Dear Friends,

*Vital Signs* is the UW College of Health Sciences Annual Report and I know you will enjoy reading about the tremendous accomplishments from the past year. I have to say that 2016 has been a very demanding year at the University of Wyoming as we address a $41m loss in state funding. This has had an effect on virtually every area of the university. I am very proud of the College of Health Sciences school deans and division directors in that they have been very proactive in addressing the cuts. Even with this loss of funding, the college continues to do well producing high quality graduates, conducting cutting-edge research and providing strong service to the state. The faculty, staff, and students at the college continue to excel. I know that has been your expectation and it remains mine. We are proud of the college’s past and have great expectations for its future. As you can see, this has been another banner year for accomplishments.

This year the Medical Laboratory Science program accepted its first class. That program is based at UW-Casper and builds on the Medical Laboratory Technician Associate Degree from Casper College. There are over 20 students enrolled in the program. We have also started the first class of students in the Master of Science in Health Care Administration through the School of Pharmacy. The RENEW statewide nursing program began this past fall. This program articulated with most of Wyoming’s community colleges to provide a seamless transition for students receiving an associate degree to a bachelor’s degree at UW. The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) has become an ECHO project super-hub and is facilitating the delivery of health care throughout the state, nation, and world. I am very pleased that a long-term goal of mine, a teaching clinic in Laramie, became a reality when we were awarded a $2.1 million New Access Point grant for three years for the Albany Community Health Clinic.

Please read the “Alumni News” starting on page 9. It is an honor to acknowledge the outstanding graduates of our schools and divisions and to learn of their wonderful accomplishments. It is impressive that every year we have such great recipients of these honors. They speak well of the education and sense of service students learn in our programs. These are your colleagues; you may know deserving graduates we may not and we would welcome nominations for these awards.

Please visit the College of Health Sciences
http://www.uwyo.edu/hs/
I hope you enjoy reading this report. As a member of the college, you share in these accomplishments. The tradition of excellence continues and grows with our current students and graduates, something of which I hope you too are proud. A big “Thank You” to all those who provided professional and financial support; they continue to make an important difference in the lives of the students and will become even more important as the state makes substantial decreases in its financial support.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss any of the report contents or any concerns regarding the college.

Best wishes,

Joseph F. Steiner, Pharm.D.
Dean and Professor
NEW PROGRAMS

REVOLUTIONIZING NURSING EDUCATION IN WYOMING

ReNEW has launched! “Revolutionizing Nursing Education in Wyoming” is a statewide bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) curriculum built upon strong partnerships among Wyoming community colleges and UW. In ReNEW, a Wyoming student can earn the BSN degree (or higher), starting at a Wyoming community college and continuing on to UW. Students starting at a community college earn the associate degree in nursing (ADN) at the end of the third year of the four-year curriculum. Following the ADN, these nurses can complete the BSN through UW with didactic courses on-line and practicum experiences in population focused care and leadership in or near students’ home communities.

What does this mean for Wyoming’s employers, students, and communities? Nurses are in high demand, and state and national projections show the demand will remain high and probably increase, given the aging of both the nursing workforce and the US population. The Institute of Medicine, in their widely read and cited Future of Nursing report, recommend that 80% of nurses have a baccalaureate degree or higher by 2020. Nationally, about 51% of nurses have a BSN or higher. In Wyoming, only about 35–40% of nurses have a BSN or higher.

Healthcare facilities increasingly prefer or require nurses to have the BSN. Their stance follows national recommendations and research documenting the positive impact of higher nursing education on patient outcomes.

In addition, student demand for BSN education in Wyoming has risen dramatically. The number of Wyoming ADN nurses from a Wyoming community college enrolled at UW for a BSN has risen from 20 nurses in 2008 to 290 in 2014.

Ultimately, ReNEW benefits Wyoming communities, enabling residents to increase education and enhance health care without having to leave their community. Graduates can continue to contribute to the vitality of Wyoming communities.
PHARMACY LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO TACKLE DIABETES IN WYOMING

Five years ago, in 2012, approximately eight of every 100 Wyoming citizens had type 2 diabetes and/or suffered from hypertension, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Those numbers are probably higher today.

To combat this trend, the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy recently launched its Integrated Pharmacist Program (IPP). The program’s goal is to increase the role and visibility of a cohort of community pharmacists working with to improve chronic disease self-management.

Since July, the IPP has gathered information about prescription use behaviors in those with type 2 diabetes and/or hypertension. Additionally, the study will gather key insights about patient behaviors, motivations, chronic disease self-management education, and health perceptions.

Nguyen says the CDC estimated that, in 2012, eight of every 100 Wyoming residents suffered from diabetes and/or hypertension.

“By now, those numbers are likely higher,” she says.

The IPP is the first formal program offered through the Wyoming Practice-Based Research Network (Wy-PBRN), a collaborative network of health care entities interested in participating in innovation and research aimed at improving health care outcomes throughout Wyoming.

The hope of starting a PBRN is to eventually be able to create the partnerships with individuals and agencies in health care.

Nguyen adds the goal is to get 20 different pharmacies to participate, with the first pilot focusing on Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Greybull, Guernsey, Jackson, Newcastle, Powell, Rawlins, Torrington, and Wheatland.

The program is funded by the CDC and made available from the Wyoming Department of Health Chronic Disease Prevention Program. Pharmacies participating in IPP can be reimbursed for data collection and entry efforts. Any pharmacy in Wyoming is eligible to participate in the program.

The training is self-paced and online. All enrolled pharmacists are supported with live feedback sessions where questions will be answered, program updates provided, and where additional training is available.

“People in Wyoming are very self-reliant, resilient, and live on farms,” Nguyen says. “It makes it hard for them to come to the clinic or follow instructions with their medications. Hopefully, pharmacists will help patients or people with diabetes with things they can do to make changes and improve their health.”

For more information about the IPP or Wy-PBRN, call Dr. Nguyen at (307) 777-7911, extension 253, or email tnguye13@uwyo.edu.
STUDENT NEWS

WIND PARTNERS WITH THE COOPER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

An innovative collaboration proved to be a powerful example of the benefits of bringing learners of all abilities into a single classroom setting. The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND), Wyoming’s UCEDD, piloted Disability Advocacy and Justice through the Disability Studies Minor, a core component of the pre-service education and training at WIND. Disability Advocacy and Justice started in the spring of 2016, bringing together five students from the Cooper Center for Creative Arts in Laramie and five students from the University of Wyoming’s Disability Studies Minor to explore disability rights, services and policies, and to collaboratively identify and research current disability advocacy issues of concern to class member.

The Disability Studies Minor at the University of Wyoming attracts a diverse group of students from programs across the campus, but it is primarily composed of pre-service students from the College of Health Sciences and the College of Education. The Cooper Center for Creative Arts is a Laramie organization, which brings programs in music, theatre, dance, and art to individuals with developmental disabilities. This was the first semester-long course developed collaboratively between the Disability Studies Minor and the Cooper Center. The students from both programs engaged in course readings and discussions of critical issues, including rights restrictions, early advocacy movements, independent living, and guardianships. Additional topics that inspired meaningful and at times emotional conversations included friendships, dating, and bullying. The collaboration concluded with the students coming...
together in small groups to produce advocacy videos as their final course projects where they addressed anti-bullying, the use of respectful language, and challenging low expectations of people with developmental disabilities.

“We envisioned a university environment where more community members were welcomed and involved,” said Michelle Jarman, associate professor of disability studies at the University of Wyoming and co-instructor. “Disability Advocacy and Justice was the result of many conversations addressing how we could develop stronger partnerships between service providers, community members, and the university. We recognized that we had the opportunity to build valuable peer relationships with Cooper Center students and disability studies students in an academic setting.”

Kayc DeMaranville, Director of the Cooper Center for Creative Arts and co-instructor, noted, “The idea that students with very diverse learning styles could work together in such a successful way was inspiring.” Added DeMaranville, “I found myself enthralled with the mix of ideas and philosophies coupled with personal experiences for all students. There has been no better philosophy-building, professional development opportunity for me in my career.”

Cooper Center student, Eleanor, agreed. “I liked being on campus and being in class. The work was hard, but I felt successful and would love the opportunity to take more classes.”

In addition to the collaborative projects in Disability Advocacy and Justice, students from the Cooper Center were invited to participate in other related campus lectures and symposia. The University of Wyoming’s annual Shepard Symposium on Social Justice is an internationally recognized venue for campus conversations regarding social justice issues. Michelle Jarman was a co-chair for the 2016 Shepard Symposium. “It was wonderful to have students from the Cooper Center on campus for the Shepard Symposium. Seeing them come into the Symposium—along with the other students from the minor—felt like a moment at the heart of disability studies. We talk all the time about making campus more accessible, but having the Cooper Center students attend this event was a great example of that,” observed Jarman.

While the course began with many unknowns regarding expectations and outcomes, by the end of the semester it was evident that Disability Advocacy and Justice was a deeply transformative experience for all involved. The collaborative environment created an opportunity for the Disability Studies Minor students to learn from the people who are in the disability community and whose voices are not always heard in a typical classroom setting. Ashley Kersey, a disability studies student, summarized, “The discussions we had in class truly helped me grow as an advocate by opening my eyes to others’ experiences, want, and needs for their lives as members of society.”

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE COLLABORATION

Division of Kinesiology and Health master’s student Hillary Yoder recently traveled to Guatemala to assist with a research project at a sugarcane mill alongside researchers from the University of Colorado, Denver. Sugarcane workers in Central America are developing Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) of an unknown origin and the project is investigating occupational and non-occupational risk factors. Cutting sugarcane is physically demanding and chronic dehydration is believed to be the main cause of the CKD. Upon her return, Yoder was excited about the opportunity and said, “No day of data collection in the sugarcane field is normal; something unplanned always happens. We typically would arrive at the mill around 5 a.m. to collect pre-shift data and then return later in the day at 3:30 p.m. to collect post-shift data. The days are long and tiring, but we had the opportunity to see every sunrise and sunset.”

This project is the first collaboration between UW faculty member Evan Johnson, Ph.D., who is a part of the Human Integrated Physiology Laboratory and Dr. Lee Newman, from the Colorado School of Public Health at UC Denver. Johnson says, “I am thrilled that Dr. Newman has invited us on board to assist with the data collection for this project. Our lab group’s expertise related to hydration measurements can help to supplement
their research team’s experience working with large numbers of people in foreign countries, which will result in efficient and accurate data collection. This is an exciting opportunity for Hillary Yoder and our university because this type of research can result in real changes in human health.” Yoder participated in the first of three data-collection periods between January 23 and February 16. The next two collections will occur during the middle and end of the sugar cane cutting season. Data from this investigation will be used to evaluate who among this group is at highest risk for development of CKD and if there are possible interventions than can reduce risk for all workers.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Twice a year, pharmacy students with the Phi Delta Chi fraternity help raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. A favorite bake sale item are the homemade breakfast burritos, served hot and steaming with fresh salsa.

Phi Delta Chi is the national professional pharmaceutical fraternity for pharmacy students whose objectives are to promote the science and profession of pharmacy as well as its allied interests and to foster a fraternal spirit among its members, who strive to demonstrate the qualities of character and leadership.
“Without his help and guidance, I would never have achieved the successes which I have accomplished during my time after the University of Wyoming.”

—Gideon Ariel (1966)
and after retirement his contributions and that of his wife, Ginna, continued through volunteer services. John has a 30-year volunteer history with the Albany County Red Cross, filling multiple executive positions from 1966–95 and held similar positions with support agencies for Albany County children with disabilities. Volunteering is a team effort for John and Ginna. They served as a Red Cross Disaster Team to North Carolina during the 2004 hurricane season, the worst storm season since 1964. As responders with their local volunteer fire department where they both achieved the rank of captain and earned certification as Fire Fighter I and EMT Basic, they have responded to hundreds of emergencies. Of his time at UW, Johns says, “What I did at the university was never work. Work is what you do when you would rather be doing something else. I saw the changes in lives because of what I was teaching.”

John and Ginna made an extraordinary commitment to the Division of Kinesiology and Health. Through gifting real estate now and including a gift of real estate in their estate plans, John and Ginna will create a fund that will carry on their legacy of service in perpetuity. Once established, the John Walker Scholarship in Physical Education Teaching in Kinesiology and Health Promotion will award scholarships to students in their freshman, sophomore, or junior year enrolled in Physical Education Teaching or Kinesiology and Health Promotion at the University of Wyoming.
ALUMNI OF THE YEAR FOR 2016

During the 2016 Homecoming season at the University of Wyoming, the College of Health Sciences honored Distinguished Alumni from each of its divisions and schools. These individuals were chosen for the contributions they made to their professions and for their continued efforts at advancing education in the health career fields. Honored were Mary T. Schaub from the Division of Communication Disorders, Courtney V. Fletcher from the School of Pharmacy, John Walker from the Division of Kinesiology and Health, Todd Lennon from the Division of Social Work, Leissa A. Roberts from the Fay W. Whiney School of Nursing, and Blaine B. Ruby from the WWAMI Medical Education Program. We deeply appreciate all of our alumni and thank them for their support of the health sciences.

INTERESTED IN HOW YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING?

Please contact Angela Ver Ploeg, Major Gift Officer—College of Health Sciences, at (307) 766-1939 or angela.verploeg@uwyo.edu.
A NEW CLINIC TO BENEFIT THE LARAMIE COMMUNITY

Albany Community Health Clinic (ACHC), a comprehensive primary care medical clinic intended to serve all persons, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, opened April 5, 2017. A sliding fee scale is available with proof of income of less than or equal to 200% of the federal poverty level. The clinic will be located at 920 E. Sheridan Street, Suite A in Laramie, Wyoming. The clinic will be open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. on Tuesdays.

The ACHC has hired a physician, Katy Hartman M.D., who will serve as medical director of the clinic and see patients. Dr. Hartman attended Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Hartman has lived in Laramie, Wyoming since 2009 with her husband and three children. Dr. Hartman served as a university physician at the University of Wyoming Student Health Service from 2009–17.

The ACHC has hired a clinic manager, Richelle Keinath, M.A. Keinath has a bachelor’s degree in business administration in accounting from Bowling Green University and a Master of Arts from the University of Wyoming in American studies where she wrote her thesis on marginalized individuals in the health care system. She has been a career nonprofit administrator and development director raising over a million dollars a year at the Eppson Center for Seniors and gifts of $25,000 and larger at the Wyoming Women’s Foundation where she was the executive director for six years. Most recently Keinath worked as the executive director of the Laramie Reproductive Health Clinic, the Title X Clinic in Laramie. She has lived in Laramie for 21 years, most of that with her husband and their two dogs.

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a New Access Point grant to the Educational Health Center of Wyoming, in conjunction with the University of Wyoming. Over the course of the grant’s renewable three-year period, the ECHW will receive more than $2.1 million to cover operational expenses such as provider and staff salaries and medical equipment. In addition, the clinic will receive enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING PART OF THE FABRIC OF THE COLLEGE

Learning with, from, and about other professions to promote effective interprofessional collaboration is a regular opportunity for CHS students, and it is expanding every year. All efforts would not be possible without the wonderful support of Dean Joseph Steiner and his staff. In October we held our 3rd Annual CHS Distinguished Alumni Interprofessional Panel and heard inspiring stories from our honored alumni. We are now collaborating regularly with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School.
Chapter at UW to provide a once-a-semester evening IPE. In the fall, we discussed healthcare reform with panelists Franz Fuchs (Wyoming State Department of Health) and Jan Cartwright (Wyoming Primary Care Association) and Larry Staubach, assistant professor of pharmacy, who served as moderator. This spring, we discussed medical error disclosure and apologies with guests from the Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County. Thank you to Dr. Augusto Jamias (general surgeon), Stephanie Mlinar (administrative nurse director), Amanda Molski (director of quality) and Clayton Radakovich (director of accreditation) who shared their expertise and experience in an interactive case-based discussion.

Several required “classroom-based” IPE activities continue each academic year, providing opportunities for students to interact around patient cases and/or common experiences. Activities are embedded across existing courses and multiple IPE faculty teams are involved. Currently, seven CHS degree programs and two non-CHS degree programs participate. Professional roles, responsibilities, and interprofessional values and ethics are examined within the topics of Leadership, Cultural Competency, Prescription Opioid Abuse, Individualized Education Programs (K–12), and Older Adult Care. New initiatives include pilot testing an Electronic Health Record, expanding student participation in Project ECHO sessions, and having students reflect together on their “real world” practice experiences prior to graduation.

Lastly, the college continues to participate in the Honduran Brigade in Agua Salada, Honduras, where they work as an interprofessional team directed by Linda Johnson, nurse practitioner, serving 320 patients in less than five days.

BRINGING WYOMING RESIDENTS AND UW RESEARCHERS TOGETHER

The Wyoming Parkinson’s Project (WPP) seeks to improve the lives of those with Parkinson’s disease (PD) and those connected to the PD community in Wyoming. PD is a neurodegenerative disease that impacts walking, handling objects, speaking, and eating. The WPP started in 2013, when Dr. Christopher Herron, a person with Parkinson’s disease, and his wife, Sandra Sundin, wrote a successful grant on behalf of the Cheyenne Parkinson’s Disease Support Group. They then reached out to now UW Emeritus Professor Rex Gantenbein, Ph.D., to find UW research partners. Through three tiers of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Initiative (PCORI) Pipeline to Proposal funding, the WPP has brought together PD
stakeholders (persons with Parkinson’s, their caregivers and family, their healthcare professionals, and researchers). Drs. Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker and Erin Bush in communication disorders, Dr. Reshmi Singh in pharmacy, Dr. Catherine Carrico in the Wyoming Center on Aging, Ryan Rausch, MOT, OTR/L, in the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR), Dr. Annalisa Piccorelli in statistics, Dr. Judith Powers, and Beth Young Jones, WPP project coordinator, have added their expertise. More than ten students in Communication Disorders have helped with the WPP, thus bringing community and UW members to work together to conduct research to improve the lives of Wyoming residents.

The WPP is seeking research funding to examine the feasibility of providing coordinated allied health care through telehealth technology in Wyoming to reduce health disparities in this rural population. If funded, the first coordinated allied health care will include exercise, speech intervention, and pharmacy consultation.

If you would like to get involved, go to www.uwyo.edu/wycoa/products_research_services/wy_parkinson_project.html or email wyomingparkinsonproject@gmail.com.

HEALTHY U: CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT IN WYOMING

Approximately 92% of older adults in the United States have at least one chronic health condition. In Wyoming, where healthcare access can be an issue, treating chronic health conditions can be particularly difficult. This is the problem that Healthy U seeks to address.

Healthy U Master Trainer Dave Schwaiger congratulates new leader Kate Ferguson for completing her training.
Healthy U is the Wyoming Center on Aging (WyCOA) implementation of Stanford University’s renowned, evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP). Once a week for six weeks, Healthy U participants learn to master a whole “toolbox” of strategies they can use to better manage their chronic health conditions and deal with difficult situations. These strategies include action planning, decision-making, understanding difficult emotions, healthy eating, exercising, communicating effectively, and many more. Using a mutually supportive, highly participative, peer-led format, participants work together to form productive habits.

WyCOA first introduced Healthy U to Wyoming in Jackson and Sheridan in January 2016. Since then, the program has grown. There are now 20 facilitators across the state who have expanded the program’s reach to include Laramie, Cheyenne, Casper, Buffalo, Basin, Sundance, and the Wind River Reservation. Healthy U reached 71 participants in 2016 and is expected to reach well over 100 in 2017. Participants thus far have reported a very high satisfaction with the workshop, with over 90% reporting having made lifestyle changes following completion.

2016 CHS SPRING COMMENCEMENT

The UW College of Health Sciences 2016 Spring Commencement was held on Saturday, May 14, in the Arena Auditorium. The college welcomed over 300 graduates as new alumni, and along with their families and guests, all were invited to enjoy a picnic lunch after the program. Invited keynote speaker Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, internationally known brain specialist, told graduates, “Today is new beginning for each of you. Today the door opens, the sun rises, the flowers bloom. Today is filled with the excitement of all that is to come; it is filled with the responsibility to know that you are the driver, the one in control, the one in whose hands yours and our destiny lies.”

Dean Joseph Steiner, who presided over the program, closed by asking everyone to stand and join in singing Ragtime Cowboy Joe. A hearty congratulations to all 2016 graduates, Go Pokes!
WWAMI SPACE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

Since 1997, Wyoming has successfully partnered with the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) to provide medical education to qualified Wyoming residents and address the severe physician shortage in Wyoming. Other participating WWAMI states are Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.

The WWAMI curriculum was updated in fall 2015 to align with national standards for medical education brought about by shifts in the healthcare landscape. The new curriculum is characterized by integrated curricula and active earning modalities as well as increased clinical skills instruction during the first 18 months (Foundations Phase). As part of the new curriculum, WWAMI students are staying in their home state for the Foundations Phase of their medical education instead of completing the second year of their education at UWSOM in Seattle.

Because medical students are now expected to be educated in their home state for the first 18 months, there is an overlap when both first and second year students will be in Laramie. Current space utilized by the WWAMI program cannot accommodate both first and second year medical students.

After performing a gap analysis and identifying space efficiencies, fiscal considerations, and curricular needs, the Wyoming WWAMI program, with President Nichols’s and Provost Miller’s support, submitted a space proposal to the Board of Trustees that was approved in February.

WWAMI will remain largely on the fourth floor of the College of Health Sciences. The anatomy lab will be relocated and expanded into vacated space in the adjacent Physical Sciences Building. The space currently utilized for the anatomy lab will be renovated and repurposed as an active learning classroom. The WWAMI space committee is in the process of interviewing architectural design firms. Work is expected to begin next month with construction of the new anatomy lab scheduled for completion June 2018. Students entering medical school in fall 2018 will be the first cohort of WWAMI students to remain in Laramie for all of the Foundations Phase. Stay tuned for exciting updates on the WWAMI space renovations.

AMSW2 TAKES A STAND AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Accolades and congratulations to our social work students (Associated Masters of Social Work students of Wyoming—AMSW2; student group;
officers and members in particular; and ASSW for organizing yet another exceptionally successful One Billion Rising campaign to raise awareness about gender-based violence and sexual assault and rise in solidarity on the UW campus in Laramie on February 17, 2017. One Billion Rising is an international event to end violence against women and generate consciousness about the issue and take action.

The event had a great turn out—the largest so far. Officers and volunteers were busy all day handing out informational pamphlets and brochures with important information about various local and campus resources and services for survivors of violence and sexual assault to students on campus, as well as offering free coffee.

A booth also offered free henna tattoos that attracted many students and this provided another opportunity to talk about the significance of the campaign. The signature event of the day was a ‘freeze mob’ which served as a statement/symbol to stop violence and was a huge success with an attendance of about 40 or more student and faculty volunteers, the biggest attendance so far!

In the evening, there was a screening of “The Hunting Ground” documentary, which was also well attended by numerous social work students and students on campus. The screening was followed by an amazing discussion led by an esteemed panel of faculty members from social work and psychology and representatives from Safe Project in Laramie. UW President Laurie Nichols was also in attendance and talked about her New Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Initiative. An earnest thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible!

CHS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In December of 2016, the College of Health Sciences Research Committee met for a preliminary discussion about new ways to promote college
research. Qin “Arthur” Zhu, chair of the committee, set forth the goals of this committee: (1) to build interdisciplinary research programs that bridge across our nine academic units and (2) to develop areas of research excellence in basic and applied biomedical research, as well as in rural health. In light of these goals, the research committee took a charge on two new tasks: revamping the research website and launching monthly research seminars.

Among the many research initiatives put in place by the committee is a website section dedicated to providing research resources for College of Health Sciences faculty and students. Individuals can explore different areas of research by searching featured pages, or acting as a volunteer participants. In addition, faculty and students are invited to gather each month to attend the CHS Research Seminars, which gives opportunities for researchers to publicize their research findings, receive feedback from peers, and exchange research ideas.

A culmination of research from the academic year is presented at the College of Health Sciences annual Grand Round Research Day. This event provides opportunity for faculty and students to present research projects, posters, and to earn recognition from their peers. This one-day event also features invited presenters with health-related topics of national and international research interests. This year’s Grand Rounds took place April 14, in the UW Student Union, and the theme was Autism Research with keynote speakers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and JFK partners at the School of Medicine, University of Colorado.
Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, M.D., is a developmental pediatrician, medical officer, and the Associate Director for Children with Special Health Care Needs for the Division of Congenital and Developmental Disorders in CDC’s National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Yeargin-Allsopp joined the CDC in 1981 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer and completed a preventive medicine residency in 1984.

Eric Moody, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of psychiatry. He received his doctorate in social psychology and developmental cognitive neuroscience from the University of Denver in 2007. The focus of his research there was on shared interpersonal emotions and psychophysiology. Midway through his training, he was exposed to autism and became interested in how the basic psychological mechanisms he was studying are related to the autism phenotype.

The College of Health Sciences would like to thank the CHS Research Committee, faculty, staff, and students for all of their hard work in the planning and presentation of this year’s Grand Rounds Research Day. For a complete listing of award recipients, visit www.uwyo.edu/hs/chs-research/grand-rounds.html.
GRANT FUNDING

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

Petersen, D. B. (investigator). Development of the Dual Language Narrative Curriculum. IES; CFDA 84.305A: Early Programs and Policies; Goal 2: Development and Innovation, Sub-award $50,000.

WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES (WIND)

Act Early Ambassador. Canyon Hardesty (PI). Grant from Association of University Centers on Disability to help parents, health care professionals, and child care providers learn about developmental milestones and their role in the early identification of autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities, 2014–2018. $8,000.

Friendships and Dating; Sexual and Reproductive Health Training for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Canyon Hardesty (PI). Contract from Wyoming Department of Health, Maternal and Family Health, a preventative program that teaches individuals with intellectual and related developmental disabilities how to develop and maintain healthy relationships, 2016–2017. $219,989.

iCan Connect, Wyoming Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program. Sandra Root-Elledge (PI). Grant (6th year) from Federal Communications Commission to provide communication devices to individuals who are deaf-blind, 2016–2017. $67,000.


Leadership in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. Canyon Hardesty (PI and Faculty Coordinator). Contract (14th year) from the University of Utah that provides leadership and skill building opportunities for Wyoming graduate-level pre-professionals and professionals from a variety of health related disciplines to increase their knowledge and skills in providing services and supports to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.


University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Sandra Root-Elledge (PI). Grant (22nd year) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities infrastructure to deliver pre-professional and continuing education, community training and services, to conduct research and evaluation, and to disseminate information, 2016–2017. $547,000.


Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources. Sandra Root-Elledge (PI). Grant (12th year) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living to operate State Assistive Technology Act Program that provides assistive technology information, access and services to individuals with disabilities. 2015–2017. $714,000.

Wyoming Clearinghouse for Accessible Educational Materials. Canyon Hardesty (PI). Annual (11th year) contract from the Wyoming Department of Education to provide Wyoming students who have vision and print disabilities with access to accessible educational materials, 2017. $97,900.

Wyoming Consortium for Veterans Activities. Canyon Hardesty (PI). Grant from Veterans Services Administration to provide recreational and competitive sports opportunities for veterans and members of the U.S. military, 2016–2017. $200,735.

Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center. Sandra Root-Elledge and Eric Moody (co-PIs). Grant (7th year) to provide information, training and support for families that have a child with a special health care need, 2017. $94,800.


Mission Redefined Wyoming (MRWy) is a community collaborative of partners across Wyoming dedicated to increasing the opportunities and access for disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces to participate in adaptive sports programming in Wyoming. Funded by a grant from the Veterans Administration (VA), in its first six months the project has served over 75 veterans with disabilities across Albany, Teton, and Natrona counties. MRWy continues to seek partnerships and collaborations with programs serving veterans, including local gyms and adaptive sports entities, to increase disabled veteran and military member involvement in the unique opportunities Wyoming has to offer.
With their gifts, donors to the College of Health Sciences become integral parts of the college's many achievements.

**FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE ($100 TO $499)**

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