2021-22
YEAR IN REVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Return to Field Courses
Celebrating Yellowstone’s 150th
WORTH Gets a Director
Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share my second “Year in Review” letter as Dean of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources! As I write, spring green-up has begun on the high plains, but with that ever-present potential of a spring snowstorm lingering. The energy of spring graduation, one of my favorite times of the year, is still in the air. Though I am sad to see our amazing students go, I find comfort knowing that they are guided by bold dreams and bolstered by the teachings and experiences our wonderful faculty and staff have given them. Given the challenges of budget cuts and reorganization across campus, our team in the Haub School has worked with diligence and purpose to continue increasing our student enrollment, growing our research impact, and maximizing partnerships across campus, the state, and the region.

We highlight many of the school’s impressive accomplishments on the following pages:

1. We continue to outpace campus-wide increases in student enrollment, doubling our numbers in the last 7 years and growing more than 6% this year alone;
2. We have returned to teaching our signature experiential field courses, with a winter ecology program in the Teton and a Colorado River rafting experience focused on water issues in the West. Next year will reach Patagonia and the Canary Islands;
3. Our new master of science in Environment, Natural Resources, and Society concluded a successful first year and welcomed a new cohort of ten fully funded students;
4. We launched the WORTH (Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality) Initiative in partnership with the College of Business, with our own Dr. Dan McCoy as the first director;
5. We held the first of many Wild and Working Lands Film Festivals. More than 80 films were submitted, and 150 people attended the showing in Laramie.

I hope you agree that the future of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources is extremely bright as we work to support sustainable landscapes and livelihoods in Wyoming, the West and the World.

I remain grateful for your continued support and am pleased to have you as part of our Haub School community!

Be well,

John Koprowski, Dean
Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
NEW HIRES

Dr. Curt Davidson, Assistant Professor, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management

Dr. Davidson will take on the teaching, research, and service required to manage the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management degree program. Davidson has been an Assistant Professor at California State University, Long Beach since 2017, after completing his bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD from the Indiana University, Bloomington School of Health. There, he studied recreation, leisure, and resource management. He has extensive professional experience in outdoor leadership and is the founder and president of a private consulting company that provides research and evaluation, grant writing, and staff training to experiential and alternative education institutes and programs. He will be joining the Haub School in August.

John Paradis, UW Foundation Director of Development

John Paradis has nearly 20 years of experience in higher education and will lead fundraising efforts for the Haub School and Biodiversity Institute. He started his development career with the UW Foundation, where he was on the marketing and strategic planning team. Most recently, Paradis spent eight and a half years at the University of Northern Colorado where he oversaw fundraising efforts for the Kenneth W. Monfort College of Business. He grew up in Laramie and is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in Journalism.

New Research Scientists, Postdoctoral Researchers, and Fellows

- Travis Brammer, Ruckelshaus Institute Conservation Fellow
- Hilary Byerly Flint, Postdoctoral Research Associate
- Grace Carr, Assistant Research Scientist, Outreach and Research Coordinator
- Austin Smith, Assistant Research Scientist

Welcome to the Board

At the Haub School Advisory Board meeting in May, we welcomed Haub school alumnus Joe Evers as the new board chair. Originally from Sheridan and a fourth-generation member of the energy industry, Evers has served as corporate counsel for an international mining company and currently works for Occidental Petroleum Corporation as Senior Land Negotiator. We also welcomed new board members Joe Hiller, Rich Innes, Chip Jenkins, Rebecca Watson, and Polly Weber.

Thanking Amanda Korpitz

Amanda Korpitz will be the Special Events Coordinator for the Office of the President at UW. During her nearly five years with the Haub School, Amanda led some of the school’s best celebrations, including the 25th Anniversary, the inaugural Ruckelshaus Day memorial gathering, and many touching virtual and in-person graduate celebrations. Amanda continued to provide opportunities for Haubies to connect and celebrate while displaying creativity and perseverance through significant pandemic challenges. Her expertise and exemplary contributions to our team will be greatly missed.

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150TH ANNIVERSARY OF YELLOWSTONE SYMPOSIUM

In May, more than 200 speakers, panelists, and esteemed guests converged on the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, WY for a two-day symposium celebrating—and learning from—the last 150 years of Yellowstone National Park. Jointly hosted by the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and the University of Wyoming College of Law, the symposium opened with a tribal blessing and traversed topics from climate change and federal-tribal relations to wildlife protection and visitor experience. The event is complemented by a special issue of the Wyoming Law Review, which dovetails with and memorializes parts of the symposium.

MONGOLIA-MONGOLIA PARTNERSHIP

Mongolia, like Wyoming, is an area of wild and working lands populated by few people, but with a population deeply connected to place and facing challenges related to increasing tourism and energy and mining transition. Since 2021, the Haub School has been collaborating with researchers at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. In spring of 2022, Dean John Koprowski traveled to Mongolia to conduct fieldwork on endangered Gobi bears, build the partnership between the two institutions, and connect with Haub School alumnus Joe Riis, who was on assignment with a BBC film crew documenting the research. In the coming years, this collaboration will provide opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students wanting to conduct challenging field research that involves local communities in finding sustainable conservation solutions.

KNAPP AWARDED UW PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Corrie Knapp, assistant professor in the Haub School, was selected to receive the University of Wyoming’s inaugural Presidential Scholarly Achievement Award for promising early-career faculty. The award comes with $5,000 of discretionary funding for faculty to advance their scholarship. Dr. Knapp works at the confluence of climate change, conservation, and livelihoods and serves as the Chapter Lead for the Northern Great Plains region of the National Climate Assessment. We applaud her outstanding service and look forward to her continued, valuable, contributions.

WORTH INITIATIVE LED BY DAN MCCOY

The Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative—a university-led resource hub for the state’s second largest economic sector and its largest employer—launched March 2nd with a ribbon cutting ceremony. WORTH developed in partnership with the College of Business and has received $3.14 million from Governor Gordon’s Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP), phase I funding. The initiative will take a multi-pronged and interdisciplinary approach to building the state’s outdoor economy, including workforce development, applied research, and service and outreach. Dr. Dan McCoy, coordinator for the Haub School’s degree in outdoor recreation and tourism management, will lead WORTH as interim director. Dr. McCoy also received the Top Prof award from Mortarboard, UW’s oldest honorary society.

WCC’S FIRST ALL-WOMEN CREW

Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) alumna Kate McNicholas will be blazing trail this summer as the leader of WCC’s first all-women crew. McNicholas says that goal is to make natural resource management, which is traditionally male-dominated, more accessible to female-identifying individuals. The crew is scheduled to work in Grand Teton National Park for four of its six hitches, where crew members will dig trails, cut trees, build fences, and conduct other critical land stewardship as needed.
Student Perspective: Return to the Field

After a pandemic-enforced hiatus, the Haub School returned to teaching its signature experiential field courses, kicking off with a three-part winter ecology course in the Tetons that mixed classroom learning with hands-on experience. Ema Kurbos-Cooper, a sophomore undergraduate studying Environmental Systems Science with a concurrent ENR degree, reflects on how it went and what it meant.

I was really nervous about the intense schedule and conditions I was not very used to (all the field experiences were out in the cold, snowy weather). But a few days in, my worry disappeared almost completely; excitement over all the new experiences gave me much more energy than I thought I would have, and our instructors helped us to prepare for the cold conditions. In fact, my favorite part of my time at TSS was playing in the snow — for the sake of science, of course. We meandered through the woods surrounding campus to apply our new winter tracking skills. We dug through the snow to the ground to examine snow layers. We skied in Grand Teton National Park to get a glimpse of Teton Glacier. The amount and quality of field learning experiences was incredible. Everyone got a chance to share their ideas. We were expected to apply ourselves fully, which wasn’t a challenge in such a supportive environment.

Finding groups to work in was easy, as my fellow classmates and our instructors were all very enthusiastic about the experience. Our instructors were especially passionate about the area and opportunities to learn from the land. Participating in the field experiences and learning new skills helped me develop a new level of confidence, which will surely lead me to pursue additional opportunities of this sort.

In July, “What the River Says: Canyonlands Climate and Culture” course will launch, quite literally, on a raft trip down the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park, proceeded by a road trip exploring areas critical to Colorado River history and management. The class delves into water issues in the West through four themes: Origins, Borders, Sustenance, and Pathways. Next year will see the return of international field courses to Patagonia and the Canary Islands.

Student Awards and Scholarships

2022 Haub School Outstanding Undergraduate Award

Emma Dixon, BS Environmental Systems Science, BS Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management, Remote Sensing Certificate, Honors Program

Nicole Morshead, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Sustainability and Spanish, Honors Program

2022 Haub School Outstanding Graduate Award

Travis Brammer, JD/MA Environment & Natural Resources

2021-2025 Tomé Scholars

Jennifer Bautz, BS Environment & Natural Resources and ORTM, Honors Program

Iriz Kurz, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Reclamation & Restoration Ecology and Native American & Indigenous Studies, Honors Program

Benjamin Piña, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, Honors Program

Addison Potts, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Sustainability and Energy Resource Management

Finalist, 2022 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Memorial Outstanding Graduate Award

Emma Dixon, BS Environmental Systems Science, BS Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management, Remote Sensing Certificate, Honors Program

Nicole Morshead, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Sustainability and Spanish, Honors Program
A Youth Vision for 2030: Imagining Wyoming’s Future

In partnership with the Wyoming Humanities Council, Wyoming 2030, the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance, and the UW Creative Writing Program, the Ruckelshaus Institute held a writing and multimedia narrative contest that asked young people in Wyoming to imagine life in 2030 if all of their dreams for the state came true. The stories touch on everything from litter-free highways and carbon capture to community development and inclusivity. Three winners and seven honorable mentions won a cash prize and are published in an online anthology available at wyoming2030.org/youth-voice.

Wild and Working Lands Film Festival

The Ruckelshaus Institute hosted its inaugural Wild and Working Lands Film Festival on May 5th at the Gryphon Theater in Laramie, with more than 150 people in attendance. The festival featured 14 short films highlighting critical natural resource issues including inspiring stories about wetland restoration, conservation of migratory ungulates, indigenous approaches to forest management, wild horse and burro management and personal connections to place. The festival continues online at uwyo.edu/haub/events/film-festival.

Collaboration Program in Natural Resources

The Ruckelshaus Institute’s 10th cohort in the Collaboration Program in Natural Resources (CPNR) graduated in April with a presentation of their practicum projects. Our CPNR 2022 graduates represent various agencies and organizations including US Forest Service, Wyoming Forestry Division, Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, Maryland Council for Dispute Resolution, Wyoming State Engineers Office, and more. CPNR is a 10-month training program for mid- and upper-level professionals focused on collaborative leadership and problem solving; the 2022-23 session will begin in July in Lander, WY.

Growing the ENRS Program

The first cohort of Haub graduate students successfully wrapped up the inaugural year of the Environment, Natural Resources & Society (ENRS) master of science program. Example projects from their capstone course include exploring stakeholder perspectives on recreation and learning monitoring methods for recreation and wildlife on Pilot Hill, a public natural area adjacent to campus. This spring, we accepted ten new graduate students, nearly tripling total enrollment. Thanks to the hard work of faculty securing grants, every student in the incoming cohort will have the first year of their graduate education fully funded.
Building Bridges Symposium

Jointly hosted by the Ruckelshaus Institute and the Indigenous Land Alliance of Wyoming, the Building Bridges Symposium brought together leaders from the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes and representatives from federal and state agencies and conservation organizations in Cody, WY for a day-long symposium on cross-cultural collaboration. The goal was to begin the process of building relationships and improving our shared stewardship of Wyoming’s natural resources. Participants explored approaches for enhanced collaboration between sovereign Tribes and mission-focused state and federal agencies based on the theme of better understanding “people, place, and practices.” Participants also considered issues related to cultural differences in communication, governance, organizational and Tribal capacity, and differing priorities for management and conservation. The symposium ended with a set of next steps to continue the dialogue and make progress on building partnerships.

Renewable Energy Siting Collaborative Recommendations

The Ruckelshaus Institute convened and completed the Wyoming Renewable Energy Siting Collaborative, which brought together local government officials, industry representatives, and conservation organizations to generate proactive policy recommendations around siting future renewable energy projects. Wyoming has ample opportunity to participate in fast-growing renewable energy markets, the group acknowledged, but also wants to preserve its highly valued environmental resources. After meeting nine times between December 2020 and July 2021, the collaborative developed ten recommendations to increase siting efficiency while conserving important natural habitats. The collaborative sought broad agreements in principle, rather than focusing on detailed recommendations, with the shared understanding that any formal regulatory or policy change would only be made via official state processes that include opportunity for public participation.

Digital Storytelling for Public Land Management: Best Practices

Released in March, this report, co-authored by Haub School graduate student Angus McReynolds and Dr. Rachael Budowle, provides a toolkit for land managers interested in using digital storytelling to engage stakeholders in sustainable public lands management. Digital storytelling is a novel and complementary management tool that helps to represent diverse stakeholder values, facilitate relationship-building, and support collaborative decision making. The report emerged from the Pole Mountain Gateways Digital Stories and StoryMap project with the US Forest Service in southeast Wyoming, based on Budowle et al.’s scholarly publication in the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration. The toolkit both explains the role of digital storytelling for public lands management and walks land managers through the process, step-by-step.

Western Confluence Magazine

The latest issue of our natural resource science and management magazine, Western Confluence, explores the intersection of conservation and human prosperity. In it, we ask what projects, policies, markets, and other tools will promote economic, social, and ecological well-being? How can we reshape our relationships with the landscapes where we live, work, and play, for the long-term health of all? Leading up to an end-of-year print compilation, articles are now being released monthly in an e-newsletter that includes relevant news and additional reading. Find all the articles online, and subscribe, at westernconfluence.org.
SELECT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Haub School faculty, staff, and students authored several papers and articles in 2021–22, contributing essential new thought and understanding to inform solutions to natural resource challenges around the West and the world. A select number are listed below.


**OUR GENEROUS DONORS**

**Thank You for Your Support**

Private Giving: May 1, 2021—April 30, 2022

**Major Gifts**

American Bear Foundation
Anonymous
EJK Foundation
Fedelity Charitable Gift Fund
Gillman and Margaret Ordway
Liliane Haub
Kivetz Family Foundation
Muley Fanatic Foundation
Blue Ridge Chapter
Muley Fanatic Foundation,
Upper Green Wyoming Chapter
Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
Thomas and Deborah Spicer
Teton Conservation District
Timberline Hospitalities, LLC
The Tomé Foundation, Inc.,
Ramon E. and Carol Tomé
Richard and Mary Lou Taggart
Laurence Weinberg
Wild Sheep Foundation

**Up to $10,000**

Susan Beersmeyer
Bowhunters of Wyoming, Inc.
Rudolph Eichenberger
Harley Highby
Karen and John Kemmerer
John and Nancy Koprowski
Muley Fanatic Foundation
Dudley Reiser

Story Resor
Brent and Sarita Eastman
Seymour Thieckman Rev. Fam. Trust
Teton County Commissioners
United Way of King County

**Up to $1000**

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Lora Bergert and Christopher Morgan
Boeing Gift Matching Program
Richard and Ann Boelter
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John and Adrienne Mars
Melanie Matthews
Leslie Mattson
Maven Outdoor Equipment Co
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Thomas McCall, Jr. and Kathleen Taimi
Keith and Macy Moore
John Purpoint Morgan
Terry and Marilyn Morgan
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Wendy Ostrin
Todd and Kim Parfitt
Annie Peterson
Marianne Polak
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Dunny and Janet Stanley
David Stiller and Jean Aaro
Mike and Jane Sullivan
Summit Search Solutions
Glen Teschendorf
John and Mary Kay Turner
Amy & Stephen Unfried Trust
Betsy Wagner
Karen Watkins
Rebecca Watson
Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.

Bruce and Elizabeth White
Wind River Honey Co

**Up to $100**

Brian Arines and Alexa Socianu
Scott Beat
Christopher Beltz
Colleen Bourque
Margaret Bourque
Ingrid Buske and William laseneroth
Courtney Carlson
Carly-Ann and Dustin Carrathers
Mary Rose Cassa

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Income and Expenditures:** Fiscal year July 1, 2021—June 31, 2022

**INCOME TOTAL INCOME:** $6,547,891.38

- 65.3%: Full time salary and benefits
- 13.9%: Faculty research encumbrances
- 7.3%: Student GA/research
- 6.9%: Admin/operations
- 4.3%: Part time salary and benefits
- 1.6%: Travel
- 1.5%: Publications
- 0.2%: Equipment

**EXPENSES TOTAL EXPENDITURES:** $4,437,600.07

- 45%: Gift Funds Carried Forward
- 29%: State Budget
- 7%: Wyoming Excellence Chair support
- 7%: Endowment Income
- 6%: State match
- 3%: Scholarship Income
- 3%: Individual contributions
- 1%: Course revenue

**Grant Dollars by Fiscal Year**

In addition to our general income and expenditures, Haub School faculty bring in funding to support research through grants and contracts. In the first half of FY22 our faculty brought in $1.4 million.

**EXPENSES**

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*dollars are only for half of the fiscal year
Donor Spotlight: Carol and Ramon Tomé

Carol and Ramon Tomé, through the Tomé Foundation, recently re-invested in the Tomé Scholars to Fellows Program, one of the University of Wyoming’s premier scholarship opportunities. The program supports diversity among students who are focused on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM), who receive a full-ride scholarship and funding for unique educational experiences like international field courses and community service. After these exemplary scholars graduate, they join a community of trail-blazing Tomé Fellows continuing to make a difference in the world. The Tomé Scholars to Fellows Program is transforming environmental and natural resource education at the University of Wyoming, and forever connecting the Tomé name to superior educational opportunities for the environmental leaders of the future.
After a pandemic-enforced hiatus in international field courses, the Haub school is returning abroad in the upcoming academic year. We believe that hands-on field experiences are an essential component of an education in environment and natural resources. International courses allow students to explore the commonalities between natural resources challenges at home and abroad, as well as the differences. We want every Haub student to have a chance at a field experience, which we support through scholarships and additional funding. If you donate today, your gift will go directly to support students exploring environmental problem-solving in Chilean Patagonia and the Canary Islands in 2022 and 2023.