Alumni, please email career, wedding, birth and death news to uwalumni@uwyo.edu and include photos if possible.

1940
Richard H. Bennett, J.D. ’48, law, and wife, Margaret “Pegge” (Evans) Bennett Exp. ’47, College of Arts and Sciences, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on March 7, 2016. They live in Lake Stevens, Wash.

1950
John Watts, B.S. ’57, general agriculture, a member of the UW football team from 1954-56, was inducted as a member of UW’s 24th Athletics Hall of Fame class.

1960
Jerry Durling, B.A. ’67, M.A. ’68, art, a member of the UW football team in 1965-66, was inducted into UW’s 24th Athletics Hall of Fame.

Shirley J. Jacob, B.A. ’61, English, was awarded the Commitment to Excellence Award by Casper College at the commencement ceremony on May 13, 2016.

Ivan McMurtry, B.S. ’65, zoology, was named the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus at North Platte High School.

Pioneer Women in Athletics
The Intercollegiate Athletics Department hosted a reception June 25 within War Memorial Stadium’s Wildcatter Suites to honor its Pioneer Women in Athletics. The reception recognized women who participated in sports at UW from 1950 through the early 1970s, prior to the passing of Title IX. These Cowgirls participated in several sports, including basketball, field hockey, skiing, softball, track and field, tennis and volleyball.

1970
John W. Goff, B.A. ’74, M.A. ’78, history and journalism, was recognized with a regional Edward R. Murrow Award by the Radio Television Digital News Association.

Richard Gruber, M.P.A. ’76, was elected to the Janesville, Wis., city council. He was appointed to the council after the resignation of another member.

Aaron Kyle, ’76 Exp., engineering, a member of the UW football team from 1972-75, was inducted as a member of UW’s 24th Athletics Hall of Fame class.

Terry Mackey, J.D. ’70, received the honorary Order of the Coif award from the UW College of Law. A perennial faculty member of the Western Trial Advocacy Institute, Mackey enjoys a reputation as one of the top trial lawyers in Wyoming.

1980
Scott Barella, B.S. ’81, was appointed CTO at Utah Specific, a specialist in routing switches and control software.

Keith E. McNinch Jr., B.S. ’77, civil engineering, M.B.A. ’84, is president of Pipeline Consultants PLLC in Broken Arrow, Okla.

Russell (Russ) Schnell, M.S. ’71, Ph.D. ’74, atmospheric science, the NOAA scientist received an honorary doctor of science degree from the 40,000-student body of the University of Alberta, Canada.

Mike Snigg, M.S. ’79, zoology, retired after a 40-year career with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Snigg finished his career as regional fisheries supervisor.

Matt Vandeleur, B.S., ’77, park administration, B.A. ’85, middle school education, retired as the principal of the Neah Bay (Wash.) Senior and Junior High School.

Timothy Wilson, B.S. ’76, accounting, retired after serving 38 years on the Board of Public Utilities and acted as director for 19 years.

Gregory Dyekman, J.D. ’80, was awarded the 2015 Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award.
Janell Edman, Ph.D. ’82, received the Association of Women Geoscientists 2015 Professional Excellence Award in the industry/consultant category.

Kim Harvey, M.E.D. ’83, retired after 41 years as a teacher at Cloud Peak Elementary School in Buffalo, Wyo.

Mario Ibarra, Exp. ’80, is executive director of the United States Tennis Association in Wyoming.

Bruce Johnson, B.S. ’86, chemical engineering, is an IWA Fellow of the International Water Association.

Karen Mobley, B.A. ’83, art, will be the artist in residency at AIR Paducah, Ky., and has been a fellow at the Jentel Foundation for the Arts.

Benjamin Paolillo, B.A. ’82, business education, M.E.D. ’86, is the executive director of alumni affairs at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Steven Plambeck, B.S. ’82, accounting, is a commercial team leader with Riverview Community Bank in Oregon, directing activities of the six commercial lenders.

Maurice Sessel, B.S ’83, mechanical engineering, is the president of International Automotive Components North America.

Lynn Stetson, B.S. ’83, finance, a member of the UW swimming team from 1980–83, was inducted as a member of UW’s 24th Athletics Hall of Fame class.

Debra Thatcher, B.A. ’80, elementary education, is the president of Umpqua Community College in Oregon.

Jeffrey Truchot, B.S. ’86, political science, B.S. ’89, journalism, joined the Wyoming Business Report.

Cynthia Alexander, J.D. ’98, joined the Dickinson Wright PLLC firm’s Las Vegas office.

John Baldwin, B.S. ’90, wildlife conservation and management, M.S. ’93, zoology and physiology, is the district manager for the Mountain City-Ruby Mountains-Jarbidge Ranger District in northwest Nevada.

Kevin Rochlitz, B.S. ’93, marketing, senior vice president of corporate sales and business development for the Baltimore Ravens, was recognized by SmartCEO as a recipient of this year’s Executive Management Awards for creative management vision, leadership philosophy, innovative strategy and work ethic.

Leah (Sample) Barrett, B.S. ’92, business administration, MBA ’95, is the vice president for student affairs at Sheridan College.

Patricia Ann Owens, M.A. ’91, American studies, was one of seven recipients nationwide of the George and Helen Hartzog Award for outstanding volunteer service.

Robert Hermann, Ph.D. ’94, physics, received the 2016 Outstanding Teaching Award at Concordia University.

Mary Jo Rugwell, M.P.A. ’91, is the U.S. Bureau of Land Management state director for Wyoming. Rugwell served as acting state director since January of 2015.

Chris Cichosz, B.A. ’00, criminal justice and sociology, is the director of security for Winona State University in Minnesota.

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Melissa Lyon, B.A. ’05, criminal justice, J.D. ’08, was recognized as a one of the 2016 top women in energy by the Denver Business Journal.

Kyle Hagerty, B.S. ’04, rangeland ecology, is a certified crop adviser for Hortau, which supports northeast Colorado, eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska.

Jessica (Bratka) Harriman, B.S. ’01, animal science, started her own veterinary practice, Happy Tails, in Johnstown, Ohio.

Clinton Jasperson, B.S. ’07, psychology, is CEO and founder of Thrivent Financial.

Melissa E. McGee, B.A. ’03, elementary education, was awarded the 2016 NBCC Foundation military scholarship.

Margaret McMillan, Ph.D., ’03, geology, was named chair of the Department of Earth Sciences at University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Darcee M. Snider, B.A. ’07, communication/advertising, is a communications strategist with Gambel Communications in New Orleans.

Heidi M. Davis, B.S. ’14, nursing, is a registered nurse at Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie. She specializes in medical/surgical nursing.

Binny Loveless, B.A. ’13, English, received her M.A. in English from the University of South Dakota.

Laura Quist, B.S ’12, kinesiology, earned her doctorate from Regis University in Denver.

Hanna Zavecz, Exp. ’10, family and consumer science, a member of the UW women’s basketball team, was inducted as a member of UW’s 24th Athletics Hall of Fame class.

Weddings

Madison Brown, B.A. ’10, J.D. ’13, political science, and Weston Mankin, B.S. ’09, marketing, 5/21/16.

Stephanie Bachtelle Stacy, Exp. Ph.D. ’18, psychology, and Kenneth Stacy, B.A. ’12, criminal justice, 7/8/16. The wedding was in Estes Park, Colo. They were joined by many UW alumni, including Rachel (Stacy) O’Donnell, B.S. ’05, business administration; Katelynn Bourassa, Exp. Ph.D. ’18, psychology; Mark Robertson, B.A. ’12, art; Patrick Owen, B.A. ’12, art; and Daniel O’Donnell, B.S. ’05, business administration. Photo by Kyle Spradley Photography.
George C. Earley, B.S. ’50, chemistry, 3/2/16. Survivors include his wife, brother and three children.

Alan D. Irwin, B.S. ’71, pharmacy, of Lake Orion, Mich., 04/01/2016. Survivors include his wife, two children, three grandchildren and a sister.

Kendall L. Johnson, B.S. ’55, rangeland management, of Rock Springs, 5/21/2016. Survivors include his wife, three children, fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

George Mathews, B.S.’ 49, geology, 4/27/16. Survivors include his son, daughter and grandchildren.

Beverlee Jean (Thomas) Maude, B.S. ’84, nursing, of Sheridan, 4/5/16. Survivors include her husband, a son, three daughters, nine grandchildren and others.

John Maher, B.A. ’57, education, 6/1/2016. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, son, sisters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.


Mary Ann (Allen) Murphy, Exp. ’58, 2/26/16. Survivors include her husband, children and other family.


Don Randle, B.S. ’90, animal science, B.S. ’02, architectural engineering, of Cheyenne, 2/28/16. Survivors include his wife, children, granddaughter and others.


Charles Rogers, M.Ed. ’65, education administration, 4/25/16. Survivors include his son, daughter, granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.

Albert L. Scharen, B.S. ’52, crop science, 2/9/16. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and other family.


Joseph “Joe” Shickich, B.S. ’49, economics and math, of Casper, 05/20/16.

Richard R. Sinclair, B.A. ’49, psychology, 10/22/2015. Survivors include his wife, daughter and son.

Carolyn K. Sorensen, B.A. ’60, sociology, of Cody, 4/21/16. Survivors include her son and sister.

Helen Rose (Sulenta) Tanner, Exp. ’61, nursing, 3/21/16. Survivors include her husband, children and others.

David Updike, B.S. ’57, geology, 3/3/16. Survivors include his wife, two daughters and others.

Jay Whitney, B.S. ’57, agriculture business, 4/9/16. Survivors include his two brothers, a sister, nieces, nephews and others.

Barbara Ann (Meike) Wolcott, Exp. ’53, of Buffalo, 2/2016. Survivors include her husband, three daughters and others.

Alma L. (Rubeling) Wракестрав, B.S. ’49, home economics, of Torrington, 2/4/16. Survivors include her daughters and others.

Ina Goodman, B.S. ’16, biology, 4/5/16. Ina was an inspiration to many. She had an unconditional love for the outdoors and enjoyed hiking with her mother. She spent her years at the university surrounded by her friends, Chi Omega sorority sisters and her fiancé, Zach. A candlelight vigil was held 4/12/16 to honor Ina on Fraternity Mall right across from her sorority house. Survivors include her mother, father, three brothers, fiancé and others.

George C. Earley, B.S. ’50, chemistry, 3/2/16. Survivors include his wife, brother and three children.

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SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES
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