

April | 2022

## TRINA PFEIFFER JOINS CENTER FOR CARBON CAPTURE AND CONVERSION

The School of Energy Resources (SER) is pleased to welcome **Trina Pfeiffer** as the newest addition to the Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC).



Pfeiffer, who has previously worked with SER in a consulting capacity for the last 4 years, joins as a senior research scientist and permanent member of staff. In her new role, Trina will continue to provide process engineering and modeling support to the ongoing research within the CCCC, as well as provide direct guidance and supervision to graduate students working on the various carbon engineering projects.

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## SER RESEARCHERS PRESENT TO AAPG CCUS CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON

Members of the School of Energy Resources (SER) research team traveled to Houston, Tex. for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) conference March 29-31.

The AAPG CCUS conference brings together skilled petroleum geologists, geophysicists, and engineers dedicated to the future of carbon management. The conference aims to highlight current CCUS work and address related challenges in order to forge a path forward for sustainable energy development.

Among the presenters at the conference was one of the unsung heroes of the Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR), **Matt Johnson**.



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## HIGHLIGHTS

### Research Centers of Excellence

- The CORE-CM teams in the **Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR)** submitted their Q2 reports.
- The CORE-CM team for the Powder River Basin has set the date for its annual meeting as September 1 in Gillette, WY. Planning is underway!
- The PCOR annual meeting will take place May 24-25 in Anchorage, AK. Many representatives from SER will be in attendance.

- Graduate student **ChooiKim Lau** in the **Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC)** defended her master's thesis on the coal-derived char bricks developed in the center.



- The **CCCC** has received a massive amount of media attention on the coal-derived char brick demonstration house. CCCC Director **Richard Horner** and SER Executive Director **Holly Krutka** were interviewed by Your Wyoming Link KLWY FOX 27 to discuss the project. [Watch Segment >](#)

- The main construction of the coal-derived char brick demonstration house has been completed!



To submit news and updates email: [Christine.reed@uwyo.edu](mailto:Christine.reed@uwyo.edu)

## UW CENTER BREAKS GROUND FOR CHAR DEMONSTRATION HOUSE

The Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC) in the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources recently broke ground on a demonstration house made of coal-derived carbon building materials and char bricks.

The house is being built in tandem with a second house made from conventional building products and Pacific Clay bricks. The coal-derived bricks are made using low-energy, eco-friendly process technologies developed in the CCCC.



The project team is led by graduate student **ChooiLau Kim**, alongside undergraduate students **Noah Scott** and **Jon Scott**. They work under the direction of **Kam Ng**, an associate professor in the UW Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering within the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

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## FIELD TESTS OF COAL-DERIVED SOIL AMENDMENTS YIELD PROMISING RESULTS FOR UW RESEARCHERS

University of Wyoming soil science researchers are conducting preliminary tests of a coal-derived soil amendment that so far is producing results similar to another popular soil amendment, biochar.

The project is part of the carbon engineering initiative in the UW School of Energy Resources' (SER) Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC). The CCCC is focused on supporting the future



of Wyoming coal and creating non-energy and fuel uses that create economic development and diversification opportunities.

The concept of coal-based soil amendments provides a new, non-thermal and a potentially high-volume use for Wyoming coal, while promoting increased crop yields, improving soil fertility and retaining moisture in a sustainable way. A soil amendment is any material added to the soil to improve its physical or chemical properties.

**Resham Thapa**, from Pyuthan, Nepal, a Ph.D. candidate in the UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is leading the project for his dissertation research. **Sean Tang**, from New Orleans, La., and **Samir Budhathoki**, from Dang, Nepal, both doctoral students in the UW Department of Petroleum Engineering, also are involved in the project. [Continue Reading >>>](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

- The **CCCC** hosted the Vice President of Sargent and Lundy Engineering, **Paula Guletsky**, for a visit to showcase activities in the center.



- **Selena Gerace** in the **Center for Energy Regulation & Policy Analysis (CERPA)** provided assistance to the UW Extension to release three bulletin publications in its "The Sustainable Diet Series" that focus on dietary diversity, biodiversity in the food system and food sovereignty.



- **Haibo Zhai**, a UW affiliate in **CERPA**, was cited in the latest International Climate Report on his notable work in carbon capture and storage.

- The **Nuclear Energy Research Center (NERC)** awarded multiple grants to UW faculty and graduate students to support nuclear research proposals during the summer.
- **NERC** co-sponsored **Dr. Ben Spencer** from Idaho National Lab to speak with mechanical engineering students as part of their seminar series.

### Academics

- Congratulations to the **academics** team for hosting the Rocky Mountain Professional Landman (PLM) Conference! The event was a huge success and significantly boosted the profile of the PLM program at UW.
- The PLM program underwent the re-accreditation process with a visit from the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL), and received positive feedback.



## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

- **Academics** will graduate six students in the spring graduation ceremony from the Energy Resources Management and Development (ERMD) degree, and one student with the ERM minor.
- **Prof. Tara Righetti** visited the Lewarde mining history museum in France. She also presented to over 100 French law students on US Environmental Law and Biden's Policies for Climate and Energy Transition at the Universite d'Artois.



### General Announcements

- SER Senior Advisor **Kipp Coddington** was featured on the energyGeos & Midwest Regional Carbon Initiative (MRCI) podcast. [Listen Here >](#)
- SER Senior Director of Research **Scott Quillinan** discussed how coal may feature in the future and what beneficial roles it could play in *Mining People Magazine*. [Read Article >](#)
- **Scott Quillinan** was quoted in *Cowboy State Daily* in a feature article about Rare Earth



Elements in Wyoming.

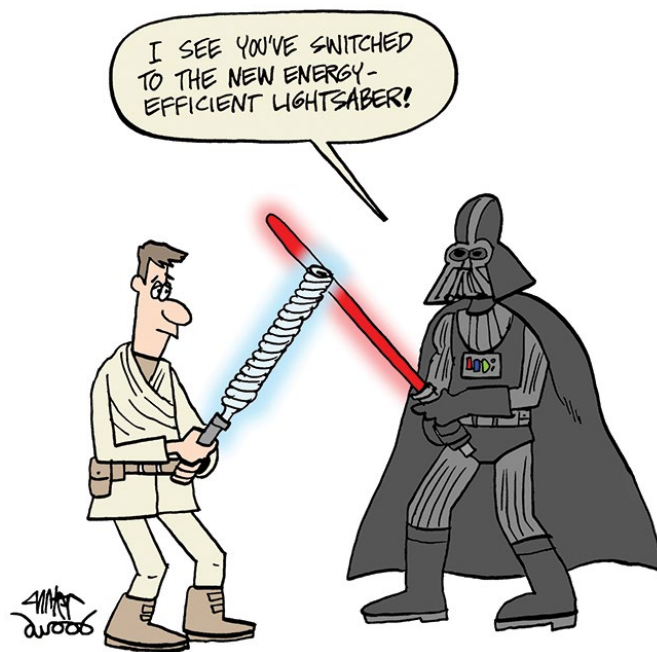
[Read Article >](#)

- UW parking is changing! Be sure to read the latest announcement from TransPark on the new system, and mark your calendars for June 15th to order your campus parking permit. [Read Article >](#)
- With upcoming vacations on the horizon, please be sure to fill indicate your time away on the office 'absent notice' calendar if you are able. We are working with IT to get administrative access to the calendar for those of you that are unable to use it. Stay tuned!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Spring Commencement**  
May 14, 2022
- **SER Graduation Reception**  
May 14, 2022
- **Admitted Student Day**  
May 20, 2022
- **PCOR Annual Meeting**  
May 24-25, 2022
- **Oil and Gas Webinar**  
June 2, 2022
- **CarbonSAFE Showcase Days**  
June 13-14, 2022
- **Energy Resources Council Division Reports Due**  
June 10, 2022
- **Energy Resources Council Meeting**  
June 23-24, 2022

## ENERGY JOKE



May the Fourth Be With You!