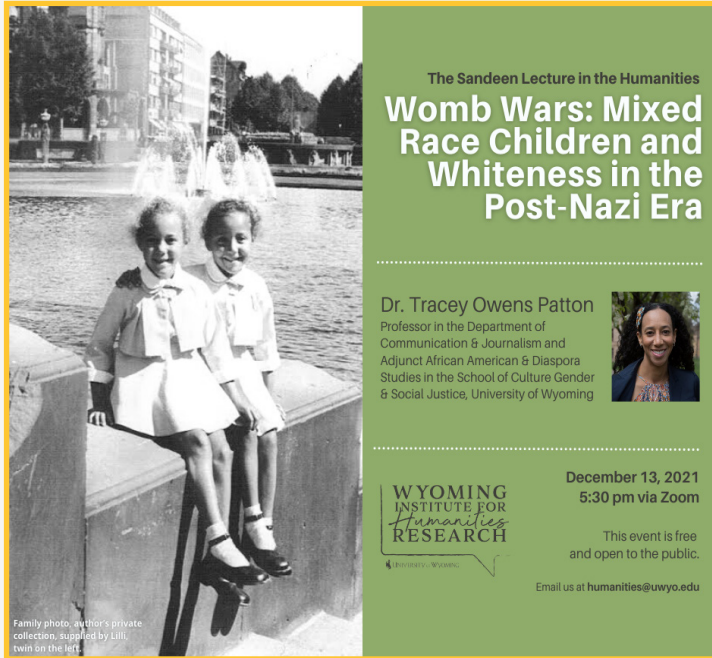


# Dr. Tracey Owens Patton makes UW history



*Dr. Tracey Owens Patton's poster of her Sandeen Lecture*

The speech touched on the sense that World War II represented a seminal moment in racial thought. She stated that the realization of the Holocaust was “transformative in the role of race-thinking by state agencies and popular institutions, particularly in the U.S., but also in European countries like Germany.” Her research highlighted “the transnational history of the diplomatic and political relations that conspired to establish legal structures of race and racism in the wake of WWII.”

During the Sandeen Lecture, “Womb Wars: Mixed Race Children and Whiteness in the Post-Nazi Era,” Patton picked up where she left off during the Presidential Speaker Series. She covered the same time period and centered on what happens to women and children and their bodies during and after war.

Patton's research, a portion of her 365-page book that was sent out for publisher review in December, centers WWI and WWII and post-WWII as related to Black military and Black American GI experiences during and after war theatre, as well as issues of race, racism, Jim Crow, and the experiences of women and biracial German children.

As noted in her Presidential Speaker series presentation, Patton's research “challenged the assumption that the Holocaust transformed race-thinking, particularly since Black American soldiers went back to a country that held steadfastly to Jim Crow and anti-miscegenation laws.”

“Separating race and racism in Germany and in the United States becomes impossible to untangle because they are braided together,” Patton explained. “While many biracial German children remained in Germany, the U.S. and German governments collaborated and destroyed families by forbidding interracial coupling. They also encouraged white German women to put up their mixed raced children for international adoption in an effort to keep Germany white.”

(Patton, cont. on p. 2).

A Communication and Journalism professor made University of Wyoming history this fall with two prestigious speaking awards.

Dr. Tracey Owens Patton was named the 2021 UW President's Speaker Series presenter and the 2021 Sandeen Lecture in the Humanities recipient.

“I am beyond thrilled and it was quite an honor to have made history,” Patton said. “To have my research seen and appreciated is an honor for any scholar.”

Both presentations are peer nominated. The President's Speaker Series calls attention to individuals who successfully balance the research, educational and service goals of the university. The Sandeen Lecture showcases the very best of humanities research by UW's faculty.

“It is wonderful to be appreciated by your community of peers,” Patton stated. “It is nice to know that people see that what I'm sharing is of importance and value to scholarship as a whole.”

For the Presidential Speaker Series, Patton discussed “The Transnationalism of Jim Crow: Institutionalizing Anti-Blackness in Germany During and After WWII.”

(Patton, cont. from p. 1).

Her interest in this subject stems from an unknown personal past. Using her own family's history as an exemplar, Patton's research explores issues of race, gender, place and nation as it relates to this largely erased history.

"I didn't know that what I had was in fact a project that would lead my research interest for the next decade. It all started in 2010 when I saw the television show, 'Who Do You Think You Are,' where they trace people's genealogy," she said. "There wasn't a moment that went by where I didn't know that my mother and her twin were adopted. So, I've always wanted to know more about my German family, because I grew up in both cultures. I speak German fluently and am a first-generation American. I encouraged my mother to try and find her biological mother."

Dealing with international laws and a closed adoption was not easy, and it took quite a bit of time and money.

By the time Patton received all of the necessary materials as it related to securing adoption records and petitioning courts, two years had gone by and \$1,400 was spent.

"What I thought was going to be a unique personal story turned out to place my mother and her twin right in the middle of the international expulsion of an estimated 5,000 biracial German children born to White German women and African American fathers in post-WWII Germany. My grandmother used this racial purge as a vehicle to get rid of her own German children whose birth father's heritage vacillated from White to Black to Native American."

So, congratulations to Tracey Owens Patton for this distinguished honor!

## For the Love of Places Untamed presented

Wyoming is best known for its breathtaking and vast landscape, and is one of the most visited and beautiful of the 50 states. Home to Yellowstone National Park, the world's first and oldest national park, and Grand Teton National Park, this is the best of wild and natural America. No doubt, it's a mecca for nature lovers and outdoor adventurers.

Colt Duncan, the recipient of the 2021 Larsh Bristol photojournalism fellowship, focused on exactly this -- capturing places that still feel wild and untamed in the vast landscape of Wyoming.

The Larsh Bristol photojournalism fellowship is an annual award for UW students in supporting their strong visual storytelling projects.

Getting into photography since he was five years old, a lot of his inspiration comes from nature. "I have always been fascinated with its mystery and beauty," Duncan says.

With "WILD – For the Love of Places Untamed," Duncan wanted to show people that there are still places that humanity has yet to tame, places that continue to persist and thrive throughout time, blissfully ignorant to mankind's presence.

"These places still represent pure natural beauty, not because they ask for attention, but because they will continue to be miraculous even when no one is there to see."



*Colt Duncan's photograph of two stallions fighting*

Duncan spent the first night of his eight-day trip in the Wind River Range backpacking.

"I hiked into my campsite in the late afternoon and settled down by a beautiful creek. Coincidentally a young moose thought the spot was scenic as well and he decided to sleep adjacent to me on the other side of the creek for the night. Even though I didn't have anyone else with me, I was far from feeling alone."

Duncan presented his work on Oct. 22 at Coe Library.



# Sherman receives Distinguished Alumni Award

From his hometown of Cheyenne to the top of the advertising world in New York, Peter Sherman, a 1986 journalism graduate, earned a reputation that helped him receive a 2020 University of Wyoming Distinguished Alumni Award that was given in person this year.

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have achieved excellence in their profession; appreciate the impact of their UW education; and are people of integrity, stature and demonstrated ability.

When asked how COJO's journalism degree prepared him for his career, Sherman said, "I was fortunate enough to meet phenomenal professors and they really believed in me. I was not always a great student, so finding somebody who really believed in you and take a bet on you, somebody who is able to strengthen rather than criticizing you, is important."

Sherman is the executive vice president for Omnicom Group, one of the world's leading marketing services and communication companies. Based in New York City, he's charged with driving innovation, integration and growth across the company's global client portfolio.

He rejoined Omnicom from advertising agency J. Walter Thompson (JWT), where he served as CEO of JWT North America. Before that, he spent 16 years at BBDO, Omnicom's largest worldwide advertising agency. During his time at BBDO, he ran account teams in New York, oversaw an office in San Francisco, and led BBDO's European region consisting of 35 offices in 18 countries from headquarters in Milan and Paris.

Sherman's advice to students is to use their time in school to connect with people outside of their circle.

"Let go of your network and engage with different people with different thinking. Expand and engage with people from different backgrounds," he said. "The more you network, the more you will be able to grow, step out of your comfort zone, and learn to make lasting connections."

Another thing to continue to foster is the skill of writing.

"It is important to learn to express yourself in the written form," Sherman explained. "I believe that writing is a craft and I have learned how to respect and practice the craft of writing."

Sherman is deeply committed to UW and higher education at large. In 2019, Sherman spoke at UW's spring commencement. He currently serves on the UW Foundation Board of Directors and the Virginia Commonwealth University Brandcenter Director's Council. He teaches courses for the University of Texas in New York program.



*Sherman talked at UW's College of Business Oct. 22*

## Debate alumni David Burman's visit to UW



When he was in town to be honored as a Distinguished Alumnus, David Burman met with the Director of Debate Matt Liu and members of UW's debate team. A 1974 graduate, Burman is one of UW's most successful debaters of all time, reaching the quarterfinals of the National Debate Tournament. Those argumentative skills translated to success in Burman's legal career. He has argued twice at the Supreme Court, including one trial that ended in an important victory preserving a main source of funding for civil legal services for the impoverished.

*Around the Conference Room table are in a circle from L to R: Debate students Kaitlyn Campbell and Bradon Bryngelson, Assistant Coach Lawrence Zhou, DeeAnn Burman, David Burman, and Coach Matt Liu.*

# McBride makes history as five-time All-MW honoree while juggling graduate school

Granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA due to Covid-19, Wyoming volleyball student-athlete and COJO graduate student Jackie McBride made history when she was announced as the league's first-ever, five-time member of the All-Mountain West team.

"Getting it five times is pretty cool! It helps me put it into perspective of how long I've been part of the program," McBride said. "It's the icing of the cake because I had a really good time here."

Last year, McBride became just the eighth student-athlete in league history and second-ever in Wyoming program history to be a four-time honoree. But that didn't mean she took the all-conference honor for granted.

"I was pretty shocked when I got it because we as a team didn't perform to our potential," she said. "But it's pretty telling of how talented the team is because if you don't have people who can pass and dig and do all the other skills, I can't do my job as a middle hitter."

McBride initially found it a bit challenging adjusting from being an undergraduate to a graduate student, but she has had a lot of support from the COJO Department, her coaches, teammates and the athletic department.

Her thesis, "The Framing of Environmental Racism in the Media," is a content analysis on the concept of environmental justice movement that exists in the different forms of media. McBride plans to defend her thesis this spring.

After graduation, she would like to be in public relations or non-profit fundraising. However, after doing school and volleyball for six years, McBride would love to take a short break before starting her career.

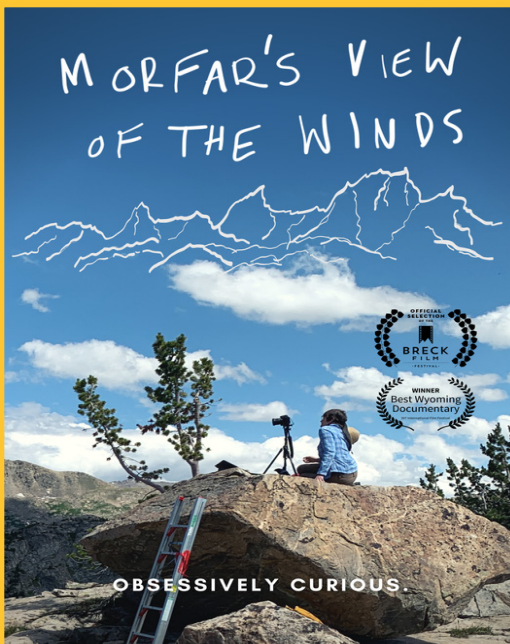


*Photo credit: Kyle Spradley, gowyo.com*

"It's bittersweet to leave Wyoming, but I am content with all that I have achieved," she said.

McBride is originally from Aurora, Colorado, and earned her undergraduate degree in communication in December 2019.

## Student's documentary of former COJO professor premiered on PBS, won film awards



*Morfar's View of the Winds official poster*

A former professor's journey to find a historical rock has become a documentary by a University of Wyoming alumnus.

*Morfar's View of the Winds* was directed by Mark Pedri, a master's degree graduate in communication, and tells the story of Conrad Smith (Morfar), a former professor in the UW Department of Communication and Journalism.

"The film is about Smith's story, his passion, his research, but also about this father-daughter and granddaughter relationship, and how his family came together to achieve his goals," Pedri explained.

Smith has spent nearly a decade trying to locate the exact rock within

the Rocky Mountains where Charles Preuss sat in 1842 to sketch the first published image from within the Rocky Mountains.

"The interest started in 2012 when I backpacked 29 miles to the summit of Fremont Peak in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains," Smith said.

Smith spent a week in northern Germany helping Pedri with a project, during which time he told Pedri of his research. Pedri and his wife offered to help Smith with his quest.

**(Morfar, cont. on p. 5).**

**(Morfar cont. from p. 4).**

"We thought Conrad was a great character, very charismatic, and his journey was intriguing to us," Pedri said. "Kind of a bit of an obscurity, but the fact that he's this older person going deep into the mountains, there was an adventure element to it."

The image that Preuss recorded, combined with John Frémont's report from the expedition, paved the way for the Great Western Expansion of 1850, including the California Gold Rush, the Oregon Trail and the Mormon migration to Salt Lake City. The film follows Smith, his daughter and his granddaughter as they navigated an unexpected turn of events on the final expedition to verify the location where this influential drawing was created so they could reproduce the image 177 years later.

"Curiosity was my research motivation," Smith said. "I was trying to make sense of the disconnect between what I saw in the mountains and the inaccurate guidebook assertions."

The movie, an official selection at the 307 Film Festival and the Breck Film Festival, premiered on Wyoming PBS in October.

"It's just a fun half hour, but it has some heartfelt and human moments. It's Conrad talking about his own mortality and not being able to do the things that he used to be able to do, but still finding ways to continue to push himself," Pedri added.

For more information about the movie, go to [www.burningtorchproductions.com/morfars-view-of-the-winds.html](http://www.burningtorchproductions.com/morfars-view-of-the-winds.html).

## WINTER 2022 COJO KUDOS

- Dr. Tracey Owens Patton and her co-author Dr. Julie Snyder-Yuly (Marshall University) presented at the Midwest Popular Culture Conference on their new project on Blackfishing.
- Dr. Tracey Owens Patton have been named the Demorest Keynote Professor for the Casper College Humanities Festival, which will be held in February 2022. Patton will give a keynote address while there.
- Cowboy State Daily named Ellen Fike the 2021 Women of Influence Honoree in Media and Journalism. Fike is a COJO graduate student and a journalist with Cowboy State Daily.
- Ellen Fike had her paper accepted at 2022's Pop Culture Conference. Fike's presentation is titled *"Men Actually Think Girls Like This Exist: An Investigation of the Manic Pixie Dream Girl."*