

February | 2021

## SER LEADS WEBINAR DISCUSSING EXECUTIVE ORDERS AFFECTING WYOMING ENERGY DEVELOPMENT



The University of Wyoming School Energy Resources (SER) Center for Energy Regulation & Policy Analysis (CERPA) hosted a webinar roundtable discussion with legal and economic experts in the state to examine the recent executive orders released from the White House suspending energy leases on federal lands.



SER Professor Kris Koski, Eric Waeckerlin from the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, and SER Professor Tim Considine from the UW College of Business were featured on the panel. A special introduction was offered by SER Executive Director, Holly Krutka, and the panel was moderated by CERPA Director, Kipp Coddington.



The webinar attracted a large live audience and a recording has been posted on the CERPA website.

[View Presentation Here >>>](#)

## DISCUSSION GROUP FOR FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

**Professor Dario Grana** is planning to start a discussion group for first generation students in Geology, Geophysics and Energy Resources.

In an effort to combat feelings of isolation for new students, the discussion group is intended to provide a safe environment where students can ask questions about college, grad school, or future career or simply chat with other students about college and life experiences on campus.

Additionally, it will allow them to navigate information that is often taken for granted -- such getting a book at the library, applying for scholarships, or even learning what a PhD even is!

If anyone is interested in joining -- or knows a student who would benefit, please email: [dgrana@uwyo.edu](mailto:dgrana@uwyo.edu)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Academic Program

- The Academic Program is currently seeking to hire a new Academic Manager to succeed Pam upon her retirement. The application period will close on Feb. 19. [See Job Posting Here](#)

### Research Centers of Excellence

- The *Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis (CERPA)* has contracted with Niall Mac Dowell of London to aid in policy analysis research. Mac Dowell is a Professor in Energy Systems Engineering at Imperial College London.



- *CERPA* released a new working paper in its series, "Adapting to Coal-Plant Closures: A Framework for Understanding State Resistance to the Energy Transition." [See Working Papers](#)
- *CERPA* hosted a webinar examining the recent executive orders from the Biden Administration and how they could affect Wyoming.\*\*\*
- As part of its pitch to the USAF for the Reimagining Energy Challenge, *CERPA* was invited to participate on a panel discussion during the main event showcase.
- *The Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR)* hired Dr. Ying Yu as its newest research scientist. Full profile of Dr. Yu is forthcoming.



\*\*\* more details in features

To submit news and updates email: [Christine.reed@uwyo.edu](mailto:Christine.reed@uwyo.edu)



School of Energy Resources

## CHARACTERIZING THE SUBSURFACE: THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROJECTS



The School of Energy Resources is engaged in many innovative energy solutions for the state of Wyoming. While the projects themselves are large-scale with the potential to be groundbreaking for the state and the economy, it is important to recognize the researchers that are actually on the ground doing the detailed and demanding work.

Two such researchers are scientists in the **School of Energy Resources Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR)**, **Davin Bagdonas** and **Erin Phillips**. With backgrounds in geochemistry and subsurface characterization, both Bagdonas and Phillips have been integral parts of multiple, high-profile research projects housed in SER.

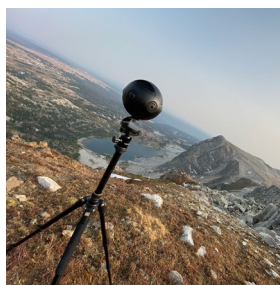
CEGR engages in a wide variety of projects that stem from carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS), unconventional oil & gas recovery, and critical minerals (CM) and rare earth elements (REE). Researchers in the center are highly collaborative with major overlap on projects, using their strengths to complement each other's work.

Phillips and Bagdonas have most recently emerged as leaders on rare earth element and critical mineral ventures for SER. Their backgrounds have been instrumental in their success and transition to REE-CM characterization.

[Continue Reading >>>](#)

## 3D VIZ CENTER COLLABORATES WITH THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The 3D Viz Center is excited to embark on a research project with Dr. Wilhaus of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing. The successful proposal to the McMurry Foundation is funding a project entitled "Exploring the Impact of Aromatherapy and Three-Dimensional Guided Visualization on Anxiety." The 3D Viz Center will utilize 360-degree data capture and virtual reality technologies to support Dr. Wilhaus' research.



## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

### Research Centers of Excellence Cont.

- *CEGR* Scientists Davin Bagdonas and Erin Phillips were featured researchers for their work on Rare Earth Elements.\*\*\*
- Work in the *Center for Air Quality (CAQ)* was prominently mentioned in a news segment from PBS Newshour. The segment mentions an Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) project mapping methane emissions across the Permian Basin. Researchers from UW deploy a vehicle-based, downwind approach to quantify site-level methane emissions from oil and gas sites.

[Watch the Segment Here](#)

### Faculty

- Professor Dario Grana started an initiative to help first generation students in Geology, Geophysics and Energy Resources connect. \*\*\*
- Professor Dario Grana presented a lecture on Geophysical Monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration in Deep Saline Aquifers as part of the Wyoming Geophysical Society Lecture Series.

### General Announcements

- It is employee evaluation season! Do not forget to complete the evaluation for yourself or your employees where applicable.
- Dr. Holly Krutka along with David Emery and alumni of SER were featured speakers in an Energy Town Hall webinar event hosted by the UW Alumni Association. The event drew a large crowd and was a great success. Videos will be uploaded to the website once they are made available.

### Outreach

- Due to some security issues, we have created a new Youtube Channel for the school of Energy Resources -- UW SER. You can [subscribe to the new channel here](#). The old channel will not be deleted, so any existing content will remain linked.

\*\*\* more details in features



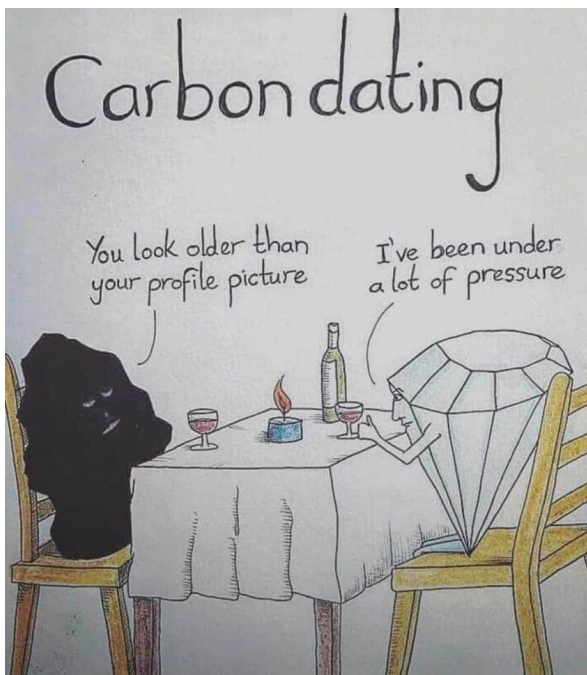
## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Initial administration of COVID-19 vaccine to individuals in high-risk job categories at UW has taken place. UW is now working with Albany County Public Health and Iverson Memorial Hospital (IMH) to administer vaccines to county residents who are in categories 1-3 of the Phase 1b priority schedule in the [Wyoming Department of Health's distribution guidelines](#).

Right now, people who are 75 years of age or older are receiving the vaccine; Phase 1b also includes people 65 and older.

Members of the UW community are encouraged to sign up for [My Health Connection](#), IMH's patient portal, to be notified when a vaccine is available. Those who have My Health Connection accounts will automatically receive updates regarding the vaccine. Those who don't have My Health Connection accounts can create them by visiting IMH's website.

## ENERGY JOKE *Happy Valentine's Day!!!*



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Request for Information (RFI)** on CO<sub>2</sub> Mineralization to Enhance the Extraction of Energy-Relevant and Commodity Minerals. The purpose of this RFI is to solicit input for a potential future ARPA-E research program focused on novel, potentially transformative technical opportunities and approaches to liberate minerals relevant to our energy infrastructure while concurrently mineralizing carbon dioxide. [View RFI >>>](#)

**Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)** on Advanced Processing of Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals for Industrial and Manufacturing Applications. This FOA begins to bridge the gap between DOE's current program which is focused on the separation and recovery of REE and CM from coal-based resources, and the integration of these materials into manufactured industrial, consumer and/or defense products. [View FOA >>>](#)

This **Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)** is specifically focused on developing lower cost, scalable technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture from air. [View FOA >>>](#)

This **FOA** will develop technologies to reinvigorate the use of the United States' vast fossil-fuel resources and power infrastructure for net-zero carbon energy and commodity production through the production, transport, storage, and utilization of fossil-based hydrogen with zero or negative carbon emissions. [View FOA >>>](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Administrative Holiday: President's Day**  
February 15, 2021
- **Next ERC Division Reports Due**  
March 2, 2021
- **Next ERC Meeting**  
March 18-19, 2021 *\*Subject to Change*
- **Next All Staff Meeting**  
March 23, 2021 | 9:00 am - 10:00 am  
*Mark your Calendars!*
- **Spring Break - No Classes**  
March 31 - April 4, 2021