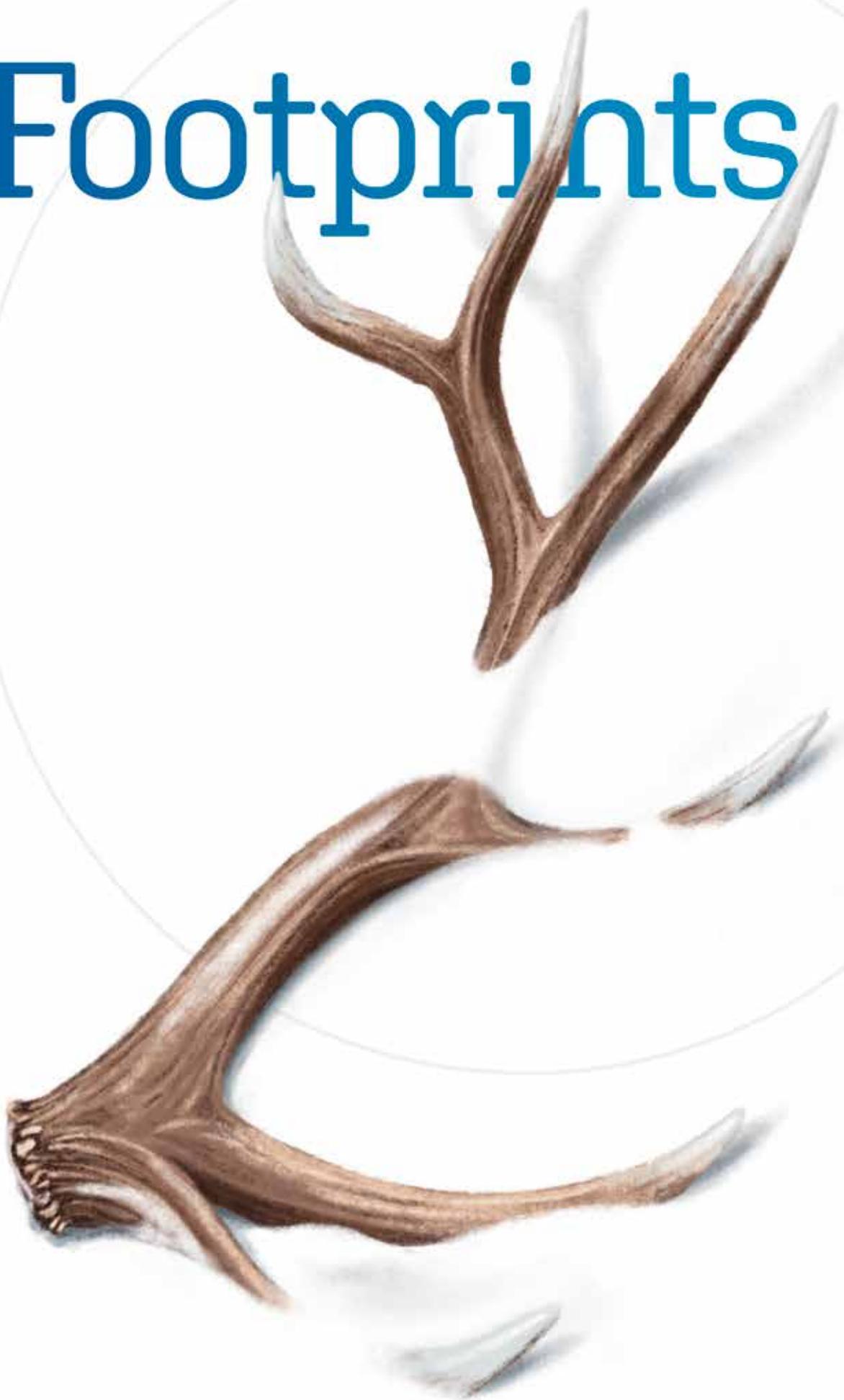


# Footprints



# Footprints

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

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Cover illustration created by Eric Valdez.

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# President's Letter

Dear fellow alums and friends of Casper College,

I hope this issue finds you and yours healthy, and I know we are all looking forward to new beginnings in 2021. What a year 2020 was. I am sure there will be books and stories to tell of both loss and survival of the worst pandemic in over 100 years.

Footprints is a bit different this issue and moving forward. There are new features, and we are moving some of the content online. Please check it out at [footprintsweb.org](http://footprintsweb.org) — “People and Places,” “Faculty and Staff,” and “Notes from T-Bird Camp” will all be found in the online version in addition to the rest of the issue. We want to include more engaging content featuring stories from and about our beloved school.

Unfortunately, one of the alumni association’s favorite events, homecoming, has been canceled this year due to social distancing requirements. We look forward to hosting a chili feed next year.

Please remember to purchase your tickets now as seating is limited for the 75th Celebration for Casper College, scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2010, at the Ford Wyoming Center, formerly the Casper Events Center. Go to [caspercollegefoundation.org/75th-invitation](http://caspercollegefoundation.org/75th-invitation) to purchase your ticket(s).

I have spent much of the last year archiving family photos, letters, clippings, etc., from my family history. I have come across many treasures and many “Bet You Didn’t Know” items in several areas.

Education and continuing education have always been a part of my family history. I am the only one of my siblings not to have a college degree. My parents were both teachers, that’s how they met, and both of my grandmothers were teachers as well. My grandmother, Lora Davis Berry, moved with my mother in 1936, when my mom was 15, from Alhambra, California, to Rozet, Wyoming. She was a divorced schoolteacher who was not allowed

to teach in California but could teach in Wyoming. She was also one of the first married women to graduate from college in California while my mother was a toddler.

My grandmother, Florence Holland Sorenson, first taught during the 1914-1915 school year at a rural school known as the Powder River School located by Arvada, Wyoming, teaching my grandfather’s younger siblings. She continued her education in Greeley, Colorado, and then with correspondence classes from the University of Wyoming. I can’t imagine mailing paperwork back and forth in 1922 to continue your education compared to all the online learning that is instantly available now.

I had two great uncles that served in World War I and have many photos and letters from that time, which are priceless and amazing. My uncle and father were both in World War II, and I have many photos and letters from them. They both went on to continue their college degrees after the war under the GI Bill. My uncle was a prisoner of war for quite some time.

I have learned that even though we are in trying times, there are so many people before us that have survived thru wars, disasters, and pandemics, and we, likewise, will endure and come out of this stronger than ever. The need for education has never been more important. Casper College does a great job of allowing access to continued learning for everyone.

I look forward to seeing everyone in 2021 and  
College.



*Jan Cundy ('79), Casper College Alumni Association president. (CC photo/Cory Garvin)*

By Dave Zoby, Casper College English instructor.  
Reprinted with permission from Visit Casper.

# The Whole Shebang

**Addie Dees** ('15), manager of the Ugly Bug in downtown Casper, says that there have been times when she didn't feel comfortable in fly shops. A highly sought-after guide who can row, teach casting techniques, tie flies, and steer anglers to

huge brown trout, she tells a few painful stories about feeling snubbed. "I've literally had people in the shop say, 'No, I want to talk to him.' And I had just spent five days on the water," she says. She laughs. But it's not so funny, and there are many stories like this. I've heard women say that they don't try fly fishing because it's too intimidating. They don't know where to begin. It's traditionally been a male-dominated sport; it has a bit of elitism and privilege built-in as well. Truth be told, women and minorities are scarce in the sport of fly fishing: you see this in the

literature, the fly shops, and on the water. But it doesn't have to be this way.

This past summer, Dees and CiCi Oliver decided to do something about it. Their concept — Ugly Bugs and Crazy Ladies — will break down the barriers that have kept women underrepresented in the sport of fly fishing. This past spring, they shaped their idea and approached Blake Jackson, the co-owner of the Ugly Bug. They proposed a women's

only fly-fishing seminar that would take part in three phases. First, they would teach the students how to cast. Next, they would offer a fly-tying class paired with a wine tasting to demystify the art of fly tying. The class would culminate with a full day on the water with a guide from the shop. Jackson was all for it.

"It was a Saturday when I asked Addie if I could go ahead and post it on Instagram — she was out guiding that day," says Oliver. "In just four hours, the class filled. It was crazy."

Dees says that often people will sign up for a class like this and bring a buddy. The classes were so popular that they had to open other sections. Pretty soon, they had four sections, going all the way into August. They knew there was a need for something like Ugly Bugs and Crazy Ladies, but they couldn't anticipate how quickly the community responded.

"They are not just going on a guided fishing trip — they're getting the whole shebang. We will get them into casting techniques. We will get them into tying different patterns that will work on this river. They can exercise some fun and creative tying and just learn how fun and easy it is. Then we'll get them out on the water with a professional guide on their third day," says Dees. At only \$300, this is one of the best deals going right now.

Oliver and Dees say that they also want to make women feel more comfortable in the fly shop. They will walk women around the shop to show them where things are. They will talk about choosing waders and how to select the right fly rod.

"We'll even take one of the mounts off the wall and show them how to hold a trout correctly," says Dees.

To say that women have not influenced the sport of fly fishing would be false. If you look more closely and go back into the years, you'll see that women anglers have always been there. Dame Juliana Berners is credited with the first how-to book on fly fishing. Her "Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an



Dave Zoby out fishing.  
(Photo courtesy Dave Zoby)



Addie Dees shows a participant how to tie a fly. (Photo courtesy Dave Zoby)

Angle” (1496) is considered the first book on sport angling. Carrie G. Stevens was a world-famous fly tyer in the 1920s. Kay Brodney fished all over the world and once landed a 137-pound tarpon

**“Essentially, Sarah not only taught me to row, but she taught me how to hold my own in a male-dominated, competitive, and physical job,” said Dees.**

on 12-pound tippet. Joan Wulff is considered “The First Lady of Fly Fishing.” Wulff introduced thousands of people to fly fishing through her seminars and wrote extensively for over 20 years in *Fly Rod and Reel*. Today there are female casting instructors, guides, shop owners, celebrities, and writers. There’s a much-celebrated women’s fishing club at the University of Wyoming called “Fish-n-chicks.” There is *The Dun Magazine*, a fly-fishing publication that promotes women in the sport. Recently, Orvis launched its 50/50 On the Water program to help bring more women into the sport. But there is, by no means, parity. Dees and Oliver are changing that.

For Oliver, a native of Nebraska, there was not much in the way of fly fishing where she grew up. But on a few trips to the Rocky Mountain West, she found herself intrigued by the sport. She enrolled in Utah State, where she studies fisheries and goes on weekly fly-fishing adventures. She doesn’t see her career rowing a drift boat, but she brings energy, social media savvy and creativity to the fly shop culture that has been missing.

Dees’s story is more familiar. Her dad needed a fly-fishing buddy, and she rose to the occasion. Growing up in Casper, Dees had the North Platte at her doorstep, and she was able to explore the fabulous fishing all over the state. But an encounter

with a female guide really shifted her paradigm.

Dees met Sarah Hurzeler, a trout guide at Crazy Rainbow, and was immediately impressed by how Hurzeler handled herself. Hurzeler showed Dees how, by learning and dedicating herself to the sport, she could become a top-notch guide.

“Essentially, Sarah not only taught me to row, but she taught me how to hold my own in a male-dominated, competitive, and physical job,” says Dees.

The Ugly Bug has always had a woman on its staff. Oliver and Dees point this out with pride. They also give their male counterparts credit for helping them learn more about fly fishing. Without an open-minded boss like Jackson, none of this would have happened. But at the end of the day, it all came down to one thing. Dees points out that everyone who walks into the shop has something in common.

“We all just want to go fishing,” she says.



**“We all just want to go fishing,” she says.**

*Student's from the women's only fly fishing seminar. [Photo courtesy Addie Dees]*

## Fires and Bears: CC Grad Fights Both

**Preston Baumgartner** (CERT, '19) (AAS, '19) isn't the type of person to sit still. He is what anyone would describe as a go-getter, so pursuing a degree in fire science was a perfect fit. The academic challenge combined with a strenuous physical element drew Baumgartner to the fire science program at Casper College. While in the program, under the leadership of the program's "mother" **Dale Anderson** (AB, '93), Baumgartner learned the value of the brother/sisterhood of firefighting. That when you fight fires, you do so with your "fire family." Anderson develops his students into good humans and good partners on the fire line who know what they are doing and why.

After graduating from the program at Casper College, Baumgartner was hired by the Wind River Big Horn Basin District

Bureau of Land Management stationed in Lander, Wyoming. The job is dynamic and exciting, a perfect fit for Baumgartner. "A typical day in my job can go in any direction fast! We could be enjoying our morning briefing and get called to a fire outside of town; we could be up in the forest doing cutting projects in the 80-degree heat for the last six hours and get called to a timber fire up in the wilderness where we must walk 9,000 feet in elevation change. It could go from relaxing at the office doing paperwork to protecting land or houses from a threatening fire," he said. It's that type of variety and activity that keeps Baumgartner dedicated to his craft as a wildland firefighter.

While most people are content resting on their days off, especially from a job as demanding as firefighting, Baumgartner is not one of those people. Days off mean getting outside and being active. Living in Wyoming gives him access to a variety of wilderness areas where he can look for shed antlers on his days off. Last spring was no different, and on May 16, 2020, Baumgartner and his friends went to Dubois, Wyoming, for the opening day of shed antler hunting. Baumgartner

rode a horse into the backcountry in the morning, and for anyone who doesn't ride regularly, a long ride can lead to muscle soreness. He decided that he would search for antler sheds on foot for the rest of the day to help loosen up his sore muscles.

On his way back, Baumgartner was searching for antlers in a draw a mile away from camp with his head bent down, searching for a glimpse of white bone in thawing ground, when suddenly, a grizzly bear was on top of him. She had appeared out of what seemed like thin air and was instantly attacking — biting his arms and stomach. Baumgartner recalled that the sound she was making during the attack was a sound he will never forget. Primordial and guttural, it was clear that she wanted to kill him. Overwhelmed with the suddenness of the attack, Baumgartner knew this was a life-or-death situation. He thought, "How can I make it out alive?" During the attack, "I saw the past 22 years of my life flash before my eyes and all the regrets and things I should and shouldn't have done," he recalled.

The attack ended abruptly with the use of his firearm, and he was able to limp back the last mile to camp where the rest of his friends were. He was lucky to be alive. Help was called, and he was immediately life-flighted to the nearest hospital, where he was treated for extensive injuries to his stomach and arms. As he was healing, all he could think about was getting back to the woods and on the fire line with his second family. The minute the doctor released him to go back to work, he went without hesitation. He couldn't stand being still any longer.

He was delighted to be back at work, his second home. The bear attack changed how Baumgartner thought about everything, especially when it came to movement in the woods. He is now keenly aware of his surroundings. His respect for the other animals that share the mountains with him has deepened. He won't stop shed hunting, however, because his love of the outdoors is stronger than his fear.



Preston Baumgartner.  
(Photo courtesy Preston Baumgartner)

Baumgartner did have another scary encounter, but this time it was a rabbit. “I don’t get scared too easily, but it is difficult walking around in the mountains. There was a time I was flagging trees in a thick patch in front of the crew, and a rabbit took off running. That was the second time I have ever been scared for my life. The little rabbit almost made my heart burst and sent me back to the pickup to change my pants,” he laughed.

As Baumgartner looks into the future, he knows he will one day return to Lemmon, South Dakota, after he is done chasing fires. Lemmon is home to the family ranch that shaped

him into the man he is today. He wants to follow in his grandfather’s and father’s footsteps at the Baumgarten Ranch after he is done chasing fires and escaping from bears.



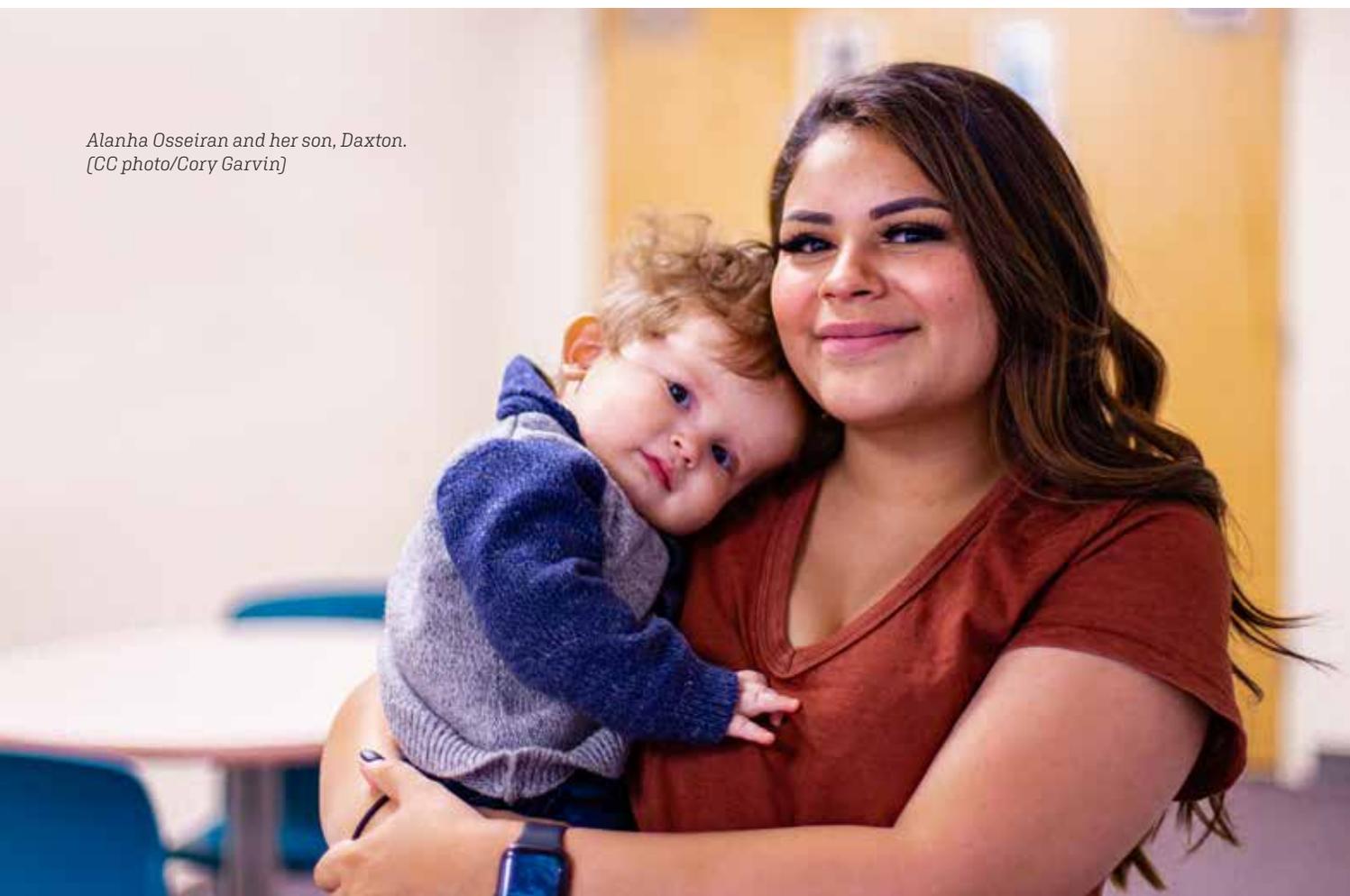
# Castellow ALC Leads to Bright Future

They say becoming a mother changes you — for Alanha Osseiran, it makes you more determined to reach your full potential. Osseiran's young life was filled with obstacles. Spending most of her childhood in foster care, she was returned to her family when she was 16. Life back with her parents was difficult. There were few boundaries and little support, so she dropped out of school to work a full-time job. She tried to finish high school when she was 18, but the pressure of working and paying rent was too much. After her son Daxton was born, her future became clearer. She wanted a better life for him than she had for herself. "I didn't want him ever to have to worry about where we were staying and if there was food or basic necessities like toilet paper like I had when I was younger."

Osseiran knew that her high school degree would be essential if she were going to obtain a better life for herself and her son. She came to the Lee and Felicia Castellow Adult Learning Center at Casper College to prepare and take her HiSET exam. The HiSET is a test that demonstrates the graduate has the same skills and knowledge as a high school graduate. During her time studying for the exam, she realized that she loved math. "I always hated math in school and was so confused in class, but while studying, I could actually see myself learning and getting better, and it wasn't nearly as confusing as I thought it was before."

As a new mom, the program wasn't without its challenges. Osseiran's time with Daxton was important, and she had to learn how to juggle being

*Alanha Osseiran and her son, Daxton.  
(CC photo/Cory Garvin)*



a mom, working, and studying. It was a lot, but she was able to pass all her tests and graduated October 25, 2020. Because she worked hard, she finished the program in a month and a half. She was pleased with how much she already knew and how fast she was able to fill the gaps in her knowledge needed to pass the exam.

## Osseiran finished the HiSET program in a month and a half, on October 25, 2020 and the CNA program in November, 2020.

Her goals are higher than just passing the HiSET; she has always wanted to be a nurse. Less than a month after passing her HiSET, she started taking certified nursing assistant classes. She decided to become a CNA after attending Smart Start, which is part of the HiSET learning program. It teaches students about college and career pathways that are available to them after graduation. She finished the CNA program in November 2020. A CNA job will help support her and Daxton while she works towards applying to the nursing program at Casper College. She is excited about the future, and she knows that she can achieve her goals to make a better life for herself and her family.

Lee Castellow wanted to leave a legacy after he was gone. While battling cancer, he approached the Casper College Foundation to establish an endowment to help others in perpetuity. Lee and his wife Felicia ultimately decided to establish five scholarships and one fund at Casper College. Four of the scholarships were trade-related scholarships, and the fifth was to help a Wyoming resident who had not graduated from high school but had passed a high school equivalency test to attend Casper College.

Lee knew the importance of the trades and the difficulties of going through life without a high school degree. A self-made man and a successful businessman, he wanted others to have the opportunity to find success as he had, but with more financial freedom through scholarships.

The fund the Castellows established provides money to the Adult Learning Center at Casper College to serve those needing their high school equivalency certificate or learn English as a second language. In honor of the Castellows and their generosity, the center was renamed the Lee and Felicia Castellow Adult Learning Center at Casper College. "We just thought it would be a lovely thing to do for the Casper community," said Felicia, "That was really our only goal to give back to the community of Casper." Their donation is already helping others achieve their goals; Casper College and its students couldn't be more grateful.



*Felicia Castellow.*  
*(CC photo/Cory Garvin)*



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## Battle of Platte Bridge

The Battle of Platte Bridge in July 1865, where young Lt. Caspar Collins was killed, is far more well-known than the skirmish of June 3, 1865, which preceded it. This small engagement served as a precursor to the Battle of Platte Bridge as the Native Americans used similar tactics in their ambush of U.S. Cavalry troops.

During the summer of 1865, the 11th Kansas Cavalry, under the command of Colonel Thomas Moonlight, was tasked with protecting telegraph stations along the emigrant trails within the north subdistrict of the Great Plains, based out of Fort Laramie. Lt. Colonel Preston Plumb served as his second in command headquartered at Camp Dodge.

Although the exact location remains unknown, Camp Dodge was situated somewhere near the base of Casper Mountain, likely close to where the east and west forks of Garden Creek join. It was reported to be in a location where it could look upon Platte Bridge Station, present-day Fort Caspar, to see any potential threats, and near wood and water. Rather than a permanent fort structure, Camp Dodge would have been a tent encampment that probably moved to some degree as the soldier's horses grazed. Plumb personally selected the camp's location and named it in

honor of General Grenville Dodge, who was the commander of the Department of the Missouri. He and his troops arrived there in mid to late

April with only enough rations for 20 days, which were expected to last throughout the summer.

On May 26, 1865, approximately 150 Native Americans attacked and burned the telegraph station of Rocky Ridge. The station was manned by five men of Co. G, 11th Ohio Cavalry who made a hasty escape underground. Luckily for the soldiers, they had a nearby earth cellar to hide in while the

fire spread to their ammunition stores. The resulting explosions managed to scare off the attackers, and all five men survived.

Raids continued in the next week all along the route. Elkhorn Station was attacked, horses and mules were stolen from Sweetwater Station, Pole Creek was attacked, and the entire army herd was stolen from the Laramie Peak sawmill. In response, security was increased at Platte Bridge Station. A noncommissioned officer was dispatched to the former Platte River crossing at Richard's Bridge, located in Evansville, Wyoming, as a lookout. Despite these increases in security, a wagon train was attacked twice while en route between Platte Bridge and Fort Laramie, and 300 warriors attacked Three Crossings Station. The situation had clearly devolved to the point where it was no longer safe for travelers to pass along these routes. All emigrant travel was halted near Julesburg, Colorado, and only those affiliated with the government were allowed to pass. Settlers and commercial traffic were directed to use the Overland Mail Road instead.

Lt. Col. Plumb took charge of the situation and dispersed his men throughout the area to repair the telegraph line and rebuild the station at Rocky Ridge after the horrific attack a few days prior. Plumb reported the event to Fort Laramie and wrote that Lt. Caspar Collins went from Three Crossings station to Rocky Ridge to investigate and look for survivors. Still, he only got close enough to see the station burning and did not consider it prudent to venture any closer. The attacks continued, and just a few days later, 40 warriors stampeded the horses and mules at Sweetwater Station. One Native American was killed in that attack.

On June 3, 1865, the attacks reached Platte Bridge Station. At approximately 3 p.m., 10 warriors rode up to the riverbank opposite Platte Bridge Station and opened fire. The troops forced the warriors to retreat and returned fire with carbines and the mountain howitzer. Fearing a major attack, First Sgt. S.B. White sent a corporal and 10 men of Co. G, 11th Ohio, in pursuit with instructions to keep track of the warriors' movements until Lt. Col. Plumb and reinforcements at Camp Dodge could be informed



*Colonel Thomas Moonlight in civilian clothes. [CC Western History Center/Frances Seely Webb Collection]*

**At the time of this photo, Colonel Thomas Moonlight was governor of the Wyoming Territory, a post he held from January 5, 1887 to April 9, 1889.**

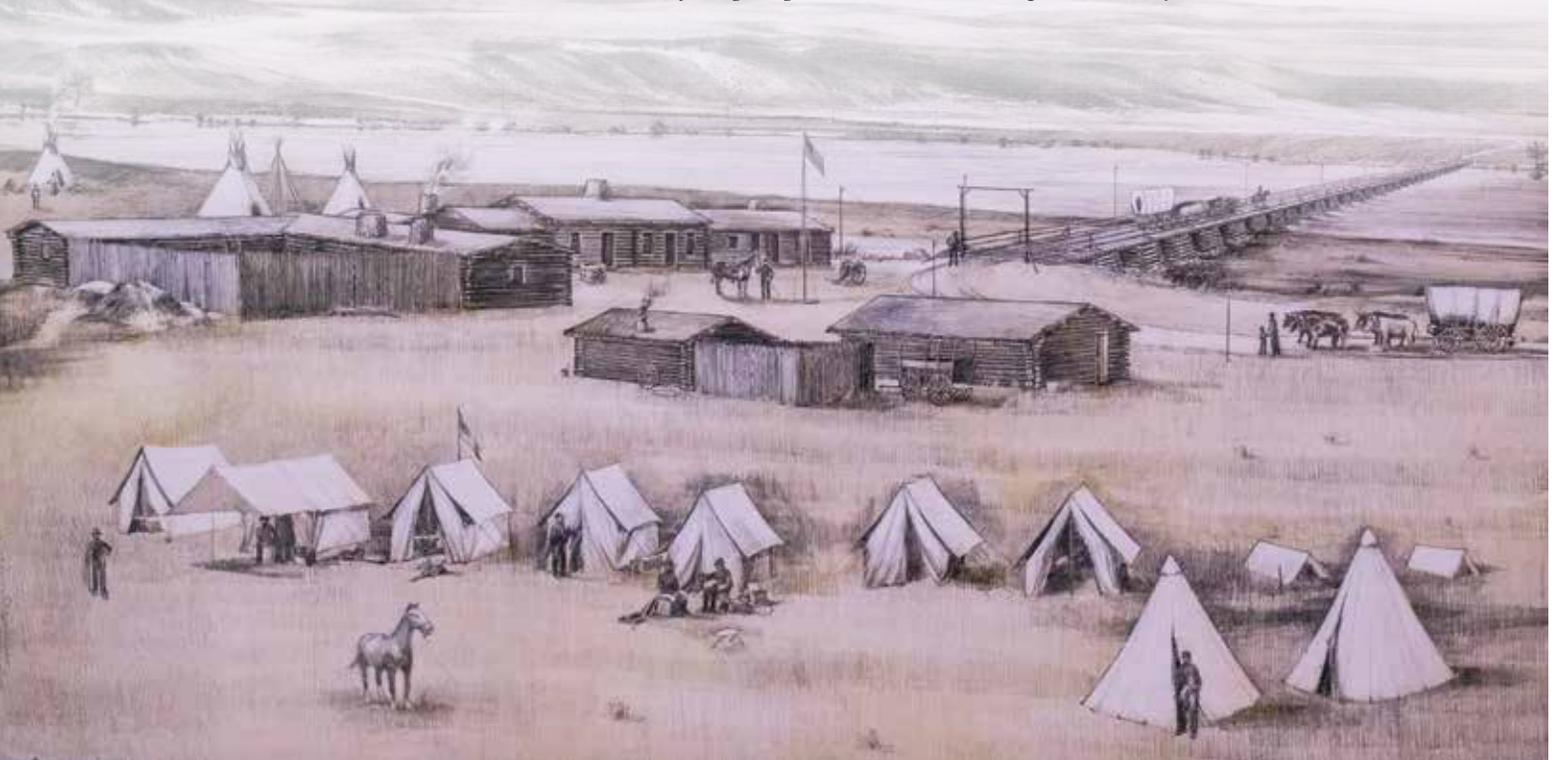
of the attack. Upon receiving the messenger, Plumb set out at once for the post and ordered 30 of his men to follow him. He picked up 10 more men at the bridge and pursued the attackers for approximately five miles before finally coming within firing range. The troops managed to kill a horse and wound two warriors, but Plumb had become separated from half of his detachment during the hot pursuit. The warriors used this to their advantage and turned and charged at Plumb and the men whose horses had been able to keep up the hard pursuit. Plumb fired a volley at the advancing warriors to allow him and his men the chance to escape. As they turned and fled, 60 previously obscured warriors emerged and chased them down Dry Creek, slightly to the left of Plumb's position, trying to cut them off from the fort. At the last moment, the men from Camp Dodge who had been separated from Plumb caught up with them, and the warriors called off their attack. Seven soldiers continued on to pursue the fleeing warriors but were led into an ambush resulting in the deaths of Private Bonwell of the 11th Kansas and Private Stahlnecker of the 11th Ohio.

According to Plumb's description of the battle location, it was somewhere near the current Natrona County International Airport, which is about 10 miles from Camp Dodge's likely location.

The 11th Kansas Cavalry abandoned Camp Dodge shortly after this incident in mid-June. Colonel Plumb received orders to go to Fort Halleck and bring Companies A, B, F, L, and M with him. He established regimental headquarters at La Bonte station, near present-day Douglas, Wyoming, at the end of June.

The Native American tactic of using a small group of warriors to draw out a large detachment of soldiers into the open to ambush them would be used again at Platte Bridge Station less than two months later with devastating results.

*The Western History Center at Casper College offers access to thousands of historic newspapers of the 1800s, many of which include accounts of the Battle of Platte Bridge. In addition, the WHC archives also have numerous photographs and illustrations of Platte Bridge Station and the soldiers stationed there. This article was written from an excerpt from Johanna Wickman's book, "Lost Forts of Casper," published in 2016 through The History Press.*



*Drawing of Fort Caspar by former CC instructor Richard Jacobi. [CC photo/Cory Garvin]*

## Sheep and Smallpox



Heath Hornecker instructs students at the college ranch. (CC photo)

Each issue of *Footprints* will feature unusual facts and trivia provided to us by a Casper College employee. Our first "Bet You Didn't Know" facts comes from **Heath Hornecker** (AS, '97).\*

*"There were once more sheep in Wyoming than there are today in the United States."*

Wyoming was known primarily in the late 1800s as sheep country. With the price of cattle at historic highs, some brave entrepreneurs jumped into sheep ranching. Raising sheep in the West was half as expensive as raising sheep in the East. With free rangeland, it was a stockman's paradise. Sheep populations kept growing, and by 1909 the Wyoming sheep count passed the six million mark. The rapid rise of the sheep population in the West

began to cause problems with large cattle barons. They found their cattle competing with sheep for grazing on public land. This began Wyoming's range wars. Sheep finally began to decline after the Taylor Grazing Act put an end to free-grazing public land. It instituted grazing fees and land leases, and by 2011 there were only 275,000 sheep in Wyoming.

*"Cows unknowingly assisted in the creation of the vaccine for smallpox."*

An observant young doctor is the reason that smallpox is nearly unknown in developed countries. Smallpox is an ancient disease

and has been around for all recorded history and even before that. The mummified head of Egyptian pharaoh Ramses V bears the scars of a smallpox infection. Smallpox ravaged all levels of society. Rich and poor alike, the disease was indiscriminate of race or status. In 18th century Europe, 400,000 people died annually of the disease, and a third of those that survived went blind. Enter Edward Jenner of Gloucestershire, England. As a young man, Jenner overheard a dairymaid say, "I shall never have smallpox for I have had cowpox. I shall never have an ugly pockmarked face."

It wasn't until after a successful career as a natural scientist that Jenner returned to smallpox. Remembering the maid and her comments, he wondered if cowpox and its apparent immunity

properties to smallpox were true. His research began with a dairymaid with cowpox. He used matter from the lesions of the cowpox and inoculated an 8-year-old boy. The boy developed mild symptoms of cowpox but felt better after nine days. Two months later, he collected fresh matter from a smallpox lesion and inoculated the boy again. No disease developed; Jenner concluded that the boy had become immune due to his previous cowpox exposure. It took some time for science to agree with his findings. Eventually, a vaccine was approved. Even the word vaccine is taken from the Latin word vaccinia or cowpox. By 1800, the vaccine for smallpox reached most European countries.

*\*Heath Hornecker is in his 16th year at Casper College as an instructor in the agriculture department. He coached the livestock judging team from 2006-2008. Today, he teaches a variety of agriculture courses. In his spare time, Hornecker attends numerous baseball games, ice skating practices, and livestock shows. Hornecker and his wife, **Jaime Bobinmeyer-Hornecker** (AS, '97), have four children, too many short-legged dogs, and own a small acreage outside Casper. Each year when the Casper College Alumni Association asks graduates who influenced them and helped them during their time at Casper College, Hornecker always gets words of thanks from grateful students.*

*Sheep graze on a Wyoming pasture. [CC Western History Center/ David Historical Collection]*



## Notes from t-bird camp!

Visit Footprints online to catch up on your favorite campus news.  
Go to [footprintsweb.org/athleticnews/](http://footprintsweb.org/athleticnews/)

## Wholly Invested in the Community

### Linda Nix Named 2021 Commitment to Excellence Recipient

Linda Nix moved to the Casper community in 1983 from Connecticut. She came from a successful career as the assistant director of the Health Insurance Association of America that had seen her commuting daily to New York City for several years. “My job kept me on the road in the southeast United States about 40% of the time. The balance of the time I commuted by train into the city arriving at Grand Central Station, which was 13 blocks from my office on Third Avenue,” she recalled.

In 1982, Nix spied an article in the New York Times on Casper during one of its many booms. The article specifically mentioned that traffic in the small Wyoming city had increased so much that drivers sometimes had to sit through two series of lights at intersections. For Nix, “That sounded like a nice change of pace and more like the northern Minnesota town where I was raised. I wasn’t wrong.”

Nix came to Casper with not only her professional experience but also a master’s degree and a law degree. She began her professional life by opening an independent law practice. While continuing to operate her law practice, she accepted a position as the director of Medical Affairs at Wyoming Medical Center while also serving as the Natrona County Medical Society’s executive director.

Nix and Patricia Nagel were chosen to co-direct the Wyoming Futures Project in 1986. Through their work on the WFP, the two became friends and started a consulting business in the late 1980s. They helped small businesses and nonprofits with goal setting, team building, and board training. Nix first became involved with Casper College when she became a trustee on its board in 1988, a position she held for eight years. Nix was also a founding member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, or BOCES.

Thanks to the urging of another long-time Casper College supporter, George Bryce, Nix applied for the Casper College Foundation’s part-

time job as the foundation alumni coordinator. The position would allow Nix to continue her consulting business, provide flexibility to be home for her kids, and affordable health insurance. “I was already aware of the key role the college played in the community, having served on the board of trustees, and I’d also taken a handful of art classes at the college. So, those factors motivated me to update my resume and complete an application,” she said.

Nix began her new job Sept. 26, 2006. “Fairly quickly, the job I took for the benefits became a passion. I loved my colleagues and the atmosphere inherent to a college,” she noted. Nix remembers the alumni board as welcoming and ready to help her get “... up to speed with their protocols and procedures. They were, and continue to be, an enthusiastic group of people who hold the college dear to their hearts. Their enthusiasm for Casper College fueled my love for my job. Thanks to them, I retired with lasting friendships and special memories.”

Many of those “special memories” include working with a great team in the Casper College Foundation and the satisfaction gained after the conclusion of successful events, including homecomings, alumni galas, welcome back to school days, and an event she was an integral part of putting together: the annual T-Bird Trek. Other memories include working on the alumni magazine Footprints and “dressing up in an inflatable T-rex costume for Trek promotion videos and Casper’s parade day. (I nearly passed out), but it conferred instant star status,” said Nix.

In 2014, Nix went from part time to full time as the associate director of alumni relations, a position she held until she went back to part time as the publications coordinator Nov. 1, 2017. Nix retired from the foundation May 31, 2019.

Not one to live in the past, Nix has been busy since her retirement. She and her husband, retired lawyer Neil Short, had planned on traveling, but



Linda Nix.  
[CC photo/Cory Garvin]

like many others, the current COVID-19 pandemic put those plans on temporary hold. Instead, the two expanded their garden. According to Nix, that expansion necessitated a “reboot” of her canning and preserving skills. “Our pantry and freezer are brimming with sweet pickles, dill pickles, tomatillo salsa, tomato peach salsa, jam, tomato sauce, potatoes and frozen veggies,” she said. The two also

“... succumbed to the lure of a pandemic puppy.” Owen joined the family in early October.

Casper and the Casper College Foundation are fortunate that Nix came and generously gave of her talents. “I came to Casper to find a less frantic place to live and a place where my career could grow. Casper fit that bill,” she said.



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## My Friend Tasha Who Lived Down the Alley

By Connie Morgan

My friend Tasha, who  
lived down the alley,  
told me we all die someday.

I was five and she was four  
and her knowledge seemed  
not in keeping with her age.

I ran back home down the alley  
crying, dirt clinging to  
my tear stained face.

Stumbling in the back door, I have  
to push hard because it sticks,  
I cry for my mother like broken glass.

I am met in the kitchen  
with tired, disinterested eyes  
cooking tired, disinterested spaghetti.

I told her what Tasha said emphasized  
through sobs, she confirmed it  
with a tired, disinterested pat on my head.

## Harvest

The voice I hear is yours, dear one, but the sounds form words to cut deep holes from my heart. In August, the first harvest cuts earth from stone. With bellies full the heart stills as the wheat dust clings to my skin, forming silence in the field. Thresholds break and heat sinks into the golden sun — letting go of the day thus far: breathe in breathe out again, again. Looking up to meet the gaze of your eyes weary from work, we sweat as one in this place we call home, sweet home.



(CC photo/Cory Garvin)

Connie Morgan is a 46-year-old nontraditional student at Casper College. She is working on an associate degree in English with a writing emphasis. She plans on continuing her education after graduating from Casper College to obtain an MFA in poetry. Morgan writes, "I love Casper College and all of the opportunities I have for education here. Casper College was a good fit for me after being out of school for several decades. They helped guide me and made the process of enrollment a lot less stressful.

Casper College has top-notch educators and programs to help guide and get you on your way to higher education. I am in the Casper College Single Parent Program, and it has been a game-changer for me and made going to college a possibility and (allowed me) to be an example for my children."

Connie is also the artistic talent behind GloW, a company that designs custom neon signs and repairs old ones. Her work can be seen all over Casper, or visit [glowneonlights.com](http://glowneonlights.com).

By Christian Murphy

# Peck

There is a woodpecker, pecking away  
At the tree outside my bedroom window  
He pecks, and pecks, and pecks,  
And I am lying here listening,  
Growing angrier, and angrier, and angrier.  
I want to go outside and throw rocks at him,  
Just so I can go back to sleep.  
Why am I so upset with him,  
Even though he does not worry himself with me?  
Pondering that, I shut my eyes  
Concerning myself not with the noise,  
But with the peace it brings me,  
And I find the beauty in his nature,  
the only thing he knows.  
Peck.....Peck.....Peck



[CC photo/Cory Garvin]

Christian Murphy was born and raised in Casper, Wyoming. He joined the U.S. Army Infantry in 2016, served two tours in Afghanistan, and finished his contract in May 2020. He recently started attending Casper College, and is pursuing a major in English literature. He plans on becoming a police officer once he finishes college.

# A Woman of Grace and Generosity

## Susie McMurry Named 2021 Distinguished Alumni

**Susan “Susie” Kay (Warburton) McMurry** (AS, '63) has a smile that can light up the darkest of rooms and a generosity of spirit matched by few others. Susie McMurry is the 2021 Casper College Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni.

A Casper native, Susie was raised in Elk Mountain and Hanna, Wyoming, graduating from her Hanna High School class of 24 in 1961. Two years later, she would graduate from Casper College with an Associate of Science in education. A Bachelor of Science in education from the University of Wyoming followed.

She began her teaching career in Casper. Colleagues remember her as genuinely friendly, kind and caring. Those three traits, along with that smile, have served her well through a lifetime of heartfelt generosity through her own personal time volunteering with various organizations and through the foundation that she and her late husband, Neil “Mick” McMurry, created. Susie McMurry is the embodiment of the word altruistic.

She met her husband, who she always called “Mickey,” on a blind date set up by her aunt and uncle. Mick showed up that night in his red corvette. But when he arrived at the door, Susie was hesitant. Her roommate answered the door instead. She took one look at Mick and told Susie that she would be happy to take her place if she didn’t want to go.

Susie went on that date. The year was 1972, and she was a first-grade teacher at Cresthill Elementary School. Eighteen months later, on December 21, 1973, the two got married in Glenrock, Wyoming. “I can honestly say I loved Mickey from the time I knew him, and I think Mickey loved me from the time he knew me,” she told a Casper Star-Tribune reporter shortly after Mick McMurry’s death in 2015.

When Susie first met Mick, he was in business with his brother Vic in a road construction company they had started in 1970. According to Susie, the two brothers “... worked all the time.” In 1976, Susie left teaching to be a mother to their first adopted daughter, Trudi. Trudi was four-days old when Susie and Mick took her into their lives and hearts. During summers, Susie would sometimes head to Mick’s highway construction projects where she and Trudi would camp nearby.

Susie and Mick became foster parents in 1979 and over nearly 30 years fostered hundreds of children. Their second daughter Jillian was from the foster program, and their granddaughter Alaceia (Lou) was first fostered by them before being adopted by Trudi.

While taking care of her children, fostering others, and being the wife of Mick McMurry, Susie was also busy volunteering in the Casper community. While her girls were still small, her volunteering began with the Casper Service League.

In 1988 the brothers dissolved their business, and Mick started Nerd Gas in 1996. He was successful in the oil and gas business, and that success allowed him and Susie to create the McMurry Foundation in 1998. The foundation was helped even more when he partnered with John Martin, and the two later sold McMurry Oil Company in 2000, and McMurry Energy Company in 2001. Through their development of both the Jonah Field and Pinedale Anticline and subsequent sales, the two became multimillionaires.

In its first year of existence, the foundation awarded \$108,315 to a variety of causes. They came up with the foundation’s tag line “Paying It Forward” from the 2000 film “Pay It Forward.” The steps involved in applying for a grant from The McMurry Foundation were intentionally created to be easy to follow, and there were broad categories to choose from. As Susie said in 2002, “We don’t want to make it difficult. We want to make people feel comfortable and uninhibited. We consciously made (the categories) broad because we didn’t want to miss an opportunity of giving. We want to give (these awards) joyfully.” And joyfully, the awards have been given through The McMurry Foundation. And joyfully, Susie has given of her time to a variety of causes in Natrona County.

Nearly two decades ago, she joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming board. Soon, she was leading the multi-million-dollar fund-raising drive to construct a new club. With Susie in the lead, it was no surprise when the McMurry Foundation announced a gift of \$1 million for the new building, 25% of the funding needed. The new 34,000 square foot facility opened in August 2004. And it didn’t stop there. In 2019, the foundation

provided a large donation to upgrade the club's technology center.

Susie has been a longtime volunteer at Wyoming Medical Center and, through the McMurry Foundation, a donor. More than 30 years ago, she began the Gentle Hands Program at the hospital with Gail Kennah and Ellie Ellbogen. The program offers nonmedical support to patients and families at WMC. For many years, it was the norm for both patients and their families to see Susie at the hospital, where until recently, she volunteered several hours a day, clocking 8500 hours in the first eight months of 2019 alone.

She also served on the WMC Foundation board, was a Masterson Place committee member and was a volunteer for the Angels Cancer Care, helping to provide dinners to Masterson Place guests once a month. For all her service to the hospital, she was a recipient of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

At Casper College, the McMurry Foundation provided \$1 million to the remodeling and expansion efforts for the Gertrude Krampert Theatre. Half of the million went to the extensive upgrade of the theater's largest performance stage, now known as the Mick and Susie McMurry Stage. In 2014 the foundation donated \$500,000 to construct a plaza and open space outside the front doors of the Casper College Student Union and University of Wyoming at Casper building.

Susie also was a founding member of CASA — Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Natrona County. A strong woman of faith, she is an active and long-time member



of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and was on the steering committee that oversaw the creation of St. Anthony's Tri-Parish School.

In its first 15 years alone, the foundation awarded nearly \$50 million and since then has awarded millions more. The above merely scratches the surface of the generosity of both the McMurry Foundation and Susie herself. In the years following the 15-year anniversary, the foundation, with her guidance, has continued to generously fund a variety of projects that have helped to improve not only Casper but the state itself. At the same time, Susie has continued to volunteer her time and service.

Susie McMurry will be presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award Friday, May 14 during commencement.

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

*Susie McMurry, right, and her daughter Trudi McMurry Holthouse. (Photo courtesy Susie McMurry)*

## The Woman in My Office



*Earl Reed at his 80th birthday party. [CC Western History Center/Casper Star-Tribune Collection]*

When I started working at the Casper College Foundation and Casper College Alumni Association, I inherited the office from my predecessor **Linda Nix**. There was a large portrait of a woman staring into space with her cross-stitch laying in her lap. Her hair is perfectly coiffed, she is wearing a lady's suit jacket and so subtle a smile, it's hard to tell if she's smiling at all. I commented on the painting right away; I was in love. Linda smiled and said, "Not everyone likes it." Another co-worker piped up, expressing her dislike of the painting. And so it has gone during my time in this office. Visitors never fail to comment on the painting — it inspires strong reactions because it is such a large presence.

The artist remained a mystery for some time until **Valerie Innella Maiers**, a Casper College art instructor, stopped by. She has been working on cataloging the college's art collection, and I

asked her if she might know who the painter was. Without hesitation, she said, "Earl Reed." His scratchy signature suddenly became clear. **Earl Reed** was the first art instructor at Casper College, and he had indeed painted the portrait.

Born in Nebraska in 1893, Reed started painting in the Hudson River School genre, which consisted of romantically themed pastoral landscapes with humans and the environment coexisting peacefully. Albert Bierstadt represents the genre in his majestic landscape paintings that portray dramatically lit landscapes. Reed later attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the oldest art school in the United States, the University of Nebraska, and the Chicago Art Institute. He worked in Chicago for a time as a commercial artist.

Reed came west in 1940 and moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He then relocated to Casper, where he became an art instructor at Natrona County High School. When Casper College started on the third floor of NCHS, he took the art instructor

position with the new junior college. He spent the rest of his career teaching at Casper College. During his time teaching, he continued to paint.

Casper College has a collection of his landscapes, wildflowers, and architectural drawings. The portrait hanging in the alumni office is the only portrait. In it, he uses light to play on the face of the subject as it washes across the back wall. Her hands paused as she sits on a simple wooden chair give the observer the time to consider what might have caught her attention. Is she simply lost



*A landscape painting done by Earl Reed. [CC photo]*



in thought or pausing to reply to a question? Her bright blue eyes gaze into the distance.

That is what great art is about, isn't it? Great art makes the viewer reflect or even recoil, but it produces reactions. Reed continued to teach even after retirement. He became a private teacher to those interested in developing their skill.

*Note: If any of our readers have other Earl Reed paintings or took classes, Footprints would love to collect your stories. Also, we have often wondered who the subject of the portrait in the alumni office is. Please let us know if you have information about the woman in the portrait.*

*Earl Reed portrait.  
(CC photo)*

# London Trip Opens Doors

In Nov. 2019, **Patti Finkle** and **Valerie Innella Maiers** traveled to London for professional development. Both women had specific goals in mind when they planned their trip. They wanted to learn and share ideas with other museum professionals to enhance their programs and offerings to students, both college and K-12.

One of the big surprises they discovered was that the University College of London and small Wyoming museums share similar problems. Staff from the UCL and Wyoming's small museums worry about their students, must work with administrators, and adapt as settings and students' needs change. "I enjoyed chatting with our peers in London and think that we had a wonderful exchange of ideas and resources," said Finkle, director of museums at Casper College.

Their first stop on the museum tour was with Alice Stevenson, Ph.D., past curator at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, and current lecturer in museum studies at UCL in the anthropology department. The department's collection is similar in size to the Tate Geological Museum. Stevenson got the team to think about capstone projects for museum studies students. "Capstone projects can be a valuable addition to a curriculum that can connect students with peers in other majors, instructors, and administrators from around campus as well as being a valuable addition to their resumes," noted Innella Maiers, Casper College art instructor.

Next, the pair met with Alice Bednarova, a family educator at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Bednarova highlighted a popular program at the museum: family-focused backpacks that guests can check out. The backpacks contain guided activities guests can use while they explore the museum. "The materials in those backpacks cater to multiple learning styles and intelligence types developed to promote engagement with the exhibits. I was so impressed with this idea that I am planning on

bringing the backpack idea to the Casper College museums, starting with the Werner Wildlife Museum," Finkle said. Added Innella Maiers, "Museum studies students have already gotten to work and have developed ideas for the backpacks. Unfortunately, COVID-19 paused the backpack project, but when the conditions allow, they will be available for use."

During their London trip, the two also visited with the past curator of the Grant Museum of Zoology, Helen Chatterjee, Ph.D. The Grant is a small museum similar in size to the Werner. According to Innella Maiers, Chatterjee spoke about the history of the Grant Museum and how it ended up in its current location, which had the reputation of being a dark and boring space. "Museum staff rearranged, brightened the area, and began using the space not only as a museum but as classroom space allowing for a more dynamic and interactive experience," said Finkle. Training sessions were also developed to teach other professors how to use the museum with object-based learning in their own classrooms.

After arriving back in the U.S., they learned of a call for presentations from the International Council of Museums and Collections of Natural History and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections for a joint conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. Symposium topics covered a wide range of areas but of particular interest



*Patti Finkle and Valerie Innella Maiers. (Photo courtesy Valerie Innella Maiers)*



*The Lewis Chessmen. The chess pieces were found on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, dating to 1150-1175. They consist of elaborately worked walrus ivory and whales' teeth from the British Museum. (Photo courtesy Valerie Innella Maiers)*



*The Tower of London.  
(Photo courtesy Valerie  
Innella Maiers)*

The symposium was represented by presenters from Germany, South America, and Italy. The Wyoming duo were the only presenters in the symposia from the U.S. and one of the

to Finkle and Innella Maiers was the history of collections. Innella Maiers had already been researching the Werner Wildlife Museum's history for months, even before the trip to London. She had also written articles on the subject for both the Casper College alumni magazine *Footprints*, and the Werner newsletter *The Howl*. Finkle had also done research on the history of the collections and where the material had come from in the Werner and Tate. Seeing the symposia topic, Finkle proposed that she and Innella Maiers develop and present on the topic. By incorporating what they learned in London and extending the topic to include the broader natural history-oriented audience, they were successful in their submission.

**“I have never been invited to submit to a peer-reviewed, professional journal, and was very excited about this opportunity”**

Like most things in 2020, COVID-19 threw a wrench in their plans to travel to Edinburgh. In May 2020, they presented “The Werner Wildlife Museum: 50 Years and Counting” to an international audience of over 200 peers. According to Finkle, the talk was well received and inspired a conversation between the participants and the presenters. “The questions being asked prompted new ideas for Valerie and me,” said Finkle, adding, “Some viewers even suggested a few ideas that the Werner board was already pursuing, reinforcing the idea that the board was on the right path.”

*An elephant sculpture peeks out from the Tower of London in an exhibition that references the former Royal Menagerie on this site. (Photo courtesy Valerie Innella Maiers)*

few attendees, if not the only ones, from Wyoming participating in the conference.

After the presentation, Juilee Decker, the editor for *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals*, emailed the pair and asked if they would like to submit their presentation as a journal article. Broadly defined, “The journal’s emphasis is collections. What particularly struck me was the way in which you characterized the collections as a way of thinking about the college’s history, as well as the educational aspects,” Decker wrote in her email. Finkle and Innella-Maiers decided to take Decker up on her offer. They worked on the article over the summer and submitted it in September 2020. “I have never been invited to submit to a peer-reviewed, professional journal, and was very excited about this opportunity,” said Finkle. Their submission was accepted and will be published in the journal this spring.

“The connections that this project has created are valuable, both to us as individuals and to the college. We have met and interacted with colleagues from around the globe and learned quite a bit about the Werner Wildlife Museum along the way,” noted Finkle.



## 1940s

Gloria Y. (Gould) Boyce (AA, '49)  
June 16, 2020

Judge James Lee Macken (AA, '48)  
November 2, 2020

## 1950s

Ralph Waldo Darnall ('50)  
July 29, 2020

Nancy Geiger (AA, '51)  
August 10, 2020

Pat Joanne "Pat" Cardinal ('58)  
October 12, 2020

Ralph Myers ('55)  
November 3, 2020

Carlotta Ella (Osborn) Harrington (AA, '50)  
November 15, 2020

Myron K. Jackson ('50)  
November 15, 2020

William C. Erickson ('53)  
November 26, 2020

Donald Swanton (AA, '57)  
November 30, 2020

## 1960s

David W. Craig (AS, '68)  
May 18, 2020

Wallace Hoskins (AS, '69)  
June 7, 2020

Patrick Durane Sperry (AA, '63)  
June 19, 2020

Nick Hahn ('65)  
June 23, 2020

Jack Dale Raver (AS, '60)  
July 13, 2020

James Higday (AS, '69)  
July 16, 2020

Gail Lynne (Rohlf) Stoddard ('61)  
July 28, 2020

Walter Thies ('65)  
August 24, 2020

Eugene Allen "Gene" Brummond ('69)  
September 1, 2020

Robert B. "Bob" Williams (AS, '66)  
September 5, 2020

Helene Mauvourneen (Daly) Ellis ('64)  
September 16, 2020

Roy Garry Woody (AS, '60)  
October 7, 2020

Raedenne O. Compagno (AA, '69)  
October 12, 2020

Mary Jo (Dalgarno) Pekuri ('69)  
October 15, 2020

Maria Effie Campo (AA, '61)  
October 24, 2020

Gregory Lee Robinson ('69)  
November 8, 2020

Douglas M. Crowe ('68)  
Instructor and Distinguished Alumni  
November 26, 2020

Judith "Judi" (Bussey) Anderson (AA, '65)  
December 7, 2020

## 1970s

Darrell Eugene Aanestad ('70)  
May 8, 2020

Lynne M. (Ball) Burrola ('74)  
May 26, 2020

Steven Harry Davis (AS, '72)  
June 5, 2020

Martha Ann Chapman Clarkson (AS, '71)  
June 13, 2020

Ray Edgar Keller ('70)  
June 17, 2020

Kathleen "Kathy" (Dewitt) Baker (AA, '73)  
Former Casper College Alumni Association Board Member  
July 6, 2020

Kevin Michael Reddy ('79)  
July 6, 2020

Alta Lorraine Ramsey (CERT, '70)  
July 18, 2020

Thomas Anthony Volin (AA, '76)  
August 6, 2020

Kathleen "Kathy" Suzanne Brown (AS, '76)  
August 12, 2020

Ronald (Ron) Christopher Porter (AS, '73)  
August 25, 2020

Edward C. Dilgarde ('75)  
September 4, 2020

Harry Blaine Highland ('76)  
September 4, 2020

Elizabeth Ann (Coleman) Nelson ('75)  
September 17, 2020

Scott Keith (AAS, '76)  
September 22, 2020

Edna Ruth (Hunt) Ossa (AS, '76)  
September 28, 2020

Fred E. Schon ('77)  
October 26, 2020

Nancy O. (Johnson) Dunston (AS, '71)  
November 1, 2020

Wayne Shippen (AS, '74)  
November 5, 2020

Donna (Burgess) McMurry (AA, '71)  
November 16, 2020

## 1980s

Owen Bennet (AAS, '85)  
June 1, 2020

William Dean Lisco ('84)  
August 3, 2020

Wade Allen Ravert (AAS, '85)  
August 5, 2020

Kathy Irene (Shoemaker) Goedicke ('83)  
August 13, 2020

Carol Ann (Hoffman) Crump-Hill (AA, '89)  
Former Casper College Alumni Board Member  
August 17, 2020

Thelma Louise Roberson ('84)  
August 19, 2020

Ralph Edward Clark (CERT, '82)  
September 18, 2020

Gwen Lynne (Reister) Hool ('82)  
October 14, 2020

Robert C. Urbigkit (AS, AAS, '86)  
October 25, 2020

Raymond L. Turk (AS, '81)  
October 27, 2020

## 1990s

Mitchell Herman Myers ('92)  
July 12, 2020

Shane Dodge ('92)  
July 14, 2020

Jason Michael "Jake" Haivala (AAS, '92)  
August 27, 2020

Susan M. (Crider) Lewis (AAS, '90) (CERT, '90)  
September 14, 2020

Theresa Littleshield ('92)  
October 16, 2020

Sherri D. (West) Wright (AS, '96)  
October 29, 2020

Linda Loann (Poling) Boyer ('90)  
November 21, 2020

Sandra Kay (Peterson) Pettry (AB, '91)  
November 25, 2020

## 2000's

Sharon K. (Moffat) Johnson (AS, '07)  
October 19, 2020

## 2010s

Katlin Ann Parton ('13)  
June 27, 2020

Grayson Young ('18)  
November 27, 2020

John Joseph Koerber ('18)  
December 1, 2019

# According to Charlotte ...

## Peanut Butter Amid the Pandemic

I don't know about you, dear readers, but this horrible pandemic has occasioned a number of restrictions in my lifestyle — the most notable of which is my inability to go almost anywhere, which means I don't get to the supermarket about every other day or so ... and which has now become the hottest destination in town for me for many months. I have to think really hard, which in itself can be hard, before venturing there, maybe once a week to stock up on things to eat.

However, I have stumbled onto something I've taken for granted for years — peanut butter. I've always loved peanut butter, but it was just something that hung around, like an old, comfortable T-shirt, for occasional use, but not anymore. It's really important now. Let me repeat that — it's really important now!

I will never starve with peanut butter in the house. Let me explain. I have found that it can be used for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I used to buy little jars, but now I'm buying big jars so it will last longer.

Take breakfast. Try peanut butter on toast. You might want to drizzle some honey on it or, if you have some bacon, crumble some crisp bacon on it — or even better, slice a banana over it.

Next, let's do lunch. Peanut butter and jelly are the time-honored lunch for the school kid. I know it was for me when I came home for lunch from grade school. The jelly was always grape, which went pretty well with my milk. I fixed that combination for my own children, too. Daughter Vickie, however, told me in reminiscing that if she never saw another peanut butter sandwich again, it would be too soon. I said she never had that many PB & Js, which caused her to laugh derisively. Daughter

Linda as a youngster, was not shy about ordering PB & Js at restaurants — even in New York — which always got big smiles from the servers, who, by the way, obliged — but they came with a price!

I can always put peanut butter and apples together for lunch, and they're a good and tasty combination. I have to peel the apple and cut it into quarters, though.

There's sometimes a mid-afternoon snack made up of peanut butter and cracker sandwiches. The crackers tend to crumble somewhat, so I watch out for that.

I have a favorite entrée for dinner, which I highly recommend being eaten with your favorite drink. But don't serve it with a martini. Those two are not at all compatible.

Now here we go. I use two pieces of good bread. I spread one slice generously with peanut butter, the other slice generously with a good mayo, then I grab a generous crunchy bunch of lettuce, smash it all together, and I'm just delighted!

I'm also working on a tasty goulash with peanut butter, but I'm not ready to share that with you just yet.

I must tell you, though, there is a warning about peanut butter that you have to watch out for, and it is this. It's called arachibutyrophobia, which is the fear of peanut butter getting stuck to the roof of the mouth.

I hope I've helped you to use the very versatile peanut butter. Good luck and good eating.

P.S. Note of interest: The month of November is designated "National Peanut Butter Lover's Month." Yes, it's true!



Charlotte Babcock.  
(CC photo)



**Mailing label incorrect?** Go to [caspercollegefoundation.org](http://caspercollegefoundation.org), call 307-268-2256, or email [alumni@caspercollege.edu](mailto:alumni@caspercollege.edu)

# Come celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Casper College



Plan to attend the gala on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at the Ford Wyoming Center/Casper Events Center.  
Get your tickets now! Visit [caspercollegefoundation.org/75th-invitation](http://caspercollegefoundation.org/75th-invitation) or call 307-268-2256.

We will look back on the last 75 years and look forward to celebrating 75 more.  
Join us for an evening of fun, good food, and a wonderful celebration as  
we honor 25 exemplary alumni and more!