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UW President Tom Buchanan Retires

by UW Institutional Communications

University of Wyoming President Tom Buchanan will be retiring as president at the end of summer 2013, concluding a lengthy UW career that saw him preside over a period of tremendous progress.

Buchanan, 61, made the announcement during his annual “State of the University” speech in September 2012, where he noted that UW has largely achieved the “long list of things that I believed we needed to accomplish to move to the next level” when he became president in 2005.

The president noted that 125 years ago -- on Sept. 6, 1887 -- UW opened its doors to its first class of students.

“I admit that I stand here a bit in awe when I think of all that has been achieved in those 125 years -- so much in just the past 10 years,” he said. “But I also know that the future is UW’s to build, and from what I’ve seen, I know we have the horsepower to succeed.”

Gov. Matt Mead said Buchanan has left his mark on UW and the state.

“As alumni, my wife Carol and I are proud supporters of the University of Wyoming. We appreciate Dr. Buchanan’s efforts to shape and enhance the university and build on its stature within Wyoming and across the globe,” the governor said. “The public in general continues to benefit from the research and academic excellence at UW, and most importantly, under Tom’s leadership students have continued to receive a high-quality education -- one that prepares them as thinkers and leaders and makes them sought after by employers.”

During his convocation speech, Buchanan highlighted a number of the university’s and the state’s accomplishments during his tenure as provost and then president. He credited many people -- including UW’s leadership team -- for the achievements. Those advancements include:

• Creating the School of Energy Resources.
• Implementing the Hathaway Scholarship Program.
• Working with state officials to create the Wyoming Excellence Chairs program to attract top scholars to UW.
• The unprecedented construction boom, which includes the new Information Technology Building, the new College of Business building, the new Visual Arts Building, the new Energy Innovation Center; and future construction of the Michael B. Enzi STEM laboratory facility, the Gateway Center, and renovation and expansion of Half Acre Gym and the Performing Arts Building. He noted that over the past seven years, more than $670 million has been spent on capital construction.
• Collaboration with community colleges, including a new facility in Casper being built in cooperation with Casper College.
• Setting records for both private fundraising and external research funding.
• The successful university planning process that has driven improvements at UW over the past 15 years.
• Building high-performance computing capacity, developing computational science programs and helping attract the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center.

• Driving economic development through business assistance programs, helping launch spin-out and start-up companies, and boosting new companies through the Wyoming Technology Business Center.

• Improving the competitiveness of intercollegiate athletics programs while meeting NCAA requirements and boosting the academic performance of student-athletes.

• Increasing enrollment by attracting more Wyoming high school graduates as well as students from out of state.

• Increasing the number of students who study abroad and attracting more international students and faculty members to campus.

• Beginning a planning process – in cooperation with the governor’s office, legislators and industry – to strengthen the College of Engineering and Applied Science. “I fully expect the outcome of this effort be an extraordinary investment by Wyoming in new facilities for our engineering faculty and a pipeline of support for years to come,” he said.

Before becoming UW’s 23rd president in 2005, Buchanan served in various capacities at UW during a 35-year career. A native of New York, he attended the State University of New York at Cortland, where he graduated with his undergraduate degree in 1973. He earned his master’s of science degree from UW in 1975 and a Ph.D. from the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1979.

After completing his doctorate, Buchanan returned to Wyoming as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at UW. Over the next 30 years, he rose through the faculty ranks to full professor, and has held various administrative positions including department head, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and provost and vice president for academic affairs. He became president July 1, 2005.

On February 26, 2013, UW Trustees announced Buchanan’s replacement to be Oklahoma State Provost, Robert Sternberg. Sternberg will assume the role as the 24th president of the University of Wyoming on July 1, 2013.
UW Students Pleased with Campus Experience

University of Wyoming students find tuition is a worthwhile investment and view the campus as safe and secure, according to the latest UW Student Opinion Survey (UWSOS).

The UWSOS, one of three student surveys conducted on a biennial basis since 1994, is composed of questions developed largely by Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. The 14-question (some included a number of sub-questions) survey is administered to the entire student body. In 2012, 1,680 UW students responded. The report was compiled by the Data Analysis and Special Projects Team of the UW Enrollment Management Council.

The Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (which includes 89 items) was first administered in 1998, while the American Collegiate Testing Inc. (ACT) survey (includes 65 categories of questions) was first used by UW in 1994. Results of these two surveys provide UW with national samples of public universities. In the 2012 Noel-Levitz survey figures, UW matched or exceeded the national average in 31 of the 89 categories. The university’s mean score equaled or exceeded the national mean score average in 46 of 65 categories on the 2012 ACT survey.

“We were pleased to see that, once again, our UW students are overwhelmingly pleased with the education they are receiving at the university,” says Sara Axelson, UW’s vice president for student affairs.

Highlights from the latest UWSOS, with some results from the other two surveys, include:

- UW students are very satisfied with their university experience. More than 95 percent of students express approval of their UW education.
- Nearly eight of 10 students agreed that there is a commitment to academic excellence at UW, with only 9 percent disagreeing.
- UW students rate campus safety and security significantly higher than their counterparts at other public universities.
- Students rate the quality of classrooms and laboratories above national averages.
- Nearly 75 percent of UW students find tuition to be a “worthwhile” investment while only 11 percent do not.

Axelson says the university is grateful to Ollie Walter, whom she credited with being the driving force behind the biennial survey for more than two decades. Walter, dean of UW’s College of Arts and Sciences, chairs the Data Analysis and Special Projects Team of the Enrollment Management Council.

“Through his efforts, the university has a longitudinal record of trends in student satisfaction and is able to compare our accomplishments against a national sample,” Axelson says. “His leadership in analyzing the results marked the beginning of several changes that have led to enhanced services and opportunities for our students.”

Full results of each survey can be found at http://www.uwyo.edu/as/uw-student-satisfaction-report/
Performing Arts, Half Acre, and White Hall Projects Moving Forward

by Ben Tonak

Progress continues on three major renovation projects on campus. These projects continue the exciting transformation of the UW Campus over the past several years, paving the way for UW to continue to provide an environment of excellence for its students, faculty and staff.

Half Acre Recreation and Wellness Center (Gymnasium) – Asbestos abatement will begin in vacant areas of Half Acre the first week of May. The week of May 13 the day lot east of Half Acre will be fenced off and deconstruction will begin in vacated areas. Infield and outdoor recreation equipment will be relocated at this time. A detailed plan on customer impacts will be made available in mid-April. Half Acre will remain open throughout the duration of construction to be completed in Spring 2015. The renovation will include more exercise machines, more free-weight stations, more space for multi-activity sports, informal gathering and social spaces, among many additional improvements. Look for details at Campus Recreation’s website throughout the process: www.uwyo.edu/rec

Performing Arts Center (Fine Arts) – This week, the contractor will fence off and set its trailers in about one-fourth of the parking lot east of Fine Arts. In the next few days, temporary office space will begin to be set up in trailers along the east end of the Greek Mall. Asbestos abatement will begin March 6, and the entire parking lot east of Fine Arts will be fenced off on March 18. Deconstruction will begin in vacant areas on March 25. The new Performing Arts Center will open in the Fall of 2014. The $35 million renovation and expansion of the existing Fine Arts building—built in 1972—will transform the facility into the Performing Arts Center of the future.

In White Hall, new installations continue on the sixth through 12th floors. Rough-in installations continue in the basement through fifth floor. Window replacement is complete on the sixth through 12th floors, and will continue down each floor. The new east entry block walls are starting this week. Fencing is placed around the area. The west parking lot will be closed until summer 2013. White Hall will re-open to students for the Fall 2013 semester. The renovation will update the 12-story dormitory into a modern residence hall with new carpet, inviting lounge space, computer labs, study rooms, new furnishings and lights, and new fire suppression systems.
UW Honors Program Now Has Home of Its Own

by UW Institutional Communications

When Duncan Harris made a phone call to ask for help unloading furniture for the new University of Wyoming Honors Program home, more than a dozen students showed up within 10 minutes.

“They wanted to get a sneak peek,” says Harris, the program’s director.

The students’ eagerness to assist is understandable. Students in UW’s Honors Program had anticipated the move into the home as they watched construction progress on the facility that is known simply as the “Red House,” a residential home that was built around 1909 for the Rev. Arnold G.H. Bode, who served as the pastor at Laramie’s St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church. When Ivinson Memorial Hospital was constructed across the street in 1916, the house was rented as a dormitory for nurses -- a purpose it served until around 1950.

“I was truly amazed when I first saw the new home,” says Stephanie Strasbaugh, a sophomore psychology major from Fort Collins, Colo. “I had walked by the outside a few times and was already impressed. But when I finally got a chance to go in and use the facilities, it was really something else. I think the home has an old-fashioned kind of charm to it and makes for a great study space.”

“It’s adorable,” says Jenny Voltmer of Torrington, a pre-pharmacy sophomore who minors in theatre. “It really feels like a home -- and such a nice one at that.”

Stan DeVore, a physiology major from Casper, agrees.

“We don’t call it a facility or a building; we call it a home,” he says. “And that’s what it is -- a place where we can feel comfortable in our surroundings as if it were our own home, which brings us together as a family.”

That feeling of community is one of the major advantages offered by the Red House, Harris says. Unlike the program’s previous home in Merica Hall (one of the oldest buildings on campus that houses a bulletin room for agricultural publications and programs such as the UW Facilities Planning office), the Red House provides a homey atmosphere for students and visitors alike.

“We meet with prospective students at least five times a week and, often times, host their parents and other family members,” Harris says. “The living room provides such a nice place for them. The Red House is bolstering our recruiting efforts.”

It offers other advantages, too. For the first time, all of the Honors Program faculty members are in one place, providing the students much easier access to them. There’s a well-equipped classroom, a computer room and even a kitchen with a microwave oven, a large refrigerator and plenty of space to host catered events.

“I love the community that comes out of the program. I live in the Honors House (a residential home for Honors Program students). I couldn’t ask for a better place to live during the semester,” DeVore says. “The benefits of the program are great -- priority registration, the wide variety of classes that can strike anyone as interesting; and how close we can work with the professors, Duncan and Cass (Cassidy Bolin, the program’s office associate).”

Voltmer echoes DeVore’s praise, noting, “Every class offers the opportunity to meet new friends and see old ones. The professors are fantastic and really passionate about what they teach, and the small class sizes give a unique opportunity for in-depth discussion.”
by UW Institutional Communications

University of Wyoming researchers, students and industry will soon have world-class energy research facilities at their disposal when the Energy Innovation Center (EIC) opens.

The $25.4 million state-of-the-art research and collaboration facility will help the School of Energy Resources (SER) and its various centers of excellence -- including the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI) -- realize their full potential in such areas as enhanced oil recovery, carbon management and advanced coal technology.

The EIC, funded through private donations and state matching funds, will include approximately 30,000 square feet of space, highlighted by 12,000 square feet of rapidly reconfigurable laboratory space. Located between 10th and 11th streets on the south side of Lewis Street, the facility will assist UW and the SER in its mission to ensure that Wyoming becomes a global leader in building a secure and sustainable energy future.

Encana Oil and Gas USA provided the largest private donation -- a $5 million commitment in 2007 -- that was matched by the state. Encana gifted another $2 million to UW for three new engineering research laboratories. The Encana Research Laboratory and the Encana Integrated Simulation Data Center in the College of Engineering and Applied Science are already open.

Neilson and Associates, BP America, Shell, Peabody Energy, Arch Coal, Anadarko, Marathon, Ultra Petroleum, Questar and ConocoPhillips are other major EIC and SER funding contributors.

The SER was created by the Wyoming State Legislature in 2006 to enhance the university’s energy-related education, research and outreach. The SER features nine centers of excellence dedicated to the study of enhanced oil recovery, carbon management, advanced coal technology, wind energy and other fields of energy research.

Key features of what is termed the “Technology Enterprise” portion of the EIC building include:

- A 3-D Visualization Research Lab, which will be connected to the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center, located in Cheyenne. The lab will be able to create modeling of the subsurface to help oil and gas companies locate the best spots from which to extract...
minerals. Mark Northam, SER Director, says the visualization center will resemble “a cave” where there are three vertical walls and a floor. Rather than viewing a screen in 3-D, researchers will feel as if they are actually immersed in the image, he says.

- A Distance Collaboration Research Lab will have the capacity to provide real-time research and knowledge exchange with anyone anywhere in the world. This can include sharing a conversation or data in the classroom via a video conference from far away countries such as Australia.

- A state-of-the-art teaching auditorium.

- A Drilling Simulator Teaching Lab will provide UW students simulation experience with drilling rigs. The lab will eventually offer professional certification for drillers, Northam says.

The EIC also will include a number of rapidly reconfigurable research laboratories, meaning the space can be adjusted to fit the type of research conducted. These include:

- An Advanced Reservoir Characterization Lab, which Northam dubbed “the world’s most advanced,” will be located on the third floor. Researchers and students will use the lab to study the physics of fluid flows in unconventional reservoir rocks, Northam says.

- An Enhanced Oil Recovery Research Lab will be located on the second floor. Researchers will be able to take rock from oil reservoirs and conduct research on what makes oil move, Northam says.

- An Advanced Coal Technologies Research Lab, located on the ground floor, will be used primarily to analyze and research coal conversion. Wyoming is the No. 1 producer of coal and the No. 2 producer of natural gas nationally, Northam says.

In addition, the building will include student facilities for meeting, studying, advising and classes; office space for UW faculty and staff; and visiting professional offices for researchers from other universities and industry professionals.

The “hotel of offices” for visitors will include eight offices and another 20 cubicles in common areas. The accommodations are meant to allow visiting scientists from other universities and the private sector “to stay long-term -- from a couple weeks to a couple years -- and work with our faculty,” Northam says.

Northam hopes the EIC will allow UW to become a “core” recruiting school for energy companies when it comes to hiring. A core recruiting school is one where a company returns every year to seek new employees, and it’s an important designation for a school to achieve, he says.

“One of the signs that you’ve arrived within a sector is when one or more major players in a sector designate you as a core recruiting school,” Northam says.

He says Marathon Petroleum recently added UW to its “core” list on a trial basis. The company has been to campus this year to recruit UW students and has offered internships, he says.

He added a number of other energy companies recruit UW students, and not just in the area of petroleum engineering. The energy industry currently hires a number of UW graduates in chemical, civil and mechanical engineering; engineering systems, geology, geophysics, economics and finance.
Wyoming’s efforts to help children succeed in school and careers will receive a major boost with the opening of the University of Wyoming Literacy Research Center and Clinic this year.

During a press conference on December 3rd at the State Capitol in Cheyenne, First Lady Carol Mead was joined by Gov. Matt Mead, university and UW Foundation officials to announce the success of a fundraising campaign for the Literacy Research Center and Clinic (LRCC). It will be located in the UW College of Education Annex Building in Laramie, following renovations totaling $3.8 million. The work will be funded by private donations matched by state appropriations. The campaign continues with an ongoing emphasis on technology advancements and programmatic support for literacy initiatives statewide.

“This is a wonderful example of a public-private partnership that promises to make a significant difference in the lives of Wyoming families,” UW President Tom Buchanan says. “We’re grateful to those who’ve contributed to allow us to move to the next level in literacy education, which has become a focal point of scholarship and expertise in our College of Education.”

For Mrs. Mead, the LRCC represents a major step forward in one of her primary areas of focus -- children’s issues. She has worked with the UW Foundation to raise private support for the campaign, and with the university as a major spokesperson for literacy initiatives.

“I join the university in thanking the generous donors who have helped make the concept of a statewide Literacy Research Center and Clinic a reality,” she says. “I have enjoyed working with UW on this project and am excited about its capacity to reach so many in our state with tools fundamental to our children’s success.” The LRCC will serve as the epicenter of literacy expertise in Wyoming, offering professional development for teachers; literacy education for pre-service teachers and graduate students; research on literacy education; and service as a statewide clinical resource.

“There’s a common understanding in this state that improving literacy levels will help Wyoming students be more successful in any college or career future they might choose. That’s exactly what we’re working to do,” says Kay Persichitte, UW College of Education dean. “We’re humbled by the generosity of the donors, our elected officials, President Buchanan and the UW Foundation. We are looking forward to providing a significant resource for the state of Wyoming.”

The College of Education has received lead gifts for the facility renovation from Mickey and Jeanne Klein, the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation, Thea Stidum, and Don and Betty Walters. The campaign also has raised several endowment gifts, most notably from the John P Ellbogen Foundation, for the ongoing support of the LRCC’s activities.

“First Lady Carol Mead’s involvement with the university and the UW Foundation in raising literacy awareness and her active role in asking private contributors to give generously to support UW’s literacy agenda has been pivotal to our success to date,” says UW Foundation President Ben Blalock. “It is a privilege to work with Carol. So many special donors have generously supported UW’s important literacy initiatives. We look forward to the continuation of our close work with Carol. There is so much more to accomplish.”
UW Geological Museum Reopens

by UW Institutional Communications

After its first makeover in nearly 60 years, the University of Wyoming’s Geological Museum is ready to reopen to the public.

While much of the work done over the past eight months -- modernizing of the mechanical, electrical, lighting and fire protection systems -- won’t be obvious to most visitors, they’ll definitely see improvements in the venerable museum’s layout and presentation.

The museum opened its doors Saturday, Jan. 12, for the first time since closing in May, with resumption of its regular hours -- Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

The Geological Museum project was funded, in part, through proceeds of an endowment of about $570,000 established by retired UW professor Brainerd “Nip” Mears and his wife, Anne, which was doubled to $1.14 million by state matching funds. Their contribution is a tribute to Mears’ mentor, Samuel H. “Doc” Knight, the notable geologist, professor and early curator of the museum. A patio bench will be unveiled in honor of Brainerd and Anne Mears.

The roots of the Geological Museum reach back to 1887, the year UW opened. It started as a small natural history museum that consisted of the personal collection of early faculty member J.D. Conley. Eventually, the collection outgrew its home in the Hall of Language (now Old Main), and most of it found a new one in a wing of the Mechanical Building. When the Hall of Science was completed in 1902, the museum moved there. It stayed there until 1956, when the current structure was built on the east wing of what is now the S.H. Knight Geology Building, named for the man who was largely responsible for the museum’s layout and look.

For years, a visit to the Geological Museum has been a step back into time -- in more ways than one. The interior has been largely unchanged over the past five decades -- even some of the exhibits hadn’t been altered since 1956. The $1 million renovation project has retained the museum’s historic charm while addressing the necessary infrastructure upgrades. Most noticeable are increased space and reorganization of the exhibits.

“It still feels like an old museum, but it’s more expansive, open and polished,” says Mark Clementz, an associate professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

The remodeling is the first phase of a project aimed at making the museum a focal point for student and faculty research, while giving the public an appreciation of Wyoming’s geologic history and mineral resources.

Museum supporters are particularly proud of a new display focusing on the Cretaceous period, which features a new mural that shows what Wyoming looked like in the Late Cretaceous -- along with casts of fossilized skulls of a Tyrannosaurus Rex and a Triceratops. The exhibit, crafted by designer Terry Chase of Chase Studios Inc., represents the type of display museum supporters hope to develop throughout the facility.

Museum supporters emphasize that more private support is needed, particularly for upgraded exhibits in the newly remodeled display spaces.

“We’re excited about the renovations, but it’s just a start toward helping the museum reach its full potential,” says Art Snoke, professor and former head of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, who led a task force charged with reinventing the museum.
Paula Lutz comes to UW from Montana State University, where she was dean of its College of Letters & Science for five years and was a professor of cell biology and neuroscience. She will succeed the retiring B. Oliver Walter, who has led UW’s College of Arts and Sciences since 1989.

Lutz will begin her work at UW in July, leading the college with the largest enrollment of UW’s academic units, with bachelor’s degree programs in 43 disciplines, 42 master’s programs and 11 doctoral programs.

Lutz completed a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) and received a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology at Duke University. She did post-doctoral work at both Duke and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill before joining the faculty at UMR, now the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Lutz was selected from a list of three finalists produced by a 13-member search committee that included Arts and Sciences faculty members, two UW vice presidents and the director of the Wyoming Humanities Council. Chairing the group was Bill Gern, vice president for research and economic development.

“Theyir hard work and attention to detail produced a slate of three superb interviewees,” Allen says. “I’m especially grateful for the committee’s balanced and persuasive assessments of the candidates’ relative strengths.”

GIVING TO COWBOY PARENTS

Cowboy Parents would like to extend a sincere thanks to those who gave of their resources in response to the Cowboy Parents annual fundraising mailer this past academic year. We are gearing up for another successful year and hope you will consider supporting Cowboy Parents with an annual gift! You may give online at www.uwyo.edu/giveonline.
March
8  Mid-semester
18-22  Spring Break
29-31  Easter Break - Classes Excused

April
1-5  Advising Week for Fall 2013
6  Discovery Day #3
8  Registration begins for Fall 2013
20  Last day to withdraw from the university for Spring 2013

May
3  Last day of classes
6-10  Finals Week
10  Residence Halls close - 6:00 pm
11  Spring Commencement
16  Summer Session begins

Find out what’s going on at UW by viewing UW’s central calendar, WyoCal
www.uwyo.edu/uw/calendar