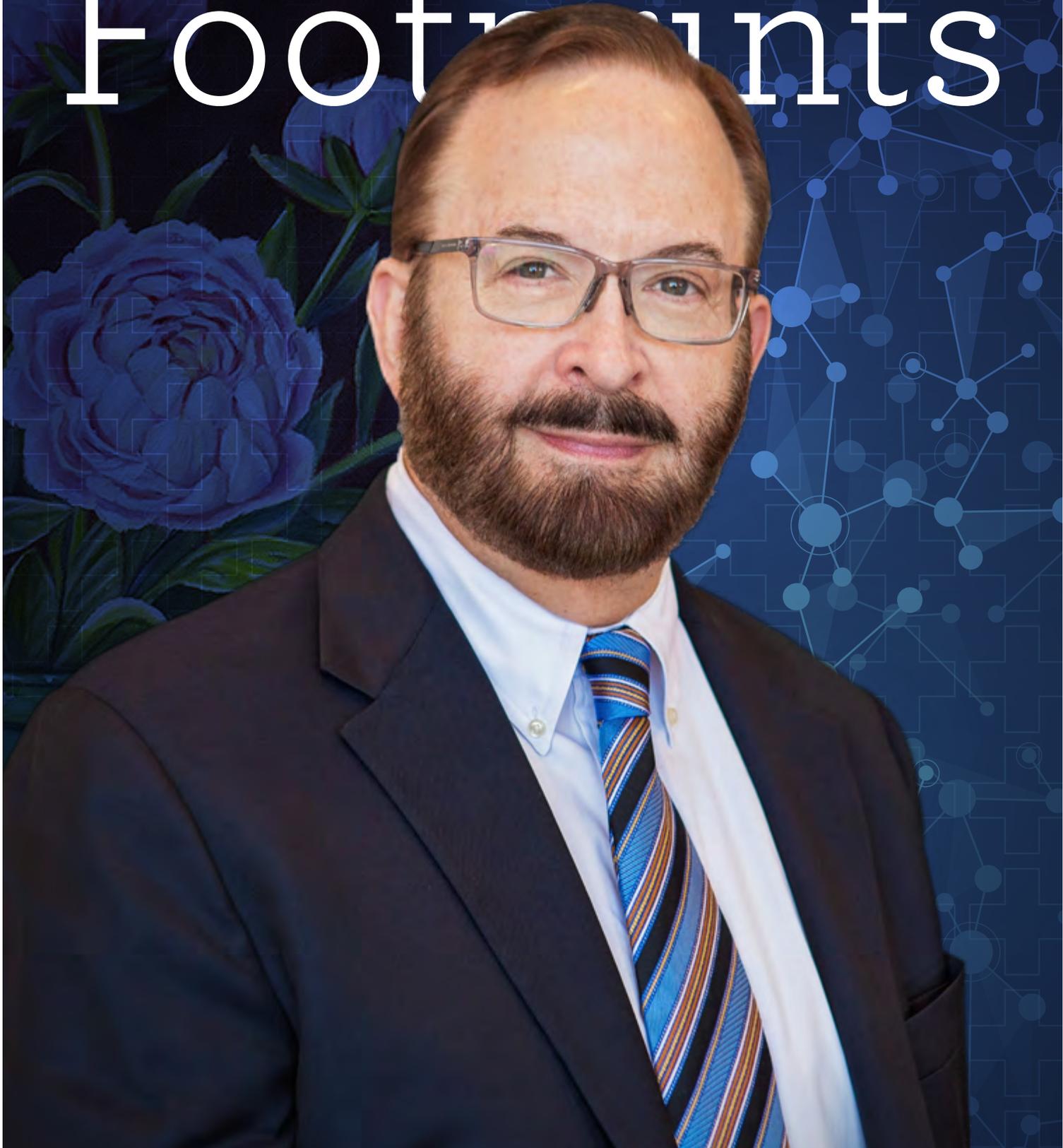


Winter 2019  
Casper College Alumni Magazine

# Footprints



Four Take the  
American Dream Global

Erickson 2019  
Distinguished Alumnus

Two Committed  
to Excellence

# Footprints

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

## Alumni Board Members

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Lea Schoenewald ('72)<br><i>President</i> | Janette 'Jan' Cundy ('80)<br><i>Vice President</i> |
| Ryan Hieb ('08, '09)<br><i>Treasurer</i>  |  |
| Dale Anderson ('93)                       | Baleigh Hite ('11)                                 |
| Samantha Andrew*                          | Brenden Lamb ('05)                                 |
| Virginia Bodyfelt ('01)                   | David Long ('72)                                   |
| Kevin Bromley ('77)                       | Odessa Oldham ('18)                                |
| Derrel Carruth ('65)                      | Chad Pollock ('13)                                 |
| Donnie Claunch ('12)                      | Deb Werner Simon ('75)                             |
| Nancy Gerlock ('95, '97)                  | Mike Stepp ('80)                                   |
| Joni Hedstrom ('94)                       | Hannah Wille ('13)                                 |
| Luella Hinderliter ('66)                  | Ben Winckler ('04)                                 |

\*Nondegree

## Editorial Staff

Linda Nix, Communications Coordinator,  
Foundation and Alumni Association

Danica Sveda ('09),

Associate Director of Donor and Alumni Relations

Denise Bressler ('84),

Foundation Chief Financial Officer

Chris Lorenzen, Public Relations Director

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

Cory Garvin ('15), Photographer/Videographer

Evan Fife, Graphic Designer

## Keep in touch!

Email: [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu)

Mail: Linda Nix, Communications Coordinator,  
Foundation and Alumni Association

Casper College, 125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601

Phone: 307-268-3313 or

800-442-2963 ext. 3313

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](http://caspercollegefoundation.org).



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 to Linda Toohey, associate vice president for student services at 125 College Dr, Casper, WY 82601, 307-268-2667, or [linda.toohey@caspercollege.edu](mailto: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.



Brendan Lamb at home with (l-r) Will, Brenn, and Whitney.

# Brendan Lamb Completes the Circuit Page 16

# what's inside

## On the Cover

Brent Erickson Named 2019 Distinguished Alumnus .....8

## Main Stories

Drones in the Drift .....6  
Two Committed to Excellence .....12  
Taking the American Dream Global .....14  
Small House .....18  
UND Partnership .....21  
Alumna Runs for Governor .....24

## Regular Features

Alumni & Campus News .....2  
Five Questions .....26  
People & Places .....28  
Friends We'll Miss .....33  
Notes from T-Bird Camp .....34  
Hidden Campus .....36  
According to Charlotte .....37

**2020** launches a most important time for Casper College. That is because our beloved college will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its founding.

Casper College had a very humble beginning, on the third floor of Natrona County High School. The first student body included 73 daytime students and 83 evening students, as well as 14 instructors and three staff members. Just for a little perspective, today's campus is made up of 28 buildings, 3,759 students, and 273 faculty. We've "come a long way, baby!"

Over the next several months, you will be receiving notice of many celebratory activities happening during 2020. The Casper College Alumni Association will be hosting a beautiful gala at the Casper Events Center in June of 2021. MUCH more information is to come! In the meantime, please start thinking about your favorite memories of your time at Casper College, and maybe jot them down!

One delightful event that has occurred for the last several years, and which allows us to celebrate "Harvard on the Hill," is Homecoming. This year, the men's and women's basketball teams host Sheridan College on Saturday, February 23.

As part of 2019 Homecoming, Dale Anderson and the fire science students will sponsor a "Bunker Drill" (minus boots) competition between campus groups. They will also act as coaches. The competition may include as many as eight sets of competitors, which can be clubs, faculty, student organizations, etc. Of course, the goal is to have the fastest time! Is it possible Dr. Divine might join in the "festivities"?

When I was at our beloved college in the early 70s, one of the most popular figures on campus was Jack Romanek, director of the Casper College Student Center and sponsor of the Casper College Center Board. He absolutely made college life a little happier.

I never remembered a Casper College school song or fight song. My best friend from Casper College, **Mary Vinich Sukup** (AA, '72), was in the pep band. She remembers playing a fight song at the basketball games, but not singing it. So, I went on a "quest" to find that song.

My efforts led back to dear Jack Romanek. He actually wrote the words to the "Casper College Fight Song," sung to a well-known melody given to him by music professor Ed Marty. Jack wrote out the words and gave them to a fellow alumni board member, **Mike Stepp** (AAS, '80).

But I had to hear the melody. So, I called Jack (he is 92 and still living at home) and asked if he would please sing the fight song. So, on a November afternoon, I had the immense pleasure of hearing that amazing man sing. His voice was strong and clear, and he was able to sing perfectly in tune. The recording of him is priceless!

The words do need to be updated, and I am asking for your help. If you have suggestions, please send them to **Danica Sveda** (AA, '09) by Monday, April 1, 2019, at [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu) or mail her at Casper College Foundation, 125 College Dr., Casper, WY 82601. We need to keep the same number of syllables as the original, so that the words will fit the music. I hope we can keep the "flavor" of the original version:

Hail, Casper College  
Hats off to you  
Ever you'll find us  
Loyal and true  
Firm and undaunted  
Ever we'll be  
Hail to the school we love  
Here's a toast to thee

I hope to see many of you at Homecoming!



Lea Schoenewald (AA, '72)

*Lea Schoenewald*  
President, Casper College Alumni  
Association, 2017-19

# Alumni & Campus News

## Casper College Constitution Day Seminar Features Kevin Green

Kevin Green, who was wrongly convicted on charges of second-degree murder, attempted murder, and assault with a deadly weapon, was the keynote speaker at the 2018 Constitution Day Seminar at Casper College held on September 17, 2018.

The seminar's theme, "The Importance of the 8th Amendment," was selected "... due to ongoing concerns over the impact, applicability, and morality of 'no cruel and unusual punishments' involving the death penalty and beyond," said Erich Frankland, Casper College political science department chair, and seminar committee member.

Green's case goes back to the evening of September 30, 1979, when he was accused of striking and severely injuring his pregnant wife Dianna Green in her apartment. The attack also took the life of the couple's full-term unborn child.

Green was convicted on October 2, 1980. It wasn't until 16 years later, thanks to new DNA technology, that it was found that the sperm taken from Dianna's body did not match Green but rather felon Gerald Parker, a serial killer known as the "Bedroom Basher."

The 2018 Constitution Day Seminar was sponsored by the Casper College School of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

### The Importance of the 8th Amendment

*Excessive bail shall not be required nor excessive fines imposed nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted*

2018 **CONSTITUTION DAY SEMINAR**  
MONDAY, SEPT. 17, 2018  
Free and open to the public

FEATURING SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEVIN GREEN, Innocence Project

Presentations throughout the day, beginning at 8:45 a.m.  
Wheeler Concert Hall, Music Building, Casper College campus

Sponsored by the Casper College School of Behavioral Science

FOR INFORMATION: Erin Harkard, 307.256.2400 or [erin@caspercollege.edu](mailto:erin@caspercollege.edu)

**Casper College**

## College Hosts International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day



Casper College hosted activities to help suicide loss survivors find comfort and gain understanding through stories of healing and hope during International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day on November 17, 2018.

The free event featured a screening of the film "A Daughter's Journey," produced by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. An act of Congress in 1999 created Survivor Day and since then has been sponsored and supported by the AFSP. In 2017 there were over 380 locally organized events held throughout the U.S. and around the world. For many loss survivors, attending a Survivor Day event is an opportunity to discover that they are not alone in their experience of losing someone they know and love to suicide.

The event was sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Casper, Central Wyoming Counseling Center, Drew's Decision, the AFSP, and Casper College.

# CC Instructor Co-Authors Study

Casper College Geology Instructor **Kent Sundell**, Ph.D., had an article he co-authored on a crater impact site in Wyoming published in *Scientific Reports* on September 5, 2018.

The article, "Evidence for a Large Paleozoic Impact Crater Strewn Field in the Rocky Mountains" discusses "... the Douglas Impact Site as the 194th known impact site on earth and the second known impact in Wyoming," said Sundell.

Sundell co-authored the paper with fellow geologists Thomas Kenkmann, a professor at the University of Freiburg, and Douglas Cook, independent consultant. The three based their investigation of the crater field not only on work at the site but also on microscopic analysis of material recovered from the site as well as the use of a drone and available satellite imagery.

In their article, the three noted that "The Paleozoic age and the size of the crater field are exceptional and make the Douglas crater-strewn field the oldest and among the largest

impact crater-strewn fields known on earth." At the time of publication, the three had explored and taken samples from 20 different craters in the Douglas Impact Site.

The complete article can be found at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-31655-4>. *Scientific Reports* is "an online, open access journal from the publishers of Nature, (that publishes) scientifically valid primary research from all areas of the natural and clinical sciences."

# Talking T-Birds Take Top Community College Honors

The Casper College Forensics team, the Talking T-Birds, earned Top Community College honors and finished second place overall at the Trapper Rendezvous in Powell, Wyoming, over the fall.

Under the direction of Doug Hall, the team finished second overall as a team behind the University of Utah. Two competitors scored tournament championships: Chloe Adkins, Box Elder, South Dakota, in international public debate and dramatic interpretation; and Carter Dunn, Casper, in informative speaking.

Other placements at the Trapper Rendezvous included Tristan Zamora, Rawlins, Wyoming, fifth in prose; Izac Garcia, Cheyenne, Wyoming, finalist in program oral interpretation and international public debate quarterfinalist; Jae Fletcher, Douglas, Wyoming, POI finalist and IPDA quarterfinalist; and Kaelan Rodriguez, Casper, second in poetry.

In addition to their tournament championships, Adkins was a finalist in both impromptu and extemporaneous speaking, and Dunn was an IPDA semifinalist and took second in impromptu speaking and third in extemporaneous speaking.

"The bright spot in these results, among others, is that of the eight quarterfinalist slots in IPDA, the T-Birds earned five of those slots. The coaching staff is really proud of this very young team and their showing," said Hall, communication instructor and director of forensics.



*The 2018-2019 Casper College Forensics Team poses with their awards from the Trapper Rendezvous held recently in Powell, Wyoming. From left to right: Hannah Arnold, Riverton, Wyoming; Izac Garcia, Cheyenne, Wyoming; William Endelman, Casper; Ryan Bruner, Cheyenne; Chloe Adkins, Box Elder, South Dakota; Thayne Macy, Casper; Rebeca White, Evanston, Wyoming; Kaelan Rodriguez, Casper; Jae Fletcher, Douglas, Wyoming; Carter Dunn, Casper; and Tristan Zamora, Rawlins, Wyoming. Casper College photo.*

# Entrepreneur Josh Linkner Speaker for Business Enrichment

A successful entrepreneur, CEO, author, and inspirational speaker, Josh Linkner was the presenter for this year's Business Enrichment event at Casper College on October 18, 2018.

According to Linkner's biography, he is the founder and CEO of five tech companies; has been involved with the launch, growth, or financing of over 100 other companies; helped raise over \$150 million in venture capital; and is recognized internationally as a thought

leader and top-rated keynote speaker on innovation, creativity, reinvention, and hypergrowth leadership.

In addition to his successful business career, Linkner is the author of three books, two of which have become New York Times best-sellers: "Disciplined Dreaming: A Proven System to Drive Breakthrough Creativity," and "The Road to Reinvention: How to Drive Disruption and Accelerate Transformation." His

latest release from 2017 is "Hacking Innovation: The New Growth Model from the Sinister World of Hackers."

"We were really pleased to bring in Josh Linkner as our speaker. He brought new and creative ideas tailored specifically for us that we believe helped those in attendance," said **Roberta Marvel** (AAS, '73), dean for the Casper College School of Business and Industry.

## Casper College Students Host Community Dinner

On November 13, 2018, the Campus Kitchen at Casper College celebrated their third year of programming by hosting a Thanksgiving-themed banquet at St. Anthony's Manor. Casper College students provided 20 seniors with dinner, conversation, nutritional education, and a musical performance.

Jolene Rod, sociology major, coordinated the dinner, which included recruiting her son's fifth-grade class at Lincoln Elementary School to make placemats and centerpieces which were gifted to the seniors. Rod also recruited fellow students Rebecca Hebert, music performance major, and Kiara Smith, music major, to play Christmas carols. As part of a service-learning project, students from the "Principles of Nutrition" course shared budget-friendly tips for healthful eating and provided a hands-on demonstration for making a healthy Dutch apple pie yogurt dessert.

"It gives me great joy to be a part of such an amazing team. A team that cares about others and the bigger picture of going beyond the meal. It not only fills a belly but also builds relationships and educates in so many different capacities," said Rod about her experience coordinating the dinner.

Kelsey Phillips, Ph.D., Casper College earth and environmental sciences instructor, is the Campus Kitchen at Casper College project coordinator. The Campus Kitchens Project is a national organization that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger and food waste in their community.



*St. Anthony's Manor residents, Rachel Allen (l) and Linda Miller (r) visit with Casper College student Aleana Fowler. Fowler is a sophomore pre-physical therapy major from Bar Nunn, Wyoming. Casper College photo by Casper College student Brianna Goodell. Goodell, a freshman pre-pharmacy major from Douglas, Wyoming, is The Campus Kitchen at Casper College's social media coordinator.*

# CC Nutrition Student Helps Launch Pediatric Nutrition Program in Wyoming

Through a collaboration between Casper Children's Center and the Campus Kitchen at Casper College, Casper College student Daniel Meier helped develop CCC's Pediatric Nutrition and Weight Management Program. The program, supervised by Dr. Shelley Springer, is now helping local children and their families learn about and adopt lifelong approaches to healthful living.

One of the experiences Meier has utilized to explore the field of nutrition and to develop

leadership skills is acting as the current club president for the CKCC, a chapter of The Campus Kitchens Project, a national organization that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger and food waste in their community.

Having seen the success of the CKCC in the community, and hopeful to recruit a student leader to spearhead the Pediatric Nutrition and Weight Management Program, Springer of Casper Children's Center, reached out to

Kelsey Phillips, Ph.D., environmental and natural sciences instructor at Casper College and program coordinator for the CKCC.

Over the summer of 2018, while also working full time at a local restaurant, Meier and Springer worked together to develop the Pediatric Nutrition and Weight Management Program. The program launched in August 2018 and Meier is now regularly working with pediatric patients and their families.

# Historical Firearms Show Curated by Casper College Students

"The Good, The Bad, and The Banned," an exhibit of historical firearms, opened for public view at the Fort Casper Museum on December 1, 2018.

The show was organized by student curators from the Casper College Museum Studies seminar. The students researched the artifacts and wrote signage for each group of firearms on display. A highlight of the exhibit is the revolver of Tom O'Day, a veteran of the Civil War and a member of the Wild Bunch.

"Working with the students from the 'Museum Studies' class is always fun and exciting. They offer different ways of looking at the objects and bring a new perspective to the exhibit," said Michelle Bahe, curator of collections at Fort Caspar Museum.

"This Casper College 'Museum Studies' seminar course is an example of service-learning, where participants in the Casper College class not only experience hands-on learning in a museum but are also assisting in

facilitating the mission of the museums," said Valerie Innella Maiers, Ph.D., art instructor. Students participating in the seminar included Bettie Johnson, James Moore, Wesley Taylor, Andrew Wayland, and Michaela Eddy. The Casper College "Museum Studies" seminar is part of the college's museum/gallery studies degree program.

"The Good, The Bad, and The Banned" will be on exhibit at Fort Caspar Museum through November 9, 2019.

# Single Parent Program Receives \$1.1 Million Donation

The Casper College Foundation received a \$1.1 million donation from an anonymous donor for the Neil and Doris McMurry Single Parent Program at Casper College.

The single parent program at Casper College began with another generous \$1 million-dollar donation from Neil and Doris McMurry back in 2000. That \$1 million was the seed money for a program to help students who were also single parents with children. Originally named the Casper College Single Parent Grant-in-Aid Program, Neil explained his motivation for the generous donation: "I saw so many young women struggling on waitress wages trying to get ahead and not able to do it. If we could somehow help – not only them – but help the

community, Doris and I felt we should do it. I thought it was a good use of money we didn't need," he added.

Over the years the program has evolved beyond the financial aid award to include a textbook loan program; school supplies; emergency assistance; gas cards; academic and career guidance; and campus, community, and medical referrals.

The success numbers for the program are impressive. As of August 2018, 659 single parents have received assistance from the Neil and Doris McMurry Single Parent Program to assist with their educational needs. As of May 2018, 334 single parents have completed a total of 260 associate degrees and 66

certificate programs all while maintaining an overall GPA of 2.824 and a completion rate of 54 percent.



*Looking back: Pictured (l-r) Paul Hallock (AA, '65), then executive director of the Foundation, Doris and Neil McMurry, and Kim Byrd, then director of the single parent program and director of counseling at Casper College. Casper College photo, taken December 2008.*



**R**apid City, South Dakota, is hot in the summer and this particular day in June was no different. The students of Megan Graham's robotics club were beating the heat by stepping into a passageway to the Ross Shaft. The passageway, called a drift, is where the students came for a drone competition. The Ross Shaft is a 5,000-foot gold mine that is currently being used for underground research by the South Dakota School of Mines. The depth of the mine was ideal for conducting experiments in physics, geology, biology, and engineering. The Casper College Robotics team was invited to compete with other colleges, most of them four-year universities, to locate a 'missing miner' using autonomous flying drones.

The South Dakota School of Mines set a challenge to use a drone that could locate someone injured in an underground mine.



# Drones in the Drift: CC Students at Drone Competition

by Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

The course was 300 feet long, and points were awarded for a drone that could identify a missing person, map the location of the missing person, and fly the drone without the use of a drone operator. The robotics team at Casper College was up to the task. The team took two drones, one built and programmed by the robotics club and one drone straight out of the box. The drone team utilized a microcontroller which they programmed to interface with a flight controller. In addition, they installed an infrared distance sensor to provide data on the position of the drone in the passageway and LIDAR. LIDAR is a detection system that works on the principle of radar but uses light from a laser to provide mapping data. The team stayed in communication with the drone via a repurposed radio-controlled transceiver.

Building a drone like that required the team to utilize their individual skill sets

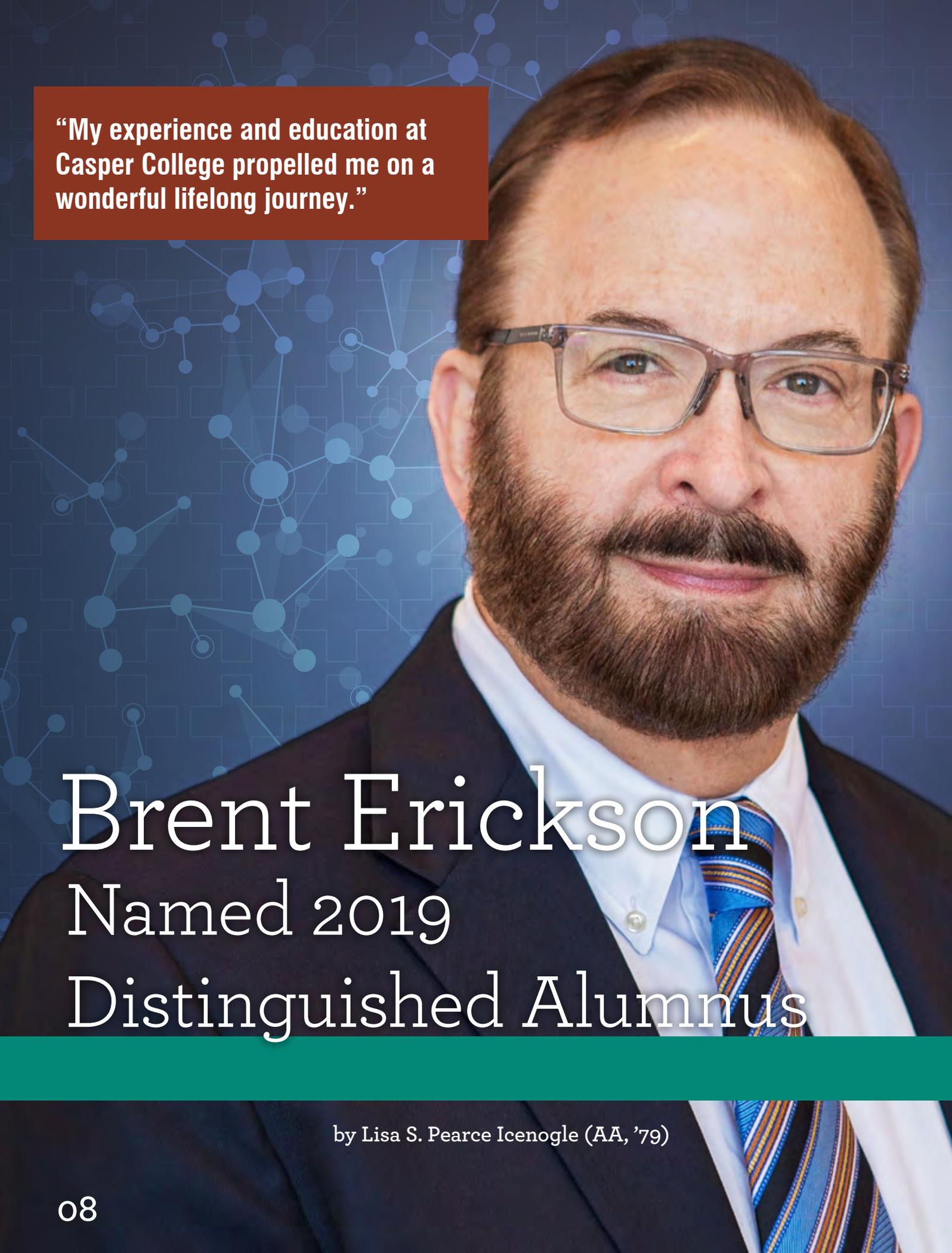
while working together as a team. To function properly, autonomous drones require programming, electronics, and other specializations. The team was no stranger to this type of teamwork. During the August 2017 solar eclipse, the robotics team sent a balloon into the atmosphere to collect data. The robotics team loves these types of projects.

As it is with science, learning occurred throughout the entire process, regardless of success or failure. The homemade drone was unable to obtain stable flight in the drift and tended to fly uncontrollably. After little success with the homemade drone, the team switched to the second drone, a DJI Phantom 4. This drone crashed several times as well, but proved to be hardy and survived the crashes. One of the main problems the team experienced was that the drone could not be controlled from long distances and the drone pilot had to stay within 20 feet of the drone. The pipes and

wires within the confined space created special challenges for the drone's obstacle avoidance protections and the drone fought constantly against the operator.

Using the Phantom 4, the team located the 'missing miner,' an 8 inch tall Pikachu toy, but was unable to collect any mapping data. It would have been easier for the team to fine tune their drones prior to the competition had they been able to test them in a real mine. Instead, the team used the hallways of the college buildings at night, which were far less complicated than a dug-out mine shaft filled with pipes and wires.

The team returned home wiser and with new knowledge about programming, operating, and building a drone from the ground up. These types of learning experiences are, after all, what college is all about, and are exactly what students carry into the future.

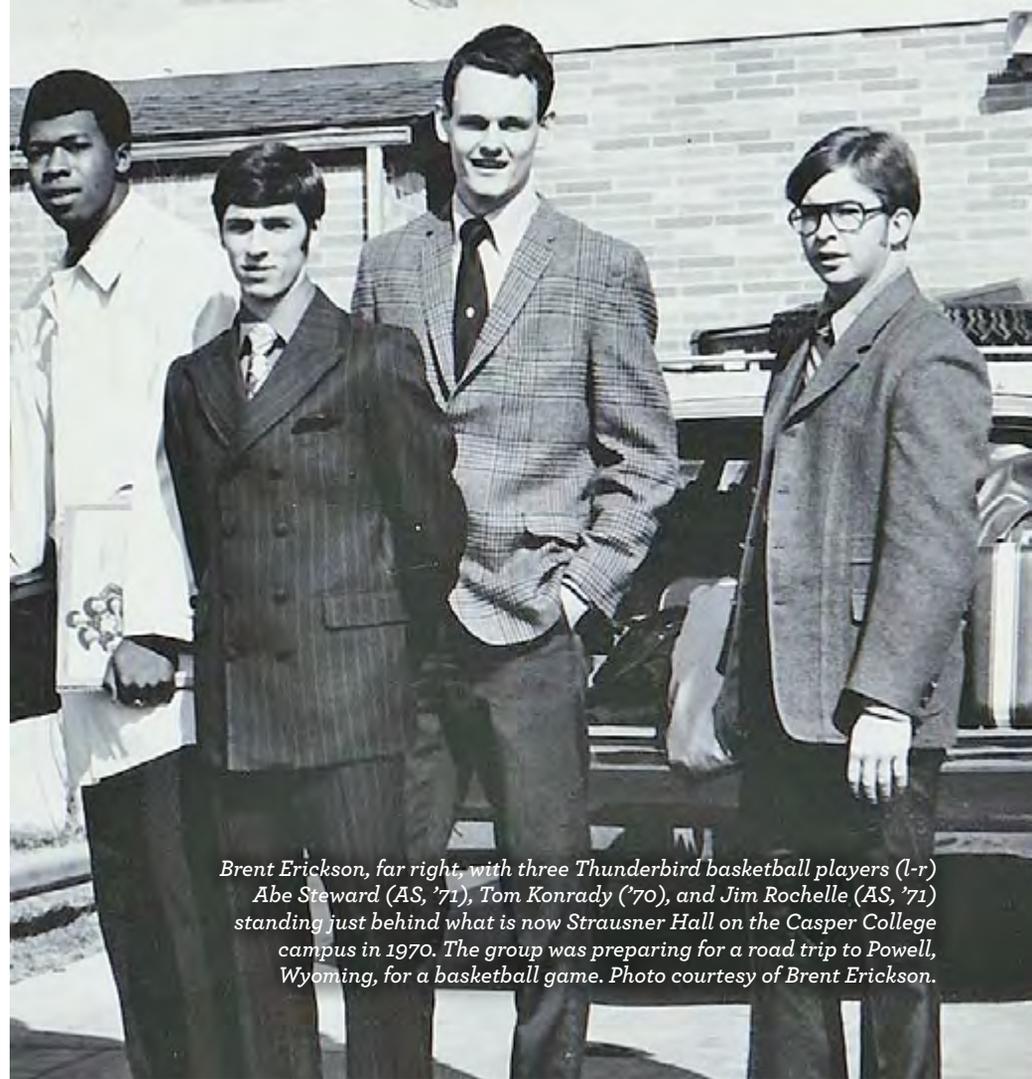
A portrait of Brent Erickson, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. The background is a blue gradient with a network of white dots and lines. A dark red box in the top left contains a quote.

“My experience and education at Casper College propelled me on a wonderful lifelong journey.”

# Brent Erickson

## Named 2019 Distinguished Alumnus

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



*Brent Erickson, far right, with three Thunderbird basketball players (l-r) Abe Steward (AS, '71), Tom Konrady ('70), and Jim Rochelle (AS, '71) standing just behind what is now Strausner Hall on the Casper College campus in 1970. The group was preparing for a road trip to Powell, Wyoming, for a basketball game. Photo courtesy of Brent Erickson.*

Casper College alumnus **Brent Erickson** (AS, '72) has been selected to receive the Casper College Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award for 2019. Erickson will be presented with the award during Casper College's 2019 commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 17.

"My experience and education at Casper College propelled me on a wonderful lifelong journey. Many of the seeds of my personal and professional growth were planted and nurtured by the exemplary faculty of Casper College," said Erickson.

Erickson attended Casper College from 1970-1972, graduating with an Associate of Science degree in biology. "I have many fond memories of my years at Casper College, but the things that made a real difference in my life were not only the culture of excellence in education but also the professors and administrators who really cared deeply about the students," he noted. Following Casper College, Erickson received his Bachelor of Science degree in biology and his Master of Arts degree in international studies from the University of Wyoming.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Erickson was involved in fossil fuel research for three years while at the United States Department of Energy's Laramie Energy Technology Center.

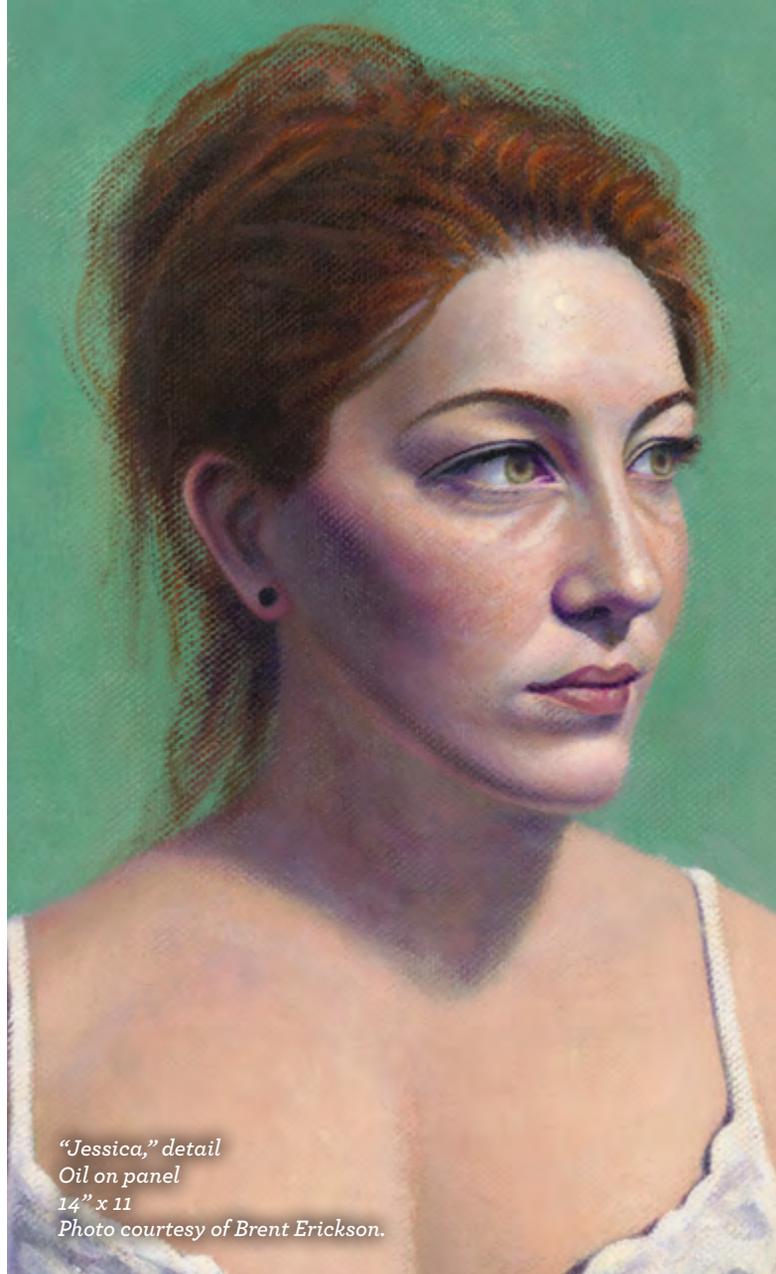
Following the completion of his graduate degree, Erickson joined the staff of United States Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY) as a legislative assistant handling energy, environmental, and defense issues. In 1993 Erickson was promoted to legislative director and managed all legislative and policy issues for Senator Simpson who was then the Assistant Senate Republican Leader. He served as Simpson's staff member from 1981 to 1996.

He joined the American Petroleum Institute in 1996 as a Washington, D.C. representative where he directed government relations efforts on energy and environmental issues. During his time at the API, Erickson earned three special achievement awards.

In 2000 he joined the Biotechnology Innovation Organization. BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers, and related organizations across the United States



*Erickson finished this 16" x 20" oil on panel painting, "Year of the Dragon," detail, the weekend of November 3, 2018. It is now listed for sale on his site, [rbericksonfineart.com](http://rbericksonfineart.com). Photo courtesy of Brent Erickson.*



*"Jessica," detail  
Oil on panel  
14" x 11  
Photo courtesy of Brent Erickson.*

and in more than 30 other nations. He currently heads BIO's Industrial and Environmental Section as executive vice president.

In 2005 Erickson was named consulting editor of the journal *Industrial Biotechnology* a post he continues to hold today. From 2008 until 2014, he served on the advisory board of the Energy Biosciences Institute, a collaboration between the University of California Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the University of Illinois, and British Petroleum.

In 2010 he was selected to serve on the Scientific Advisory board of the Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center, a position he held until 2015. The center is a multi-institution research facility with researchers from the University of California Berkeley, Massachusetts Institute of

Technology, the University of California San Francisco, Harvard University, and Stanford University. From 2000 to 2017, Erickson served as a member of the board of directors of the Western Research Institute, the not-for-profit arm of the University of Wyoming Research Corporation. *Biofuels Digest* named Erickson one of the top 100 people in the world of bioenergy in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, 2016, and 2017 he was recognized as one of the top 100 people in the world in the advanced bioeconomy.

Erickson also serves on the board of directors for the Friends of House of Sweden, a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote U.S.-Swedish relations through education, science, climate and sustainability, global development, culture, arts, et cetera through seminars, round table talks, exhibits,

networking events, concerts, and more. Erickson is also an avid oil painter and has received several awards for his paintings from the Art League in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Distinguished Alumni award winners are nominated by their peers and chosen by the board of directors of the Casper College Alumni Association. The winner must have contributed extensively to his or her professional, philanthropic, or humanitarian work. Past recipients include **Marlan Scully**, Ph.D. (AA,'59), Dr. **Stephen W. Nicholas** (AS,'74), **Dean Conger** (AA,'48), **Diana Ohman** (AA,'70), and **Matteo Pistono** (AA,'91).

On March 31, 2019, Erickson will be leaving his long-held position at BIO to start his own consulting company, BioInsights LLC.

# A Painter's Q and A

**I**n addition to his busy professional life, Brent Erickson is also an accomplished painter and has won several awards for his paintings from the Art League in Alexandria, Virginia. Since there was more to Erickson than just his professional successes, a "Painter's Q & A" seemed to be in order.

**Q:** When did you start painting and did you take classes? If you took classes, where did you take them at and do you have an art degree?

**A:** I have been into art since I was a child. My mother encouraged me a lot and bought me a child's easel so I could paint on rainy or snowy days. In middle school, I studied a little with Casper College art instructor Jim Gaither. I was lucky to be around Jim and Ed Gothberg the other Casper College art instructor at the time.

During college, I was a science major, but I always tried to take at least one art class a semester. After I started a career and moved to Washington, D.C., I decided to take up oil painting and began taking painting classes after work and on the weekends at the Art League School in Alexandria, Virginia.



"Tulips in an Oil Jar," detail  
Oil on panel  
14" x 11"  
Photo courtesy of Brent Erickson.

**Q:** When did you decide to try and sell your work, and why?

**A:** After I took classes for a few years I began to receive positive feedback about my work from instructors and fellow students. Every year the Art League Gallery hosts a student-faculty show, and one instructor encouraged me to exhibit my work. Much to my pleasant surprise, I received an award for one of my paintings the first year I entered the show. So, I decided to start to enter works in the Art League's juried shows for all artists. Artists accepted to the juried shows are allowed to sell their work, and my works began to sell, and that became a natural progression of entering shows and offering works for sale.

**Q:** What is your favorite subject to paint and why?

**A:** I started out wanting to use oils to paint landscapes, but with a busy career I did not have much time to go set up an easel in nature, and still life became something more practical to paint. After some time, I fell in love with still life painting, and I began to incorporate some of my own antiques and other collectible objects into my work.

I like to paint antiques and other objects I have personally collected over the years because I feel a more intimate connection to the subject matter. The result is that a part of my life is what the viewer is experiencing. I like trying to translate what I see in a beautiful and meaningful way, developing paintings that tell a story or have a soul, rather than just representing some object I find special or interesting.

I have an inner drive to be creative and to paint. I love science, and I love art because they are two sides of a coin. In college, I took a variety of art courses, and I have always been creative. I have enjoyed working in different media, but in the end, I have gravitated to painting. I paint because I am only half alive if I don't have a painting to work on.

Over time painting has enhanced my visual and intellectual perception. As any artist knows, you have to first see, then intellectually process that visual information, before you can translate it in a creative work and that is a very

life-enriching enterprise. Once you become an artist, it changes forever how you see everything, and it is like taking the blinders off.

**Q:** Why do you paint, i.e., relaxation, clear your mind, this is your second career, etc.?

**A:** I paint for the joy of painting, but it is also a form of meditation. Painting is a great way to deal with stress from other parts of life. My goal is that someday I will have the time to be a full-time painter.

**Q:** You are a pretty busy person. When do you find time to paint?

**A:** I paint a lot on weekends. But some days I get up very early and paint before work in the quiet of the morning. I was taking classes after work, but now I just take workshops for more advanced painters. I consider workshops like mini-vacations, and I usually take two or three multi-day workshops a year.

**Q:** Where are your paintings that are for sale on display?

**A:** I enter juried shows, so my paintings are often for sale at the Art League Gallery in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, but I also have a dedicated website at [www.RBEricksonFineArt.com](http://www.RBEricksonFineArt.com).

**Q:** What else have I missed that you would like included or that would add to this?

**A:** I would encourage everyone who has any desire to try and paint. I often have people tell me "I could never do that" but they can. We all have to start somewhere. Even the great masters had to study and practice. Painting can be a richly rewarding experience for those who have the courage to try. Part of the fun is getting better and growing your skills and most importantly really learning to see.



# 2019 Commitment to Excellence

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

Charlotte Babcock

Casper native and long-time Casper College Alumni Association board member **Charlotte Babcock** (AA, '49) will receive the alumni association's 2019 Commitment to Excellence award.

Babcock, who graduated from Casper College in 1949, was on the original short-lived Casper College Alumni Association board in 1950. In 1989 the current alumni association was formed, and Babcock started on the association's board in 1990. She remained a board member for the next 26 years and served as the president from 1994-1996.

During her tenure as president for the alumni association, the college celebrated its 50th anniversary with a weekend event with much of the planning of those events spearheaded by Babcock and the alumni association. The celebration included a banquet that recognized 50 exemplary alumni, of which Babcock was one and the unveiling of the "Spirit of the Thunderbird" bronze statue by sculptor and Casper College alumnus **Chris Navarro** ('76). She was also involved in the association's \$100,000 gift pledge toward the renovation of the Gertrude Krampert Center for Theatre and Dance.

Babcock for many years was involved in the selection of alumni scholarship recipients. Upon the passing of her husband Robert in 2003, Babcock established the Babcock Memorial Alumni Academic Scholarship in his memory. Today the fully endowed scholarship is worth \$1500.

"Her willingness to serve the Casper College Alumni Association for 26 years is a testament to her enthusiasm to advance the cause of Casper College and education as a whole," said Paulann Doane, former executive director of the Casper College Foundation.

"Charlotte is a tireless crusader and advocate for higher education. Her unique perspective as one of Casper College's first graduates has been a great resource. Her ideas have helped the Casper College Alumni Association to become financially stable and kept the alumni community strong," Doane added.

Beyond Casper College, Babcock has been president for a number of other organizations including the American Legion, the PTA at East Junior High School (now Casper Classical Academy), Friends of the Library, and Wyoming Writers, Inc. In addition, Babcock was a member of the PTA of Willard Elementary; a charter member, historian, and for 13 years choir director at St. Patrick's Catholic Church; a founding member and president of the Bishop's Guild of Casper; a member of WyoPoets; and a volunteer for The Nicolaysen Art Museum's gift shop. Babcock was also instrumental in the creation of the large historical plaques detailing the history of the Hotel Townsend that hang in the Townsend Justice Center.

After her two daughters were in the school system Babcock spent 26 years as a teacher, ... "and a lot of it was substituting, ... I had a kindergarten, a Monday kindergarten, and I worked in special ed. I had a second-grade class, I had a sixth-grade class, and mostly substituted at Pineview School," she said. During the 1970's Babcock owned Charlotte's Flowers which was located in the Hilltop Shopping Center.

Throughout all of this, Babcock became a published author writing feature articles for the Casper Star-Tribune; a book on the 25th anniversary of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, "The Saint Patrick's Story;" a book on early Casper, "Shot Down! Capital Crimes of Casper;" and most recently a collection of her poems titled "The Meadowlark's Song... and More." Her works have appeared in the books

"Woven on the Wind," "Crazy Woman Creek," "Windsingers," "Word Weavers," "Wyoming Writing," and "Westering." Her column, "According to Charlotte" is a regular feature of the Casper College Alumni Association's magazine Footprints. Babcock is adept in many genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's literature.

Babcock has been recognized by Wyoming Writers, Inc. with the Emmie Mygatt Award for outstanding service to the organization and, following the publication of "Shot Down!," their Milestone Award for her ongoing achievement in her writing career. In 2000, the Wyoming State Historical Society awarded "Shot Down" with its History Book of the Year award. In 2001 Babcock was recognized as a "renowned author, freelance writer, and editor" by the City of Casper and the American Association of University Women. "The Meadowlark's Song ... and More," was identified as an award-winning publication by the Wyoming State Historical Society.

Babcock has been working on a sequel to "Shot Down!" that will delve into Casper's notorious Sandbar.

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

# 2019 Commitment to Excellence



Paulann Doane

by Linda Nix

**P**aulann Tanner Doane's many accomplishments as executive director of the Casper College Foundation have earned her the 2019 Commitment to Excellence Award bestowed by the board of the Casper College Alumni Association. John Jorgensen, president of the Casper College Foundation Board of Directors, said, "When Paul Hallock announced his coming retirement in 2010, we were certain the Casper College Foundation was in for some difficult times. How could we ever replace his 18 years of success at the foundation? It was our amazing good fortune to have Paulann Doane appear on our doorstep. In her almost eight years at Casper College Paulann literally brought us into the 21st century with a new donor database installed, annual reports to donors, and assembly of a very talented and dedicated team."

As a Casper native with 16 years of community college fundraising experience in Colorado, Doane was uniquely qualified. Upon taking the helm of the already thriving foundation, Doane took on the task of making a great organization even better. Doane prioritized accountability to all foundation donors, beginning with the adoption and implementation of a contact, donor, and gift management system that would eventually interface seamlessly with the financial management of the foundation's assets. In addition, she embraced with open arms the opportunity to work with an alumni association, an aspect that was missing from her earlier positions.

Doane earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wyoming and a Master of Arts degree from the American University in Washington, D.C. Before moving to Casper, she headed up the Red Rocks Community College Foundation in Lakewood, Colorado, and before that the Aims Community College Foundation

in Greeley, Colorado. Earlier in her career, she served in various roles at the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia, and at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Doane is known especially for her focus on the foundation's mission of support for students. Under her leadership, the institution developed an expanded role for volunteers to help review scholarship applications. Doane said, "There is no more powerful way for donors and volunteers to appreciate the impact scholarships have on the lives of students than through reading a student's own words about his or her challenges and aspirations." Nurturing connections between donors, students, and the institution informed Doane's priorities, and during her tenure, the foundation awarded \$7.5 million in scholarships and gave another \$21.9 million of support to Casper College.

The foundation's six employees can attest to the success of Doane's goal of making the foundation office the best place to work on campus. Denise Bressler, the CFO for the foundation pointed to the numbers as a measure of Doane's success. "Under Paulann's leadership, foundation assets increased by \$44.5 million, with 91 new funds added, 46 of which are endowed. Seventeen of those new funds were from gifts of over \$100,000," she said. Jorgensen noted, "Paulann arrived just in time to complete the largest capital campaign in our history and has overseen an era of unprecedented growth in the assets of the foundation and in our ability to assist the college in so many ways. We were blessed to have her leadership all these years." Doane headed the "Vision: Campus: Community" fundraising campaign providing the final funding for five new buildings on the Casper College campus, including the Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center, the Residence Hall, the Early

Childhood Learning Center, the Casper College Student Union and University of Wyoming at Casper Building, and the Music Building.

The expansion of foundation staff facilitated the establishment of an internal giving campaign and added campus-wide and community activities. The T-Bird Trek, coming up on its fifth year, attracts around 500 participants, volunteers, and spectators to campus for a healthy and fun family event. The annual donor recognition luncheon began in 2018 as a way to connect donors and students over a meal, while the foundation sponsored all-campus School's Out BBQ, which takes place at the end of the academic year, allows faculty, staff, and students to mingle at a picnic.

Doane was a prime mover in the welcoming of the iconic "Essence of Rex" statue to campus. Working with benefactor Marialyce Tobin to develop the concept and engage the celebrated artist **Chris Navarro** ('76) to create the piece, Doane oversaw the commissioning and dedication of the statue with suitable celebration and fanfare. The community was introduced to the statue when it appeared in the 2014 Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo Parade, winning the prize for best float. Doane quipped, "It's really not fair to win best float with a \$250,000 bronze statue, but it was a very fun way to introduce it to the entire community."

Doane would say it's the little things that make a difference. Under her guidance, donors now regularly receive thank-you letters from students. She observed, "The best thing about this job, throughout all these years, is we get to give away hope." In 2017, Red Rocks Community College Foundation honored Doane's 10 years of service to RRCC with a scholarship in her name. It's a fitting tribute to a woman who's made a career of granting hope.



*Marija Jovanovic.*



*Stanka Panic.*



*Milica (Mitts) Nisavic.*



*Marija Skopljak.*

# Taking the American Dream Global

by Danica Sveda (AA, '09)

**B**eing a student-athlete is hard. Being a student-athlete from a foreign country with English as a second language is decidedly harder. Four outstanding student-athletes came to Casper College from Serbia between 2009-2012 and not only succeeded but excelled. Two Marija's, Milica, and Stanka finished school while earning the Lady T-Birds a regional volleyball title and working at the college library. Busy? As they learned to say in Wyoming, "Boy howdy!" After leaving Casper College, each of them stayed focused on her goals. Three of them left Casper College to play Division 1 volleyball. Footprints recently caught up with these women to see where life had taken them. And no surprise, they are doing great things.

After Casper College, **Marija Jovanovic** (AS, '11) won a scholarship to a Division 1 school in Florida. The school wasn't a good fit, but that misstep wasn't a roadblock to her goal of earning a B.A. in communication. She transferred to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, graduating with her bachelor's degree. She quickly moved on to graduate school at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, where she coached club volleyball. Jovanovic had to leave before completing her graduate degree and return to Subotica, Serbia, because her student visa ran out. Now in Subotica, she teaches English and helps out with the family business. Being back in Europe was a transition after being in the United States for so long; however, she finds comfort in being near family and traveling throughout Europe in her free time. Jovanovic wrote of her time at Casper College, "My favorite Casper College experience was meeting all the lovely

people in the community. They were always helpful, caring, and welcoming, and I hardly ever felt away from home because of it."

**Stanka (Stasha) Panic** (AA, AS, '13) and **Milica (Mitts) Nisavic** (AS, '13) were both recruited to play volleyball by a Division 1 school, Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. Panic played volleyball but became 100 percent focused on her studies because she knew a business degree from an outstanding school would mean a bright future. After a knee injury her junior year, she was asked to stay with the team as an assistant student coach. It was the perfect balance allowing her to be involved in the sport she loved while she focused on school. She graduated with her degree in business administration and finance. Despite an offer to remain at Eastern Washington and coach, she decided it was best to be close to family and returned to Serbia. She now works in Belgrade for Deloitte, a notable financial company headquartered in New York City. Looking back at Casper College one of her favorite memories is playing some of the best volleyball of her life thanks to Head Coach Angel Sharman, and meeting great people, among them Elmer Parson, June Brown, Alison and David McNulty, and Bruce "Doc" and Rosie Eddy who all helped to make her time at Casper College special. She also noted that being named an All-American and winning the Region IX title was pretty nice too.

Nisavic finished her degree at Eastern Washington with a degree in public relations. She moved to Chicago in 2015 where she works for a software company as a relationship manager. She says her time in Chicago has

been amazing and her family visits often. For her Casper College was unforgettable and winning the Region XI Championship was an experience she will take with her forever.

**Marija Skopljak** (AS, '14) attended St. Francis College in New York City on an academic scholarship after leaving Casper College, where she graduated with a degree in finance. She moved back to Serbia after graduation and teaches English. In the near future, she plans to move to Canada to work in finance.

Bitten by the travel bug, Skopljak spends her free time traveling to Greece, Turkey, and Germany and is working on a trip to Italy and Slovenia. While she was in the states she made it to Miami; Orlando, Florida; Chicago; Las Vegas; Salt Lake City; Washington state; and a few other locations. Her two favorite memories of Casper College were her time playing volleyball and working at the library. She said those experiences helped her improve her English and develop the work ethic that has led her to success.

International students on campus make every student's educational experience richer. Those encounters highlight the similarities among all people, rather than the distances many perceive between language and culture. For me, it has been a pleasure watching these particularly dedicated student-athletes pursue high goals and achieve them. It will be exciting to see all the places they go in their lives and careers, and it is heartwarming to know that wherever life takes them, they will take the spirit of the Thunderbird with them.

**B**rendan Lamb (AAS, CERT, '05) had a lot of energy coming out of high school, but no clear idea of how to channel it. He moved to Casper from Rapid City, South Dakota, in eighth grade, then graduated from Natrona County High School in 2000. Lamb said he was a moderately engaged student but lacked the vision for a specific career. Lamb took electronics in high school and liked it, but he hadn't given it much thought as a career path. He wasn't even certain college was for him; however, Pell and Richardson grants meant college was very affordable, so he enrolled at Casper College and in his first semester, with very little reflection, he registered for electronics classes. It turns out he fell into the right hands. Lamb credited instructors Jon Blesi, Megan Graham, and David Arndt with taking his spark of interest and helping him grow a career. Graham encouraged him to continue working toward a degree, even when he needed to be down in Colorado for work, facilitating coursework via distance education.

Eighteen years later, he couldn't be more satisfied with his career with Automation Electronics in Casper where he is a control systems/programmable logic controller specialist. A PLC is an industrial solid-state computer that monitors inputs and outputs and makes logic-based decisions for automated processes or machines. PLCs are specifically designed to operate in the harsh conditions often seen in the extractive industry as well as other fields and are specifically programmed for various functions. Lamb's job is to tell PLCs what to do.

Lamb began working in the panel shop of Automation Electronics in 2001 while he was still in college. He considered not finishing his degree, figuring he'd gained the technical knowledge necessary for a job he loved where he could earn a very good living. With encouragement from his instructors, he kept working, picking away at his general education credits and taking one or two classes a semester while working full time. He studied

English, communications, history, etc. until he gained an A.A.S. degree in 2005. Lamb said the additional coursework was worth the effort, not only resulting in a degree but providing knowledge he didn't initially realize was beneficial, both professionally and personally.

The combination of field work and office work suits Lamb. He estimated that about 60 percent of the time he's working in the office at a computer and in the Automation Electronics lab programming, working on new projects, and supporting Automation Electronics many existing customers. The remaining 40 percent of the time he's out in the field for commissioning, startup, and support of their electrical control systems. Industries served include oil and gas, underground and surface mining operations, water and wastewater treatment, bio-ethanol, and more. He never really knows what the next project will bring or where it will take him. And it's that variety of tasks that keeps his energy flowing. Automation Electronics has completed projects from North Dakota to Texas, California to West Virginia, Alaska, and internationally from Canada, Argentina, Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.

This is a career where a cookie-cutter approach doesn't work. Industrial technology continues to evolve, so learning is constant. Lamb said new platforms and new software keep him sharp. He regularly invokes what he called "Hecker's Law," named for one of his former instructors, the late **Miles Hecker**. "If all else fails, read the manual."

Safety training through the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration periodically brings him back to campus. In addition, he's on the advisory board for the electronics program at Casper College, a group that helps instructors stay aware of current demands in the field, so curriculum remains relevant. He is also a member of the Alumni Association board of directors.

Wyoming music fans may recognize Lamb from his time as a local musician. For several years he played with the now disbanded group, the Dang Ol' Boys, self-described as

an acoustic bluegrass country Irish punk rock fusion band.

Music has always been a major part of his life. Lamb credited his parents for his love of music, whether it was listening to records around the house growing up, music on long road trips, or listening to his dad and other family members play music throughout his whole life. It was this love of music, and the joy of making music with family and friends, that resulted in the formation of the Dang Ol' Boys, whose members included Lamb's father Dennis, his brother Tim, and many of Lamb's closest friends. Lamb still enjoys playing music at home with his kids, jamming with friends and family, and even the occasional solo performance when the opportunity presents itself.

Lamb's wife **Whitney (Swieter) Lamb** (AA, '04) is also a Casper College alumna. Whitney works for Mercer Family Resource Center as a prevention education specialist. Whitney and Brendan's two young children, son Will age 3 and daughter Brenn age 4, keep their lives together very full with pre-school, swimming, and other activities. Family and friends on both coasts offer ample opportunity for fun travel. Lamb said they love their downtown Casper neighborhood, rich with friends and opportunities to connect.

Lamb sees great opportunities in his field for current graduates. He noted that Automation Electronics hires many Casper College graduates and the demand hasn't slackened. The electronics technology A.A.S. degree also transfers to four-year colleges for students contemplating additional training in electronics engineering technology. The department offers several certification programs, leading to both jobs and promotions. For people interested in careers in growth sectors, it's worth a hard look. Learning on state-of-the-art equipment and instruction by knowledgeable and supportive faculty invested in helping students find positions is a hallmark of this program. Instructors help students harness their latent energy, and channel it into rewarding careers.

A security technician at Long Building Technologies in Casper, **Matt Cozzens** (CERT, '17, AAS, '17) studied electrical technology at Casper College. A graduate of Burlington High School in Burlington, Wyoming, Cozzens said his degree prepared him for his job working with low voltage systems, including alarm systems, fire

alarm systems, security systems, and networking systems. Thanks to his classes and the opportunity for hands-on learning, he understood the theory behind the things he's asked to do in his job. Cozzens noted that most of the careers in Wyoming using this degree involve long hours and travel. "It is extremely important to understand that you will

not be home every night and you will be on the road four to five days a week. The benefits are amazing. I love my co-workers, and my work environment is positive. I love having the experience and understanding that helped me to become a valuable employee and helps me become more valuable to my customers, coworkers, and company. This career has



# Circuit Training Pays Off

by Linda Nix

lots of demand and isn't going anywhere anytime soon."

Recent electronics technology graduate, **Kyle Hessling** (AAS, '18) is a part-time electronics technician for Long Building Technologies in Casper while pursuing a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and studying applied engineering at the

University of Wyoming at Casper. He attended Wind River High School in Pavillion, Wyoming. Hessling has high praise for Casper College's electrical technology program and says the program "goes above and beyond to provide students with the exact job-related skills they need to succeed in this field. I had an internship with Long Technologies two days

after graduating with my associate degree, and I was more than adequately prepared for the job. Electrical technology is a big field, and it only is getting bigger. Jobs are everywhere, and the Casper College program will more than prepare you for the workforce. I found these electrical technology courses to be some of the most enjoyable credits I have ever taken."



Rendering of small house by CC architecture classes. Casper College image.

# CC and PIC form Productive Partnership

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

**F**or several years now, Casper College and Natrona County High School students from the Pathways Innovation Center have partnered together to build log cabins, which are then sold to the highest bidder.

The project, according to **Rob Hill** (AA, '08), construction instructor at PIC, is approached as a design-build partnership between the two schools. Hill's high school students are presented with different design plans created by Jason Eggemeyer's college students in his "Architectural Drafting II" and "Commercial Architecture" classes at Casper College. "Rob and I team teach on these projects, and I am the lead on the design and drawings and advise on building codes and material selection," said Eggemeyer, Casper College drafting instructor.

After Eggemeyer's students present their different design concepts to Hill's "Core Construction" Class students, the two groups meet several times and Hill's students finally settle on a plan they believe is the best, along with a few "facets" from the other plans. "It is an extremely collaborative effort for everyone involved," said Hill.

The designs by the Casper College students, Hill said, are unique but also require the students to work within the predetermined budget and target markets and pass all building codes. The completed cabins from past years were all permitted and inspected to be placed on a foundation within Natrona County. Last year's cabin contained 616 feet of living space; a full bath; kitchen with a refrigerator, microwave, and electric stove; 40-gallon water heater; all electric heat; eating

area; closets; and all the furniture and other staging items used in its presentation to the public.

Hill's students are required to look at each cabin project "from conception to sale and what really happens in that time span," he said. "After each cabin was built, the students then needed to market and present it for sale," he noted. The cabin for 2018 was on display to the public during an open house at the PIC on April 19, 2018. At 6 p.m. that day bidding on the cabin began and lasted for a week until the winning bid was announced.

To learn some aspects of the building process, the PIC students take two courses and gain both high school and college credit. The students start with woodworking and then take the introductory classes for construction and carpentry. Along the way, the PIC students



working on a build project are also able to gain an Occupational Safety and Health Administration hazard identification 10-hour training course through Hill. "The students do everything on these build projects, except for the plumbing and electrical work, which are done by licensed contractors," Hill said.

The cabin sold in April 2018 took 1.5 years to complete. For Hill, his approximately 75 students were able to work with Eggemeyer's college students. "College is an abstract thought to a lot of our students, but after they sit down with Casper College students, they see that it isn't something unattainable," said Hill. "The Casper College students have a skill set that is above our students, and it is good for ours to work with those mature students," he noted.

The Casper College students who work on a cabin project are "primarily engineering

technology students or construction technology students in their last semester before graduation," said Eggemeyer. "These projects are important to the Casper College students because they get to experience and witness a project from conception to reality. They also get to analyze the needs of a real client and come up with a design to meet their needs," he added.

The cabin project was possible thanks to a grant from the Wyoming Department of Education's Career Technical Education Demonstration Project Grant. "We were able to afford this level of a project because the grant provided us with the cost of the cabin," Hill said. That cost, \$57,222, was the starting bid for the cabin, which sold for \$61,500. The grant became seed money and allowed Hill and Eggemeyer to continue the program.

*Two views of the inside of last year's cabin.  
Photo by Rob Hill, Natrona County School District.*

# Small House Next Project

Jason Eggemeyer and his students have been working on the next build project with Rob Hill and his students. Eggemeyer has been busy selecting the materials to be used in the new creation that Hill says will have 616 square feet of living space, redwood siding, and geometrical design. The small house "will align with what builders are doing both locally and nationally," he said. Both Hill and Eggemeyer agree that the program is a "win-win" for everyone: the students, the PIC, Casper College, and the community.

Construction on the small house began the last week of November 2018. According to Hill, this year's project "... is a more modern style with more living space and an upgraded kitchen. It is one bedroom, one loft, a full kitchen, and full bath." The estimated cost of the house is between \$55-\$65 thousand, and some of the amenities will include a gas fireplace, on-demand water heaters, a full-size refrigerator, dishwasher, stackable washer and dryer, deep sink, cultured stone fireplace, and exposed arch beams. The completed small house will go up for bid sometime in spring 2019.

Eggemeyer noted that the creation of the drawings for the small house was "... a giant learning experience for the Casper College Engineering Technology Program students." For CC students, the opportunity to actually go through the design process with a client was something that can't be duplicated in a classroom setting. "Having the opportunity to work with the Pathways Innovation Center's "Core Construction" students all the way through the construction of the project is an invaluable experience our students will carry forward into the workplace," said Eggemeyer. "To see their drawings turn into a building is exciting, especially with the quality of craftsmanship the students at PIC in the "Core Construction" class are capable of putting into a building," he added.

If past projects between the two schools and this year's project are any indication of the future, it seems likely that Casper College and the Natrona County School District will continue their partnership. "The quality of work that we are seeing from Casper College students continues to get better and better. I really think they did their homework when they designed this project, and that will carry over into the marketing and sale. We feel like they have given (us) something special to work with, so it is our job to build to the quality of design they have created," said Hill.



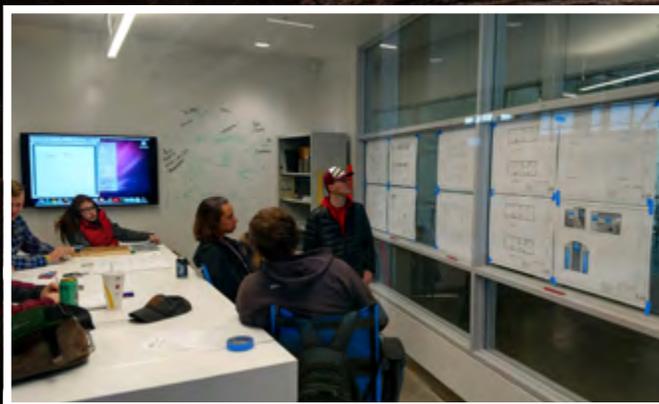
*Lane Schimpf (AAS, '18) looks up from testing finish sealers during the spring 2018 semester for the small house that students are currently working on. Schimpf graduated with his AAS in engineering technology and design and is now attending Sam Houston University where he is working on his BS in engineering technology. Pictured in the second row (l-r) are students Jim MacKearney (AAS, CERT, '18), and Aaron Parker, engineering technology major. Third row, behind computer screen, Dalton Novotny (AAS, '18). MacKearney, Parker, and Novotny were all working on drawings. Casper College photo by Jason Eggemeyer.*



*Natrona County High School students from the Pathways Innovation Center work on building the floor system for the small house that will go up for bid in spring 2019. The students began work on the project the last week of November 2018. The PIC students have also been busy building other projects including a pergola for the Casper College Early Childhood Learning Center and several community projects in between the house projects with Casper College. Photo by Rob Hill, Natrona County School District.*



*Dalton Novotny (AAS, '18) works on drawings for the PIC small house currently in production. Novotny graduated with his AAS in engineering technology and design and is now attending the University of Colorado Denver where he is working on his bachelor's in architecture. Casper College photo by Jason Eggemeyer.*



*Jerren Johnson (current), engineering and technology student, is shown presenting three different proposed designs to Pathways Innovation Center students. Photo by Rob Hill, Natrona County School District.*

# Casper College UND Partnership Marks 25 Years

by Brian James Schill

*Brian James Schill is the assistant director in the Office of Alumni and Community Relations at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.*

**O**n the surface it does seem a bit odd, admitted Breann Lamborn: a distance partnership between Casper College in Casper, Wyoming, and the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks for the training of occupational therapists.

On closer inspection, though, the union makes perfect sense. After all, both states are predominantly rural, are experiencing an ongoing shortage of healthcare providers of all sorts, and rank in the bottom five states for population density in the U.S.

So maybe not so odd.

"This relationship is another legacy of the Cliffords," said Lamborn, site administrator of the Wyoming location for the UND School of

Medicine and Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Department. "Without Tom this partnership wouldn't exist."

Lamborn was referring not to former UND President Tom Clifford, but his son Tom Clifford Jr., emeritus faculty member at Casper College, and spoke of the long-distance relationship maintained by two schools located in overwhelmingly rural states. That partnership marked its 25th anniversary in fall 2018.

"Tom at that time was the chair of the Life Sciences Division at Casper College, and had been for many years," continued Lamborn. "That's how UND was contacted. Tom had been advising and guiding his students to North Dakota, which of course was his alma mater, for OT."

"We're serving both states," added Janet Jedlicka, the Grand Forks-based chair of the OT department, who noted how in the early 1990s a conversation between Clifford, former OT Chair at UND Sue McIntyre, and former Casper College President **Leroy Strausner** (AA,'60) for an occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program (which Casper College maintains today) morphed into a partnership for a full occupational therapy program to be offered through UND but in Casper. "I travel to Wyoming early in the year and then our Casper faculty travel to the main campus annually for meetings and training. All faculty teach and advise students at both sites on campus in a variety of ways. Students at times visit the other campus and attend classes when doing



*This past fall, the University of North Dakota celebrated its 25-year partnership with Casper College. Those gathering for the celebration included current faculty as well as past adjuncts and others. Pictured l-r: Andrea Young, UND Casper faculty; Janet Jedlicka, occupational therapy chair Grand Forks; Trevor Mahlum, associate vice president for academic affairs at Casper College; Breann Lamborn, UND Casper faculty; Darren Divine, president, Casper College; Mike Moline, Casper College physical science instructor and UND Casper adjunct faculty; Rebecca McOmie, former UND Casper adjunct; Nicole Harris, UND Casper faculty; Kelly Dornbier, UND Casper faculty; Lavonne Fox, UND Grand Forks faculty; and Jessa Hulteng, UND Grand Forks faculty. UND photo by Dean Lamborn.*



*This cutline and photo appeared in the Casper Journal on September 4, 1993: "Representatives from the University of North Dakota and Casper College recently toured Wyoming Medical Center's TherapyWorks, which will house some classes for a new occupational therapy program. The program is being offered at Casper College as a result of a partnership between the UND, the college, and the Wyoming Medical Center. Connie McMillian (AA, '64), director of TherapyWorks, (far right) shows off a new piece of equipment to (from left to right) Toby Baker, (back to camera) wife of the UND president; Sue Schmitt, dean of the College for Human Resources and Development; Bob Boyd, dean of the Division of Continuing Education; LeRoy Strausner (AA, '60), president of Casper College; Ken Baker, UND president; and Skip Gillum (AS, '69), vice president for academic affairs at Casper College. The UND officials were in Casper to look at the facilities used for the occupational therapy program and meet instructors and college and medical center administrators. Casper College photo by Donna Davis." Clipping from the Casper College Western History Center.*

clinical or traveling. We work hard to meet both the educational and personal needs of the students by providing options and flexibility," said Jedlicka.

In an effort to celebrate a partnership that has lasted two and a half decades and produced several hundred occupational therapists across two under-served states, the OT team recognized 25 years of improving healthcare in rural states with an anniversary gathering at the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association conference.

On hand were not only UND's OT faculty from both campuses but many of its alumni – who often serve as clinical instructors for today's students.

"We have benefitted from alumni support especially in Wyoming because a significant number of our supervisors at clinical sites are graduates of our program, either here or in Grand Forks," added Lamborn. "Our alumni continue to give back to us through their willingness to be clinical supervisors for students. They see it as their responsibility to train and bring forward the next generation of grads – and we can't thank them enough for that."

The UND Department of Occupational Therapy – accredited continuously since 1956 – established its distance site in 1993. But it remains a single program with a single faculty.

It currently offers a master of occupational therapy (MOT) entry-level degree but will offer an occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) starting fall 2019 for students at both locations. While the bulk of the program's faculty are based in North Dakota, four live in Casper. The two sites divide their students in approximately a three-to-one ratio where 54 of the total 180 OT program students are trained in Casper annually.

Both Jedlicka and Lamborn said that what makes the partnership work is the fact that both institutions – and their home states – benefit greatly. The partnership has enhanced the resources available to UND's OT program in terms of faculty expertise and the diversity of the student body. At the same time, it has helped the two states meet the health care needs of their residents.

"Without the UND Casper College partnership, there would be no option for master's or doctoral level OT education in the state of Wyoming. We don't have enough providers in the state, and this program helps address that shortage," explained Lamborn. "OT is a desirable degree. I fielded 800 inquiries that first year about admission into the program."

Not content to stand on its laurels, then, the program is looking to the future, finalizing plans to begin offering an OTD degree this fall

at the same time as it expands its training in telerehab services, identifies clinical sites at which students might conduct fieldwork, and looks for other innovative ways to serve rural citizens especially in both states.



*Casper College UND OT Club members Missy Neff (AS, '94) (left) and Melissa McGrady Cunningham (AS, '96) (right) pose with a huge facsimile check for \$1,313 the club had raised for "Therapeutic Use." The photo was taken on May 28, 1997, and is from the College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center*

# CC Students to Faculty Thanks to UND

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

*In addition to the occupational therapy degree offered through the partnership between the University of North Dakota and Casper College, Casper College also offers an occupational therapy assistant degree. Currently, that program is headed up by Cassidy Hoff (AS, '98, AA, '98). Both Hoff and OTA instructor Melissa (Missy) Neff (AS, '94) were graduates of the UND OT program at Casper College. At the time, Hoff and Neff both earned what was then offered through the program, a bachelor's degree in OT. The two went on to San Jose State University where they both earned their master's in OT.*

**T**heresa Robinett (AS, '09) joined Hoff and Neff as the third full-time instructor for the OTA program at Casper College in August 2015.

Robinett graduated from the UND program with her master's in occupational therapy in 2012. She decided on a career in OT while still attending Newcastle High School in Newcastle, Wyoming. "My sister had some health issues, and when researching about her condition, I found OT. I then found out one of my family's neighbors, who lived on another ranch down the road, was an occupational therapist," said Robinett. That therapist, Mona Stenson, has been working as an OT for 30 years, according to Robinett. "She was the primary OT where I grew up in Weston County, and during my time in high school I was able to shadow Mona and spend time with her," Robinett noted. Not only did Stenson mentor Robinett, but she "... fostered a passion for OT and pointed me in the right direction and informed me about my options for OT school." Robinett narrowed her top choices down to UND or Colorado State University. During her senior year Robinett, also a talented rodeo athlete, was offered a rodeo scholarship at Casper College from then Head Coach Tom Parker. "I took Tom's offer, rodeoed for two years while I completed pre-requisites for UND, (earning her associates in pre-occupational therapy), and then applied to UND for their master's program in OT," Robinett said.

Following her graduation from UND, Robinett began work as an OT at Shepherd of the Valley Healthcare Community in Casper. There she was contacted by Hoff, who was looking for locations for the college's OTA students

to do fieldwork. "Cassady made the whole process of being a fieldwork educator very easy, and I really enjoyed the students. I then served on the advisory board for the program, and continued to take students," she said, adding "I was really surprised how much I enjoyed having students join me in the clinic. I looked forward to working with them." When a teaching position in the OTA department opened up at the college in 2015 Robinett applied and was hired.

Robinett's experience at both Casper College and UND were positive. "CC and UND were a perfect fit," she said. "I grew up on a ranch in Northeastern Wyoming and really liked that I could pursue my dreams and access a great profession a few hours from home," she added. Besides the scholarship, her time on the Casper College Rodeo team also proved fortuitous as she met her husband, Chris, who ranches in Natrona County. "The UND program here at Casper College allowed me to complete my education and balance ranch life," said Robinett, who was quick to give kudos to



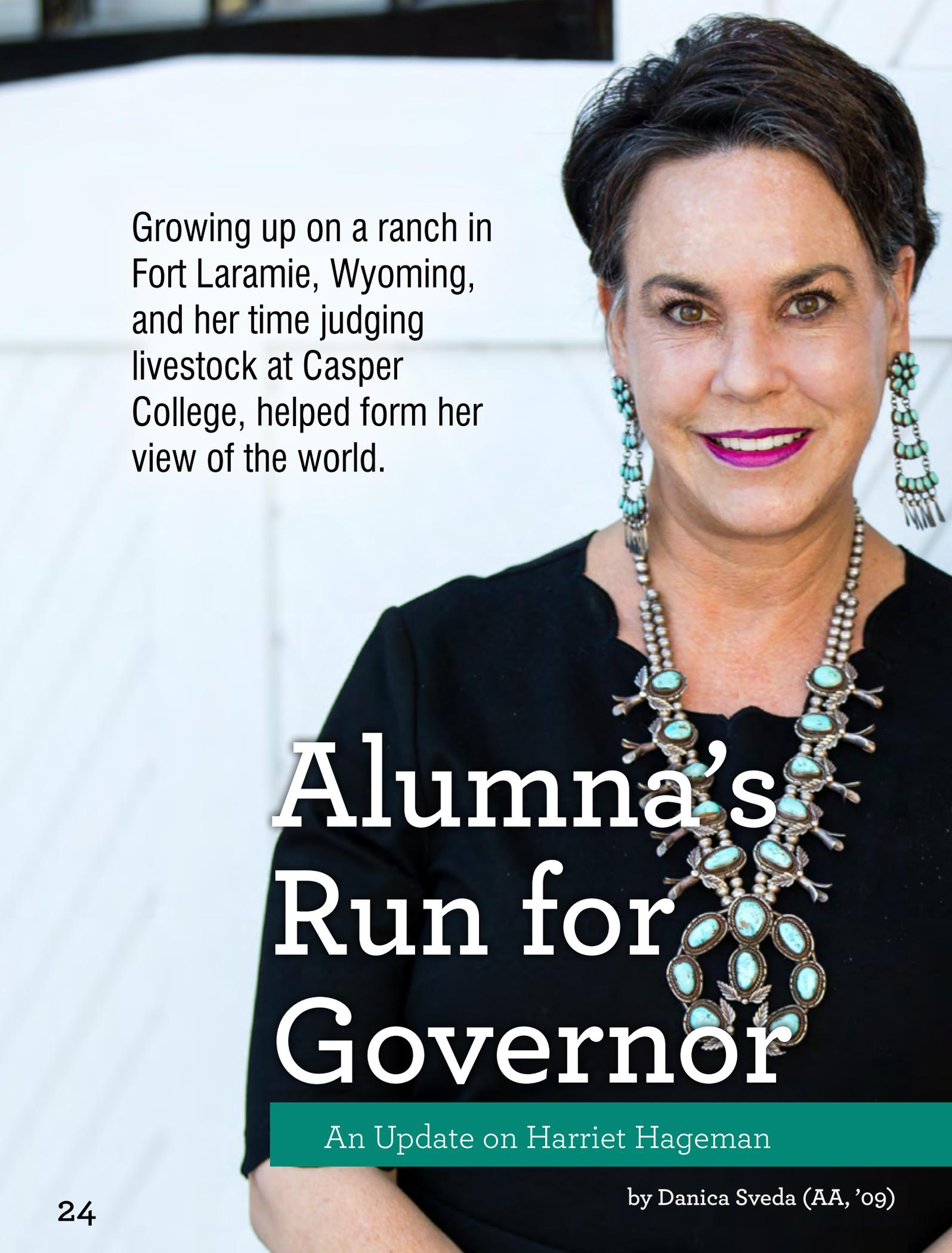
*This photo taken in the mid-90s shows students participating in a University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy class at Casper College. Photo from the College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.*



CC and UND: "During my education at both schools, I always felt that my learning and my success was the priority of my instructors. I was supported and confident in the skills I was gaining."

Robinett said that she has "... greatly enjoyed being back here at CC. Casper College is a very special place to me! It is the place where my education, career, friendships, and even my marriage began."

*University of North Dakota OT students helped prepare meals. Top row, (l-r): Shane Neal (AS, '96), Jeaneen Dreiling, Brenda Birnbaum, Melissa McGrady Cunningham (AS, '96), Missy Neff (AS, '94); Bottom row (l-r): unidentified, Christy Johnson Siplon (AS, '99), Kathy Johnson, and Michelle Smith. Almost all of these students enriched their education with additional classes from Casper College. The photo was taken in April 1997, and is from the College Relations Collection, Casper College Western History Center.*

A portrait of Harriet Hageman, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a black top and a large, ornate necklace with turquoise stones. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a light-colored wall with a window.

Growing up on a ranch in Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and her time judging livestock at Casper College, helped form her view of the world.

# Alumna's Run for Governor

An Update on Harriet Hageman



**E**leven years ago, the late **Rich Fujita**, former director of public relations at Casper College, interviewed future 2010 Distinguished Alumna **Harriet Hageman** ('83) for the Summer 2007 issue of Footprints. He asked if she wanted to be the governor of Wyoming someday to which she answered emphatically, "Yes." In the 2018 election Hageman did run for governor, and although she didn't win, it wasn't for lack of getting out and hearing from the citizens of Wyoming. She traveled the state logging 38,500 miles in seven months of campaigning. She held town hall meetings lasting anywhere from two to four hours listening to what was important to Wyomingites. She spent time talking to doctors to learn more about health care reform. Hageman talked to teachers in her effort to gain a solid grasp on the educational system in Wyoming. She talked to experts in almost every field imaginable – economics, mining, mental health care, early childhood development, addictionology, criminal justice reform, public service, trucking, highway safety, agriculture, land use, regulatory reform, small business, and many others.

Hageman is an expert in the field of water rights, and true to her nature, when she decided to run for governor of Wyoming she set out to become an expert in public policy. She put in the time, educating herself on current issues affecting Wyoming voters, by reading, listening, and attending conferences.

Growing up on a ranch in Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and her time judging livestock at Casper College, helped form her view of the world. Hageman knows that nothing can replace good old-fashioned hard work. She certainly doesn't shy away from rolling up

her sleeves and getting things done. And she appreciates that her fellow Wyoming residents feel the same way. She thinks the rest of the United States could learn something from Wyoming and believes that the individuality and common sense that sets Wyoming apart should be adopted in other states. For Hageman, less government is more. "How big, broad, and powerful should government be? The private sector can provide many of the services that the government offers, why should the government do what private citizens can do better?" asked Hageman.

Now back full time at her law firm, Hageman Law P.C., Hageman has seen business pick up since her run for governor. She represents a variety of industries and businesses including private property owners, irrigation districts, sportsmen groups, land developers, and energy producers. She also keeps an active schedule speaking at events across the state as well as attending many public policy conferences and federalist society meetings. At the time of our interview Hageman had just returned from the Goldwater Institute Conference, and in October attended the State Policy Network meetings in Salt Lake City. Regulatory reform, the constitutionality of regulations, and states' rights are at the forefront of her political agenda. Hageman wants to hone her message and effectively return power to the states from the federal government. She firmly believes that a limited government that is closest to the people is the best form of government in terms of protecting liberty, freedom, and prosperity.

Hageman plans to keep her voice in the room. She'll continue to participate in the public conversation, representing her clients and speaking out on public policy matters.

**T** Tyler Leshner (AA, '11) is currently the head athletic trainer/strength and conditioning specialist of the Greensboro Swarm, an NBA G League affiliate to the Charlotte Hornets. Leshner is also the assistant athletic trainer for the Hornets. Following his graduation in May 2011 with a degree in health sciences, Leshner attended New Mexico State University where he earned his bachelor's in athletic training. He completed his formal schooling in 2016 with a master's in kinesiology with an athletic training option from California State University, Chico.

Leshner began as a nursing major at Casper College but switched to athletic training because as he said, "... I struggled with that career and major. While I was going through nursing school, I was also taking athletic training classes. My two athletic training instructors, **Mike Moline** and **Dan Dalen**, convinced me that athletic training was more for me because of how natural it came to me. I owe them everything for talking me into athletic training and starting me on my path of working in the NBA." During his time at Casper College, Leshner was a student assistant coach for the men's basketball team under former Head Coach **Joel Davidson** and an athletic training student.

"Casper College gives students the chance and opportunity to figure out what they want to do with their lives while offering a great education. (Casper College provides) a perfect set up for students to continue their education beyond their associate degree and be fully prepared for their bachelor's and more," noted Leshner.

Shortly after graduation from CSU, Chico, the self-described "gym rat" who loves basketball found himself in the role of athletic training intern for the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Canton Charge. In August of 2017, Leshner became the head athletic trainer for the Swarm. "I would not be in the NBA as an athletic trainer if I hadn't gone through the program at Casper College," he noted. Despite his busy schedule, Leshner has contributed to student learning at Casper College via video conferencing to speak with students, according to Moline.

*This inset photo was taken of Tyler Leshner (AA, '11) in the fall of 2008 while he was a student at Casper College and served as a student assistant for the Thunderbird Men's Basketball team for former Head Coach Joel Davidson. Casper College photo.*



# Five Questions

Tyler Leshner

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



**Q** : What exactly do you do in your job, and can you explain what the NBA G League is?

**01** **A** : I'm in charge of all treatments, workouts, rehabs, and corrective exercises for the players. The NBA G League is the development league for the NBA.

**Q** : What is the hardest part of your job and why?

**02** **A** : The hardest part of my job is managing all the players and maintaining their health and workouts during the season. It's a fine line to keep the athletes in peak shape throughout the season. It's a balance of peak shape but staying rested for performance.

**Q** : What is the most satisfying part of your job and why?

**03** **A** : The greatest part of my position is watching the athletes succeed and get called up to the NBA. Seeing them succeed is success for myself knowing I helped them in their journey.

**Q** : What do you do in your free time and what, if any, hobbies do you have?

**04** **A** : Music, lots and lots of music. It's the most relaxing hobby I have. Listening to it, making it, mixing it, and playing darts. I need constant music in my life to help maintain a sense of calmness during the stresses of the day. In this profession, you have to be a workaholic. There are a lot of ups and downs in the profession, there's not a lot of time to be at home and you have to miss a lot of life events but working towards a championship with a team has no better reward.

**Q** : What is your ultimate career goal?

**05** **A** : My ultimate career goal is to be the head athletic trainer/strength coach of an NBA team as well as to be the head athletic trainer for Team USA Men's Basketball for the Olympics.

# People & Places

## Alumni 1940s, 50s, 60s

**Ron Miller** ('69) was inducted into the Senior Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in Wickenburg, Arizona. A Casper native, Ron rodeoed at Casper College for the late **Dale Stiles**. He competed in the National Senior Pro Rodeo Association as a team roper for 23 years, and during that time he won six reserve world championships with four different partners. In 2004 Ron and his partner Burt Bilby won the NSPRA world championship. He also served as the finance chairman on the board of directors for the NSPRA for four years.

## 1970s, 80s

**1.** **Diana Ohman** (AA, '70) walked the Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of St. James. She said the famous pilgrimage route, "was a long and sometimes hard walk but I enjoyed doing it." Her journey ended at the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain.

**Jane Sanford Baskett** (AA, '71) pursued a career in journalism after writing for the Chinook, serving on student senate, and participating in the CC Young Republicans. She went to work for the Washington Post right out of college and spent the majority of her career writing for the Dallas News. She spent this past fall involved in Beto O'Rourke's campaign in Texas.

**Susan McMurry Samuelson** ('71) received the 2018 Women of Influence Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wyoming Business Council. Susan is owner of the Warren Livestock Ranch.

**Ken Carpenter's** ('72) woodworking creations were featured in an Art 321 show in Casper this past fall. Ken looked to Casper College to expand the skill set he already possessed and continues to take woodworking classes most semesters. He first took courses at the college beginning in 1970.

**Gary Harmon** (AA, '76) retired as a reporter for The Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction, Colorado, after 38 years in the news business. Gary began his career during his time at Casper College working on The Chinook.

**2.** **Sue Lorimer** ('76) who studied nursing at Casper College stopped back over the summer to visit with former coach and mentor **Jean Wheatley**. Sue enjoyed a campus tour and reminiscing with Jean. Sue retired in 2017 as deputy chancellor of Los Rios Community College District in Sacramento, California, and now holds emeritus status, after spending 36 years in California public education in a variety of faculty and administrative positions. Sue wrote, "I will always credit Casper College with introducing me to American community colleges and, thanks to outstanding faculty and course offerings, successfully preparing me to transfer to the University of California, San Francisco, without a single unnecessary course. Casper College showed me what community colleges do to make an affordable, positive impact on every student willing to work hard and learn from exceptional faculty with support from amazingly committed staff and administrators. Playing tennis at Casper College helped me learn to manage my time for studies and practice, and how to compete hard and win and lose graciously. Go Thunderbirds!" Sue is pictured to the left of Jean Wheatley.

**Laura (Burnett) Ryan** ('88) joined the Adult Learning Center at Casper College. She previously was the continuing education specialist in the Casper College Continuing Education Department. She will be teaching some of the ALC's English as a Second Language students as they transition to the adult education portion of the center.

## 1990s

**Timothy D. Bormann** (AA, '92) has been appointed chief of staff for recently elected South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg. Timothy left his law practice in Faulkton, South Dakota, where since 2002, he

has served as Faulk County state's attorney. He was also mayor of Faulkton for five terms. Timothy is a 2001 graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Law and earned bachelor's and master's degrees, both in history, from the University of South Dakota.

**3.** **Georgia Kennah** (AS, '92, AS, '00) is the new director of nursing at Primrose Retirement Community of Casper, beginning her duties last summer. After Casper College, Georgia attended the University of Wyoming and holds degrees in radiologic technology, nursing, and administration of justice. Before returning to Casper, she worked for 18 years as a nurse in an emergency room setting in Colorado and for three years as a unit manager and interim nursing director at Life Care Center of Stonegate in Parker, Colorado.

**Justin Nelson** ('92) received the Dennis Dougherty Award for Community Leadership in October from the Matthew Shepard Foundation. Justin is the co-founder and president of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), the business voice of the LGBT community and the largest LGBT economic advocacy and business development organization in the world. Before establishing the NGLCC, Justin worked for the American Academy of Ophthalmology as the director of federal affairs and external relations in Washington, D.C. Justin holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Wyoming.

**Daniel J. Itzen** ('94) was elected Natrona County district attorney in November 2018.

**Dan Odell** ('94) serves as a part-time minister at Christ United Methodist Church in Casper and is also employed as director of Iris Clubhouse, a community for adults with significant mental illness. Dan grew up in Casper and holds a degree from the University of Wyoming at Casper. He is a United Methodist minister by training. He lived in Denver for 15 years and returned to Casper in 2013.

**Chris Byrnes** ('96) is the new theatre assistant house manager at Casper College. Byrnes also attended the University of Wyoming.

**Velvet Locklin** (AS, '99, AS, '04) and **Melodi Brown** (AS, '06) operate All About Family, a firm that focuses on services to individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries providing day habilitation, residential habilitation, and skilled nursing care.

## 2000s

**4.** **Mandi Hare** (AS, '01) is the new head varsity volleyball coach of the Lewiston High School Bengals Volleyball team in Lewiston, Montana. School Athletic Director, Corey Williams, said: "Coach Hare comes to us highly recommended and with a great deal of volleyball background, including coaching and playing at the collegiate and high school levels." Mandi played volleyball at both Casper College and Montana State and previously spent two years as an assistant coach at Northwestern State in Louisiana. In addition, Mandi works as the executive director of the Gina Quesenberry Foundation, an organization which helps provide financial assistance to patients dealing with breast cancer.

**Levi Mellott** (AAS, '03) married Brittani McLaurie on August 18, 2018, in Hill City, South Dakota. The bride works at WYO ENT, PC, for Dr. Ian Swift. Levi is employed by the Campbell County Sheriff's Office. The couple makes their home in Gillette, Wyoming.

**Kendra Barney** (AA, '04) is the early childhood liaison for Sheridan County School District No. 1, a role she has held for the past three years, running two programs: Learning with Littles and Preschool Co-op. The recipient of this year's Superintendent Award, Kendra previously worked in Gillette, Wyoming, in the Campbell County Early Childhood Education Center and has expertise in early childhood special education. Kendra works to develop and increase school readiness skills in children from birth to age 5. She is married to **Reo Barney** ('04). Kendra and Reo own The Paint Post, and she also owns Wyoming Apparel.

**Christie Nottingham Johnston** (AA, AFA, '06) teaches art at Paradise Valley Elementary School in Casper. She is excited to

work with The NIC on special art events such as the Chinese New Year exhibition, and she has even found time to create an award-winning submission for the Keep Casper Beautiful public art initiative. She served as juror for the Casper College Annual Juried Student Art Competition. Art history instructor Valerie Innella-Maiers said Christie's approach was conscientious and very well-received by both students and faculty.

**Sarah (Forgey) Spieker** ('06) works for the Wyoming Army National Guard as a criminal intelligence analyst and holds the rank of Staff Sergeant. She and other members of her team in Wyoming help local law enforcement investigate to prevent illegal drug activity in the state. In addition, Sarah's military occupational specialty is ammunition specialist. Her husband Joseph is with the Active Reserve Guard in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The couple have two daughters. Her father and younger brother raise Angus cattle near Lance Creek, Wyoming, and when time allows, she enjoys helping them with ranch work.

**Eric Coates** ('07) is the house manager for the Historic Bishop Home, a property on the National Register of Historic Places in Casper. It is open for public tours.

**Tre Searles** (AA, '08) was part of the cast for the national tour of "Jesus Christ Superstar" last year.

**Matthew Dailey** ('09) is part of the national tour of the musical, "Miss Saigon." Matthew attended Casper College under his given name, Matthew Gottlieb.

**Valerie Vasquez** (AA, '09) has joined the Casper College Continuing Education Department. Val is also a photographer and is a licensed realtor.

**Bree (Phillips) Bertz** (AS, '08) is the 2017 Wyoming Medical Center Employee of the Year. After earning an A.S. in pre-pharmacy at Casper College, Bree continued on to attend the University of Wyoming for pharmacy school where she also received her doctorate. Bree is a clinical pharmacist in WMC's emergency department.

**Kendall Bertagnole** ('09), along with partners Jay Ayala and Tommy Mills, invented a 360-degree ratcheting flare nut wrench. They are working toward taking their company, Tribus Enterprises, Inc., public.

**Johanna Wickman** (AA, '09) is the new Western History Center Specialist at the Casper College Western History Center. Wickman also has a historical consulting business. She previously served as interim director of the Casper Museum Consortium. She is a graduate of the Casper College museum studies program and has an M.A. in history from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Wickman has published a book, "Lost Forts of Casper" and serves as vice president of the Fort Caspar Museum Association volunteer board.



Bully, a member of a herd of fiberglass buffaloes commissioned by The Nicolaysen Art Museum in 2003, has roamed east to Minnesota. Casper residents will recognize Bully as the buffalo created by **Jim Kopp** (AA, '00) that resided on the roof of **Bob and Katheryn** (AA, '51) Tripeny's home on Wolcott Street for 15 years. Katheryn passed away in February 2018, and her family agreed that the beloved Bully could check out new pastures. Early reports are that Bully has settled in and is surviving a Minnesota-style winter.

# People & Places

## 2010s

**Shane Kirsch** (AAS, CERT, '11), was named EMT Basic of the Year for 2017 at Campbell County Health in Gillette, Wyoming, and recently received certification as an Intermediate EMT from the State of Wyoming Office of Emergency Medical Services. Shane is currently attending the Casper College Paramedic Technology Program. He is also the emergency department's representative for the CCH Safety Committee.

**Rob Staffig-Piotter** ('13) opened the Rialto Soda Fountain on the corner of Center Street and Second Street in downtown Casper in space formerly occupied by the Rialto Cigar Shop and Soda Fountain. He and his wife Vivian Meek spent many hours cleaning and restoring the property. Rob also owns White Lace and Promises in the Atrium Plaza, also in downtown Casper.

**Steve Freel** (AAS, '14) was elected to represent Ward 3 on the Casper City Council in the November 2018 election. Freel is currently a real estate agent and previously worked for the Casper Police Department for 26 years, retiring as assistant chief of police in 2016.

**Austin Swingholm** (AS, CERT, '14) is now a game warden for the Casper region with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. After

attending Casper College, Austin graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.S. in biology. He previously was a technician for the Access Yes program for Game and Fish. He also recently completed the 13-week course at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy. Austin's new position has him doing boating safety on local reservoirs and working with fish and wildlife from Pathfinder Reservoir to the Black Hills.

**Murphy Rayelle Haun** (AS, '16, AS, '17) and Dillon Clay Blyth were married on June 29, 2018, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The bride graduated from Casper College. She completed her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wyoming in December 2018 and is currently working as a registered nurse at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center in Cheyenne. The groom is a graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in plant and soil sciences. He is employed at Frenchman Valley COOP in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. The couple makes their home in Pine Bluffs.

**5.** **Hannah Ostheimer** (AS, '16) of Sheridan, Wyoming, was crowned Miss Rodeo Wyoming 2019 at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas on August 17, 2018. Hannah competed with the title of Miss Sheridan WYO Rodeo. She earned her associate degree in agriculture with distinction from Casper College and recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of

Wyoming with a B.A. in biology. She plans to pursue a doctorate degree in animal science focusing on equine nutrition. Photo courtesy of Boots and Cleats Marketing, Brittany Board.

Opera Wyoming launched its first season this past fall in Wyoming, thanks to efforts by local opera lovers, several with strong Casper College connections. **Daniel Quintana** (AA, '16), **Andrea Sipe** (AA, '97), and Casper College vocal instructors **Zachary Freeman** and **Veronica Turner** were all part of the inaugural season. Daniel and his now wife Emily met in Las Vegas while singing together as gondoliers at The Venetian Hotel and Casino. The local performers included Johanna Swisher, Alicia Danielle Roberts, and pianist Susan Stubson.

**Corinne Driscoll** (AS, CERT, '17) and her husband Dennis are the new owners of Artisan Alley, a painting and ceramics studio in Casper they acquired in May 2018. Corinne signed on Casper College alumna to help with her endeavor; paint studio manager **Jessie Barnes** (AFA, '05).

**6.** **Alexis Grieve** (AA, '17) received the Carolyn Garrett Pool Award for an outstanding museum studies student through the Mountain Plains Museum Association, a 10-state network of museum professionals. Alexis is the manager of museum services at The Nicolaysen Art Museum and was elected secretary of the

## Tell Us Your Business



Last year's revival and reopening of Grant Street Grocery and Market in Casper transformed the traditional corner store from a convenience for the neighborhood, into a gathering point for the entire community. Neighbors Terry and Del Johnson, Doug and Susan Holmes, and **Lindsey Grant** ('04) saw the unrealized potential and invested in a new future for the store. The Grant Street team includes several Casper College alums, among them former CC Publications Coordinator and graphic designer Lindsey Grant, **Lorenzo Maffin** (AA, '13, AS, '17), **Zarryn Hinchin** (AA, '16), **Collin Baldacci** (current), and

**Aubrey Ducharme-Brown** (current). Zarryn is in the kitchen creating delicious meals for takeaway, while Lorenzo is part of the team ensuring that the meat and fish case features delicious options for the home cook. Aubrey works at the counter and is also part of the onsite Coffee Lab. The store celebrated its 100-year anniversary this past fall. The new incarnation of the store hopes to ensure that the Grant Street experience continues as an integral part of Casper for many years to come.

*Pictured (l-r): Lindsey Grant, Lorenzo Maffin, and Zarryn Hinchin. Casper College photo.*

Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums last April. Alexis also worked with the Fort Caspar staff on the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps exhibition last summer. Alexis is wearing a red scarf in the photo.

**Casey Hanson's** (AFA, '17) show, "The Path to Find Her" recently hung in the Mildred Zahradnicek Gallery in the Casper College Music Building for the college's RedStone Recital and Gallery Series. The photography show resulted from work she did over the summer months of 2016. Casey worked for several years as the house photographer for the Casper Events Center. She won Best in Show in the New Artist's Show at Art 321 in 2017.

**Taylor Marie Nelson** (AS, AA, '17) and **Tyler Thomas Lower** (AAS, '13) were married on June 21, 2018, at Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas. The bride graduated from Casper College in 2017 with an A.S. in pharmacy technology and an A.A. in general studies. She is a pharmacy technician at Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital in Casper. The groom graduated from Casper College in 2013 with an A.A.S. in welding. He is leadman welder at Westech, Inc.

**Bethany Raver** (AS, AB, '18) finished an internship in the Casper office for Senator John Barrasso last spring and then spent the summer interning in his Washington, D.C., office.

**Chase Winchester** (AA, '18), a former T-Bird basketball player, signed and is playing basketball at Division II University of Nebraska at Kearney. The Nebraska at Kearney Lopers play in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

## Faculty, Staff, & Retirees

**Kent Brooks**, director of information technology at Casper College, recently published his third book of western history, "Old Boston: As Wild as They Come." The book charts the history of a Colorado boomtown from the 1880s called Boston, Colorado. Brooks also saw his fourth book, "Letters From Wyoming: 1880-1889" published as well. All four of his books are available on Amazon.

 **Amanda Fisher** (AS, AS, '06) manager of the Jack McCann College Store and Christopher Holley welcomed Layton Cole into their lives on July 3, 2018. Layton weighed 6 lbs., 3.4 oz. and was 19.5 inches when he was born.

**Barbara Mueller**, retired instructor of anthropology at Casper College, discussed the life of John Colter, widely considered to be the first mountain man of the American West last summer at the Colter Bay Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park in conjunction with John Colter Day.

**Liz Ott**, an accounting instructor for the School of Business and Industry at Casper College, was appointed to the Wyoming Board of Certified Public Accountants by Governor Matt Mead. Her term runs from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021. **Jennifer Pepple** (AA, '02), employment and recruiting specialist at Casper

College, recently received a master's degree in sustainable tourism from Arizona State University. She is the first person in Wyoming to earn this particular degree.

**Will Robinson**, Casper College biology instructor, addressed the American Association of Professional Apiculturists at the annual American Bee Research Conference in Phoenix in January. The topic was his studies on the migration of giant honey bees from his two sabbatical leaves in Thailand. Robinson's Fulbright Specialist award in Mexico last January resulted in three publications, two about the relative gentleness of the killer bees he was working with and one about the overall experience of working with those honey bees and the various species of "stingless" bees used in Mexico for honey production. Robinson's work, "Taming Killer Bees" appears in *Bee Culture: The Magazine of American Bee Keeping* (Feb. 27, 2018); "Killer Bees are Calming Down" in *High Country News* (March 29, 2018); and "The Stinging and the Stingless: Among the Honeymaking Bees of Mayan Mexico" in *American Bee Journal* (July 2018).

**Carmen Simone**, former vice president for academic affairs and chemistry instructor at Casper College, was named the new director of the University of South Dakota's University Center-Sioux Falls. Simone most recently served as president of Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad and Alamosa, Colorado.

 **Jeff Sun** and his wife Sarah welcomed daughter Natalie Liv Sun into their lives on June 2, 2018, at 4:31p.m. She was 7 pounds 5 oz. and 21 inches long. Jeff teaches GIS at Casper College.

**Art Washut** (AS, '78), Casper College criminal justice instructor, was elected to the Wyoming Legislature representing House District 36 in Natrona County.

**Aaron Wood** (AA, '02), a Casper College dance instructor, and **Ray Pacheco**, the GEAR UP regional director at Casper College, each danced in Mercer Family Resource Center's "Dancing with the Stars 2018." Wood was paired with K2 Radio's Susan Burk. Pacheco's partner was **Joy McClasky Gallup** ('12) of Jump Craze Trampoline Park.

# People & Places



# Friends We'll Miss



**Raymond A. Proper Jr.** (AS, '69)  
January 18, 2016

**James Lawayne Geiger** (AB, '58)  
February 15, 2017

**Bryce David Blain** (AA, '54)  
November 23, 2017

**John Matoole** (AA, '52)  
December 9, 2017

**James D. Miller** (AS, AA, '98)  
January 11, 2018

**Carolyn Sue Worley** (AB, '71)  
January 29, 2018

**Edward Louis Chopping,**  
USN (Ret.) (AS, '65)  
March 1, 2018

**George John Keralis** ('52)  
June 1, 2018

**Greg Albin Garton** (AA, '73)  
June 3, 2018

**John Kenneth Baker** (AS, '83)  
June 5, 2018

**Marilyn Jones** (AA, '60)  
June 6, 2018

**Christopher Garwood** (AS, '07)  
June 7, 2018

**Travis Neal Schlager** (CERT, '97)  
June 7, 2018

**Marjorie "Marjie" (Dolling) Curia**  
(AA, '73)  
June 11, 2018

**William "Bill" Leigh Thompson**  
(AA, '59)  
June 21, 2018

**Jana Rae (Salveson) Cheetham**  
(AB, '82)  
June 29, 2018

**Janet Emmanuel** (CERT, '70)  
July 2, 2018

**Mary L. (DeBacker) Lucchi-Herrera**  
(AAS, '98)  
July 2, 2018

**Carol A. Emerson** ('97)  
July 6, 2018

**Karen (Propp) Hagood** ('60)  
July 11, 2018

**Rebecca Ruth Marquez** ('92)  
July 12, 2018

**Katheryn "Kitty" Hockla** (AA, '68)  
July 13, 2018

**Currington Lamal Campbell**  
(CERT, '10, '11, AAS, '10)  
July 22, 2018

**Carolyn Bayne** (AAS, '82)  
August 3, 2018

**Morgan E. King** (AA, '63)  
August 27, 2018

**Terrence Mackey** (AA, '66)  
September 2, 2018

**C. Paul Hartman** (AS, '02, AS '03,  
CC retiree)  
September 9, 2018

**Gordon Frank Moens** (AAS, '89)  
September 11, 2018

**Mary Pauline Wills** (AA, '68)  
September 15, 2018

**Karol Elizabeth Miles** ('77)  
September 16, 2018

**Loree M. Dye** (AAS, '75)  
September 19, 2018

**Daren Mizokami** (AS, '07)  
September 19, 2018

**Paul David "Jurch" Huber** ('65)  
September 21, 2018

**Karen Kay (Eller) Nostrum** ('65)  
September 30, 2018

**Richard J. Albanese** ('72)  
October 3, 2018

**Robert Sandison** (AA, '59)  
October 3, 2018

**Harry L. Vanburen** (CERT, '00)  
October 5, 2018

**Angus Walker** (AA, '54)  
October 6, 2018

**Marjorie A. Ogden** (AAS, CERT, '81)  
October 8, 2018

**Ashley Ranae Royal** ('10)  
October 8, 2018

**Sharon Kathleen (Toole) Gist** ('60)  
October 17, 2018

**Dustin Bryan Hardy** ('07)  
October 20, 2018

**Kathryn Kay Aeschliman** ('74)  
October 23, 2018

**John LeRoy Franklin** ('85)  
October 24, 2018

**Burke Henry McCarthy** (AA, '57)  
October 24, 2018

**Robyn Derrico** (AAS, '90)  
November 5, 2018

**Fredrick Douglas Peterson** ('67)  
November 18, 2018

**Rosemary W. (Bryant) Perry** (AA, '51)  
November 26, 2018

**Ruth A Bennett** (AAS, '86)  
December 9, 2018

**Walter Lewis Bundy** ('66)  
December 12, 2018

**Dennis Flynn** (AA, '66)  
December 12, 2018

**Alann Bradford Steen** (former CC Faculty)  
December 13, 2018

**Carolyn M. Martin** ('88, Retiree)  
December 14, 2018

**William L. 'Bill' Gibbs** ('72)  
Dec. 15, 2018

**Anita Rummel** (AA, '53)  
December 15, 2018

**Verla A. Carter** (AA, '53, Retiree)  
December 16, 2018

**Howard S. Hein** (AB, '71)  
December 30, 2018

# Notes from T-Bird Camp

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

## Casper College Men Ranked 7th in Nation

The Casper College Men's Basketball team, as of this writing, is ranked at No. 7 in Division I by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

The Birds have now jumped ahead of the College of Southern Idaho, the only team on the Birds' schedule to have beaten them. That

loss took place early in the season during the Region 9/18 Shootout when the Golden Eagles defeated the Birds by one basket, 105-103.

The team is strong on offense and is currently ranked as the No. 3 scoring team thanks to a number of players who rack up on average more than 10 points a game.

Currently, the Birds stand at 17-1 on the season. The team's last two games before Footprints went to the printer were against the Central Wyoming College Rustlers and the Sheridan College Generals. The Birds beat the Rustlers 118-72, but were defeated by the 16th ranked Generals 97-87.

## Russell Taps New Assistant Coach in Gutting

Casper College hired New Mexico Junior College's Shaun Gutting as the school's new assistant men's basketball coach. Gutting, who replaced Tyler Hurley, had served as assistant coach for the NMJC Thunderbirds for five seasons from 2013-2018.

Prior to his time at NMJC, Gutting was the student manager for the Colorado State University Men's Basketball Team while working on his bachelor's degree. From 2012-2013 Gutting was the head junior varsity and varsity assistant coach for the Fort Collins High School Boys' Basketball Team. He began his

assistant coach job at NMJC in August 2013.

"I am very excited to join Coach Russell and the Casper College basketball program. Casper College has a great reputation for its academics as well as its basketball program. I am thrilled and honored to be a part of it," said Gutting. During Gutting's time at NMJC, the program posted a 106-54 overall record, along with three regional tournament appearances and one national tournament appearance.

"Shaun works extremely hard and has a great reputation from his time spent at NMJC. His strength is he does everything well, and

that's what we expect here at Casper College. You recruit, you coach, you develop and you scout," **Dan Russell** (AS, '06) said. "He is someone I have known for a long time and a rising star in our profession. We couldn't be more excited to add Shaun to our basketball program and have a chance to work with him," added Russell.

Hurley, who was the Thunderbirds assistant coach during the 2016-2018 seasons, has taken an assistant basketball coach position at NMJC for Head Coach Luke Adams.

## Forbes New Assistant Rodeo Coach at Casper College

**Sandy Forbes** (CERT, '00, AAS, '01) is the new assistant rodeo coach for Casper College.

Forbes is no stranger to Casper or the Casper College rodeo team. A 2001 Casper College graduate, Forbes earned his A.S.S. degree in welding in 2001 and was a College National Finals Rodeo qualifier in saddle bronc in 2001.

Following college, Forbes continued to rodeo. From 2001 to 2006 he was the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association

Mountain States Circuit Finals qualifier. In 2004 and 2005, Forbes was the saddle bronc director for PRCA Mountain States. He was a member of the PRCA from 1999 to 2013 and competed in saddle bronc riding.

While still at Casper College Forbes began Rodeo Productions Forbes Rodeo Company which produces and contracts rodeos locally. In 2008 he started another business venture, Forbes Outfitters, LLC. In addition, since 2005, he has served as a mentor and coach for both individuals and groups in rough stock.

"Being a previous rodeo T-Bird, I enjoy the chance to give others the same opportunities that I had. One of my biggest passions is helping younger kids thrive in (their) academics, personal, and professional goals," said Forbes.

"I am very excited to have him on board. Sandy Bob and his family are very deep in the rough stock business of Wyoming. His knowledge and drive will be a true asset," said Jhett Johnson, head coach of the Casper College Rodeo team.

# CC Volleyball Players Recognized for Academic Performance

Five Casper College volleyball players have been recognized nationally for their academic performance during the 2017-2018 school year at Casper College.

Sophomore Louisa Krams, Neustadt, Germany, was named to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team for her 4.0 grade point average.

Freshman Emma Rogers, Flagstaff, Arizona, and sophomore Jessica Pilivi, West Jordan,

Utah, were named to the NJCAA All-Academic Second Team for a GPA of 3.8-3.99.

Freshman Anya Olsen, Las Vegas, and sophomore Alayna Sheldon, Loveland, Colorado, were named to the NJCAA All-Academic Third Team for earning a 3.6-3.79 GPA.

"These recognitions are proof that hard work in the classroom pays off," said Casper College Head Volleyball Coach Angel Sharman

# Lady T-Birds Recognized for Academic Performance

The Casper College Lady T-Birds Basketball team has finished in the top 15 of the 2017-2018 Women's Basketball Academic Team of the Year rankings by the National Junior College Athletic Association. The women's team finished the year at number 14 with a combined 3.48 grade point average.

The NJCAA also recognized six players for their academic performance during the 2017-2018 school year at Casper College.

Sophomore Bruna Vila Artigues, Arenys de Munt, Spain, and freshman Lucie Hoskova, Bruno, Czech Republic, were named to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team for their 4.0 grade point average.

Sophomore Emily Robertson, Casper, and freshman Luisa Popp, Heidelberg, Germany, were named to the NJCAA All-Academic Second Team for a GPA of 3.8-3.99.

Sophomore Caroline Rivera, Las Vegas, and freshman Nerea Baena, Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain, were named to the NJCAA All-Academic Third Team for earning a 3.6-3.79 GPA.

Women's Head Basketball Coach Dwight Gunnare believes that it is a great accomplishment for his team and the six players to receive the recognition from the NJCAA. "I am extremely proud of the team's academic success this past season. It speaks volumes for our student-athletes and Casper College's faculty. Having six players that received Academic All-American honors and 12 players that had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is certainly an incredible accomplishment," he said.

# Spring 2019 T-Bird Athletic Schedule

## Women's Basketball

Jan. 8	Western Nebraska CC	Casper, WY	6 p.m.
Jan. 9	Central Wyoming	Casper, WY	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Laramie County CC	Casper, WY	2 p.m.
Jan. 16	Sheridan College	Sheridan, WY	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Western Wyoming	Rock Springs, WY	2 p.m.
Jan. 23	Eastern Wyoming	Torrington, WY	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Northwest College	Casper, WY	2 p.m.
Jan. 28	Western Nebraska CC	Scottsbluff, NE	6 p.m.
Jan. 30	Central Wyoming	Riverton, WY	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Laramie County CC	Cheyenne, WY	2 p.m.
Feb. 6	Gillette College	Casper, WY	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Western Wyoming	Casper, WY	2 p.m.
Feb. 13	Eastern Wyoming	Casper, WY	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	Northwest College	Powell, WY	2 p.m.
Feb. 20	Gillette College	Gillette, WY	5:30 p.m.
* Feb. 23	Sheridan College	Casper, WY	2 p.m.
March 1	First Round of Region IX Tourn.	TBD	TBD
March 7-9	Region IX Tournament	TBD	TBD
March 18-23	National Tournament	Lubbock, TX	TBD

## Men's Basketball

Jan. 5	Wyoming All-Stars	Casper, WY	5 p.m.
Jan. 9	Central Wyoming	Casper, WY	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Laramie County CC	Casper, WY	4 p.m.
Jan. 16	Sheridan College	Sheridan, WY	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Western Wyoming	Rock Springs, WY	4 p.m.
Jan. 23	Eastern Wyoming	Torrington, WY	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Northwest College	Casper, WY	4 p.m.
Jan. 30	Central Wyoming	Riverton, WY	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Laramie County CC	Cheyenne, WY	4 p.m.
Feb. 6	Gillette College	Casper, WY	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Western Wyoming	Casper, WY	4 p.m.
Feb. 13	Eastern Wyoming	Casper, WY	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	Northwest College	Powell, WY	4 p.m.
Feb. 20	Gillette College	Gillette, WY	7:30 p.m.
* Feb. 23	Sheridan College	Casper, WY	4 p.m.
March 2	First Round Region IX Tourn.	TBD	TBD
March 7-9	Second Round Region IX Tourn.	TBD	TBD
March 18-23	National Tournament	Hutchinson, KS	TBD

## Rodeo

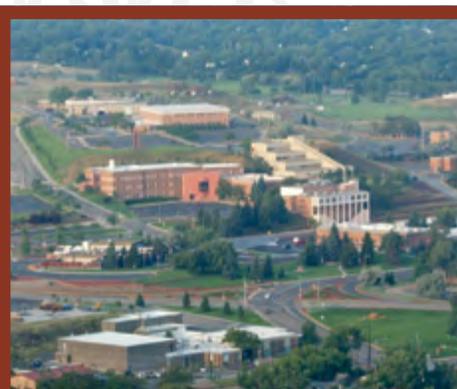
March 15-17	Gillette College	Gillette, WY
March 22-24	Eastern Wyoming College	Torrington, WY
April 5-7	Colorado State University	Ft. Collins, CO
April 19-21	Casper College	Casper, WY
April 26-28	University of Wyoming	Laramie, WY

# HOMECOMING 2019

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Come and enjoy the fun!

# FREE CHILI



# 2020

kicks off Casper College's  
75th Anniversary

Help us celebrate with your photos  
and memories. Email  
[alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu).



# Hidden Campus

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

**M**ost people know that Casper College has a wildlife museum just off campus. What most don't know, however, is that the Werner Wildlife Museum is home to a specimen more than 100 years old. Yep, you read that right: 100-plus.

What might that be you ask? It is a resplendent quetzal, *Pharomachrus mocinno*, a beautiful green and blue bird that is native to the mountains of Southern Mexico through Western Panama. According to information provided by Museum Assistant Eileen Lemm, the Werner's quetzal was harvested in 1918 in Western Panama by a native with a bow and arrow, for Robert B. Blackmore.

There is no record of when the quetzal joined the rest of the exhibits at the Werner, but the hypothesis is that the builder and original owner of the museum, Herman Werner, likely knew Blackmore while growing up in Casper. Blackmore and his siblings were born on the Hat Six Ranch just east of Casper, and once the Blackmore children reached school age, the family moved into town. Since Werner and Blackmore were only a year apart in age, came from similar backgrounds, and were members of Casper's wealthy citizenry, the two may have even been friends. "Perhaps Blackmore gave the quetzal to Werner, knowing that he was an avid collector of exotic animals," said Lemm.

The quetzal is found at high altitudes – 4,000 to 10,000 feet – in the rainforest. It feeds mainly on the fruit of the laurel tree and is considered a specialized fruit eater. The bird also dines on amphibians, insects, and small reptiles. The resplendent quetzal was considered sacred by both the Mayans and the Aztecs.

The quetzal on display at the Werner "... has thin skin which is easily torn, so that feathers tend to fall out excessively while being taxidermied," said Lemm. She added that along with the loss of feathers, the quetzal is not a great species to display because the iridescent colors of the feathers easily fade. "Although our quetzal no longer has his ruby red chest and a number of green feathers are missing, you can still see a little shimmer of what was once a magnificent animal," Lemm noted, adding "The Werner's quetzal has stood the test of time."

Stop by the Werner Wildlife Museum anytime Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to view the quetzal and all the other birds, mammals, and fish on display. And, should you have information on how the Werner acquired its quetzal please call 307-235-2601 and let the staff know.

*Close-up of the quetzal feathers, notice the color variation and patches of brown where feathers have fallen. Casper College photos.*



# According to Charlotte

by Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)



Photograph taken by Vickie Quisenberry on the Medicine Bow cutoff West of Casper. The cabin has toppled back to the earth.

## Poems and Pictures

Now and then I attempt to write poetry – my version of poetry, anyway. In my opinion, I've got to say, I find a whole lot of poetry pretty boring. I'm not a fan of delving into one's innermost soul or pursuing hidden meanings or mythic metaphors and putting it down on paper for the world to read and which probably has meaning only to the poet who wrote it. That sort of poetry is not something I've ever enjoyed reading.

My attempt at poetry, however, is quite different. I like to paint a picture and tell a story – and I like to use actual pictures. My reasoning here is that if the poem bores the reader to death, just look at the picture. So, there you go.

The poet Paul Valery said, "A poem is never finished, it's only abandoned," and believe me, I've abandoned a bunch of them. I had a friend who wrote goofy limericks and poems that rhymed, maintaining that it wasn't a poem at all if it didn't rhyme. None of my poems have ever rhymed.

However, a year ago I decided to take the bull by the horns – as they say – and gather up some of my western poems and get them published privately just to see what might happen. And, wonder of wonders, the Wyoming State Historical Society awarded the collection an honorable mention at their state conference saying "... nominated for publishing poems on

her life in Wyoming. To accent these writings, she includes photographs and artwork making these stories come to life. The easy to read nature of this book makes it interesting."

Their statement about the pictures just bolsters my theory that poems need pictures. (And they don't need to rhyme – do they?)

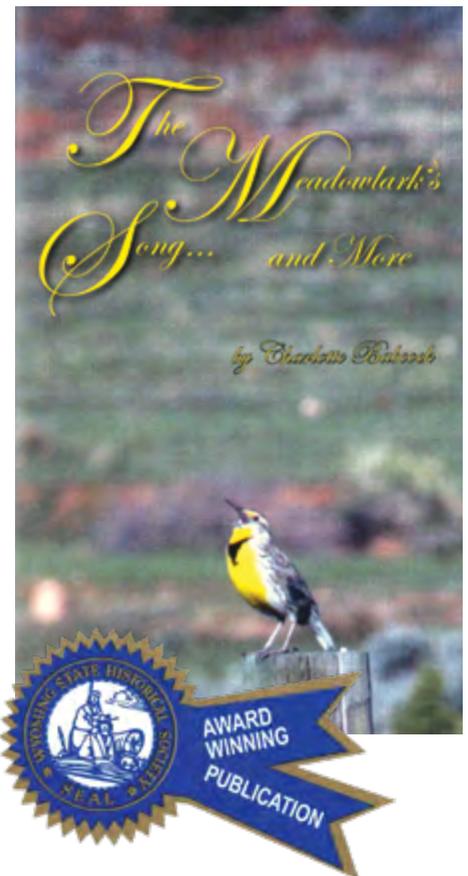
### Sodbuster

The sodbuster's cabin leans  
Beneath the bluff  
Like a broken egg  
Rotting decayed,  
The sod roof overgrown  
with ragged weeds  
ready to topple back  
to the earth it came from.  
Logs white with age and weather  
Plank door hanging by a hinge.

Where did he go  
the man who lived here,  
who fought to tame this land  
that could not be broken  
to the plow?

Is he here  
writhing under the sod  
that broke him  
While the coyotes sing  
On his roof?

Poem included in Charlotte's award winning publication, "The Meadowlark's Song ... and More."



Mailing label incorrect? Go online, call 307-268-2256, or email [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu)



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

**SUN., SEPT. 15, 2019**

**Starting on the Casper  
College campus in beautiful  
Casper, Wyoming**

Packet and swag pick up Saturday,  
September 14, 12-4 p.m., Walter H. Nolte  
Gateway Center, Casper College campus



**Sign up** [caspercollegefoundation.org/t-bird-trek](http://caspercollegefoundation.org/t-bird-trek)

**Questions? call 307-268-2325**