

THE Core SAMPLE

Internal Newsletter of the School of Energy Resources

December | 2024

EOG RESOURCES' GIFT FOR RECLAMATION PROJECT MATCHED THROUGH UW SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES

The University of Wyoming's Sheridan Research and Extension Center has received a key gift from EOG Resources Inc. to advance research on reclamation and to combat invasive plant and grass species in northeast Wyoming.

The gift — part of the UW School of Energy Resources' (SER) mission to support the energy industry — was doubled by state matching funds through SER.

Specific work on the project is being spearheaded by **Donna Harris**, an assistant professor of plant sciences who also holds the E.A. Whitney Endowed Professorship of Agriculture, and **Brian Mealor**, director of the Sheridan Research and Extension Center.



Donna Harris



Brian Mealor

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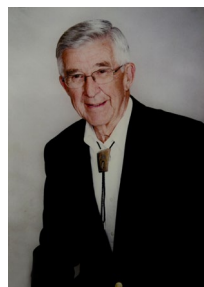
JAMES NIELSON LEGACY GIFT CONTINUES TO MAKE LASTING IMPACT AT UW FUTURE

A significant gift to the James Nielson Excellence Fund in the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources (SER) will bolster the fund that has benefited energy-focused students, faculty and staff since its inception in 2006.

The gift from the estate of the late **James "Jim" Nielson** was matched dollar for dollar by the state of Wyoming.

In addition to supporting students within SER committed to making a difference in the energy sector, the Nielson Excellence Fund has provided a mechanism to support students in related fields on collaborative projects.

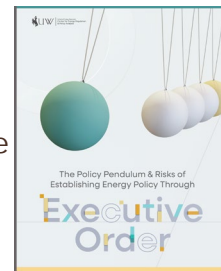
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HIGHLIGHTS

Research Centers of Excellence

- The *Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis (CERPA)* released a white paper exploring the history of executive orders. [DOWNLOAD PAPER >](#)



- *CERPA* released the December issue of the *Consolidated Review of Energy in Wyoming (CREW)* Report. The monthly report is authored by Assistant Research Professional **Dawson Kluesner**.



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- The Rare Earth Element TCF Pilot Plant being conducted in the *Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR)* along with the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) began and completed construction at the Wyoming Innovation Center near Gillette. Testing on coal fly ash will commence in January.



To submit news and updates
email: Christine.reed@uwoyo.edu



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

School of
Energy Resources

SER'S KRISTEN PRITCHETT JOINS RANKS OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN

Kristen Pritchett, co-director of the Professional Land Management (PLM) program at the School of Energy Resources (SER), recently gained the prestigious credential within the energy management industry as a Certified Professional Landman (CPL).



One of three levels offered by the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) – the accrediting body for the land profession – a CPL is the highest designation achievable. Other tiered certifications include Registered Landman (RL) and Registered Professional Landman (RPL), which each have varying requirements.

In addition to her extensive career as an independent landman, Pritchett joined SER in 2023 and co-directs the PLM concentration of the Energy Resource Management and Development (ERMD) degree program.

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FRY TO LEAD UW SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES CENTER FOR ENERGY REGULATION AND POLICY ANALYSIS

Matt Fry has joined the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources (SER) as the new director of the Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis (CERPA).

A center of excellence housed in SER, CERPA draws on interdisciplinary energy law, policy, technology and economic experts on and off campus to conduct world-class analyses of various regulatory issues within the energy industry.



Fry will lead a team of research professionals with backgrounds in economics, business and government to serve as a resource for decision-makers at the local, state, regional and national levels. He also will work to support SER's other research centers to help bridge the gap between technical and policy issues.

Serving Wyoming with more than two decades of experience in natural resource management, regulation and policy in both the public and private sectors, Fry brings a wealth of experience to the SER team.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Research Cont.

- Led by Director **Trina Igelsrud-Pfeiffer**, the *Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC)* hosted visitors from the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WyDOT) to tour the Lutz Building and learn more about the coal-derived asphalt project.



- Assistant Research Professional for GIS and Remote Sensing **James Amato** in the *3D Visualization Center (Viz Center)* released a clip of the drone footage collected of the fractured surface of the Luman Tongue, Green River Formation [WATCH HERE >](#)

Academics

- SER Professor of Law **Tara Righetti** will be featured on a panel at the NAPE Summit in February.
- Energy Resource Management and Development students **Friets Menanti** and **Jaineth Youwe** participated in hurricane disaster mapping sessions led by Instructional Professor **Ramesh Sivanpillai** in the School of Computing and Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center. Federal and state management agencies will use the maps generated by UW and other volunteers to conduct field visits and assessments. [READ MORE >](#)
- Save the date! The Rocky Mountain Professional Landman Conference will take place April 10, 2025!



SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES CELEBRATES FALL 2024 GRADUATES

The School of Energy Resources (SER) is pleased to announce the graduates for fall 2024.

The winter commencement ceremony acknowledged the achievements of students completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Energy Resource Management and Development (ERMD), a certificate in Land Administration, and a minor in Energy Resource Management (ERM).

Stratton Kohr of Gillette, Wyo. graduated with his ERMD degree with a concentration in Professional Land Management (PLM).

Hallie Jette of Buffalo, Wyo., picked up her certificate in Land Administration to complement her ERMD degree with a concentration in Energy and Environmental Systems (EES).

Sasha Putnam of Wheatland, Wyo. graduated with a minor in ERM. Putnam earned a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

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UW RESEARCH GROUP PUBLISHES TWO ARTICLES IN LEADING HYDROGEN ENERGY JOURNAL

A University of Wyoming research group led by **Chengyi “Charlie” Zhang**, an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management, published back-to-back articles in the International Journal of Hydrogen Energy, the leading journal for hydrogen research.

The first article, titled “Techno-economic analysis of green hydrogen integration into existing pipeline infrastructure: A case study of Wyoming,” became available in early November and was written by graduate research assistants **Danish Kumar**, of Tando Bago, Pakistan, and **Saksham Timalisina**, of Sindhupalchowk, Nepal, along with Zhang. The paper delves into the complexities and challenges of cost estimating for hydrogen infrastructure.

The second paper, “Integrated assessment of levelized costs of hydrogen production: Evaluating renewable and fossil pathways with emission costs and tax incentives,” followed in quick succession and became available in late November. It was led, once again, by Kumar, with additional authorship contributions from Zhang and **Eugene Holubnyak**, director of the UW School of Energy Resource’s (SER) Hydrogen Energy Research Center (H₂ERC).

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STRATTON KOHR



HALLIE JETTE

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Davin Bagdonas

*Senior Research Professional,
Center for Economic Geology
Research*

SER's Senior Researcher **Davin Bagdonas** was quoted in an article shared by CNN about a recent study and corresponding publication led by The University of Texas at Austin to explore the extent of rare earth elements in coal fly ash.

The objective of the study was to estimate coal ash resources and potential for extraction of rare earth elements using data for the US. It was published in the International Journal of Coal Science & Technology.

A geologist by trade, Bagdonas excels in his area of expertise related to coal and rare earth elements and served as a co-author on the publication.

[READ MORE >](#)

SER BIRTHDAYS!

DECEMBER

Lily Jackson, December 9
Dayana Jones, December 15
Peighton Hayes, December 17
Heather Chandler, December 20
Kyle Summerfield, December 23

Reminder: If you want your birthday recognized, please update your information with Kristi Russow at krussow@uwyo.edu.



ENERGY JOKE



IMPORTANT DATES

- **2025 Wyoming Legislative Session Begins**
January 14, 2025
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
OFFICE CLOSED
January 20, 2025
- **Start of Spring Semester Classes**
January 21, 2025
- **Annual Legislative Luncheon**
January 23, 2025
- **Distinguished Speaker Series - Temple Stoellinger**
February 7, 2025
- **Distinguished Speaker Series - Kris Walker (Chevron)**
February 26, 2025

