

Department Head Cindy Price Schultz creates new connections in Malaysia for educational purposes

Last fall, COJO Department Head Cindy Price Schultz landed in Malaysia with the purpose of forging new relationships for the University of Wyoming. The process was a long-time in the making.

“We started lining up travel plans in Fall 2019,” Price Schultz said. “Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to reasonably and safely depart until Fall 2022.”

Isadora Helfgott, Vice Provost of Global Engagement, wanted to take a professor to Malaysia and have them meet students from a multitude of Malaysian universities in the hopes they choose to transfer to or start their education at UW.

Many Malaysian students use a two-plus-two approach to academia in which they spend two years at a Malaysian school before transferring to another university.

“There are some other schools who have already had a long investment of time with Malaysia,” Price Schultz said. “We wanted to have that connection as well.”

Helfgott and Price Schultz wanted to not only promote UW, they also wanted to specifically emphasize the COJO Department.

“Isa mentioned to me that communication is a major that many Malaysian students consider and one that

parents can get behind,” Price Schultz said. “She wanted the department head to come and speak to those universities because their culture respects education.”



Cindy Price Schultz, Nick Robinson, and Daing Nasir meet with a Malaysian representative.

Once travel plans were in the works, Helfgott and her team lined up many universities to visit.

“My main job was to visit deans, presidents, and faculty members of Malaysian universities and their communication departments,” Price Schultz said. “I wanted to showcase why someone would want to have a communication degree at the University

of Wyoming as well as how they could directly transfer credits. We have already had some student interest following the trip.”

Following their time in Malaysia, Price Schultz, Helfgott and the team traveled to Indonesia where they did a live presentation for Education USA, an outlet of the US State Department that recruits students to American universities. One of the team members was COJO alum, Nick Robinson.

“When traveling, one is able to gain new perspectives, while appreciating home,” Robinson said. “Witnessing different ways of life creates a place of understanding, which can help form lasting connections with the next generation of students, wherever they may come.”

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Price Schultz understands that connections and prospective students are the gauge for a successful trip.

"We want to have UW be part of the thinking process of people within these very tropical climates that are nothing like Wyoming," Price Schultz said. "But even if we got one student, our mission was a success."

Wyoming and Malaysia have connections that reach far beyond student engagement and university life.

"There has been a long history between Malaysia and Wyoming. Many Malaysians came to UW for

petroleum engineering back in the 1970s," Price Schultz said. "Even though the petroleum connection is not as strong anymore, that history and overall connection is still there. We just want to re-establish the University of Wyoming in the minds of Malaysians on a broader scope."

Based on the results, Price Schultz knows that the trip was successful and the time spent there was worthwhile.

"We had two students come to UW in the spring and seven or eight that are joining in the fall," Price Schultz said. "Beyond recruits, we

had many meetings with different colleges and universities to remind them and their faculty that UW can be an option for their students."

In addition, Price Schultz was able to visit COJO master's and bachelor's degree graduate Adlynn Jamaludin's parents just outside of Kuala Lumpur.

"It was great to see Adlynn's home country and meet her parents. Now there is an SUV in Malaysia that says, 'UW Dad.' You never know what kind of connections that will bring in the future!"

Therefore, COJO faculty and students will continue to explore.

COJO Department hosts Larsh Bristol photojournalism presentation "This is Grizzly Bear country"

The thought of unknowingly coming across a wild grizzly bear puts an ever-present sense of fear and wonder into one's mind. Grizzly bears' relationships with humans has a storied past and differs from state to state.

Julia Cook, a recipient of the 2022 Larsh Bristol photojournalism fellowship, spent Summer and Fall 2022 photographing grizzly bears in Alaska and Wyoming to document their unique connection to humans and the civilized world. She gave her presentation, "This is Grizzly Bear Country: Human-Bear Interactions from Wyoming to Alaska," to a crowded room in February.

The presentation was followed by a Q&A session regarding the Fall 2023 Larsh Bristol fellowship application process and a viewing of her photos in the Library's third floor gallery.

The Larsh Bristol Photojournalism Fellowship is an annual award for UW students to support strong visual storytelling projects. It is named in honor of Larsh Bristol, a UW journalism alum who passed away in 2006.

Cook, an environment and natural resources and history major, is originally from Cody. Due to her fondness of wildlife and nature, most of her free time during the summer is spent at Yellowstone National Park and grizzly bears fascinate Cook the most.



Julia Cook presents her photos in front of friends, colleagues, family, professors, and other members of the UW community.

"Ever since I was a kid, bears have always been my favorite," Cook said. "They all have their unique personalities and it has been a pleasure to watch some of them grow up."

Before the fellowship, Cook photographed grizzly bears as a hobby but edited out aspects of human society like roads, street signs and people. However, Cook realized many people don't realize just how close grizzly bears are to human life, so she took it upon herself to document how persons and bears interact.

(Bristol cont. on p. 3)

(Bristol cont. from p. 2)

To tell her full story, Cook traveled to Alaska to access the grizzly population outside of Wyoming. Her goal was to document the differences between Wyoming and Alaskan bears.

Cook hopes her talk inspired others to go outside and appreciate nature, whether that be an appreciation for bears specifically or the appreciation of the coexistence of nature and society.

“Many people see bears in a negative light, but I want to show that they are not only a little misunderstood, but can also be very beneficial to the state of Wyoming,” Cook said. “The Larsh Bristol Fellowship gave me a purpose to go to Alaska and Yellowstone. I was relieved to go there knowing I had the

personal and financial support of others.”

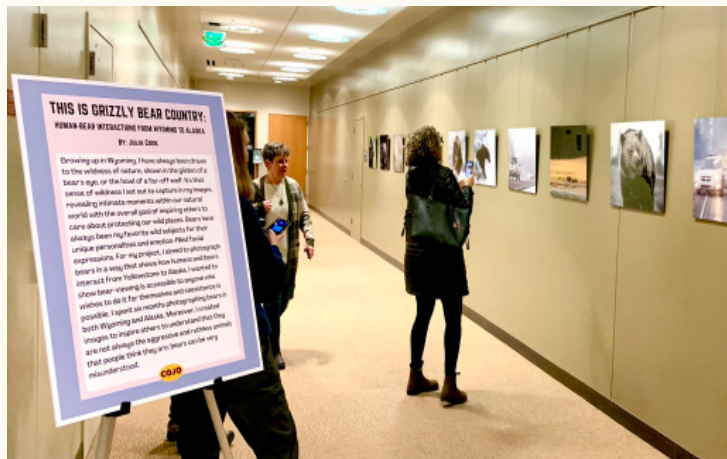
The Bristol Photojournalism Fellowship has been hosted by the COJO Department since 2008.

“Because of her connection with the Cody area, Julia had an interesting vision to showcase human and bear interaction, especially in Yellowstone,” Department Head Cindy Price Schultz said.

“Her presentation not only showed us the visual aspects of this interaction, it was a

great opportunity for students to learn about what the Bristol fellowship does.”

Cook said she plans to start her own business in the Cody area related to photography and guiding at some point following graduation.



Members of the community look at Cook's photo story hanging on the walls of Coe library.

Community Journalism class continues to excite students

Fifteen journalists from Wyoming shared their expertise with UW students as they helped teach an innovative class taught by the COJO Department.

The Community Journalism course is offered in the January term and it uses two different formats. In the first, students are introduced, through online discussions on Zoom, to the different components that are involved in producing community media. This includes news reporting, feature reporting, sports reporting, editorials, graphic design, photojournalism, law, social media, advertising, management, ethics, and freedom of information.

According to Emeritus Professor Ken Smith, who serves as the class instructor, the second format is what really makes the course innovative.



Members of the Community Journalism class at the Wyoming Press Association Convention listen to media law expert Bruce Moats.

The students are required to attend the Wyoming Press Association Convention where they listen to the sessions and hear professionals from Wyoming media discuss many aspects of community journalism.

“This brings the students together with working professionals in a class situation,” Smith said. “That is one of UW’s goals.”

The course was originally taught

on campus, but Department Head Cindy Price Schultz recommended that the class be moved to the J-term so that it could take advantage of the fact that WPA members were already assembled for their meeting.

“Cindy hit the ball out of the park by moving the course to the J-term,” Smith said. “Student evaluations indicate that they find it rewarding

because they enjoy the convention setting and like interacting with the professionals. The WPA likes it because it brings its members together with students and prospective employees. UW likes it because it utilizes an important external constituency in a course offering.”

This is the fifth year that the course has been taught in its present format.

COJO welcomes YSEALI Fellows to the department

The YSEALI Fellowship takes individuals from Southeast Asia and provides an exchange program through the US state department to learn and develop new skills overseas.

In Spring 2023, COJO hosted Yustina Atok (Middle) from Timor Leste and Pheana Sopheak (Right) from Cambodia to learn skills and create projects in related to the COJO Department. Antonia Tefa (Left) from Indonesia worked as a fellow in English as a Second Language program.

“Each of them are tasked with creating a specific project and they are to research that project here in Wyoming,” Senior Lecturer Beau Bingham said. “They are required by the State Department to write a paper on their project and present it in Washington, DC.”

Atok did her project focused on civic engagement by improving communication and leadership skills in the classroom and Sopheak did her project on historical issues related to the Cambodian genocide and ideas for a website.

“We should have our own project in order to help and share what we have recieved here to our home country,”

Atok Said. “I learned a lot in Wyoming and I was impressed with how the teachers here deliver their lessons and engage with their students.”

All of the YSEALI fellows noted that their experience in The United States, and more specifically Wyoming, was challenging at times but extremely beneficial to their personal and professional growth. The mentors learned too.

“We didn’t know what to expect when meeting Yustina and Pheana,” mentor Cindy Price Schultz said. “But in the end, my advertising students heard Yustina explain advertising in Timor Leste, while another mentor, temporary lecturer Kayla Clark, worked with Pheana to create a website for her organization and may be selected to go to Cambodia.”



Spring 2023 YSEALI fellows pose with Department Chair Cindy Price Schultz in the Cheney International Center.

Cindy Price Schultz wins UW Foundation Stewardship Award

COJO Department Chair Cindy Price Schultz won the 2023 University of Wyoming Foundation Stewardship Award.

The award is given out once a year and is awarded to persons who demonstrate excellence in the classroom, build and sustain effective relationships and support and enhance donor relations. The winners of the award are nominated by their peers.

Those who wrote nomination letters for Price Schultz include Assistant Department Chair Justin Stewart, UW Alumni Association Executive Director Jack Tennant, UW Debate Director Matt Liu, UW Donor and founder of Linhart PR Sharon Linhart and Emeritus Professor Mike Brown.



Price Schultz is pictured with UW president Ed Siedel after receiving her award.

“Thanks to Cindy and the COJO faculty, the Larsh Bristol Fellowship has funded a number of students, many of whom have gone on to professional photojournalism careers,” Linhart said. “I am confident that the program will continue to grow and thrive under Cindy’s stewardship.”

Price Schultz is immensely grateful for the recognition.

“It is an honor to receive this award, but it is even more of an honor to be able to work with our donors and alumni!” Price Schultz said. “I love to see the students when they hear alumni talk about

what they can achieve after they graduate from the University of Wyoming.”

Vanta Coda III wins first Bobby Model Photojournalism Award

The Bobby Model Photojournalism award recognizes an undergraduate or graduate student who has contributed to photojournalism and its fundamental focus on telling visual stories about the human condition. What makes photojournalism unique from other forms of photography is its focus on people.

The recipient of this award has asked others to enter their lives to document them truthfully – not in a posed dynamic – but rather one where real life happens. It is in this candid framework where photojournalists find a range of authentic human emotion ranging



Vanta Coda III holds the inaugural Bobby Model photojournalism award

from happiness and joy to sadness and anger. And most importantly, love. An ethic of care and dedication

to building trust with those photographed are the primary qualifications for this award.

Vanta Coda III has made photographs on three continents (Europe, South America, and North America) and earned international accolades for these pictures that have captured life in Italy, Perú, and the United States.

In the spirit of Bobby Model, Coda has pursued worldwide exploration with his camera while documenting both personal adventures and social justice issues.

COJO is pleased to award him with the inaugural 2023 Bobby Model Photojournalism Award.

The Oral Communication Center - The hub of COJO

When you take the elevator to the fourth floor of Ross Hall and turn right, you are met with two staples of the COJO department - the Oral Communication Center (OCC) and its director, Beau Bingham.

“When I came to the University of Wyoming 19 years ago, I was hired to direct the OCC as well as teach classes,” Bingham said. “My workload was split between the two jobs.”

Upon taking the position at UW, Bingham understood the challenges of keeping up the Center and knew it would not be an easy task.

“When I first got here, I walked into the doors of the OCC and I was met with four or five mismatched chairs, some tables on the side of the room with an assortment of books stacked on them, and uninviting tile floors,” he said. “At the time, it was something that was not well-known on campus.”

Following his entry into UW, Bingham has led a few much-needed improvements to the OCC, including writing a grant to help carpet the room and paint the walls. Most prominently, Bingham was able to hire client consultants.

“That first semester, we did not have any staff in the OCC; it was just me,” he said. “Soon enough, we ended up having undergraduate tutors in there to help students. Since then, it has grown to where now we have graduate student tutors as well.”



Katie Welniak, Beau Bingham and Ryan Tucker stand in the Oral Communication Center. Welniak and Tucker are master's student OCC consultants.

Many of Bingham's ideas and inspiration come from his time at the National Convention of Communication Centers held annually across the nation.

“The first time I attended the conference almost 20 years ago, I felt like I was the one that was gaining all the knowledge being disseminated there,” Bingham said. “It became a conference where I started making good contacts with other center directors.”

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(OCC cont. from p. 5)

In Spring 2023, he attended the latest conference.

"This last year, I received an email prior to the conference from the host asking me to be a part of the conference," Bingham said. "There has been a change from being the recipient of the knowledge to now disseminating the knowledge to those who are first-timers. It has been quite a transition!"

Bingham prioritizes attending the conference every year because he knows how important the OCC is to students.

"The first impact of the OCC involves the students who come in to get help on their presentations," he said. "The return for the students who come into the OCC is that they get a

higher grade on their presentations and speeches, they learn the material better than they had before and they see that instant success as a student."

The OCC also benefits the students who are hired as consultants.

"The OCC helps me develop my consulting, instructing, and teaching skills, especially on a one-on-one basis," Ryan Tucker, an OCC consultant graduate teaching assistant said. "It's one thing if you can teach a class of 24 people, but it's another thing if you can keep that same energy and passion in an interpersonal conversation. Having OCC experience has helped me out a lot."

The OCC is also integral to the university at-large.

"People speak every day, all day, so you need to know how to do it in a way that is effective," Tucker said. "the OCC is 'The Writing Center' for communication. If you can be a good speaker and a good writer, it will take you really far in life."

The consultants take their job seriously because they know how much it means to the university and more specifically, to Bingham.

"Beau takes great care and pride when it comes to the Oral Communication Center and is instrumental in its success," Tucker said. "All the consultants have been trained well by him and want to do what it takes to keep the quality of instruction high."

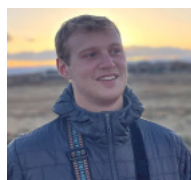
To book an appointment at the OCC, please visit:
www.uwyo.edu/cojo/OCC.

COJO Awards



Top 20 College of Arts and Sciences Graduates

Kaycee Clark
Journalism Major
Cheyenne, Wyoming



Bobby Model Photojournalism Award

Vanta E. Coda III
Communication and Environment and natural resources Major
Duluth, Minnesota



Top 20 College of Arts and Sciences Graduates

Emily Smith
Communication and Spanish Major
Lakewood, Colorado



Promoting Engagement in the First Year (PIE) Recipient

Mitzi Stewart
Communication and Journalism Lecturer
Excellence in teaching first-year classes



Judith Muhlberg Study Abroad Fellow

Hanisah Hassim
Communication Major
Graduate Student



COJO Top Thesis

Emma Connell
"Pooshing the Boundaries of Instagram Influencers"
Chair: Kristen Landreville



Larsh Bristol Photojournalism Fellow

Ashton Hacke
Journalism Major
Half Moon Bay, California



COJO Top Professional Project

Taryn Bradley
"Putting Out The Fire: Combatting Climate Change"
Chair: Kaatie Cooper