



The University of Wyoming policy debate team attended its first in-person tournament since the pandemic, the 76th National Debate Tournament

UW policy debate qualifies three teams to the 76th National Debate Tournament for first time in its history

The University of Wyoming Debate team was among seven universities nationwide to qualify three teams for the 76th National Debate Tournament. Placing 34th overall among the nation's top 78 teams, Wyoming's top team defeated teams from Wake Forest University, Emory University, Boston College, and others.

The tournament took place in April at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, which was the policy team's first in-person tournament in two years. Half of the debaters that competed at the National Debate Tournament were first-year students and none were seniors, so every competitor will be returning next year.

"This year was the first year in the UW program's history we have qualified three teams, so it also was a historic accomplishment for us," UW Debate Coach Matt Liu said. "There is a regulated limit on the number of third teams from any university that can attend the tournament so in order to be a third team, you have to be one of the best third teams in the country. So this means our third team was on par with the third teams from the other top universities."

The qualification process was rather tough but the students successfully competed against the best debate teams in the country. When asked if this was something the team had anticipated, Liu said, "Honestly, it would have been a big reach for us if we had made that our explicit goal because it did not seem possible this year. But we are so pleased to have this great accomplishment on a faster timeline than we expected."

The team joined Emory University, Harvard University, Liberty University, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota and Wake Forest University as the only schools to qualify three teams for the national tournament.

The debate topic was the same throughout the tournament: "Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase prohibitions on anticompetitive business practices by the private sector by at least expanding the scope of its core antitrust laws."

COJO's newest instructor, Shane Epping, starts Model Professorship

University of Wyoming students received an opportunity to explore photojournalism thanks to the new Bobby Model Photojournalism Professorship.

All the way from the middle of Missouri, Shane Epping joined the Communication and Journalism Department in August 2021 as an instructor.

Epping's interest in photography began when he received a camera as a high school graduation gift. Since then, he has made pictures using both film and digital production on what he calls an addictive level.

"A camera has the unique ability to preserve life happenings in an environment in which many of our experiences are fleeting," Epping said. "I like to take the time to document my surroundings, no matter the significance, from seemingly trivial to profound. It is not unusual for an apparently mundane image to become increasingly meaningful as the clock ticks and contexts change."

In this spirit, Epping knows that a picture in and of itself is sometimes most impactful to a single individual for whom context is completely relative.

"Photographs trigger our memories and remind us of what we have experienced: the good, the bad, the ugly. They also show us what others have experienced — offering a window into other cultures and diverse perspectives on the world where we all reside."

For example, Epping was recently part of a team of researchers who analyzed how those living with HIV documented their lives with a camera.

The Model Professorship in Photojournalism was what drew Epping to UW. The professorship honors Bobby Model, a former UW photography student and National Geographic photographer who passed away in 2009.

"It seemed like a unique opportunity to come to a place that is willing to invest and care about photojournalism," Epping explained. "Visual stories about our shared environment, and perhaps more importantly, those who occupy it, matter."

Epping teaches photojournalism courses, including introductory photography and entrepreneurship as it relates to professions focused on creativity. He has experience teaching multimedia journalism inclusive of still photography, video, audio production, and website design. He also is a Federal Aviation Administration-certified remote drone pilot and has been sought out as a drone journalism instructor.

Epping believes in learning by doing, so he will be taking two UW students to the Peruvian Jungle this July to be part of Be The Change Volunteers (BTCV). BTCV is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating better education opportunities worldwide. It primarily operates in remote underdeveloped communities that have a demonstrated need for educational facilities and resources.

During the 10-days of service, Epping plans to document the experience so that he and the students will be able to bring back the stories back to Laramie. "It's like taking the University of Wyoming to a remote part of the world in the spirit of both education and photojournalism," Epping added.

For Epping, this project is a way for him to honor Bobby Model and the Model Fellowship. Model was a philanthropist, making gifts to small community health clinics and rural schools in faraway places where modest contributions could make a significant impact.

"In the spirit of communication, Model travelled to different parts of the world and documented conditions that are not similar to America for people to see. That to me is social justice," Epping said. "In the same vein, if we could travel somewhere and document stories of other people, that would keep Bobby's spirit alive and well."

Epping plans to take students on a Study Abroad trip in 2023 and is considering creating a photojournalism minor.



Epping in his Intro to Photography class

UW's Director of Debate Matt Liu received the National Debate Award



Matt Liu

Matt Liu, director of debate at the University of Wyoming, received the National Service Award from the National Debate Coaches Association at its recent meeting.

Liu was selected for the award for developing a number of initiatives that UW debate is accomplishing to boost debate in the Mountain West region.

Among the programs initiated are:

- Developing Team Wyoming, a program that provides free debate coaching to high school students in the region.
- Starting a high school debate team with the Wyoming Virtual Academy, an online school.
- Providing significant outreach to the home-school community.
- Hosting four high school debate tournaments.
- Establishing the Western Series, an initiative to spotlight high-quality and accessible tournaments in an emerging post-pandemic environment.

"Having our efforts recognized was a terrific honor," Liu says. "I hope it draws more attention to the programs we are providing so more people take advantage of them."

Liu has been involved in competitive debate for 21 years. He joined UW's program three years ago after coaching multiple national championships at the University of Minnesota and Wake Forest University.

When discussing what he likes about debate, Liu reflects on the bigger picture.

"Debate can be such a game changer for people's lives. It teaches critical thinking, research and public speaking," he says. "At the end of the day, though, I just love the competition. Debate is a deep and complex intellectual game. It is a battle of wits with all the competitive rigor of Division I athletics."

Liu also is an assistant lecturer in the UW Department of Communication and Journalism, and he teaches courses in persuasive argumentation and other topics.

COJO alumni Jack Tennant named Executive Director of UW Alumni

Jack Tennant, a COJO alumnus, was named the new executive director of the University of Wyoming Alumni Association in February 2022, succeeding Keener Fry, who retired after a decade of leading the UWAA.

From Central Illinois, Tennant came to UW in 2006 as a student-athlete in football and wrestling. He started as an engineering major, but realized it was not in the cards for him, so he decided to switch to communication. Something sparked for him when he took Cindy Price Schultz's Public Relations class.

"Kevin McKinney, former UW senior associate athletics director for external operations and longtime sports commentator for Cowboy football and basketball radio broadcasts, came to class and spoke about internships," Tennant said. "So I asked him how I could do an internship because I was so

busy with practice and meetings. He suggested that I try the Cowboy Joe Club internship where I stayed a year as an intern and then three more years doing various positions."

Tennant moved to the UW Foundation as a gift officer for the College of Business in 2013 and then Director of Annual Giving in 2018. "I enjoy being an external representative for the university. It is a lot of relationship building, since we have over 130,000 living alumni around the world," he said.

Overall, Tennant gives credit to the department for the direction in his life.

"It was the speakers that came to class that got my career started and throughout my entire career, I have used so many skills that I learned from COJO. I look forward to continuing to use those skills as the executive director of the Alumni Association."



Jack Tennant

Li receives first Zimmerman award

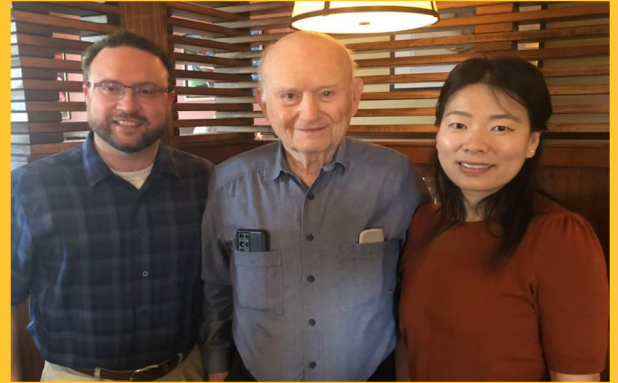
Dr. Li Li from the COJO department, along with Dr. Paul Maddox from the College of Education, received the first-ever Zimmerman award for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Zimmerman award was set up by Dr. Gail Zimmerman, who was a professor at Casper College before he began his career with UW-Casper. The award is an initiative to help junior and midcareer faculty members advance their careers, especially related to research.

“Dr. Zimmerman understands how difficult it is for a faculty member at a branch campus to do research because we have very limited resources and we are so isolated from the main campus,” Li said. “This award is a tremendous opportunity and I am so honored to have been selected as one of the first to receive it!”

The award is exclusively for UW-Casper faculty members. Li, who is an associate professor, will start in September to study students’ online learning experiences with the \$7,500 she received to conduct her research.

“I have been teaching online courses since 2012, way before the pandemic. Therefore, my research



From left: Dr. Paul Maddox, Dr. Gail Zimmerman, Dr. Li Li

agenda has always been around distance education,” she said. “Even after the pandemic, online education is still going to thrive, especially since that is what we mostly do at UW-Casper.”

Li plans to submit her research paper to the 2023 National Communication Association Annual Conference.

Emeritus professor receives nomination for Best Historical Publication



Emeritus professor Mike Brown recently presented Aidana Bikbayeva, a visiting graduate student in international journalism from Kazakhstan, with her certificate for completing her internship at the University of Wyoming

Emeritus professor Mike Brown and his co-author Karlyga Myssayeva from the al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) wrote a paper that was selected as a finalist for the 2021 Michael S. Sweeny Award given by the History Division of AEJMC as the best historical publication of the year.

Brown and Myssayeva’s article, “Labor Propaganda and the Gulag press: The Case of Putevka,” was published in *Journalism History*.

The article came about when on one of his trips to Kazakhstan, Brown visited the Dolinka Museum for the Commemoration of

Victims of Political Repression in the old administration building of one of the largest camps in the Soviet Gulag system. Over one million people had gone through the camp in its 25-year history and a substantial number had perished.

One of the displays in the museum showed a camp newspaper from 1935. The museum held a year’s worth of newspapers produced by “lagorky,” the name given to prisoners who served as reporters and worked under the direction of the NKVD, the early secret police. After securing an international travel grant from UW and getting official permission from the Kazakh government, Brown returned to the camp with Myssayeva and examined the newspapers.

The newspaper was called Putevka and looked like any professional newspaper from that period. It was published twice per week, had a circulation of over 5,000 and targeted administrators and the leaders of work groups. A content analysis of the newspaper showed that its primary purpose was to push camp labor practices beyond the point of human capacity. To produce a newspaper at such a remote camp for such an isolated population represents the degree to which Soviet propaganda permeated the entire Soviet system and represented a specific kind of propaganda that Brown and Myssayeva called labor propaganda.

Brown and Myssayeva created a relationship between COJO and KazNU so several graduate students from Kazakhstan have visited Laramie.

SUMMER 2022 COJO KUDOS

Dr. Kristen Landerville became one of about 20 senior personnel that received the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant.

A five-year, \$20 million grant from the NSF to the University of Wyoming will allow researchers to work with Wyoming's communities to deal with expected significant and lasting changes in water availability.

Through fieldwork and high-performance computing, researchers will quantify how a changing climate in one of the nation's key headwater regions is likely to affect streamflows, aquatic ecosystems and vegetation — and the communities and people who depend upon them. Dr. Kaatie Cooper also helped Dr. Landerville in the grant application process.

Debate Coach and Assistant Lecturer Matt Liu presented at the IDEAS Symposium at UW.

Liu discussed Team Wyoming, the outreach he and his assistant coaches do with high school students in Wyoming and the Upper Rocky Mountain region.

Lambda Pi Eta, the COJO honor society, was given the Best Poster of the Year award at the UW Student Organization Awards this spring.

Graduating UW debate coach and COJO graduate student Lawrence Zhou was selected for a Fulbright award to Taiwan.

Dr. Cindy Price Schultz was selected to attend the Ellbogen Summer Faculty Institute at the Saratoga Inn. The focus of the Great Teachers Retreat was to learn from each other and help facilitate even better teaching.

Graduating COJO graduate student Taryn Bradley talked to Wyoming Public Radio about her thesis project titled, "A Changing Frontier." The project is a docuseries that tells the stories of those directly impacted by environmental and climate change.

2022 COJO Awards Recipients



Adlynn Jamaludin

COJO Top Professional Project

Adlynn Jamaludin was named the recipient of the Top Professional Project Award for the 21-22 school year. Adlynn's project is titled, "K-Pop reimagined: Bridging distance amid the COVID-19 pandemic." Her committee chair was Dr. Kaatie Cooper. Committee members were Dr. Tracey Patton and Dr. Sandy Hsu from COJO and Dr. Keonghee Han from the College of Education.



Brent Lamb

COJO Top Thesis

Brent Lamb was named the recipient of the Top Thesis Award for the 21-22 school year. Lamb's thesis is titled, "The effects of framing and source on COVID-19 vaccine and mask policy preferences." His committee chair was Dr. Kaatie Cooper. Committee members were Dr. Cindy Price Schultz from COJO and Dr. Melissa Alexander from the College of Law.

(Awards, cont. on p. 6).



Emily Smith

Judith Muhlberg Study Abroad Fellow

Emily Smith, a communication and Spanish major from Lakewood, Colorado, has been named the Judith Muhlberg Study Abroad Award winner for 2022-23. Smith plans to study in Montevideo, Uruguay, in Fall 2022 in a 100% Spanish environment.

Larsh Bristol Photojournalism

The award is in memory of Larsh Bristol, a UW journalism graduate who worked at many Wyoming newspapers after graduation.



Julia Cook

Julia Cook has been named a Larsh Bristol Photojournalism Fellow for the 2022-23 school year. Cook is an environment and natural resources and history major from Cody. She will be doing her project about "Bears and their Interactions with Humans" and will photograph the bears in Yellowstone and Alaska this summer and fall.



Vanta Coda

Vanta Coda is a communication and environment and natural resources major from Duluth, MN. He will be doing his project about "Wyoming's Heritage of the Rails," documenting the historical railroads in Wyoming as well as focus on how railroads affect Wyoming now.

Top 20 College of Arts and Sciences graduates



Kasen Urhammer

Kasen Urhammer, a journalism major from Casper, was named one of the College of Arts and Sciences Top 20 graduates!



Drew Stratton

Drew Stratton, a communication major from Casper, was named one of the College of Arts and Sciences Top 20 graduates!



Enoch Williams

Enoch Williams, a communication and philosophy major from Glenrock, was named one of the College of Arts and Sciences Top 20 graduates!