat the Chiefs 35-10.
- Rolling Stone Magazine premiered.
- The first automatic teller machine was opened.

1968

- Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.
- Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy was shot in Los Angeles and died one day later.

1969

- The Woodstock Music and Art Fair was held.
- Neil Armstrong became the first man on the moon.
- The internet was invented by the Advanced Research Projects Agency.
- Sesame Street debuted.

From the United States Census Bureau: In 1960 the country's population stood at 179,323,175, which figures out to be 50.6 people per square mile of land area. The population of the country increased by 18.5% between 1950 and 1960.

CC Provides Turning Point

Submitted by **Wally Stadtfeld** (AA '65)

I was not college material. I had no intention to pursue any college program. But as you will read, **Mr. Rutherford**, band, as well as, **Mr. Hanselmann**, choir, were instrumental in my decision when recruited by **Mr. Ury** to attend Casper College. That decision to come to Casper was a major turning point in my life and later influenced my decision to become involved in education.

Through those two years at Casper College, I gained confidence and came to realize my potential. The influence of the administration, **Dr. Aley**, and faculty **Mr. Schwejda**, **Mr. Pennington**, especially the encouragement from Mr. Ury and **Mrs. Hamill**. There was also the influence of my fellow students, **John Clark** ('65), **Lloyd Mentzer** (AA, '66), **Pat (Stalick) Boyer** (AA, '66), **Grant West** ('66), **Tillie Goodrich** ('65), **Carol (Schillereff) Etcheverry** (AA, '65), **Judy (Bussey)**

Anderson (AA, '65), **Hal Reed** (AA, '65), **Donna Tucker** ('64), **Ken Martin** (AA, '63), **Kay (Williams) O'Leary** (AS, '80), **Paul Hallock** (AA, '65), **Steve Brown** ('65), **Joan Barclay** ('64), **Jerry Hargrave** (AA, '64), and **Mike Miles** (AA, '64), who made the difference in my attitude toward choices I would pursue.

When I left Casper College, I did not receive the privilege of caring teachers. It was at this time I decided to become a teacher. Not an instructor but a teacher. I dedicated my life to education, receiving an undergraduate degree from Eastern Montana College, a master's at Montana State University, working toward a doctorate at Montana State University. I was a choral instructor for Billings School District Two, as well as teaching illustration and calligraphy for 34 years. I was a vocal health instructor for Western College of Auctioneering for 45

years. During my tenure, I was the first nonauctioneer to speak at the national convention in which I presented seminars six years in a row. I spoke at several state conventions, including the national Canadian convention. There are two major research papers published on vocal health and techniques in my name. I was on the board of trustees at Rocky Mountain College in Billings for 24 years.

Today, at 75 years of age, I'm fully retired and spend my time as a caretaker for my wife, **Kay Stadtfeld** ('65) whom I met at Casper College in 1965. I brag that I've accomplished much more than I expected. But it all began with the decision to come to Casper College. If I could be an influence on a student who is considering college, especially those considering Casper College, I not only encourage or recommend but challenge that student to discover their potential.



Casper College Contact Troupe, 1964. Front row, l-r: Steve Brown ('65), Donna Tucker ('64), Lynn Coolbaugh ('64), Carol (Schillereff) Etcheverry (AA, '65), Diane Redding ('64), Karyl Lee (McDonald) Hill (AA, '65), and Jeryl Hargrave (AA, '64). Second row, l-r: Lloyd Mentzer (AA, '66), Dean Highfill ('65), Mike Miles (AA, '64), Wally Stadtfeld (AA, '65), Judi (Bussey) Anderson (AA, '65), Sadella (Gilliland) Golen (AS, '64), Jim Lund ('65), and Ken Martin (AA, '63). Photo taken from the 1965 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

Chris Ledoux: Remembering a Cowboy Legend

By Bill Landen (AA, '76) reprinted from *Footprints*, Spring 2006

Long before he made it big in rodeo, **Chris LeDoux** ('68) was playing the guitar.

He took it everywhere with him. "It was like his shave kit," says Bill Larsen, a former roommate and travel partner. "I remember he would take his guitar into the bathroom with him; he liked the acoustics in there. Pretty soon the bathroom'd be plumb full of people."

LeDoux loved to play, loved to perform, and loved the western lifestyle. Casper College rodeo coach **Tom Parker** remembers that by the time he climbed into the college circuit in the '70s, LeDoux was already a name in rodeo, maybe not yet as an athlete but as a musician. Everybody behind the chutes had an 8-track tape of LeDoux's first songs. He wrote many of those songs during his rodeo days at Casper College and Sheridan College, where he met Larsen.

Larsen says he remembers skipping a football practice in the fall of 1967 and returning to his hometown of Alzada, Montana, for a weekend rodeo. They were busy preparing the new arena there for



Chris LeDoux, Feb. 1982. Photo by Bob Kennedy. Casper Star-Tribune Collection, Casper College Library.



The 1968 Casper College Rodeo Team. Pictured l-r: Charles Winters ('69), Keith Maddox ('68), Gary Hamilton ('68), Chris LeDoux ('68), Jack Eicks ('68), T.J. Walter ('68), Scott Maller ('68), Dave Craig (AS, '68), and Coach Dale Stiles. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

that night's show, and Chris LeDoux's music was playing over the loudspeakers. By the mid-'70s, every up-and-coming cowboy in the four-state region, and a whole lot of cowgirls, had LeDoux's music in the pickup.

LeDoux was not a Wyoming native, but he did graduate from high school in Cheyenne, Wyoming. During high school rodeos, he became close friends with John Forbes, and Johnny Holman, both from Kaycee, Wyoming. They are one of the reasons he wound up as an adopted son of the Hole-in-the-Wall country.

"He grew up all over the world," Larsen says, referring to LeDoux's father's military career. "But he was as Wyoming as they came."

Chris LeDoux died of liver cancer in March 2005.



Chris LeDoux performed at the Casper College Taendas Club Talent Show. Photo from the 1968 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

Remember When ...



Heyoka II entertained the crowds in this photo from October 1965. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



The Casper College Liesinger Administration Building. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



Unidentified students playing cards in a Casper College dorm room. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

1960s Distinguished Alumni



Leroy Strausner, AA, '60

At the time of his award, LeRoy Strausner, Ph.D., had served Casper College for 37 years, with the last 14 years as the sixth president of Casper College from 1990-2004.



Richard "Dick" Cheney, '63

At the time of his award, Dick Cheney was the U.S. secretary of defense. Later he served as vice president of the United States under President George W. Bush.



Henry Alfonso (Hank) True III, AS, '63

At the time of his award, Hank True was a partner and officer for the various enterprises associated with True companies.



Joe Alexander, AS '67

Dubbed "Alexander the Great" Joe dominated the sport of bareback bronc riding. He had five consecutive world titles, and two regular-season championships, which made PRCA records.



Leslie M. Lawson, AA, '67

At the time of her award, Leslie Lawson had successfully litigated the first sexual harassment trial in the United States, setting a national precedent.



Nancy Curtis, AA, '67

At the time of her award, Nancy Curtis was an award-winning author, publisher, and Wyoming cattle rancher.

Assassination Shows Shortcomings

Editorial by J.M. Hightower ('64) from the *Chinook*, Dec. 13, 1963

The assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas last month and the murder of his accused killer, Lee Harvey Oswald, by a nightclub owner have dealt blows of immeasurable harm to the system of United States justice abroad and at home. That a citizen could take it upon himself to render what he considered to be justice has damaged the ideals of justice and fair trial.

As well as these concepts being harmed, two shortcomings have themselves. Both of these should be acted upon quickly.

The chain of succession is set up at the present time if the president is inoperative, the vice president steps up to fill the vacancy. Should the new president be unable to carry out the executive duties, the speaker of the house would take over, and he is, as the law reads, followed by the president pro-tem of the Senate.

It would seem almost impossible that succession would reach that far. And it



probably is. But it also seems impossible to believe that President Kennedy could have been murdered.

The problem here is in changing the chain of command. It appears that it would go no further than the speaker of the house because he would be replaced by another speaker if he ascended to the presidency.

The second shortcoming is the fact that the Dallas Police Department would

be allowed to conduct the investigation of the killing of the president. At the present time, it is not a federal offense to assassinate a president. In theory, therefore, the federal law enforcement agencies have no business to intervene in the investigation. There should be a law stating that it is a federal crime to assassinate a president, the vice president, or anyone in the direct line of succession. Presently such a bill is before the Senate.



Note: When this editorial was written in 1963, it was not a federal crime to kill a U.S. president. That changed when Congress passed 18 U.S.C. 1751 in 1965. That law made it a federal crime to assault, kidnap, or kill the president or the vice president.

The *Chinook* published this autographed photo of Lyndon B. Johnson, which he autographed and gave to Casper College before he became president, in the Dec. 13, 1963, issue.

Remember When ...



An unidentified couple at the Casper College Harvest Moon Ball in 1962. Photo taken from the 1963 Casper College *Thunderbird Yearbook*.



Paul Hallock (AA, '65), Ralph Brisker (AA, '66) – Twirp King, Jack Cranfil ('65), and AWS President Dorothy Jansen (AA, '65) during "Twirp Week." Photo appeared in the 1965 Casper College *Thunderbird Yearbook*. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



Members of the 1965 Casper College Student Senate. Back row, l-r: Lloyd Mentzer, Patty Jacobson, Kay Williams, Barry Bemis. Front row, l-r: Peg Meece, Dorothy Jansen, Frieda Noel, Marilyn Boatman, Paul Hallock – student body president, Mike Aleman, Steve Shelsta, Eric Newton, Monty Bassett, and Larry Brouillette. Photo appeared in the 1965 Casper College *Thunderbird Yearbook*. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

1960s Distinguished Alumni



Douglas M. Crowe, '68

At the time of his award, Doug Crowe was recognized for distinction in wildlife management in Wyoming, the United States and Botswana, Africa, where he assisted the effort to save the African elephant population.



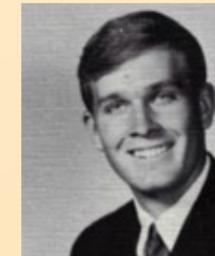
Karen Higgins, AS, '68

At the time of her award, Karen Higgins, Ph.D., was the executive director for research and engineering at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division.



Susan Thomas, '68

At the time of her award, Susan Thomas had been an educator and advocate for opportunities for education.



Steven L. Bealer, AS, '69

At the time of his award, Steven Bealer, Ph.D., was the professor emeritus of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Utah.

T-Bird Legend: Dale Stiles

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)



A hardworking cowboy from Van Tassel, Wyoming, has become a name synonymous with Casper College. Described as a good and gentle man who loved what he did, **Dale Stiles** brought Casper College into the spotlight with the T-Bird Rodeo teams that won four consecutive national championships back to back from 1963-1966. The team was competing against four-year schools and coming home with the title. Much of the credit goes to Stiles for assembling a team of some of the finest cowboys the country has known, including Distinguished Alumni **Joe Alexander** (AS, '67), often described as the finest bareback

rider ever; **Dave Brock** ('71), PRCA Rookie of the Year in 1972 and winner of the world calf roping championship in 1978; **Chris LeDoux** ('68); **Jim Davis** ('75) two-time steer roping champion; **Hank Franzen** ('79) who won the collegiate bull riding title in 1978, is owner of Powder River Rodeo, which provides stock for PRCA events, and is the recent winner of the Remuda Award for the most consistent pen of bucking horses; and Senior Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer **Ron Miller** ('69).

The T-Bird Rodeo team ranks as one of the most successful programs in the country, and those successes started with Dale Stiles and continued with **Tom Parker**. Following Parker's untimely death, the torch was handed to former world champion team roper **Jhett Johnson** in 2017.

Coach Stiles holds the trophy and Joe Alexander shows the belt buckle that he won when he took the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association title in bareback bronc riding in 1967. Photo appeared in the 1967 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

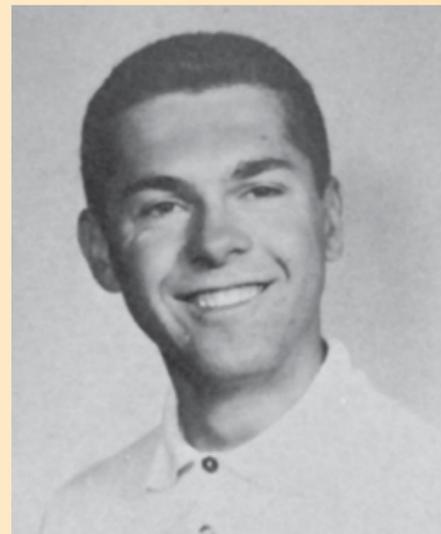
Paul Hallock

By Rich Fujita, adapted from *Footprints*, Summer 2011

Paul Hallock (AA, '65) spent 33 years at Casper College. He graduated from Casper College in 1965, and took his first job on campus as an admissions counselor in 1978, became the director of admissions and school relations in 1982, the director of planning development in 1984, and assumed the position of executive director of the foundation in 1993. Hallock retired from that position in 2011.

Hallock's career was one of building personal relationships with those that

cherished the college as much as he did. Hallock was honored in 2008 in Washington, D.C., as the national Outstanding Private Fundraising Professional by the Council for Resource Development. His genuine love for the college and its future made the foundation a strong organization that continues to help the college achieve its goals of providing educational opportunities for all students wanting to improve their lives.



Paul Hallock, freshman photo from the 1964 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

Reflections of Casper College

By Ben D. Mahaffey (AA '61)

Casper College was created in 1945 with little fanfare from the local community. The Natrona County High School building was large, and the third floor was unused. This small space was the first home of Casper College.

I entered NCHS as a freshman in 1946 and graduated in 1950. Students had no reason to visit the third floor for any academics, but we were constantly warned to stay off the third floor. These warnings piqued my curiosity, and occasionally I climbed the stairs to see what was going on.

It was no different from the rest of the building. It had some administrative offices and classrooms. I did notice those coming and going were older and looked serious as they came and went. Many of the first students were veterans from World War II.

The Korean War began in 1950, and I enlisted in the Navy. After returning, I served a printer apprenticeship at the Casper Tribune-Herald, an evening paper, and the Casper Morning Star, a morning paper. After working for several years in the printing industry, I realized there appeared to be little future for me in such a business.

In the fall of 1959, Casper College had grown significantly and was located in one building on its present campus. This building was a busy place! It housed all of the classrooms, administrative offices, gym, student center, and bookstore.

The book store was a small screened space of about 175 square feet. It was

located at the base of the stairway to the second floor. It was only open at selective hours and was usually manned by student workers.

I was somewhat intimidated by the thoughts of going to college. In high school, most of those going to college were the student elite; children of doctors, judges, ministers, and other professionals. I was from working-class parents, and most of us went on to other ventures.

Nevertheless, I went to see if I could take a class or two to determine if I was capable of obtaining a higher education. I

was assigned to **Lawrence Lofgren** as my counselor. He convinced me to jump right in and take a full semester of courses. This was done in spite of my telling him that I had a full-time position. I switched from the daily newspaper to the night newspaper, giving me time to attend classes.

Lofgren and I got along well, and he was instrumental in my continuing until graduating with an A.S. in 1961. **Bertha Davidson**, an English teacher, took a personal interest in me and gave me the desire to continue my studies beyond Casper College.

By spring semester 1961, the second building was completed. I had one class in that building. It was physical geology. It was taught by an adjunct teacher, a local geologist named **Willis Fenwick**. He was an unassuming person, but he knew his geology. He took us on one field trip of 10 hours, where we traveled from Casper



Ben Mahaffey, today, and in 1960.



to Rawlins, examining all of the physical features present in that vast area of wilderness. I will never forget my first view of an anticline.

My studies continued at Colorado State University, with an eventual Ph.D. earned at Texas A&M University. I have taught at two universities and had an additional four more careers, covering business, military contracting, and consulting. However, I would be extremely ungrateful if I did not recognize that my beginning started at Casper College, where I received a great and successful blastoff into LIFE!

Oscar “Swede” Erickson: Famed T-Bird Basketball Coach

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



Coach Oscar “Swede” Erickson, 1963, looks at a trophy inscription. The photo appeared in the 1963 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

Oscar “Swede” Erickson began his coaching career at Casper College in 1958 when he accepted the head coaching job for the men’s basketball team.

Born in Norfolk, Nebraska, he and his parents moved to Casper when he was 2 years old. For a decade, his father, Oscar Erickson Sr., worked at the Standard Oil Refinery. While in Casper, Swede’s father taught him how to hunt and fish. “He fell in love with Wyoming during that time,” said his son, **Brent Erickson** (AS, '72).

Swede’s father was transferred to another oil refinery located in Neodesha, Kansas, when Swede was 12. It was there that Swede graduated from high school and then headed to Kansas State University, where he was the quarterback

on the Wildcats football team. During his time at K-State, Swede met his future wife, Artie. In 1947 he graduated with his bachelor’s degree in physical education and married Artie April 3.

After graduating from college, Swede held a couple of high school coaching jobs in small towns, including Neodesha and Eureka, Kansas, where he coached football, basketball, and track. However, a return to Wyoming was always on his mind, so when the head coaching position opened up at Midwest High School in Midwest, he applied and was offered the

job in August 1951. He and Artie and newborn son arrived in Midwest that September.

After two years as Midwest’s head basketball coach, Swede was able to return to Casper as the head coach of the Natrona County High School Mustangs basketball team and also the assistant football coach. “He quickly made the NCHS Mustangs a powerhouse, and they won the Wyoming State Basketball Tournament Championship in 1955, a feat NCHS would not repeat until 1970,” noted Brent.

In 1957 Swede was hired as the head coach for the Casper College Thunderbirds, a post he held for 28 years. While at CC, Erickson earned a master’s

in guidance education from the University of Wyoming. He then became the athletic director in addition to his head coaching duties.

According to Brent, Swede realized that junior college basketball was played at a higher level than high school and that he needed to recruit players from all over the United States. “To get more financial support for CC basketball, he started a program called the ‘Buck a Month Club’ for local merchants to provide financial support to the T-Birds. For \$12 a year, a merchant could be a T-Bird special supporter,” Brent said. The Buck a Month Club eventually became known as “... the T-Bird Booster Club and the boosters financial support helped propel the T-Bird basketball program onto the national stage,” added Brent.

In 1963, the Thunderbirds made their first of nine appearances at the NJCAA National Tournament. That year the team place third in the nation. The team went back the following year and took second, the highest any CC men’s basketball team has ever gone. When the team returned

home in 1964, Brent recalled that “... the city held a parade down Center Street to honor them and the mayor gave the T-Birds the key to the city.

After 27 years as head coach and athletic director, Swede announced that the 1985-1986 season would be his last. Thirty-four years later, four of Swede’s records still stand:

- Most wins in a single season — 1977-78, 36.
- Highest finish at NJCAA Tournament — second in 1964.
- Longest winning streak in a season — 1979-80, 23
- Longest home winning streak — 75 games between 1969 and 1973.

Swede’s win-loss record stands at 638 wins, 220 losses, and a .743 win percentage. He was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 1985.

In addition to his duties at Casper College, Swede was the NJCAA Region IX director in 1969, the vice president of the men’s division in 1977, and the organization’s president from 1986 to 1990.



Coach Erickson questions a call from a referee. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Following his retirement as coach, Swede continued as the athletic director and as the new director of the Casper College Foundation. He was elected to serve as a county commissioner in 1972 and also served on the Central Wyoming Regional Water System Joint Powers Board.

Swede believed in helping his players get not only an academic education but an education in life. He wanted his players

to maintain eligibility, but he also wanted them to learn and achieve academically. Many of them were the first in their families to attend college, and he wanted them to become responsible grown-up men, recalled Brent.

“(Dad) was a strict disciplinarian, and in the evenings he held study hall sessions at the classroom in the gym and our home. Often he had the whole team studying in our house while (my mom) made home-cooked dinners for the whole team,” said Brent. Former players recall feeling like being part of Swede’s family, according to Brent, and years later, many players wrote letters thanking Swede for being a father figure and mentor. “He won many

games, but he also had a big impact on many lives of the young student-athletes who passed through Casper College,” Brent said.

Oscar “Swede” Erickson Jr. died Aug. 3, 1999, at the age of 78 at his home in Casper.

1970 Casper College Basketball team, fourth in the nation. Pictured l-r: Walter Smith ('70), Dan Wood ('70), Abe Steward (AS, '71), Walter Perrin ('70), Jerry Cutshall (AS, '71), Tom Konrady ('70), Bob Lackey ('70), Dick Kuster (AS, '73), James Rochelle (AS, '71), Ron Crowell (AS, '72), Gordon Gill ('70), and Cid Voth (AS, '71). This group of young men broke records to make sports history at Casper College. Photo from the 1970 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

James Reeb — Civil Rights Martyr: A Granddaughter Remembers, Update

By Leah Reeb Varela (AS, '04) partially adapted from the original story in *Footprints*, Summer 2015

People rarely connect Casper, Wyoming, with the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, but they couldn't be more wrong. Lives were forever changed in Casper, in Selma, Alabama, and across the United States when **James Reeb** ('46) was murdered in Selma.

He was born in Wichita, Kansas, to Harry and Mae (Reeb) Rape. Rape was the anglicized last name of Reeb; however the family reverted to Reeb soon after James was ordained. Born in Kansas, the unstable economy and dwindling job market led the family to Casper in 1942. His father began working at Western Oil and Tool Manufacturing Co. or WOTCO, now known as Westech. James began his sophomore year at Natrona County High School in September 1942. While at NCHS, he quickly rose through the ranks within the ROTC and assisted with multiple youth groups.

As young as 15, James found himself drawn to the ministry. He'd often be found filling in for local ministers on Sundays. He found his home within the church, discovering he could lead where he felt fully accepted. He was a familiar

face within the churches of Winter Memorial in North Caper and the First Presbyterian Church near Casper's City Park. He was also instrumental in the Casper Boys' Club, a group dedicated to the direction of some of Casper's young male population, many of which were minorities and with delinquent backgrounds.

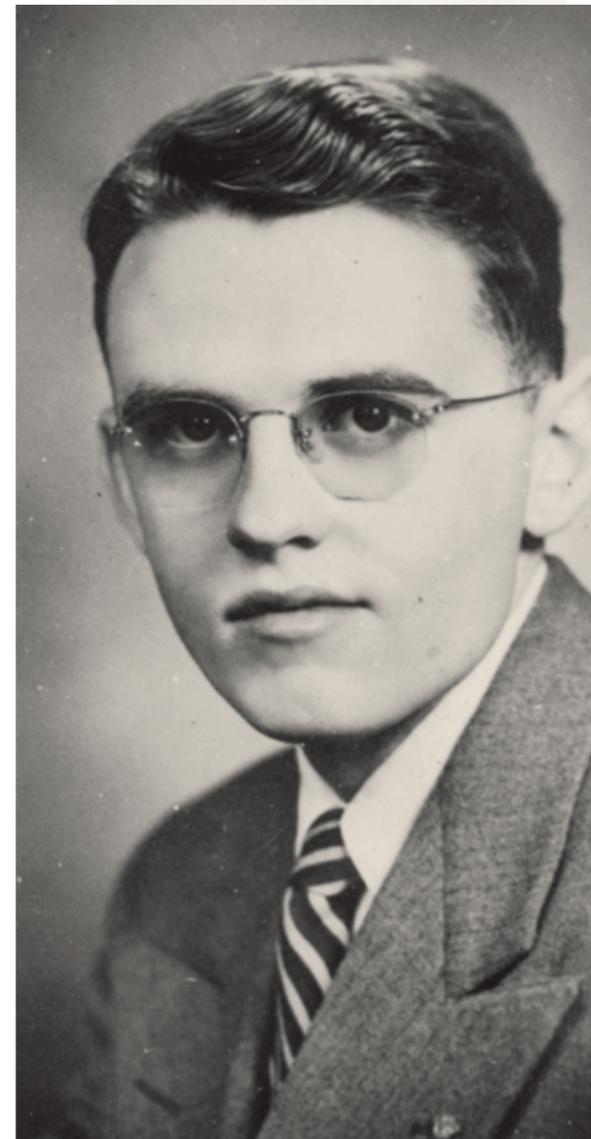
He graduated in 1945 and soon after joined the U.S. Army where he served in California and Alaska before returning home in the winter of 1946. The previous year, Wyoming's first junior college, later known as Casper College, was established and located on the third floor at NCHS. James enrolled in classes using his GI Bill to attend. During this time, he met a beautiful young woman, a senior named Marie Deason; she would later become his wife.

In 1947, James enrolled at St. Olaf College, a Lutheran school in Minnesota. He then moved onto Princeton University, majoring in theology. After graduation from Princeton, the family had grown to four children. My father, John, Karen, Anne, and Steven. James began working

as chaplain at the Philadelphia General Hospital, where he dedicated much of his time to poor African American patients, ensuring they received necessary medical care as well as chapel services. He was also a youth director at the local inner-city YMCA, where he abolished the racial quota system, implemented integrated busing, and created multiple family and youth organizations to set kids and their parents on the right track. James continued helping others through moves to Washington, D.C., and Roxbury, Massachusetts.

It was a Sunday night, March 7, 1965, when James and Marie watched the 11 p.m. news showcasing the "Bloody Sunday" attacks from earlier that day. Hundreds, the majority of them African Americans, attempted to peacefully march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to Montgomery, Alabama, 50 miles away. Alabama State Troopers brutally beat them.

The following day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. summoned the clergy around the nation to respond and come to Selma to support their efforts in establishing



James Reeb in an undated photo. Casper Star-Tribune Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

equal voting rights. James received this message, and after discussing it with Marie, he arrived in Selma the following morning. Without police protection, the marchers were led to the far side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge again, where they knelt, prayed, and returned to the church headquarters. Dr. King there urged marchers to stay and participate again the following day when protection was to be provided. James was to travel home that afternoon but decided to stay one more night.

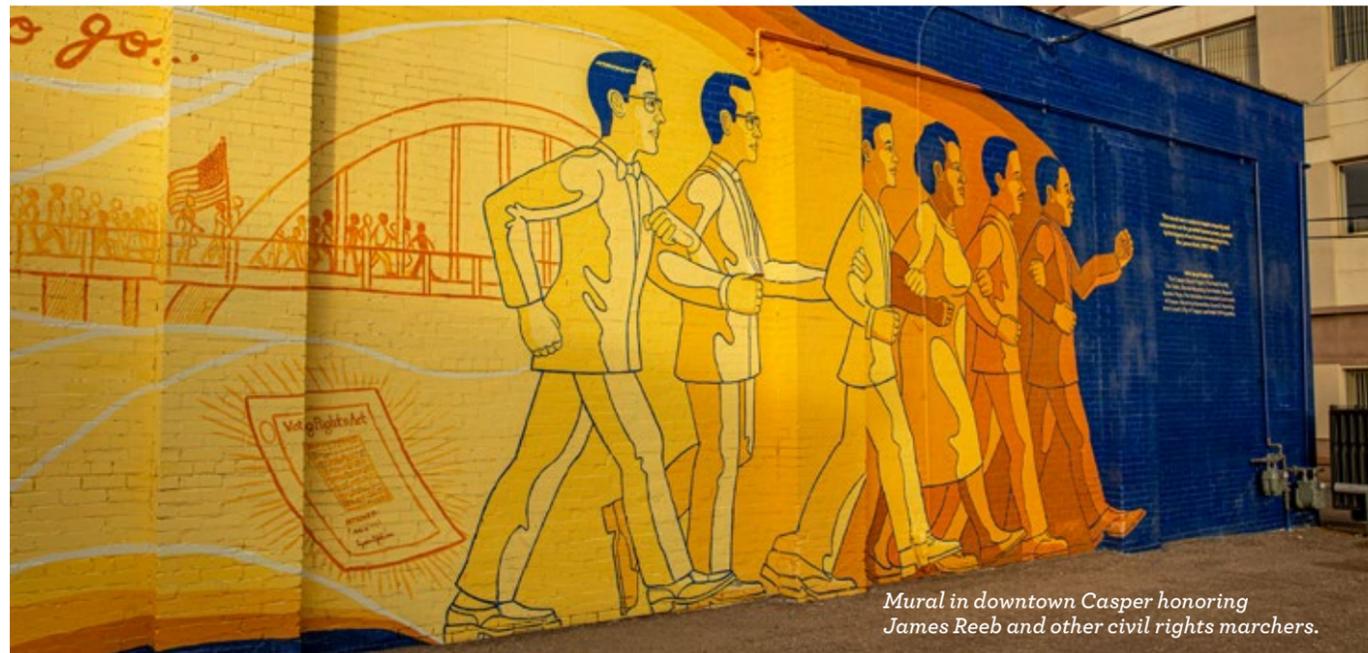
That evening, he joined two fellow ministers, Clark Olsen and Orloff Miller, for dinner. Upon leaving the cafe, they were approached by four white men, one carrying a club who swung and hit James in the head. Olsen and Miller were kicked and beaten but were able to assist James off the ground to seek help. Four hours had passed before they were able to get him into a Birmingham, Alabama, hospital 90 miles away. No one had been willing to assist in getting him there, not even the police. A skull fracture and blood clot ended the life of James Reeb two days later. His face was now the center of a national outcry and media storm, with his name printed on the front page of every newspaper across the United States.

A few days after his passing, President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced the 1965 Voting Rights Act to Congress, citing the loss of "this good man, a man of God." On March 15, Dr. King led a march of 3,500 people in honor of James, laying a wreath on the footsteps of the courthouse in Selma. Later that evening, he provided an eulogy for James. A small march of 250 people was also held in Casper and ended with an eulogy at NCHS. At his request years earlier, James was cremated, and his remains were spread over the Shirley Basin just south of Casper, Wyoming.

Three of the four men who attacked James and his fellow ministers were acquitted by an all-white jury in 90 minutes, even with substantial evidence proving their guilt.

Recently, however, in an NPR podcast aired on May 13, 2019, titled "White Lies," one of the witnesses recanted her testimony. The original three men charged with Reeb's murder were William Stanley Goffle, Elmer Cook, and Namon O'Neal "Duck" Hoggle but found not guilty. The witness at the trial, Frances Bowden, testified at the trial that she didn't know who committed the crime but told NPR that she had lied. She knew the men who went to trial, but also named a fourth man who participated in the crime, William Portwood. She stated in the interview, "I'm not proud of being up in the courtroom telling a lie, I did tell a lie. I said I didn't know, and I did know." Portwood also admitted his involvement by telling NPR, "It was more than three there. All I did was kick one of them." Portwood died shortly after the interview.

The memory of James Reeb continues to live on at Casper College through the James Reeb Memorial Scholarship. The fund was started by a group of Casperites on the night of Reeb's death to help his family and commemorate his name. There is also a mural depicting James Reeb on Center Street in downtown Casper.



Mural in downtown Casper honoring James Reeb and other civil rights marchers.

John Rucker, Heyoka and Vietnam Hero

By Danica Sveda (AA '09)

A handsome face stares back from the 1968 yearbook. Dressed as Heyoka that year, **John William Rucker** ('68) from Roanoke, Virginia, attended Casper College to study forestry. Two years later, he would be killed in action in Vietnam. He served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant with the 1st Aviation Brigade, 75th Infantry LRRP (Ranger), C Company as an infantry operations and intelligence specialist. Rucker was drafted into the war from his home in Roanoke. His service saw him in the sanctuary counteroffensive campaign in 1970 and



John Rucker with the Heyoka costume. Photo taken from the 1968 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.



John Rucker service photo.

the counteroffensive phase VII campaign. He was killed in action at Phu Yen, killed by small-arms fire. Sgt. Rucker was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously through his valorous action Dec. 14, 1970.

The official report for his commendation follows. "He was an assistant team leader to a six-man patrol during ground operation near Tuy Hoa. As the small unit advanced along a narrow trail, the lead man observed a large enemy force moving toward the friendly element along the path. Immediately, the American patrol hastened into an ambush position paralleling the enemy avenue of approach. Although vastly outnumbered, Sergeant Rucker and another team member initiated contact with the foe as they unleashed a barrage of claymore anti-personnel mines and automatic weapons fire.

Utilizing the element of surprise, Sergeant Rucker's stratagem resulted in the elimination of approximately 10 belligerents. The foe reacted to the initial onslaught with fragmentation grenades and automatic weapons fire while

attempting to maneuver into position surrounding Sergeant Rucker's team. Realizing the peril caused by the threat of encirclement, Sergeant Rucker exposed himself to the hail of enemy rounds as he fought to prevent the foe from flanking and trapping his men. He was knocked to the ground by a flurry of bullets.

Although painfully wounded, the sergeant refused medical assistance and continued his mission of resistance. Numerous enemy troops attempted to overrun the friendly perimeter, but Sergeant Rucker challenged the charge with accurate bursts from his M-16 rifle. Refusing to relinquish his position in the face of the enemy counterattack, the tenacious Sergeant Rucker held his ground until his injuries weakened him and caused him to fall unconscious. Moments later, American medical helicopters and gunships arrived at the scene to evacuate the beleaguered troops.

Sergeant Rucker succumbed to his wounds en route to the base hospital. Sergeant Rucker's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 963, March 20, 1971.

1960s Exemplary Alumni

In 1995, Casper College named 50 Exemplary Alumni – one outstanding graduate for each year of the college. For the 75th anniversary, the Casper College Alumni Association has named 25 more graduates, who have gone on to achieve great things.



Derrel Carruth

- Casper College, AA, agri-business, 1965
- University of Wyoming, BS, agri-business, 1968

After graduation from Casper College in 1965, Derrel Carruth spent the better part of his career in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Appointed by former President Bill Clinton in 1993 as the Wyoming state director of the USDA, he held that position until 2001. When former President George W. Bush's administration took office, they selected their own appointment, and Carruth opted for an involuntary retirement. He returned in 2009 when former President Barack Obama was elected, and Carruth was again appointed as the state director of the USDA. He held that position until his retirement in May 2013. Currently, Carruth can be found wrangling bees and roping cattle when he isn't helping out the Casper College Alumni Association as a board member.



Jerry Spicer

- Casper College, 1969
- University of Wyoming, BA and MA in sociology
- University of Minnesota, MPH in hospital/healthcare administration

Jerry Spicer retired from Great Clips as executive director of Great Clips online university and vice president of operations. During his career, he was also the president of JW Spicer Consulting, Inc., which focused on social entrepreneurship, organizational development, and interim executive services. Spicer has served as a faculty and chair for MBA, a public health and healthcare management program with several universities. For 22 years, he worked for Hazelden, a well-known nonprofit treatment program for drug and alcohol addiction. He served as president and CEO for eight of those 22 years.

Jerry now lives in the Pacific Northwest with his wife **Cheryl Spicer** ('69), whom he met in the Casper College Goodstein Foundation Library. They have two children and three grandchildren together.



Frank D. Neville

- Casper College AA, liberal arts, 1966
- University of Wyoming, BA, English literature, 1967
- University of Wyoming, Juris Doctor, 1970

After graduating from Casper College in 1966, Frank Neville went on to graduate from the University of Wyoming with a B.A. in English and then graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1970. While there, Neville was the editor and chief of the Land and Water Law Review, a legal publication of UW's College Of Law. After graduating with his law degree, Neville went to work for the law firm Wherli and Williams in Casper. In 1979, he became one of the founding partners of Williams, Porter, Day and Neville, PC, and helped build it to be the largest legal firm in Wyoming. He was inducted into the International Society of Barristers and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He continues to practice law and manage the firm. When not working, Neville spends time with his wife, Rita. Neville is also a landscape photographer and has won several awards for his photography work.

1960s Exemplary Alumni cont.



Neal Jacquot

- Casper College, AA, 1962
- University of Wyoming, BA, economics, 1965
- University of Wyoming, MA economics, 1970
- University of Chicago, fellow, 1971

Neal Jacquot is retired and living in Casper, Wyoming. He started in industrial manufacturing then taught at Eastern Montana College, now Montana State University at Billings. Jacquot then accepted a position in South Dakota with the 6th District Planning Commission as a regional economist. Later he was employed with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as an industrial economist in Montana. He was transferred to BLM's Office of Coal Management as an economist in Washington, D.C. He retired from his final position with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in 2005 as a financial specialist. While working for OSMRE in Casper, he was an adjunct faculty member at Casper College, teaching basic macro and microeconomics in the evening program for 15 years.



Aerial photograph of Casper College taken April 7, 1967. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



A crowd of students visit in the Casper College Student Center in the 1960s. Note the band in the background. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

2011

1970-1979

The decade of the 1970s saw seven new buildings built under the watchful eye of the college's president, **Tim Aley**. It was also the decade when Aley and many others tried to have Casper College become a four-year school. In 1971, 1973, and 1975, bills were introduced in the Wyoming Legislature to allow CC to add a junior and senior level. Only the first bill came close to passing. For a brief year, in 1976-1977, the University of Wyoming offered upper-division degrees on the Casper College campus. In 1977 UW vacated Casper College and landed at Wilson School as the University of Wyoming-Casper.

1970

- The United States invaded Cambodia.
- The Ohio National Guard opened fire on protesters at Kent State University.

1971

- The first transmission of email took place.
- The U.S. voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 years old.
- The first pocket-sized electronic calculator was marketed.

1972

- The Watergate scandal began.
- HBO was introduced.

1973

- The first MRI image was published in 1973.
- Abortion became a constitutional right.
- The first cellular phone was invented and demonstrated.

1974

- The first airbag was fitted to some GM cars.
- U.S. President Richard Nixon resigned.
- The UPC Bar Code was introduced.
- The world's population was an estimated 4 billion people.
- Mice were the first animals to be genetically modified.

1975

- The Vietnam War ended.
- Microsoft was created.
- "Saturday Night Live" premiered.

1976

- Apple Computer Company was founded.
- NASA introduced the first space shuttle, the Enterprise.

1977

- The movie "Star Wars" opened.
- Apple, Inc. launched the first mass-produced personal computer, the Apple II.
- The first complete DNA genome was sequenced.

1978

- Louise Brown became the first child born via in vitro fertilization.
- The mass suicide of 900 followers of Jim Jones took place.

1979

- Tilghman H. Aley retired as president of Casper College.
- **Lloyd H. Loftin** became president of Casper College.
- The Three Mile Island nuclear accident occurred.
- The Walkman was introduced by Sony.
- The Iran Hostage Crisis began.
- The World Wide Health Organization certified the eradication of smallpox.

From the United States Census Bureau: In 1970 the country's population stood at 203,302,031, which figures out to be 57.5 people per square mile of land area. The population of the country increased by 13.4% between 1960 and 1970.

Margaret Demorest: My Favorite Teacher

By Kathryn Ann (Archer) Schofield ('71)

In January 1970, my family moved from the verdant and hip atmosphere of California's Marin County to Casper. Imagine my shock as I went from the San Francisco Bay Area to Casper in the middle of a Wyoming winter. Not only was I freezing all the time, indoors and out, but also my natural shyness inhibited my ability to make new friends. Needless to say, I was a cold and unhappy student.

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

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

Although my Casper College units transferred to BYU with no problem, imagine my surprise several years later as I sat with the English department chair, ready to graduate, and she told me the 15 units from Casper College could not be counted toward my major. In vain, I pointed out that the textbooks used for the disputed courses were the same as at BYU. None of this mattered to the professor

who could not conceive of a Wyoming community college being to her standards.

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

Margaret Demorest was the instructor, then I guess I'll have to accept the credits."

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

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

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



English instructor Margaret Demorest at her desk in her office at Casper College. Demorest Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Demorest Humanities Festival

Margaret Demorest taught literature at Casper College for 25 years. She was a Shakespearean scholar, and after retirement pursued her research. It was after her retirement that colleagues and former students alike formed the Demorest Humanities Festival. The humanities festival was a tribute to Demorest's love of learning and the search of truth. The goal of the festival was to encourage scholarly research in the humanities that could be shared with the college and community. With the donations of many faculty and community members, the Casper College Foundation established the Margaret Demorest Humanities Festival, which is held every year in the spring to encourage vitality in the teaching of the humanities. A fitting legacy for one of our finest educators.



Contestants in the 1972 Miss Casper College Pageant, l-r: Judy Butts ('72), Kathy Stillahn ('74), Carol (Dinges) Johnson (AS, '74), Melanie (Marker) Huckfeldt ('74), Susan Parker (AA, '74), Pam Williams – Miss Casper College (AAS, '73), Janice (Sallstrom) Canipe (AB, '74), Jan (Berry) Malone (AA, '74), Gayle (Briggs) Powers (AB, '74). College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



This photo of a full parking lot at Casper College appeared in the 1977 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

1970s Distinguished Alumni

Diana Ohman, AA, '70



Diana Ohman had been an educator, secretary of education for Wyoming, and director of U.S. Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe serving overseas military families' educational needs. At the time of her award, she was the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific-Region director.

Roxana Boyles, AA, '71



Roxana Boyles began her research at 14 and devoted her life to find a cure for diabetes. Many successes in the area of pancreas/islet cell transplant research are due to her work. The award was given posthumously.

Ellyn Cavanagh, AS, '72



Ellyn Cavanagh received the award in recognition of her work in neonatal nursing and the care of children, particularly those in critical condition. She has written and received a multitude of grants for her concentration on critically ill children.

Brent Erickson, AS, '72



Brent Erickson was a legislative director, and the time of his award, a biotechnologist and artist.

Ben Boedeker, AS, '73



At the time of his award, Ben Boedeker, D.V.M. and Ph.D., was a pathologist, who pioneered work on the front lines of medicine in Afghanistan, and developed a medical training protocol for basic medicine in developing nations.

Terry Dunn, AS, '73



At the time of his award, Jerry Dunn had been a basketball coach for several decades, coaching at the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado State University, the University of Colorado, and as head coach at Dartmouth College.

Lloyd Loftin: A Leader Who Shaped the Focus of Classroom Education at CC

Adapted from an article in the 50th Anniversary Footprints written by Bill Landen (AA, '76)

He was at his best in quiet consultation with his close advisers, and his forte was the classroom. Even as an administrator, **Lloyd Loftin** was a teacher. When he left the classroom, his aim was always to find good teachers, then give them what they needed to provide a quality learning environment for students.

Lloyd H. Loftin spent 25 years at Casper College, first as a biology instructor and later as an administrator. He served as

dean of faculty and vice president during the tremendous growth period of the late 1960s and 1970s. Through many of those years, he and his colleagues worked in the shadow of then-President **Tim Aley**, who deservedly got the lion's share of accolades and attention. But while much of the speaking, politicking, and building was taking place in the president's office, it was Loftin who quietly assured that the house was in order.

If Loftin is remembered for little else, he will be remembered as the person responsible for assembling the faculty and staff that helped guide Casper College into the computer age. During his years, student numbers tripled, and more than 20 buildings were erected. Always that growth necessitated finding the right teachers and the right professionals to fill the need. Often Loftin would find a good teacher, then lure them to Wyoming.

Loftin took over as CC president in 1979. As the

quotation goes, "they were the best of times, they were the worst of times." They were the best of times because Casper College continued to grow and prosper. They were the worst of times because shortly after Loftin became president, the local economy busted. On the state front, a decline in revenues and a community college commission changed the political climate dramatically.

The college weathered those white caps on the water. During Loftin's tenure, a school of outreach was begun, and talks began with the University of Wyoming about bringing upper-division programs onto the Casper College campus — something that would have been unheard of a decade earlier. In 1986, the university and college signed the agreement that made it possible.

Loftin was convinced that former students could play a role in the future of the college. Many of his peers disagreed — community college alumni, they said, simply took their allegiance to the universities where they transferred. Loftin's views were proven out at Casper College and other colleges across the country, where alumni associations are taking key roles in planning and development.

Loftin openly admitted that he preferred small gatherings to large ones and a classroom to a speaker's podium. He did not seek the limelight. Still, he will be remembered as one of the very important figures in the first half-century at Casper College.



Lloyd Loftin at his desk at Casper College. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Bareback Rider, Writer, Recalls Time at Casper College

By John Sloan (AA, '70)



The 1969 Casper College Rodeo Team, back row, l-r: Doug Wilson (AS, '70), Ron Givens ('69), Charlie Winters ('69). Standing, l-r: Gene Jordan (AS, '69), Jay Mader (AS, '69), Allen Gaddis (AVE, '70), Pat Miller (AS, '69), Dick Stull (AS, '70). Front row: l-r: John Sloan (AA, '70) and Dennis McKinley (AS, '71). Dale Stiles Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

I pulled into Casper in 1968, not knowing a soul. I had talked to Casper College Rodeo Coach **Dale Stiles** on the phone, but that was it. My first night in Casper, I arrived in town after winning a bareback riding competition at a rodeo in Michigan. I went to a Natrona County High School football game and ran into **Dan Hubbel** ('67). We were friends from that night on, and Casper quickly became my home.

During my two years at Casper College, we had a great rodeo team. I was fortunate enough to become the runner-up National Bareback Riding Champion in 1970, and several team members went on to become outstanding professional cowboys.

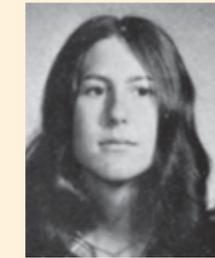
After graduation, I left Casper College and went to Laramie, Wyoming. In 1972, I moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and went to work for country singer Loretta Lynn. I retired completely from the professional rodeo and country music industry in 1976. I became a fulltime, freelance outdoor writer, and still have a syndicated newspaper column while writing for

two magazines. I currently have the longest continuously running outdoor newspaper column in the world, 45 years. I have won over 150 awards for writing, photography, and videos.

My career path started when I was hired as a disc jockey at Casper radio station KVOC in 1968. I suspect, Casper College President **Tim Aley** had something to do with me being hired. I had a show from 6 p.m. to midnight called "The Mouthwash for Lovers." It quickly became the No. 2 time slot on KVOC.

I have made a few trips back to Casper since graduation. I joined a group of

1970s Distinguished Alumni



Holly Nye, AS, '73

At the time of her award, Holly Nye, Ph.D., had retired from the U.S. Navy with the rank of lieutenant commander in surface warfare, and following retirement obtained her Ph.D. in cell and structural biology.



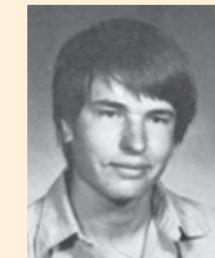
Jerry Dunn, AS, '74

At the time of his award, Jerry Dunn had been a basketball coach for several decades, coaching at George Mason, Penn State, West Virginia University, the University of Michigan, and Tuskegee University. He was also the development coach for the New York Knicks.



Dr. Stephen W. Nicholas, AA, '74

At the time of his award, Stephen Nicholas, M.D., was involved in research and instruction in the field of pediatrics and the study of the disease AIDS. He dedicated his career to serving underprivileged children with AIDS and their families.



Lee Swanstrom, AS, '76

At the time of his award, Lee Swanstrom, M.D., had pioneered the technique of natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery. He also performed the first transgastric endoscopic cholecystectomy in the United States.



Ron Franscell, AA, '78

At the time of his award, Ron Franscell had worked as a senior writer for the Denver Post and was an award-winning published author.

national outdoor writers on Casper Mountain, and then again in 1995 to attend a reunion in honor of "Daddy Dale" for his retirement. I look back on my time at Casper College as two of the best years of my life.

The Casper College Coquettes

By Lea Schoenewald (AA, '72)

In the fall of 1971, the Casper College Student Center Board announced the formation of a new sophomore hostess committee. The "Coquettes" were to have several responsibilities, as official representatives of President **Tim Aley** and the college itself.

The word coquette means "flirt" in French. None of us had any problem with the name; in fact, we thought it was kind of cute!

The selection process involved filling out an application, and an interview with the Casper College Center Board President

Dennis Gray (AA, '73) and the other officers. I remember Dennis asking me, "Would you be nervous if you had to meet the Governor?" I answered that Governor Stan Hathaway and my dad had gone to law school together at the University of Wyoming, so no, I wouldn't be nervous! And I was so happy to be selected!

Our sponsor was Mrs. **Kathie Anderson**, a secretarial sciences instructor, and an accomplished seamstress. She made our outfits, which the college paid for: navy blue vests and skirts, and long white ties with navy blue and red polka dots. We

added long-sleeved white blouses and white go-go boots. Talk about instantly recognizable!

Our chairman was **Vicki (Long) Foster** (AA, '72). The other members were **Beverly (Weiser) King** (AA, '72), **Nancy Kingsolver** (AA, '72), **Sharon Boehn** ('72), **Kathy Wilson** (AB, '72), **Ruth (Sisk) Higday** (AB, '72), and **Carolyn Johnson**. I hadn't known some of the girls well when we were freshmen, but we really gelled quickly as a group. Then in the spring, four freshmen were welcomed in: **Judy (Derry) Prewitt** ('73), **Terri (Denniston) Struble** (AA, '73), **Joyce Grubb** (AB, '73), and **Marilyn (Norman) Martin** (AB, '73). Depending on the activity, we worked in different combinations; and we always had a great time and got along wonderfully well.

Our activities were many and varied, including ushering at concerts, plays, and musicals, serving food and drinks at the Ranch-City Party, and my favorite: ushering at basketball games. We handed out programs and cheered wildly with all the other fans.

There were no women's sports at Casper College in 1971-72. It wasn't ladylike to sweat. So, the men's basketball team was the biggest show in town! T-Bird Gym was ALWAYS packed whenever the guys took the floor, and they eventually took seventh at the National Junior College Athletic Association Basketball Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas! I absolutely LOVED my Coquette days!

When I transferred to the University of Wyoming in 1972, I applied for their hostess committee, WYO Gals. Being a Coquette certainly played a part in my being selected!



Coquettes, l-r: Carolyn Johnson, Ruth (Sisk) Higday, Kathy Wilson, Beverly King, Sharon Boehm, Nancy Kingsolver, Lea (Cavalli) Schoenewald, and Vicki Long.

High Expectations — The CC Tennis Team, 1975-1986

By Jean Wheatley, tennis teacher, coach and participant 1969-2020

"Play for grown people is recreation, the renewal of life; for children it is growth — the gaining of life." — Joseph Lee

Obviously, I can see this in all types of play and sport, but I will relate these comments to the Casper College Tennis team from 1975-1986.

Bill Vance and I began an unofficial Casper College Tennis Club fall 1975.



From l-r: Ross Mason, president; Sue Lorimer, women's president; Jean Wheatley and Bill Vance, sponsors.

Students supplied their own rackets. We became an official club fall 1976. **Sue Lorimer** ('76), was the women's president, and **Russ Mason** (AS, '77) was the men's president.

These years were bursting with growth and interest in tennis and other sports, with Title IX at the community college level. We began competition in volleyball and basketball for women in 1972, and it was time to add tennis, which was my personal favorite! We had strong support from the administration, but no scholarships, just a few tuition waivers.

I was involved in the Wyoming Community College Athletic Conference from 1976-1993, a huge growth period for sports at the community college level.

Casper College was the first to step up for tennis; others joined in the next five years. We also competed with Black Hills State University and the University of Wyoming.

Region IX adopted tennis in 1974, and this gave our conference a real boost, because the winner was eligible to go to the National Junior College Athletic

Association National Tennis Championship in Ocala, Florida, or Midland, Texas. Tennis was a growing sport, and I knew we could draw the best Wyoming players.

I wanted to win, of course, and win we did! I could name all of our local and state players, outstanding young men and women, and many are still playing today.

By the early 1980s, I saw the need to begin recruiting out of state and abroad, as other sports were doing. Sue Lorimer, our first club president,

gave us a great start. Her career has been outstanding, retiring as deputy chancellor of the Los Rios Community College District. She often pays tribute to her beginnings at Casper College and was nominated for the Casper College Distinguished Alumni Award.

My second international recruit was **Jude Banahene** (AS, '83) from Ghana, Africa. He wanted an education, and he could play tennis! He arrived in Casper with one wooden racket, an overnight bag, and no money! Many people in the community and faculty stepped up for support, and we had a team! Jude went on to become an electrical engineer and consultant and received a Casper College Exemplary Alumni Award in 1995!

My title, "High Expectations," fits all our team members; they all deserve awards! Our years of competition were

very successful. We won the Men and Women's Region IX Tennis Tournament at least six of our eight years. The nationals were usually held in Ocala. On one of our early trips, we felt we had a strong team. My recruit from New Mexico, our No. 1 player, took 30 shirts, one for each match to the finals. Needless to say, he wore one shirt — one match!

No, we never placed at nationals, and we did not score well. We came from Wyoming, unpredictable weather and short seasons! Many sportsmanship awards, however!

In order to be eligible for nationals, the region must have at least four teams. By 1986 we were down to three; Casper College, Central Wyoming College, and Laramie County Community College. Casper College was the last in our region to drop tennis, due to competition. I was invited back to the 1986 NJCAA National Tennis Championship in Ocala as honorary director, mainly to say goodbye to the sport and coaches I admired.

"Success in any endeavor is a matter of muscle and mind. There will be winners and losers; what you seek is what you find." — George Allen

My point is, these Wyoming athletes and a few outstanding recruits were there with "High Expectations," and they've gone on to prove their love and loyalty to Casper College and the greater world!



L-r: Sue Lorimer and Jean Wheatley, 1975.

Herman Werner and the Werner Wildlife Museum

Adapted from an article by Valeria Innella Maiers, art history instructor



Herman Werner outside the Taj Mahal in India.

Wyoming rancher Herman Werner (1892-1973) had the vision to create a public display where he could share the trophies he had accumulated throughout his life. Werner decided to donate his Werner Wildlife Museum to Casper College in August 1970. The Werner hosts over 6,000 visitors each year.

Werner traveled extensively and collected specimens through his adventures. The idea for a museum was in response to “requests of some of the city’s schools and other groups to see his wildlife trophies, which prompted him to think of a permanent repository for the trophies and other outstanding artifacts.” The City of Casper donated the land, and Werner supported the construction effort.

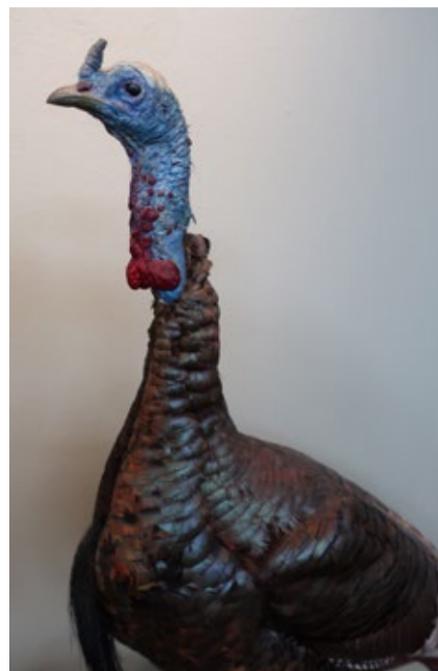
The Werner is a free museum open to the public. Students of Casper College regularly use the museum for their biology classes, as well as elementary students on field trips. The Werner museum’s two floors house many wonders within its walls — the 11-foot tall polar bear ranked

Wildlife of the Wyoming plains come to life in displays such as this at the Werner Wildlife Museum. Casper College photo.

30th in the Boone and Crockett records of big game animals when it was donated in 1973.

In the spring of 1977, the Werner Wildlife Museum lower level diorama was unveiled to the Casper community. The diorama contained North American pronghorn antelope and a badger in a prairie life zone. The scenery was painted by Steve Munsinger from the biology department at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. Casper College zoology instructor **Jim Howard**, and biology instructor **Larry Lofgren**, who also prepared the plants in the diorama. Their students completed the diorama landscape, inspired by the view at the intersection of Wyoming Highway 220 and the Medicine Bow cutoff west of Casper.

Thanks to the vision of Herman Werner, the Werner Wildlife Museum is a fascinating edition to Casper College that can be enjoyed by the entire community.



A Merriam's turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo meriami* on display at the Werner Wildlife Museum. Casper College photo.

Casper College Opened Door of Opportunity

By Bill Landen (AA, '76)

I rounded the corner on the second floor of Bailey Hall and ran smack dab into one of the biggest people I had ever seen. In my life. Before or since. And I could tell he was not from the same part of the world where I grew up.

We did not have many people of color who lived in Daniel, Wyoming, back then. Our graduating class at Pinedale High School had none.

Just as it was for so many students who come out of less populated, more isolated communities in the West, Casper College was my first introduction into the bigger world out there and to people who hailed from somewhere else.

I was a little intimidated. To this day, I wonder if 6'6" **Bill Dice** (AAS, '76) felt the same way, staring at a 5'7" skinny kid from Western Wyoming. Later, I would find out that Bill had the courage to leave his hometown of Chicago a thousand miles away; he caught a bus to Casper, a place he had never heard of growing up, where he would play basketball for Swede Erickson. Big or not, I knew he felt homesick too.

Bill and I became friends. He is part of the Thunderbird legend now; he helped lead Casper College to the national tournament in 1976. I was editor of the Chinook campus newspaper at the time, so I traveled with the team and still have vivid memories of those days. Bill went on to great things in life; last I heard he was still on the management team of American Airlines. I, of course, stayed in my home state.

Much of my history has been written by the college I chose to attend. I opted for Casper College mostly due to **Arlene Larson**, the English and journalism teacher who personally called me one night and asked me to come. I was thinking about attending college in Utah, just down the road from Sublette County. She talked me out of it.

A few years after leaving the college and finishing a second degree at the University of Wyoming, I had begun a newspaper journalism career, stopping first at the Riverton Ranger and then arriving back in Casper to work for the Casper Star-Tribune. One day, sitting there writing a column, I received a phone call from **Lloyd Loftin**, Ph.D., then president of CC. “I want you to come visit with me about a job,” he said.

The rest, as they say, is my professional history. I was to spend the next 30 years back at a college that had meant so much to me. I will always be grateful to Dr. Loftin — a mentor, a friend, and an adviser — for giving me that opportunity to come “home” to Casper College.

Back during those days at Bailey Hall, I had found myself in a perfect environment. Mrs. Larson had been right. Casper College was just right for a Wyoming student coming out of a small high school environment to grow, to learn, and to prepare for what was next. I met fellow students from all over the world at Casper College, from the Middle East to the Pacific Rim nations, Africa, and Canada. I met people from Wyoming places like Ranchester, Shoshoni, Sundance, and Cheyenne who would become friends for life, connected forever because we played cards in the lobby, or watched “Star Trek” together, or spent late nights putting the paper to bed, or stood in the stands at T-Bird Gym to cheer on the Thunderbirds.

At a bigger university, I would never have had the opportunity to serve as editor of the campus newspaper, at least not as a sophomore. I sat on the Associated Students of Casper College, the student government. Back then, college President **Tim Aley**, Ph.D., made you feel like he really cared about issues we thought were important. And all the while, I attended classes where instructors like **Jon Brady**,



Bill Landen. Casper College photo.

Carolyn Logan, Jim Milek, Tom Clifford, and Jean Wheatley knew my name. They cared about my success.

To this day, Casper College is that kind of place. Oh, the names have changed. Many of those revered teachers have retired. But new great ones have replaced them.

I used to tell my colleagues at Casper College that each day we had the opportunity to change somebody’s life, maybe with just a phone call. That might be more important to remember in these days of misunderstandings and polarized views. College is where you get to bounce things around and find out about different ways of life or different views that aren’t so bad.

I often think about where I would have ended up or how had it not been for Arlene Larson’s phone call. She died not long ago, and after reading her obituary, I wonder if she thought I had done OK.

My Story — and I'm Stickin' to It

By David Long ('72)

I hadn't put a lot of planning into education after graduating from Cheyenne East High School in Cheyenne, Wyoming. There was no doubt I was going to college, but I didn't know where.

Casper College wasn't even on my radar. It seemed everyone was going to the University of Wyoming. It appeared that I had to "go along" with the crowd most of my life. So, I applied for Casper College and was accepted. I had no idea at that time what a life-changing event this would become.

Being three hours away was just far enough away. I had my own identity and was excited again about education. I loved the freedom of coming and going to class from Bailey Hall.

For the first time in my life, I felt that I could have my own identity, not that of my parents or brother. I met wonderful people there that are friends today. I think some would agree with me that we were a family, a support system. Someone to celebrate with and someone to complain with. Beer was easy to get, and that brought on many good memories, in the dorm, on Casper Mountain, Bessemer Bend, and Alcova Lake.

The instructors motivated me, and my friends encouraged me. I wanted to be a good student for my own benefit, not to please someone else. I have great memories of my two years at Casper College.

In my final semester, I got a message from the president of the United States in the form of a draft notice! Vietnam was still in full swing in 1972. My major was medical technology.

I was slated to enter the United States Air Force later in the year as a medical laboratory technologist. After the summer, I would be on my way to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Tech school was at Sheppard AFB in Texas, and what I had learned at Casper College made tech school easy.

There is another form of recreation whos conviviality is unmatched by basketball, intermurals, or even foosball. It is a national college tradition, but in Wyoming it takes on a special meaning when so much of the year is spent indoors.

The Kegger.

Taken from the 1973-74 Casper College Thunderbird Yearbook.

My first permanent duty assignment was at Norton AFB in San Bernardino, California. I learned the job and worked with dedicated medical professionals at the base clinic.

In December 1974, I got orders to report to Elmendorf AFB in Alaska. Elmendorf had a big hospital that served active duty, family, and retired members of the military. Work was mostly routine, but I continued to learn. I went to classes at the University of Alaska. I separated from the USAF in 1976.

I applied for the Wyoming Highway Patrol. I never made it to the testing process. At that time, an applicant had to have 20/20 uncorrected vision. I didn't and was told I was not eligible to be a trooper wearing glasses.

I applied for the Colorado State Patrol and got hired right away. My mom was horrified at my career choice.

The Colorado State Patrol Training Academy was long but seemed to go quickly. Classroom training was interesting. Constitutional law was of particular interest to me. Shooting guns and driving fast cars was the frosting on the cake. After graduation, I was stationed at the Golden, Colorado, office, taught at the academy, and transferred to Ft. Collins, Colorado, where I was going to finish my career.



I spent 32 years as a trooper, a sergeant, and finished up as the senior noncommissioned officer on the CSP. I finished with the rank of sergeant major. I retired in 2010.

In 2000, I got the idea of serving on the Casper College Alumni Association board of directors. I feel fortunate they accepted me. I was able to arrange my schedule so that I made almost every meeting. The campus, "Harvard on the hill," had changed SO much. The folks I worked with were still the intelligent, forward-thinking scholars I learned from so long ago. Again, most of who I was on the board with are friends.

So, here I am, an honored alum. I can't believe it; there are SO MANY qualified alums worthy of this honor. I accept this honor in humble gratitude. I honor all of you and all the alums of this great institution. What a great thread we all have in common — Casper College.

Bull Riding Artist Recalls Time at CC

By Chris Navarro ('76, '84)

My father was a 30-year career-military soldier, and I grew up on numerous air bases. I rode in the military rodeo association until I graduated from high school in Madrid in 1974. I then traveled back to the United States to live in San Antonio, where I rodeoed throughout the summer. My parents were still stationed in Spain and wanted me to go to college. I thought about an article that I had read in Western Horseman magazine about the champion Casper College Rodeo team in Casper, Wyoming.



Navarro competing in bull riding during his time at Casper College. Courtesy Chris Navarro.

I talked to the counselor at my high school, and she informed me that Wyoming was known as "The Cowboy State." That sold it for me. I decided that's where I was going to college and rodeo, too. I obtained a driver's license and purchased my first car all in the same day. It was a 1966 Plymouth for \$250. At the end of summer, I loaded everything I owned into that old Plymouth and headed out on a 1,250-mile road trip to Casper. I had never been to Wyoming and did not know anyone there when I moved into Bailey Hall on the Casper College campus in the fall of 1974 and lived there through 1976. Casper College has had a great impact on my life, and it is the reason I moved and settled in Casper. I have made my home here now for 46 years.

After college, I started working in the Wyoming oil fields as a drill pipe inspector for AMF Tuboscope.

Navarro rides atop his sculpture Essence of Rex during the Central Wyoming Parade. The sculpture is now on the Casper College campus. Casper College Public Relations.

I wasn't competing in rodeo at the time, and I felt as though something was missing in my life. I wanted to make a living doing something I loved and was passionate about. So, I decided to become a professional artist. I went back and started taking art classes again at Casper College and March 13, 1986, I quit my oil field job. That was the day I started pursuing my dream of being

a professional sculptor. My son, JC, was 10 months old, and my wife Lynne was pregnant with daughter Natalie.

Since then, I am in my 34th year of making art for a living. My wife and I opened Navarro Gallery and Sculpture Garden 20 years ago in Sedona, Arizona. I have placed over 34 monumental bronze sculptures throughout the country. I have written four books, was selected as the

Honorary Artist for the 2015 Buffalo Bill Art Show in Cody, Wyoming, received the 2015 Wyoming Governor's Art Award, and in 2018 received the Distinguished Alumni award for Casper College.

In 1995, working with Casper College and alumnus **Bill Landen** (AA, '76), I created Spirit of the Thunderbird monumental bronze to celebrate Casper College's 50th anniversary.

Spirit of the Thunderbird depicts the Native American warrior medicine man in his ritual dance. This monumental bronze sculpture is located at Casper College.

In 2014 working with Casper resident Marialyce Tobin, Casper College Foundation Executive Director **Paulann Doane**, and Casper College, I created Essence of Rex monumental bronze. Essence of Rex is a life-size *tyrannosaurus rex*. One side is skeletal while the other side is "fleshed out." LED lights illuminate the piece from within, and the light radiating outward gives the sculpture a special effect. The sculpture is located at the entrance to the Tate Geological Museum at the college.

Family, horses, rodeo, and art have been the driving passions of my life. I have been blessed with a great passion. I really love what I do and hope others see



that through the works I have created. Knowing my work will be standing in the sun long after I'm gone for future generations to experience and enjoy is extremely rewarding.

1970s Exemplary Alumni



Senator Jim Anderson

- Casper College, AB, business, 1972

Born and raised in Kaycee, Wyoming, Senator Jim Anderson is a third-generation Wyomingite committed to the communities in which he lives. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969-1970, serving in the Vietnam War. He spent his career working for Wyoming Machinery in Casper and Gillette. He has served the state of Wyoming as a Senator since 2012 and is the Wyoming Senate Minerals committee chairman.

Anderson is a Rotarian and was the Rotary president in Gillette, Wyoming, in 1984 and Casper in 1994. He was the chairman of the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce in 1986. Anderson was chairman of the Campbell County Republican Party in 1988, while also serving as the chairman of the Campbell County United Way.

Anderson's wife **Susan (Lund) Anderson** (AS, '71) is a registered nurse. They have two daughters: Amy, a nurse practitioner, and Ashley, a pharmacist.



Richard S. Sullins

- Casper College, AS, psychology, 1973
- Baylor University, BA, psychology, 1976
- University of Northern Colorado, MS, statistics — research and statistical methodology, 1977
- University of Texas at Dallas, graduate coursework in statistics, computer science and accounting

Richard S. Sullins worked from 1981 to 2004 at Texas Instruments, serving in numerous engineering, development, analyst, and team leadership roles supporting Texas Instruments' semiconductor manufacturing systems. He was a leadership team member for Computer Integrated Manufacturing Systems and also spearheaded applications set up for a billion-dollar semiconductor factory startup. He established a real-time reporting architecture that became the strategic reporting methodology for enterprise manufacturing systems. He was one of a three-member, self-managed team that delivered one of Texas Instrument's first web applications — software component reuse repository. Sullins also served as technical lead and systems analyst on enterprise-level implementation projects for the University of Texas at Dallas as the database administrator, system analyst IV.



Reza "Ciah" Arabian Maleki

- Casper College, AS engineering, 1979
- North Dakota State University, BS, industrial engineering and management, 1981
- North Dakota State University, MS, industrial engineering and management, 1982
- North Dakota State University, Ph.D., engineering with a concentration in industrial engineering and management, 1989

Reza "Ciah" Maleki is a registered professional engineer, certified manufacturing manager, academic associate of Avraham Y. Goldratt Institute, a Lean Bronze Certified Practitioner, and has certification in Lean Leadership. Included in Maleki's publications is the book, "Flexible Manufacturing Systems: The Technology and Management," which was published by Prentice-Hall. He currently serves as a senior business adviser at Impact Dakota, where the primary focus of his activities is on the development and delivery of high-value services to client companies.



Kee Dunning

- Casper College, AA, social sciences, 1979
- Eastern Montana College, BS, education and social political science, 1982
- Montana State University, MS, education, 1995
- Montana State University, MS, interdisciplinary studies, 1998

Kee Dunning is a licensed clinical professional counselor, consultant, and owner of Dunning Counseling and Consulting in Billings, Montana. As a mental health counselor, Dunning sees clients across the life span with a special interest in working with children and their families. As a consultant, she works with local agencies like the Tumbleweed Program. Tumbleweed is a nonprofit organization in Billings focused on helping children and young adults at risk for homelessness. Dunning works with both the youth and employees of the agency to improve access and outcomes for some of the most vulnerable individuals in her community.



Father Kevin F. Burke S.J., S.T.D.

- Casper College, general studies, 1972
- Rockhurst College, BS, business administration, 1975
- Weston School of Theology, MS, divinity with honors, 1986
- Weston School of Theology, licentiate, sacred theology, 1993
- Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Ph.D., sacred theology, 1998
- Congregation for Catholic Education, professor ordinarius in facultate theologica, Vatican City: nihil obstat granted 2007

After Casper College, Father Kevin Burke spent decades as a professor of theology at two Jesuit theology centers: Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Massachusetts, and the Jesuit School of Theology in California. Currently, Father Burke is the vice president for mission at Regis University in Denver. The vice president for mission serves on the president's cabinet and coordinates efforts to deepen and share the university's Jesuit, Catholic mission and identity with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and beyond.



David Long

- Casper College, 1972
- University of Alaska, 1974

David Long attended Casper College in the early 1970s, and then was drafted into the U.S. Air Force. He served as a medical technologist. He served stateside and did his training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. He was then assigned to Norton Air Force Base in California, and then Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. While he was in Alaska, he attended the University of Alaska. After leaving the Air Force, Long pursued a career with the Colorado Highway Patrol. He spent 32 years as a state trooper. He retired as a sergeant major in 2010.

1980-1989

1980-1989

Lloyd Loftin finished his career at Casper College in 1988. During his tenure, he oversaw the completion of three new buildings in 1980 and the addition of five more buildings. Loftin helped work out an agreement with the University of Wyoming to bring the University of Wyoming back to the Casper College campus. By the fall of 1987, the University of Wyoming/Casper College Upper Division Center would be partially in place and offer one master's degree and seven bachelor's degree programs. **Lester T. Vierra** took over as president.

1980

- Pac-Man debuted.
- CNN, the first 24-hour cable news network, premiered.
- Mount St. Helens in Washington state erupted.

1981

- Iran released the 52 U.S. hostages held in Tehran for 444 days.
- The AIDS virus was identified.
- Music Television, MTV, began broadcasting.
- Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer married on live television.
- The first IBM personal computer was released.

1982

- The first CD players are sold.
- The first edition of the newspaper USA Today was published.

1983

- "Word" was released by Microsoft.
- Motorola introduced the first mobile phones to the United States.

1984

- The United Kingdom agreed to hand over control of Hong Kong to China in 1997.
- Geraldine Ferraro became the first female vice-presidential running mate.
- Apple launched the Macintosh computer.

1985

- The first version of Microsoft Windows was released.
- The wreck of the Titanic was discovered.

1986

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day was officially observed for the first time.
- The Chernobyl nuclear reactor exploded in the USSR.
- The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded after liftoff.

1987

- Disposable contact lenses are first sold.
- "The Simpsons" made their debut on the "Tracy Ullman Show."
- The Dow Jones industrial average closed over 2,000 for the first time in history.
- The Fox television network began.
- The New York Stock Exchange lost a record 22.6 % of its value.

1988

- Osama bin Laden formed al-Qaida.
- Lloyd H. Loftin retired as president of Casper College.
- Lester T. Vierra became the fifth president of Casper College.

1989

- The Berlin Wall was torn down.
- The Exxon Valdez crashed into Bligh Reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

From the United States Census Bureau:
In 1980 the country's population stood at 226,542,199, which figures out to be 64.0 people per square mile of land area. The population of the country increased by 11.4% between 1970 and 1980.

CC Memories

By *Craig Reasoner (AB, '86)*

I had some fantastic memories from the home of the Thunderbirds! During my first semester, I rode my mountain bike every day, no matter the weather. Rain or snow or sunshine, it didn't matter, I rode every day.

I soon realized that I wasn't always in control of my bike. One day I was riding around the Goodstein Foundation Library, and I accidentally hit a female student. Knocked her down, and her backpack and books went everywhere. She was scared but OK and not hurt. A few days later, I was riding down stairs near the classroom building, and I was going too fast and crashed. My bike slid, and I tripped a female student — the EXACT same student. The next week it snowed, and I was again riding down the stairs from the T-Bird Gym toward the main office, and I lost control and ran into three students just as I was slowing down. That same girl was so mad!!!! I asked her how many times did I have to wreck into her before she gave me her phone number.

We also had an incredible coed flag football team that went undefeated and won the intramural championship. Those were great times. Some other people on that team — **John Roth** ('84), **Tommy**



NCHS State Golf Champions, l-r: Warren Wallace (AAS, '90), Jamie Peck, Mike Dalton, Craig Reasoner (AB, '87), and Martin Del Monte.

Litman ('87), **Chris Roth** ('86), **Heidi Harris** (AB, '88), **Louise Riddle** ('86), and her brother **John Riddle** ('87), to name a few.

In my accounting 102 class, Jan. 28, 1986, — I'll never forget the day. Our

professor came in somberly to tell us class was dismissed due to the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, killing all seven astronauts, and the teacher who was on board. Very sad. Those are just a few stories of my great years at Casper College.

Robbie the Robot

By *Kevin Nesius (AAS, '85)*

I was sitting in a calculus class with seats for about 100 people. About 20 of us were left listening to the instructor. The door was usually left open because we were in the tech building, and there wasn't any traffic. All of a sudden, Robbie the Robot on wheels comes in, turns toward the instructor, and rolls to about 10 feet from him.

The robot had a door on the front of it that opened, and two diodes lit up, and it made an electric sound. The door then closed, and the robot turned and proceeded out the room and

down the hall. The instructor, I remember, followed it to the door of the robotics lab. The instructor went in and closed the door. We couldn't hear what was said, but it was the end of class anyway, so we all went to our next class. That instructor never commented on it, but we all knew those upperclassmen in the robotics lab probably scored some points with their professor.

The Gertie at 30

Article adapted from the documentary: "The Gertie at 30"

When the college began in 1945, there were theater productions at Natrona County High School. When the college moved to campus, **Kenneth Ury** continued to produce plays in the Penthouse Theater in the basement of Liesinger Hall, formerly known as the Liesinger Administration Building. **Tom Empey** arrived and continued to produce plays in the Penthouse Theater, but space was a huge problem. The Casper College president at the time, **Tim Aley**, knew the challenges of the Penthouse and looked for funds to build a new theater.

After approaching many Casper business people, Gertrude Krampert came into the picture. A lover of theater, every year she would travel to New York City for 10 days for the sole purpose of watching plays. A successful businesswoman in Casper, there were also rumors about how she accumulated her wealth. Still, her lifelong secretary, through the words of her daughter, disputes the notion that she became wealthy any other way, then through real estate and good investments.

Getting money from Krampert wasn't easy, and she seemed to revel in keeping Aley and the foundation on a string despite several meetings and pleas. It wasn't until they announced to the public

that they were going to build the theater without a name that Krampert finally capitulated and agreed to donate \$1 million.

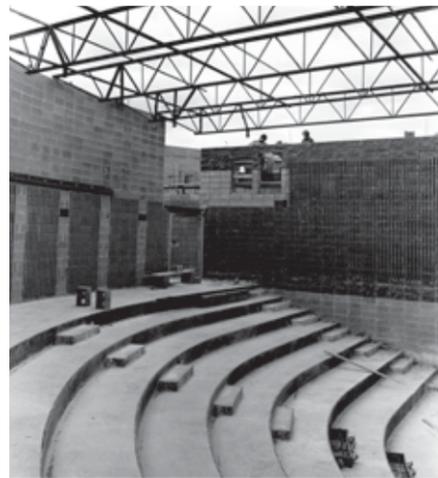
Sept. 18, 1985, there was a grand opening of the theater with Wyoming Secretary of State Thyra Thompson and other dignitaries to honor Krampert. On opening night of the play "You Can't Take it With You," the theater was packed. Krampert sat in her reserved seat. After the play, **Lloyd Loftin**, Casper College president, introduced Krampert first and let the audience know that they were all sitting in the theater thanks to her. Empey extolled the virtues of Krampert and her contribution to the arts in Casper.

The Gertrude Krampert Theatre has expanded since it was first built to include the Thomas H. Empey Studio Theatre. However, the theater will always have the spirit of Krampert and all the wonderful people that worked together to give the community of Casper and Casper College students the incredible theater that bears the name of Gertrude Krampert.

To see the documentary "The Gertie at 30," go to pbs.org/video/wyoming-chronicle-gertie-thirty.



Gertrude Krampert poses with a plaque, flowers and a card that reads "Thank you Gertrude." College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



The Gertrude Krampert Theatre under construction. Photo taken April 7, 1985. Casper Star-Tribune Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



Mrs. Payne, a Remembrance

By Curtis C. Cochran ('83)

Mrs. (Treva) Payne. She was my mathematics instructor. She helped me understand the correlation between mathematics and human behavior. With her assistance, along with several others, I went on to earn three bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, and two doctorates. A community helps raise the young, but this one woman helped me become the successful man that I am today! It really is amazing how strong Casper College is when it comes to their academics. Lastly, I can only say thank you, Casper College, thank you for bringing Mrs. Payne into my life!

College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Thanks, Casper College!

By Marty Brammer (AS, '87)

I moved from Gillette, Wyoming, in 1983 to go into the radiography program and started working in the cafeteria at Wyoming Medical Center, known as Memorial Hospital of Natrona County at the time.

My first semester in algebra, I met **Theresa Garvin** ('84), and she invited me to be a men's and women's basketball cheerleader, and I said: "Sure, sounds fun!"

I did it for three years and loved it. **Jean Wheatley** was our sponsor, and **Lori Craft** was our coach. We went to Greeley, Colorado, for regionals in 1985 and won it, so we went to nationals in Hutchinson, Kansas, and took ninth in the nation! We got to cheer, and I did Heyoka during our halftimes! We had a blast! My last year of cheerleading was **Swede Erickson's** last year coaching.

Several years ago, I put together a collage that is hanging in the foyer at the gym.

I loved the games, fans, trips, special events, and supporting and promoting CC!!!

I graduated in 1987 and worked in the cardiac catheterization lab at WMC until 2002 then went into cancer treatment. I spent almost 30 years there, finishing as a part-time CPR instructor.

I now work for Rocky Mountain Oncology at the Lander, Wyoming site, serving Fremont County.

I've had the best education and career because of Casper College!! GO T-BIRDS!!

Thanks for the opportunity to share my story!

Marty Brammer
Lander, Wyoming
PS — Both my daughters,
Brittney Brammer (AA '13) and
Marissa Brammer (AB '16, AS '18),
are CC grads!!



Thunderbird cheerleaders in 1986 or 1987. Marty Brammer is the male student on the left. Theresa Garvin is on his shoulder. Can you help us identify the others in this photo? Photo courtesy Marty Brammer.

80s Moments



Gail Zimmerman, Ph.D. at the Werner Wildlife Museum about 1983. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



The Casper College Jazz Ensemble directed by **Thomas Kinser**, facing the group, in rehearsal.

The Terraces at Casper College

Taken from ALUMS magazine, Fall 1982

Any Casper College student who has had to trudge up “C” Hill to make a gym class after soaking up English or econ must recall vividly the campus topography. Actually, a student must climb 101 feet to get from the Liesinger Administration Building to T-Bird Gym. Anyone going to the Grace Werner Agricultural Pavilion has to climb another 40 feet. Getting up the “Burma Road” in snow time can give the traveler visions of attacking Cloud Peak. The early founders and movers of the college could hardly envision a campus of 26 major structures or residential areas that had to be somehow dug in, set in, perched on, or

poured over the complicated ridge upon which the campus is built. Nor could they predict mudslides and drainage troubles.

So, we have “the walls,” terraces really, which hold the campus up and provide level land for flowers, grass, and trees. Ground squirrels live in the terraces, and students sit on them. Casper College is probably the only college in the world with a bench 19,000 feet long, which is how long the terraces were when last measured in fall 1982. Of course, they get longer every summer. And of course, they are all built by hand. So far, the terraces represent 3600 tons of stone, some of it local, much of it lately Lyons sandstone from

Colorado. There is a story about a truck driver whose tales about all the rock he was hauling to CC were not believed until the disbeliever’s looked for themselves.

But with all the practical necessity in constructing the terraces for soil and drainage control, the bigger gain is probably aesthetic. One cannot really appreciate how extensive the terraces have become, nor the unique character they lend to the campus, from reading about them or seeing photographs. One must come to see, just like the truck driver’s doubting associates.



Above: Casper College instructors take a break from laying rock walls in the days when they worked on campus construction. Pictured l-r: John Schroer, Bob Moenkhaus, and Cliff Pomeroy. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Left: Casper College employee Erin Dunn (’91) maneuvered a lawn mower on the terraces on the front lawn of the campus in 1980. Casper Star-Tribune Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

More 80s Moments



Troy Runner (’92) takes a breather while shoeing a horse with a sore hoof during a horseshoeing class. Casper Star-Tribune Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



New Casper College graduates from 1989. L-r: Patricia Edwards (AB, AB), Sandra (Doerr) Negro (AB) and Wendy Davenport (AAS). Casper Star-Tribune Collection, Casper College Western History Center.



Smiling faces from the first graduates of the Casper College Fire Science Program in 1989. Pictured l-r: Bob Siplon, Rich Carpenter, Jennifer Morton, Brett Morton, Jack Cummings, and Glenn Welton.

1980s Distinguished Alumni



Daniel and Patricia Goble, ’80

At the time of this award, Patricia had performed as a singer and actress in many high-profile performances. Dan was the dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Western Connecticut State University and played with the New York Philharmonic, the Harvey Pittel Saxophone Quartet, and many other notable groups.



Harriet Hageman, ’83

At the time of this award, Harriet Hageman had been the senior district attorney general with the Water and Natural Resources Division of the Wyoming Attorney General’s Office, co-creator of the Wyoming Conservation Alliance, and co-founder of the law firm, Hageman and Brighton, P.C. Hageman also ran for governor of Wyoming in 2018.



Wayne Hunter, AS, ’83

At the time of this award, Wayne Hunter, Ph.D., was the research entomologist and lead for the Subtropical Insect Research Unit at the U.S. Horticultural Research Lab in Fort Pierce, Florida.



Kurt Stamm, AA, ’84

At the time of his award Kurt Stamm had directed and choreographed more than 30 shows at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts in Saugatuck, Michigan. He had been nominated for, and had won numerous awards for his direction and choreography.

1980s Exemplary Alumni



Brenda Creel

- Casper College, AS, elementary education, 1982
- University of Wyoming, BA, elementary education, 1984
- University of Wyoming, MA, 1988
- Principal endorsement, 2002

Brenda Creel retired from the Laramie County School district in 2016. She was named Teacher of the Year for the Laramie County School District in 1999. In 2002 she was named the Walmart Teacher of the Year by the Walmart Corporation. In 2014, she was named the Wyoming Woman of Influence by the Wyoming Business Council. In 2015, she was named the National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.



Dale Anderson

- Casper College, AAS, fire science, 1989
- Casper College, AB, business administration, 1993
- University of Wyoming, BS, business administration, 1996
- University of Mary, MA, management, 2005

Dale Anderson was in the Casper Fire Department for 25 years. He has been a Casper College instructor for 22 years, 11 of those full time, and is the director of the Casper College Fire Science Program. Anderson ensures that the fire science program is committed to volunteerism. The students of the program volunteer with the Platte River Cleanup, Special Olympics, Meals on Wheels, and the T-Bird Trek. Anderson is one of the most loved instructors on campus, is endlessly upbeat, and helps anyone whenever he can.



Mike Stepp

- Casper College, AAS, 1980

Mike Stepp is the CEO and shareholder of his family business, Donell's Candies. He serves on the Natrona County Public Library Board and Advance Casper, (also known as the Casper Area Economic Development Authority), board as vice-chairman. Stepp is a member of the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Downtown Casper Business Association. He also was on the Casper Downtown Development Authority board of directors until 2014. Stepp volunteers much of his time to local nonprofits. He was voted "Person of the Year" by the Casper Board of Realtors and "Nifty Over Fifty" by the Wyoming Business Report.



Patricia McInroy

- Casper College, AA, AA, AA, photography, foreign language, liberal arts, 1988
- University of Missouri, BA, journalism, 1992
- Vermont College of Fine Arts, MFA, 2007

Patricia McInroy is a former photojournalist who grew up in Casper, Wyoming. Her photographs have been published in Newsweek, USA Today, and U.S. News & World Report, among others. She has screened her video work in more than 30 film festivals across the United States as well as in Europe and Latin America. Her work has been shown at art galleries in Los Angeles, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Denver, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. She currently teaches at the Denver School of Photography and Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design.

She currently lives in Denver with her wife Jennifer, and a very talkative cat named Mica.



Lawrence Heim

- Casper College, AS, computer science, 1985
- University of Wyoming, BS, management information systems, 1990
- l'Universite des Sciences Humaines, French Studies diploma, 1991
- Tufts University, MA, international relations, 2002

After finishing his degree in France, Heim started working at State Street, a global financial services firm based in Boston. He spent 25 years in various IT leadership roles. For 15 of those years, Heim oversaw European and Asia Pacific IT operations while living in Luxembourg, Tokyo, and Hong Kong. He has served on the boards for the nonprofit HandsOn Tokyo, HandsOn Hong Kong, and Spark the Change Colorado. Heim was a U.S. State Department professional fellow in South Africa and currently sits on an advisory council for The Fletcher School. Heim and his wife Victoria Becker now live in Denver, where he is an independent consultant who focuses on international developmental organizations.



Rachelle Carnesale

- Casper College, AA, social science, 1987
- University of North Carolina, BA, pre-law, 1989
- Emory College of Law, JD, 1992

Rachelle Carnesale started her career in the Office of the Attorney General and has over 18 years experience as a metro-Atlanta prosecutor handling serious violent felonies and serving in leadership roles in multiple district attorney's offices.

With a specialty in child abuse and child homicides, Carnesale also spent close to a decade leading state agencies and programs to advance child safety and welfare.

Appointed to the bench by Governor Brian Kemp, Judge Carnesale adjudicates matters in the highest trial-level court in the State of Georgia, holding general jurisdiction over equity, civil and felony criminal cases. Carnesale also holds court school for students from public and private schools upon request.

1990

1990-1999

In 1990, less than two years after he became president at Casper College, **Lester T. Vierra** announced his resignation after a tumultuous tenure, citing differences between him and the college board over the direction of Casper College. **LeRoy Strausner** took over as interim president. After a nine-month national search, Strausner, one of five finalists, was named as the sixth president of Casper College in March 1991, a post he would hold until his retirement in 2004.

1990

- The Hubble Telescope was launched into space.
- A formal proposal for the World Wide Web was published.

1991

- Operation Desert Storm began in Iraq and Kuwait.
- The Soviet Union collapsed.
- The first McDonald's opened in Moscow.

1992

- The Los Angeles riots took place after the verdict in the Rodney King trial.
- The European Union was created.

1993

- The World Trade Center was bombed by Islamic terrorists.
- The 51-day Waco standoff began when federal agents tried to arrest David Koresh.

1994

- The world's first internet radio broadcast occurred.
- Jeff Bezos founded Amazon.
- Through AOL, average people in the U.S. could access the web.
- Sony released the PlayStation video game system in Japan.

1995

- O.J. Simpson was found not guilty of double murder.
- The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed by domestic terrorists.
- The online auction website eBay was founded.

1996

- Six-year-old JonBenet Ramsey was murdered.
- The Unabomber was arrested.
- Dolly the Sheep, the first cloned mammal, was born.

1997

- The first "Harry Potter" book was released.
- Hong Kong was returned to China.
- Princess Diana died in a Paris car crash.

1998

- India and Pakistan both tested nuclear weapons.
- The Monica Lewinsky scandal began.
- President Bill Clinton was impeached.
- The Columbine High School killings happened.
- The search engine Google was founded.
- Two U.S. embassies in Africa were bombed by al-Qaida linked terrorists.
- Viagra was approved for medical use.

1999

- President Bill Clinton was acquitted by the U.S. Senate.
- The file-sharing service Napster was created.
- The Dow Jones closed above 10,000 for the first time.
- The euro currency was introduced.

From the United States Census Bureau:

In 1990 the country's population stood at 248,709,873, which figures out to be 70.3 people per square mile of land area. The population of the country increased by 9.8% between 1980 and 1990.

The Caring Professional

Remembering My Dad, Tom Empey

By Nicholas Empey (AA, '96)



This photo of Tom Empey served as the cover photo for the Spring 2006 issue of Footprints. Casper College photo.

Visitors to the south lobby of the Gertrude Krampert Theatre might contemplate the portrait suspended above the door of the Thomas H. Empey Studio Theatre and wonder, "Why does *that* man deserve to have his name on this building?"

Tom Empey taught theater at Casper College from 1979 until 2010. During his career, he influenced hundreds of lives as he worked to educate, entertain, and inspire the people of Casper. He was a gifted teacher and a supportive mentor. He

was also my father. Here are a few of the many things I learned about Dad while growing up as both his son and his student.

Dad worked extremely hard. He'd start each day with early meetings or classes, take a quick break for dinner, then head back to campus and run rehearsals until late at night. Saturdays were spent in all-day rehearsals, leaving Sunday his only day off. Particularly during his early career, he would often stay at the theater after rehearsal to finish whatever was required to make his productions successful. Often exhausted by his efforts, he found

the energy to start again each morning because he believed his work was important. As an artist, Dad understood his efforts created opportunities for people in his community, both actors and audience, to transcend normal daily experience and encounter something inspiring and sublime.

Dad was a natural teacher. He believed the best educators energize students by communicating their excitement about a subject. Everyone who took his classes could tell how much Dad cared about

the things he taught. Dad also valued learning and constantly sought new ways to discover his world. He loved to share knowledge with anyone willing to listen, at work, and at home. His professional specialty was theater, but he often used concepts from the theatrical world as a basis for discussions about his many other interests. On vacations, we took turns sitting in the passenger seat, talking with Dad about whatever he'd recently learned.

Dad genuinely cared about his students. He worked to make his department a place where students and teachers could feel comfortable and trust one another. He'd agonize over every selection when casting a show, and he'd never linger after posting a cast list because he didn't want to witness anyone's disappointment. He paid attention to his students and knew when they needed help. Hungry students regularly joined us for a quick family meal before rehearsal. Students stayed in our guest room if they were unable to return home during breaks. More than once, Dad took a sick student to the hospital because they didn't have anyone else to call. Whatever their gifts and abilities, Dad wanted his students to know they were cared for, and to understand they each occupied a unique and important place in his world.

Dad died in 2016. I think about him often, and I know other people do, too. His influence continues to inspire us as we encounter our world every day.

The Madrigal Feast

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

The following is the news release issued Nov. 21, 1995, for the first Madrigal Feast. The event was always a sellout and was held yearly over several nights, usually in both November and December for 17 years through 2012.

A visual, aural and flavorful experience is coming to Casper Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2 and 3, as the Casper College visual and fine arts departments present the first-ever Madrigal Feast.

The Madrigal Feast is actually akin to a medieval dinner theater, a complete three-hour feast of authentic food, heraldry, pageantry and song. Casper College students will portray members of a royal family and court and those who do their bidding, including serving wenches, serving knaves and instrumentalists. The feast is interactive, as the audience will be guests of the royal court and will be served by the wenches and knaves.

Preparing the feast for each night will be Chef **Peter Herbert** ('95), who will portray the Royal Cook. The feast will consist of authentic dishes of the day that will include an appetizer, salad, main entree, and a traditional

dessert of Christmas pudding. Dinner is incorporated into the play and concert.

The Casper College students involved in this production will be under the direction of **Pat Patton**, Casper College voice and choir instructor. Patton noted that the feast is a fundraising project for the fine arts division at Casper College. "The fine arts division was awarded a \$28,000 grant by the Wyoming Arts Council, which we have to match before we can receive it," said Patton. The endowment monies will be used to help provide cultural and artistic opportunities at the college that otherwise the college would probably not be able to provide, he noted.

The cast of the Madrigal Feast includes **Michael Arthur** ('97), a sophomore music and drama major, as the King; **Jennifer J. Nichols** (AAA, '97), a freshman music education major from Sheridan, as the Queen and **William "Bill" Harlen Froehlich** (AAA, '96), a sophomore music education major from Buffalo, as the Court Jester.

The women of the royal court are **Jennifer Noel Barto** (AAA, '96), a sophomore vocal music performance

major and **Beth E. Chladek** (AA, '97), a freshman music therapy major both from Rawlins; **Terena A. Kilmer** (AAA, '97), a freshman music education major from Torrington; **Laurel Baumgardner** ('01), a freshman nursing major from Lingle; **Regina J. Davis** ('97), a sophomore music education major from Hanna; **Heidi (Smith) Maxwell** ('02), a sophomore music education major and **Cheryl (Bertagnole) Ringer** (AAA, '97), a freshman vocal performance major, both from Casper and graduates of Natrona County High School and **Ana Kristina "Kris" (Fernau) Hack** (AS, '08), a sophomore music education major from Gillette.

Men of the royal court are **Randy Craig** (AA, '98), a freshman undeclared major from Casper and graduate of Kelly Walsh High School; **Kevin Hildebrand** ('97), a sophomore music percussion performance major from Glenrock; **Brian Steele** (AAA, '98), a freshman vocal performance major from Pinedale; **Ronald "Mike" Eaton** ('96), a sophomore criminal justice major from Sinclair; **Gregory "Greg" Kilmer** (AAA, '97), a sophomore music education

major from Lusk; **Matthew "Matt" Gardner** ('96), a freshman music education major and **Andrew A. Reutlinger** ('96), a freshman audio music major, both from Rawlins.

The serving wenches are **Jennifer Allen** (AA, '97), a freshman music therapy major from Cheyenne and a graduate of Cheyenne East High School, **Crystal Menter** ('96), a sophomore undeclared major from Douglas; **Denise Daum** (AA, '98), a freshman elementary education/deaf education major from Newcastle and **Michele (Hladik) Giffin** (AS, '99), from Casper.

The knaves in the play are **Mark Dyer** ('18), a sophomore psychology major from Casper and an NCHS graduate and **Aaron Samuels** ('96), a freshman communication major from Gillette.

Instrumentalists for the Madrigal Feast are **Michael "John" O'Keefe** (AAA, '96), a sophomore music performance major from Casper and an NCHS graduate, on guitar; **Jill Archbold** (AAA, '96), a sophomore flute performance major from Wheatland, on flute; **Maximo "Max" Sierra** ('96), a sophomore music performance major from El Paso, Texas, on herald trombone; **John Stuart Jennings** ('14), a sophomore music performance major from Casper and a KWHS graduate, on guitar; **Joseph "Joe" Klein** (AAA, '97), a freshman music education major from Casper, on herald trumpet; **Wendy Sager** (AAA, '96), a sophomore music performance major from Casper and an NCHS graduate, on guitar; and **Marcel DeWitt** ('96), a freshman pre-med major from Greybull, on herald trumpet.

The cost for dinner is \$25 per person, with \$15 of that going toward the endowment fund as a tax-deductible donation. Seating is limited, and reservations are required.



1990s Distinguished Alumni



Matteo Pistono, AA, '91

At the time of his award, Matteo Pistono was the author of two books and had exposed the abuse of the Chinese government on the Tibetan people. He also founded Nekorpa, a foundation that worked to protect sacred pilgrimage sites around the world.



Chris Navarro, AA, '90

At the time of his award, Chris Navarro was a monumental bronze artist. He has also been an honored artist at the Buffalo Bill Art Show and was honored by Governor Matt Mead with a Governor's Art Award.



Groundbreaking for the Wold Physical Science Center in 1993. Pictured l-r: Casper College Foundation Executive Director Paul Hallock (AA, '65), Casper College Foundation Board of Directors President John Jorgensen, Casper College Trustee Jane Katherman, Casper College President LeRoy Strausner, and Brady Hayak. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

◀ Participants from the 1997 Madrigal Feast pose in costumes created for the event. College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center. We know that two of the pictured students are David Adcock and Ian Morrison ('06), but which ones? Can you help us identify any of these students in these photos?

Casper College Celebrates 50 Years

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

In the fall of 1995, Casper College kicked off a three-day celebration in honor of Casper College's 50th year. The Casper College Alumni Association took the reins to give returning alumni activities to help honor the achievements of Wyoming's first community college. The events started Friday, Sept. 15, with an opportunity to explore the Oregon Trail and Independence Rock. Attendees could also choose to attend a T-Bird golf scramble at the Casper Country Club, followed by a banquet. Later that night,

there was an alumni and friends mixer up the road at the Casper Petroleum Club, now Gruner Brothers Brewing.

Saturday, Sept. 16, everyone was invited to the annual meeting of the alumni association, or they could attend a dinosaur dig with Casper College geology instructor **Al Allen**. The campus was opened at noon for tours. After a rest, the main event, the 50th Anniversary Banquet, was held at the Hilton Inn, now the Ramokta Hotel, where 50 exemplary alumni were honored, and the guests

remembered 50 wonderful years at Casper College.

Sunday, Sept. 17, the "Spirit of the Thunderbird" bronze statue was dedicated, and anniversary cake and punch were served. Artist and alumni **Chris Navarro** unveiled his creation, which was inspired by the work of **Norm Weis**, who created the original Casper College mascot. A time capsule was buried at the foot of the Thunderbird statue cataloging 50 years as an educational institution.

50th Anniversary: 50 Exemplary Alumni

On the 50th Anniversary of Casper College, 50 exemplary alumni were named. Some of them went on to become Distinguished Alumni, the highest award the college offers its graduates. Those individuals are noted with an asterisk by their name.

The list of the 50 exemplary alumni follows, job descriptions are from 1995.

William A. Anderson, AA, '48
Retired Colonel, U.S. Army, Engineer

Ronald A. Baugh, AS, '68
Consulting geologist

Charlotte M. Babcock, AA, '49
Freelance writer and poet

Steven L. Bealer*, AS, '69
Professor of physiology and biophysics, University of Tennessee

Jude M. Banahene, AS, '81
Senior project engineer

Bill B. Brauer, AA, '56
CPA, former chairman of the Natrona County Commissioners

Jamal A. Barghouti, AS, '69
Engineer, chief of operations for Conoco

David W. Brock, '71
World champion calf roper

Mark Cioc, AS, '72
Provost of Stevenson College, University of California

Valerie A. Cavender, AAS, '85
Specialist for the court supervision of mental health offenders

Marie Minor Davis, AA, '64
Professional musician, soprano

Gaye Strausner Cayot, AS, '83
Mechanical engineer for Northrup

Doug Dehning, M.D., AS, '75
Director of vitreo retinal services

David L. Demorest, AS, '70
Technical director in development of radiochemical protocol

Hank J. Franzen, AS, '79
Owner Powder River Rodeo Production Company

Eric Dietrich, AS, '74
Professor of philosophy, computers and cognitive science at Binghamton University

Kathy L. Gardner, M.D., AS, '81
Neurologist

Ron Franscell*, AA, '78
Writer, newspaper publisher

Patty Boyles Goble*, AA, '80
Actress, singer, dancer

Paul E. Hallock, AA, '65
Executive Director of the Casper College Foundation

Timothy B. Icenogle, M.D., AS, '73
Cardiothoracic and transplant surgeon in private practice

Delores Jean Hayek, AA, '61
President of the Wyoming Education Association

Raymond Jacquot*, AA, '58
Professor of electrical engineering

Georgia L. Huckleby, '60
Caregiver at Ferries Funeral Home

Perry Kaufman, AA, '64
Educator

Glenn Mansur, '79
Pilot, United Airlines

Judge Harry E. Leimback, AA, '48
Attorney, judge of 7th district court

Frieda Noell McCoy, AS, '65
Owner, consultant

Benjamin G. Lockerd Jr., AA, '70
Associate professor Grand Valley State University, Michigan

Lawrence E. Middaugh, AA, '49
Deputy Natrona County attorney

Rodney Gene Mahaffey, AA, '71
Writer, teacher

Diana Jean Ohman*, AA, '70
Educator, Wyoming Secretary of State

Jim Milek, AA, '62
Instructor of biology, Casper College

Kay Williams O'Leary, D.D.S., AS, '65
Orthodontist

Gail Keeney Mulligan, D.D., AA, '76
Priest

Rodney L. Patik, AS, '84, '85
Private consultant

Holly L. Nye*, AS, '73
Lt. Commander, United States Navy, retired

James A. Porter, AA, '67
President of a certified public accountant firm

Terry R. Spraker, D.V.M., AS, '68
Veterinary pathologist

Keith E. Propp, '71
Scientist, Kaman Sciences Corporation

Victor J. Stalick, AA, '58
System engineer Fujitsu network transmission systems divisions

Leo Sanchez, AA, '59
Teacher

Jacqueline Carpenter Valdez, AA, '63
Instructor of English, Casper College

LeRoy Strausner*, AA, '60
President, Casper College

Robert Washut, AA, '71
Professor of music, University of Northern Iowa

David H. Throgmorton, '70
Vice president for academic affairs, Barat College, Illinois

Arlen R. Wilson, AA, '62
Labor attache/first administrator

Katherine Tripeny, AA, '51
Director, St. Anthony North Side Center

Karen K. Wulff, AS, '86
CPA, Gerald R. Stack and Associates

H.A. "Hank" True III*, AS, '63
Business owner/entrepreneur

Campus Smoking Ban Angers Some Students

By Nick Giraldo ('99), managing editor, reprinted from the *Chinook*, Feb. 26, 1999

As part of a plan to make Casper College buildings smoke-free, the CC board of trustees approved a new policy to eliminate smoking in the three designated smoking areas on campus and in CC vehicles Feb. 16. There are also plans to eliminate smoking altogether on campus.

The board and president's cabinet have been wrestling with smoking for at least six years until February of last year. At that time, the board passed a resolution to assign designated smoking areas in the student center, the hallway between the Tate Museum and Myra Fox Skelton Energy Institute, and the employee breakroom in the Maintenance Building. With those designated locations, it seemed as if smoking might have a chance at survival. But due to a rise in complaints and no objections from three alliances on campus — the student, teacher, and administrator alliances, the board voted unanimously in favor of the resolution. The policy change is not unwarranted as the board has cited the policy's basis on health issues.

LeRoy Strausner, Ph.D. (AA, '60), president of Casper College, said, "I understand how students feel about the nonsmoking policy, but the cost would be too much to accommodate smokers, and the health concern is a bigger issue."

Strausner and his cabinet have looked to the biggest employers in the city, notably

First Interstate Bank and the Natrona County School District, to see how they have handled smoking in their facilities. The results show that smoking has been banished from the bank building. In the case of the school district, it is banished from the property.

Could Casper College go the way of the school district? **Jim Ochiltree**, Ph.D., dean of students, sees within the next year a plan to eliminate smoking from the residence halls and to a pre-determined length away from the front door of buildings.

"Though not included in this year's policy, the plan for a smoke-free campus has been proved inconclusive due to its effect on housing and other departments and must wait till next year to be adequately presented to the board," Ochiltree said.

"The issue isn't about smoking, but about the problems that come with it, such as secondhand smoke and the large amount of litter that comes from people throwing their butts outside the front doors of the building," he said.

Reaction from the nonsmoking student body has been positive, but the new policy does not sit well with the smokers of Casper College. Many feel left out of the decision-making process and have taken up petitions calling for a reversal of the policy.

"Why can't we have a place to smoke? It's not against the law or Casper College

code," said Charlotte, a nontraditional student, "I feel like I am in exile already in these smoking areas."

George Kohl (AAA, '00, AA, '02), another nontraditional passing out petitions, quoted Patrick Henry by saying, "No taxation without representation, more like no changing rules without representation."

Students have been asking where their representatives have been when the issue was brought up. Both the Casper College Student Senate and CC Student Activities Board knew about the new policy, then why wasn't anything done?

Shannon Polk (AS, '09), student senate president, said, "The student senate did not vote on the issue, we were just informed about the decision made by the board."

The new policy does have its supporters in a number of students across campus. "It's a good idea," says **Wendy Bowman** (AS, '00), a nonsmoker. "I'm pregnant, and the secondhand smoke is bad for both my child and me. Just think of all the other health risks."

Other supporters point to a health problem such as asthma and the irritating odor of cigarette smoke that could be eliminated with the new rule.

The new policy includes the placement of signs that will declare a building "smoke-free" by the end of the year.

Casper College Serves Up Creditable Surf

Reprinted from *Footprints*, Spring 1997

A new chapter in the delivery of classes to students was opened this past spring semester at Casper College as the college entered "cyberspace" with four classes offered via the internet. The four classes offered were; Physical Geography, Pre-Calculus Algebra, English Composition I, and Political Science.

The project is spearheaded by **Gerald Nelson, Ph.D.**, geology and geography instructor and physical sciences and mathematics chair at Casper College. "Internet-Based Distance Learning classes provide an opportunity to interact one-on-one with students to a depth never realized in a traditional lecture format," Nelson noted. In addition, internet-based classes are affordable, accessible, and convenient for a great number of students, he added.

So how did the maiden voyage of internet-based classes go? The semester began with 82 students signed up for an internet class. By the midterm break, approximately 60% of the original students remained active, a good number considering that traditional classes have a retention rate of about 70% by

break time. Before the semester's end, Casper College decided that internet-based classes would continue. Fall semester '97 will offer students six classes; English Composition I, Introduction to World Regional Geography, Problem Solving, Pre-Calculus Algebra, and U.S. and Wyoming Government.

The main comment from students taking the courses is that there's more work than they thought there would be! But on the plus side, it's a great way to earn college credit no matter where you are as long as you have access to the internet and an email account.

As a sidebar, during the 2019-2020 school year, Casper College had 4,979 students who took at least one online class with an 82.1% completion rate.



One of the first, if not the first, homepages for the Casper College website.

College Adopts a New Logo and Graphic Design

Reprinted from *Footprints*, Spring 1990

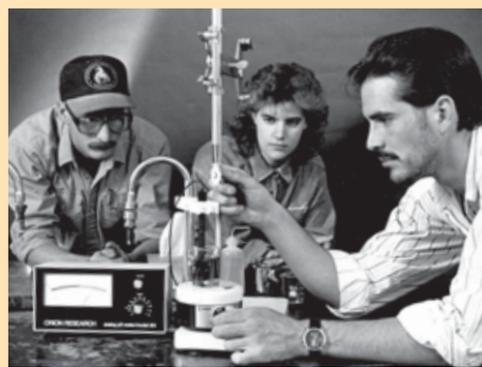
In an effort to "consolidate" the college's image, Casper College has adopted a new graphic logo.

The logo, which features a monogram with two progressive C's, and a solid Romik typeface for the name, was developed by CC graphic arts instructor **Nancy Madura**. Prior to the adoption of the logo, the college had more than 60 different images being used on letterheads and business cards.

"Like any company, we need to have a consistent look and image," explained **Bill Landen**, (AA, '76) director of college relations. Landen said the logo represents two important aspects of Casper College, vision and tradition. The college will continue to use the circular "seal" with the rope outline and Thunderbird, for official documents and diplomas, Landen added.



"Dolly," played by Pamela Routon (AA, '84), sings her way through a "Hello Dolly" number with the chorus.



Casper College students conduct a Ph filtration experiment. Pictured l-r: Terrence Jorenby (AAS, '98), Melissa Rogers ('93) and Erik Moore ('94). College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.

Merchant of Hope

Taken from the Western History Center at Casper College's Oral History Project, from an interview of LeRoy Strausner (AA, '60) done by Dana Van Burgh (CERT, '57)

LeRoy Strausner, Ph.D., was born and raised in Thermopolis, Wyoming. There was nothing in his early years to suggest he would devote his whole career to education and the pursuit of changing lives, and he had no intention of attending college, "... but at the last moment, I decided to drive down to Casper, visit the campus, talk to some folks that were very friendly and welcoming, and I decided that I was going to give it a try." Not even Strausner could have known that that decision would impact the rest of his life and those of others.

Strausner came to Casper College like many, a broke college student. He quickly got a student worker job at the bookstore, now the copy center in Liesinger Hall. He remembered his supervisor, **Ralph Masterson**, as a compassionate boss who gave him advice on how to succeed in life and school. In the evenings, to make extra money, he assisted **Chuck Amadio**, a longtime custodian at Casper College. According to Strausner, he got quite good using a mop and buffer while working his second job.

Strausner also became a member of the Casper College Men's Basketball team. He stopped by the T-Bird Gymnasium one afternoon and saw **Swede Erickson** coaching the men's team. He chuckled to himself as he thought, "This sounds bold, but I think I can play as well as the men on the court," so he approached Swede. He asked about walk-ons, and although Erickson had not usually taken walk-on players, he told Strausner to show up next practice with his tennis shoes. He not only made the team but ended up with a basketball scholarship.

After two years, Strausner graduated from Casper College but remained low on funds, so he decided to work in an oil refinery. In his free time, he was on an adult basketball league with teachers.

While making those friendships, he realized that he would rather make less money and be a teacher than continue to work at the refinery. With encouragement from his wife, **Marcia**, (AA, '78) he attended Northern Colorado University in Fort Collins, Colorado. He worked as a bank teller while he obtained his baccalaureate degree. During his practicum, he became a quick favorite and was asked to become a full-time teacher there. "I went from being a student-teacher Friday and came back Monday as an employee at my little school in a little town north of Denver called LaSalle, Colorado," he said.

While working at La Salle, he enrolled in night school to obtain his master's degree. While working on his master's degree, he was walking across campus and ran into **Marie Stewart**, who he had known at Casper College. She knew he had stopped his education to work in an oil refinery, so she was as surprised to see him. Stewart was on campus to complete her doctorate. Not long after running into her, Strausner received a call. Stewart told him about an opening at Casper College as the director of the student center. He agreed to interview with **Tilghman Aley**, Ph.D., and president of the college, for the position. While sitting on the couch waiting for his turn, he met **Jack Romanek**, who was also interviewing for the job. He was greatly impressed by Romanek. He had more experience, more education, and a winning personality, so when the time came to interview, Strausner told Aley that Romanek was the person he should hire, based on his qualifications and character. He also expressed that what he really wanted to do was to teach. Aley ultimately hired Romanek but did not forget about LeRoy Strausner.

Strausner wrote a letter thanking the college and Aley for the opportunity to interview. As fortune would have it, the day Aley received the letter, a psychology instructor resigned. Strausner was asked to travel back to Casper to interview for the position. This time, he was awarded a full-time teaching contract teaching psychology and sociology courses at Casper College. Thus began his 39-year professional career at Casper College in the fall of 1965.

Two years later, Aley asked him to be the director of housing. He held that position until 1975 when he became the director of counseling services, a position he held until 1985. He was then dean of students from 1985-1989. In 1989, Strausner became vice president for student services and later served as interim president in 1990. On March 5, 1991, he was named the fourth president of Casper College, a position he held until his retirement June 30, 2004. He laughed, recalling that "I did about every job on campus, including bus driver."

That is one of the things that people most often remember about Strausner, his willingness to do any job that needed to be done. He often took walks through hallways getting to know every student and employee at Casper College. Remarkably, during his tenure as president, he always taught at least one class a semester, a part of his job he always loved and the thing he missed the most after retirement. In his words, "The other president's thought I was a little crazy for teaching while being the president at the same time, but I felt it kept me balanced and kept my priorities straight."

Strausner noted that one of the things that made Casper College so special was that the instructors took so much pride in their work. Strausner said, "I think Casper College has, I'm reluctant to use the term

tradition, but I think that's the only thing that describes my thought, a tradition of excellence." While he worked at Casper College, the majority of the administrators came from exceptional faculty. They possessed high standards, and they were scholarly and compassionate.

In Casper College's beginnings, **Dean Maurice Griffith** was responsible for picking academics for the faculty, because he didn't envision the school as a typical community college. He also understood that many of the first students would be adults who had fought in World War II and needed to have instructors with the stamina and capacity to stimulate adult learners. As a sidebar, the fountain in the Liesinger Hall courtyard was donated by the Casper Rotary Club in honor of Griffith.

Griffith's attitude developed Strausner's slogan. He reminisced that **Paul Hallock** (AA, '65) told him that people were getting sick of hearing him say it, but he continued to say it because it was rooted in his belief, "As educators, we are merchants of hope." Each student was coming to school hopeful. Hopeful to have a better career, to succeed, to get a college degree, to meet the love of their life. Regardless of their hopes, the educators and administrators at Casper College were the facilitators of making students' hopes turn into reality.

Strausner lost his battle to cancer one year after his oral history was recorded. During the interview, he mentioned his battle but never with self-pity. Perhaps it is because, as a merchant of hope, he too remained hopeful. Casper College was incredibly lucky to have an instructor, administrator, and president who focused on a message of hope while upholding a tradition of excellence.

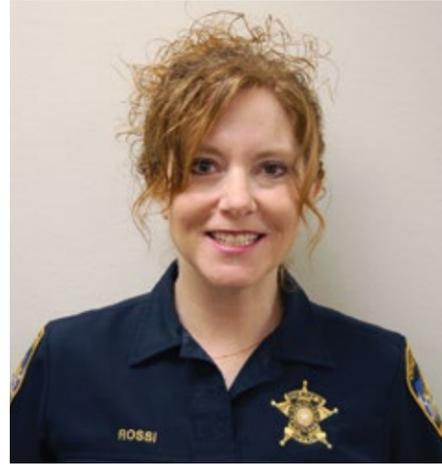


Dr. LeRoy Strausner at his desk, shortly before his retirement on June 30, 2004.

A pen and ink illustration by Sharon Covey (CERT, '87, AA, '90), from the 1991 *Expression* magazine, a student-run literary magazine produced by Casper College students. That year, it was voted No. 1 in the nation by the Community College Humanities Association. The college press association voted it second-best among all literary magazines, including four-year institutions.



1990s Exemplary Alumni



Celestina Rossi

- Casper College, AB, business administration, 1995

Celestina Rossi is the senior crime scene investigator with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory in Conroe, Texas. She has a master peace officer's license with 25 years of law enforcement experience. Since her promotion to the crime laboratory in 2002, Rossi has been court qualified as an expert in latent print examination, bloodstain pattern analysis, crime scene reconstruction, and shooting incident reconstruction. Rossi is an adjunct instructor for the Texas Forensic Science Academy at the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, where she teaches bloodstain pattern analysis.

Rossi is the president of the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis and a past-president of the Association of Crime Scene Reconstruction. She is also a crime scene reconstruction subject matter expert for the Texas Forensic Science Commission.



Guy Worthey

- Casper College, AS, geology, 1995
- University of Wyoming, BS, astronomy and astrophysics, 1988
- University of California, MS, astronomy and astrophysics, 1990
- University of California, Ph.D., astronomy and astrophysics, 1992

Guy Worthey, Ph.D., is currently an associate professor of physics and astronomy at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. Worthy was a mission scientist for Space Interferometry Mission, a planet-finding mission under development at NASA between 2000 and 2010. He is a guest observer at Hubble Space Telescope and many ground-based observatories. His theoretical work includes a computer code known as the Worthey Models that predict the starlight spectrum emergent from galaxies of different ages and chemical compositions.

He invented a method to age date old stellar populations from integrated-light spectra in 1994 and another way in 2015. He discovered that most elliptical galaxies have altered abundance ratios compared to the Milky Way or similar spiral galaxies.



Jennifer S. Rodi

- Casper College, AS, aviation and AA, world language, 1996
- Embry Riddle, BA, professional aeronautics, 2002
- Embry Riddle, MA, professional aeronautics, 2005
- Capella University, Ph.D., industrial and organizational psychology, 2014

A commercial pilot and certified flight instructor, Jennifer Rodi has 17 years of aviation accident investigation experience. She managed a special investigation report for agricultural aircraft accidents and has taken several reports to a full board as investigator-in-charge as a subject matter expert. Rodi has been an IIC for 100 field investigations and 515 total accident investigations. She worked for the National Transportation Safety Board as the senior air safety investigator and was promoted in March 2020 to deputy chief for the central region.



Joshua Hamilton

- Casper College, AS, biology, 1995
- Casper College, AS, nursing, 1999
- University of Wyoming, BS, natural science and mathematics, 1997
- University of Wyoming, MS, nursing, 2003
- Rush University, DNP, nursing, 2006
- National League for Nursing, certified nurse educator, 2008
- Neuroscience Education Institute, certified master clinical psychopharmacologist, 2019

Josh Hamilton, DNP, currently lives in Las Vegas. He holds professorial appointments in the Psych-Mental Health NP programs at the University of Nevada, Reno, Regis University in Weston, Massachusetts, and at Walden University in Minneapolis. Previously, he was dean of health sciences at the College of Southern Nevada, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program director at Rocky Mountain University in Provo, Utah, associate dean of nursing at Roseman University in Henderson, Nevada, and at West Coast University in Irvine, California.

Hamilton was named the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus at the University of Wyoming.



Melissa (Hieb) Sallee

- Casper College, AS, biology, 1997
- University of Wyoming at Casper, BS, biology, mathematics/science, psychology
- University of Wyoming, MS, kinesiology and health/exercise physiology
- Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, DO, osteopathy
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities Integrated Residency, Ph.D., obstetrics and gynecology

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Melissa Hieb currently resides and practices in Casper, Wyoming. Hieb is a board-certified OB-GYN.

Hieb's passions outside of her medical career include spending any time possible with her family, nutrition and wellness, and entrepreneurship. In addition to her medical practice, Hieb currently runs a health coaching business Doc and Daughter, with her daughter, Hallie. She has also started a women's health resource business, Her Virtual Care, with an OB-GYN colleague and great friend, Dr. JoLynn Hawthorne.

2000s

2000-2009

The first decade of the new century saw the leadership at Casper College change with the retirement of **LeRoy Strausner** as president June 30, 2004. Beyond his accomplishments as president, Strausner is remembered for how he genuinely cared for students and faculty alike. On July 1, **Walter H. Nolte** became the school's seventh president. Shortly after, Nolte led the effort to develop a culture of continuous strategic planning. The most visible signs of his planning efforts are the five buildings constructed during his tenure.

2000

- Montgomery Ward went out of business after 128 years.
- No clear winner was declared in the close presidential election.
- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against a manual recount of ballots in certain Florida counties.
- George W. Bush formally accepted the presidency Dec. 13.

2001

- Terrorists hijacked four U.S. airliners. More than 3000 are killed in the attacks.
- The United States and the United Kingdom invaded Afghanistan in response to 9-11.
- Apple unveiled the first iPod.

2002

- A new cabinet department, The Department of Homeland Security, was created.

2003

- The War in Iraq began.
- Seven astronauts died when the space shuttle Columbia broke apart upon reentry.

2004

- The second-largest earthquake recorded created a tsunami that left more than 225,000 dead.

2005

- After more than 30 years, the identity of Deep Throat from the Watergate scandal was revealed.
- Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage in Mississippi and Louisiana.

2006

- Saddam Hussein was hanged for crimes against humanity.
- The one billionth song was downloaded over the internet from Apple iTunes.

2007

- The U.S. experienced its worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.
- The last Harry Potter book was published.
- The iPhone went on sale.
- Nancy Pelosi became the first female speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Netflix introduced streaming media.

2008

- The Stock Market crash of 2008 happened.
- Barack Obama became the first African American elected president in the history of the U.S.

2009

- Michael Jackson died.
- Chrysler filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.
- General Motors filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.
- Unemployment reached 10.2%.
- All television broadcasts in the United States switched from analog to digital transmission.

From the United States Census Bureau:

In 2000 the country's population stood at 281,421,906, which figures out to be 79.6 people per square mile of land area. The population of the country increased by 13.1% between 1990 and 2000.

Q&A with Bree Phillips

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

Bree Phillips was a recipient of the Casper College Outstanding Alumni Award from the CC Alumni Association in 2006. After graduating from CC in 2008, Phillips went on to receive her doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Wyoming. We caught up with her recently to find out about her life after Casper College.

Q: Did you always know what you wanted to be when you grew up?

A: For whatever reason, yes. I don't ever remember wanting to be anything besides a pharmacist. I probably did not even know what a pharmacist actually did when I was younger! I recently moved and found my old high school yearbooks and laughed when reading the comments from my teachers and classmates. All of them referred to me as becoming a pharmacist! I have no idea when I was first introduced to pharmacy and why I set my heart on it, but for as long as I can remember, I've always wanted to become a pharmacist.

Q: When things got hard at school, what kept you focused?

A: Easy: My daughter and my family. I have three girls now, but my oldest daughter was born when I was in my first year of pharmacy school. I always promised myself that I would finish school and make sure I could provide for my children and my family. I would see the innocence in my daughter's eyes, her giggle, and her smile when I was having a hard time in school; it was her that kept me going. I couldn't let her down. I would hold her and read to her and study drugs with her. We used to make a game out of it. We would color different types of biology cells, chemical structures of medications, and Mickey Mouse Clubhouse! We would have "story time" with mommy's pharmacology notes, therapeutics notes, etc.

Q: What do you find rewarding about the work?

A: I enjoy being able to help people. ER pharmacy is a newer concept in the grand scheme of things, so it's been really awesome to be able to play a pivotal role in the development of a clinical ER program at Wyoming Medical Center.

I have been a compounding pharmacist for as long as I have been a hospital pharmacist. We have a small compounding pharmacy in Casper called Compounding Specialists, LLC. I love compounding and chemistry and getting to create specialized medications for all species! The skills I have acquired compounding have helped me out in emergency medicine multiple times.

I also enjoy teaching. I love having students, lecturing to various disciplines at WMC, guest lecturing for the pharmacy tech program at Casper College, and being involved in whatever other educational opportunities I can.

Q: What has changed at the hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: There have been many changes to try to protect our patients, their families, our staff, and our community. The comradery between co-workers has been the bright light for a lot of us. We are a family at work, and we are always there for each other. It's a high-tension, high-stress environment, especially in the ER.

Q: What are you looking forward to in the future?

A: I look forward to learning how to relax, hopefully taking vacations



Bree Phillips today with her daughters from l-r: Emelia, Isabella and Alessandra. Photo courtesy of Bree Phillips.

and traveling, and spending more time together as a family.

As far as career moves, it's hard to say what might change and what might happen next. I just have to take it one day at a time and live in the present. You cannot change the past or predict the future, just live each day in the moment, and enjoy it while you can.



The thank you card Bree Phillips sent to the Casper College Alumni Association along with her 2006 high school graduation photo.

Feeding the Children

By Jamie Purcell (AAS, '00)

When I was attending Casper College, my path was clear: earn my associate in drafting and design, get an internship at a local architecture firm, and then earn a bachelor's and become an architect.

I graduated with my associate and secured a job at a local firm, GSG Architecture, but that's where the path took a left turn.

My entire life, I have been asking questions related to equity, children, and poverty. After working for a few years in the architecture industry, I felt compelled to do something different with my work life. I left a great paying job, with benefits, health care, and retirement, and volunteered with AmeriCorps VISTA. My year was spent working with girls who faced barriers to accessing traditional Girl Scout programs. I worked in areas of high need in Natrona County, and when my term of service was complete, I made the choice to continue in the nonprofit world.

Next, I worked with teens at the old North Casper Boys and Girls Club part

time and wrote grants the other part for the Boys and Girls Club. I've built upon experiences in other nonprofits, including the Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies. In the position of director of development and marketing for WFBR, I learned about macro and micro solutions. I witnessed large-scale organizations working to benefit a large swath of the population, and then small grassroots organizations working to alleviate poverty.

After a few years with WFBR, I left and started Wyoming Food for Thought Project with my colleagues **Lori Burns** (AS, '04) and **Kim Summerall-Wright** ('02).

The Wyoming Food for Thought Project is a grassroots solution to hunger. Noticing that not every child had access to food, especially away from the safety net of school, the Food for Thought Weekend Food Bag was born. The Wyoming Food for Thought Project would not become another cog in the national hunger relief system. From that first day at Kim's kitchen table, a board of directors was formed, partners in media, and at the school district were connected with, and the work of the Wyoming Food for Thought Project began.

The Wyoming Food for Thought Project currently serves 925 local children in Natrona and Converse counties. The programs also include a seed library,



Free food is available through the community gardens. Photo courtesy of Jamie Purcell.

composting, hydroponics, community gardens at five locations across Casper, food rescue, food preservation, and year-round farmer's markets.

The organization is grassroots funded and run. It relies on over 1,000 volunteers to accomplish all of the work. And since Food for Thought began, another important pillar joined the work. **Cassandra (Bush) Baker** (AAS, '10, AB, '14), associate director of Wyoming Food for Thought, lends as much energy and persistence to the vision and mission as I do. Together, we are a force.

I have truly found my life's work. And although it is nowhere close to where I imagined it would be when I was a student at Casper College — it is where I belong.



A variety of vegetables are nearly ready for harvest at one of the five community gardens. Photo courtesy of Jamie Purcell.



Localicious, an annual Food for Thought fundraiser features local foods and chefs and is held each year at the harvest season. Photo courtesy of Jamie Purcell.

Remembrance: 75th Anniversary

By Walter H. Nolte, Ph.D.

When I started my time at Casper College in 2004, I commented that I was proud and humbled to be chosen as the next president of the college. In 2014 when I announced my retirement, I commented that I was proud and humbled to have served the college, community, and students. My wife Becky and I will always cherish our time at Casper College. I will never forget the people I met and the comradery we shared while serving our students. My 11 years as president of the college will remain in my memory as the highlight of my career.

It was apparent foundation fundraising at the college would be successful, primarily because of the hard work of **Paul Hallock** (AA, '65), then **Paulann Doane**; plus, **John Jorgensen** and **George Bryce**, the foundation staff, the board, and also because of the tremendous support in the community for the college and our students.

Of course, the new buildings were the most visible projects and improvements during my time as president. We transformed the college to create the best learning environment possible for our students and a creative and efficient environment for our faculty and staff. I cherish each groundbreaking and dedication ceremony, especially when then Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal drove the ceremonial first semi-truck into the display area of the diesel building auditorium addition. Just before this event, I asked Governor Dave if he knew how to drive a large truck. His response: "How much insurance does the college have?" The continued development of our partnership with the University of Wyoming helped in the development and funding of the Casper College Campus Master Plan, but more importantly, enhanced our commitment to Casper College faculty and staff, our relationships with the community, and the success of our students.

Many faculty and staff were recognized by national, regional, or state organizations, indicating the quality of those serving our students. **Gretchen Wheeler's** Faculty of the Year Award from Campus Compact was particularly memorable as was our run of Council for Resource Development's Donor of the Year awards, especially the award given to **Barbara Scifers**. I am also particularly proud that five former vice presidents or deans under me at Casper College are now community college presidents.

My wife Becky and I miss attending the prolific and excellent productions by the dance, theater, and music departments, as well as the art department's gallery presentations. The steady stream of visiting Fulbright Scholars, lecture series, humanities, literary and film festivals, and the successes of the Tate Geological and Werner Wildlife museums and the Western History Center enriched student engagements and our relationship with our community. These events and activities are not usual for community colleges, but Casper College is not the typical community college.

Of course, my time at the college was not without challenges and sorrow. I mourn the loss of English instructor **Anne Rogstad**, **Rich Fujita**, director of public relations, **LeRoy Strausner** (AA, '60), president of Casper College from 1991-2004, and others, including computer science instructor **Jim Krumm** and math instructor **Heidi Arnold**. The incident in November 2012 that took Jim and Heidi's



Former Casper College President, Walter Nolte.

lives was tragic but demonstrated the remarkable commitment we had to our students and each other. We emerged stronger as a result.

Finally, I enjoyed each and every commencement. I remember fondly, sometimes with trepidation, the dance majors cavorting on the stage, the occasional weird objects students gave me as they passed through the receiving line, and the cheers of family and friends when their student received their diplomas.

Becky and I are thankful for the support of the college's board of trustees and the entire campus community and wish the college continued success in the next 75 years.

Walter H. Nolte, Ph.D., joined the Casper College staff on July 1, 2004 becoming the seventh chief executive officer in the 70-year history of the school.

Shortly after Nolte arrived on campus, he led efforts to develop a culture of continuous strategic planning and led efforts to secure voter support for a \$35 million bond issue on the 2008 ballot.

The bond issue, combined with strong support from the Casper College Foundation and the State of Wyoming, enabled more than \$100 million in improvements to the campus, including five new buildings.

Nolte retired from Casper College on June 30, 2015.

An Unexpected Surprise

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

My mother got tired hearing at every teacher conference, “If only she would apply herself,” my mom nodding in misery. My love of fun always outweighed my love of serious academic study. It’s safe to say that no one was expecting much from me in high school, and I lived up to poor expectations my first failed year at college.

Fast forward to 2008. I had tried to go back to school and got close to a degree, but never was able to accomplish the task. I finally decided it was time to finish school and moved to Casper, Wyoming, to get closer to my family and finally get my degree. Casper College was the place that got me on track. I fell in love with my

classes and found that the instructors were absolutely the best I had encountered — and I had encountered a lot of teachers. I transferred to Casper College with 77 credit hours and not a single degree.

My elementary education teachers were engaging and innovative. **Thom DeVoogd** opened up a whole new perspective in my Introduction to Special Education class. **Cammie Rowley**’s Children’s Literature class has helped me as a mother to encourage a love of reading with my kids. The math department helped me with my weakest subject. **Jared Bowden** was a lifesaver when I needed extra help in Fundamentals of the Physical World.

I graduated on time and with a high GPA. I guess old dogs can learn new tricks. Casper College continued to be instrumental when I completed my Bachelor of Arts in humanities and fine arts. I needed three semesters of a foreign language, and **Eric Atkins** was eternally patient with my antics — my love of fun never really died, and I was able to graduate Cum Laude from the University of Wyoming. I now have my Master of Arts in educational administration, and it is all because of Casper College. Today, I am a proud T-Bird and 11-year employee. To all my old high school teachers, “I finally applied myself!”

Computers Across Campus Getting Ready for Century 21

By Gib Mathers ('00), Chinook staff reporter, Dec. 3, 1999

Brad Cornwell is a network specialist who helps keep the computers up and operating at Casper College.

Except for a couple of machines, which will be fixed before the end of the year, Cornwell said the Macintosh and IBM-type computers across the campus are ready to face the new millennium — “They are Y2K compliant.”

He said Microsoft and Office have some problems, but academic computing will remedy that before the new year rolls around for faculty and staff. “We’ve already upgraded the labs,” Cornwell said, and that includes the machines in the administration building, Rooms 6 and 7.

As far as keeping systems online, he said, “I don’t think there will be any

problems as long as we keep on top of the upgrades.”

Email subscribers have no reason to dread logging into the new year. “LINUX boxes are not prone to a date malfunction,” said Cornwell. “As long as CMOS — a computer’s long-term memory for its setup parameters — supports the date 2000, not 00, you’re OK.”

Also, if you find a shiny new computer beneath the Christmas tree, you’ll be in the pink, “as anything new is Y2K compliant,” said Cornwell.

Cornwell’s new year’s outlook is not of doom, but, he said, “I’ll have a few gallons of water around along with some canned food; it doesn’t hurt to be prepared.”

At Sheridan College, there were glitches with installing the new software on its computers, as mandated by the Wyoming Community College Commission. Many students’ records were lost. However, Registrar **Lynn Fletcher** (AA, '77) said she has confidence in this new software at Casper College. She knows what to expect.

Fletcher said the admissions office staff ran five test conversions, one of which was switching data from the old system to the new system and back again, which was achieved without a hitch.

As for Y2K? Fletcher took a nonchalant stance: “I’m just a computer user; I just run the thing.”

Attacks Spark Look at Emergency Policy

By Paula Dolajak (AA, '03), Chinook staff writer, September 14, 2001

As terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., have riveted the nation, officials at Casper College have tried to maintain a sense of normalcy on campus, according to Chief of Security **Mark Robinson**.

“Casper College has a policy of evaluating each threat individually,” Robinson said.

On the morning of Sept. 11, as the nation watched the terrorist events unfold, Casper College President **LeRoy Strausner** (AA, '60) made the decision to keep the college open.

Robinson said as the terrorist incidents on the East Coast posed no direct threat to CC, the best course of action was to try to maintain a “business as usual” attitude around campus.

Robinson believed that closing schools and offices would be the wrong direction to take in such a situation, as it would cause confusion and panic, “and then the terrorists would win.”

Robinson stated that although Casper College has a set of guidelines to follow, which are outlined in the Casper College Major Emergency Management handbook, a terrorist attack such as the ones that occurred on the East Coast “is something I could have never foreseen.”

Although the handbook does contain guidelines for what to do in the case of a plane crash on campus, it is not something that anyone could ever prepare for. “We tend to focus on more likely incidents,” Robinson said, “such as natural disasters or bomb threats.”

Robinson did point out, however that although the attacks on the East Coast didn’t pose a direct threat to residents of Casper, they did have an indirect impact on the lives of everyone in the nation.

“Everybody’s going to know someone who lost someone in the attacks,” Robinson said. For this reason, the security, housing, and counseling offices at the college have been asked to be on alert

to those students and employees who may be having a hard time dealing with the events.

“People are having a hard time processing such an event,” he said. This was evidenced by an increased number of calls to the security office Tuesday for people who had locked their keys in their cars.

“Everyone’s minds are elsewhere,” Robinson said. “That is what terrorism does. It creates a sense of uncertainty and fear, but there is nothing that can be done about it.”

For this reason, the focus of the security department, as well as other departments on campus, has been to deal with the far-reaching effects.

Thinking Creatively

By Bonnie Sargent ('04)

I took several creative writing classes at Casper College, following a devastating stroke that robbed me of the ability to speak. I eventually regained my voice but was never able to return to teaching. I discovered the joy of writing while taking classes from **Terry Rasmussen**, whom I learned to admire greatly. I have since moved back to my hometown of Sheridan,

Wyoming, and I think the one thing I miss the most about leaving Casper is the abundance of classes offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Casper College. To top it off, my nephew, **Brandon Kosine**, is the vice president of academic affairs at Casper College. I am very proud of him.



Brandon Kosine, vice president of academic affairs.

Beauty to Behold: Casper College's Foucault Pendulum

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

On Aug. 9, 2008, a crowd gathered in the lobby of the Wold Physical Science Center for the unveiling of a Foucault Pendulum.

The Foucault Pendulum, one of less than 100 in the world, displays the rotation of the earth, according to **Melissa Connelly**, geology instructor at Casper



The Foucault Pendulum at Casper College. Casper College photo.

College. "As the bob swings back and forth due to gravity and inertia, the earth rotates underneath it. However, because we are standing on the earth, it appears that the whole pendulum is moving," she said.

According to Connelly, at the place where the pendulum is located in the Wold lobby, it takes the earth 35 hours to rotate under the pendulum. "This is due to the Coriolis effect, which means basically anything not attached to the earth and in motion in the Northern Hemisphere is deflected to the right. This accounts for the 35-hour time span," said Connelly.

Originally conceived in the mid-1800s by French physical scientist Jean Bernard Leon Foucault as an experiment to demonstrate the rotation of Earth, the Foucault Pendulum blends art and science into a dramatic modern teaching tool, Connelly noted.

The 235-pound mirror-finished brass ball slowly swings across a platform designed by **Linda Ryan**, then Casper College art instructor. At

the time, Ryan noted that the platform project was created in five different studios: her private studio, Casperite Janet Zambai's glass studio, and the Casper College clay, jewelry, and sculpture studios. Additional work was done in both the Casper College woodshop and electronics lab. "This was truly a collaborative project, with between 30

and 40 people involved including Casper College faculty, staff, students, and the community," Ryan had said.

The pendulum platform is made of copper, brass, steel, tile, LED lights, and wood. The centerpiece or rosette is cast in bronze and sits on top of a 32-inch circle of ceramic tiles with the image of an ancient map sandblasted onto the surface. A copper ring surrounds the ancient map acting as a border. A second 18 inches out to the edge of the platform a mosaic consisting of pieces of hand-smoothed blue tile, hand-cast bronze stars, bronze rods and LED lights make up the night sky consisting of 12 constellations. "These are constellations that Wyomingites would expect to see throughout the year," said Connelly. The perimeter of the mosaic area is finished off with brass and copper discs, and LED lights and then surrounded by a copper band.

The final outer ring, constructed of wood, is covered in varnished steel. On top of the steel are copper plates that make up the compass rose points. "This is truly a one-of-a-kind platform," said Connelly.

In addition to the pendulum display, the area features several cases representing the many different educational disciplines that can utilize the pendulum as a learning tool. "The pendulum is a terrific multidisciplinary instructional tool that has been used by educators in both K-12 schools as well as the college level," Connelly noted.

The Casper College Foucault Pendulum was built by the California Academy of Sciences and made possible through a grant to Casper College by the Central Wyoming Board of Cooperative Education Services or BOCES.

Tandem Teachers Anchor CC's Sciences

Reprinted from *Footprints*, Spring 2003

Tom Clifford had his feet up on the desk and his hands behind his head.

The corner of his mouth turned up in a wry grin. "For a while there, I thought about giving this up," he said.

"But he found out he didn't know how to do anything else." **Jim Milek** (AA, '62), Clifford's faculty sidekick, got that shot in. Fortunately for Casper College, you seldom got one without the other.

Clifford and Milek. Kind of like Martin and Lewis, Duncan and Hines or Abbott and Costello. They just go together. It probably has something to do with the fact that they team-taught biology classes throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Students in those classes never knew if they would get the bearded one, the beard is gone for now, or the short one with the coffee cup. Either way, it didn't matter, because in the classroom, the students were in for a treat.

Alumni everywhere ask about them. "Are Clifford and Milek still there?" The answer is yes, for 31 years and counting.

In a serious moment, Clifford allows, "I've never gotten bored with this."

It is the "administrative stuff" that gets to him once in a while. When Clifford took over as division chair in the mid-1980s, the team teaching with Milek ended because of time constraints. Milek served as chair of the Casper College Association in the late 1980s. That was enough administration for him. Back to the classroom he went.

The ever-youthful Milek, one of several Milek alumni of CC, admits that team teaching would not have worked for most. "You both need to have the same sort of style. Others tried it, but it didn't work — It just seemed to work for us."

Milek arrived before Clifford, in 1967. All the years in between "have been a blur," he says. "The hard thing is, everyone says it's time to retire. But it's still fun. Unless your health fails or you lose the energy to do it, why quit?"

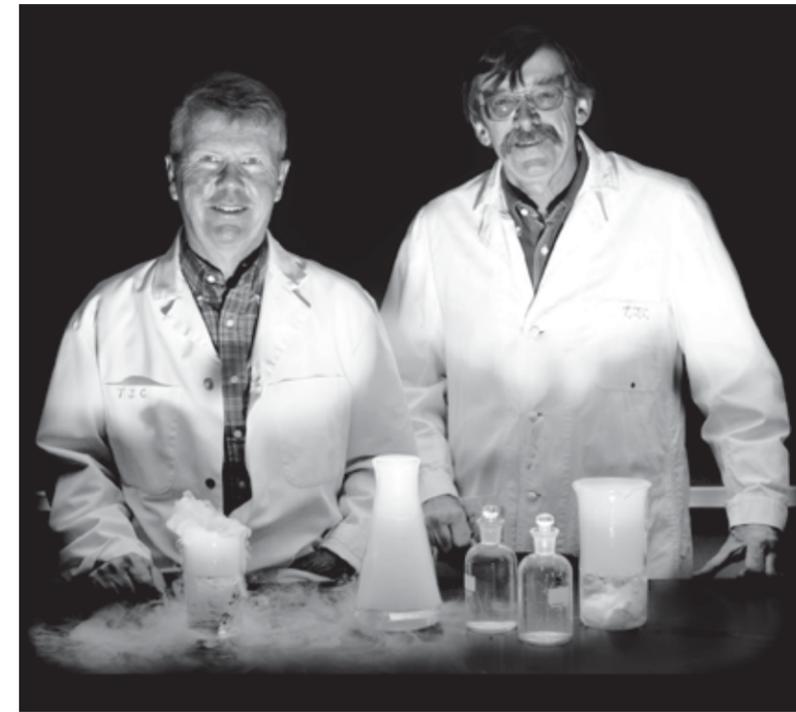
Clifford, with long hair on his shoulders, arrived in 1972. Dale Stiles, the former rodeo coach, used to growl at him to get a haircut.

Clifford and Milek anchor a life science division that is widely acknowledged as one of the best in the region. Casper College's health science programs, pre-professional degree tracks, including pre-med, pre-vet, and pre-dentistry, all require strong foundations in the sciences.

Clifford's energy as department head has helped to bring additional degree opportunities to Casper College, through universities like North Dakota and Wyoming, which offer master's and bachelor's degrees in occupational therapy and biology, respectively.

Clifford earned his Ph.D. at UW. He thought he wanted to work in fisheries and wildlife management, but decided to interview for a teaching job at Casper College. It was a position one of his school mates had an eye on, too, only **Doug Crowe** ('68) wasn't quite finished in Laramie, Wyoming.

Some 30 years later, after Crowe finished working for the Wyoming Game and Fish and in Africa, Clifford brought Crowe back to Casper College. In 2002, Crowe earned CC's outstanding teaching award. Previously, Crowe was honored by the Casper College Alumni Association



Science instructors Jim Milek (AA, '62) and Tom Clifford appeared on the cover of the Spring 2003 Footprints. Casper College photo.

with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993.

Clifford and Milek have won CC's outstanding teaching award before, and so has department colleague **Will Robinson**.

To Clifford and Milek, it is all about attitude. "You have to lighten it up once in a while," Milek said. Heck, around that department, you might find a rubber snake in your desk drawer. Or even a real one.

Tom Clifford and occasionally Jim Milek, despite both being retired, still continue to teach science classes at Casper College on an adjunct basis. The love of teaching draws them back, and the students are lucky to have teachers with their experience and love of science.

2000s Exemplary Alumni



Asher Albertson M.D.

- Casper College AS, general studies, 2003
- University of Wyoming, BS, zoology and physiology, 2005
- University of Wyoming, MS, reproductive biology, 2007
- University of Alabama, Ph.D., M.D., neurobiology, 2013
- Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, residency, neurology, 2017
- Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, fellowship neurocritical care, 2020

Dr. Asher Albertson is a specialist in the treatment of patients with severe brain injury such as trauma, stroke, or bleeding requiring an intensive care unit. He also conducts basic neuroscience research focused on a better understanding of the neural mechanisms of recovery after brain injury. The long-term goal of this research is to translate the findings back to patients in the intensive care unit in the form of therapies that improve recovery.



Erin (Marrow) Hawley

- Casper College, AS, agriculture, 2000
- Texas A&M, BS, animal science, 2002
- Yale Law School, JD, 2005

After law school, Erin (Marrow) Hawley clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and Chief Justice Roberts at the United States Supreme Court. She also worked at the U.S. Department of Justice as counsel to United States Attorney General Michael Mukasey.

She joined the University Of Missouri School Of Law, where she taught federal income taxation, partnership tax, agricultural law, and environmental law until her family moved to Washington, D.C.

Hawley practices constitutional law as counsel at Kirkland and Ellis LLP in Washington D.C., serves as a senior fellow at the Kinder Institute of Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri, and is a senior legal fellow at the Independent Women's Forum.

2010s

2010-2019

Walter H. Nolte retired as president of Casper College midway through the decade. In addition to the addition of five new buildings during his tenure, Nolte reorganized the academic structure of campus from seven divisions to five separate schools within the college and consolidated all noncredit programs into a single college division. **Darren Divine** became the school's eighth president on July 1, 2015. Under Divine's leadership, the college was able to weather through budgetary cuts due to a mid-decade economic downturn.

2010

- A 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti and killed more than 230,000.
- Apple Computer unveiled the iPad tablet computer.
- Instagram was founded.
- The Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico.

2011

- Osama Bin Laden was killed by U.S. Navy Seals.
- The NASA shuttle space program ended with Shuttle Atlantis.
- The war in Iraq ended.
- Japan was devastated by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami.
- Snapchat was founded.
- Uber was launched.

2012

- Hurricane Sandy, the largest storm in recorded history, struck the Eastern Seaboard.
- The first licenses for cars without drivers was granted to Google.
- Microsoft debuted the Microsoft Surface.

2013

- Edward Snowden leaked classified documents from the National Security Agency.
- The Black Lives Matter movement was established.
- PS4 and Xbox One launched.

2014

- The Affordable Care Act went into effect.
- Amazon released the Echo smart speaker with smart assistant Alexa.
- Blockbuster filed for bankruptcy.

2015

- Same-sex marriage was legalized in the U.S.
- The Apple Watch went on sale.

2016

- The United Kingdom voted in a referendum to leave the European Union.

2017

- Florida was struck by Hurricane Irma, the strongest Atlantic hurricane in history.
- The deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history occurred at a Las Vegas Strip concert.
- The Me Too movement began.

2018

- The Miss America pageant ended its swimsuit competition.
- Toys "R" Us went out of business after more than 65 years of operation.

2019

- The first image of a black hole was taken.
- President Donald Trump was impeached for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.
- The stock market reached its highest level in history when it closed at 28,621.39 Dec. 27.

From the United States Census Bureau:
In 2010 the country's population stood at 308,745,538, which figures out to be 87.4 people per square mile of land area. The population of the country increased by 9.7% between 2000 and 2010.

On the Centerline

By Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle (AA'79), reprinted from *Footprints*, Winter 2008



Wyoming hasn't seen a solar eclipse since 1979, and even then, it was from the sidelines. In fact, Wyoming hasn't been in the direct path of a solar eclipse since 1878. That all changed Aug. 21, 2017, when Wyoming got front-row seats to a solar eclipse phenomenon that crossed the state from west to east. Casper happened to be one of the lucky ones on the centerline, which provided the best view. Solar eclipses are relatively regular occurring

approximately every 18 months on average, but being on the centerline is an opportunity that, on average, only occurs about once every 400 years. Casper's totality began at 11:42 a.m. MDT and ran for two minutes and 26 seconds. With the high elevation and typically sunny skies in August, Casper was an ideal place for many groups to watch the eclipse from, and Casper College proved to be an excellent location.

Over 120 college employees were directly involved in the event Monday, and the rest kept the college running smoothly. Everyone played a role in welcoming people from around the world to enjoy the experience of being on the Casper College campus, and said Casper College Public Relations Director **Chris Lorenzen**, "We certainly lived up to our welcoming image."

COVID Journal, Harlem Hospital

By Stephen Nicholas (AS, '74), Distinguished Alumni, 1989

I was in London in early March when the COVID-19 pandemic began to explode in the United States. New York's first case of COVID-19 was confirmed March 1. As of today, April 17, 2020, there have been

cases of COVID-19 in NYC, 12,605 hospitalizations, and 4,188 deaths. The epidemic is affecting African Americans at disproportionately higher rates, and Central Harlem has a population of



Stephen Nicholas with a patient at Harlem Hospital Center in the 1990s. Photo courtesy of Stephen Nicholas.

126,368 cases, 33,079 hospitalizations, and 8,448 COVID deaths in New York City.

Upon my return, I received a query from New York State sent to all retired physicians, asking them to reactivate their medical licenses and take on COVID-19-related duties. I signed up and told them I was willing to be deployed anywhere in New York State.

I told them I was good at calming people down, translating medicalesse into English, and I could still do a decent physical exam, draw blood, and start a nasogastric tube. And, for patients needing oral feeding, I could still hold a spoon.

Imagine my surprise when I was assigned to Harlem Hospital, where I was on staff for 25 years of my career, seven years as the director of pediatrics.

My first day at Harlem Hospital was April 8. In the nine-day interim since then, there have been 45,796 new

approximately 60% African American.

The 17th floor of Harlem Hospital, which has always been the pediatric ward, has been converted into an adult COVID-19 unit, and associated personnel was moved to another part of the hospital. This left my old office on the 17th floor, from when I was director, unoccupied. The current director is on the fourth floor. So they have given it to me to use. Many of the books on the shelves are ones I left behind in 2006. It's kind of eerie.

It's wonderful to be back at Harlem Hospital, despite the circumstances. I am doing only a little front-line care. I am providing some education and training for the pediatric house staff. But most of my time is spent with the Helping Healers Heal (H3) Program, which is based in adult psychiatry and assists clinical staff in coping with the challenges and immense stress of their current work. I admire the people I'm working with.

It is simply impossible for anyone to imagine what things are like here. The first COVID-19 patients came just four weeks ago. Within two weeks, the volume of patients presenting to the emergency room swelled so much that two huge areas, including a tent, had to be created to triage the patients, many of whom were dying when they arrived. Patients were being intubated in the trauma room,

the exam rooms, and sometimes in the hallways. The anesthesiologists and even neonatologists were called to help intubate. The intensive care unit filled quickly, and intensive care unit beds had to be created on the wards. However, the wards are not staffed sufficiently to care for ICU patients.

The normal maximum inpatient adult census at Harlem Hospital is 160, which includes patients with all sorts of problems. Now, nearly all the hospital has been converted into COVID-19 care units, and the total census is over 350, almost all COVID-19 cases. Almost all these areas function like ICUs. The death rate is staggering. In the last two weeks, there were periods when there were cardiac arrests called overhead every 20 minutes. One nurse I talked with had four patients die on one shift. Another walked into a four-bed room to find that three of the patients had died. The morgue is backed up 200 corpses.

The COVID-19 pandemic is devastating, far worse than the bleakest moments of the early AIDS epidemic. However, the fundamental moral equation that drives doctors and nurses to do their best for their patients is stronger than ever. Tough-minded optimism prevails here in the trenches of Harlem, in a mix of original thinking, deep convictions, and resilience in the face of uncertainty and change.

Stephen W. Nicholas, M.D., attending in pediatrics, Harlem Hospital Center COVID-19 Emergency Response Team and member of the Helping Healers Heal (H3) Program
President, Children's Global Health Fund
Retired professor of pediatrics and population and family health, Columbia University
Former senior associate dean for admissions, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Haass Building Legacy Continues

Reprinted from *Footprints*, Winter 2002

John Haass (AAS, '03) helped build the Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center, completed in 2012. John Haass helped build the Werner Agricultural Pavilion in 1979. John Haass also helped build the Liesinger Administration Building in

the youngest John, a 2003 Casper College construction technology graduate. As the second-largest building on campus, it was no small feat for him in his role as the construction superintendent for general contractor AP Wyoming. "When it was



The Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center provides modern spaces for learning. Casper College Public Relations.

1954. Has this man found a fountain of youth while digging foundations?

Actually, three generations of construction bosses sharing the same name have had a hand in these three buildings, plus no less than a dozen other major renovation and new construction projects at Casper College over the past 57 years.

The construction of the Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center was overseen by

go time, I worked 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on most days, but often had to come in at 4:30 or 5 in the morning to get ready for concrete." At the time, he quipped that as a single guy, he was "... married to the Gateway Center."

The three generations of Haass men have ties to Casper College beyond bricks and mortar. Their family tree casts a big shadow at Casper College. The brother of the eldest John Haass was **Herbert Haass** (AA, '48), a 1948 graduate and one of the early instructors while CC was located on the third floor of Natrona County High School. The "John Haass in the middle" has as siblings CC alums **Susan (Haass) Brenniman** (AA,

the youngest John, a 2003 Casper College construction technology graduate. As the second-largest building on campus, it was no small feat for him in his role as the construction superintendent for general contractor AP Wyoming. "When it was go time, I worked 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on most days, but often had to come in at 4:30 or 5 in the morning to get ready for concrete." At the time, he quipped that as a single guy, he was "... married to the Gateway Center."

'68), **Thomas Haass** (AB, '72), **Patricia (Haass) Leik** (AA, '73), **Matthew Haass** ('79), and **Nathan Haass** (AS, '80), as well as cousins **James Haass** ('76) and **Michele Haass** (AS, '84).

The youngest John traces his interest in the field back to some of the earlier projects in the family business, Haass Construction, run by his mother, Colleen. As a child, John went to work daily with his dad during the summer to help with the construction of the college's campus bell tower. His dad gave him the honorary title of "Chief Shoveler." After graduating from Casper College in 2003, John transferred to Colorado State University, where he received a BS in construction management.

Following the Gateway Center project, young John oversaw the Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center construction. Then in 2013, he was superintendent for the construction of the Casper College Student Union and University of Wyoming building.



The space between the Goodstein Foundation Library and the Casper College Student Union and University of Wyoming at Casper building looking north. In the background, center, is the former Strausner Student Center now known as Strausner Hall. Casper College Public Relations.

50 Years of Nursing

By Marge Christiansen (AS, '97)



In 1969, **Dorothy J. Putnam**, the director of nursing at Casper College, wrote an initial report to the Wyoming State Board of Nursing requesting approval of the two-year associate

degree program, which was granted April 3, 1969. At that time, in addition to the director, there were two full-time instructors. On Feb. 8, 1972, full approval was granted by the WSBN



The initial National League of Nursing self-study and accreditation was requested by **Edna Pryich** ('64), the director of nursing, and accreditation was granted in January 1979.

During that period, there were six full-time and four part-time faculty members, two of whom taught only in the summer.



In 1986, **Judy Cavanah** ('73) became the director of the Casper College nursing program, and the second NLN accreditation was requested and granted in January 1987. There were

nine full-time and one part-time faculty members.

In 1995, the director, Judy Cavanah-Turner, requested the third successful NLN accreditation. The faculty consisted of 10 full-time and two part-time faculty members.

In January 2002, the Casper College Nursing Program admitted 11 nursing students to an outreach program in Rawlins, Wyoming. This satellite offering was provided in response to a request from the Carbon County Higher Education Center for the purpose of offering registered nursing education for two years from January 2002 through December 2003.



In 2003, the director, **Jolene Knaus** (AS, '68), chaired the fourth successful National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission

accreditation for the Casper College Nursing Program with the site visit for both the NLNAC and the WSBN scheduled for Feb. 11-13, 2003. There were 11 full-time faculty and five part-time faculty.

Director of Nursing **Kelly Politte** submitted a fifth accreditation request for the program with the site visit Feb. 8-10, 2011, by both the NLNAC and the WSBN. There were 11 full-time and five part-time faculty.



In 2011, the nursing program began bi-annual admissions, allowing 32 students to begin in both the fall and spring semesters.



In 2012, under the direction of **Heather Huber**, director of nursing, the nursing unit consisting of 11 full- and five part-time faculty, voted to join

with the other community college nursing programs in Wyoming and the University of Wyoming to develop a common nursing curriculum.

The "Revolutionizing Nursing Education in Wyoming" curriculum was designed as a baccalaureate curriculum with an associate degree benchmark. The overall goal of ReNEW was to increase the number of nurses with a BSN in Wyoming.

Under the ReNEW curriculum, persons who enter a nursing program at a community college in Wyoming can



complete their ADN — Associate degree in Nursing, take the national licensure exam and begin working as a registered nurse.

The long-term benefit of the ReNEW curriculum is the ability of ADN graduates to move seamlessly toward their baccalaureate degree through online classes in two additional semesters if the BSN prerequisites have been met.

This new curriculum began in fall 2016, and the first cohort graduated in spring 2018. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing performed a focused visit in April 2017 for the statewide curriculum change, and continued accreditation was granted at that time.

The H.E. Stuckenhoff Department of Nursing celebrated its 50th anniversary in September 2019.

In October 2019, **Marge Christiansen**, (AS, '97), director of nursing, was notified by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing that the program had been granted continuing accreditation for its associate nursing degree program through the spring of 2027.

Currently, there are 11 full-time instructors and three adjuncts. The adjuncts teach clinicals regularly, and Christiansen teaches a health science class and helps with clinics when needed. There are also six-eight other adjunct faculty who substitute when someone is sick or needs time off.



Casper College Students, Alums, and Employees Respond to COVID-19

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)



A large crowd gathered for a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of Jim Krumm and Heidi Arnold. Casper College Public Relations.

Remembering Jim and Heidi

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

It would be impossible for those alumni who attended Casper College in fall 2012 not to remember November 30. The campus mourned the loss of **Jim Krumm** and **Heidi Arnold** whose untimely death shook the campus and the Casper community.

Krumm was the department head of computer science at the college. Born in London, he spent time as a youth in Germany, and was a worldly teacher who inspired his students. He loved to sail and believed in the good of other people. Students at the time remembered Krumm for his sense of humor.

His girlfriend, Arnold, was a math instructor at Casper College. Arnold wanted students of all abilities to conquer their fear of math and develop the problem-solving skills needed for college success. She volunteered in the local community and had a love of life.

Casper College suffered a major loss of two caring and bright minds. The college was fortunate to have had Jim Krumm and Heidi Arnold as colleagues, friends and instructors.

Casper College Ranks 25th Among U.S. Community Colleges

Reprinted from "Campus News," *Footprints*, Winter 2012

Casper College was the 25th best community college in the nation and the best in Wyoming, according to the third annual college rankings from StateUniversity.com in 2012.

The results are published at StateUniversity.com, a leading website for college and university information, in its recent rankings of 2000 U.S. public and private educational institutions. This new ranking system is based on statistical analysis and comparison of student/faculty ratio, student retention, test scores, and other critical factors. The website also provides Top 500 ranking lists on data points, including faculty salaries, SAT scores, student debt, top schools by state, and many other criteria.

Casper College and Utah's Mountainland Technology College were the only two community colleges in the Rocky Mountain region to be named in the top 25.

This ranking differs greatly from others as it is based purely on a mathematical computation and comparison of key statistics; no peer evaluations and/or surveys are taken into account. StateUniversity.com uses many different measures in determining the rank of a particular school. The most important factors are a school's ACT/SAT scores, student retention, faculty salary, and student/faculty ratio.

Volleyball Player Recalls Time at CC

By Alyssa Hagstrom (AS, '13)

My favorite memories of Casper College are the endless cardio and volleyball practices it took to win the Region IX North Volleyball Championship game! Not to mention, meeting some of the most amazing friends and teammates at Casper College in the new dorms. One instructor, I will always appreciate and admire is **Scott Nolan**. He had incredible energy every day he taught and would push each individual to be a high performer. I learned many business concepts that directly impact my work today. I learned a lot in his classes about life and academics. And, of course, a favorite memory is graduating from Casper College!! Go T-BIRDS!

Hagstrom now works in Salt Lake City as a business recruiter for Brex.



The 2012 Women's Region IX North Volleyball Champions. Left side of banner, l-r: Kulia Murray (AS, '14), Melina Bachtar (AS, '14), Milica Nisavic (AS, '13), Staylee Brown (AFA, '14), Fallyn Griffin – hands on knee (AS '14, AS, '18). Right side of banner, l-r: Stanka Panic (AS, '13), Dallas Garbett (AS, '13), Alyssa Hagstrom (AS, '13), Maggie Butler (AS, '15, AS, '17), Kanoë Kaaa ('13), Kylie Johnson (AS, '12), Sydney Marchant (AS, '14, AA, '14), Marija Skopljak (AS, '14), Rahnee Jackson – blue dress in front of Stanka (AS '15), Krystal Harward – black top with Kylie's hand on her shoulder (AS, '14)

The world changed abruptly during 2020. The United States and the world found themselves in a shared experience with the COVID-19 virus, and every citizen found themselves in a changed world. Casper College and its alumni were no different. Everyone learned to adapt and lend a hand to others. The ingenuity, creativity, and generosity of our community have been heartwarming in a time of uncertainty.

Alum **Chad Pollock** ('12) and his sister Amber got to work at their company Backwards Distillery. Using their distilling equipment, they switched their production from making alcohol to making hand sanitizer due to a nationwide shortage. They partnered with the state and the city of Mills, Wyoming, to refill stockpiles of hand sanitizer.

Photographers **Jessica Sorenson** ('04) and **Ben Winckler** ('04) offered their photography services by taking "front porch" photos. The photos are meant to commemorate families who have been asked to stay home and socially distance themselves from others.

Theater instructor **Darrell Wagner**, engineering instructor **Paul Brutsman**, and engineering technology instructor **Jason Eggemeyer** went to work making masks and face shields to address shortages at the Wyoming Medical Center and for other emergency personnel and health care workers. Wagner and a few work-study students used their talent for costume making to sew face masks for citizens and first responders. When Eggemeyer heard about their project, he offered to help by cutting the material with a laser cutter available in his department to save some time. Casper College work-study student **Lucas Mauro** lent a hand. Brutsman went to work by making face shields with the help of Woodworker's Supply employees Jay Sanger and Gary

Hiatt; two career and technical education instructors, Kora Huffman from Kelly Walsh High School and Jim Fulkerson from Midwest School; and Casper College students **David Terrell**, **Richard Orndorff**, and Mauro.

Cynthia Bower (AFA, '07) has found great opportunities to reconnect with family through Zoom chats with four generations attending from all over the country. "It wouldn't have happened if we had all been about our normal lives," she said.

Paula Coates (AS, '91), an amazing nurse, ran a busy clinic during the health crisis and kept nurses, nurse practitioners, and front staff safe and able to take care of those who needed to see their providers.

Dorothy Reimann ('86) delivered meals to folks in need with the Meals on Wheels program, as well as delivering a weekend meal from a local restaurant to health care providers.

In New York City, **Amber Espinoza** (AS, AS, '07) worked on a COVID-19 unit. She explained to Doc Holliday, from local radio station 95.5 FM, that the situation in New York was very serious, "People were dying left and right ... you gotta figure out which ones you're gonna save. These people are in hospital rooms that are four people to a room with no curtains...they're watching each other die." Her advice to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Wyoming was to "wash your hands, stay home, wear a mask when shopping and washing dirty surfaces, pretty much what the news is telling you to do"

Another alumni, **Gavin Marvel** (AS, '19) headed to New York City as well to use his degree in respiratory therapy to help those in need at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. He learned about the opportunity through a respiratory therapist's page he follows on Facebook. He worked with patients as they needed it.

With COVID-19's high rate of respiratory distress he helped patients with breathing treatments and ventilators. Gavin worked at Wyoming Medical Center prior to his move to NYC and is continuing his education at Boise State University in respiratory therapy.

The Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association also found ways to ease the challenges of students. The foundation and Casper College established the "T-Bird Student Emergency Support Fund" for students in need of extra support, so that they can continue their classes. The Casper College Faculty Senate voted to add \$2,500 to the fund with the foundation matching all funds up to \$10,000.

The alumni association usually takes a large role in graduation as they welcome new alumni to their numbers. One of their functions is to provide T-shirts at graduation for a \$10 donation. The funds from the T-shirts establish a scholarship in the name of the graduating class. For this year's graduates, the T-shirts were mailed and provided at no charge. Students were asked to give words of thanks for those Casper College employees who had helped them along the way. The Class of 2020 scholarship will still be available for next year's students through alumni association funds. The kind words to employees will be passed along to uplift their spirits.

The lessons that the college has learned through this process will unfold for quite some time. However, it is clear that the folks who work here and have attended here have one thing in common, taking care of one another in a crisis.

My First Five Years at Casper College

By Casper College President Darren Divine, Ph.D.

It has been five years since I arrived in Casper and took over as the president of Casper College. Some days it seems like that was just last week, while other days it feels like a lifetime ago. Thus far in my journey, I can honestly say that coming to Casper and accepting my role as president has been a truly rewarding experience. The college is a wonderful place to work and is located in a city that supports the institution, unlike anything I have experienced before. From day one in Casper, I have felt welcomed, and appreciated, and have been shown just how much the college means to the city of Casper. Although there is simply too much to share in this short article, I will offer a few of the highlights of my first five years.

I am the president on the good days and on the bad days. Unfortunately, my first year at Casper College was marked by the passing of several people intimately connected to the college. My first encounter with the unfortunate, but all too human portion of the job, came on the first weekend my wife Terry and I had moved into the president's home. **Lance Jones**, our then director of security, came to the house and informed me one of our grounds crew, **Ron Rennich**, had died earlier that morning of a heart attack. Later that fall, it was a bright November day when I asked **Kim Byrd** what was wrong, and she told me that she was just informed that two of our students had been involved in a severe car accident the night before, and one, **Megan Skinner** ('15) had died. All told that first year I attended five funerals of people associated with Casper College.

Then there are all the wonderful people I have met along the way. While there are simply too many to single out, I will highlight just a few of the amazing

people I have met along this journey. I will always have a special place in my heart for **Marlan Scully** (AA, '59) Ph.D., and his group from Texas A&M, who come to Casper College each year to hold a quantum physics summer symposium. Then there is **Lucie Hoskova** (AS, '19) and **Zion Tordoff** (AS, '19). Both of these student-athletes exemplify everything we hope for our students. Lucie now plays for the University of San Francisco, and Zion plays for Marist College. Each gained scholarships and entry into their respective four-year institutions both for their academic achievements as well as their athletic prowess.

Many people have commented to me that it is unfortunate that I arrived at Casper just as the bottom fell out of the oil and coal markets, and the college was forced to tighten its budgetary belt. But my perspective is that it was these very events that made me fortunate enough to be offered the position. I had long experience in Las Vegas at the College of Southern Nevada, dealing with years of subsistence-level funding from the state and additional budget crises on top of that challenge. While I don't cherish those experiences, or desire to exercise those skills, they have served me well. Fortunately, Wyoming education institutions, both K-12 as well as higher education, have historically been funded very well. So, although we have had to endure cuts, starting from a strong point and having to cut is dramatically easier than starting at a minimum level of

Darren Divine, Ph.D., has led Casper College since July 1, 2015, when he became the eighth Casper College president. At Casper College, he has focused on student experience and outcomes, while highlighting Casper College's contributions to the state.

On the Casper College campus, Divine emphasizes that students should leave Casper College fully prepared to succeed in their chosen fields, to enrich our community, and be equipped to lead and transform our state.

Divine sees Casper College as a solution and active participant in meeting Wyoming's challenges by not only training and educating Wyoming's workforce for the jobs of the future but enabling its entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive. He views Casper College as a partner with business and government to lead Wyoming into its new economy.



Current Casper College President, Darren Divine. Casper College Public Relations photo.

funding and then cutting additional funds out of the budget.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the incredible people that work at the institution. I am blessed with a wonderful group of colleagues, some who were already here when I arrived, and others that I have had the good fortune to bring into the institution. Casper College is successful today because of those people, and their extreme dedication and hard work. My life has been immeasurably changed for the better because of the incredible staff I work alongside every day, as well as the fantastic students we get to assist during their educational journey.

The T-Bird Trek

By Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

The T-Bird Trek started on a lovely fall day in 2015. The T-Bird Trek was developed by the Casper College Alumni Association to raise funds for alumni scholarships, program support, and college initiatives. That first race had 247 entries, and it continues to be a fabulous family-friendly race with options.

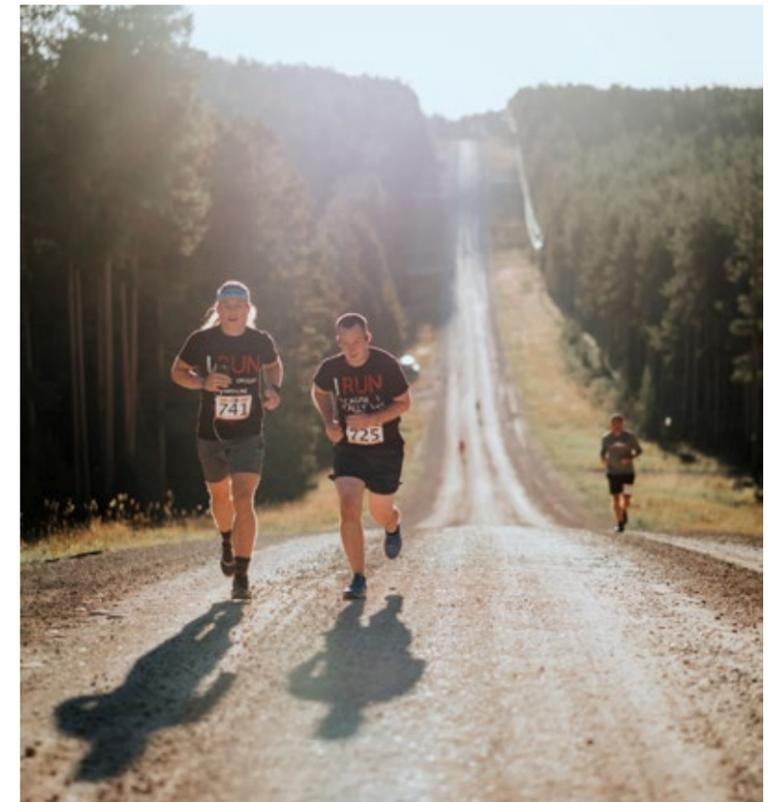
The first option was up Casper Mountain and then back down to the college. The wind and the terrain made for challenging conditions. On campus, there was a 5k and a 2k fun run.

The race has grown and developed over the past five years. This year, Sunday, Sept. 13, the Sixth Annual T-Bird Trek will be held. The Trek offers a variety of race formats for any ability.

There are two half-marathons. One of the half-marathons starts on top of Casper Mountain and, after a few hills offers a downhill experience back to campus. The other half-marathon starts on campus goes up the mountain and then back to the campus. The 10k and 5k make use of the Platte River Pathways and campus. Runners get to run through our beautiful campus and enjoy a breakfast burrito at the finish line, all while helping current and future students at Casper College.



Runners at the start line for the T-Bird Trek. Casper College Foundation.



Two runners crest a hill atop Casper Mountain as part of the T-Bird Trek Downhill Half Marathon, one of several marathon options available. Photo courtesy of Ben Winkler ('04).

2010s Exemplary Alumni



Tyler Leshner

- Casper College, AS, health science, 2011
- New Mexico State University, BS, athletic training, 2014
- California State University, MA, kinesiology, 2016

Tyler Leshner is an assistant athletic trainer for the Charlotte Hornets of the National Basketball Association. He serves as the head athletic trainer and strength and conditioning coach for their NBA G League affiliate, the Greensboro Swarm.

Before the Swarm, Leshner served as an intern athletic trainer for the Cleveland Cavaliers and an assistant athletic trainer and head strength and conditioning coach for their NBA G League affiliate, the Canton Charge.

During his time at Casper College, Leshner was a student assistant coach for the Thunderbird men's basketball team. He still gives of his time by contributing to student learning at CC via video conferencing to speak with students.

This year, Leshner is completing his Ph.D. in health sciences and exercise leadership.



Colton Sasser

- Casper College, AS, 2016
- University of Wyoming, BAS, 2018

Colton Sasser is co-owner of Caspar Building Systems, which provides construction services throughout the state of Wyoming. He joined the Army in 2011 until he was medically retired in 2013 at the rank of Specialist, with numerous awards and medals. While serving in Afghanistan assigned to 2nd Battalion 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, a 200-pound improvised explosive device detonated under his truck gravely injuring him and his team members.

Following his retirement from the military, he and another veteran formed Hunting with Heroes, a nonprofit which takes disabled veterans hunting throughout the state of Wyoming. Since its inception, HWH has provided over 1,200 hunts to veterans from all 50 states.

2010s Moments



Students in the stairwell of the Harry T. Thorson Institute of Business between classes.



The Wheeler Concert Hall in the Casper College Music Building hosted the 2018 gubernatorial debates.

Friends We'll Miss

1940s

Fred Niethammer ('46)
April 24, 2020

1950s

Richard John Williams (AA, '58)
January 5, 2020

Forrest L. "Buzz" Skretteberg (AA, '56)
February 6, 2020

Donald C. Ackerman ('54)
February 22, 2020

1960s

Kelvin Huber ('60)
October 28, 2019

Michael Miller ('60)
November 4, 2019

William R. "Bill" Newbern ('67)
December 1, 2019

Cheryl Lynn (McLean) Eutsler ('66)
December 10, 2019

Frederick Leroy Smith Jr. ('60)
December 19, 2019

Edith Jeanine (Foran) Jones
Retired administrator
December 31, 2019

Ronald E. Iversen (AS, '69)
January 14, 2020

Raymond "Ray" Joseph Seabeck (AA, '65)
January 14, 2020

Michael B. "Mike" McDowell ('64)
February 27, 2020

Alfred William "Bill" Vance
Retired administrator
March 2, 2020

Albert Easley "Al" Allen Jr.
Retired faculty
March 18, 2020

Kenneth V. McDowell (AA, '64)
April 15, 2020

William Charles Peasley ('67)
April 21, 2020

Jeanine K. (Hollenbeck) Rodgers (AA, '69)
May 7, 2020

Andrew M. Neville ('64)
May 16, 2020

David William Craig (AS, '68)
May 18, 2020

1970s

Mary Josephine "Jo" Shaw ('70)
August 15, 2019

Dianna Lynn Pike ('77)
December 17, 2019

Jimmi Lou Snyder ('79)
December 18, 2019

Myrona L. Apland (AS, '71)
January 5, 2020

Lynne Marie Weis ('72)
January 23, 2020

Fred M. Barton (AAS, '79)
January 27, 2020

Juanita A. (Chavez) Stamp (CERT, '75)
April 12, 2020

Willis Wayne Burke (AS, '74)
April 18, 2020

Margaret L. (Price) Peterson (AAS, '75)
May 1, 2020

Coral Lea (Grinestaff) Rutar ('72)
May 10, 2020

David Russell Kimbro (AAS, '73)
May 21, 2020

1980s

William D. Parsons (AAS, '85)
January 7, 2020

Clarence Wendell Culbertson (AA, '86)
February 6, 2020

Sharon Marie (Schmidt) Harris
Retired staff
February 27, 2020

Craig D. Bobbitt (AB, '86)
April 22, 2020

Estella Brown (AAS, '88)
April 28, 2020

David Wayne Phillips
(CERT, '73, CERT, '87)
May 12, 2020

Darrell Smith (CERT, '86)
May 19, 2020

1990s

Michael Ralph Wilder (AA, '98)
January 11, 2020

Margaret E. Lemmers (AAS, '91)
March 23, 2020

Jeffrey F. Creager (AAS, '95)
April 14, 2020

Janet Ahlquist
Retired faculty
April 21, 2020

Arnold "Bruce" Shippert (AAS, '90)
May 27, 2020

Dennis R. Hourt (AAS, '97)
May 31, 2020

Kathleen Jane (Donmyer) Gardner ('86)
June 1, 2020

Vickie Weber (AS, '06)
Retired staff
June 4, 2020

2000s

Henry Cuartas (AAS, '08)
January 19, 2020

Bette Ina Brown ('03)
February 1, 2020

Alfred William "Bill" Glenn H. Woolson
(AS, '02)
March 6, 2020

Sissy (Larry James) Goodwin
Retired faculty
March 7, 2020

Josh MacDonald (CERT, '06, AAS, '06)
April 17, 2020

2010s

Deidra M. (Brazelton) Rowe (AA, '13)
February 15, 2020

Scott Shawn Smith ('11)
April 18, 2020

People and Places



▲Ron Ury in Nicaragua assembling water filters.

In February 2020, **Ron Ury** (AA, '56) traveled to Nicaragua to help villagers of Matagalpa to assemble water filters. The water filters are designed to purify water from the only water sources the villagers have available to them from local ponds, streams, and wells. The purified water can then be stored in water barrels. The group was coordinated through the Council of Churches Pro-Denominational Alliance and the Christian Church of which Ron is a member.

Following his graduation from Casper College, **Michael Burger** (AA, '62) continued his education at the University of Wyoming, where he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering. He went to work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory until his retirement in 1992. He then worked as a consultant at Sandia National Laboratory until 2010, when he went to work at Livermore Software Technology Corporation, where he continues to work part time. Recently, he and his wife, Joan, set up two endowed scholarships: the Michael and Joan Burger Engineering Scholarship and the Michael and Joan Burger Trades Scholarship.

The idea behind both scholarships, according to Michael, is to help students avoid taking out loans to attend college. "Because federal student loans are so easy to get, students are not evaluating the burden they face in paying the loan back after graduation," he said.

Bob Seaback ('65) was selected as the artist for Albany County in Wyoming, to decorate Christmas ornaments hanging on the Christmas tree in the Wyoming Governor's mansion.

Casper photographer **Dan Hubbell** ('68) has been named the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Photographer of the Year for the third time. Hubbell's rodeo photos today are known throughout the world, but he admitted that in his early days, he had a lot to learn. Hubbell believes his interest in photography might have stemmed from his mother. "Mom took pictures, a lot of them," he said. "So that might be where it really started."

Terry W. ('70) and **Christene A. Bridwell** ('70) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 25. The couple met while attending Casper College and married Jan. 25, 1970, at First Congregational Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming, with Rev. Harvey Cutting officiating. After college, the pair relocated permanently to Cheyenne, where both worked for Laramie County School District 1. Terry retired from the district in 2008 as director of instruction, and Christene retired in 2010 as the executive assistant to the art department coordinator.

Bill McElroy ('72) spent the majority of his time at Casper College in the band room. After his time at Casper College, he transferred his credits to Eastern New Mexico University. There, Bill



▲Bill McElroy, middle, with other Peace Corp volunteers in Ushguli Svaneti a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

received his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1975. He returned to Wyoming after his degree and worked as a certified public accountant until 2015. In 2015, Bill became a full-time volunteer in the Peace Corps. He served for 27 months as an individual and organizational development adviser in the Republic of Georgia. He now volunteers at Meals on Wheels in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Powder River Rodeo LLC, received the 2019 Polaris Ranger Remuda Award for providing "the best, most consistent pen of bucking horses," according to the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association. Based in Riverton, Wyoming, this stock contractor was also in the top five nominees for the ninth time as a PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year. **Hank** ('79) and **Lori (Hladky)**

Franzen ('79) started the business in their 20s and have kept the business in the family for the past 35 years.

Donna (Sackett) Rice (AB, '84) announced a run for Senator Mike Enzi's seat in the U.S. Senate. Donna is a small-business owner and attorney who is running as a conservative Republican.

A February 2020 ARTCORE performance featured **Conor Jacobson** (AAS, '86) and **Andre Bohren** ('01). The duo, with Andre on piano and Conor on violin, played Beethoven. The pair last performed together in 2001 while they attended Casper College.

Lori Brown-Wirth (AB, '99) was the keynote speaker at the December meeting of the National Association for Female Executives in Temecula, California. Lori spoke on "Learning to Better Understand Yourself — What is Being Affected in You?"

Shawn Snyder (AS, '08) is now working at New Beautiful You Medi-Spa as a family nurse practitioner. He had practiced in the intensive care unit as well as within hospital leadership and management before he obtained his doctorate of nursing through the University of Wyoming. He graduated with honors and was awarded the Dr. Patty Heslen Haslam leadership award. He is board certified by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners as a family nurse practitioner.

Rodeo star **JR Vezain** ('11) welcomed his first child last summer. JR is busy rehabilitating after a bronc accident left him paralyzed in 2018. He is slowly regaining the use of his legs and has hopes of walking independently again to chase around his baby.

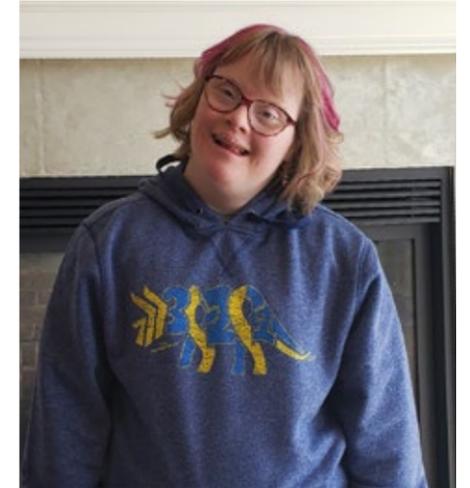
Rachel Hawkinson ('12) is a jewelry designer and owner of T. Hawk Studio in Casper. Her jewelry was recently on display in her "Flying Frippery" show at Scarlow's Gallery in downtown Casper. Rachel studied art at Casper College under art instructor **Linda Ryan**. To see, and possibly buy Rachel's works, go to her website at thawkstudio.com. Her latest show can be viewed through her digital catalog at thawkstudio.com/flying-frippery-catalog.

Scott Gambino (AA, '14, '16) was born and raised in Casper, Wyoming, and received two associate degrees from Casper College before earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming. He was hired as museum assistant for the Quebec 01 Missile Alert Facility State Historical Site in 2018 and has spent the past two years learning what life was like at a missile alert facility, the technology and history of the Cold War, and managing the collections of the museum. Scott began his career at the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum in Casper in its collections department.

Susa Vialpando (AA, '17) recently graduated from Sam Houston State University in fall 2019 with a bachelor's in history. She now lives in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Ashlee (Patricelli) Taylor (AS, '19) was the commencement speaker for this year's 2020 Adult Learning Center at Casper College High School Equivalency Commencement. Ashlee obtained her High School Equivalency Certificate from the Adult Learning Center in 2004. Today, Ashlee is the field representative for U.S. Sen. John Barrasso. Before her position with Barrasso, she was a student success office assistant for Casper College.

Shortly before graduating, **Morryah McCurdy** (AS, '20) was hired by Advance Casper, an economic development firm, as its new vice president of business development. During her time at Casper College, Morryah was the president of the college's national Society of Leadership and Success chapter for two years. She was also named as the 2019-2020 Student of the Year by the Wyoming Association of Community Colleges.



▲Sammie Andrew.

Current student **Sammie Andrew** appreciates being able to continually audit courses at Casper College. "It has given me the GRAND opportunity to stay connected and meet many students from all over." Sammie is a board member of the Casper College Alumni Association. "I enjoy every minute we are doing things for the students."

Faculty and Staff



▲ **Joshua R. Mietz**, music instructor in woodwinds, and his wife **Veronica Turner**, music instructor in vocals, welcomed baby Turner Rush Mietz to the family Jan. 4, 2020. He weighed 7 lbs., 15 oz.

Janet DeVries, retired employee, attended a legislative session to talk about creating the Wyoming Call Center to assist people experiencing a suicidal crisis. De Vries's career as a counselor helps guide her in her effort to help those in need. The project will not only save lives but reduce time and costs to law enforcement in the state of Wyoming.



▲ **Paul Brutsman**, engineering technology and design instructor, heard his phone ring at 1 a.m. and decided to take the call. It was his brother, Bud Brutsman, calling to see if he would

participate in the Riyadh Motor Show to help work on the cars. He had until 10 a.m. the next day to decide if he wanted to go. Paul accepted the mission and flew to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where over 450 cars had been shipped. Paul spent the bulk of his time working on the American muscle cars while his brother, a filmmaker, worked on documenting the momentous event.

Casper College adjunct music instructors, **Don Williams**, trumpet, and **Paula Flynn** (AFA, '06), piano, along with University of Wyoming horn instructor Katherine Smith performed in the University of Wyoming's Faculty Recital Series this past March at the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts Recital Hall in Laramie, Wyoming.



▲ **David Zoby**, Casper College English instructor, is into his second year of writing outdoor content for the Visit Casper website. His May essay, "Cutthroats and Stone Boys," has been very popular. To read it, go to shorturl.at/fjovy. In addition to his essay writing, he also has a story in the May/June issue of Gray's and was recently hired as the fly fishing editor for Strung Magazine.



▲ Casper College English instructor **Jill Hughes** was named the "Casper College Innovative Educator of the Year" for 2019-2020. The award recognizes talented academics who are accomplished in their craft, skilled practitioners impacting the lives of learning throughout Wyoming and beyond.



▲ **Melissa Connely**, earth science instructor and Klaenhammer Earth Science chair, made a presentation at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Conference Oct. 8-12, 2019, in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. She presented a poster presentation titled: Tate Geological Museum — A Valuable Resource for Vertebrate Paleontological Research as

well as Enhancing Liberal Arts Education. According to Connely, the presentation was well received, and she visited with many new researchers from all over the globe who had not known about the Tate but were very interested in some of the specimens she listed in the poster. "I also met many others who did know about the museum and asked about the staff. Since then, several potential researchers have contacted us regarding our collections," she said. In addition to presenting and listening to several scientific reports, Connely also participated in the Mitigating Paleontology meeting and represented Wyoming and the Tate Geological Museum as a federal repository. "This group meets every year at SVP. However, this year, we had a global audience, and the (groups efforts) are moving to a more global stage. Members from Wyoming are a major part of this group," Connely said.

▼ PBS's show "Prehistoric Road Trip" aired June 17-July 1, 2020. The first two episodes featured Casper College's own **J.P. Cavigelli**, Tate museum collections specialist and **Melissa Connely**, earth science instructor and Klaenhammer

Earth Science chair. Cavigelli was filmed on a dig near Como Bluffs, Wyoming, where he explained the process of identifying and excavating fossils. In the museum, host Emily Graslie interviewed Melissa about one of her finds as an undergraduate student. She found pterosaur tracks that convinced scientists that pterosaurs were actually quadrupedal. Instead of walking on their legs, they used their wings to walk on all fours. "It really showed that a girl in science in Wyoming, in a field that's just not known for having girls in there, can do something that can make a difference," Connely said at the end of the interview. You can stream episodes of "Prehistoric Road Trip" on PBS.com.



◀ Longtime employee **Janice Traylor** (AA, '60) is bidding farewell to the Casper College Nursing Program after a combined total of 54 years! Janice began teaching in the college's licensed practical nursing program in September 1966. She retired in May 1999. Janice then came back as an adjunct in November 1999. She will retire, again, in August 2020.



▲ **Justin Hayward**, Casper College art instructor, recently had his painting selected as the winner of the 37th annual "Collectible Conservation Stamp Art Show" contest. The theme of this year's stamp was a depiction of an osprey. The collectible stamp and limited-edition print will be displayed permanently at the Game and Fish headquarters in Cheyenne.

Prints and stamps of Hayward's painting "Osprey" will be available for preorder through the Wyoming Game and Fish Department at wgfd.wyo.gov/store/Store/Conservation-Stamps-Prints/2021-Osprey-Conservation-Stamp-Print. All proceeds benefit Wyoming's Wildlife Program and all purchases will be mailed after December 1, 2020. Image courtesy of the WGFD.



Come celebrate the
75th Anniversary of Casper College



We will look back on the last 75 years and look forward to celebrating 75 more.
Join us for an evening of fun, good food, and a wonderful celebration as we honor
25 exemplary alumni and more!

Plan to attend the gala on June 5, 2021, at the Casper Events Center.
Go to caspercollegefoundation.org/75th-invitation if you
would like to receive an invitation to the gala.