Welcome to UWyo, the magazine that showcases the people who make the University of Wyoming great. Our blend of features, news, and photography highlights members of the university community, its alumni, and friends who make the university a leader in research, teaching, service, and outreach. Thank you for supporting UWyo and the University of Wyoming.
FEATURES

UWyo Summer 2010 volume 12 number 1

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With the start of construction, UW faculty talk about the impact of the NCAR supercomputer
by Dave Shelles

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A university task force helps UW vets make the transition from soldier to student
by Dave Shelles
Nicole Crawford
Nicole M. Crawford joined the University of Wyoming Art Museum in 2009 as the new curator of collections. Formerly the gallery director at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, she supervised staff, conducted research, and worked with numerous collectors during her eight years with the gallery. In her role as curator of collections for the Art Museum, she oversees the development of the museum’s collection, curates exhibitions from the collection for the museum’s exhibition programs, enables internship opportunities in collections research and scholarship, and chairs the museum’s Collections Advisory Committee. Crawford has a master’s in art history and museum studies and a bachelor’s in art history from the University of Nebraska. Her scholarship focus is American Modernism, but she has conducted research and written extensively on many other art genres, including Western American Art.

Jim Kearns
Jim Kearns conducted his first interview for the University of Wyoming in 1975, when he was sports director at the campus 10-watt radio station in the top of the Wyoming Union. Since then he has been privileged to interview hundreds of scientists, artists, performers, writers, historians, philosophers, and others who make up the fabric of a college campus. He claims to have caught at least one trout in each of the lakes, rivers and ponds of southeastern Wyoming, and he still finds new trails to explore on his frequent hikes in the local mountains.
On the campus of the University of Wyoming is Barbara Stanwyck’s Oscar, an honorary statuette awarded to the legendary actress “for superlative creativity and unique contribution to the art of screen acting.” But that’s not what American Heritage Center director Mark Greene thinks is the coolest thing in the archive—at least at the moment.

Ask him that very question, and he talks up 800 boxes of records—including documents surrounding a familiar advertising plan—from the National Live Stock and Meat Board, courtesy of the National Cattleman’s Beef Association (NCBA). That advertising plan led to commercials declaring “Beef: It’s what’s for dinner.”

“We received this huge donation of records from the NCBA, because we have been the archives for decades,” Greene says. “[We already have] 370 boxes of records documenting the association from 1896 through 1990.”

Granted, the acquisition is the most recent for the archive, which was recently honored by the Society of American Archivists with the 2010 Distinguished Service Award. But the story Greene excitedly tells a visitor to the AHC is the story of how beef has been marketed to Americans for generations.

“The Meat Board records hold a massive treasure trove of information about the changing ways in which producers used the growing power of advertising to shape the purchasing and eating habits of Americans, and to help keep the price of meat high in order to maintain a healthy ranching industry in the U.S.,” he says.

The records document the impact of wars, droughts, and depressions on those marketing efforts, Greene says. Documented in these records, for example, is the changing perception of women as housewives and consumers, as well as the recent shift to market to the men who control the outdoor grill.

“Considering the crucial importance of ranching to Wyoming, this collection certainly boosts our internationally recognized documentation of our state and region,” he says. “But of course it includes coverage of cattle producing and marketing across the nation—and we are called the ‘American’ Heritage Center in part because our collections, in some topics, extend country-wide.”

For more information on the AHC, log on to ahc.uwyo.edu.

*Image: Bill Belden Collection, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming*
ASUW takes total campus approach

Cameron Nazminia’s desire to serve underrepresented segments of the student population spurred him to run for president of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming. A self-described outsider to the political process on campus, Nazminia and Liz Brown were elected president and vice president of ASUW in April, running on a campaign to open the political process to more students.

“No one knew that we have a $1 million budget or that the [ASUW] president sits on the Board of Trustees, as well as various committees that the [ASUW] vice president sits on,” Nazminia says.

Nazminia hails from the Denver area, while Brown comes from Douglas, Wyoming. Nazminia has Iranian ancestry and speaks Farsi, while Brown describes herself as “very American,” a native Wyomingite proud to attend UW. Brown was on freshman senate and represented the College of Arts and Sciences as a senator during the 2009-10 school year, while Nazminia stayed on the outside of ASUW and decided to run for president during the summer of 2009. The two say their differences help give them a wide-ranging perspective on the campus political process.

“I think we were just really fortunate to run together on this idea of total campus representation,” Brown says. “Together, I think we do represent that. We’re exactly the opposite of each other. Throughout the campaign and since we’ve taken office, we’ve really tried to make sure all of our decisions represent everybody on campus.”

In particular, Nazminia says he and Brown are particularly committed to helping our multicultural, non-traditional and international students. For executive diversity outreach—one of six paid executives with ASUW—Nazminia hired a non-traditional student, believed to be the first in ASUW history.

“Sometimes campaign promises get broken at all levels, and the perception of ASUW was that campaign promises get broken there, too,” he says.

“That was one way to hopefully follow through on a promise and give back to the student body.”

UW grows without increasing debt

The best part of the University of Wyoming’s current construction boom is that there will be little financial burden on the future.

UW’s trustees in May approved the 2010 bond series, totaling $44.9 million, including $39 million in revenue bonds to build a new Visual Arts Facility and to renovate Downey Hall. Thanks to superior ratings from Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s—the two preeminent credit rating agencies—the university can borrow money at favorable interest rates now and into the future, says Douglas Vinzant, UW’s vice president for administration.

The university has followed two strict rules in financing its construction projects.

“The first rule is don’t issue debt with a repayment period that exceeds the useful life of the facility,” Vinzant says. “No, 2, you want to be very careful about the use of debt because, like with a family, you don’t want to have a whole lot of fixed debt out there that ties your hands in terms of other decisions. Our annual debt service for the next 20 years is just about flat. It’s $5.5 million per year for the next 20 years. That’s much lower than what it is at almost any public research university in the country.”

To the first rule, Vinzant says, a brand-new fine arts facility could last 40–50 years, well beyond the 20-year repayment period for the debt on the building. UW upholds the second rule by benefiting from a supportive state legislature and generous donors.

“At a lot of places you’d see in the range of two to two-and-a-half times the revenue needed to cover their annual debt service ratio, where we’re generating almost four times the revenue,” Vinzant says.

“The point of all that is that UW has relatively small debt, as reflected in that high coverage ratio, whereas most schools are spending a lot on debt right now. That’s principally because the state legislature and the governor are providing direct state appropriations so we don’t have to bond-finance our facilities. We’ve enjoyed a lot of support from the legislature and the governor, and that’s meant the amount of debt we’ve had to issue has been kept really very low when you look at other institutions. We’re in a really good position in that regard.”

Clean energy is the goal of Peabody gift

A $2 million gift from Peabody Energy to create the Peabody Energy Clean Coal Technology Laboratory in the UW Energy Resources Center in Laramie will help the University of Wyoming extend its reach into energy research.

UW is investing significant resources in clean coal research and has committed nearly $75 million, which has resulted in partnerships with industry leaders who prioritize developing and commercializing clean coal technologies, says UW President Tom Buchanan.

“Research in the area of clean coal technology is one of the particular emphases for our School of Energy Resources, and this gift provides laboratory space for the expanding work that UW faculty and students are doing in this field,” Buchanan says. “This serves as an excellent example of how university research and industry application can work together with support from state government to make Wyoming a leader in clean coal technology.”

As part of the School of Energy Resources, the laboratory will house research facilities to develop coal-fired clean energy technologies, with an emphasis on the next generation of low-carbon and near-zero emissions. These include carbon dioxide capture and storage and laboratory-scale coal gasification, which involve hydromethanation (a process that enables the conversion of coal into clean, pipe-
TIM SLATER has been recognized for his efforts to improve science education during his two years in Laramie, his efforts to improve science education, and his contributions to the National Research Council’s Discipline-based Education Research (DBER). He and Future Directions of Discipline-based Education Research (DBER) have been appointed to the committee on status, contributions, and intellectual and material resources that are required to advance discipline-based education and research and broaden its impact on science teaching and learning at the undergraduate level in physics, biological sciences, geosciences and chemistry.

The study will synthesize empirical research on undergraduate teaching and learning in the sciences: examine the extent to which this research influences undergraduate science instruction; and describe the intellectual and material resources that are required to further develop DBER.

He is the director of the Cognition in Astronomy, Physics and Earth sciences Research (CAPER) group, which he directs at the university of Wyoming. His research focuses on conceptual understanding in formal and informal learning environments, inquiry-based curriculum development and authentic assessment strategies, with a particular emphasis on non-science majors and pre-service teachers. He has also established a doctoral degree in science education.

Slater came to UW in 2008 from the University of Arizona. He has undergraduate degrees from Kansas State University in science education and physical science, a master’s in astrophysics from Clemson University, and a doctoral degree in geophysics from the University of South Carolina.

Research to continue at AMK Ranch

Hank Harlow’s passion for working in one of the planet’s unique environments hasn’t waned in the 19 years he’s directed the University of Wyoming National Park Service Research Center in Grand Teton National Park, in the northwest corner of Wyoming. In fact, he’s now even more enthusiastic and appreciative of the opportunity to work at the center, located on the east side of the state.

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SUITES Usher in new era for War Memorial

The opening of the Wildcat Suites at War Memorial Stadium this fall marks the end of construction that also included a host of improvements at UW’s venerable football stadium.

Better still, money to pay for the projects came through a fundraising campaign that concluded before construction started.

“We have a small loan as pledges are coming in,” Burman says. “We had to borrow some money from the state to backfill it. Our debt service on that is minimal. Most of our competition around the country, when they build or renovate a stadium, they bond it and then they pay it back with pledges.”

Indeed, the initial revenue from the suites will fund several projects to improve other sports facilities, many of which are out of date. Additional improvements to the east side stadium renovation include concessions, building more restrooms, structural upgrades to the bleachers and concrete, and making the stadium compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In addition to renovations at the War, in June the department broke ground on an indoor tennis facility scheduled to be completed by February. Burman says future projects might include renovations to the 30-year-old Arena-Auditorium and the floor in the 20-year-old War Memorial Fieldhouse, as well as improvements to Corbett Pool.

Here’s a rundown on construction projects that have been recently completed, recently started or are now under way:

**Ribbon cuttings**
- Wildcat Suites, early September
- UW College of Business, mid September
- Bim Kendall House, mid September

**Under way**
- Downey Hall, renovations
- Robertson and Carol Berry Center for Biodiversity and Conservation
- Visual Arts Center

**About to start**
- The Energy Resources Center, mid November
soon. In July, UW and NPS officials rocks up there. It is so invigorating to atheologically young in geologic time, and yet geology of the Tetons. The range is rel-
predation on moose, or examining the someone who is studying grizzly bear across the parking lot you can talk to is a collage of science. Just walking ac-
ological animal ecology. “This place is a UW zoology professor and an inter-
view of the Tetons. Scientists from

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**• UW**

 Such research won’t end any time
opportunity. Machalek says, that’s a rare op-
ification of Wyoming in September.

**Renowned biologist Edward O. Wilson will speak at the University**

 Panel offers rare


**Lecture offers rare opportunity**

 Renowned biologist Edward O. Wilson will speak at the University of Wyoming in September. It’s a chance, Professor Richard Machalek says, that’s a rare opportunity.


The center traces its roots to 1948, when the Jackson Hole Research Station was launched as the first research facility at a national park. In 1953, UW joined in operating and sponsoring the station and its research program at the Jackson Hole Biological Research Station. In 1977, the head-


When Valentino Achak Deng comes to Laramie on Sept. 14, he’ll have a story to tell. His experi-
ences that could not be more foreign to his American listeners. Deng is a Sudanese refugee and one of the thou-


Embracing the world

When Valentino Achak Deng comes to Laramie on Sept. 14, he’ll have a story to tell. His experi-
ences that could not be more foreign to his American listeners. Deng is a Sudanese refugee and one of the thou-


Three years after its formation, the Wyoming Conservation Corps (UWCC, Fall 2007) is a self-subs-
taining entity. The Wyoming State Legislature helped get the group off the ground with a 3-year startup fund, and senior project coordi-
nator Kendall Peacock says the group has secured alternate funding from a variety of interdisciplinary areas, which was one of the original program goals.

“Some of these are indirectly coming from the state legislature, such as our State Parks agreements, and some are not affiliated with any state money, such as our Forest Service agreements,” Peacock says.

**CONNECT YOUR WAY**

The University of Wyoming is excited to announce WyAlumni, a new online community designed just for you. Search for and connect with your UW friends, create and customize your own profile page, share and view photos and class notes, register for UW events, look for a job, support your favorite program, and much more! Watch the mail and the UW Web site for more information! Questions? Contact 888-631-7795 or foundation@uwyo.edu.

**NEWS UPDATE**

**Rey Fuentes (UW), Fall 2009) above, has earned yet another honor. After earning a prestigious Marshall Scholarship to study comparative poli-
tics at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Fuentes was one of 20 students nationwide named to USA Today’s All-USA College Academic First Team.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>4 p.m., Women's soccer, Colorado College, Louis S. Madrid Sports Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>4:45 p.m., Cross country, Wyoming Invitational, Red Jacoby Golf Course</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
<td>Art exhibition, Anne-Karin Furunes: Portraits of Unknowns, Art Museum, through Wednesday, December 23</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td>5 p.m., Reading, Eminent Artist-in-Residence Rattawut Lapcharoensap, UW Art Museum</td>
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<td>September 6</td>
<td>Labor Day, no classes, offices closed</td>
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<td>September 10</td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Music, jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut, Fine Arts Concert Hall</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>Art exhibition, Iconic Mass Culture: Andy Warhol's Portraits, Art Museum, through Saturday, November 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Art exhibition, Binh Danh: Life, Times, and Matters of the Swamp, Art Museum, through Wednesday, December 23</td>
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<td>September 14</td>
<td>4:10 p.m., Lecture, Valentino Achak Deng, A Story of Civil War and the &quot;Lost Boys&quot; of Sudan, Classroom Building Room 129</td>
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<td>September 16</td>
<td>3 p.m., Fall Convocation, Wyoming Union Ballroom</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>8 p.m., Music, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Dierks Bentley, Arena-Auditorium</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>6 p.m., Football, Boise State, War Memorial Stadium</td>
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<td>September 23</td>
<td>4 p.m., Lecture, E.O. Wilson, The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth, Arts and Sciences Auditorium</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>4 p.m., Women's soccer, Boise State, Louis S. Madrid Sports Complex</td>
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<td>September 25</td>
<td>Noon, Football, Air Force, War Memorial Stadium</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Noon, Women's soccer, New Mexico State, Louis S. Madrid Sports Complex</td>
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<td>September 27</td>
<td>5 p.m., Poetry reading, Eminent Artists-in-Residence Jan Zwicky and Robert Bringhurst, UW Art Museum</td>
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<td>September 28</td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Theatre, Fuddy Meers, Fine Arts Theater, through Sunday, October 3</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Music, vibraphonist Stefon Harris with UW Jazz Ensemble, Arts and Sciences Auditorium</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Music, jazz vibraphonist Stefon Harris, Fine Arts Concert Hall</td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>7 p.m., Volleyball, San Diego State, UniWyO Sports Complex</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>5 p.m., Swimming and diving, Brown and Gold Meet, Corbett Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>7 p.m., Volleyball, UniWyO Sports Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Homecoming</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>1 p.m., Volleyball, Texas Christian, UniWyO Sports Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>7 p.m., Volleyball, Colorado Christian, UniWyO Sports Complex</td>
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Friday, October 29
10 a.m., Cross country, Mountain West Conference championships, Red Jacoby Golf Course
7:30 p.m., Music, classical pianist Barry Douglas, UW Fine Arts Concert Hall

Saturday, October 30
Noon, Football, San Diego State, War Memorial Stadium
1 p.m., Women’s soccer, Air Force, Louis S. Madrid Sports Complex

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 4
7 p.m., Volleyball, Air Force, UniWyo Sports Complex

Thursday, November 11
7:30 p.m., Music, UW Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble II, Arts and Sciences Auditorium
Friday, November 12
7:30 p.m., Music, UW Vocal Jazz Ensemble and student combos, Arts and Sciences Auditorium

Monday, November 15
7:30 p.m., Music, UW Symphonic Band, Fine Arts Concert Hall

Wednesday, November 17
7:30 p.m., Music, jazz guitarist Renaud Garcia-Fons, Fine Arts Concert Hall

Thursday, November 18
5 p.m., Volleyball, Colorado State, UniWyo Sports Complex

Friday, November 19
7:30 p.m., Music, vocal ensemble Happy Jacks, Fine Arts Concert Hall

Saturday, November 20
Noon, Football, Colorado State, War Memorial Stadium

Monday, November 22
7:30 p.m., Music, Civic Chorus and Community Band, Fine Arts Concert Hall

Thursday and Friday, November 25–26
Thanksgiving break, no classes, offices closed

Thursday, November 4
7 p.m., Volleyball, Air Force, UniWyo Sports Complex

Thursday, November 11
7:30 p.m., Music, UW Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble II, Arts and Sciences Auditorium
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7:30 p.m., Music, Civic Chorus and Community Band, Fine Arts Concert Hall

Thursday and Friday, November 25–26
Thanksgiving break, no classes, offices closed

FINE ARTS CENTER BOX OFFICE
(307) 766-6666

ASUW WYOMING UNION
 TICKET OFFICE
(307) 766-3327

ATHLETICS TICKET OFFICE
(307) 766-4850

www.uwyo.edu/calendar

CALEDAR OF EVENTS

E.O. WILSON
The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth

Edward O. Wilson brings elements from each of his books into his talks; think of his body of work as a continuous investigation into the wonderous nature of science, humanity, and our planet. In this hopeful speech, based on The Creation, he argues that science and religion must join forces: the earth’s destruction threatens us all—no matter what we believe about its origins.

September 23, 2010 • 4–5 p.m. • A&S Auditorium

E.O. Wilson is a legendary biologist, researcher, theorist, and educator, and is widely considered the father of the modern environmental movement. Currently a research professor and collection curator at Harvard University, Wilson has been named one of America’s 25 Most Influential People by Time magazine and is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author. One of the world’s most respected scientists, E.O. Wilson has made a giant contribution to our understanding of the rich spectrum of Earth’s biodiversity.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Sponsored by the UW Division of Academic Affairs and Research and Economic Development
Knut Ortiz
Systems Programmer
Engineering and Applied Science
Kristina Hufford

Kristina Hufford is a restoration ecologist, which means she helps figure out what to do with the land after it has been mined. Her assistant professorship is a joint appointment between the School of Energy Resources and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"Part of the job description is to teach restoration ecology, so that’ll definitely be one of the classes I teach, as well as to work with the restoration industry, the mining industry and so forth in Wyoming to find better solutions because there’s a lot going on here," she says.

Hufford grew up near San Diego, California, when that state’s population was booming and civilization crept further and further into previously undeveloped areas. She earned her bachelor’s degree in environmental sciences at the University of Georgia.

"In that respect, coming to Wyoming was something I started to get excited about because I had begun to form this type of research emphasis there that I could take here—potentially still keeping that international link—hopefully for the benefit of the folks here in Wyoming and the neighboring states," she says.

The province of Western Australia and the state of Wyoming have a few similarities, Hufford says. The soil is rocky and the air is dry, although Western Australia is much hotter than Wyoming in the summer, and it has a greater variety of species, both plant and animal. Hufford says she’ll be able to ask some of the same questions about the effects of mining on a different kind of landscape.

"In Western Australia, we were working in an area that had reasonably heavy bauxite mining for aluminum and is a world biodiversity hotspot," she says. "A lot of the species there haven’t been named yet. You can imagine that if you’re actually strip-mining the landscape that it’s still a very big risk.

"In Wyoming, we’re not in a global biodiversity hotspot. At the same time, we don’t know what the scale of diversity is out there, say, within a single species. So I can ask some of the same questions, but I imagine I’m going to come to some different conclusions."  

Jaime Cruz

Only recently has Jaime Cruz felt comfortable calling himself a playwright.

Since graduating from the University of Wyoming in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in theater, he's lived the playwright's life, spending his days working in Laramie and his nights writing.

The work has paid off in regional and national recognition. At the Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and Northwest Drama Conference in February, Cruz won the Northwest Playwriting Alliance Playwriting Award for his full-length play Videotape, or Lape and the End of the World. He also won the top regional award for his one-act play, Cuatro # Cuatro. That same one-act play also won the National Partners of American Theatre playwriting award, a new award of which Cruz is the first recipient.

Cruz says the recognition opens doors for him in the world of playwriting.

"These experiences through the university that have allowed me to meet all these new people and other artists around the country have inspired me to work harder so I can keep involved with theater with those people I’ve already met," he says. "It feels good to say, ‘I’ve won some awards, could you please read my play?’ as opposed to, ‘Please read my play.’ It gives me a little bit more credibility, so I hope to keep at it.”

His journey as a playwright started at the movies, which inspired him to write his own screenplays. At Evanston High School in Wyoming, Cruz was motivated by his theater teacher, Sonia Sherler, who encouraged his writing and showed him some innovation in storytelling. After graduating from Evanston in 2004, Cruz encountered another motivating teacher, this one in the drama program at Casper College. Cruz took a once-a-week course in playwriting, where each student brought a scene for the class to read and perform, and it opened his eyes to how a playwright must be specific about what the scene means. At UW, another teacher influenced his work; this time UW theater professor William Missouri Downs (UWyo, Fall 2005). From Downs, Cruz says he learned to take blunt criticism, something every artist eventually finds out.

Now Cruz is writing up a storm, hoping to move on to a bigger city with a large and thriving theater community. As telling a story via stage is his main passion, Cruz wants to bring that passion for storytelling to audiences near and far.

“To have the opportunity to be involved with the great theater artists I’ve been around, I’m just grateful that I was able to be in Wyoming and to be a Mexican-American living in Wyoming, experiencing America the way that I have,” he says. “That has been incredible for me as an artist, and I hope I can share that, not only with a Wyoming audience but with other communities, or hopefully with the rest of the country. Just being involved with theater and sharing that passion for what theater can be—my hope for the future is just being able to pass that on to people.”
Kekoa Chavez

Kekoa Chavez has a banner year. The recent University of Wyoming graduate won the Mountain West Conference championship in the 400-meter hurdles and became the first member of his immediate family to graduate from college.

All things considered, Chavez holds up his bachelor’s degree in social sciences as his greatest accomplishment.

“Hard work and determination will get you a long way and take you a lot of places,” he says. “I’ve had people tell me that they didn’t think I’d make it through college. Honestly, in the beginning, I didn’t think I’d make it. I came here thinking I’d see how long I could make it before I got tired of it, but the longer you’re here the stronger you want to finish.”

Chavez had to finish strong in the classroom after a less-than-stellar start to his college career. The native of Hilo, Hawaii, let his grades slip to a point where UW suspended him. Chavez didn’t want to be seen as a failure or a quitter.” That motivated me a lot, because I didn’t want to be that guy where everybody says, ‘Remember that guy that ran here a while back? He couldn’t’ve been all right, but he dropped out of school.” That motivated me a lot, because I didn’t want to be seen as a failure or a quitter.”

Chavez says he hopes to be a counselor and coach, though post-graduate work will wait for a couple of years.

Furthermore, Chavez says he discovered the time away from the track left his lean body refreshed and ready to train again.

“I think that break was actually good for me. I started running decent times, good enough to give me a solid spot on the team, so that felt pretty good,” he says. “I started practicing harder, so that semester off gave my body the rest it needed. It depends on the person, but if you’re running from eighth grade onward, sometimes you start to break down and get injured. You see that a lot with great athletes.”

Chavez entered the 2010 Mountain West Track and Field Championships as the seventh-fastest 400-meter hurdler and qualified for the final with the seventh-fastest time. Figuring it was his last race as a collegian, he let it all hang out and won the race with a time of 50.74 seconds, the second-fastest all-time at UW. He also qualified for the NCAA regional championship, where his career ended in a semifinal heat.

Chavez says he wasn’t disappointed with how his career turned out. He had a moment in his first year where he had to decide what was important, he says, and he made the right choices after that.

“Before that I was just going to track practice, going to classes, and goofing around a little too much,” he says. “When something like that happens, you have to set priorities and meet goals. I wanted to come back to school. I didn’t want to be that guy where everybody says, ‘Remember that guy that ran here a while back? He could’ve been all right, but he dropped out of school.” That motivated me a lot, because I didn’t want to be seen as a failure or a quitter.”

Chavez says he hopes to be a counselor and coach, though post-graduate work will wait for a couple of years.

Furthermore, Chavez says parents of young livestock show participants can purchase photos from livestock shows, and they can upload them for potential sales as well.

Bauman used the business for her senior honors project and for an entry in the 10K Business Competition, in which she won second place.

“When you’re dealing with animals like that and ranchers who are trying to market their animals, they need pictures, and even now it’s really very Internet-based,” she says. “There are a lot of Internet sales going on, so a lot of producers are looking to video to market their animals.

“I provide an imaging service—both photos and video—to these ranchers, and they use my services to help market their animals. They’ll print my pictures in their catalogs or post them on their Web sites.”

Bauman grew up on two different ranches near her hometown of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Her family, still in the ranching business after six generations, showed Charolais cattle in contests and sold them to other ranchers for breeding.

During her time at Cheyenne Central High School, Bauman picked up an interest in photography, though she didn’t think of combining photography with ranching until recently.

“My family has its own [livestock] sale in the fall, so a few years back I thought, ‘I can do the pictures; we don’t have to hire someone else,” she says. “It has snowballed from there, but I really enjoy doing it.”

She came to UW to study political science but eventually gravitated toward animal science, in which she earned her bachelor’s degree in May. An excellent science student, Bauman stuck with what she did well but still managed to keep her hand in photography and Web design.

Overall, Bauman picked out a well-rounded education for herself, taking a course of study she enjoyed while growing her business. She credits the 10K Competition, from which her $5,000 prize will go toward equipment upgrades, for giving her a taste of what setting up a business is like.

“The 10K competition was really good because I learned firsthand about basic business plan stuff, cash flows, really practical business knowledge,” she says. “You don’t always get all the practical business knowledge and applications with some business classes. The 10K was a benefit for me. I’ll say that all day long. That was the best experience I had at UW, hands down.”

Kassi Bauman

Kassi Bauman opens up an Apple laptop computer and begins the sales pitch.

She tours her ability to bridge the gap between rancher and livestock buyer, showing her Web site. For a price, a rancher can buy a professional-quality photo of one of his cattle and upload it to a ranch Web site, royalty free. That way, she says, a livestock buyer can make a purchase without leaving the house.

Furthermore, Bauman says, parents of young livestock show participants can purchase photos from livestock shows, and they can upload them for potential sales as well.

Bauman has taken the concept of a livestock auction and brought it into the 21st century with her business, Big Star Livestock Imaging LLC, starting in 2008 and continuing with her recent graduation from the University of Wyoming. Bauman used the business for her senior honors project and for an entry in the 10K Business Competition, in which she won second place.

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Travel 40 miles east of Laramie on I-80 and you will come across the birth of the future.

The need for speed
Breaking ground with great expectations

by Dave Shelles
It's as if Liqiang “Eric” Wang has been planning for a supercomputer his whole career.
Really, that's what every computer scientist wants—a massive, fast computer to run and improve code.
Wang and the rest of the University of Wyoming community will have the chance to work with one of the fastest computers in the world, as UW and the National Center for Atmospheric Research broke ground on the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center (NWSC) near Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 15.
Wang sits in his office in Engineering Hall with a smile on his face. He says he’s excited about the advent of supercomputing at UW and sees two main benefits.
The first, he says, is to his own research. Wang designs tools for supercomputing that help create more dependable computer systems, and the NWSC can improve the performance of his systems by making them run faster. Faster computing means he can produce more data.
Second, his faculty collaborations will benefit. Wang is one of eight scientists at UW who is part of the Interdisciplinary Computational Sciences program, a growing multidisciplinary area that focuses on solving scientific problems through computing. Wang says the NWSC will help improve the performance of applications in other areas; for example, geology.
Shaochang Wo (UWyo, Spring 2008) sits in his office in the geology building, patiently watching a graphic replay of a simulated moving oil bank in a reservoir. A three-dimensional reservoir model shows him where the remaining oil may exist, which is a simple explanation for his work with the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI). On another computer screen, a rolling report shows a simulation job is working slowly but steadily, drawing computing power from a cluster of 15 nodes, each node powered by two central processing units.
The NCAR supercomputer will exceed that power exponentially. For Wo, that means his simulations of oil production will take far less time and enable him to report more data more accurately.
“For now we usually limit the size of a model under one or two million grids, even while running on the cluster, because of the limitation of computer memory space. Data transfer and storage is also an issue. If you want to do really detailed reservoir modeling and simulation with tens of millions of grids, for now it’s almost impossible,” Wo says.
“Think about this: The average Wyoming oil field has been in production for more than 40 years. If you want to know currently how the remaining oil distributes in a reservoir, you have to simulate the whole reservoir production history—it’s called history matching, in which the simulated results must match the observed measurements, historical production and pressure records for example. Usually we want to have a quick turnaround time during the history matching process, like a half hour or so, to test various scenarios. Even for this small cluster we already speed up our turnaround and it’s five to six times faster. Before, you could run a 40-year simulation job for one week on a PC. Now it takes one day on the cluster. The supercomputer could easily cut that time by five or 10.”
Wo also has some multidisciplinary plans, thanks to his background in mathematics. He earned his doctorate in mathematics from UW in 1997. Wo joined EORI in 2004 as a senior research scientist. With the supercomputer, he says solving the problems of advanced oil recovery gets somewhat easier.
“For me, it was definitely a really exciting moment,” he says of learning UW would get the supercomputer. “The lack of computing power has been a bottleneck for us to conduct high-resolution reservoir simulation. No matter how powerful a computer is, there are always bigger and more complicated problems to challenge its capabilities.”
Where Wo migrated from mathematics to oil recovery, professor Dan Stanescu started out in engineering, earning...
his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in that discipline before earning his doctorate in mathematics. Stanescu, with his background in aeroacoustics, the study of how to reduce the amount of noise from airplanes. At Florida State University, he worked on what at the time was the most powerful supercomputer in any university in the world. Figuring out how sound waves transferred from high in the sky to the ground.

“With this computer, we have a good chance to nail down very clearly the noise signature on the ground of an aircraft with a commercial turbine,” he says. “Those are your jetliners today. We can probably model what will be the noise that someone on the ground hears from this airplane and see how we can optimize in the sense of reducing the footprint on the ground. That’s really what I see from my perspective.”

Stanescu points out that the majority of research done with the computer will involve climate data and predicting weather. After all, climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing our planet today, and NCAR is at the forefront of developing the computational tools for weather and climate prediction. Stanescu describes a grid over the entire planet, and the intersecting lines create the data points. The supercomputer essentially creates those lines and takes the data from an increasing number of points.

“If you put more grid points, make your grid denser, your computation is going to become more reliable,” he says. “It’s not going to veer off so fast from the data you get from the meteorological stations, because a lot of this depends on what happens in the details in the grid.”

“We can be much more reliable. It’s not my research, but this is a very important research area.”

The Interdisciplinary Computational Science at UW

The sciences of computer science, mathematics and geology dominate discussion of what to do with the supercomputing center. Associate professor Alex Buerkle, an evolutionary geneticist in the department of botany, points out that the National Science Foundation’s largest grant was awarded to the University of Arizona to develop computational solutions to the biggest challenges in plant science. That illustrates the importance of computational science in biology, Buerkle says.

“The biggest computer problems today aren’t restricted to math or engineering, but are also in biology,” he says. “The Human Genome Project is a computational project. You get words that you need to put together into sentences that you need to put into paragraphs that you put into the whole genome. The problem of ordering all that is a computational problem.”

Buerkle has worked with Stanescu and engineering professor Dimitri Mavriplis on computational science projects and teaches a course in computational biology, last offered in fall 2009. He will teach it again in the spring.

“Obviously I do computational science, and I do a lot of computing. But there is a lot yet to be determined about how UW faculty and student researchers will use this resource,” Buerkle says. “We are trying to build programs and facilities for research computing at UW and this is one component of the research computing landscape.”

Dimitri Mavriplis might be the luckiest one of the bunch. The professor of mechanical engineering will spend the 2010–11 school year at ground zero of the project, working with applied mathematics and statistics groups at NCAR on developing new algorithms and parallel computing, a technique where many calculations are carried out simultaneously. We will be collaborating on developing and testing new algorithms and parallel computing techniques designed to scale to large numbers of cores on machines such as the NCAR supercomputer,” Mavriplis says. “By being in residence at NCAR, I also expect to keep well informed on the developments of the new facility and the hardware configuration of the machine and to be able to serve as a liaison back to the UW research community on these matters.”

Like Stanescu, Mavriplis has experience with supercomputers, having worked with nationally funded installations at NASA and with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Energy. He knows firsthand what a supercomputer can do for research.

“The availability of the NCAR machine to UW researchers provides a unique advantage for engaging researchers in the important aspects of developing leading edge simulation capabilities,” Mavriplis says. “In the absence of supercomputer facilities, researchers naturally gravitate toward developing applications which can be run on commodity hardware, which is typically available at the department level and thus do not engage in the important aspects, which are needed to enable large scale simulations on leading edge hardware.”

While it’s easy to get excited about the research aspect of supercomputing, Stanescu says the primary mission is to educate students. He cites the opportunities for educating the next generation of computational scientists that arise from having access to the supercomputer. The multidisciplinary approach benefits both from multiple departments working together, and from enthusiastic students willing to learn.

“You have to know a lot of stuff. You have to know a lot of mathematics and a lot of computer science,” Stanescu says. “It’s a very narrow niche in computer science, and it’s not taught in most places. I’m talking about this item called ‘how to use this big computer.’ It’s called parallel programming.

“We need to teach our students parallel programming, and a major incentive to learn that would be to have access to a big computer, at least a little bit of it. Try it out, check it out, see how it works. Of course, by the time they use that computer, they have to have their programs tested and running. So we provide some of those capabilities here. It might do well for them to have in the back of their minds the idea that there is a good possibility to work on that supercomputer at a later time.”

“It think it’s a very important step, a big opportunity that we have. I hope that this is going to get the kids more active in this direction,” Stanescu says.

In the fall, Wang will teach a class called Introduction to High-Performance Computing. Two years away from the first experiments on the new supercomputer, Wang says he’s excited about the future of this class, a core course in the interdisciplinary computational science minor.

“This class introduces students to how to do programming on a supercomputer,” Wang says. “Right now we run our programs on a local cluster, not a real supercomputer. When we have the NCAR supercomputer, we can teach students how to run code on that machine. That’s a very good opportunity for students. Maybe now we can have a trend of more graduate and undergraduate students interested in this kind of research.”

On the Web

The National Center for Atmospheric Research http://ncar.ucar.edu Interdisciplinary Computational Science at UW www.uwyo.edu/ICS/

The NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center http://cd.ucar.edu/nwsc/

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Bit: Short for binary digit, the basic unit of information in computing and telecommunications; it is the amount of information that can be stored by a digital device or other physical system.

Byte: A unit of digital information in computing and telecommunications. It is an ordered collection of bits, in which each bit denotes the binary value of 1 or 0.

Computer science: The study of the theoretical foundations of information and computation, and of practical techniques for their implementation and application in computer systems.

CPU: The central processing unit of a computer where computations are carried out.

Interdisciplinary Computational Science: A relatively new but rapidly growing multidisciplinary area that focuses on the solution of real-world scientific problems through the development and use of computer algorithms, methods and hardware for analysis.

NWS: The NCAR Wyoming Supercomputing Center

Parallel computing: A form of computation in which many calculations are carried out simultaneously, operating on the principle that large problems can often be divided into smaller ones, which are then solved concurrently (“in parallel”).

PUE index: The Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) index reflects how much of the facility’s power consumption is used for actual computing, as opposed to supporting functions like cooling. PUE is defined as the ratio of the total power consumed by a supercomputing center to the power consumed by the information technology equipment of the facility.

Supercomputer: A large, very fast mainframe used especially for scientific calculations. Supercomputers are used for highly calculation-intensive tasks such as problems involving quantum physics, weather forecasting, climate research, molecular modeling (computing the structures and properties of chemical compounds, biological macromolecules, polymers, and crystals), physical simulations (such as simulation of airplanes in wind tunnels, simulation of the detonation of nuclear weapons, and research into nuclear fusion).

Terabyte: A multiple measured by the International System of Units of the unit byte for digital information storage and is equal to 1012 (1 trillion short scale) bytes. The unit symbol for the terabyte is TB.

ON THE WEB

The National Center for Atmospheric Research http://ncar.ucar.edu Interdisciplinary Computational Science at UW www.uwyo.edu/ICS/

The NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center http://cd.ucar.edu/nwsc/
What impact does the supercomputer hold?

“I try to design tools to help design parallel programs, so the first benefit of the supercomputer is to provide a platform for me to conduct my research. I also work with other faculty, and we’re trying to develop a code. As other faculty have said, the supercomputer will improve the performance. Based on the architecture, based on the network, based on the CPU, we would like to customize our code. To customize means we can adjust our code for this machine and make our code faster on that machine. That’s our plan for when the new supercomputer is done.”

Liqiang Wang
Assistant professor of computer science
Research: Design and analysis of parallel computing systems. He also is interested in integrating parallel computing with scientific workflows

“The most important part, for the supercomputer, is we can do high-resolution reservoir simulations. Right now, looking through seven layers of rock is difficult. You can see lots of geological features called fissures, only to a depth of a few feet. Once you get into enhanced oil recovery you need to look at where the remaining oil is. The supercomputer can give you much more information.”

Shaochang Wo
Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Energy Research/Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute; Adjunct professor, Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
Research: Flow in porous media, or seeing how fluids behave inside a reservoir

“It will put us in a very good position in terms of computational science, which is a major focus area for the university. If we have this capability here, we are going to be much, much more likely to attract researchers in this field. From my perspective, I also hope that we’re going to attract a lot of students, in particular graduate students. Undergraduates would be good, as long as they go on after that. I think it’s going to have a major impact. I’m optimistic. Maybe this will give them somewhere to come.”

Dan Stanescu
Professor of mathematics
Research: Computational aeroacoustics, or the study of how sound waves from airplanes behave on the ground; also computational fluid dynamics, numerical solution of stochastic differential equations

“Since we are focused on the development of high-performance algorithms and simulation capabilities, the availability of leading-edge hardware is not only desirable but necessary for us to contribute significantly in our field of research. We have traditionally had access to government-funded supercomputers, but the proximity and availability of the NCAR facility will provide us with a considerable advantage in this respect.”

Dimitri Mavriplis
Professor of mechanical engineering
Research: Computational fluid dynamics, algorithm development, parallel computing techniques, wind energy simulations, aerospace applications

“Traditionally people have thought about those problems, but all the advances people hope to make with respect to medical genetics and understanding how the genome affects health, those are huge computer problems and that’s what I study. [The supercomputer] could allow us to do all kinds of calculations here that either now I do in my own lab or would have to go to national centers elsewhere.”

Alex Buerkle
Associate professor of evolutionary genetics
Research: Speciation and the genetic architecture of isolating boundaries, hybridization, genetics of adaptation
A task force helps UW vets with the transition to university life

From

Over there

Troy Phillips knew he would get a break on his college education expenses after four years in the United States Navy and a year in the Navy Reserves. But what he didn’t know was how difficult it would be to adjust to life on campus. After a year of scanning crowds for signs of danger, Phillips had to learn that the 200 classmates crowding the doors of a lecture hall were to be trusted.

And, that’s not all he learned about making the radical transition from soldier to student when he arrived at the University of Wyoming in August 2001. He discovered a new way of life and a new system to navigate.

Years later, when Phillips was asked to be part of the Veterans Services Task Force, he remembered his early experience and vowed to help out veterans at UW in the future.

“As a vet, I know what we’ve been through overseas,” Phillips says. “To have the chance to have school paid for by scholarships and people who give the scholarships and donate, we veterans can’t say ‘thanks’ enough for the scholarships that we do receive. So it’s important to let the veterans know about the scholarships are there.”

A native of Rockford, Illinois, now living in Laramie, Phillips is one of 21 members of the UW community on the task force, which was formed for fall 2009 to make UW a better place for those who have served in the armed forces.

Faculty and staff are represented on the task force, as are students and Laramie community members.

“The administration did a nice job of trying to anticipate all the things veterans might need, and I’m sure they got all the people together to start planning.”

The task force has been credited with clearing up the bureaucratic maze facing every student upon arrival at UW, especially veterans accessing government-entitled benefits.

Denise Jairell of UW’s financial aid office says she was honored to be named to the task force.

“It’s a wonderful thing for the university, because we’re looking at different kinds of veterans coming back to school,” she says. “They’re much younger: a different generation. It’ll be a good thing for them to have help with the transition to get back into school.”

Like all veterans, Phillips is categorized as a non-traditional student—according to UW’s Nontraditional Student Center he meets two of its criteria, being 25 or older, and a veteran of the United States Armed Services.

After earning his high school diploma in Illinois at 20, he enlisted in the Navy, achieving the rank of petty officer third class while serving as a signalman. He spent four years in the Navy, and then spent a year in the Navy Reserves.

In December 2000, after spending time with a friend’s family in Wyoming, he moved to Laramie and joined the Army National Guard in February 2001 as a heavy equipment operator in the 133rd Engineer Company.

Seemingly in preparation for the transition to college, Phillips says he had to get used to whole new sets of terminology and language in transferring from the Navy to the Guard.

“When I came into the Army National Guard, there was no transition course to take you from one branch to the other, so I never did basic training. I was a little lost,” he says. “The cadences and the acronyms are quite a bit different than what we had in the Navy, and I’m still adjusting to things.”

Upon learning of the educational benefits, he enrolled at UW in fall 2001. Of course, on September 11 of that year, his plans changed. He says his unit spent the 10 days in Laramie immediately after the terrorist attacks providing security around the armory, and Phillips deployed later, in early 2003 with the 1041st Engineer Company out of Rock Springs, Wyoming.

“They needed people to volunteer to go with them, so I changed my job to the 1041st. We called ourselves the ‘Bridge Trolls,’” he says. “From January 2003 to May 2003 we were in Fort Polk, Louisiana, preparing to go over [to Iraq], and we never did. So we came back here, and I went to school again.”

To

Over here

“Pistol Pete flew in on a Blackhawk and flew out on a Blackhawk. He flew on a little plane called a Sherpa, a shoeshine with wings that flies below power lines and stuff”—Troy Phillips as Pistol Pete in Iraq

Photo courtesy of Troy Phillips

“Pistol Pete flew in on a Blackhawk and flew out on a Blackhawk. He flew on a little plane called a Sherpa, a shoeshine with wings that flies below power lines and stuff”—Troy Phillips as Pistol Pete in Iraq
He was called up for duty again in October 2004, this time with the 134th, and this time the unit went to Iraq. It arrived at Tallil Air base in Iraq on New Year’s Day 2005 and returned in December of that same year.

“We traveled all over Iraq,” Phillips says. “We went from Kuwait to Tallil Air Force Base in southern Iraq. We were up in Baghdad, and we were in Rahib, which is near the Syrian border.

“We’re engineers, so we did a lot of improvements on camps for security. We also did convoy security. Some of our people did mass-grave digs, in which they never found anything. There was quite a lot we did, out in the community as well, not just on our bases.

Some of that community outreach involved introducing other parts of the world to Pistol Pete. Phillips served as UW’s mascot at football and basketball games and other functions while a student, and he took the act on the road while in Iraq.

“I did that on and off for about four years, and it was fun,” Phillips says. “Sometimes terrorist attacks happen in crowded streets, and if a veteran has been near an event he or she is gun shy about being in large groups, which is a part of life on a campus with more than 13,000 students.

“The hardest adjustment to me has been the large classes,” Phillips says. “When you’re in Iraq, you only let people in uniform close to you. So when you come back to normal life and you’re in a busy place like a restaurant with all the noise and commotion, it can really mess with people’s minds until they adapt to it, which takes time, especially if somebody’s been thrown out of their comfort zone by combat.

“One of my music classes was 200 people. To me that was huge. A lot of veterans usually sit in the back of the class instead of the front, so if they have to leave they can. That was the most difficult part of college.”

According to the task force’s report, there are 260–280 veterans accessing their benefits at UW and 47 faculty members who have served in the armed forces. Phillips says nearly 900 soldiers with various detachments recently returned to Wyoming from Iraq and Afghanistan, and some of them plan to enroll at UW and at the state’s community colleges.

Thanks to the Veterans Services Task Force, UW is addressing the problems facing veterans, from financial aid to counseling for combat trauma.

Already there is a Web page for veterans looking for information about UW [see box], and Jairell says she has received several queries about what the university offers. In time for fall semester, there will be a veterans-only orientation, and a veterans’ services center will open on the second floor of Knight Hall. Cardona says the center will be staffed by work-study students who also are veterans, and it will be a resource to answer any questions veterans might have about anything related to college. There also will be a lounge for veterans to congregate with places to sit and a TV.

“By having the vets’ center, they’re going to have somewhere to go to feel that camaraderie that they had before and give them the resources they need,” Jairell says. “The university didn’t have that before. They could come in and talk to me about getting their education benefits, but they didn’t really have a network, so it’ll be a wonderful thing to set up a network for them.”

“It’s also going to give veterans the chance to go to a place where they’re comfortable, especially those who have served in Iraq,” Phillips says. “Coming back to a younger crowd, it’s hard having a lot of people around who aren’t familiar with what you dealt with overseas. Allowing veterans to have a space like that—I wouldn’t say it’s an advantage but it is a great resource for the veterans to use.”

The task force will continue meeting finding newer and better ways to serve this growing student population. Gray says it will show UW cares about its veteran students.

“The hope is that it’s conspicuous. UW is trying to do everything it can to mobilize resources in a coordinated effort to provide them with any benefits and support we can offer,” Gray says. “So if they see that there is this mobilization from the administration, that there’s a Web page devoted to veterans’ services, that there are ongoing resources and personnel devoted to veterans’ services, it communicates that this is something that really value and help folks with.”

Phillips continues to serve with the Guard, giving it one weekend each month and two weeks each year. In July he joined his unit at Camp Guernsey to run through equipment maneuvers, help rebuild roads, and put in culverts for drainage. The unit also underwent weapons qualifications and physical fitness tests, among other things.

He’ll student teach in January in Cheyenne, and after that he says he hopes to find a teaching job in Wyoming. In the meantime, he’ll continue to serve on the task force and help veterans with the transition from military life to college life.

“They’re looking into more veterans’ benefits and things the state offers,” he says. “So as long as the number of veterans keeps growing, the task force is going to continue.”

College is a different world for a veteran; one where students find their own paths rather than being told what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. It can be an eye-opening experience for a veteran, who has spent so much time in the structured world of the military, to now be responsible for one’s self in the wide-open world of college.

It can be an eye-opening experience for a veteran... to now be responsible for one’s self in the wide-open world of college.
Tell us about the new building.

The combined facility of renovated space and new construction is approximately 165,000 gross square feet, more than double the square footage we had in the old building and the space we occupied in Ross Hall, a former residence hall. The 112,000 gross square feet of new construction was built directly east of the existing building, which was completely renovated. The entire facility is located across the street from White Hall and the Pi Beta Phi sorority house on the northwest corner of 15th and Ivinson streets. The new building has 24 classrooms and can accommodate up to 1,100 students at one time. This facility is LEED certified at the Gold level, and is the first facility at the University of Wyoming to achieve this distinction. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and includes myriad green features. Some of these features include an atrium that provides natural light to many offices and conference rooms in the new construction, toilets that use only one cup of water versus one gallon, bike storage to encourage people to bike to work, and annual energy savings of 15 percent for the new building and 29 percent for the existing building. Furthermore, more than 90 percent of the material from the old building was recycled, 10 percent of our construction material was recycled content, 100 percent of storm water will be captured and treated, and water-efficient landscaping will reduce our water usage by 50 percent or more.

What does having a facility like this mean for the University of Wyoming?

We will have one of the very best facilities not only in the West, but in the entire country. This world-class facility will have a positive impact on recruiting top students and faculty, and will also please our many alumni who prepared for their professional careers at UW. The quality of our programs has been extremely high over the years based upon our standardized exit exams measuring content knowledge, but our old facility didn’t reflect the excellence of our students, faculty, or programs. Many students and parents visiting from high schools in Wyoming and the region were disappointed in the facilities and unfortunately it affected our recruitment capacity. Quality is a driving force for the College of Business, and we are one of approximately 500 business schools in the world accredited by AACSB [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business] International. This important quality distinction in undergraduate and graduate education places UW among the top 15 percent of business schools worldwide and is something that we have maintained over the past 50 years. AACSB’s accreditation team in 2000 recommended upgrades in instruction services and technology for the classrooms and integration of all faculty, staff and student functions into a singular building complex. This new facility addresses these recommendations in a powerful way, and allows us to continue to build on our strengths. We are hosting another AACSB accreditation team this fall and can’t wait to show them the new facility and our progress over the past 10 years.

How will the student experience differ?

The student-centered facility will offer opportunities unique to business education. Classroom spaces will be complimented by a networked training room for tracking investments, multimedia laboratory, a behavioral research laboratory, group study rooms, flexible case study rooms, and practice interview and presentation rooms that will accommodate a variety of teaching and learning methods. Acknowledging that not all learning takes place in a classroom, the design of the new building will include open areas where faculty and students can get together informally to discuss ideas, assignments, or work on projects. Student services will be centrally located on the first floor for easy access, including our academic advising unit and the new Peter M. and Paula Green Johnson Career Center, which will provide opportunities for students to pursue internships, networking, career planning, and job placement.

Faculty and students can now work in spaces conducive to interdisciplinary discussions, and they will be better prepared to address business problems and research needs relevant to Wyoming. Important sectors of our economy such as energy, finance, health care, tourism, technology, new ventures, and small business will have an increased presence at UW as we host them for board meetings and increase the student and faculty interaction with the important private sector of our economy. We have included a boardroom in the new facility to host business executives at UW for board meetings. We believe this new boardroom will provide our students and faculty powerful teaching and learning opportunities in intensive real business settings that were not available before our new facility. In addition, students and faculty in economics and finance will no longer be isolated from the rest of the college across campus in Ross Hall. Instead, they will be in the same facility for the first time in more than 40 years. Integrating all business disciplines in one world-class space, while also assimilating faculty members from our various academic units, will create a positive impact and will better model the business world.

What role does technology play in business education in the 21st century?

Students who graduate from the College of Business will be better prepared, especially in terms of technology and group interaction skills, to enter the 21st century workforce. Students will benefit from a modern technology infrastructure that will include both wired and wireless technologies. This will help ensure that Wyoming’s business graduates are well prepared to use and leverage technology in the workplace. Further, with modern distance education technologies such as two-way videoconferencing, multimedia presentation laboratories, and Internet communications, visiting executives and faculty will be able to share their expertise in Laramie and statewide. We have doubled our classroom capacity in the new facility, but our technology improvement is at least fourfold. While we have worked very hard to improve technology in the new building, technology in itself does not replace quality content. The new facility and improved technology also enhances our ability to engage students and faculty in quality research that eventually filters into publications and textbooks.

What’s next for the College of Business?

The future is bright for the College of Business as we leverage our rich history of quality in undergraduate and graduate programming and continue to build on our strengths. We have recently developed an overarching strategy to teach and research in the emerging area of sustainable business practices, which in a nutshell is teaching students to think beyond short-run benefits and costs. Sustainable business practices, entrepreneurship, educational leadership in sustainable business practices, which in a nutshell is teaching students to think beyond short-run benefits and costs. Sustainable business practices, which in a nutshell is teaching students to think beyond short-run benefits and costs. Sustainable business practices, which in a nutshell is teaching students to think beyond short-run benefits and costs. Sustainable business practices, which in a nutshell is teaching students to think beyond short-run benefits and costs. 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Jennifer Higdon laughs when she’s introduced as a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer. Being introduced as a Grammy-winning composer has the same effect. “That sounds funny when I hear that,” she says. “I don’t think I’m adjusted to it yet. It’s been kind of an unreal year, an amazing year at that. To have gotten both of those within months of each other, and for different pieces, is staggering. It’s a lot to take in.”

She won the Pulitzer Prize for music with her Violin Concerto, a piece she wrote for the young virtuoso Hilary Hahn. Her 2010 Grammy award honored her Percussion Concerto in the category of Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Funny-sounding or not, the award-winning composer is the University of Wyoming’s Eminent Artist-in-Residence for the 2010–11 academic year, during which she’ll spend four one-week sessions at UW, each with a different focus. On September 22–25, she’ll work with an ensemble of music faculty for New Frontiers, the annual new music festival. On October 14, the UW Symphony Orchestra will perform one of her works after a few days of rehearsals. From March 29 to April 1, she’ll work with the wind symphony, and UW’s Collegiate Chorale will rehearse one of her choral pieces with her April 18–21.

The multi-week format at UW is her preferred method for residencies, as it gives her the chance to reach more people and work on more aspects of a performance than in a compressed, one-week format.

“It’s really hard when you have everything crammed in within one week,” she says. “I’ve done the repeat visits before with a lot of other universities, and I’ve done it with orchestras. It seems to work better when you come back over a period of time. It’s a lot to process in a short amount of time. You get to know the faculty, and they get to know you. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

While at UW, she’ll also lecture on the business of music sharing knowledge from more than 20 years as a composer of works for every configuration from solo saxophone to orchestras.

Higdon is a staunch advocate for educating music students about the business aspect of the craft. She’s the first self-published composer to win a Pulitzer, and she owns her own publishing company, Lawdon Press.

“Often, when I go into schools I talk about business—what goes into running a business whether you’re a performer as an individual or with a group,” she says. “Even in my own teaching here in Philadelphia, I make sure we cover the business aspect because it’s not in curriculums, and it’s a very important thing. That’s the first thing students notice when they leave school and they run up against something, and they’re like, ‘Oh, we didn’t cover this.’”

While she says she’ll let the situation dictate what she teaches, she’ll speak on composing. She has composed some 140 works at a rate of about 10 a year, she says, and she always is working on something.

“Some of those are small, but it’s quite a bit of writing,” she says. “I make my living from composing, and I’m fortunate because it’s hard to do that in the U.S., especially in classical music.”

Higdon just started a piece for concert band, a co-commissioned work for 50 bands that will be performed by each band in the first year the piece comes out. After that, she’s been commissioned by the Grand Teton Music Festival in Jackson, Wyoming, to write a piece for orchestra. In both cases, Higdon says the key is just getting started writing.

“Starting the piece is the hardest,” she says. “Maybe because I’m at the point where I’m starting a piece. I’m saying that, but I find that’s the most agonizing part of it. I’m in the worst possible mood because just trying to find the world of sound a piece emerges from is just difficult. It’s like wandering in a dark room trying to find the light switch.”
Dan Haley helps pen the voice of the West

When he needed a day off, Dan Haley’s excuse to the Denver Post sports department in 1991 may rank as one of the best.

The Denver native, a UW senior at the time, begged out of covering the Pokes on Homecoming to preside over the festivities as homecoming king, where he accompanied Cheyenne native and homecoming queen Linda Green on the field.

“I have teased him about it ever since,” Denver Post sports writer Natalie Meidler says. “When he was at the Post and he was promoted to editorial page editor, I did bow down and give him the ‘I’m not worthy’ routine.”

Haley, a 1992 graduate of the University of Wyoming, still grins about that.

“I don’t know if Natalie knows I actually married the homecoming queen from that year,” Haley says from his Denver Post office overlooking the Colorado State Capitol and Denver City Hall.

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“I don’t know if Natalie knows I actually married the homecoming queen from that year,” Haley says from his Denver Post office overlooking the Colorado State Capitol and Denver City Hall.
“When I was on the city desk, you were writing about what was happening. You were chronicling that proverbial first draft of history, which is very important. But here you can actually propose solutions and hold people’s feet to the fire.”

Denver newspaper changes

For decades, the Post battled daily with the Rocky Mountain News to gain readership and loyalty.

“It was a sad day when the Rocky closed,” Haley says. “One of the things I loved the most about my job was the competition. When I was on the city desk, the competition drove you. What was the Rocky going to have tomorrow? I could see the lights at the Rocky, and late at night I could see someone still working. I’d ask myself, ‘What are they going to have tomorrow that we don’t have?’”

“The Rocky made us a better newspaper. We made the Rocky a better newspaper. Just having one less newspaper in town is 200 less eyes and ears than we had, and that can’t be good for what’s happening in the state.”

The Rocky’s closure was a grueling lesson in newspaper economics; a number of other major cities have lost one of two or sometimes both newspapers in the last few years. The Post was not immune from the financial hardships. Of the six metro bureaus Haley used to oversee, only one remains, and Haley survived two rounds of layoffs in the past three years.

“More people read the Denver Post now than at any point in the history of the newspaper. They just do it in different ways. How do we get those people to give us money when we have been giving them the [Web] product for free for the past 15 years?”

Haley and his staff have been working on new features for the editorial pages since he was named editor. During the 2008 elections, the Post offered its first endorsements of primary races, ran live, streaming video of editorial board meetings with congressional candidates, and hosted online chats with them. Overwhelming audience response briefly shut down the Post’s chat function. The Post also broke its endorsements in the presidential race at 2 p.m. on a Friday, then in the Sunday print edition.

“We hit two different audiences,” Haley says. “We broke the endorsements on a Friday and got a ton of e-mails, and on Saturday it died down. Then, Sunday the endorsements hit and e-mail started up again.”

Even with a staff, he doesn’t write as often as he would like; Haley writes a Sunday column, generally on Wednesdays after the kids are in bed, and gets in an occasional editorial.

“That’s one of the things I miss as an editor. You get further from what you like about journalism and deal more with schedules and who’s taking vacations and ‘this person next to me doesn’t like me.’”

Haley says he’s content in his position and the challenge it offers him on a daily basis.

“I’ve always promised myself when I stop having fun I am going to do something else, because I care too much about journalism to just burn out and not give 100 percent to the job,” Haley says.

“This has to be a playground.”

People of the West: A Collector’s Vision

Selections from the Collection of Erivan and Helga Haub

by Nicole Crawford

By the time Erivan and Helga Haub began collecting Western art in 1984, they already had an impressive collection of European old masters. With a passion for collecting and a keen eye for art, it is no surprise they have amassed one of the most important collections of Western American art in private hands. Assisted by friends Ted and Christine Mollring—former owners of Trailside Galleries in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Scottsdale, Arizona—their Western collection is unique, having been selected and cultivated through the Haubs’ vision and love for the American West.

Born and raised in Germany, the Haubs grew up listening to the tales of life in the rugged American West. Their first visit to Wyoming was in 1982, and they were both immediately taken with the region and soon acquired a ranch in Cora, Wyoming. Although their primary residence remains in Germany, the Haubs return to Wyoming each summer to spend time with the landscape and culture they fell in love with.
The cultural traditions of the West are often considered through representations of the people who inhabit it. Conscious of this, the Haubs’ collected artworks including depictions of American Indians from the plains and pueblos, and the western cowboy represented in both iconic imagery and in the storytelling tradition. Portrayals of soldiers in the West and their encounters with American Indians are seen from several points of view, along with the rarely depicted images of Hispanic life and traditions. The artworks span from the early explorer artists to contemporary, all in a variety of media. This wide range of artists in the Haub Collection establishes the complexities of life in the West during that last 150 years and reveals the importance—culturally, socially, visually, and historically—of Western art as a genre.

An important work in their collection, Departure of an Indian War Party by Albert Bierstadt, provides an intimate view of Plains American Indian life. The scene is calm and bucolic, portraying a sense of the unspoiled beauty of the West through its inhabitants. The painting is significant not only because it is most likely a scene from Bierstadt’s 1859 trip to the Wyoming Territory, but because this well-known artist of the American West was born and studied art in Germany.

A recurrent approach to the narrative-realist theme in Western art is the confrontation of the old and new, which is often depicted by placing the traditional American Indian culture with such modern technologies of the day as the railroad or wagon train. Charles M. Russell’s Indians Scouting a Wagon Train is a good example of conveying a historic moment in the American West.

One of the most persistent icons in Western art is the cowboy. Sculptor Alexander Phimister Proctor, who grew up in the West, brought his extensive knowledge of western life to his work as seen in the bronze, The Buckaroo. The contest between man and horse is captured with grace and striking kinetic action.

Many contemporary Western artists adhere to the narrative-realist approach; others, however, depart dramatically. For example, Bill Schenck uses a flat, simplified composition with vibrant colors to illustrate his Western narrative in An Ancient Place. By combining traditional Western characters with his artistic roots of Pop Art of the 1960s, historical fact and epic myth of the West overlap.

The impressive and important collection assembled by Erivan and Helga Haub conveys the rich visual inheritance from the West that has been influential worldwide. The University of Wyoming Art Museum is privileged to present People of the West: A Collector’s Vision—Selections from the Collection of Erivan and Helga Haub and give the public an opportunity to view some of the many important paintings and sculptures in the collection. In addition to Erivan and Helga’s love of art, philanthropy and environmental protection have been important to the Haub family. In 2004, they combined these interests through a gift to the University of Wyoming that established the Helga Otto Haub School of Environmental and Natural Resources. With this exhibition, the Haubs continue to be great friends of the University of Wyoming.

People of the West: A Collector’s Vision will be on display at the University of Wyoming Art Museum from September 11–November 13.

(top) Charles M. Russell, (1864–1926), Indians Scouting a Wagon Train, watercolor on paper, 14 ⁵⁄₈ x 21 ⁷⁄₈ inches. Erivan and Helga Haub Family Collection of Western Art.

(top) Bill Schenck (b. 1947), An Ancient Place, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 inches. Erivan and Helga Haub Family Collection of Western Art.

(previous page) Alexander Phimister Proctor (1860–1950), The Buckaroo, bronze, 28 ⁵⁄₈ x 20 ⁵⁄₈ x 8 inches. Erivan and Helga Haub Family Collection of Western Art.
Different goals
UW women’s lacrosse makes progress in first two seasons
by Dave Shelles

Amanda Casas says she might have seen a second or two of lacrosse when flipping through the TV channels. Jeff Witt, Kari Neuman and Jessi Doetsch learned about lacrosse when they arrived in high school, competing on their high school teams, a far cry from other athletes who learn their sports in preschool.

From such inauspicious beginnings came the University of Wyoming women’s lacrosse team, the newest of UW’s club sports.

“Tell a story that any woman with any athletic ability or skill level can play and enjoy,” Doetsch says. “You don’t have to come in knowing a ton about the sport, and once you hold a stick you don’t ever put it down. You stick with it.”

Doetsch’s sentiment describes the team perfectly. With few experienced players taking the field, the focus for the team has been learning the sport and having a good time, not as much on winning and losing.

“The most important thing was the mentality that we had. Only a couple women had experience before, and a lot of the women didn’t even know what the lines on the field were, so it’s a total learning experience,” says Neuman, who along with original coach Dave Pomeroy established the team in fall 2007.

“You had to go out with the idea that we weren’t going to bear these teams that have had an established team for a long time. Once we got in the mindset that we might lose 20-0 every single game, we showed improvement and enjoyed the game more.”

Like all clubs, the women’s lacrosse team went through a one-year probationary period where the team had to show sustained interest and stay out of trouble Doetsch says. With those requirements fulfilled, the team gained its official status for spring 2009.

Midway through that first official season, Witt, a goalie during his high school days, took over as coach. After playing for the UW men’s club as a freshman, he took a year off from the sport his sophomore year and then joined his friend Pomeroy on the sideline for the women’s team as a junior. After Pomeroy left the team, the players persuaded him to take over as coach; it was his first experience coaching lacrosse.

“I just kind of fell into it,” Witt says. “It’s been really exciting to see how the experience has gone and how much better the team is. You can see the program is moving forward. We’re starting to compete with teams we didn’t stand a chance with the first couple years we were around, so it’s been a lot of fun.”

After winning one game the first season, the team improved to 4-5 overall in 2010, 2-2 in the Rocky Mountain Women’s Lacrosse League. The UW women finished third in the league’s playoffs, earning respect from their opponents—and even the game officials—along the way.

“Most of them understand we’re a fairly new program,” Casas says. “It’s been most helpful for the refs to point things out. If we did something wrong, they’d tell us and explain instead of just calling it so we don’t have a clue of what we’ve done. There are so many rules, and a lot of the time we don’t know what we’re doing.”

“At one point, after our last game of the year, CSU came up to us and complimented us on our season. Coming from one of our biggest rivals, that really felt good.”

Doetsch has a direct line to the future of the UW program. As co-coach of the girls club at Laramie High School, she’s helping plant the seeds for the growth of the sport in the town and in Wyoming. She says a number of her former players are headed for UW in the fall and will likely play lacrosse.

Still, the team’s goal for the future extends beyond UW.

“We’re just trying to help the sport grow throughout Wyoming,” Witt says. “The high school teams don’t have a lot of other teams to play against, so if it grows at the high school level, that growth could transfer to the college level, too.”

With experienced players, strong opposition and pipelines to experienced players in both Wyoming and Colorado, all the team will need is exposure. UW played just one home game in 2010, a 14-13 win over University of Northern Colorado. Witt and his team say they hope to play more home games in 2011.

“If you haven’t seen lacrosse, come out and watch us,” Casas says. “There’s so much to know about it. We’re trying to make a team that will represent Wyoming well. We’re really passionate about what we do as a team. It’s important to know that we’re here, and people should expect to see more of us.”

How they got involved
Amanda Casas, goalie, Laramie, Wyoming
I kind of got suckered into it. I played goalie in soccer and catcher in softball, so I was used to getting things chucked at me. I went in thinking I’d never play goalie for lacrosse because that ball is hard, I threw it through a fence the first time I ever threw one.

Then one of my friends sent me a Facebook invite saying, “We really need you.” So I tried it.

Kari Neuman, defender, Fort Collins, Colorado
I’m the most un-athletic person I know, and for some reason lacrosse came easy to me. I started playing because my best friend played field hockey, and they were trying to convert the field hockey girls to start a lacrosse team in Fort Collins. There was no high school team. A woman who played on the CSU lacrosse team just wanted to start one up. So all the field hockey girls went out, and we were best friends and did everything together. She ended up not liking it, but I just loved it.

Jessi Doetsch, defender, Conifer, Colorado
I played men’s lacrosse for a while down in Colorado because my brothers played, and I needed to either learn to play or get balls flung at me. My little brother played mostly. It wasn’t really popular in Colorado when my older brother played, so he picked it up when my little brother picked it up, and we all learned it at the same time.

About the sport
The strategy in lacrosse is similar to soccer, hockey or basketball—passing and positioning are at a premium to take advantage of scoring opportunities. Played on a surface the size of a football field, the men’s game involves 10 players per side while the women’s game has 11 on each side. The goals are located inside circles 15 yards off each end line, so play can take place behind each goal. Men’s games consist of four 15-min-ute quarters while women’s games consist of two 30-minute halves.

Men’s lacrosse features body-checking and shoulder pads, while the women’s game does not allow physical contact, and the only equipment required beyond the stick is a set of goggles, thin gloves, and a mouth guard.
An honorary degree from the University of Wyoming recognizes individuals who reflect the university’s high ideals and values and exemplify the concepts of excellence, service, and integrity.

For more information about Honorary Degrees at the University of Wyoming and the nomination criteria, go to www.uwyo.edu/honorarydegree.

Nominations are due no later than October 29, 2010.
Welcome
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Our blend of features, news, and photography highlights members of the university community, its alumni, and friends who make the university a leader in research, teaching, service, and outreach.

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