



November | 2020

FACULTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SER Faculty engagement is needed for upcoming virtual recruitment events. Are you interested in sharing your knowledge and experience with prospective students?

Contact college relations rep, [Jen Paintin](#), to see how you can assist. A faculty panel will be hosted through Zoom on **Monday, December 7th at 7:00pm**. The Energy Winter Institute (EWI) will be hosted virtually on **Saturday, January 9th, 2021 from 9:00am - 2:00pm** to engage with current high school seniors.

LABOR DAY MAKE UP DAYS

As a reminder, the University authorized two additional personal days for all UW employees, to be used before the end of the calendar year. Employees will need to follow the standard processes for requesting time off, in collaboration with and approval by supervisors. The extra personal days will be tracked in this manner:

-- For salaried exempt employees, managers will track the days manually -- they will not be added to the HCM system, and they will be used in whole-day increments.

-- For salaried non-exempt employees, 16 hours will be added to the Comp Bank and are to be used with normal Comp Bank rules established in the units. The hours will be prorated for part-time workers, if applicable.

-- For hourly non-benefited employees, the payroll office will set up a new time-reporting code; the hours will be prorated to their full-time equivalent status; supervisors will track usage entered by employees into the timekeeping system; and units will establish rules for use.

Check in with your supervisor if you have questions. These free days are *use it or lose it!*

HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Program

- Academics are organizing virtual recruiting events in November, December, and January. *Faculty Volunteers needed! ****
- The Academic Program is undergoing an accelerated strategic review.

Research Centers of Excellence

- The *Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis* launched its [new quarterly newsletter](#).
- *CERPA* hired a new energy research fellow, Jada Garofalo. She will start in December.
- *CERPA* and *SER* will be hosting a Virtual Symposium on the Law and Economics of Energy Regulation. A call for papers will be released this month.
- The *Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion* has advanced its proprietary coal conversion process into a Pilot Plant Testing Phase. ***
- The research and technology agreement has been established with the *Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion* and Atlas Carbon LLC. ***



*** more details in features

To submit news and updates email: Christine.reed@uwyo.edu



School of Energy Resources

CENTER FOR CARBON CAPTURE AND CONVERSION

Carbon Engineering moves its Proprietary Coal Conversion Process into Pilot Plant Testing Phase

Three pilot plants (pyrolysis, solvent extraction and CO2 Conversion) were recently completed and are now being commissioned. The pilot plants, once fully operational, will produce feedstock intermediates, to assess the long term performance of products being made from Wyoming coal. Results will also be used to establish the design, further scale up, integration of these processes into a coal refinery field demonstration facility, which is planned for 3 years' time.

Research and Technology Master Agreement Established with Atlas Carbon, LLC

The agreement is to work together on developing technologies that can convert Wyoming Powder River Basin coal into value-added non-energy and fuel products, bringing together UW's proprietary thermo-chemical process technology for conversion of coal into wide ranging intermediate materials that can be converted into end products, and Atlas Carbons, proprietary technology for making activated carbon.

OCcidental CHAIR IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

The School of Energy Resources (SER) at the University of Wyoming is requesting nominations for the **Occidental Chair in Energy and Environmental Technologies**.

This chair will be awarded to a University of Wyoming distinguished

faculty member in a science or engineering department whose research interests lie in CCUS. The successful candidate should exhibit an acute understanding of the behavior and long-term fate of CO2 in various environments in the geosphere – including but not limited to petroleum reservoirs and saline aquifers.

Download the [formal announcement here](#) for direction on nominations and more details.

Self nominations are encouraged. The deadline for nominations will be **December 4, 2020**.

[Continue Reading >>>](#)

HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

Faculty

- SER Professor Tara Righetti was appointed Vice Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (RMMLF)

General Announcements

- Due to the recent rise in COVID cases on campus, the Quarterly Meeting with the Energy Resources Council will now take place on November 13, 2020 **via ZOOM**.
- SER is accepting nominations for the Occidental Chair in Energy and Environmental Technologies. ***
Deadline: December 4
- The [U.S. Department of Energy's \(DOE\) Office of Fossil Energy](#), in collaboration with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Office of Science, announced a request for information (RFI) about "[enhanced weathering](#)" research opportunities that could lead to advances in the capture and storage of carbon dioxide (CO2).
Deadline: November 6

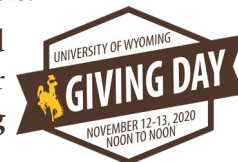
GIVING DAY 2020

The University of Wyoming's Annual Giving Day is upon us! The School of Energy Resources will be using this crowd funding opportunity to help support our Academic Program.

A critical component of the Energy Resource Management and Development degree is its emphasis on experiential learning opportunities and the applicability of abstract concepts in real-world scenarios.

In order for students to gain these hands-on learning opportunities, the School of Energy Resources faculty arranges field tours to energy development sites, visits to the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission hearings, as well as facilitates networking opportunities with industry partners and practitioners.

Funds this year will be directed toward experiential learning opportunities for our students. **Please consider making a contribution!**



FEATURE STORIES

UW's Grana Teaches New Diversity Course in Geosciences



Typically, when one thinks of a geoscientist, visions of an outdoorsy person come to mind. If you type in “geoscientist” photos on Google, a series of images pops up of students and researchers hiking in a canyon collecting rocks.

“This is mostly a stereotype, but it creates an implicit bias that limits recruitment of scientists with disabilities, as well as students who are not very outdoorsy, even though there are many branches of geoscience that focus on computational work,” says **Dario Grana**, an associate professor in the University of Wyoming Department of Geology and Geophysics.

As a result, the geosciences have suffered from a lack of diversity in the classroom, both among faculty members and students, according to Grana.

Grana has provided an opportunity to explore the topic in a new one-credit course, titled “Diversity and Inclusion in Geoscience,” that began this fall. Students have the chance to interact with a diverse group of scientists; learn about the challenges that underrepresented minorities have to face in academia, their career paths and research projects; and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives that they promoted.

[Continue Reading >>>](#)

SER Graduate Student Ellen Polites Contributes to Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Research

In its mission to advance energy research and education, the School of Energy Resources (SER) helps fund graduate students all over campus. Under the expertise and guidance of dedicated SER faculty members in their home departments, the research conducted by graduate students compliments and enhances some of the most cutting-edge energy projects taking place in the state of Wyoming.



UW graduate student **Ellen Polites** is one such student. Though housed in the UW Department of Geology and Geophysics, the research Polites is working towards for her master's thesis is part of the greater research endeavor spear-headed by the Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR), the CarbonSAFE project.

[Continue Reading >>>](#)

Official from the Office of Fossil Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy Visits the School of Energy Resources

The School of Energy Resources (SER) was delighted to host Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Clean Coal and Carbon Management, **Lou Hrkman**.



DAS Hrkman is an official in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy.

[Continue Reading >>>](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Deadline for Enhanced Weathering Proposal**
November 6, 2020
- **Energy Resources Council Meeting**
November 13, 2020 | ZOOM
Joint Meeting with the BOT
- **Giving Day**
November 12-13, 2020 (noon to noon)
Consider Making a Contribution!
- **Thanksgiving Break**
November 26-27, 2020
- **AGU Annual Meeting**
December 1-17, 2020

- **Deadline of Oxy Chair Nominations**
December 4, 2020
- **Faculty Panel for Student Recruitment**
December 7, 2020 | 7:00 PM | ZOOM
Faculty Volunteers Needed!
- **Winter Break/Holiday Closure**
December 24 - January 1, 2021
*Full Winter Break Dates extend
December 21, 2020 - January 23, 2021*
- **Energy Winter Institute**
January 7, 2021 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Faculty Volunteers Needed!

ENERGY JOKE

What Do Wind Turbines Talk About? Nothing Special, They Just Shoot The Breeze