

# Footprints



Casper College Alumni Magazine • Winter 2022  
Casper College Foundation 2020-21 Annual Report

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**Editors note:** Beginning with this issue of Footprints, we will be listing the years that our faculty and staff worked at Casper College. We hope this will serve as a touchstone for our readers and will also provide recognition to employees who made a difference in students' lives.

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# Footprints

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

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**Cover photo:** (Casper College photo/Chris Houser)  
See story page 10.

## President's Letter

We have had many celebrations going on at our beloved Casper College since the last Footprints.

I had the pleasure of sitting on stage during graduation and watching so many smiling faces walk across the stage to receive their diploma from Dr. Divine and welcome them to our alumni family. It was by far the largest event I had been to in well over a year, and yes, they got permission to unmask, and I hadn't realized how much I missed seeing the smiles. Oh, the smiles and cheers were great.

We also celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Casper College by honoring an additional 25 alums to the Exemplary Alumni club. Congratulations to all of you! We have so many outstanding alumni in our family. Everyone who attended the Gala had a wonderful time, and the staff of the Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association did a wonderful job of planning and organizing the event. We owe them a special thank you for making this wonderful evening so special.

The T-Bird Trek was a huge success once again, with many of our supporters and alumni sharing in this annual event.

Yes, I did say family, twice, actually! Casper College really is a "family affair" we had many graduates related to each other, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, children, and grandchildren of fellow alumni receiving their diplomas from a relative that is a part of the Casper College family.

After the last Footprints, I have had so many encounters with people telling me their Casper College stories, which are priceless and so interesting to me. They usually always include "I have" or "have had" a relative going there now, too.

This fall, I had a great nephew attending Casper College, as did his dad and a couple more of my nephews. I was the first in my family to attend Casper College; my siblings and my dad went to Sheridan College. I am a huge supporter of community colleges. I think they give you a wonderful education and a path to follow forward in life and further your education.

I am so happy to be a part of the Casper College family, and like all good families, there is always room for one more at the table of learning.

Wishing you all the best!




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

(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)



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# Foundation and Campus News

## Foundation News

### Scholarship in Memory of Matthew Shepard Created

A scholarship in the memory of Casper, Wyoming, resident Matthew Shepard has been created to support diversity and inclusion.

The Matthew Shepard Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship was named in memory of Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming college student murdered in 1998 in a hate crime. The scholarship will be awarded to a second-semester student who identifies as part of the LGBTQ+ population or an ally dedicated to diversity and inclusion work in the Casper community, noted **Elaine Monterastelli**, student success adviser.

### Historic Preservation Scholarship Established at CC

Casperite Susan Bishop established the Spaugh Hilsmann Scholarship for Historic Preservation to help museum studies and anthropology majors at Casper College. The scholarship was created to assist students committed to preserving and promoting Wyoming history and culture through their studies and careers. "Wyoming history provides cultural lessons about the people and places that established the equality state," Bishop said.

According to Bishop, the scholarship is named to honor her maternal families who were instrumental in developing Wyoming's livestock and transportation industries.

### Family Establishes Bo Jangles the Cat Scholarship for Science Majors

The Bo Jangles the Cat Scholarship has been established to benefit a first-generation college student majoring in a degree from the Casper College School of Science.

"We want to serve students that are from underserved populations seeking an opportunity in higher education," said the donors, who named

the scholarship for their beloved cat. "Providing opportunities that have the potential to have generational impacts are important to us," they added.

### New Accounting Scholarship Established at Casper College

The Nick John Noell Accounting Scholarship, a new scholarship for Casper College accounting majors, has been set up through the Casper College Foundation.

The scholarship is named in honor of Casperite **Nick Noell**, (AB, '66) who, following graduation from Natrona County High School, graduated from Casper College with his Associate of Science in accounting in 1966.

"Later, he would attribute his time at Casper College and his accounting degree as a stepping stone to his success. Coming from a modest household, Casper College provided a local, affordable option to continue his education while living at home. Without it, he might not have had the opportunity to push his career further," said his widow, Vicki Noell.

According to Mrs. Noell, Nick Noell transferred to the University of Denver and earned his Bachelor of Science in business administration with a major in finance. "He procured an internship at Samsonite Corporation in his senior year, and upon graduation, Samsonite offered him a position in corporate finance," said Mrs. Noell.

That internship led to a successful 26-year tenure at Samsonite, where he oversaw 50% of the company's sales. Then, unfortunately, his career was cut short due to his untimely death in 1994. But, according to Mrs. Noell, his family has never forgotten his affinity and gratitude for the education he received from Casper College.

"In his memory, (the family has) established a scholarship for four recipients to pursue their education in accounting at Casper College. It is the family's pleasure to provide students the same springboard of opportunity and pay forward the gift of education," Mrs. Noell noted.

### Scholarship Established for Second-year Fire Science Majors

A new scholarship has been established in the memory of Captain Matt Trott. The Captain Matt Trott Scholarship is open to second-year fire science majors.

"Matt was a genuine, true, and selfless public servant. He will always be remembered for his dedicated commitment, courage, tactical brilliance, perseverance, and his compelling sense of humor," said his widow, Nicole Trott. "Matt gave his life in the line of duty to firefighter-related cancer. This endowment is to honor Matt's commitment to our community and future first responders," she added.

### Crestwood Provides \$50,000 in Scholarships for Casper College Students

For the third year in a row, Crestwood Equity Partners LP has provided \$50,000 for Casper College student scholarships.

To qualify, the students must be pursuing a college degree in STEM or energy-related careers, show academic excellence, promising leadership skills, maintain a minimum 2.8 GPA, and be dedicated to advancing community relations.



"Crestwood is an integral part of the Wyoming community and is dedicated to supporting the communities where our employees live and work," said Travis Wells, director of operations at Crestwood. "Hearing student stories of how this scholarship helps them in school encourages Crestwood to continue to provide scholarships to the deserving students at Casper College," said Wells.

"This donation is part of our larger commitment to sustainability and giving back to the communities where we live and operate," said

Joanne Howard, vice president of sustainability and corporate communications. "One of our focus areas for giving is education and workforce development. It is our goal to provide real, lasting, and sustainable benefits in education and workforce development that provide communities the broadest options for their future and build a highly-skilled employee base in the regions where we operate," she noted.

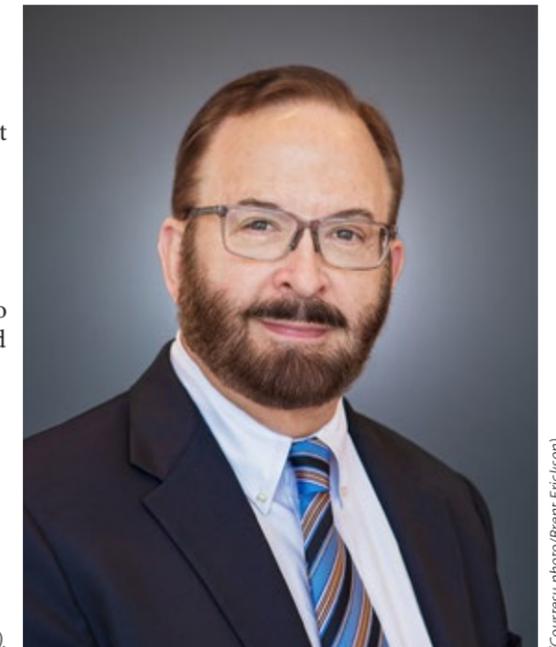
### Son Establishes Scholarship in Memory of Parents

**Brent Erickson** (AS, '72), the son of the late Artie and **Swede Erickson** (1958-1992), has established a scholarship to benefit nursing students.

The Artie and Swede Erickson Nursing Scholarship "... is a way to honor the memory of my parents and to support students in the Casper area who are seeking a career in health care and nursing," said Erickson. "Both of my parents benefited from professional and compassionate nursing care in their later years, and I realized nurses are the hands-on, bedrock foundation and a critical part of the health care field," Erickson added.

"My parents loved Casper, and students who graduate in nursing from Casper College tend to stay in Casper and continue to contribute to the local quality of life after they graduate.

This scholarship will benefit both students and the community at large," said Erickson. "Casper College has a well-known and excellent nursing program. This scholarship is a way to help ensure motivated students can pursue a nursing career and first-rate nursing education by helping cover tuition and books," noted Erickson.



Brent Erickson (AS, '72).

(Courtesy photo/Brent Erickson)

# Foundation and Campus News cont.

Erickson's father, Swede, coached the Casper College Men's Basketball team from 1958-1986 and was the executive director of the Casper College Foundation from 1986-1992.

Erickson graduated from Casper College in 1972 with an Associate of Science in biology. In 2019, he received the Casper College Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award.

## Campus News

### 'Celebration/Milestones' Topic of 2021 Festival

The topic for the 36th Annual Casper College Humanities Festival and Demorest Lecture was "Celebration/Milestones." The festival ran

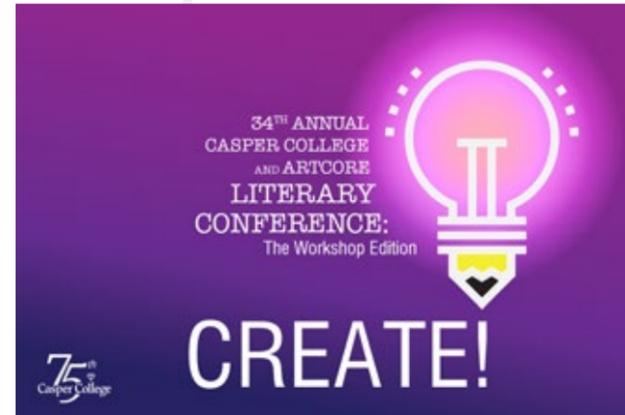
Feb. 17-19, 2021.

The Demorest Lecture featured two speakers. Matthew Spangler, Ph.D., spoke on "Between Celebration and Devastation: Theater Productions About Refugees." A "proud" graduate of Natrona County High School, Spangler is an award-winning playwright and professor of performance studies at San Jose State University in California. According to **Valerie Innella Maiera**, Ph.D., Spangler's plays have been produced worldwide, and his teaching focuses on the relationship between immigration and the arts.

Critically acclaimed author and internationally recognized journalist Mark Jenkins presented the second Demorest Lecture. "The Future of Water in Wyoming: Global Warming, Drought and how Wyoming can Protect its Water" addressed the problem of water in Wyoming. "The Colorado River Compact requires Wyoming to

send the majority of its water to other states. When this agreement was signed in 1922, it was based on precipitation data that has radically changed in the past century," said Jenkins. As one example of the problem, "The 100 glaciers in the Wind River Mountains, that feed the Green River that feeds the Colorado River, are all expected to vanish by 2050," he said.

In addition to the two Demorest speakers and other presenters, the festival included an exhibition at the Natrona County Library about Verna Keays Keyes and a virtual book club discussion of "Downriver: Into the Future of Water in the West" by Heather Hansman and moderated by **Gretchen Wheeler** (1986-2017), retired Casper College communication instructor.



### 'CREATE!' Theme of 34th Annual Casper College Literary Conference

The 34th Annual Casper College and ARTCORE Literary Conference titled "CREATE!" was held April 15 and 16, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the conference was moved from its original dates in Nov. 2020. The conference, known as "The Workshop Edition," presented free workshops during the two-day event.

The workshops covered fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Authors presenting at the conference were Matt Daly, author of "Between Here and Home;" Alyson Hagy, visual and literary arts professor at the University of Wyoming and author of eight books; Lori Howe, a co-creator of the new poetic form known as the cadralor; and Casper College English instructor and fly-fishing editor of Strung Magazine, **Dave Zoby**.

### 'Literature and Performance' Theme of 35th Annual Casper College Literary Conference

The 35th Annual Casper College and ARTCORE Literary Conference titled "Literature and Performance" was held Thursday and Friday, Nov. 4 and 5, 2021. The free conference featured readings, craft talks, performances, and workshops during the two-day event.

Presenters at the conference were Casper College English instructor **Patrick Amelotte**; **Richard Burk**, coordinator of the theatre performance degree at Casper College; Brandi George, author of "Gog," which won the gold medal in the Florida Book Awards; Taylor Gordon, winner of the Wyoming Arts Council Creating Writing Fellowship in Fiction; and Ashley Lumpkin, a Carolina-based writer, editor, actor, educator, and author of four poetry collections.

### Casper College 2021-2022 Military Friendly Bronze School

Casper College has been named to the 2021-2022 Military Friendly Schools list as a Bronze Award recipient. The list, compiled by Military Friendly, honors those colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and their spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.



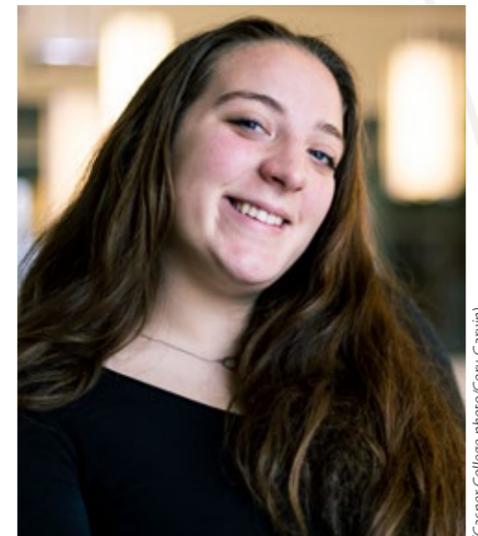
According to Military Friendly, schools that receive the Bronze Award designation are those that "... scored within 30% of the 10th best school in their category. These institutions have exceptional military/veteran programs, and this award showcases their dedication." "Most importantly, the military-friendly designation distinguishes Casper College as a place that provides ample opportunity and support for veterans," said **Nicholas Whipps**, Ed.D. veteran and international student coordinator.

### Casper College Returned to In-person Grad Ceremony

Thanks to an easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Casper College returned to an in-person graduation ceremony for 2021. The 75th Annual Casper College Commencement Ceremony was held Friday, May 14, 2021.

Over 250 students marched, including several from the class of 2020. The commencement speaker was graduating student **Marija Bakic** (AA, '21). Bakic was selected from a group of students who presented their proposed commencement speech to a panel of judges.

In honor of the college's 75th anniversary, all graduates participating in commencement received a special 75th-anniversary/Class of 2021 face mask and challenge coin.



Matija Bakic (AA, '21).

(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)



# Foundation and Campus News cont.



## CC Marketing Program Joins HubSpot

The Casper College Marketing program is now a HubSpot Education Partner Program member. The partnership gives Casper College marketing majors real, hands-on experience to create and run a marketing campaign.

"I am thrilled that Casper College students now have access to these award-winning technologies, whether they're just learning the foundations of sales and marketing or are taking the class to improve their sales and marketing skills," said **Ginny Garner**, hospitality and marketing instructor.

Students will be offered the opportunity to earn certifications throughout the marketing classes offered at the college. According to Garner, because Casper College is now a Partner in Education school with HubSpot, CC students will have access to an online customer relationship management program with "fantastic training" and free marketing certifications, which is very important for industry today.

"With HubSpot Academy, students will be fully prepared with the skills they will need in the workplace," noted Garner. Casper College offers both a degree and certificate in marketing, and all classes are offered on campus, over the lunch hour, or online.

## Aviation Certificate Now Offered at Casper College

Casper College is now offering a certificate in aviation. The new certificate joins the associate degree in aviation already offered by the school.

The certificate in aviation will require 25 credit hours for completion and can be done in one year. According to a college representative, the cost of obtaining pilot certifications has discouraged many students from completing the aviation associate degree. A certificate will allow students to work as they obtain their pilot certificate and still allow them to work toward an associate degree should they desire.

Casper College partners with Rising Wings Aviation, a flight school located at Natrona County International Airport, to offer both the degree and certificate.

Certificate courses include private pilot, instrument pilot, and commercial pilot. All three include ground and flight courses. In addition to those courses, students will take a meteorology course through the college.



## Cybersecurity Boot Camp Offered for High Schoolers

The first cybersecurity boot camp, the High School Cybersecurity Boot Camp, was offered last summer at Casper College. The limited enrollment

camp was free for students who would be freshmen or higher in fall 2021 or recently graduated from high school.

The camp used the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot, part of the ethical hacker concept. "Students learned the basics of cybersecurity and about tech jobs. No prior experience was needed to attend the boot camp," said **Marjorie Anderson** (AAS, '96), business systems instructor.

The Summer 2021 High School Cybersecurity Boot Camp was sponsored by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Cybersecurity Youth Apprenticeship Initiative, CyberWyoming, and Casper College.

## Fifth Annual Deaf Expressive Arts Festival Held

In its fifth year, The Deaf Expressive Arts Festival — or D.E.A.F. — a collaborative effort of American Sign Language classes from Casper College, Kelly Walsh High School, and Dean Morgan Middle School, took place in November. During the event, students shared their love of ASL with the community.

"Several of our local deaf community members and students performed traditional ASL ABC, number and classifier stories, percussion signing, and folklore stories," said **Gail Schenfisch**, Casper College's American Sign Language instructor. "This intergenerational presentation and sharing of ASL and its culture help build and establish an appreciation of the deaf community and the importance of being global citizens learning diversity through world languages," Schenfisch noted.

## Casper College Offers New Degree in Spanish

Casper College now offers a new Associate of Arts degree in Spanish. The new degree is built for learners hoping to transfer to four-year programs, those looking for a new job skill or hobby, and people who love lifelong learning, said **Eric Atkins** (AA, '01), Spanish instructor.

"By 2060, the U.S. is projected to have the largest Spanish-speaking population in the world. Currently, Spanish is the second most spoken language on Earth and the third most used language on the internet," said Atkins.

In 2020, the number of Hispanics in Wyoming surpassed 58,000, approximately 10% of the state's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. "Experts predict that this trend will continue, not only in urban centers but in rural states nationwide," Atkins noted.

The new degree is designed for students who want to continue their study domestically and/or internationally, want to teach, complement their first major, or serve and work with a growing population of Spanish speakers around the country and world.



## New Ranch and Agrotourism Management Certificate Offered

A new certificate designed to develop the next generation of ranch and agrotourism managers is now offered at Casper College.

The Ranch and Agrotourism Management certificate is designed for:

- Current ranch supervisors and managers.
- Those desiring to advance their career in ranch management.

# Foundation and Campus News cont.

- Those wanting to enter or who are currently working in the hospitality and tourism industry, including dude ranches, outdoor guide services, guest and hunting lodges, and more.

According to officials, “the Casper College Ranch Management certificate program will develop graduates that are marketable and employable by developing a unique skill set geared toward the broader agricultural industry.”



2020-2021 CC Forensics team. Front row, l-r: Lydia Rotterdam, Stephanie Barella, Izzy Garcia, (AA, '21, AA, '21) Kaelan Rodriguez (AS, '20, AA, '21), and Violet Wright. Back row, l-r: Emma Kellick, Markie Whitney, Braxton Sambrano, Shelby Davis, and Alex Walters. (Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

## Forensics Team Ended Successful Virtual Season with Wins at Nationals

The Casper College Forensics team competed virtually at the 2021 Phi Rho Phi National Forensics Tournament with both individual and team awards.

Individually, sophomore **Braxton Allen-Sambrano**, Casper, was a gold medalist in impromptu speaking. **Markie Whitney**, a freshman from Newcastle, won gold in international public debate.

**Shelby Davis**, a freshman from Newcastle, took silver in impromptu speaking, while sophomore **Alex Walters** ('21), Rapid City, South Dakota, won silver in informative speaking. Three team members, **Stephanie Barella** ('21), a sophomore from Casper, freshman **Emma Kellick**, Casper, and Walters, were each awarded silver in international public debate.

Four team members received bronze during the tournament. Davis won in international public debate, **Kaelan Rodriguez** (AS, '20, AA, '21), a sophomore from Casper, won in speech to

entertain, and sophomore **Izzy Garcia** (AA, '21, AA, '21), Cheyenne, and Walters won in impromptu speaking.

Walters also has the distinction of receiving fifth-place in individual sweepstakes, making her the fifth-best competitor in the country.

Overall, the team took a gold medal in the debate sweepstakes and a silver medal in the individual events sweepstakes and the overall sweepstakes.

## 'Holocaust Remembrance Day' 2021 Featured Ellen Kennedy

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D., founder and executive director of World Without Genocide, was the featured speaker during “Holocaust Remembrance Day” 2021 at Casper College.

The first talk, “The Resurgence of the Holocaust Denial Movement,” was presented by **Tanis Lovercheck-Saunders**, Ph.D., Casper College history instructor. According to **Erich Frankland**, political science instructor and event organizer, Lovercheck-Saunders frequently speaks, researches, and publishes on the radical right, white supremacy, women’s history and rights, Russian history, and other topics.

Kennedy gave two presentations via Zoom. Kennedy spoke about the worldwide rise of nationalism and xenophobia today and the parallels to fascism in the 1930s; the virus of hate that is as deadly as COVID-19; and the factors that allow fear and violence to flourish. She also presented strategies for protecting the human rights of vulnerable populations through education and action.

Kennedy’s second talk, “Children of Genocide: The Holocaust, Cambodia, and Rwanda,” highlighted three young people’s true stories, one from the Holocaust, one from Cambodia, and one from Rwanda.

## John J. Nance Speaker at Grosz Lecture Series

John J. Nance, one of the National Patient Safety Foundation founders, was the speaker for last year’s Carl and Georgina Grosz Lecture Series April 27.

According to **Jeff McCarty**, Nance was chosen because of his vast experience working with administrators to improve health care teamwork. “We do a lot of interprofessional experiences with our students in health science, and much of that work is based around communication, respect, and trust,” noted McCarty, dean for the Casper College School of Health Science. “Interprofessional experiences are becoming more common in health care training because these skills are so vital to success in health care,” he added. The title of Nance’s presentation was “Interprofessionalism in Healthcare: The How and the Why it is so Vital.”

The Carl and Georigina Grosz Health Science Lecture Series is made possible through the Grosz’s generosity through the Casper College Foundation.

## Casper College Hosts Field Science Camp

Casper College offered a field science camp for elementary students in the fourth or fifth grade.

The five-day summer camp provided field experience for those students who were interested in science and nature. “This was a great way to get fourth and fifth graders outdoors last summer and excited about nature and discovery,” said **Beth Wisely**, earth science instructor. “Instructors included geologists, biologists, and educators who showed children how to share in the wonders of the natural world of Wyoming, close to home.”

Students participated in field trips throughout the area and learned about the local plants, animals, rocks, and fossils. They visited Casper city parks, Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park, the Alcova/Pathfinder area, Casper Mountain, Bates Creek, and the Speas Fish Hatchery.

## Brady Award Marks 20th

Named after **Jon E. Brady** (1971-1998), instructor emeritus of political science at Casper College, the Jon E. Brady Award in Political Studies celebrated its 20th anniversary at a special luncheon. The luncheon was attended by Brady, **Erich Frankland**, political science instructor, and several past award winners.

According to Frankland, the Brady Award recognizes one top student in either political science, international studies, or history since 2002. “The award was named for Jon, who taught at Casper College for 30 years and was personally active in local and state politics,” said Frankland. During his career at the college, Brady, who retired in 1998, showed students how to look at politics from a variety of angles, including international perspectives, said Frankland.

Students who apply for the award must address their interests in politics in their essay and provide two letters of reference.

The winners for the past 20 years include **Martha Bodyfelt** (AA, '02, AA, '02), **Scott Murray** (AA, '03), **Naomi Seino** (AS, '04), **Dan Bush** (AA, '05, AA, '06, AA, '06), **Katrina Rasmussen** (AA, '05, AA, '06), **Patrick Lewallen** (AS, '08, AS, '08), **Daniel Gallagos** (AA, '09), **Jeff Piel** (AA, '09, AA, '09), **Stephen Hudson** (AA, '10), **Amanda Moeller** (AA, '11), **Katherine Dials** (AS, '11), **Michael W. McDaniel Jr.** (AA, '16), **Charity LaFountain** (AA, '16), **Mickala Schmidt** (AA, '15), **Elizabeth Walsh** (AA, '16), **Lucas Davis** (AA, '18), **Chloe Adkins** ('19), **Landree Adams** (AA, '19), **Emma Rogers** (AA, '19), **Stacey Smith** (AA, '21), and **Rachelle Trujillo-Myers** (current student).



In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Jon E. Brady Award in Political Studies, past winners attended a special luncheon. L-r: Daniel Gallegos (AA, '09), 2008 Brady Award winner, formerly a military liaison for U.S. Senator for John Barrasso and now a full-time political science instructor at Casper College; Jon E. Brady (1971-1998), for whom the award was named; Rachelle Trujillo (current student), 2021 Brady Award winner; Charity LaFountain (AA, '16) 2014 Brady Award winner and field representative for U.S. Congresswoman Liz Cheney; Landree Adams (AA, '19) 2019 Brady Award winner currently completing her Bachelor of Social Work degree; and Stacey Smith (AA, '21), 2020 Brady Award winner currently working on her degree in history. (Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

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

Background photo/Jenny Johnson

# Casper College's Johnson Brothers Take First at CNFR

Casper College Head Rodeo Coach **Jhett Johnson** has a lot to be happy about as his sons, **Kellan** and **Carson**, took first place in team roping at the 2021 College National Finals Rodeo.

Johnson first began as the assistant coach for the Casper College Rodeo team under head coach **Tom Parker** (1990-2017). That was back in Aug. 2012.

Jhett took over as interim head coach when Parker's health began to decline in Feb. 2017. He became head coach in June 2017. While managing the team and his ranch, Jhett was also working with his sons Kellan and Carson. The two followed in their father's footsteps as team ropers, with Kellan heading and Carson heeling.

For his freshman year in college, Kellan headed to Gillette College, where he and team roping partner **Trey Yates** ('18), took first place at the College National Finals Rodeo in 2018. After another year in Gillette, Kellan enrolled at Casper College and joined the rodeo team to team rope

with his younger brother Carson. The two had an outstanding 2019-2020 season and were likely to head to the CNFR when COVID-19 struck, and both the spring college rodeo season and the CNFR were canceled.

As rodeo competitions started to open up again during the 2020-2021 college season, the two successfully competed in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's Central Rocky Mountain Region with enough points to make it to the 2021 CNFR. A total of 51 teams competed to make it to the finals June 19.

Both young men, along with their younger brother Kress, are no strangers to the rodeo arena. In fact, their father, Jhett, is a million-dollar career earner in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, a five-time National Finals Rodeo Qualifier, and the 2011 World Champion Team Roper, along with his partner Turtle Powell.

"I think it really inspired my boys to see me win it. It gave them the drive that they have today, you know. Not that they have more drive than any young man, but they want it bad. They practice very hard, and I think it's something they're after. I mean, not, not just sayin' they're after it, I mean they want it heart and soul," he said in a recent interview with the Cowboy Channel. Added Kellan, "We got to be a part of his big wins. It was something I'll always remember and never forget that he got to take us with him, and we got to be part of his world championship, winning the George Strait and placing at the BFI, the Wrangler Bob Feist Invitational for team ropers. That was kind of our first taste of 'this is what I want to do.'"

The Johnson brothers came into the Saturday night finals at the CNFR with an overall time of 20.7 seconds from their first three runs. They capped that Saturday with an amazing 6.0 run,

giving them a total time of 26.7 seconds, a whole second ahead of the second-place team.

The sold-out crowd at the Ford Wyoming Center knew that the team needed a time under seven seconds to win the title. The two came roaring out of the gates and executed a textbook perfect run. Immediately after the run, the crowd went wild before the two could look up at the screen to see their time. The loud and jubilant crowd told them they had won the 2021 CNFR team roping title. "It was great. Our steer was good, and we knew it," Kellan told an interviewer afterward. "To listen to the crowd scream and holler, I mean that's something special, it really is," Carson said. "I've missed that sound for a year," added Kellan.



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(Casper College photo/Chris Houser)

Pictured l-r: Kellan, Jhett and Carson following the brothers win at the 2021 College National Finals Rodeo.



(Casper College photo/Chris Houser)

The moment Kellan (l), and Carson Johnson realize they have won.

## Second Generation Continue Giving Legacy

Peter and Marla Wold grew up with parents who had an eye for the future and a desire to help others. That giving spirit is alive and well in both Peter and Marla, who have generously given not only of their time but also financially to help current and future students at Casper College.

Both attended Natrona County High School. Peter, the son of oilman John Wold, was "... fascinated with fishing when growing up." That fascination led Peter to earn a degree in biosciences from Colorado State University. From there, he went to work for Idaho Thousand Springs Trout Farm near Buhl, Idaho, as a quality-control biologist. The company produced over 1 million pounds of trout a year. After eight years, which included developing his own trout farm, Peter became interested in the oil and gas industry.

Peter was no stranger to the oil and gas industry as his father, John, had founded Wold Oil Properties in the early 1950s. However, his father had a philosophy that he stuck to: he wouldn't hire anyone without experience from outside; "They can make mistakes on someone else's nickel," John had said. To get that experience, Peter went to work for another Casper oilman, Tom Stroock, and a few others, for two years. In 1981 Peter and his brother Jack went to work for their father. In 1995 the two brothers acquired the company. Today, Peter is the president of Wold Oil Properties LLC. in Casper, and his brother Jack manages the Denver office.

After high school, Marla attended the University of Wyoming and then the University of Valencia in Valencia, Spain. There she took education classes to teach Spanish. Later she earned her master's in anthropology from UW.

*Peter and Marla Wold.  
(Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)*

In 1981, she moved back to Casper and Tom and Marta Stroock set her up on a date at a party they were hosting at their home. Her date was Peter Wold. Six months later, in 1982, the two were married. They raised their three children in Casper; Abby, Matt, and Joe.

While Peter was busy at Wold Oil Properties, Marla taught Spanish at East and Centennial junior high schools, Natrona County and Kelly Walsh high schools, and Casper College. At Casper College, she taught both Spanish and linguistic anthropology.

Later, Marla became involved with the Tate Geological Museum serving on its board of directors and working the Garden Gait fundraiser for the museum for eight years.

Peter's mother and father, Jane and John, started the Wold Foundation in 1985. According to its website, the foundation "... exists to assist, encourage and promote charitable, scientific, literary, and educational endeavors. The foundation supports institutions and programs that promote traditional values and free enterprise and gives a preference to projects benefiting Wyoming citizens and Wyoming youth."

"My dad was always a great supporter of Casper College," said Peter. "He always wanted Casper College to become a four-year school, and Marla



and I still believe that," he noted. In 1993, Jane and John gave \$1 million toward the construction of the physical science center. Due to their generosity, the center was named the Wold Physical Science Center in their honor.

John and Jane also created the Wold Foundation Eagle Scout Scholarship. "After students are selected for the scholarships, Marla and I meet with them to learn about the Eagle Scout projects," Peter said. In addition to the Eagle Scout Scholarship, Peter and Marla are also involved in another altruistic endeavor of his father; the John Wold Help Yourself Academy. The academy is designed for students in the third through fifth grades who have high potential but are at risk of not attending college due to financial issues or no previous college experience within the family. The academy was started by John Wold and is funded by the Wold Foundation with donations through the Casper College Foundation. All classes are held in the Wold Physical Science Center and focus on science and math. In Nov. 2021, Peter and Marla stopped by a class to see the college-student mentors and teachers in action. "It was great to see this program that my father started. My favorite part was to ask the third, fourth, and fifth graders, 'What school do you attend?' They answered, 'We go to Casper College,'" Peter said.

Peter and Marla have created two scholarships at the college: The Marla and Peter Wold Science and Health Science Scholarship and The Marge Stuckenhoff Memorial Nursing Scholarship. The science and health scholarships are open to full-time students majoring in a degree awarded through either CC's School of Health Science or School of Science, maintain a 2.75 or better GPA, and plan to go on to earn their bachelor's degree. "This one was easy for us to select and create, as we have ties to the Wold Physical Science Center, and I have ties to the H.E. Stuckenhoff School of Nursing in the health science school," said Marla.

The other scholarship, named in memory of Marla's late mother Marge, is open to Wyoming



*Casper College Gutter Bin.  
(Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)*

residents who have been accepted into Casper College's nursing program and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. According to Marla, her mom was a lab technician married to local physician Dr. Stuckenhoff. "Doc realized that doctors get the credit and nurses do all the work. Mom and Doc thought that the nursing program at Casper College was top-notch," she said.

Beyond the scholarships, Marla and Peter sponsored an Original GutterBin from Frog Creek Partners for Casper College. The outer frame reads: "Protecting the North Platte River" on one side and "Sponsored By: The Wold Family" on the other side, while the new bin lid is painted in Casper College red and has the Casper College logo prominently featured in silver in the center. "We believe that Casper College should promote itself, and this was a step in the right direction," Peter said. "Casper College has some great programs, and we believe in helping get that word out and helping students along the way."

Following the passing of John and Jane Wold, the Wold Foundation is now directed by their children Peter and Marla Wold, Priscilla Wold Longfield, and Jack and Hildy Wold, along with help from John and Jane's eight grandchildren; Cecily, Claire, Abby, Matt, Joe, Court, Allison,

# Looking Back: Harris Recalls Time at Casper College



Kenner Harris ('64).  
(Courtesy photo/Kenner Harris)

Coming from a rural small town in Southern Illinois to Casper, Wyoming, was as different as daylight to dark. In fact, it is 1,972 miles between Casper and Grayville. Instead of seeing Black Angus cattle grazing in the pastures, I saw antelope grazing on the prairie. I never had seen such a blue sky until I was in Wyoming. Everything was clear, clean, and I had just traveled back in time.

Casper in 1963 was about 42,000 people, as well as the largest city in Wyoming. It was not only an adjustment for me to make; it was an ADVENTURE! From ground blizzards to buffalo to bears, it was all here, as well a top-notch education second to none.

Casper College was a very small school with small classes and great teachers. I can honestly say that I learned more from those small classes than I ever did from any university. I got to really know my teachers and had the freedom to ask questions at hand. The civil rights act was being debated, and not to forget the Kennedy assassination as well as the Goldwater/Johnson election. This was a year later, of course, 1964. Thanks to my teacher in poly sci, my interest in political science was starting to bloom, and bloom it did. My teacher made me look at things not as I saw them but for what they really were. Now that is a first-class EDUCATION! To this day, I have been able to look at things this way.

I remember two teachers who taught me subject matter that I still use to this day. I took several accounting classes that have served me well: how to read a profit and loss statement and balance sheet, which were essential in the business world. The other, of course, was my poly sci teacher, who I have already mentioned.

It's hard for me to separate Casper College and the state of Wyoming as they are so intertwined with me.

A great percentage of the students came from ranches scattered throughout Wyoming. Different views and backgrounds were an education in itself. I found the students very friendly and made several close friends there. Many a time, we had a discussion at the student union, both friendly and interesting to hear different points of view. I had never heard of rodeo being a sport. CC was No. 1 in the nation at that time.

I worked for a trucking company that enabled me to travel the state of Wyoming, which was an education on its own. I worked one summer in Jackson, population 300, and Yellowstone, with all the bears at the entrance and all its glory.

What a summer to remember, and I have.

CC did not have any dorms, so most students lived with a family that offered room and board. I lived with John and Kathy Strong. They gave me room and board for \$65 a month. They had three kids quite a bit younger than me. They became my family. Even though I left Wyoming in 1965, we stayed in touch for 54 years. My partner and I visited them several years ago, and it was just like I had never left. We all bawled like babies when I left that day. John died several months later, Kathy followed a few years later. I owe so much to CC and Wyoming. CC shaped my beliefs, my ability to question, and no doubt enabled me to accomplish what I have in life.

Houston has been very good to and for me. It gave me the chance to go as far as possible. Even so, it was CC that gave me the basics, which made it all possible.

To the student body, I say, take everything in and explore the state. Talk to your teachers, mentally be a "SPONGE" ... and most of all, enjoy your life at CC. Your memories today will carry you tomorrow.

# Seven Instructors Receive Tenure

Seven Casper College faculty received tenure during the spring 2021 semester. Except for one instructor who began her career at Casper College in 2016, the others all started in August 2017.



◀ **Marjorie Anderson** (AAS, '96), business information systems instructor, started working at Casper College in 2013 as an adjunct instructor teaching the class Computer Information Systems and working in the Flex Lab. Anderson now teaches Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint,

Publisher, keyboarding, and document formatting classes. Anderson received a bachelor's from the University of Wyoming in business administration and a master's in marketing and communication from Franklin University. She graduated in spring 2021 with a doctorate in instructional technology from University of Wyoming.



◀ Starting as an adjunct nursing instructor in 2015, **Lisa Coulter** (AS, '98) has taught both second and third-semester nursing students. Coulter received her bachelor's in nursing from the University of Wyoming, her master's in nursing education from Walden University and her doctorate

in nursing practice — nurse leadership from Capella University.



◀ **Carli Holcomb**, (AA, '14) instructor of sculpture and metalsmithing, has taught General Studio Art, Three-Dimensional Design, Printmaking, and Professional Practices in the Arts at Casper College. Holcomb received a bachelor's in fine arts from the University of Wyoming and

a master's in fine arts from Virginia Commonwealth University.

▶ Criminal justice and law instructor **Heather Lloyd** started teaching at Casper College in 2016. She teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Law of Evidence, and Business Law. Lloyd teaches in Casper College's School of Social and Behavioral Science and School of Business and Industry. Lloyd received her bachelor's in history and French from Augustana University and her Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law.



▶ **Jessica Peterson** is currently a classroom and clinical instructor for second-semester students in the nursing program. Peterson received two bachelor's degrees from the University of Wyoming, one in kinesiology and health promotion and one in nursing. She also received a master's in nursing education from Western Governors University.



▶ **Vanessa Sorensen** (AS, '01) is a nurse educator at Casper College. Before teaching nursing classes at Casper College, Sorensen worked in the acute care setting, including leadership and administrative positions. Sorensen received her master's in nursing from Walden University.



▶ **Aaron Wood** (AA, '02) was the final instructor to receive tenure. Wood teaches freshman and sophomore dance technique, composition, and improvisation courses at the college. A choreographer, educator, dancer, and mixed-media designer, Wood received his bachelor's in theatre and dance from the University of Wyoming and his master's in modern dance from the University of Utah.



(All photos courtesy of each individual)

## Five Questions: Anna Kinder (AS, '87)

While a student at Casper College, Kinder was a dorm advisor, cleaned dorms in the summer and worked in the library in the fall. After graduating from Casper College with an Associate of Science degree in December 1987, Kinder earned a minor in gerontology and graduated with a bachelor's in occupational therapy from the University of North Dakota in December 1991. Returning to Casper, she worked in occupational therapy in a private practice, a mental health hospital, and owned her own practice. She taught at Casper College during the first year of development of the college's Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant program and for the University of North Dakota in their respective occupational therapy programs. While teaching, she attended the Colorado State University Occupational Therapy program and graduated with a master's in occupational therapy. She worked for 19 years as director of the Wyoming AIDS Education and Training Center and the Mountain West AIDS Education and Training Center, which serves Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, North and South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Kinder has served as the executive director of the Casper-Natrona County Health Department since July 1, 2019. This past October, Kinder received the Women of Influence Award in Healthcare from the Wyoming Business Report.

**Q: How did your experience at Casper College help you later on?**

**A:** There wasn't any doubt that I would start at Casper College after I graduated. My great aunt, **Christina Gustafson**, was an instructor of history and political science from 1946-1949, when Casper College was on the third floor of Natrona County High School, and many friends and family have since attended there. I quickly got connected to the right people — even though I would struggle at times, there was always someone there to help. It was exciting to see and learn new and different

things with different instructors and classmates. I have a lot of memories of growing up while being there. I remember different locations and significant events that happened very clearly — for example, being in **Mr. (Larry) Lofgren's** (1957-1991), biology class when the space shuttle went down. Being at Casper College for two and a half years was a tremendous help in preparing me to be independent as I moved to another state and a large university.

**Q: What has been your biggest challenge as the executive director of the Casper-Natrona County Health Department and why?**

**A:** The biggest challenge by far has been navigating a pandemic when it had never been seen before. At the health department, where I have been working for the last 15 years, we practice what to do in the event of an emergency. Usually, that was the pandemic flu or anthrax — so some of this was familiar, but we still were not prepared. In the beginning, there were massive shortages of supplies, little was known about the transmission of the virus, businesses were closing, and people were staying home. It impacted all parts of our community and not always positively. Our motto is to prevent, promote, and protect. COVID-19 was so large and unknown — it was a constant change to know how to protect as many people as possible and prevent the spread of the disease.

**Q: In 2021, the health department was named Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year. What did this recognition mean for you and your staff?**

**A:** That was so incredible. I am very fortunate to have the most amazing and resilient staff — over the last 20+ months, they have expanded into other areas, been very flexible, and turned on a dime to meet the needs of the community. We have received a lot of emails, mail, phone calls, and in-person visits from the positive and supportive people to

the very angry people. I never dreamed that we would receive an award during this difficult time when so many people were struggling, and there was division in our community. Everyone in this building has the ultimate goal of taking care of the community and has gone above and beyond to make that happen. We were so grateful for the recognition and still can't believe it. We are so honored.

**Q: Tell us a little bit about your family and what you do to relax and unwind.**

**A:** I have been married for 28 years to **Jon** ('86), and we have two boys, **Joe** ('16) and **Mark** (AAS, '18, CERT, '18). Both boys graduated from Casper College, and recently both graduated from the University of Wyoming. We have two dogs and a cat in our world; my cat was my COVID support animal. I am a native to Casper, Wyoming, and fortunate to have grown up with my grandparents and have both sets of parents living here as well. I always knew that I wanted to come back here. We love to go to the lake — fish, play in the water, and the sun shining on the water gives me the greatest peace.

**Q: Are there any instructors or other employees from your time at Casper College who helped make your CC experience better?**

**A:** Yes, I have so many, but the essential ones were **Paul Hallock** (AA, '65)(1978-2011) — I knew him from outside the college, but he was always there to help guide me. The other was **Paul Marquard** — I had him for multiple classes, and he was always there to help me understand concepts that didn't make sense. **LeRoy Strausner** (AA, '60) (1965-2004), **Lyle Cox** (1973-2005), **Jim Ochiltree** (1985-2007), **Dianna Webb** (1981-1994), and so many others. Casper College looks very different now than it did back then — but I am excited to watch it grow. I have had the opportunity to work

with key staff as we navigated COVID from the beginning to the current. I have spent a lot of time with **Dr. Divine**, **Kim Byrd**, **Rhonda Franzen**, and **Linda Toohey**, trying to figure out the best way to keep the students safe. The college was generous enough to lend us the Casper College Firehouse to do drive-thru COVID testing, flu shots, and COVID vaccines. The drive-thru for the clients has become a huge success and lends to possible future construction for the health department.



(Courtesy photo/Anna Kinder)

# Oldham Works to Impact Youth in Ag

**Odessa Oldham** (AS, '18) was born and raised on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona but has rich ties to Wyoming through her father, Dwayne, who is originally from Lander, Wyoming. When she was 13, her family moved to Fremont County.

In her early years, Odessa was very involved in agriculture organizations.

"I attended high school in Lander and participated in 4-H and FFA," she says. "I was a state FFA officer and showed horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs at the county fair."



(Courtesy photo/Odessa Oldham)

Following her year as a state FFA officer, Odessa was the first federally recognized American Indian National FFA candidate from any state.

She continued, "Although I didn't get into office, I was able to work with Dr. Larry Case and travel the U.S. promoting agriculture, Native American FFA members, and diverse people."

Shortly after graduating high school, Odessa continued her post-secondary education, studying agriculture communications at Casper College and continuing to the University of Wyoming. While at Casper College, she continued to be involved with ag, including participating on the livestock judging team and serving as a Casper College ambassador. Today, she continues to be involved as an active Casper College alumna member.

## Native Youth Program

Odessa shared that her involvement in youth agriculture and leadership organizations growing up was important to her, and she has worked to give back to these organizations.

With service in mind, Odessa began work on a program to provide agriculture and leadership to different demographics. She shared, "Not all reservations have 4-H or FFA programs."

"I started the Native Youth Program with Janie Hipp, who formally worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture under Tom Vilsack," she explained. "I wanted to be a part of the group that helped create a program that reaches all federally recognized Native American Tribes and Pacific Islanders."

Since its inception, the program has been taken over by a nonprofit organization, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, but the Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit continues to educate and develop leadership skills in interested youth.

Odessa shared, those interested can find information on many social media outlets, including Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

"We haven't had a whole lot of individuals from Wyoming, but I've had students from Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, and some around Wyoming," said Odessa.

Today, Odessa spends much of her time on her family's ranch, mentoring local FFA members, agriculture youth, and coaching livestock judging teams.

## Family involvement

When it comes to Wyoming, Odessa and her family have been influential in keeping the spirit of the West alive.

"My dad, Dwayne, does a lot with the Red Feather Program, which gives individuals a second chance," said Odessa.

The family also stays busy with their ranch.

"We're a family operation," she shared. "My two brothers Jess and Jared, sister Aisha, and parents Dwayne and Denise run about a 550, cow/calf operation."

Odessa continued, "We mainly do commercial, but we have a small percentage we also do for 4-H and FFA members."

She and her brothers are active in getting youth interested in agriculture, she shared, noting, "My brothers and I try to get more kids engaged, and we try to become coaches and mentors to some of the Native American students that are involved in the Fremont County Fair."

In addition to being a mentor, Odessa gives back by judging the Native American arts and crafts at the county fair.

## Ranch work

"Right now, we just got all of the cows off the mountain and were getting them ready to come in and try to fatten them up before calving season," she shared. "This winter, my days are probably going to look a little bit more chaotic. Between working and taking turns rotating night watches, weekends will be the busiest because our winters are pretty intense."

The family stays very busy feeding all day, breaking ice and making sure the horses and cattle are drinking water.

"In the spring, the ranch work continues with fixing fence and making sure animals are where they need to be," Odessa shared. "We do a lot of riding when we're moving livestock. It's a lot safer for us and our animals as well."

## Wild horse sanctuary

Wild horse management is also important to the Oldham family, shared Odessa.

"My dad and mom are the owners of the Wind River Wild Horse Sanctuary," she said. "My dad started the paperwork in 2015."

The family started with 33 wild horses in 2016 and now has about 223 wild horses.

Odessa continued, "My dad is a very old-fashioned cowboy, being born and raised in Wyoming. He always kind of has the idea of 'If you're going to complain about something, you're going to have to be a part of the solution.'"

"The wild horse issue has kind of been an ongoing issue in not just Wyoming but in multiple states," Odessa shared. "One way we can help is to

not only educate others but also try to provide a safe place for the horses because we believe there is a management issue, and we need to do what we can to help."

## Breaking agriculture barriers

From a young age, Odessa's parents kept their children busy on the ranch.

She shared, "We all had to pull our own weight, but there are still some challenges as a woman in the industry."

"Agriculture is the foundation of our country, and for me, it is my way of life and a part of everything that I do," Odessa explained and shared the large role the industry plays.

Being involved in agriculture comes with many lessons.

"One of the biggest lessons in the grand scheme of things is getting out there and making connections," Odessa said. "When you have mentorship, you can learn from different people and broaden your spectrum of knowledge from different experiences and lifestyles."

Odessa offered words of encouragement to women in agriculture and those with an interest in agriculture, "Go get your hands dirty and get outside as much as you can; going out and experiencing it is the biggest thing I would tell people."

Odessa concluded and shared that she believed women in agriculture have been doing a great job making their voices heard, pushing forward, showing their capabilities, and continuing to make an impact.

*Brittany Gunn is the editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup. This story originally appeared in the Wyoming Livestock Roundup. Story reprinted with permission from the Wyoming Livestock Roundup.*



(Courtesy photo/Odessa Oldham)

## Guy Worthey 2022 Distinguished Alumnus

Casper native **Guy Worthey** (AS, '85) has been selected to receive the Casper College Alumni Association's 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Worthey is currently an associate professor of physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Washington State University. His research interests include stellar populations in external galaxies, observational cosmology and galaxy formation, and theoretical models of stellar populations.

After graduating from Casper College, Worthey headed to the University of Wyoming, receiving a B.S. in astronomy. He finished his education at the University of Santa Clara in Santa Cruz, California, with an M.S. and a Ph.D. in astrophysics.

During his time at USC, his Ph.D. adviser was National Medal of Science winner Sandra M. Faber, Ph.D. "Guy Worthey is one of my most distinguished students and also one of my favorite people," she said. According to Faber, Worthey's Ph.D. thesis "... was truly groundbreaking." Modeling the effects of stellar population age and chemical composition on the spectra of galaxies, Worthey's thesis showed that "... measuring two carefully chosen spectral features would allow one to determine age and composition separately. Guy's method and his calibration have been used by dozens of astronomers, and the results have allowed us to determine accurate ages and chemical compositions of stars in distant galaxies for the first time," said Faber.

Paula Coelho, Ph.D., an associate professor at the Universidade Cruzeiro do Sul in São Paulo, Brazil, noted that Worthey "... has shown me that you do not have to be a rough person to be an excellent scientist. He is a gift to our community."

While contributing to scholarly papers including "(P)reheating Effects of the Kähler Moduli Inflation I Model" and "Hot Star Extension to the Hubble Space Telescope Stellar Spectral Library," he is also a multi-talented musician, actor, and writer.

Worthey plays piano, trombone, and bass guitar. He played electric bass in the Jack Keller Quintet and with the jazz group The Usual Suspects. He sings in his church choir and regularly plays bass and other instruments during worship services. Worthey also joins his classically trained violinist wife, Diane, on keyboard, bass and other instruments playing at weddings, funerals, church, and local coffee shops. He has played the Scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz" and performed in the plays "Guys and Dolls," and "White Christmas" put on by the local community theater.

In addition, Worthey is the author of the successful adventure series Ace Carroway. According to Amazon, the Ace Carroway series is "... a steampunk-histfic-scifi romp that follows the action-packed perils of a female pilot-doctor-musician and her five assistants." The latest in the series is titled "Ace Carroway and the Ghost Liner — The Adventures of Ace Carroway Book 7," which came out in late Nov. 2021.

"A Wyoming Child, I love words and the natural world," wrote Worthey in his blog Guy Worthey — Author of the Ace Carroway Series. "In mid-career as an astrophysicist, I study galaxy evolution, and I know a fair bit about spectroscopy," he wrote. Worthey uses his blog as a way to explore more topics where he discusses "... science, writing, music, critical thinking, and I slip in updates on Ace Carroway, adventurer extraordinaire."

Worthey will be presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award during Casper College's 2022 commencement ceremonies Friday, May 13.

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

Guy Worthey (AS, '85).



(Courtesy photo/Guy Worthey)

## 2022 Commitment to Excellence: Barbara Crews

When you first meet Barbara Crews (1969-1999), you are struck by how genuinely nice, sincere, and caring she is. Spend a bit of time with her, and you notice a slight southern drawl.

Barbara was born in Jena, Louisiana, and was the valedictorian of her high school graduating class in 1955. In grade school, she met her future husband, George Crews. In her sophomore year of college, 19-year-old Barbara and George married.

In just three years, Barbara graduated with a bachelor's in education and then her master's in education and administration all from Louisiana Tech University. George was in a five-year program where he earned a bachelor's in geology while playing on the Louisiana Tech University football team.

She began her career in Golden, Colorado, teaching fifth grade. She then became the teaching consultant for Jefferson County, Colorado. As he was about to receive his master's degree, George was offered a job in Tripoli, Libya. "We didn't have money, but we would have almost paid them to go. We were so excited," Barbara said.

They lived in Tripoli for four years until Barbara and their girls were evacuated during the Six-Day War between Israel, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. "The American Embassy ordered all women and children living in Libya to go to Wheelus Air Force Base for their protection," Barbara recalled.

Before dawn, Barbara and her two daughters were put on a van and taken to an airstrip. There they boarded a cattle transport plane outfitted with seats and took off. The plane landed in Rome. Barbara, 3-year-old Leah, and 3-month-old Laura boarded another plane and landed in New York City the next day.

George was stuck in Libya and not able to come home because of the war. George returned to America in October and flew to Casper for a job interview. He had a layover in Denver and visited with John Haun, his professor and advisor from

Colorado School of Mines. Haun encouraged George to pay a visit to Jim Barlow. It turns out that Haun and Barlow were in partnership together and needed to hire a geologist.

George flew back to Louisiana and the next day received a phone call. "He came running into my parent's house, picked me up, whirled me around and said, 'We're going to Casper, Wyoming, with Barlow and Haun!' and that's how we got to Casper," said Barbara. The young family arrived in Casper at the end of Oct. 1967.

Barbara's first job was as an adjunct instructor at Casper College. On Jan. 31, 1969, she became a full-time education instructor. Eventually, she became the associate dean of academic affairs and, most famously, the originator and director of the college's program for high-achieving youngsters, the KEY — Knowledge Enrichment for Youth — program in 1986. Barbara retired from Casper College in 1999 and then from KEY in 2019.

Some might say that Barbara has lived a charmed life, but the educator also knows tragedy. In 1977, at the age of 40, her beloved husband of 20 years died. With the support of her Casper College colleagues and many friends in her church, Barbara decided to stay in Casper.

During her 30-year employment at Casper College, Barbara expanded its programs and helped instructors excel in their jobs. She created KEY and served as its director for an incredible 34 years. Barbara is remembered as much for what she did for Casper College as for who she was and is: a genuinely nice, sincere, and caring person.



Barbara Crews holds up the corner of a quilt made in honor of all her years at KEY for her retirement. (Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

# News From T-Bird Camp



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Point your phone's camera at this QR code and visit our online giving page.

## VOLLEYBALL

### Sharman Named 2020-2021 Volleyball Coach of the Year

◀ **Angel Sharman**, women's volleyball head coach at Casper College, was named Coach of the Year in Region IX North for the 2020-2021 season. The recognition marks the sixth time since Sharman began her coaching career at Casper College in 2001 that she has been named Coach of the Year in Region IX North.

"It is really a team effort, and I give all credit to the ladies I coached this season," said Sharman.

### Volleyball Players Named to All-Region Team

Four players from the Casper College Lady Thunderbirds Volleyball team were named to the 2020-2021 North All-Region IX team, and two also received individual honors.

Those named to the North All-Region team were sophomores **Jana Gilic**, a 6'1" middle hitter from Trstenik, Serbia, and **Olivia Muir**, a 5'11" outside hitter from Smoot, Wyoming. Freshmen named to the team are **Kamille Nate**, a 5'10" setter from Cokeville, Wyoming, and **Jada Suguturaga**, a 6'1" middle hitter from South Jordan, Utah.

Both Nate and Gilic were recognized individually, with Nate named the Setter of the Year and Freshman of the Year. Gilic was named the Player of the Year.

### T-Bird Volleyball Players Recognized for Academic Performance

Seven Casper College volleyball players were recognized regionally and nationally for their academic performance during the 2020-2021 school year at Casper College.

The seven include four sophomores: **Aileen Bugas** (AA, '21), Fort Bridger; **Jana Gilic** (AA, '21), Trstenik, Serbia; **Shealyn Oili** (AS, '21) Nanakuli, Hawaii; and **Hannah Thompson** (AS, '21), South Jordan, Utah. The three freshmen are: **Valeria**

**Rodriguez Sanchez**, Ponce, Puerto Rico; **Giulia Santuari**, Pergine Valsugana, Italy; and **Adi Jada Suguturaga**, South Jordan, Utah. All seven were recognized as Academic All-Region for obtaining a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

Nationally four players were honored as NJCAA Academic All-Americans with the Exemplary Academic Achievement Award for a 3.6-3.79 GPA. Those recognized are Bugas, Gilic, Santuari, and Thompson.

### Sharman Reaches Historic 500 Wins as T-Bird Coach

Casper College Lady T-Bird Volleyball head coach **Angel Sharman** hit a historic milestone when she reached her 500th win at the college during the 2021 season.

The 500th win came during an away game where the T-Birds prevailed over the Western Wyoming Community College Lady Mustangs 3-0.

"Five-hundred is enormous, huge," said **Paul Marble**, athletic director. "This is a super milestone for Casper College and for Angel, who has carried the torch of this institution with a history of excellence and winning," he added.

For Sharman, it is all about the athletes that she recruits each year. "Keeping a ball from hitting the floor while someone is hitting the ball at you 70-80 mph and throwing yourself on the floor takes grit," she said. Sharman noted that the players need to have a competitive spirit and a great work ethic. "I am honored and proud of every single one of them. They put a lot of hours, sweat, and dedication into the program. It is so amazing watching these ladies succeed on the court but also watching them finish college and being successful in the professional world."



(Casper College graphic/Eric Valdez)

## BASKETBALL

### Gunnare Selected as 2020-2021 Coach of the Year

▶ **Dwight Gunnare**, the Casper College Women's Basketball team's head coach, has been named Coach of the Year in Region IX for the 2020-2021 year and for the fourth year in a row. This also marks the ninth time since Gunnare began coaching at Casper College in 2008 that he has been named Coach of the Year in Region IX.

"I view individual recognitions as a true compliment to the entire team. Individual awards are often influenced by the overall success of the team," Gunnare noted.

### Three Sophomores, One Freshman Named to All-Region Team

Players from the Casper College Lady Thunderbirds basketball team have been named to the 2020-2021 North All-Region IX team and the All-Defensive team.

Those named to the North All-Region team include sophomores **Kobe King-Hawe** (AA, '21), a 5'11" guard and forward from Point Cook, Australia; **Natalia Otkhmezuri** (AA, '21), a 5'8" guard from Tbilisi, Georgia; and **Kammie Ragsdale** (AS, '21, AS, '21), a 6'0" guard and forward from Pine Bluffs, Wyoming.

Named to the North All-Region IX Defensive team was freshman **Joseana Vaz**, a 6'0" guard and forward from Praia, Cape Verde.

The Lady T-Birds finished the regular season ranked third in the nation and 20-0 overall, 10-0 in the Sub-Region IX North. The team was the Region IX North champions. In the sophomores' two years at Casper College, the team won 35 consecutive games.



(Casper College photo)

### Lady T-Birds Rated Top 20 for Academic Performance

The Casper College Lady T-Birds basketball team has finished in the top 20 of the 2020-2021 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 18 with a combined 3.43 GPA.

The NJCAA also recognized five players for their academic performance during the 2020-2021 school year at Casper College.

Sophomore **Emily Achter** (AA, '21), Melbourne, Australia, and freshman **Kate Robertson**, Casper, were named to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team for their 4.0 GPA.

Sophomore **Natalia Otkhmezuri** (AA, '21), Tbilisi, Georgia, and freshmen **Sofie Hauge**, Vaerloese, Denmark, and **Belen Esperanza Morales Lopez**, Pego, Alicante, Spain, were recognized with the NJCAA All-Academic Second Team for a GPA of 3.8-3.99.



(Casper College graphic/Eric Valdez)

### Two Lady T-Birds Named All-Americans

▶ **Kobe King-Hawe** (AA, '21) was named to the NJCAA's Division I Women's Basketball First Team All-Americans, and **Natalia Otkhmezuri** (AA, '21) was named to the second team.

According to Dwight Gunnare, head coach for the Thunderbirds, each All-American team is composed of 10 players. "So, for Casper College to have two players recognized as one of the top 20 players of Division I junior college basketball is incredible," he noted.

King-Hawe is the first Lady T-Bird to be named a First-Team All-American since **Dianne L'Ami** (AA, '96). Otkhmezuri joins four other T-Birds to be named a Second-Team All-American.



(Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)



(Casper College photo)

# News from T-Bird Camp cont.

The others include **Lori Ives** (AS, '97), **Tiffany Scott** (AS, '04), **Juliana Paunovic** (AS, '10, AS, '10), and **Rosalie Cutri** (AS, '12).

During their time at Casper College, both King-Hawea and Otkhmezuri helped the T-Birds to a first-ever 20 wins in a row for a season. At the end of the season, the team was ranked No. 3 in the country and went to the NJCAA Championship Tournament. Receiving a bye, the team played in the second round. The eighth-seeded Birds fell to the ninth-seeded Three Rivers Raiders at the tournament.

## RODEO

### CC Cowboys Take Second at Road to the Horse Challenge



The team was sharply dressed for the two-day competition in matching shirts branded with the Casper College logo on the back. The team wore one style on the first day of competition and the second style on the next day. L-r, Casper College Rodeo team assistant coach Sandy Bob Forbes (CERT, '00, AAS, '01), Carson Johnson, Ty Christensen, and Beau Rees. (Courtesy photo/Road to the Horse)

Three Casper College Rodeo team members took second place at the Days of '47 Rodeo and Road to the Horse Collegiate Colt Starting Challenge July 23 and 24, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

The team competed for \$30,000 in scholarships against two other colleges; the University of Montana Western and Utah Valley University.

According to Jerry Hawkes, dean for the Casper College School of Science, the three students were chosen based on their ability, interest, and availability to compete in Salt Lake City. The team members participating were **Ty Christensen**, Plain City, Utah; **Carson Johnson**, Casper; and **Beau Rees**, Tooele, Utah. The three were accompanied by **Sandy Bob Forbes** (CERT, '00, AAS, '01), CC Rodeo team assistant coach.

Each team chose an unbroke colt from the Diamond-McNabb Ranch Horse Remuda. There were five colts to choose from, and the teams selected the colts in a random go-order. Road to the Horse celebrity judges Jeff Williams, Ken McNabb and Wade Black scored the teams in different

categories that tested the students' standards of horsemanship while gentling the colt selected by their respective team.

The Casper College team, dressed in matching shirts branded with the Casper College logo, were in the lead after three rounds. The team's horse would not walk across a tarp in the performance stage. That one issue allowed the University of Montana Western to take the lead.

Carson, Christensen, and Rees equally divided the \$10,000 scholarship prize money and applied it to their educational requirements.

## SOCCER

### CC Soccer Play Inaugural Home Games

The Casper College men's and women's soccer teams opened their inaugural home season Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Both teams took on the teams from Northeastern Junior College out of Sterling, Colorado. Men's head coach **Ben McArthur** and assistant coach **Adam Potter** noted that the team was excited to kick off its home game. The women, under head coach **Ammon Bennett** and assistant coach **Jocelyn Norcross**, also noted that their team was excited to play its first home game.

The first home games were played at the North Casper Sports Complex until Murane Field, across from the college to the west, was ready for play. With needed updates completed, both teams now have their own home court on the Casper College campus.

### Bennett Reaches 400th Win as Soccer Coach

**Ammon Bennett**, Casper College Women's Soccer team head coach, reached his 400th career win during the spring 2021 season, when the T-Birds won their inaugural Region IX conference game against Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming, 6-0.

Before coming to Casper College, Bennett's combined career record for men's and women's soccer sat at 398-211-45. His overall women's coaching record is 250-84-28.

Before coming to Casper College to start the women's soccer program, Bennett had started two other collegiate programs, one at Iowa Western Community College and the other at Utah State University Eastern. While at each institution, he oversaw both the men's and women's teams. Bennett had also coached at the NCAA III and NAIA levels when he coached at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

### Women's Soccer, Coach, Have a Historic Year



(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

Players from the Casper College Women's Soccer team and their head coach **Ammon Bennett** have been awarded for what Bennett calls an "... historic achievement ..."

In the fall of 2021, in only its second year, the team won the regular-season Region IX North Conference championship, the Region IX title game, and advanced to the West Plains District championship game, where

they lost to the nation's third-ranked team, the Seminole State College Lady Raiders 1-0. Though the program was in its second year of existence, it was the Lady T-Birds' first full season since the first year was greatly impacted by COVID-19.

During the season, the Lady T-Birds defeated the seventh-ranked Golden Eagles of Laramie County Community College, and the 10th ranked Northeast Community College Lady Hawks from Norfolk, Nebraska. These wins helped propel the new Lady T-Bird program to be ranked 14th nationally. The team finished the season with a record of 13-5-1 and 7-1 conference.

Bennett was named the Region IX Coach of the Year with the strong season. "Being named coach of the year is a reflection of great assistants in **Jocelyn Norcross** and **Chris Stier** and, of course, being blessed with great players," said Bennett.

Several players were named All-Region IX, including **Rebecca Swain**, a freshman from Spanish Fork, Utah; **Valeria Hernandez**, a sophomore from Orem, Utah; and **Sophia Henely**, a sophomore from Farr West, Utah, to the first team. **Yissel Navarro**, a sophomore from West Valley City, Utah; **Madeline Hernandez**, a sophomore from Orem, Utah; and **Grace Conner**, a freshman from Pleasant View, Utah, were named to the second team. **Kylie Spangler** (AS, '21), a sophomore from Casper, was named honorable mention.

### College's Hugo Named Second Team All-American

Casper College freshman soccer player **Victor Hugo** was named to the 2020-2021 NJCAA Division I Men's Soccer Second Team All-Americans. Of the 11 players from throughout the country to receive the honor, Hugo is one of only two freshmen named to the list.

The inaugural season for men's soccer at Casper College was very successful. The team went 11-2 and 7-1 in Region IX. Hugo scored a goal during the season and had three assists, helping the Thunderbirds finish the regular season ranked No. 7 in the country.

Hugo, a general studies major, is from Rio de Janeiro and returned to his defensive position as a sophomore for the 2021-2022 season.

### Casper College's Jose Alvarez Esquivel Named Coca-Cola Global Leader of Promise

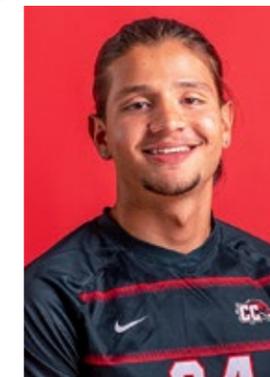
Casper College sophomore and men's soccer player **Jose Alvarez Esquivel** is one of seven international Phi-Theta Kappa members named a 2021 Coca-Cola Global Leaders of Promise Scholar. Alvarez Esquivel received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Alvarez Esquivel is from Santiago De Cali, Colombia. Men's head soccer coach, **Ben McArthur**, recruited him to play on Casper College's new men's soccer program for the 2020-21 season. He returned to CC for his second year and played in the defender position.

More than 900 applications were received.



(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)



(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

# 75th Anniversary Gala



Dr. Stephen W. Nicholas (AA, '74) and Denise Bressler ('84), Casper College Foundation Executive Director. (Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)

The 75th Anniversary Gala to honor Casper College's 75 years of existence was held June 5, 2021, at the Ford Wyoming Center, formerly the Casper Events Center.

The gala was well attended by both past and current students and employees. Dignitaries, including Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon and Wyoming U.S. Senator John Barrasso, gave brief speeches. It really was a great night.

For those unable to attend, or those who would like to remember the evening, we present the speech given by Casper College Distinguished Alumni **Dr. Stephen W. Nicholas** (AA, '74)

reprinted here with permission. Many of you will remember the many instructors that Nicholas recalls in his speech.

In addition, we include several photos taken during the evening. If you have some you would like to share, please email or send a copy to us, and we will try to include them in the summer 2022 issue of Footprints. We would love to see and share them!

**Casper College 75th Anniversary Gala  
Saturday, June 5, 2021  
Speech by Stephen W. Nicholas, M.D. (AA, '74)**

Good evening. What a pleasure to greet all of you assembled here this evening: Senator John Barrasso, longtime friend Governor Mark Gordon, President Darren Divine, trustees, faculty members, board and staff members of the Casper College

Foundation and Alumni Association, exemplary alumni past and present, and guests: I'm deeply honored to be here with all of you tonight.

If you want to be inspired, just read about the feats achieved by tonight's honorees. You honorees are exceptional individuals who have done exceptional things.

I've always wondered how well people predict the future: their own future or the future of others. If we could go back in time and revisit the day when each of you first stepped foot into Casper College, I wonder whether you had any inkling of the successes that lay down the road? If we could interview your teachers or fellow students, would they have been able to predict any of your future triumphs?

When it comes to me — this truly is not false modesty — you would not have placed much money on me. I was a long shot. And, I was never — not then, and not now — any good at predicting my own future.

I started Casper College in fall 1971. On my first day, I nervously knocked at the door of **Bill Henry** (1950-1990), who taught agriculture courses, was chair of life sciences, and had himself grown up on the famous 88 Ranch near Douglas, Wyoming, on the Bozeman Trail. He was sitting at his desk, wearing a big cowboy hat. He took one look at me and made the diagnosis: "You must be lost, son."

While I didn't resemble the typical student who showed up in his doorway, he had no clue how lost I really was. I had grown up in a salt-of-the-earth Baptist family. Neither my grandparents nor my parents had gone to college. My grandfather had been the truant officer at Natrona County High School, and my father was then the head janitor at Kelly Walsh High School. Now here I was, starting college, scared and disoriented. But I was, in fact, looking for Mr. Henry.

I told him, "You've been assigned as my adviser, Mr. Henry. I'm a pre-veterinary medicine major."

He looked a little surprised but smiled warmly, welcomed me to a chair, and then glanced at me with renewed uncertainty.



The special cake created for the 75th celebration. (Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)

But then he learned that I was serious. I'd been a competitive breeder of racing and pure-breed show pigeons for many years. He warned me that finding a way to turn this interest into a livelihood would not be easy.

Mr. Henry shook my hand, escorted me out the door, and said, "All I can promise you, son, is that I — along with everyone here at Casper College — will do the best we can for ya."

I'm here tonight to attest to the fact that Mr. Henry's promise, his own and the one he made on behalf of Casper College, was kept. Even if I never succeeded in turning my love of pigeons into a career.

The richness of my time at Casper College had to do with many things, but above all, I remember the teachers and the quality of their pedagogy. My science classes established the bedrock of knowledge I would eventually need for my career in medicine, and I'll be forever grateful to **Jim Howard** (1967-1998), **Jim Milek** (AA, '62) (1967-2006), **Tom Clifford** (1972-2015), **Gale Zimmerman** (1965-1988), **Larry Lofgren** (1957-1991), and **Floyd Kelly** (1969-2012), just to name a few.

"Ya grow up on a ranch, son?" he asked. He was being polite. One look at the knapsack slung over my shoulder, my shaggy hair, pimply face, old-fashioned wire rims, my climbing boots, 501 jeans, and the way my clothes hung off me, without a single contour suggestive of muscles, he knew I hadn't grown up on a ranch.

I shook my head.

"So you're probably interested in small animals? I gotta warn you, son; it's not easy makin' a living here in Wyoming just caring for small animals."

I paused a moment. "Actually, Mr. Henry, I'm not really all that interested in large animals or small animals."

A look of consternation spread across his face. "Well, if not large animals and not small animals, then what?"

I paused again and finally spit it out. "Birds." His eyes got big. "And, not just birds, Mr. Henry. More specifically, pigeons."

He let out a big whoop. He couldn't help himself. He leaned back, pushed back his cowboy hat, exposing his tan line, and chortled. "Whoeee, boy, that's a good one!"



Marcia Strausner (AS, '78) (middle) with her daughters Gaye Cayot (AS, '83) (l), and Judge Rachele Carnesale (AA, '87) (r). (Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)

# 75th Anniversary Gala cont.

Then there were the humanities. I most remember **Jane Katherman** (1961-1985), history and **Margaret Demorest** (1960-1985), humanities and English. For these two, we had pet names, born of one drop of insolence and two drops of reverence: Auntie Jane Katherman and Maggie May Demorest.

Maggie May Demorest had a superior mind and was an exceptional teacher. She encouraged the use of brain and tongue. There is a famous story about **Mark Cioc** (AS, '72) — one of our 1995 exemplary alumni, now a professor emeritus of history at the University of California Santa Cruz, who was a tenacious thinker and liked to lock horns with Mrs. Demorest. One day in class, as Marc began to get worked up about some particular point of discussion which was not going his way, Mrs.

Demorest turned to write something on the blackboard. Marc, in exasperation, flipped her the finger. She turned unexpectedly to catch him doing this. She simply smiled and said, "Why, Mr. Cioc, I gather you disagree."

My own modes of expression in those days were fairly crude. One day Mrs. Demorest, in the context of discussing someone reprehensible, turned to me and said, "Mr. Nicholas, to lower myself to your level of communication, this guy was a real jerk."

But more than anything, I will forever be in Mrs. Demorest's debt for being aware of me as a person.



William H. Greene ('47) made it a family affair with, l-r, his granddaughter Shana Fasick and daughter Deb Contteras.  
(Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)

Nineteen seventy-two was the last year, as it turned out, of the Viet Nam War draft. There was a lottery that determined the order in which 19-year-old men would be called up. The lottery for my age group was scheduled for Feb. 2, 1972. That day, many of my classmates and I anxiously awaited the results. I had classes all morning, so I'd heard no news. As I entered the student center and sat down to eat lunch, I noticed my friend **Don Mason** (AA, '73) looking terribly dejected.

"What's happened?" I asked.

Don barely looked up but said, "My lottery number is five." Meaning he was likely to be drafted right away.

"Oh, you poor son of a bitch" I said. "When's your birthday?"

"July 21," he said.

"Now W-WAIT just a M-MINUTE," I stammered, "Th-that can't be right. MY birthday's July 21."

And indeed, that's how I learned that my lottery number was five.

Although I was willing to be drafted and serve my country, I went into a real funk. Every day you'd learn of someone else shipped back in a casket.

This funk was made worse by unrequited love. **Julie Darnall** ('72), who sat next to me in Mrs. Demorest's class and wore intoxicating perfume, paid no attention to my efforts to woo her.



Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon and his wife Jennie (Muir) Gordon.  
(Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)

One day, Mrs. Demorest asked me to come to her office. "You're not functioning," she said. Your grades have fallen; you seem quieter than ever. Tell me what's going on."

After I explained, she gave me some advice. "There will be times in life when you simply don't feel like you can put one foot in front of the other. Therefore, go through the motions. Force yourself to put one foot in front of the other until walking again becomes natural, and you don't have to think about it. I assure you things will get better."

She turned out to be right. This advice worked, and many times in the years ahead, I would hear that voice of encouragement inside my head.

This isn't to say that I got the girl. Julie Darnall went off and married some short guy from Switzerland — I thought he was a real jerk. And, I got my first F.

I went for my draft physical in Denver and was found to be so myopic that I would be a danger in combat if I ever lost my glasses — not so much a danger to the enemy, but a danger to my own side. I was declared ineligible for the draft: 4-F.

And in Mrs. Demorest's class: by the skin of my teeth, I got an "A." Thank you, Maggie May.

I don't have time to tell you why I got a D in Horse Production, taught by **Dale Stiles** (1951-1986), the rodeo coach and former national champion saddle bronc rider. I don't have time to



Celestina Rossi (AB, '95), center, and her family.  
(Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)



tell you how I learned to dance, thanks to **Barbara** (1948-2000), and **Leland Scifers**. I don't have time to tell you how I transferred to the University of Wyoming, took a course in Animal Husbandry, and had to exhibit a white-faced Black Angus heifer in the Little International Stock Show. With one drop of insolence and two drops of reverence, I named the heifer Maggie May. She also taught me a lot, and I have the scars to prove it.

I don't have time to tell you how my career path jumped species and led to an interest in caring for children.

Suffice it to say that I'm a proud graduate of Casper College, and I'm filled with gratitude for the solid footing I received here. I left Casper College well-prepared for the next steps in my career.

The rest, as they say, is history. Thank you, Auntie Jane. And thank you, Casper College, for the role you played in making my own career possible.

Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, Father Kevin Burke ('72) and his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Thomas and Mary Francis Burke.  
(Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)



# Igniting the Flame of Creativity; Construction Continues on the New Visual Arts Center

The Casper College Foundation and Alumni Association spent several years on the creation of a new visual arts center at Casper College. That time came to fruition on April 9, 2021 when construction began on the new facility.

“Igniting the Flame of Creativity,” the project’s slogan, speaks well to the reasons behind the destruction of the old facility and the creation of the new one on the same site. “The current facility was opened in 1977, 45 years ago,” said Denise Bressler, the foundation’s executive director. In that time, new technologies and techniques, many computer-driven, have developed. The once state-of-the-art facility began to lag behind modern developments and needs.

In its place and nearly double the square footage, from 16,792 to 30,045, the new visual arts center will feature two stories and new areas, including two critique rooms, an art storage room, a woodshop, an enlarged gallery, and an ample lobby area. In addition, the additional square footage will increase classroom, studio, and office size.

The new visual arts center is expected to be ready for the fall 2022 semester, which begins Aug. 22.



(All architectural renderings courtesy of MOA Architecture)



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## Level Two Floor Plan



## Level One Floor Plan



# Twelve Retire from Casper College

Casper College said farewell to 12 employees who accounted for nearly 254 years of combined service. Most of these employees retired during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, which ran from July 1 to June 30.

**Gary Becker** came to Casper College Aug. 21, 1989, as the women's basketball, volleyball, and part-time physical education instructor. He coached both sports for three years before turning over the reins of volleyball to concentrate on women's basketball. By that time, he was also teaching part-time in the business division. July 2003, after 14 years and five regional championships, Becker moved on to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, as an assistant women's basketball coach. However, Casper College called him back. He returned May 5, 2006, to be the men's basketball coach. He logged two 20-win seasons and a second-place finish in the NJCAA Region IX Tournament before stepping away from coaching and becoming a full-time accounting instructor at CC. He has held that position for the last 13 years and retired after 29 years of service to Casper College. He was a Rosenthal Award winner in 1996 and won multiple Region IX Coach of The Year awards.

**Melody Dugan** (AAS, '07, AS, '08) started with Literacy Volunteers of Casper at the Lee and Felicia Castellow Adult Learning Center in fall 1989. She tutored students in High School Equivalency Certificate prep and English. In 2006 Dugan became a work-study while working on her associate degrees. Several years later, she was

offered a part-time job as an office assistant at the center. She went full-time Aug. 15, 2011.

**William "Bill" Jensen** began working at Casper College June 28, 1999, as a custodian. Jensen originally retired at 55, but returned to full-time work 10 years later.

**Todd Jones** started his employment with Casper College in Jan. 1988 as an adult education instructor teaching computerized recordkeeping to ranchers in the community of central to eastern Wyoming. In 1991, he was hired as an ag business instructor in the agriculture department and taught full time until 1995. While pursuing his business interests, Jones kept instructional ties with Casper College, teaching the Packing and Outfitting course as an adjunct faculty until 2007. From 2007 to 2014, he helped start the online agribusiness degrees by teaching halftime remotely from the CC/Hyattville campus. In 2014, Jones came full circle and began teaching full-time on campus.

**Robyn Landen** (AA, '87) came to Casper College Oct. 8, 1990, beginning as a federal funds accountant. She held several positions in the Casper College Accounting and Financial Management office, and in 2008 she was promoted to director of financial services/controller, a position she held until her retirement. In 2012 she received the CC Outstanding Administrator Award.

**Joseph Loro** started March 16, 2015, as a custodian. He and his wife, Elizabeth, returned to Guam in June.

**Elizabeth Loro** began her custodial career at Casper College Dec. 2, 2013. She was first assigned to Liesinger Hall but was reassigned to the Saunders Health Science Center eight months later.

**Roberta Marvel** started her employment at Casper College June 2, 2008, to develop and direct the computer Flex Lab. Within a year, she was teaching courses outside of the Flex Lab and became department head. She originated the cybersecurity program, and June 1, 2017, she became interim dean for the School of Business and Industry at Casper College, becoming dean the following year.

**Joseph "Joe" Simon** arrived at Casper College Aug. 20, 1996. He was co-adviser for the Casper College Students in Free Enterprise group for seven years. Lady T-Bird Basketball fans will also remember Simon as the PA announcer for the past 23 years.

**Debra Swedberg** (AS, '79) started her employment at Casper College in Jan. 1978 while a student at the school as a secretary for the math department, where she typed tests for those faculty who were not her instructors and ran to the copy center. She returned to Casper College Aug. 19, 1985, as a member of the math faculty. She was selected for Phi Theta Kappa Terrific Learning Coach in January 1994 for her work on a Math Confidence class that met on Wednesdays at noon. Swedberg later became an adviser for Phi Theta Kappa in April 1999. In May 2007, she was elected department chair for the math department.

**Georgia Wheatley** began teaching at Casper College in 1995 under a supply contract. On Jan. 6, 1997, she went on a regular faculty contract. During her years at Casper College, she taught women's and gender studies courses and computer applications classes. Wheatley expanded the women's and gender studies degree and course offerings from two to six courses during her tenure with the program.

**Grant Wilson** began his career at Casper College Aug. 1, 1990. He started as a speech instructor and coached the Casper College Speech and Debate team with Gretchen Wheeler until 2006. During that time, he was the communication department chair for various terms, division chair for language and literature from 2001-2006, and the dean of the Casper College School of Science from 2012-2017. Wilson won the Rosenthal Outstanding Educator Award, been a Phi Theta Kappa Terrific Learning Coach of the month twice, and received the Garth Shanklin Faculty Leadership Award in 2019. After retiring from Casper College, Wilson became the vice president of educational services at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

*Joseph and Elizabeth Loro are not pictured.*



Gary Becker



Left: Melody Dugan



William "Bill" Jensen



Todd Jones



Robyn Landen



Roberta Marvel



Joseph "Joe" Simon



Debra Swedberg



Georgia Wheatley



Grant Wilson

# CC 2020-2021 End-of-Year Honorees Named

Seven Casper College employees were recognized with 2020-2021 year-end honors during the college's annual retirement and recognition dinner held in May.

**Megan Schafer**, executive assistant for administrative and student services, was recognized with the Robert O. Durst Classified Staff Award. The award is designed to recognize a classified staff member who demonstrates an outstanding service reputation in their job performance, knowledge, effectiveness, character, communication, cooperation, judgment, and interactions.

The Outstanding Administrator was **Linda Toohey**, associate vice president for student

services. The award was designed to recognize an administrator who demonstrates an outstanding service reputation in their job performance, knowledge, effectiveness, character, communication, cooperation, judgment, and interactions.

The Judith Bailey Scully Award recipient was **Julia Whyde**, English instructor. Established by Casper College Alumnus **Marlan O. Scully** (AA, '59) in honor of his wife Judith, the award recognizes faculty who demonstrate academic excellence as characterized by Judith's outstanding accomplishments as a Casper College and University of Wyoming student.

There are two Shanklin awards named for longtime Casper College emeritus psychology instructor **Garth Shanklin** (1986-2012). The awards promote recognition of full-time and part-time Casper College teaching faculty who display exceptional commitment to teaching and have made significant collegial contributions to the college. The Shanklin Faculty Leadership Excellence Award winner was **Eric Atkins** (AA, '01), Spanish instructor, and the Shanklin Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award winner was **Bridget Veauthier**, philosophy and psychology adjunct instructor.

Finally, **Kendall Jacobs**, mathematics instructor, and **Paul Brutsman**, engineering technology and design instructor, were recognized with the Rosenthal Outstanding Educator Award. To be chosen for the award, the recipient must possess the qualities of an outstanding educator, document participation in professional organizations and/or activities, and take an active role in the community and/or out-of-school cultural activities.



Megan Schafer and Julie Hansen.



Linda Toohey and Corey Peacock.



Eric Atkins (AA, '01) and Erich Frankland.



Bridget Veauthier and Erich Frankland.

All photos: (Casper College photo/Chris Houser)



Julia Whyde and Erich Frankland.



Kendall Jacobs and Paul Marquard.



Paul Brutsman and Paul Marquard.

# People and Places

## The 1950s

**Donald Watson** (AA, '58) recently sent a note to the Casper College Foundation office that read in part: "Casper College was the finest two years in my educational experience. I still have my Life Pass, though geography prevented it from being used much. I would also like to comment on the 75th Anniversary Footprints. It brought back unbelievably vivid memories of fellow students and staff. **Fred Hanselmann** (1949-1960), **Norm Ball**, 1945-1985, **Ken Ury**, 1946-1973, and **Walt Bailey** (1949-1958), to name just a few. My thanks to you, and in particular to **Ray Jacquot** (AA, '58), for including a reference to my eulogy for Walt Bailey. Words cannot adequately portray the role Casper College played in setting my life course." Watson currently lives with his wife, Ann, in Beaverton, Oregon.

## The 1960s



(Courtesy photo/Wyoming Aviation Hall of Fame)

▶ **Bob Hawkins** (69') was selected as an inductee for 2021 to the Wyoming Aviation Hall of Fame. Hawkins operated 19 different helicopters and 34 different airplanes during his flying career. Before retiring from commercial flying Oct. 1, 2018, and before offering his last Part 135 check ride for Sky Aviation in April 2019, he had logged nearly 21,000 hours of flight time — about 17,000 of those in a helicopter. Since retiring, Hawkins has been president of the board and director of the Museum of Flight and Aerial Firefighting in Greybull, Wyoming, and is restoring a 1949 Cessna 190. He and his wife Becky raised four children — Erik, Aaron, Daniel, and Nicole.

Frank Neville (AA, '66) and his wife, Rita. (Casper College photo/Lisa S. Icenogle)



Casper lawyer ▶ **Frank Neville** (AA, '66) was awarded the President's Award by Wyoming State Bar President Billie Addleman. The award is presented to a person chosen by the president of the Wyoming State Bar who exemplifies professionalism, high ethical standards, and the pursuit of justice in the practice of law. "I chose Frank as this year's recipient because he is one of the best and most respected attorneys in our state," said Addleman.

## The 1970s

**Lynne Murray** ('71), an educator with the Natrona County School District, was one of several teachers who received the most student nominations and was honored as an Ellbogen Meritorious Educator at NCSA's annual awards banquet this past spring.

▶ **Kevin O'Hearn** (AS, '71) is the building inspector for Mills, Wyoming, and a representative for District 59 in the Wyoming House of Representatives. He was appointed to fill the vacancy left by a retiring representative in 2020. Later that year, he won the election and will be up for reelection in 2022.

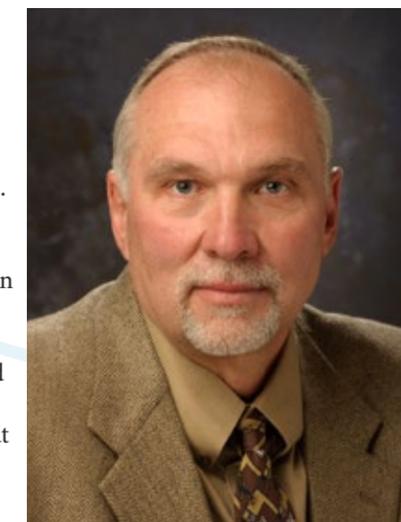


(Courtesy photo/Wyoming Legislative Service Office)

**Gary Waldo** ('72) was honored by GW Mechanical for his leadership, hard work, and determination that contributed to the company's success in June 2021. The company, founded by Waldo in 1988, celebrated its 33rd year of his business in June as well. Waldo, who successfully completed the Plumbing I through Plumbing VIII classes at Casper College, founded the full-service mechanical contracting company in 1988. After serving as president of GW Mechanical for 24 years, Waldo passed the reins to Dean Cline in 2012. The Wyoming-owned and operated company is a leading contractor in plumbing, piping, and mechanical installation on projects throughout Wyoming.

In June, the Oxygen TV Network, known as "Oxygen True Crime," aired an episode on Alice and Gerald Uden, based on the book "Alice and Gerald: A Homicidal Love Story" by **Ron Franscell** (AA, '78). Franscell was the editor of the Casper College student newspaper Chinook during the 1975-1976 school year. He is the author of 18 books.

▶ **Gerald Mattinson** ('78) played his first two years of collegiate basketball at Casper College. This past spring, he coached the University of Wyoming Cowgirls basketball team to a win in Las Vegas. The win was the first time the Cowgirls had ever won the Mountain West Tournament title. The Cowgirls defeated Fresno State 59-56. "It means a lot," Mattinson told Casper Star-Tribune writer Davis Potter. "I was born and raised in Wyoming, so for me to have the great



(Courtesy photo/UW Photo Service)

privilege and opportunity to have been part of this for a long, long time, it's just extra special."

**Mary (LeClere) Perkins** ('78, '79, '82) retired as the media specialist for the Goshen County School District. Perkins began her career at the GCSD in 1993 when she was hired at Torrington Middle School to teach math. In 1999 she moved to Torrington High School, where she taught business and was the tennis head coach. She continued as the head tennis coach at the high school for 18 years and assistant coach for another four. In 2006, she became the media specialist for the high school and later for all the schools in the GCSD.

▶ **Jan Cundy** ('79) and her husband, Brad, were honored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming with the 2021 Mick and Susie McMurry Cowboy Code Try Award at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming's Annual Awards and Recognition Breakfast in September. According to the club, "The Mick & Susie McMurry Cowboy Code Try Award honors a person or people in the community that have been examples of living the Cowboy Code to its fullest." Jan is currently the president of the Casper College Alumni Association.



(Casper College photo/Corey Garvin)

## The 1980s

**Amy (Hughes) Davies** (AAS, '82) is currently the chief operating officer at the Denver Metro Association of REALTORS®. Davies joined DMAR as the accounting director in 2012 when she relocated to Denver from her hometown of Casper, Wyoming. She quickly moved

# People and Places cont.

up through the ranks and was DMAR's director of finance, operations and membership from 2013 to 2020. As chief operating officer, Davies oversees the day-to-day administrative and operational functions of DMAR.

**Tom Glause** (AB, '82) was named the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association's new CEO. Glause participated on the rodeo team under coach **Dale Stiles** (1951-1986), while at Casper College. After getting his business degree at CC, he transferred to the University of Wyoming. According to the Wyoming Livestock Roundup, he graduated in 1987 with a Juris Doctor degree participating in the rodeo team throughout college and law school. He went on to a distinguished law career and served two governors as insurance commissioner.



(Courtesy photo/Natrona County School District)

▶ **Steve Grussendorf** ('82), Natrona County High School choral director, was named one of the 2021 "Outstanding Music Educators of the Year" by the Wyoming Music Educators Association. According to the Natrona County School District, the honor is bestowed upon music educators "who serve their students, schools, and communities in an exemplary way." Grussendorf began his music education career in 1985 and spent his first four years teaching at nine elementary schools in Casper, Wyoming. He began teaching at NCHS in fall 1996.

▶ **MJ Adams** (AA, '83) headed to New York City and graduated from The French Culinary Institute, now the International Culinary Center, in 1989. After years of living in New York City, she brought

(Courtesy photo/MJ Adams)



her passion for local foods and culinary art to the Black Hills of South Dakota in the fall of 1996. Since then, she has been the owner-operator of The Corn Exchange Restaurant, a farm-to-table bistro in Rapid City, South Dakota. "After cooking a dinner at The James Beard House in March 2012 and making the list three times for Semi-Finalist for 'Best Chef of The Midwest,' I felt that I had come full circle with my restaurant career. I was eager to embark on a fresh challenge when I closed the doors on The Corn Exchange in April 2013," she recalled. Since then, she has produced a cookbook, The Corn Exchange Cookbook, which can be purchased at [chefmjadams.com/product/cookbook](http://chefmjadams.com/product/cookbook).



(Courtesy photo/Kurt Stamm)

▶ **Joseph "Kurt" Stamm** (AA, '84) was recently back in Casper to direct and choreograph the theater department's production of the musical "Mamma Mia!" Stamm, a professional director/choreographer/producer, based in New York and Colorado, has worked as an entertainment professional for over 30 years. He has worked on and off-Broadway, on touring productions, and in regional theaters across the country. He is the founder and current artistic director of Mason Street Warehouse and the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. For MSW, Stamm has directed and choreographed more than 40 shows over the past 20 years and is the recipient of several national and regional awards for outstanding theater. Stamm has also directed three other plays at Casper College over the years, including "Anything Goes," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," and "Chicago."

## The 1990s

**Troy Hartmann** ('90) was appointed the head coach for the Lady Timberwolves varsity basketball team at Chiles High School in Tallahassee, Florida. After a year at Casper College and three years at North Dakota State University, Hartmann earned his master's degree in sports administration from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse.



(Courtesy photo/Chris Navarro)

◀ "Mittens," a bronze work by **Chris Navarro** (AA, '90), was installed in October as part of the Capitol Avenue Bronze Project in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The bronze was the first of three in what will be a collection of 28 statues when the project is complete. "Mittens" is on display at 17th Street and Capitol Avenue. Navarro is also busy saving old wind turbine blades from landfills to create monumental art. "Seeing large blades being buried in the landfill caused my artist mind to find a way to repurpose these obsolete blades. I wanted to turn them from unwanted garbage into a beautiful piece of art," Navarro said.

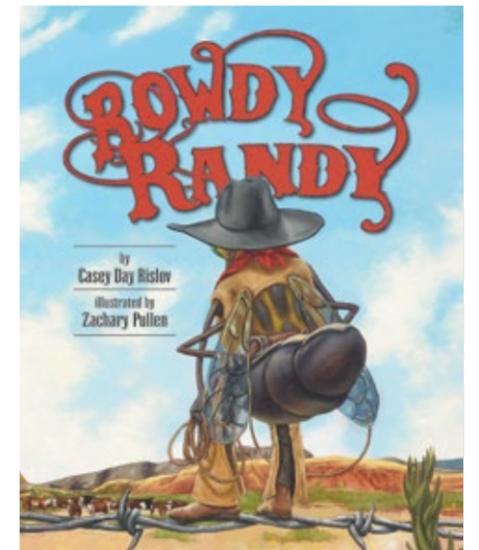
**Juriad Hughes Sr.** (AS, '92) was recently interviewed for the Minnesota Spokesman Recorder by Mitchell Palmer McDonald, Ph.D. Hughes talked about how the sport of basketball and his college experience, including his All-American two-year career at Casper College, influenced his life. "Your education can never be taken away," Hughes said with emphasis. "Basketball can," he told McDonald.



(Courtesy image/Ginny Butcher)

▶ **Ginny Butcher** (AAA, '96) had her exhibition "Of Beasts and Barns" on display at the Mildred Zahradnick Gallery Sept. 27-Nov. 11, 2021. She also presented an artist's talk as part of the launch of the ninth season of the Casper College RedStone Recital and Gallery Series. Butcher sketched throughout her youth but didn't take college-level art classes until she attended Casper College while supporting herself and her two children. Through her college experience, she met her husband of 24 years, who supported her pursuit of painting.

▶ "Rowdy Randy," a children's book written by **Casey Rislov** (AS, '97, AS '01) and illustrated by **Zachary Pullen** ('02), was selected by the Wyoming State Library for the 2021 Library of Congress National Book Festival's "Discover Great Places Through Reading" list. The annual book list contains a selection from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



(Courtesy image/Zach Pullen)

# People and Places cont.



(Courtesy photo/LIW Photo Service)

◀ **Ben Cook** ('98) is currently the interim vice provost for digital, distance, and online programs at the University of Wyoming. Before this appointment, Cook was the director of UW's Master of Business Administration program.

Retired instructors **Rob Wilkes**, who taught psychology from 1967-2003 and **Don Dobby**, who taught math from 1974-2000, stopped by the alumni office to give an update on their former student,

**Jon P. Schaffner** (AS, '98). According to Wilkes and Dobby, Schaffner has been promoted to Navy captain and now serves as the executive officer for Space Force. Schaffner entered the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program while a student at Casper College. He later completed his graduate degree at Old Dominion, and attended nuclear power school and nuclear propulsion school.

## The 2000s



(Courtesy images/Jim Kopp)



◀ **James "Jim" Carl Kopp** (AAS, '00) had his bright and colorful works, along with the folk and outsider art he has collected, exhibited in a show titled "Intuitive Lineage: Paintings and Collected Works." The exhibit was displayed at the Mildred Zahradnick Gallery during the 2021 summer. "These artists, like myself, work in an intuitive style where feeling and creativity is king, while technical skill is more of an afterthought — (it is) much more important to 'get it out by any means necessary' and move on to the next idea," Kopp noted.

**Aaron Odom** (AA, '00) has taken his love of theater to a weekly podcast, with a dad joke he learned from beloved educator **Tom Empey** (1979-2010). Odom's podcast "Euripides Eumenides" discusses topics of theater history with the many people he has met in his theater career. The podcast can be found on many providers, including Apple, Spotify, Google, Pandora, YouTube, etc.

▶ **Jeremy Jones** (AFA, '03, AFA, '04) recently had his work displayed at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper. The exhibit, titled "Emma's Spoon Arm," "... investigates the varied spaces of parenthood and seeks to enshrine the everyday moments of child-rearing. As a parent/artist immersed in the trenches of helping to raise two young children, the fleeting transformations of a child's growth and development are both magical and bittersweet. I create toy-like sculptures and assemblages that utilize clay, mixed media, found objects, and digital technologies to physically and mentally preserve those moments that you can't get back," said Jones. Following his time at Casper College, he earned a BFA in ceramics and sculpture from the University of Wyoming in 2006 and an MFA in sculpture from Wichita State University in 2012. He is currently a ceramics instructor at Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, a progressive arts space for artists with disabilities, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Before the spring 2021 semester ended, educators with the Natrona County School District who received the most student nominations were



(Courtesy image/Jeremy Jones)

honored as an Ellbogen Meritorious Educator at NCSD's annual awards banquet. Those who were also Casper College alumni honored this year included **Shannon Nelson** (AA, '04) and **Cody Marvel** ('04).

▼ Last spring, **Darek J. Pepple** (AAS, '04, CERT, '04), **Darin J. Pepple** (AAS, '04, CERT, '04), **Eric Brandon** (CERT, '07), and **Ryan W. Grigg** (AS, '07), were ordered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to deploy as part of the



Darek Pepple    Darin Pepple    Eric Brandon    Ryan Grigg

(Courtesy photos/Natrona County Fire Department)

national Covid-19 response. Their mission was to set up and staff large mass vaccination centers. Working in teams of two, each team vaccinated 100 or more people each day. Their goal was to vaccinate 1,000 people per day through each center. Not only was the goal met but far exceeded with almost 2000 people per day vaccinated. Darin Pepple, Brandon, and Grigg were deployed to New York State, while Darek Pepple was deployed to Nashville, Tennessee.

**McChale Aquile Gunby** ('05) appeared in the third season of NBC's "The Voice." Now appearing under the stage name Aquile, he recently made a trip back to Wyoming and appeared at Kelly Walsh High School in Casper, where he attended high school. He performed the lead in the 2005 Casper College summer production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and attended Casper College that fall. He has been in California since 2009, pursuing a career in music.

**Mari Pennell** ('05) has passed on her passion for theater to her daughter Misha. The pair performed as part of the Keyhole Peepshow's Halloween-themed show "Tales From the Urn." The Keyhole Peepshow is a Casper-based burlesque troupe.

This past summer, **Randall Von Krosigk** (AS, '07) was the 2021 Logan County Fair Junior Sheep Show Judge in Sterling, Colorado. According to an article in the Sterling Journal-Advocate by Sara Waite, Von Krosigk grew up on a diversified livestock operation in Shoshoni, Wyoming, where he developed a desire and passion for the livestock industry. That led him to pursue agriculture business degrees at Casper College from 2005 to 2007 and Kansas State University from 2007 to 2012. While attending both schools, he competed on nationally competitive livestock judging teams. From 2009 to 2013, he served as the assistant livestock judging coach at Kansas State University before serving as the head livestock judging coach at Northeastern Junior College from 2013 to 2017. He and his wife, Cheyenne, have lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, since 2018, where he serves as a territory account manager for Smartlic and New Generation Supplements. The couple owns Von Krosigk Family Targhees in Shoshoni and operates the registered sheep operation alongside his parents, grandmother and sister.

▶ **Emily Calmes** (AS, '08, AA, '16) was named the new director of the Thorson Early Childhood Learning Center at Casper College. She started at the ECLC in 2006 and worked in various positions including, work-study, part-time and full-time teacher assistant, receptionist/bookkeeper and lead preschool teacher. Calmes is also working on finishing her MA in innovative early childhood education through the University of Colorado in partnership with the Boulder Journey School. She plans to graduate in May.



(Courtesy photo/Emily Calmes)



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# People and Places cont.

**Jory Cole Zurcher** (AS, '09) and Carla Stroh's exhibit of "Between the Plains and the Mountains" was displayed June 3-27 at The West Nebraska Arts Center. According to publicity for the show, the exhibit was a "... lovely display of intense traditional western artwork. These two artists take the wonder of the west with all its intricate design and release it into leather, oil paint, saddles, charcoal, watercolor, color pencil, and more." In addition to his leather business, Zurcher is in his eighth year as a K-4 art teacher in Buffalo, Wyoming.

## The 2010s

**Michael F. Walker** (AFA, '10) was selected as the next band director for the Batesville High School and Batesville Middle School in Batesville, Indiana. Before teaching at Batesville, beginning with the fall 2021 semester, Walker was the music director at Las Plumas and Oroville High Schools in California. Under Walker's guidance, his high school bands in California were awarded the top overall music ensemble at the Heritage Music Festival in Seattle, Washington. They were invited to perform at Carnegie Hall.



(Casper College photo/  
Cory Garvin)

◀ **Zhanna Gallegos** (AA, '11) former curator of education at the Nicolaysen Art Museum, is now the community education coordinator for Casper College's Community Education Department.

**Andrea "Andee" Leininger** ('11) began her job as a recruiter for Otero College in La Junta, Colorado, July 1. She travels to local high schools for recruitment, goes to college fairs, organizes fairs on campus, and gives tours to prospective students. She is certified as a travel agent and previously worked as a rangeland management specialist.

▶ Former T-Bird women's basketball player **Ruth Nwokora** (AA, '18) is now an admissions representative for Casper College.



(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

**Sadie St. Lawrence** (AFA, '11) was named one of 12 young professionals for 2021 in the Sacramento, California, area. St. Lawrence is the founder and CEL of Women in Data. According to her website, womenindata.org, she left the field of neuroscience in 2014 "... to transition into data science." During her master's program, she noticed the lack of women in the program and was concerned about the prospect of gender equality as she knew the future of tech and business were all data-driven. With a need for community and vision for an equal future, she started Women in Data in 2015. ... she has trained over 300,000 people in data science and is on a mission to make the tech industry more inclusive.

▶ **Gabe Hathaway** (AAS, '11) is the owner of GH Manufacturing Consulting LLC, a precision machine shop and Hathaway Knives, a knife manufacturing facility. Both are located in Casper, Wyoming.



(Courtesy photo/Gabe Hathaway)

**Ryan Rasner** (AS, '12) organized a "50 First Dates" speed dating event at Oil City Axe Company this past summer in Casper, Wyoming. Rasner teaches in the Department of Communication Studies at Louisiana State University. After graduating from Casper College, he went to the University of Wyoming and received his bachelor's and master's degrees. He culminated his education by

earning a Doctor of Philosophy in interpersonal communication from LSU in 2020. In addition to teaching, Rasner has a coaching and consulting business on the side. Rasner told reporter Brendan LaChance from Oil City News that "He hopes to find ways to engage people individually and in group settings like the speed dating event both in Casper and in Louisiana: 'I'm going to travel in between the two ... Depending on how this one goes, I'd like to set up more of these.'"

**Victoria Forbord** (AS, '13) is the director of respiratory therapy at Mountain Vista Medical Center and Florence Hospital, both Steward Health Care facilities. She came to Mountain Vista, located in Mesa, Arizona, after serving as a respiratory therapist at HonorHealth Osborn in Scottsdale, Arizona. She provided therapist support in the emergency department, adult critical care, and general patient floors in her role there.

**Chelsea Olsen** ('13, '16) is the district manager of three Firehouse Subs in the Idaho Falls area. She hopes to purchase her first Firehouse Subs restaurant in the near future.

**Shaley George** (AA, '14) is working on her master's degree in cultural heritage and sustainability development in Sweden at Uppsala University after seven years as the curator of the National Orphan Train Complex in Concordia, Kansas. George compiled a long list of accomplishments during her seven years at NOTC, including creating and overseeing the Orphan Train Rider statue program, spearheading the completion of the Legend Train Car Restoration and the design and construction of the Jones Education Station.

**Matt Stairs** (AA, '14) performed in concert for ARTCORE in Casper Dec. 12. Stairs spent three years in New York City to try and break into the

music scene. New York was challenging even though he earned regional contracts, several off-Broadway gigs, and made contacts that landed him on the CW's "The Christmas Caroler Challenge" last year. At one point, he was working five part-time jobs.

**Brooke Hopkins** (AFA, '15), the art instructor at Park Elementary School in Casper, Wyoming, was named Wyoming's First Year Professional Art Educator for 2021. According to the Wyoming Art Education Association, Hopkins was ... "awarded due to her excellence in teaching and forming relationships with her students, colleagues, and parents. Her letters of recommendation reflected her innovative teaching techniques through the COVID-19 pandemic. They showed her to be a leader in her field, helping her students achieve and excel through a most unusual year." The Wyoming Art Education Association is the state affiliate of the National Art Education Association.

▶ **"Rose" Gulden Altunbulak** (AA, '17), a former T-Bird basketball player, reached out to the alumni association recently and shared an update. Altunbulak is originally from Alanya, Turkey, and was a guard on the Casper College basketball team from 2015-2017. After graduating from Casper College in 2017, she transferred to Texas A&M International University and completed her bachelor's degree in kinesiology in 2020. She has now been accepted to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences.



(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

# People and Places cont.

**Jason DeWitt** (AS, '17) is the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce's President and CEO, a position he has held since Dec. 2020. Before his appointment, he was the development director of The Science Zone, a children's science museum located in Casper, Wyoming.



(Casper College photo/Chris Houser)

This past December, **Trey Yates** ('18) finished 10th in the nation following the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. Yates is a heeler and won more than \$151,659 during the 2021 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association season.

**Isaiah Findley** (AFA, '19) had an exhibition titled "Color in Motion" on display at the Goodstein Art Gallery at Casper College Nov. 15-Dec. 9, 2021. Since 2020, Findley has worked at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in museum services. "I make art through colorful, independent, and vibrant surrealist expressions of work. As an artist, I put most of my work into a personal concept and love to incorporate my life events into my prints in a surreal and illustrative form," said Findley.

**James Hampshire**, (AS, '19), a 7'1" former player for the Casper College T-Birds, is now playing basketball for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Runnin' Rebels. Hampshire, a graduate transfer, has two more years of eligibility. When Hampshire was signed to the Runnin' Rebels, Head Coach Kevin Kruger was quoted as saying, "We are thrilled that James is joining the Runnin' Rebel program. He is an excellent athlete with great size, and we are excited about his shot-blocking ability and the rim protection that he offers."

**Jess James Moody** (AS, '19) judged the 2021 Northeastern Colorado Stock Show. After Casper College, Moody headed to the University of Wyoming and now attends Montana State University, where he is working on his master's degree while serving as a coach for the livestock judging team.

**Cole Reiner** ('19) started his 2022 rodeo season with a bang when he won the bareback bronc riding title at the Chase Hawks Rough Stock Rodeo in Dec. Reiner had a payday of more than \$8,500. He finished the 2021 season seventh at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in early December, where he won more than \$91,000. Reiner earned more than \$190,000 in winnings for the 2021 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association season.



(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

## The 2020s

**Wilmer "Wil" Gay III** (CERT, '20) was sworn in as the new assistant fire chief for the Mills, Wyoming, Fire Department Aug. 10. He attended Casper College to receive training in the school's fire science technology program.

**Mackenzie Kern** ('20) was crowned Miss Wyoming USA Pageant for 2021 in June and represented the state at the Miss USA Pageant for 2021 last November. During her year as Miss Wyoming USA, Kern will travel the state.

**Brysen Collier** (AS, '21), who works for Vector Marketing in the Scottsdale/Tempe, Arizona, office, was recently promoted to an adviser.

**Marjorie Anderson** (AAS, '96), business information systems instructor, graduated with her Doctor of Education in instructional technology during the spring 2021. **Rhonda Franzen**, director of human resources, graduated with her Master of Public Administration from the University of Wyoming in August 2021. In December, **Becky Wise** (AAS, '12, CERT, '12, CERT, '12), foundation database manager, graduated with her Bachelor of Applied Science in organizational leadership from the University of Wyoming at Casper. **Tracie Bopp** (AS, '91), executive assistant for academic affairs, also added a Bachelor of Applied Science in organizational leadership degree to her accomplishments and completed her certificate in bookkeeping concurrently.

**Trent Kaufman** (AA, '84) was appointed as the interim administrator at the Wyoming Retirement Center in late Aug. Born and raised in Douglas, Wyoming, Kaufman attended Casper College and received a degree in law enforcement. "During my education at Casper College, I earned my EMT and worked on the ambulance service nights and weekends to pay for school," Kaufman said to reporter Barbara Anne Greene with the Basin Republican Rustler. Kaufman later earned his bachelor's and MBA from the University of Wyoming.

**Anthony Stengel** (AA, '06, AS, '08) graduated from Casper College with a degree in radiologic technology and began working at Wyoming Medical Center. Back in 2017, when he received his drone license, Stengel shifted gears and turned to filmmaking. Stengel's company, Stengel Media, offers complete video



(Courtesy photo/Tracy Hasely-Harshman)

production services. His short documentary, "Make Art Wyoming," has won three awards, including excellence in cinematography and excellence in editing. The film has also been the official selection in multiple festivals in the United States and was even an official selection in the British Documentary film festival.

**Chancey Williams** (AS, '03, AS, '03) was honored Dec. 8 with the Legacy of the West Award during Rodeo Fame's Fourth Annual Legacy of the West Gala in Las Vegas. According to Rodeo Fame, the award goes to a person who upholds the legacy of the rodeo industry through ethics and leadership. On his Facebook page, Williams wrote: "Wanted to give a quick shoutout to Rodeo Fame and Bucking Horse Breeders Association and all the folks who put on the Legacy of the West Gala. It was an amazing event and raised a lot of money to help fight human trafficking. Thank you for the award, and congrats to all who were there!"



(Courtesy photo/Chancey Williams)

**William Steven Hasely** (AS, '13, AS, '13, CERT, '13) and his wife, Kristin, had their first baby, Brecken William Hasely, Aug. 30, 2021. That made **Tracy Hasely-Harshman**, director of Casper College Student Health Services a grandma!

# Faculty and Staff

In 2021, **Patti Wood Finkle** (2009-2021), former director of museums, and **Valerie Innella Maiers**, Casper College Museum Studies instructor, published a collaborative work in "Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archive Professionals." The piece, titled "Humanistic Constructs — Creating Agency in a Natural History Museum," focused on using humanities programming at the Werner Wildlife Museum to reach new audiences.

Wyoming Behavioral Institute announced in July that Casper College adjunct instructor **Traci Blevins** (AA, '07) is their new tele-mental health and outpatient services director.

Casper College Tate Museum Education Specialist, **Russell Hawley**, was the Sept. 14, 2021 guest on "Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants" streaming service. Hawley's presentation was enthusiastically received by the students attending virtually from all over the United States and other spots from around the globe. To see Hawley's presentation, go to [youtube.com/watch?v=JV7T51y4sZw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JV7T51y4sZw). Hawley was also a part of the Wyoming Catholic College's annual lecture series. He presented a lecture there Oct. 11, 2021. Finally, he gave Cayla Nimmo, a photographer with the Casper Star-Tribune, a tour of the Tate in May. That photo tour can be found at [trib.com/news/photos-visual-tour-of-t-rex-fossils-at-the-tate-geological-museum/collection\\_b689d082-e132-5493-9a3b-79486eb5fb16.html](https://trib.com/news/photos-visual-tour-of-t-rex-fossils-at-the-tate-geological-museum/collection_b689d082-e132-5493-9a3b-79486eb5fb16.html)



(Courtesy photo/Will Robinson)

**Will S. Robinson** (1991-2020), retired biology instructor, research on the giant honey bee of southern Asia was published March 4, 2021. In the article he described the discovery of a specific migratory site in Thailand where he was able to observe and document

the migratory behavior of these giant honey bees. To read Robinson's article in the Oxford Academic Journal of Insect Science go to [academic.oup.com/jinsectscience/article/21/6/1/6414652](https://academic.oup.com/jinsectscience/article/21/6/1/6414652).

Former Casper College Western History Center Director **Teri Hedgpeth** began work in May 2021 as the new director of the Churchill County Museum in Fallon, Nevada. Hedgpeth was the director of the WHC (2010-2012), before leaving to take the job as director of archives and curator of collections for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee from 2012 to 2020. Hedgpeth left her job in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to be with her husband who had moved to Florida for his job. However, once there, she found selling vintage artifacts on Etsy wasn't enough and soon she found herself looking on a job website, which is how she discovered and applied for the Churchill directorship.

Former Casper College Men's Thunderbird basketball coach **Tyler Hurley** (2016-2018), is now the assistant coach for the University of Providence Argos. In his first season with the Argos, the team went 17-3 and won the Frontier Conference Championship, alongside head coach Steve Keller, who had been Hurley's coach when he played ball at Montana Western. Hurley landed his first assistant coaching job at CC under head coach Dan Russell from 2015-2018.

**Bill Johnson** (2003-2004), former head men's basketball coach at Casper College began his new job as vice president for advancement at the University of Nevada, Reno Sept. 7, 2021. Johnson was the T-Bird coach for the 2003-2004 season. He left the T-Birds with a 18-12 record to become an assistant men's Division I college basketball coach at the University of San Francisco. He also assistant coached for Columbia University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to his appointment at Nevada, Johnson was vice president for advancement at California State University, East Bay.

The Nicolaysen Art Museum created and is hosted an exhibit titled "The Fabric of His Life, **Larry Sissy Goodwin**." The exhibit commemorated Goodwin who was known for his penchant for dresses, skirts, and blouses. Goodwin taught electrical power technology at Casper College from 2007-2015.



(Courtesy photo/Gale Alexander)

◀ **Gale Gooch Alexander**, (1980-2005) retired Casper College communication instructor, forensics director, and administrator has been busy since she left CC. Her latest works, a play titled "Milestones" is scheduled to be

performed by the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre in Mars Hill, North Carolina, in June 2022. Other productions of the play, which tells the tale of an aging couple who seek to bring new life into their dreary marriage by visiting places where they began their life together, and where they were blissfully happy, are also in the works. In addition, her one-act play, "Blackland," is under discussion by the Communication Studies and Performance Arts Departments at the University of North Texas. Collaboration between the two departments and the UNT Speech and Debate Program will be part of an initiative to encourage civil discourse about race and racism. Finally, "The Crack in the Canyon" is a current play in progress. The canyons and caves of Casper Mountain, a lost tribe of Native Americans, and a solar eclipse, converge in a story of adventure, courage, and personal discovery, said Alexander.

**Jean Tichenor** (1982-2010), retired vocal music instructor, recently participated in the Casper Chamber Music Society's "The Holidays in Chamber Music & Poetry." Her sister, **Jane Hamman** ('73), adjunct Casper College harp instructor, was the lead musician for the program. Jane was joined by **Delores Thornton**, adjunct flute instructor, **Richard Turner**, adjunct bassoon instructor, and **Eric Unruh**, DM, dean of the Casper College School of Fine Arts. Tichenor read selections of Christmas poems relevant to the music.

**Ray Pacheco** (2014-2021), was selected in November as Casper's next mayor, a position he also held in 2018. Pacheco, who was the regional director for the GEAR UP program at Casper College for seven years, recently left that post to accept a position as a Natrona County School District counselor/social worker. Pacheco was also named as the University of Wyoming Division of Social Work's 2021 distinguished alumnus. He serves on the Economic Development Joint Powers Board and is the city council liaison to Casper's Council on People with Disabilities, LBGTQ Advisory Committee, and the Youth Empowerment Council.

Retired paralegal instructor ▶ **Mary Kubicheck**, JD (1988-2019), recently was recognized by NALA — The Paralegal Association, with the Founder's Award. According to information provided by NALA, Kubicheck is an NALA member, long-time paralegal educator, and champion for paralegal certification. The award "... is given to someone who goes above and beyond in contributing to the growth and future of the paralegal profession, impacting it in a positive manner for a significant period of time," according to the NALA.



(Courtesy photo/Mary Kubicheck)

# Faculty and Staff cont.

“For 30 years I have told my students I had my lottery job. I am still active in the field. I am a member of the Nebraska Bar, the United States Bar, and hoping to become a member of the Wyoming Bar. I am studying for the bar at 67. After I pass the bar, I plan on supervising paralegals at our domestic violence center. The current paralegal students will conduct the intake interviews, and I will supply the law. The circle of service will be complete, which means a great deal to me,” said Kubichek.

Kubichek was also awarded the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding leadership, service, and sustained commitment to the

American Association of Paralegal Educators.

◀ **Aaron Wood** (AA, '02), dance instructor and choreographer, was named a 2022 Performing Arts Fellowship winner for the Wyoming Arts Council. In addition to his duties at Casper College, Wood is also the artistic director and resident choreographer for Wyoming Dance Arts. According to the WAC, Performing Arts Fellowships are \$3,000 unrestricted awards of merit that are given in honor of excellence in the artist's field. They are juried by noted professionals in the field based on appropriate media samples and artist statements. “It's a great honor to be recognized,” said Wood.

**Janet de Vries**, (1995-2016) retired director of Student Success Services at Casper College, was the recipient of the Teresa Wallace Lifetime Professional Service Award. This award is given in memory of **Teresa Wallace**, who worked with youth, special populations, and college students, from 1991-2017 and retired from CC as its director of counseling. The award recognizes individuals with more than 20 years of service to the counseling profession

and who held significant leadership roles in the profession, local community, and state.

**Hanz Olson**, who joined the Goodstein Foundation Library staff in 2021 as a librarian, gave a workshop on at-home archiving and sharing the best practices for preserving treasured family records last November at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

Casper College adjunct instructor **Sheri Coughenour** was recently named the Casper College Innovative Educator of the Year for 2020-2021 through the Wyoming Innovations in Learning Conference. According to Wyoming Innovations in Learning, those recognized “... are talented academics who are accomplished in their craft; skilled practitioners impacting the lives of learning throughout Wyoming and beyond.”

**Chris Stier** was hired as the new boys head soccer coach at Natrona County High School. He played Division II soccer at the University of Mary. Stier is currently the activities director at Casper College.

**Carli Holcomb** (AA, '14), art instructor, metalsmith, and installation artist had her exhibit “Confluence” on display at the Goodstein Visual Arts Gallery last spring. Holcomb also had a pop-up exhibit in late spring at Art 321.



Casper ceramicist and Casper College ceramics instructor **Mike Olson** (AA, '93, AAA, '96, AAA, '99) was asked to provide art for “Clay

Arts Vegas International Collaborative Ceramics Exhibition,” a collaboration of international and American artists and Clay Arts Vegas students. The show was on display at the Goodstein Art Gallery this past fall. Olson was paired with another ceramicist, Barbara Lennox. “We worked together via email for several months brainstorming,” said Olson. The two came up with a project titled “Robot Birds.” “Barbara made two sculptural steampunk-style birds and sent them to me to decorate and finish fire, and I made crow drones for her to decorate and fire,” Olson noted. All the pieces that Olson and Lennox created were displayed together in the show.



◀ **Women's Basketball Assistant Coach Nate Macy** and his wife **Rachel**, CC Foundation office assistant, welcomed their second child, **Ryker James Macy** on Nov. 23, 2021. Ryker was 8 pounds and 20 inches long. He joins big brother **Xander** who was born in 2019.

▼ **Eric Atkins** (AA, '01), language instructor, was named the Phi Theta Kappa Terrific Learning Coach of the Year for the 2020-21 school year. His selection was revealed during graduation ceremonies in May.



Left to right: **Kellee Schuerman**, student; **Eric Atkins** (AA, '01), **Leslie LeClair** student; and **Helen Brown**, student. (Courtesy photo/Eric Atkins)



**Justin Hayward**, Casper College art instructor, entered his painting of running antelope, titled “Pronghorn” into the 38th Annual Wyoming Game and Fish Collectible Conservation Stamp Art Show also called “Pronghorn.” Hayward's painting took second in a field of 105 entries.

Nursing instructor **Marianne Madariaga**, led first-semester nursing students in a class service learning project where the students were involved in planting seeds in the green house, making salsa, packing weekly backpacks for students, creating nutritional and health care handouts, and asking for grocery donations at both Albertsons locations.

▶ **Katharina (Kat) Bohr-Buresh**, (AFA, '02) former Casper College Castellow Adult Learning Center instructor made a switch in careers as she became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute — OLLI at Casper College coordinator.



(Courtesy photo/Aaron Wood)

(Courtesy photo/Wyoming Game and Fish Department)

(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

# Friends We'll Miss

## 1940s

**Arthur French (AA, '48)**  
June 8, 2020

**Vera Jean Gorsky ('47)**  
October 12, 2020

**Nedalyn (Dover) Testolin ('47)**  
January 12, 2021

**Marjorie Elaine (Freese) Meyer ('49)**  
January 18, 2021

**Wilma Irene Shafto (AA, '47)**  
December 11, 2021

**Charlotte Babcock (AA, '49)**  
**Exemplary Alumni 1995**  
**Commitment to Excellence**  
**Honoree 2019**  
December 30, 2021

## 1950s

**Gayle Sturdevant (AA, '58)**  
October 15, 2020

**David John Knighten ('54)**  
December 25, 2020

**William R. Backer ('55)**  
January 1, 2021

**Neil E. Harrington ('50)**  
February 19, 2021

**JoAnn (Williams) Brewer (AA, '51)**  
February 20, 2021

**John "Jack" R. Shinn ('58)**  
March 5, 2021

**Francis D. (Edwards) Ward (AA, '55)**  
April 7, 2021

**Duane L. Christensen (AA, '58)**  
April 27, 2021

**Donald E. Korn (AA, '55)**  
April 28, 2021

**Phyllis K. Yeamans (AA, '57)**  
May 5, 2021

**Jeanine M. (Bright) Johnson ('57)**  
June 1, 2021

**Lee Yohn ('57)**  
**Retired Maintenance Department**  
**1994-2000**  
June 3, 2021

**Robert L. Brock (AA, '57)**  
June 6, 2021

**Thomas J. Hool (AA, '56)**  
June 17, 2021

**Robert L. Nelson (AS, '57)**  
June 17, 2021

**John L. "Jack" Blair (AA, '57)**  
June 18, 2021

**Burt St. John (AA, '56)**  
June 20, 2021

**Thomas P. Clemmons (AA, '54)**  
July 3, 2021

**James K. Wade ('57)**  
August 15, 2021

**Ervin Smith (AA, '55)**  
August 21, 2021

**Gerald "Jerry" Dalton ('57)**  
October 11, 2021

**Milton G. Mooney ('50)**  
November 2, 2021

**Celia "Jo" (Arnold) Meyers ('53)**  
November 10, 2021

**Mary Jo (Currence) Hardy ('52)**  
November 29, 2021

**Harry O. Patterson ('57)**  
December 2, 2021

## 1960s

**Teina I. (Medlock) Snyder ('66)**  
June 14, 2020

**Marvin Eugene Berg ('67)**  
December 9, 2020

**Elaine (McMichael) Brooks (AA, '66)**  
January 1, 2021

**John Bent Pouttu (AA, '62)**  
January 13, 2021

**Mary E. (Haass) Valstad (CERT, '69)**  
February 6, 2021

**Clarence "Darrell" Bennett ('61)**  
February 18, 2021

**Clayton D. Carr (AA, '62)**  
February 18, 2021

**Leah L. Ballou ('63)**  
March 1, 2021

**Steve Roszel ('60)**  
March 12, 2021

**Marilyn R. Shingleton (AS, '69)**  
March 22, 2021

**Lester Gordon Obert Jr. (AS, '67)**  
**Retired Faculty 1972-1995**  
April 18, 2021

**Dannie E. Breikjern ('63)**  
May 26, 2021

**Nina Carlton (AS, '63)**  
June 12, 2021

**Sandra June (Johnson) Lund (AA, '63)**  
June 18, 2021

**Duane J. Luhring (AA, '69)**  
June 21, 2021

**Gary Duane Long (AA, '65)**  
June 23, 2021

**Joyce (Burkhart) Pittser ('66)**  
July 16, 2021

**Kathleen E. Bucholz (CERT, '65)**  
July 19, 2021

**Ronald "Ronnie" Givens ('69)**  
July 19, 2021

**Loyal L. Brock ('66)**  
July 31, 2021

**John "Jack" Kunckel (AB, '66)**  
August 4, 2021

**Chauncy Douglas "Doug" King (AB, '66)**  
August 13, 2021

**Paula Ann Arnold ('66)**  
August 19, 2021

**Gerald A. Moats ('61)**  
August 24, 2021

**Clarice Manning (LPN, '65)**  
August 31, 2021

**Suzanne S. McOmie (CERT, '66)**  
September 3, 2021

**Robert Miller ('61)**  
September 3, 2021

**Nancy Lee (Smith) Dill ('67)**  
September 4, 2021

**Beryl D. Carsten (AA, '60)**  
September 13, 2021

**Edwin Thomas Butch Hudson ('61)**  
September 14, 2021

**Michael Harold Ruby (AS, '69)**  
September 28, 2021

**Larry David "Dave" Gallatin (AS, '65)**  
September 29, 2021

**Linda K. (Spiva) Bessler ('68)**  
September 30, 2021

**Nick "Bud" Hahn ('66)**  
October 9, 2021

**Kathleen "Kathy" Hauf ('62)**  
October 17, 2021

**Charles L. Snyder (AA, '65)**  
October 20, 2021

**Donald "Don" Sutphin (AS, '69)**  
October 31, 2021

**Thomas M. McDonald ('64)**  
November 13, 2021

**Henry C. Cundy (AS, '66)**  
November 16, 2021

**Carol E. Etcheverry (AA, '65)**  
November 19, 2021

**Nancy J. Potter (AA, '61)**  
November 19, 2021

**David Schultz ('65)**  
November 19, 2021

**Jerry Dymond ('66)**  
November 24, 2021

## 1970s

**Terry Ray McIntosh (CERT, '79)**  
July 5, 2020

**Terrence J. Hick (AAS, '73)**  
December 5, 2020

**Lawrence "Larry" D. Lewis (AS, '70)**  
December 6, 2020

**Jeffrey M. Severn ('74)**  
December 6, 2020

**Donald "Don" W. McHattie (AAS, '77)**  
December 31, 2020

**Shirley L. (Jucknath) Robertson (AS, '71)**  
December 31, 2020

**Allan E. Benton ('70)**  
January 13, 2021

**Ramona Jean (Hanson) Heller (AAS, '75)**  
January 14, 2021

**Katherine "Kathie" (Johnson) Diehl (CERT, '77)**  
February 10, 2021

**Richard "Dick" Bassett ('70)**  
March 1, 2021

**Magdalene H. Greene (AS, '78)**  
March 10, 2021

**Patricia "Patty" Caldwell ('70)**  
April 1, 2021

**Dianna Sullivan (CERT, '70)**  
April 3, 2021

**John David "Dave" Pedry ('72)**  
April 22, 2021

**Kathryn "Kathy" Aeschliman ('76)**  
May 4, 2021

**David "Dave" Capps ('76)**  
May 18, 2021

**Peggy Lynn (Stephens) Anderson ('70)**  
May 20, 2021

**James E. Werner ('70)**  
June 18, 2021

**Robert L. McConnell (AS, '72)**  
July 8, 2021

**Lois Shinkle ('78)**  
July 15, 2021

**Mike Moore (AS, '72)**  
July 16, 2021

**Janice "Jani" Lerback (CERT, '71)**  
July 17, 2021

**James Bruce Jackson ('71)**  
August 6, 2021

**Stephen Richard "Steve" Bovie, ('77)**  
August 12, 2021

**Mary L. (McLean) Long ('73)**  
August 21, 2021

**George Rooney (AA, AB, '73)**  
**Retired Assistant Director of Facilities**  
**1983-2004**  
September 17, 2021

**Margaret "Peggy" (Ginther) Paxton (CERT, '78)**  
September 21, 2021

**Willard N. Noseep (CERT, '77)**  
September 29, 2021

**Annette Bolan Boulter Dickson (AA, '73)**  
October 1, 2021

**Charles "Dan" Braig (AS, '71)**  
October 7, 2021

**Allen D. Bonnett ('72)**  
October 19, 2021

**Charles S. Wilson ('72)**  
November 2, 2021

**Daniel P. Miner ('75)**  
November 15, 2021

**Tad E. Knight ('77)**  
November 16, 2021

**Theresa "Terri" F. (Orr) Christensen (AS, '72)**  
December 7, 2021

**Linda Jons (AAS, '77)**  
December 12, 2021

**Michael Douglas Haws ('75)**  
December 16, 2021

## 1980s

**Anthony "Tony" Wade Laing ('83)**  
October 10, 2020

**Sandra D. Wright (AAS, CERT, '89)**  
December 9, 2020

**Keith Donald Jussel (CERT, '88)**  
December 10, 2020

**John Moeller (CERT, '89)**  
December 12, 2020

**Barry E. Reed ('89)**  
December 16, 2020

**Paul Amadio ('86)**  
**Retired Campus Services 1979-2010**  
January 1, 2021

**Ruth A. (Clifton) Garrett ('82)**  
**Former Faculty**  
January 18, 2021

**Cindy P. (Hoffman) Ramirez (AAS, '80)**  
January 19, 2021

**Re Ann Walters (AA, '88, AAS, '89)**  
February 15, 2021

**Karen Ann Apostolos ('84)**  
February 19, 2021

**Vincent J. Mockensturm, Sr. (AB, '86)**  
February 24, 2021

**James E. Bougor (AA, '87)**  
March 1, 2021

# Friends We'll Miss cont.

**Virginia Brunelli ('84)**  
March 24, 2021

**Eugene L. Bock (AB, '87)**  
April 1, 2021

**Charlotte J. (Pope) Parsons (AAS, '89, AAS, '89)**  
May 15, 2021

**Anita V. (Lee) Stevens (AAS, '82)**  
May 23, 2021

**Sally Lou Pedersen ('80)**  
May 26, 2021

**Larry D. Wostenberg (CERT, '86)**  
June 14, 2021

**Robert Eugene "Bob" Suedes  
Retired Faculty 1960-1989**  
June 17, 2021

**Douglas L. Olson (CERT, '83)**  
July 16, 2021

**Karla Ridgeway (AA, '89)**  
July 18, 2021

**Kay S. McMillen (AAS, '89)**  
July 28, 2021

**Walter R. Kussy (CERT, '80)**  
August 6, 2021

**Barbara "Barb" Kramp ('88)**  
August 18, 2021

**Thomas A. Hammell ('80)**  
September 5, 2021

**Rhonda G. Boyer ('83)**  
September 7, 2021

**Tony C. Schott ('83)**  
September 15, 2021

**Rhonda D. Cothren Johnstone  
(CERT, '87)**  
October 12, 2021

**Charles Wayne Bayles (AS, '86)**  
October 18, 2021

**Allan E. Garner (CERT, '86)**  
October 19, 2021

**Rodney L. Patik (AAS, AAS, '84)  
Exemplary Alumni 1995**  
October 21, 2021

**Marsha Moye (CERT, '88)**  
November 1, 2021

**Ellen D. Burris (CERT, '80)**  
November 16, 2021

**Daniel Herdt ('84)**  
November 23, 2021

**Donna M. Swirczynski (AAS, '81)**  
November 24, 2021

**Shannon (Graf) Lakner ('89)**  
November 28, 2021

**Diana M. Whitcomb (AA, '86)**  
December 4, 2021

## 1990s

**Debra A. (Orndorff) Bohart ('90)**  
September 22, 2020

**Judi (Blair) Hede ('98)**  
January 1, 2021

**Lisa Marie (Box) Hamilton (AS, '94)**  
January 7, 2021

**Patricia Lynn Johnson (AAS, '97)**  
January 12, 2021

**Gloria Duckworth ('92)**  
January 28, 2021

**Monica L. Decker (AAS, AAS, '91)**  
February 15, 2021

**Carol J. (Hurlbut) Gustafson (AAS, '99)**  
March 19, 2021

**Georgia E. Japp (AA, '97)**  
March 22, 2021

**Kathy G. (Watts) Heuer (AAS, '91)**  
March 23, 2021

**Francis (Strayer) Hanson-Sevon  
(AAS, '96)**  
April 9, 2021

**Barbara Jo Alameda ('94)**  
May 2, 2021

**Holly Renee Block ('92)**  
June 8, 2021

**Debbie D. Pantall (AAS, '90)**  
June 13, 2021

**Susan D. (Carneal) Kussy (AAS, '99)**  
August 6, 2021

**Joey Lance Johnson ('90)**  
August 7, 2021

**Vincent Worth Christie ('91)**  
September 11, 2021

**Mary Frances Wilson  
Retired Business Office Systems  
Faculty 1980-1994**  
September 14, 2021

**James "Jay" Sykes Melvin (AA, '91)**  
September 18, 2021

**Connie F. Petty ('94)**  
September 20, 2021

**Patricia Lansing  
Retired Nursing Faculty, 1988-1999**  
September 30, 2021

**Jack Romanek  
Retired College Center  
Director 1965-1991  
Commitment to Excellence  
Honoree 2009**  
September 30, 2021

**Sheri Lynn (Phillips) Jones (AAS, '96)**  
October 27, 2021

**Gregory P. Metz (AAS, '99)**  
October 30, 2021

**Samuel E. Peterson, Jr. (AAA, '93)**  
October 31, 2021

**Denise A. Schwartz (AA, '94)**  
November 4, 2021

**Dietra M. Kessel (AAS, '99)**  
November 7, 2021

**Darla Harry ('99)**  
November 8, 2021

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

**Jeff Wrasper (AS, '91)**  
November 28, 2021

**Constance J. "Connie" Campbell  
(CERT, '98)**  
December 2, 2021

## 2000s

**Danny Lee Pickett ('07)**  
November 22, 2020

**Rachel D. (Walker) Johnson ('09)**  
January 1, 2021

**Jessica Wagner (AS, '07)**  
January 12, 2021

**Brett A. Wentz (AS, '03)**  
January 20, 2021

**Margo L. Miller (AA, '07)**  
February 20, 2021

**Theresa M. (Snellgrove) Johnson  
(AAS, '05, CERT, '05)**  
March 1, 2021

**Micheal Sarvey  
Retired Faculty 1970-2000  
Commitment to Excellence  
Honoree 2002**  
March 25, 2021

**Pamela J. Focke (AS, '09)**  
June 2, 2021

**Kelley K. Bacon-Frits (AS, '05)**  
June 9, 2021

**Luis M. Gregorio ('05)**  
June 12, 2021

**Pamela Reynolds (AS, '09)**  
June 19, 2021

**Paul Daniel Pedry ('94-'95, '05, '07-'09)**  
July 3, 2021

**Rex Osborne Hoff ('02)**  
September 7, 2021

**Kraig A. Wilson ('93, '05)**  
September 23, 2021

**Shain Patrick McVay ('09)**  
October 10, 2021

**Karen McVay (AA, '06)**  
October 14, 2021

**Claud Dickey (AAS, '00)**  
October 19, 2021

**Glenn R. Mercer (AAS, CERT, '04)**  
October 19, 2021

**Charles "Chuck" Leonard  
Maintenance Department 1998-2004**  
October 23, 2021

**Katie D. Pearson (AB, '06)**  
November 25, 2021

**Monique "Moni" Rae Peterson-Bown  
(AS, AA, '09)**  
November 30, 2021

## 2010s

**Brian G. Williams (CERT, '19)**  
March 2, 2021

**Alexis J. Loos ('19)**  
April 5, 2021

**Robert "Bill" Saunders (AAS, '13)**  
April 28, 2021

**Tracy Lynn Schrader (AS, '10)**  
June 8, 2021

**Bryan Fortune (CERT, '14)**  
July 16, 2021

**Michael Todd Crimm (CERT, '10,  
AAS, '11)**  
August 10, 2021

**Patricia Idella Hayden  
Former Faculty 2004-2016**  
August 13, 2021

**Tayler Jayde DeWitt (AS, '14)**  
September 3, 2021

**Chandler "Chancey"  
Shakespeare Jr. ('12)**  
October 16, 2021

**Joshua Dannar (AAS, '13)**  
October 20, 2021

**Christopher Henrichsen  
Former Faculty 2010-2013**  
December 13, 2021

**Richard "Richy" Parke (CERT, '16)**  
December 18, 2021

## 2020s

**Tom Thorson — Benefactor**  
December 16, 2020

**Jene Pointer**  
March 12, 2021

**Michael D. Stanley (AS, '20)**  
March 24, 2021

**W.J. "Jack" Nicholas**  
April 16, 2021

**Carl Grosz — Benefactor**  
July 20, 2021

**Marialyce Tobin  
Former Faculty/Benefactor  
Commitment to Excellence Honoree**  
August 28, 2021

**Phyllis L. Ackerman — Benefactor**  
September 14, 2021

**Charles Burlingame — Benefactor**  
December 6, 2021

When **Marialyce Barrett Tobin** died at her home Aug. 28, 2021, at the age of 97, Casper College lost a true friend and benefactor. Her service of 24 years to the Casper College Foundation board was instrumental in the decisions that led to the foundation's success. When the college was in its fledgling stage, holding classes in the Natrona County High School building, she taught business law and continued teaching for 14 more years.

Tobin helped establish the Chamberlain Lectureship. She attended basketball games at the "Swede" Erickson Thunderbird Gymnasium as an avid T-Bird fan for as long as her health would allow. In 2011, she was presented with the Casper College Alumni Association's Commitment to Excellence Award for exemplary service and making a difference in the growth of the college. During her 97 years, she was committed to our community,

Casper College, and her family and friends. In 2015 she received the prestigious Woman of Distinction Award for her outstanding contributions to the community.

The student cafeteria is dedicated to both Dick and Marialyce Tobin's generosity. She later commissioned artist and Casper College alumnus **Chris Navarro** (AA, '90) to create the "Essence of Rex" bronze statue for the Casper College Tate Geological Museum. The fossilized remains of a *T rex* dubbed "Lee Rex" were found near her hometown of Lusk, Wyoming, which stirred her interest. She was delighted with the ceremonies that surrounded the dedication of the bronze, and her smile was at the center of the celebration. Her generosity is evident throughout Casper.

Casper and Casper College will carry her imprint for generations to come.

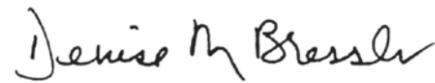
# Our Foundation Staff and Board of Directors 2020-2021

We are happy to present our fiscal year 2020-2021 annual report on behalf of the Casper College Foundation board of directors. We decided to change things up this year and include our annual report inside the winter edition of Footprints. Footprints and our annual report are generally mailed relatively close to each other. We believe combining them should save some expense and reach more of our constituents — and we believe it will. However, when we were planning, Covid was not factored in.

Yes, Covid threw a wrench in our plans. First, shipping delays caused a paper shortage, and then staffing shortages at our printer pushed printing back another two months. The postponement of Footprints was cause enough for concern, but now our annual report is not reaching you in the timely manner we prefer. Our solution is to publish this edition of Footprints with our annual report online first and then mail the paper copy as soon as possible. Our sincere apologies for this delay.

With all that said, the foundation had another fantastic year thanks to our generous donors and a healthy stock market. We awarded 807 students with 1,139 scholarships totaling more than \$1.2 million. In addition, we supported Casper College with \$2.5 million for program support and another \$2.8 million, of a \$10 million pledge, for building a new visual arts center on campus. After providing all this support, our net assets still grew by \$25 million.

They say the only constant thing is change, and that applies here in our office as well. We combined two positions making Ann Dalton our associate director of donor relations and alumni engagement, and Becky Wise received a promotion to the new position of database manager. This fall, we welcomed Rachel Macy as our office assistant and Kari Hawthorne as our chief financial officer. We couldn't be happier! Please stop by our office or give us a call. We would love to introduce you to our staff and visit with you.



Denise Bressler  
Executive Director



**Casper College Foundation Staff** (left to right): Kari Hawthorne, chief financial officer; Katie Schwieger, data assistant; Ann Dalton, associate director of development and alumni engagement; Denise Bressler, executive director; Becky Wise, database manager; and Rachel Macy, office assistant.  
*(Casper College photo/Ben Winckler)*



*(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)*

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**Denise Bressler**  
Executive Director,  
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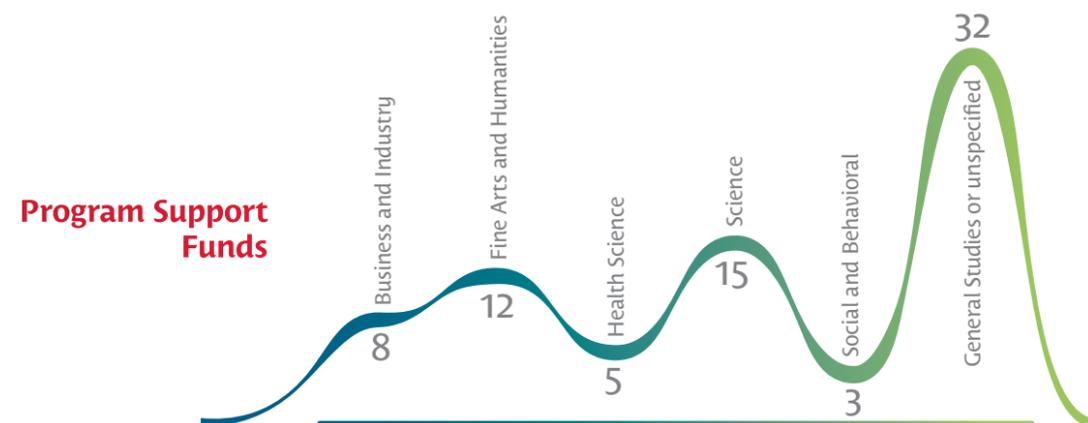
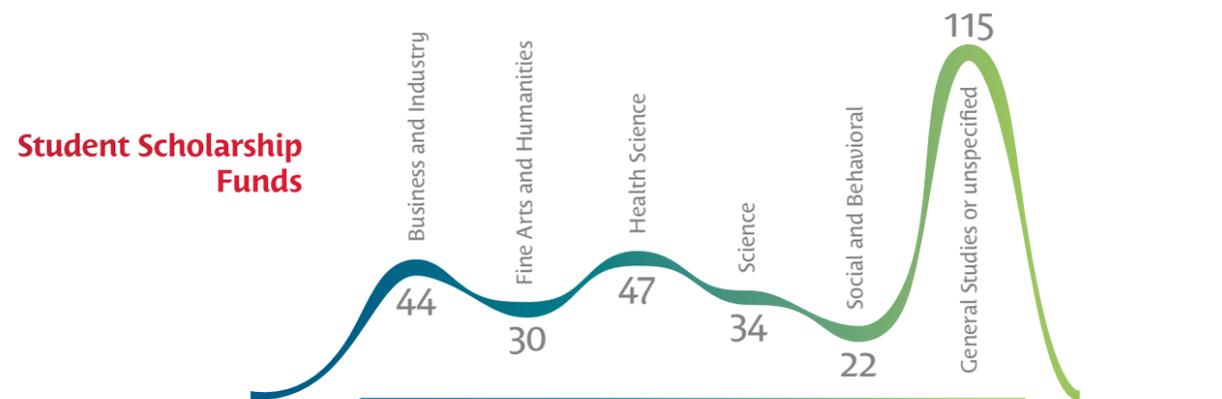
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Judge Catherine Wilking  
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# The More You Give, the More We Give

# Statement of Financial Position



ASSETS	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,441,465
Investments	127,173,224
Receivables	319,718
Note receivable Casper College	460,469
Assets held in charitable remainder trust	3,074,323
Mineral interests	4,042,309
Prepaid expenses	-
Property and equipment, net	6,136,130
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 142,647,638</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 58,975
Due to Casper College	341,880
Pledge payable — Casper College residence hall	12,350,000
Investments held on behalf of Casper College	20,838,559
Liabilities under charitable remainder trust agreement	145,912
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 33,735,326</b>

NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	\$ 35,827,001
With donor restrictions	
Perpetual in nature	21,244,569
Purpose restrictions	51,840,742
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 108,912,312</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 142,647,638</b>
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# According to Charlotte... Fear of Flying



Charlotte Babcock.  
(Casper College photo/Cory Garvin)

I have never liked to fly — not in all the years my husband hauled me kicking and screaming on his never-ending excursions all over the world. I was convinced every flight was going to be my last. So convinced, in fact, I spent days cleaning the house and updating my affairs, so when I didn't return from the plane crash, whoever had to take charge of settling my affairs would think what an efficient, perfect person I was.

Getting on the plane was always an ordeal. I had to have an aisle seat because then I could get out quickly — no matter who I had to bowl over to get to the door. I always looked over the cabin to see who was aboard. I liked to note the babies and any member of the clergy who could pray for us. The babies meant that we would surely get to our destinations, or at least to where I was going. The flight attendants worked at making us feel at home and welcome, delighting us with humor by saying something like, "People, we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!" No assigned seating then.

Or the pilot who welcomed us thusly: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. United is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the business. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight." Comedians, one and all.

I was never capable of relaxing — and the longer the flight, the worse I got. I remember the 10-hour flight from New York to Athens, Greece. I was a wretched wreck by the time we got there. Not Robert, however, who was perfectly relaxed. He had slept most of the way. Divorce was not an option for me at that point, but murder, on the other hand...

I have always thought that if God wanted us to fly, he could have supplied us with wings. How hard could that be? I had a friend whose mother was visiting from California and died suddenly in Casper. She needed to be flown back to California for burial. My friend, who could not make the trip, had her ashes flown there. The ashes disappeared, and chaos ensued. I tried to console him by pointing

out that she always loved to travel, and she was probably having the time of her life flying all over. Now, if he'd had wings, he could have gotten mom home with no trouble at all. It took a couple of weeks to find her.

I recall a flight from Chicago to Buffalo, New York, which began with a two-hour delay at O'Hare while the rain poured down and the lightning flashed. The pilot apologized profusely, saying the rain was no problem, but the lightning was. The stewardess tried to placate us by promising to send out for pizza, but the pizza stand in the airport seemed to be closed. Finally, we got off the ground, and the turbulence became extraordinary. I got more and more agitated and finally began to weep. A sympathetic and cute male attendant arrived at my aisle seat and patted and held my hand for some time, assuring me that we were indeed going to land in Buffalo safely. Robert was pretending not to know me.

The captain stood outside the cockpit door to wish us well on arrival, and Robert said to him, "You didn't miss a bump along the way did you?" to which he replied, "We were taught how to do that in flight school."

There was a flight that husband Robert found pretty hilarious since it happened to me — not to him. We were in Los Angeles due to Robert's conference, but I had to fly home to Casper because of my 30th high school reunion, which I chaired.

So, there we were in security watching our Western Airlines champagne flight through the big glass windows getting prepared to depart when someone tapped me on the shoulder, and a nice man said, "Are you, Mrs. Babcock?" Amazed, I admitted that I was.

He explained that as an FBI agent, he had recently been transferred from Casper to Los Angeles, and his fifth-grade daughter had her great friend from Casper visiting who was now flying home. The friend had never been on a plane before and was terribly nervous. The little girl recognized me because the girls went to Pineview School, where I taught. Would I be kind enough to sit with her and

watch over her? Robert almost choked, and I knew he was thinking, "Who was going to watch over me?!"

Throwing caution to the wind, I said, "I'd be happy to."

So, we boarded. Robert was watching through the windows as a man came along the side of the plane and began kicking one of the tires — which turned out to be flat. Therefore, we sat on the tarmac for about 40 minutes while it got changed. I patted my seatmate's hand and assured her all was well while I drank my champagne. We took off and landed in Salt Lake about an hour late. Passengers deplaned, and passengers got on. We began to taxi down the runway when the pilot turned on his microphone. "Ladies and gentlemen, I am sorry to report that we have a small mechanical problem and must return to the terminal to get it fixed. It should not take long." My seatmate began to sniffle. I patted her shoulder and tried not to react. I got another glass of champagne. After 30 minutes or more, we were ready to go.

We taxied down the runway, and just before we lifted off, a very irritated pilot informed us that the mechanical problem was NOT fixed and we wouldn't be going anywhere until it WAS fixed! Back we went. By now, my seatmate was almost in tears, and I was drinking more champagne and sweating it out. Another interminable time went by, but finally, our pilot said we were good to go — and we did. Of course, I had to have another glass of champagne to celebrate.

It didn't take long to close in on Casper when a man sitting across from me yelled, "we're going down!"

I hollered, "where?" and my seatmate burst into audible sobs.

That idiot man had spotted Alcova Lake and realized we were descending into Casper a good two hours and about 40 minutes late.

Our stewardess apologized sincerely for the delays, for the idiot's, and my outburst, and said,

"We'd like to thank you, folks, for flying with us today and the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll consider Western Airlines."

Robert called late that night to see how the reunion went. I glossed over that and told him about the horrible flight. He started to laugh and laughed through the whole story. I couldn't see anything funny at all and might have choked him had he been within reach.

The most dangerous of our many adventures happened in Zurich when we were to fly home one September. The airport was in a state of confusion, which I thought strange because everything in Switzerland always seemed to be in perfect order, at least in my opinion. Our flight was delayed and delayed again, while crowds of people milled about.

Finally, our flight was called, but something strange happened. Robert was taken away in one direction and I in another. They led me down a ramp into a canvas cubicle where a nice lady searched me. She explained that the armed soldiers patrolling outside the sliding glass doors onto the runway with their machine guns at the ready were just participating in a drill.

She thoroughly searched me while explaining I would go through the doors onto a long, red carpet extending to the plane. There we would find our luggage placed along the carpet. We were to stop behind it until a handler asked us to identify it, whereupon the handler immediately took it away. We then boarded the plane.

Two attendants greeted us cordially with flutes of champagne, and I thought how flawless and efficient the Swiss were. I didn't know what Robert thought, but I found out soon enough. As the plane got underway, Robert looked out his window. There was one small bag sitting along the carpet. Robert said, "Well, that must be the bomb" — and it wasn't long until we were gently told that it actually was.

In my case, I could only have said — ignorance was bliss!



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