



Haub School Advisory Board

- Advisory Board members met in **Gillette** on April 30th and May 1st for their spring meeting.
- We said farewell to outgoing advisory board member **John Hay** of Rock Springs
- We awarded Advisory Board Member **Polly Weber** the Dean's Friend of The Haub School Award

Academic Programs and Student Services

- We continue to prioritize recruitment from high schools and junior colleges throughout Wyoming and we've been visiting prospective students in California, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Student Highlights

- UW's **Outstanding Graduating Senior Awards** celebrate the most exceptional undergraduate students. Two Haub School students were named the Outstanding Senior (with 4 more Haub students named as finalists):
 - **Paula Medina** | BS Civil Engineering / Environment & Natural Resources, Engineering Honors Program. Hometown: Cody, WY
 - **Riley Ovard** | BS Environmental Systems Science / Environment & Natural Resources, minors: Sustainability and Outdoor Leadership, certificate: Geographic Information Science. Hometown: Evanston, WY
- The 2nd **Pulte Gateway to Hospitality Student Innovation Challenge** was May 6th at the Hilton Garden Inn Laramie. Haub School Assistant Professor of Practice Sara Ghezzi guided 16 UW students to apply research, creativity, and local storytelling to the Hilton Garden Inn Laramie's renovation project.
- **Eta Sigma Delta** (HΣΔ), the international honor society for hospitality & tourism inducted its 1st UW class of 16.
- We are spotlighting **Haub School students and alumni from every Wyoming county** including Jakob Haenisch [Albany County](#), Alexandria Shinkle [Campbell County](#), Diego Lobatos [Fremont County](#), Sera Glass [Goshen County](#), Brody Sorensen [Hot Springs County](#), Bailey Yeager [Johnson County](#), Hope Langseth [Laramie County](#), and Riley Ovard [Uinta County](#),
- Environment Natural Resources & Society students are defending their theses. A selection of their research areas:
 - **Paisley Blair** A Tale of Two Estuaries: A Comparative Study of Birding Related Cultural Ecosystem Services in Atlantic and Pacific Flyway Estuaries
 - **Andrea Hagadorn** Navigating Scientific Uncertainty in Intermountain West High School Classrooms: Three Case Studies
 - **Alex Hancock** The Recontextualization of Conservation: Lessons from the Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands Rule
 - **Steele Searce** Of Wolves and Men: Stakeholder perceptions on collaboration and adaptive governance strategies within the Colorado wolf reintroduction
 - **Jocelyn Wulf** Lessons in Innovation: Natural Capital Investments in the American West
- The Haub School's **second cohort of Tomé scholars** are graduating! Congratulations to graduating seniors:
 - **Paula Medina** | BS Civil Engineering / Environment & Natural Resources, Engineering Honors Program. Hometown: Cody, WY
 - **Megan Yarborough** | BS Environment & Natural Resources / Rangeland Ecology & Watershed Management. Hometown: Mountain Home, AR
- This summer, students will participate in a variety of **professional & applied experiences including**:
 - Intern at the National Bighorn Sheep Center in Dubois, WY
 - Air Quality Division Intern at the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
 - Hospitality Intern with Xanterra at Yellowstone National Park
 - Wildland Firefighter with the BLM Rock Springs Field Office
 - Conservation and Stewardship Intern with the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Faculty and Staff Updates

- **Maggie Bourque**, Haub School Senior Lecturer, received the **John P. "Jack" Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award**, a **Promoting Intellectual Engagement PIE Award** from first year student nominations, and an **Excellence in Experiential Education Award** this spring.
- On March 26th in Laramie, we hosted our 5th annual **Wild and Working Lands Film Festival**. The festival featured films that explore intricate connections between humans and landscapes where we dwell, work, and play.



- On April 1st and 2nd in Jackson, Associate Professor Jake Hochard and the Haub School hosted “**Data X Power Jackson Hole 2026**” Co-led with Paul Bonifas as a follow-up of last summer’s Wyoming Resource and Policy Forum at Ucross event. The event convened 50 senior leaders from hyperscalers, data center developers, energy utilities, regulators, and financiers for solutions-focused dialogue.
- Assistant Research Scientist **Birch Malotky** will be the Haub School x Ucross Fellow in fall 2026.
- Associate Professor Joe Holbrook received the **Flittie Award** for his upcoming sabbatical.
- Haub School faculty members **Sara Ghezzi** and **Bonnie Johnson** were selected as the inaugural **Kemmerer Faculty Fellows** with the WORTH Institute in recognition of their leadership and commitment.
- President Seidel selected the following Haub School faculty for **Presidential Scholarly Awards: Temple Stoellinger, Grete Gansauer, and Bryan Leonard.**
- The **Wyoming Conservation Corps** begins a busy summer of work around the state this month.

Ruckelshaus Institute

- On April 13th and 14th in Laramie, the Ruckelshaus Institute hosted an **Emerging Issue Forum on nuclear energy development** in the state.
 - The Forum was in partnership with the School of Energy Resources and the WY Energy Authority.
 - 150 people attended including government officials, industry and utility representatives, legislators, tribal members, and non-profit representatives.
 - Forum Goals
 - Build a shared understanding of all parts of the nuclear energy fuel cycle.
 - Equip participants with the knowledge and tools to engage in informed decision-making around development of nuclear energy industries in Wyoming.
 - Identify policy, community engagement, research, planning, and other needs or opportunities and begin to develop strategies to address them.
 - The Steering Committee included: Senate Minerals Chairman, House Minerals Chairman, WY Outdoor Council, WY Mining Association, WY County Commissioners, WY DEQ, Idaho National Lab, Center for Rural Community Resilience and Innovation, WY Association of Municipalities, Terrapower, and BWX Technologies
 - Scott Clem, Campbell Cty. Commissioner, in *Cowboy Daily* said, "It was one of the first major statewide efforts to give the public a clear, unvarnished look at the nuclear industry: its history, its risks, its opportunities, and its relevance to Wyoming. What I appreciated most was that it wasn't a pep rally and it wasn't a protest. It was an attempt to lay out the facts so communities can make informed decisions."
- We facilitated a high-level work session convened by the Governor’s office on **Wyoming’s energy future**, particularly around data centers and addressed analytical work designed to move into meaningful next steps.
- The Ruckelshaus Institute, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service’s Mountain Planning Services Group (MPSG), continues to support forest planning in our region. A team including faculty, post-docs, and graduate students has been working to support **planning processes on the Bridger-Teton and Black Hills National Forests**. Our work has ranged from planning public engagement strategies to facilitating meetings with cooperating agencies and the general public. Beyond supporting collaborative approaches to management decision making in our region, this work brings excellent applied project experience for students pursuing our minor in collaboration.
- *Western Confluence* earned four awards in the Wyoming Press Association Associates competition!
- In April, our annual **Collaboration Program in Natural Resources Symposium** brought together alumni, guest faculty, friends, partners, and practitioners from across the region to connect, learn, and grow together around the question of how we collaborate in times that feel increasingly uncertain, complex, and polarized.
- We are excited to be starting a new partnership at the **Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark**. With support from the National Forest Foundation, we are working with Tribal partners and USDA Forest Service to plan for a collaborative group that will guide co-stewardship of this sacred and ecologically significant landscape.
- We are also excited to begin supporting the **Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP)** process as part of a new agreement. The IBMP coordinates management of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem’s wild bison herds across multiple agencies and jurisdictions—one of the most complex and long-running wildlife governance challenges in the region.