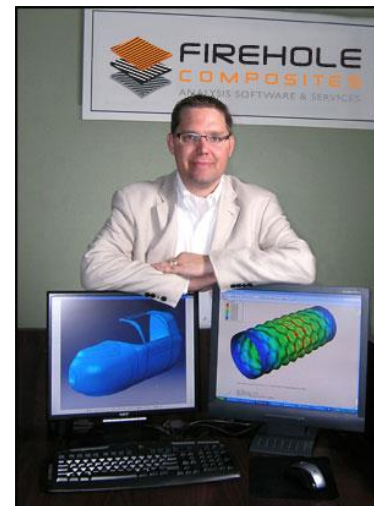**UW MBA Executive Leadership Speaker Series – Jerad Stack & Jason Gies**

A strong emphasis throughout the MBA program at the University of Wyoming is placed on providing students with real-world experience. Throughout the year, the program hosts a Friday Leadership Speaker Series comprised of experienced business professionals and executives.

Steve Farkas, Director of the MBA program commented, "I encourage our guest speakers to share as much real-world experience with our students as possible. Speakers will share a variety of topics with students from industry trends, strategic challenges, management styles, career management, and networking."

Recently the MBA students met with Jerad Stack and Jason Gies, both representing Firehole Composites.

As one of the original founders of the company, Jerad Stack contributed to the original technology development that would become Firehole's product core. As CEO of Firehole Composites, Jerad Stack now manages the company, formulates and executes long-term strategies, and sets the tone for the company's values, ethics and culture. Stack works globally to develop strategic partnerships that further the mission of Firehole Composites.

Jason Gies is Firehole Technology's Composites' Vice President of Business Development. Gies is responsible for developing and maintaining technical sales relationships for commercial software, engineering consulting and software services. In addition Gies routinely interacts with mechanical and aerospace engineers, designers, analysts, managers, and executives.

Throughout their presentation, both Stack and Gies stressed personal development in the work place and the importance of a good employee fit for corporate culture. They also shared their belief that companies need to be market driven and visit customers to find out what new products to build in order to be successful.

Cody Hoffman shared, "Firehole Technology's story was truly inspiring as it showed how a small company in Laramie developed into a huge success."