

Remembering Professor Emeritus George Gladney

(George Gladney's obituary as seen on *Jackson Hole News and Guide*)



George Gladney.

He loathed the word “local.” He detested the use of nicknames in stories. And with his bushy mustache and dry sense of humor, he was straight out of “The Front Page,” the long-running Broadway play about journalism remade into a film starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.

George Gladney, the former managing editor of the *Jackson Hole News* and longtime journalism professor at the University of Wyoming, wanted his students in the newsroom and the classroom to write like they were reporters for the *New York Times*. And he provided the training and encouragement to do so, demanding rigor

from his pupils but upbraiding them with kindness and humor.

Gladney, 76, died July 6, 2023 at Iverson Memorial Hospital in Laramie. Friends said he had spent several years in a long-term care facility with various illnesses.

“He was a seminal figure in the growth and transformation of the *News*,” said Mike Sellett, former publisher of the paper and *News & Guide* co-publisher. Gladney was managing editor of the *News* from 1982 to 1986. Prior to that, he had worked at the *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph* and *Los Angeles Times* after earning a degree in journalism from the University of Missouri. In its early days, the *News* contained only a single section, and a story about rec league basketball might appear next to news from the town council — until Gladney arrived.

(Gladney, cont. on p. 2)

Gladney Travel Fund needs contributions

George Gladney enjoyed traveling the world and wanted students to have that same opportunity. Now that he has passed, a fund has been created that would help journalism majors take study abroad opportunities.

The George Gladney Study Abroad Fund has a great start with a \$10,000 contribution from a generous donor. Now it needs more contributions so it can help students fulfill their study abroad dreams.

“George visited many countries in the name of the Communication and Journalism Department,” Cindy Price Schultz, COJO Department Head, said. “It is so great that journalism students will be able to travel abroad in honor of George!”

If you would like to contribute to the George Gladney Study Abroad Award, please contact Faryn Babbitt at fbabbitt@uwyo.edu or visit the link <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/39315/donations/new>

"It was George who accepted that mission and got us over the threshold to have sections that contained specific content," Sellett said.

"George Gladney understood the newsroom, its processes and how to develop reporters and editors to a supreme degree," said Angus Thuermer, the longtime News and subsequent *News & Guide* editor who now works as a reporter for *WyoFile.com*.

Gladney came to Jackson with 11 years of experience in media. He had been a freelance writer and editor in Denver and owned a consulting firm. Prior to that he spent three years as a reporter and editor for the *Gazette Telegraph*, which had a circulation of 80,000. He was Colorado State Capitol correspondent and Denver bureau chief, among other roles. He came to the *Gazette* after covering all news beats at its smaller competitor, the *Colorado Springs Sun*. He won a number of Colorado Press Association awards.

Gladney started his career at the *Los Angeles Times*, where he spent two years covering business and financial news. In addition to the journalism degree from Missouri, he majored in English and political science at Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania.

Paul Bruun, the longtime "Outdoors" columnist who has spent more than 50 years writing for Jackson Hole papers, called Gladney a "perfect journalist" who was "always upbeat." He recalled the editor's wisdom.

"He was like someone who was born really old," Bruun said.

After leaving the *News*, Gladney earned a master's degree from the University of Oregon and doctorate from the University of Illinois. After teaching at UW from 1991 to 1994, he took a position teaching at Illinois. The allure of Wyoming was too strong, however, and he returned to UW's Department of Communication and Journalism in 1997.

He went to Poland as a Fulbright scholar in 2005 and also was a visiting professor in Kazakhstan and China. In all, he taught for 25 years and retired as an emeritus professor in 2013.

Ken Smith, Gladney's longtime colleague in the COJO department, twice helped hire Gladney to teach at UW. Leaving a prominent position at Illinois to return to Laramie was a "testament to George and how he felt about Wyoming," Smith said.

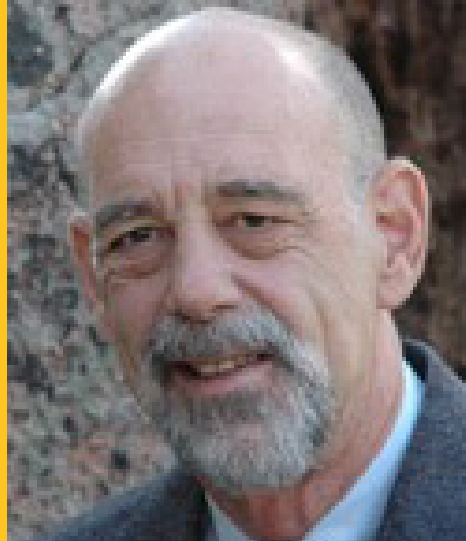
At UW, Gladney was in charge of the news writing courses and won several faculty awards, including being named an Outstanding Former Professor by the College of Arts and Sciences in 2020. His meticulous approach to editing distinguished him. "It was because some of his students appreciated that attention to detail and the rigor he required in their writing," said Smith, who wrote a supporting letter for the award.

In the late 1990s, while Gladney was teaching journalism at UW, Sellett hired him as writing coach for the *News*, which had a new crop of young reporters.

He wrote lengthy and carefully red-lined critiques of their stories and occasionally met in person to discuss the fundamentals further. He rebuked a rookie sports reporter for using nicknames such as "Sick Rick" Armstrong in print and, for exaggerated effect, christened himself George "The G-Man" Gladney to demonstrate the ridiculousness.

Gladney's legacy lives on, with the *News & Guide* still divided into sections for news, lifestyle, entertainment and sports. The word "local" seldom appears, used only to differentiate something. And editors are still trying to drill into young

reporters the fundamentals Gladney preached.



After Gladney's obituary was posted to Facebook, comments flooded in from former students, friends, and colleagues about their memories of Gladney.

"On top of providing me with a wealth of knowledge about journalism specifically and writing more generally, he wrote me one of the best letters of recommendation I have ever received," former student Michael Owens said. "He was a fantastic teacher and a great guy. What a loss for the UW community and his friends and family."

More comments from former students outlined what Gladney meant to the COJO Department.

"Dr. Gladney was a kind, calm and wise teacher. I appreciated working with him whilst in the grad program," Tammy Robacker said. "I will never forget the warm welcome he gave our incoming cohort so long ago by having a huge barbecue on his ranch so we could all meet the faculty and have dinner together."

Lastly, former student Bridget Wilson summed up her feelings about Gladney by stating, "Hands down, one of the best professors I've ever had. He was a brilliant mind."

COJO hosts WSMA Annual Conference for second year in a row



David Settle, keynote speaker, talks to over 100 high school students at the WSMA annual conference.

In November 2023, the COJO Department, with the help of the College of Arts & Sciences, hosted the Wyoming Student Media Association annual conference for the second year in a row. The day started with David Settle, sports director for Townsquare Media in Laramie and voice of the Wyoming Cowgirls women's basketball team.

Throughout the day, high school students from across the state of Wyoming were able to attend breakout sessions in many areas of media and journalism. Breakout sessions were hosted by COJO faculty Shane Epping, Kayla Clark, Beau Bingham, Hye Soo Nah, and Cindy Price Schultz as well as others who each talked about their personal areas of expertise. Next year, the WSMA will be hosted by Casper College in Casper.

COJO welcomes assistant professor Hye Soo Nah for Fall 2023 semester as tenure-track faculty

During her early childhood, Hye Soo Nah lived in New York City, where she experienced and embraced American culture. Now she lives in Laramie – a completely different location, but a place she has made her new home.

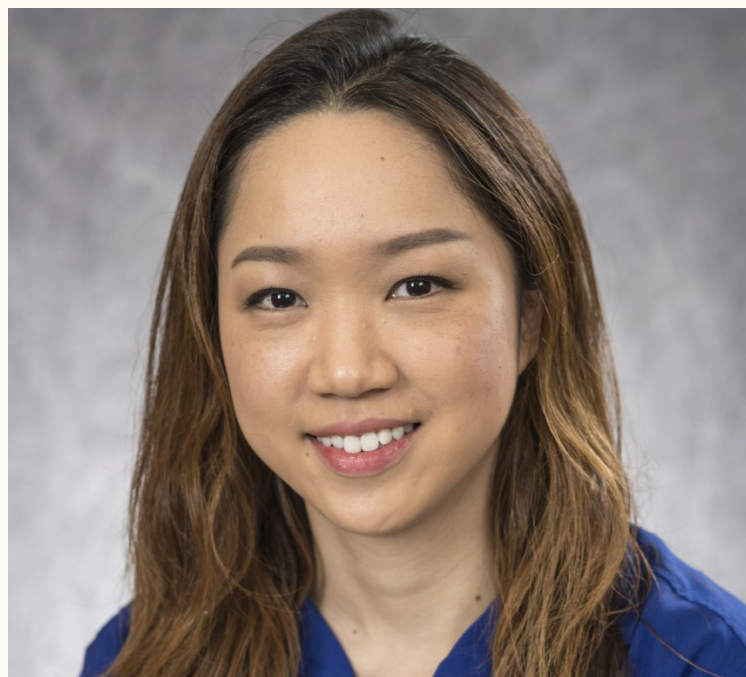
“When I was young, my father went to school at New York University. After he finished, we went back to Korea, but I always wanted to come back to the US,” Nah said. “I got my master’s degree in Missouri and my doctorate in Illinois, so now I am at the University of Wyoming in the heart of the Rocky Mountains to continue my career as a professor.”

In Fall 2023, Nah joined the COJO Department to teach video production, multimedia production, visual communication and research methodology courses.

“When I saw the position for the COJO Department at UW, it was a perfect match for me,” Nah said. “For many other positions, the focus was either heavily production-oriented with no research or heavily research-oriented with no production. UW emphasized both.”

Beyond academia, Nah has a background in journalism. Following the completion of her master’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri, she gained real-world experience before going to Illinois to pursue her Ph.D. These experiences helped Nah have multiple research interests.

“On one hand, I am interested in researching anything journalism or news related,” Nah said. “For example, an



Dr. Hye Soo Nah

article I published a few years ago looked at the practice of ‘unpublishing’ the news. What that means is deleting news that was already published online.

“I examined how American and South Korean journalists approach that problem.”

Nah did not limit herself to this specified interest, however.

(Nah, cont. on p. 4)

“More recently, I have also developed another line of research where I look at the appeal of authenticity and being true to yourself in parasocial interactions when someone in media directly addresses their audience,” Nah said. “This study is important because this practice can have an effect on people. For example, people who perceive more authenticity in public figures are more likely to agree with their message.”

Nah understands the weight of teaching future scholars and does not take the responsibility lightly. She wants to make sure that those she mentors become successful either in academia or any profession they choose.

“For any student who wants to pursue a career in which they inform, persuade or inspire other people, it is important to be an effective communicator, have good storytelling skills and know how to use research to inform their stories and campaigns,” Nah said. “Given my background in journalism, quantitative and qualitative research, I believe I am equipped to help students develop skills in all of these areas.”

Similarly, Nah entered Wyoming with personal philosophies regarding teaching students.

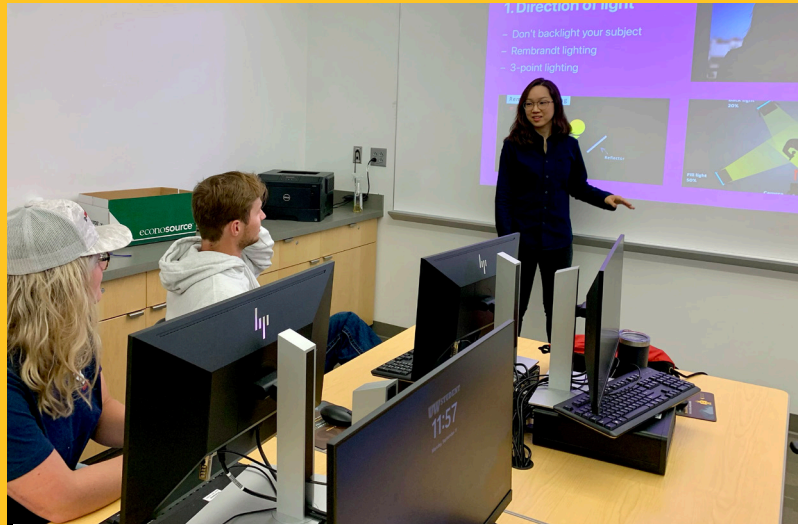
“The most important aspect of teaching is helping students find personal meaning in their learning,”

she said. “Students can find personal meaning in two different ways: understanding the practical value in what they are learning and relating the course material in ways that resonate with their identity.”

Laramie is a new environment for Nah both physically and socially. For a semester, Nah has been teaching classes in Digital Video Production and Multimedia Production.

“Now that I have been here for a semester, I can say that I found an amazing community at UW and COJO,” Nah said. “My colleagues and students have been very welcoming.”

Nah is particularly excited to continue working in Wyoming and specifically the COJO Department. Nah’s previous research experiences play a large role in this excitement. “Currently, I am working on an article that explores how to better communicate



Hye Soo Nah instructs students in her Digital Video Production course about lighting a shot.

science during a time when science topics are highly politicized,” Nah said. “This paper extends my previous research regarding authenticity and persuasion, and while I started this research in Illinois, I look forward to continuing it in Wyoming with my new University of Wyoming and COJO colleagues.”

The COJO family is very excited to be working with her as a peer!



Shane Epping, the Bobby Model Photojournalism Professor, spoke at a University of Wyoming Foundation event honoring named professorships. Bob Model, the donor and Bobby Model’s father, was able to attend the event and congratulate Epping.

COJO graduate student studies abroad in Liverpool and London with the help of the Amy and Eric Burger Scholarship



COJO graduate student Riley Box stands in front of Big Ben in London, England.

Last May, Riley Box, COJO graduate assistant for marking, studied abroad in Liverpool and London to learn about The Beatles and the British Rock & Roll scene.

Box was approached by class professor, Dr. Kent Drummond, a former COJO instructor and current English professor, to take the class “Rock & Roll Tourism: The Beatles and Beyond” during Summer 2023.

“It felt like a dream come true,” Box said. “Never in my life did I think I could go on an adventure like this, especially while learning something so important to my own development as The Beatles and British Rock & Roll.”

To fund the course, Box knew that the bills were going to be steep and that he must apply for scholarships. Luckily for him, the COJO-housed

Amy and Eric Burger Scholarship provided \$1,000 to help fund the class.

“I don’t think I could have done the course if it wasn’t for the generosity of the Burger Scholarship and the support I have received from the entire COJO Department,” Box said. “I am so lucky to be a part of a department that encourages me to take academic leaps far beyond my wildest dreams.”

While overseas, Box was able to see Penny Lane, The Cavern Club (where the Beatles were discovered), Strawberry Fields, Big Ben, a live showing of the musical “Hamilton,” The Abbey Road Crosswalk and many other famous landmarks and excursions.

“It is impossible for me to pick just one location that I loved most,” Box said. “Everywhere I went to holds a special area in my heart, and the picture of me walking where The Beatles did on that crosswalk has a place on my wall now.”

On the last night of the class, Box reminisced about the journey he had taken.

“I looked across the River Thames over to Big Ben. It was so beautiful that I shed a tear,” Box said. “I never thought I would ever be able to study abroad and now I have memories that

will last a lifetime.”

Dr. Cindy Price Schultz, COJO department head, encouraged Box to take the study abroad opportunity.

“I told him that the first time I got a passport was when I was a graduate assistant for a study abroad trip to London for two weeks,” Price Schultz said. “It changed my life and I knew it would change Riley’s.”

During the Fall 2023 semester, Box and Drummond agreed that Box would remain connected to the class as its teaching assistant for the Summer 2024 trip.



Riley Box walks across the iconic Abbey Road crosswalk emulating The Beatles.

If you or anyone you know is interested in studying abroad at UW, contact the education abroad office at uwoabd@uwyo.edu.

Department head Cindy Price Schultz and graduate students Riley Box and Josie Campbell attended the PRSA Conference in Nashville in October.



COJO Faculty Kudos

- Kayla Clark was selected to be the Artist in Residence and Curator for the Laramie County Library System Annual Book Arts Exhibition. This summer, Clark will install work from a selection of artists, printers and designers around the US at the Laramie County Library. She will also offer a Curator Talk, workshop and set up a functioning, interactive letterpress studio in the LCL community space as part of the residency.
- Cindy Price Schultz was granted a sabbatical for the 2024-25 school year. She will conduct research at Kazakhstan National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and the Media Management and Transformation Centre in Jonkoping, Sweden, during that time.
- Shane Epping presented a creative project at the 37th Annual Visual Communication Conference in Mammoth Lakes, California, in June 2023.
- Kayla Clark is leading an interdisciplinary team as the Primary Investigator to explore how cultural, creative and recreational programming can promote recreation, tourism and hospitality in rural communities during historically low seasons for these industries. The research endeavor includes community partners from the Laramie Public Art Coalition, City of Laramie, Visit Laramie and the Mainstreet Alliance. The research was awarded \$75,000 of funding from UW's WORTH initiative.
- Alicia Perez, Cindy Price Schultz and Kristen Landreville received a Top Six Paper Award for "The Try Guys Try Cheating: Social Media Influencers in Crisis" at the Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Additionally, Price Schultz presented "Using Sports to Further Social Justice: A Case Study of Twitter Use by Women's Basketball Teams in the Southeast Conference" at the same conference.
- Shane Epping was asked to speak at the 125th Wyoming Press Association in Casper on January 18, 2024 in a session titled "Photojournalism Visual Story Telling."
- Shane Epping is the co-director of the 38th Visual Communication Conference to be held in Saratoga in June.
- Li Li received a travel grant from the College of Arts and Sciences to go to the International Communication Association conference in Gold Coast, Australia.
- Sandy Hsu's research study, co-authored with previous graduate student Aiman Zehra, has been accepted for presentation at the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association in Gold Coast, Australia. The paper title is "International Students' Attitudes toward Collaborative Learning: Communication Apprehension, Language Competence, and Perceived Prejudice as Explanations."
- Shane Epping presented a research poster at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Washington, DC, in August 2023.
- Mitzi Stewart was nominated for the Mortar Board Top Professor Award by a student for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Cindy Price Schultz was invited by Mortar Board to speak at its Last Lecture series, "If you only had one lecture left, what would you tell your students?", on Nov. 30, 2023. Shane Epping was invited to speak at a similar event this coming spring.
- Shane Epping was asked to speak at the "Endowing Excellence: Recognizing the Transformative Impact of UW's Named Faculty," on September 28, 2023, at the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center. He was one of two named faculty members who presented to a group totaling about 200 attendees.
- Shane Epping was awarded \$10,000 from the A&S 2023-24 Faculty Research and Creative Activity Proposal fund for a project in South America that will take place this summer.