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Lancer Luminaries

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Lancer Luminaries is published twice a year by the EWC Institutional Development Office and the College Relations Office. It is distributed free of charge to alumni and friends of the college. We welcome letters, articles, and updates!

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From the EWC President

Dr. Tom Armstrong, President
Eastern Wyoming College
From the EWC Foundation
Chuck Rogers Receives the Eastern Wyoming College Foundation 2012 Award for Distinguished Service

Chuck served as president of Eastern Wyoming College from 1968 to 1984, taking EWC from a small part of Goshen county life and building the foundation for the College we have today.

Chuck was born and raised in Peru, Nebraska and attended Peru State College until his country called and he served in the Pacific Theater in World War II in the Marine Corp. He returned to Peru State to earn an AB degree in Physical Education but was recalled to service during the Korean conflict. Returning home, Chuck began his teaching and coaching career in Edgar Nebraska, and worked his way west to Concord, Bayard, and eventually Torrington where he taught mathematics and industrial arts and coached in the high school for thirteen years. In 1966, he was appointed Dean of Student Affairs and College Services at Goshen County Community College, and became the College’s president two years later.

Chuck is widely known and respected both on and off the campus for his relentless dedication to the College’s students, employees and even its landscaping. As longtime EWC coach and athletic director Verl Petch noted, “It was Chuck’s life to make things go. He did everything from masonry to carpentry to running the college. He wasn’t afraid to get his hands dirty and make something happen.”

Chuck’s devotion to the college and its students made it possible for it to grow from a simple junior college to a successful multi-program educational opportunity for thousands of residents throughout eastern Wyoming. He was instrumental in construction of dormitories on the campus, the development of refrigeration and air conditioning programs, the cosmetology program and many others, including construction of the theater that we convene in today. Guido Smith, who succeeded Chuck as president in 1984 said “Chuck was a visionary. He started our successful outreach program which became a model for the entire state”

His contributions to not only Goshen county, but to the entire state were appropriately recognized by the University of Wyoming through their conferring the Doctor of Laws Degree on Chuck in honor of his contributions and vision related to the growth and excellence of the entire Wyoming Community College System.

In conferring this honor, the University speaks for all of us with their statement that “those who know him best credit Mr. Rogers as a leader who pioneered and persisted as no other did to spread higher education from the campus to the smallest communities. It is a sobering thought that higher education is reaching every hamlet in eastern Wyoming through his efforts.

Guests, visitors, and graduates, Please join me in welcoming and honoring Chuck Rogers as the recipient of 2012 Eastern Wyoming College award for Distinguished Service.
John L. Burns Family Endowed Scholarship created to support Goshen County residents

During his high school days in the mid 1950’s, John Burns was told by an administrator that he would never go to college. John always loved a good challenge. Following his graduation from Lingle High School in 1956, he enrolled at UW’s Southeast University Center, which later became Goshen County Community College. He attended three semesters at the Southeast University Center, then transferring to the University of Wyoming where he majored in agriculture business. John’s work ethic served him well. John would come back home on weekends and then load up his pickup with home grown potatoes, and then take them back on Monday mornings to sell them to UW’s food service operation as well as downtown Laramie café’s – all of this to help pay for tuition and books.

John came back to Goshen County and quietly farmed until he had a heart attack in 1996. Following a quadruple bypass, he suffered a stroke which paralyzed his left side, but continued to farm after rehabilitation. However, he was never able to fully recover and sold the family ranch – a ranch that had been in his family for generations. He used money from the sale to build a house on a 40 acre pasture, and at the same time quietly set up the John L. Burns Charitable Trust. He remembered his roots as he established the trust, and made sure that a large part of the proceeds at his death would be directed to support opportunities that he did not have when he was younger.

With the assistance of attorney John Maier and financial planner Jeff Marsh, John’s legacy has created the John L. Burns Family Scholarship Endowment. John’s extremely generous gift of to the EWC Foundation is being matched dollar for dollar by the Wyoming Endowment Challenge program, and will create tremendous opportunities for Goshen County students for years to come. As the endowment and scholarship were being created, it was clear to his family and friends that his desires were simple and honest... "He knew how hard it was for him to attend college, and he wanted to make it possible for someone else.”

EWC board president Patrick Korell noted that “it is truly amazing, and heartwarming, to know that people have this college and its students uppermost in their minds when they make important financial decisions for their futures. I know that this scholarship will make the difference in so many lives of people in this county far into the future, and on behalf of the Foundation I give tremendous credit to John Burns’ for his kindness and foresight.”
Dr. Alex “Dale” Ehrlich receives EWC Distinguished Alumnus Award

Dale is a native of Huntley, Wyoming, graduating from Huntley High School in 1965. He attended Goshen County Community College and earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Biology in 1967. He enlisted in the US Air Force in that same year, working as a Morse Code interceptor operator. After his discharge from the service, he returned to the University of Wyoming to obtain a Bachelors of Science in Biology with honors, and a Masters of Science in Microbiology.

Moving back to the uniformed service, Dale was commissioned in 1975 as a Navy Ensign, and went on to the Indiana University School of Dentistry, where he received a Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 1979.

Dale’s military career has taken him around the world. In 1985 he was selected for training in the Comprehensive Dentistry Residency Program at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, which was followed by his assignment to the Marine Corp in Okinawa Japan. Following a tour of duty in Pensacola, he was selected for training in the Craniofacial Pain Fellowship at the University of Florida, after which he was assigned to the Naval Postgraduate Dental School to establish the Orofacial Pain Specialty for the Navy Dental Corp, and at the same time served as the first Specialty Leader for Temporomandibular Disorders and Orofacial pain. At the rank of Captain (full colonel equivalent), in 2003 Dale served as department head and technical director of the Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research when he was appointed by the Surgeon General as Specialty Leader for Dental Research in 2006. He then became the Institute’s Commander, a position he held until 2009 and his retirement from the Navy in that year.

His awards and honors include the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Navy/Marine corp Achievement Medal, three Battle “E” Awards, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal and many more. He maintains membership in the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, the American Dental Association and the Academy of General Dentistry. He is a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, Diplomate - American Board of Orofacial Pain and a Diplomate - Federal Services Board of General Dentistry. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Apparently, retirement didn’t suit Dale, because he continues to serve and contribute to the field of dental research in his current position as Associate professor and Chairman of the Comprehensive Dentistry and Biomaterials Department at Louisiana State University School of Dentistry in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Please welcome, I should say welcome back.... the 22nd recipient of the Eastern Wyoming College and Eastern Wyoming College Foundation’s Distinguished Alumnus award, Dr. Dale Ehrlich.
College Moving Ahead with Long Range Vision and Planning Process
By Bob Cox, Vice President for Finance and Operations

Master plans are powerful documents that can ultimately change a campus for many years into the future. A well designed plan will serve as a guide and framework to identify future programs and footprints for facilities, recommend improved usage of current facilities, and develop a thoughtful direction for inclusion of necessary infrastructure needs. A well constructed master plan is an excellent conduit to assure constituents that the plan has evolved in an intelligent manner, and provides the standard needed to seek support for college projects from the community, the Community College Commission, the Governor and the state legislature.

The master planning process undertaken from February through November of 2012 is required by the Wyoming Community College Commission, but it is much more than just the facility inventory that the Commission requires every four years. It is a way for the College to truly look inward at what it does best, and what it wants to be able to do well in the years to come. With the ever changing program mix, degree levels, delivery modalities and student learning styles, it is important to develop useful and relevant planning documents that address the vision of our community, our students, our faculty and staff over the next five, ten and even twenty years.

The master planning process has been developed in conjunction with nationally-recognized firms that specialize in this type of planning. TSP architects of Sheridan, Wyoming, have been the principal developers of the plan, with support from MGT of America – a firm that has worked with such colleges and universities as Johns Hopkins and the University of Connecticut, as well as the Mississippi state board for community colleges.

Included in the long range plan will be the broad direction for programmatic development for the college, the facilities projected to house these programs, the technical infrastructure for the future, and recommendations for addressing drainage and flood control, landscaping and even possible land acquisition. The outcome will reflect the vision and future direction of the College for the next decade and beyond. It will be the college’s guide as we seek support to transform EWC either through new or re-purposed facilities on the main campus, as well as a review of facility needs at the College’s important outreach centers in the six counties we serve. The process is not only necessary and responsible to our public, but is an exciting process that has included not only campus-wide review, but members of our community, including our EWC Foundation board.
Goshen County Rooster Boosters create Cody McKinney Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Since 1986, the Rooster Boosters – a group of men and women in Goshen County dedicated to pheasant hunting – have also been raising money for a variety of community needs. And, since 2005 they have been quietly putting money aside from their annual fund raising banquet to honor one of their own. Cody McKinney had just become a member of the Rooster Boosters when he died in a (boating? Automobile) accident. McKinney’s step brother and long time Rooster Booster member Jason Kaufman and other members of the group including EWC’s own Eme Escamilla, began to lead an effort to honor his memory by setting aside funds to build an endowed scholarship at EWC.

As a result of their commitment, the Rooster Boosters came to the College in the spring of 2012 with a gift of $20,000 to create the Cody McKinney endowed scholarship. The gift will be matched dollar for dollar through the State of Wyoming’s endowment challenge matching program, and the growth and interest on the endowment corpus will initially provide three scholarships to deserving students at the College, one of whom must be a Goshen County resident. Endowed funds are invested by the EWC Foundation for long term growth, making it possible for gifts such as this to serve deserving students for generations to come.

In creating the scholarship, Kaufman noted that this project is consistent with the values of the organization, which are to support a broad range of needs in the community. He said “We have helped with youth athletic programs, wildlife conservation efforts in the county, and youth programs in gun safety through the Uncle Dave’s Youth Shoot. We don’t like to make a big splash with what we do, but it’s nice to be able to show others how we can help the people in our area in so many ways.”
EWC Livestock Judging Program

The Eastern Wyoming College Livestock Judging Program was established as an innovative program under the Wyoming Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Program (EHEE) in 2006. Developed at the State level, the program is designed to encourage innovation and new academic programming in all of the State’s community colleges. The first instructor in the new program was John “J.D” Sexton, who came to EWC from private ranching. J.D. also worked with the University of Wyoming’s College of Agriculture, and as assistant coach for the UW livestock judging team.

One of the advantages the new EWC program enjoyed early on was the willingness of local ranching operations to work with our judging team by allowing our students to work with their animals. Because the program was new, a dedicated facility for judging and for holding an appropriate number of animals was not available. Organizations and ranches from Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado were instrumental in giving the budding program the chance to build from the ground up. Wyoming ranches and institutions included Booth Cherry Creek Ranch, Ochsner Herefords, Haas Angus, Middleswarth Herefords, Morrison Angus, University of Wyoming, Casper College, and various other operations and colleges in Nebraska and Colorado also assisted in this early effort.

While not a College academic major as such, livestock judging students are prepared with critical skills needed for a variety of jobs in the agriculture, including work in feedlots, agriculture sales, ag education, livestock evaluation, and ag journalism among many other areas. Many employers seek out individuals who have participated on judging teams because of their work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate.

J.D. Sexton left the program to work with his family business in Colorado in 2008, and the College brought in yet another highly qualified instructor, who teaches not only livestock judging but animal science and agriculture economic. Nebraska native Rob Eirich came to the college with a wealth of experience in all areas of agriculture education and livestock programming. Rob holds a BS in Agriculture Economics from the University of Wyoming, and an MS in Agricultural Leadership from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He brought extensive experience in the livestock production area, including cow-calf and feedlot operations, plus experience working with UNL agricultural extension programming. He has judged and facilitated clinics in livestock evaluation in Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas and Colorado, as well as internationally in Kenya and China.

The program attracts students from a variety of College major areas, including Ag Business, Farm and Ranch Management, Animal Science and even Welding. Students that graduate in these areas and who participate in the livestock judging program all benefit from the added skills in livestock evaluation, decision making, and verbal communication that can be utilized either in their personal/family business, or in their company’s perspective. They represent not only Wyoming, but Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, Kansas and South Dakota and Eirich says that about two-thirds of the team members in the last four graduating teams have transferred to complete bachelors degrees in agriculture, animal sciences or ag business, mainly at UW. There have also been three team members from Eirich’s last two teams transfer on to compete at the four-year university level in livestock judging.

“The livestock judging team has been a large part of my life at EWC. Our team is a close-knit family that works well together both on the road and at home. Judging has been a great experience that helped me develop decision making skills, and become a better speaker in
This wonderful opportunity also gave me the chance to network with other judges and producers around the country that will help further my career.”

Susan Button, Newcastle

Livestock judging means travel, and lots of it. The 2011-12 team will compete at the Flint Hills Classic in El Dorado Kansas, the National Barrow Show in Austin, Minnesota, the American Royal Show in Kansas City, the North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville, Kentucky, the Houston Stock Show and Rodeo, and the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Eirich has expanded the involvement and partnerships with local and regional ranching operations and business related to animal production. Along with those originally participating during the program’s early years, the 7X Angus Ranch, Dudley Booth and Family, Miller Cattle and Feed yard, Lazy Heart Ranch, Jeff Chapman Family, Duello Ranch, High Plains Feedlot and Lippincott Farms have stepped up to help EWC students become exposed to the “real world” of animal evaluation and production. Eirich’s connection to Nebraska has also allowed the College to work closely with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and western Nebraska producers. Being on the Livestock Judging team also means that as a student you join other agriculture and rodeo students in working with the Foundation’s annual Sagebrush and Roses dinner dance – with funds raised being dedicated to the Agriculture program, including scholarships and educational materials for these students.

“My Livestock judging was an awesome way to travel around the nation and see top livestock operations that otherwise I wouldn’t have been able to experience. It is a lot of work to be devoted to judging, but in the end I gained valuable critical thinking and communications skills, plus made tons of memories and friends I’ll never forget.”

Rustin Roth, Torrington Wyoming

When asked where the agriculture and livestock judging programs can be at EWC in the coming years, Eirich says, “EWC sits in the strongest agricultural county in the State of Wyoming, by any measure you want to use. It is a natural fit for our agricultural efforts as we support the needs of our community and region. I want to have a top quality program that gives our students the best opportunity in the region to excel. With the likely development of a major Agriculture/Veterinary Technology facility on the campus in the near future, I know we can be recognized as one of, if not the top programs in the region.” He adds, “The first steps include not only the facility, which will contain major animal holding improvements, classrooms and a dedicated teaching arena, but acquisition of livestock, such as, eight to ten beef cattle, ten sheep and ten hogs. Ideally, these will be market quality animals that we will be purchased and sold on an revolving basis annually.”

In his third year as Livestock Judging Coach at Eastern Wyoming College, Eirich has taken the solid base built by J.D. Sexton and stepped up the program in terms of recruiting and numbers of high quality students. He says, “in the not too distant future, I want to have eight to ten solid sophomores, and eight to ten solid freshmen on my teams – with students who are dedicated, competitive and want to come home with recognition and awards from some of the best shows in the country. With the support I’m getting from the College and the EWC Foundation to put the tools in place, we can build a regionally recognized agriculture department here at EWC.”
Call for Nominations . . .

The Eastern Wyoming College Foundation invites nominations for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award and the 2012 Distinguished Service Award. Criteria for this award can be obtained from the EWC Office of Development at 307-532-8397, or by going to the EWC web site and clicking on Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Service Award Nominations.
Eastern Wyoming College would like to announce the recognition of the individuals who were nominated by their peers for the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees Awards. The nominations were for exemplary student, faculty member, classified employee, professional employee and Foundation volunteer award. Nomination packets included examples of how the nominee has had a positive impact on their community college and how they have been involved in the community.

Susie Schaefer, Senior Administrative Specialist for EWC’s Community Education was the nominee and winner of the Classified Employee of the year award. She believes an organization is only as strong as the individuals within. Schaefer is active in recruiting potential community education instructors and frequently makes suggestions for courses based upon her experiences in the community. She is involved with Little Britches Rodeo and the high school booster club and is a positive advertisement for current and future community education offerings.

The EWC nominee for student of the year was Lucas Kaufman from Torrington, Wyoming. Luke is a Pre-Dentistry major and will graduate from EWC this spring with an Associate of Science degree. He is President of the Phi Theta Kappa organization, is a college science and math tutor and helps out with the Adopt-A-Highway program.

Bob Creagar, Math and Physics Instructor, was the EWC nominee for faculty member of the year and has taught at the college since 1995. Students shared their experience with Creagar as an instructor, “Mr. Creagar gives light, funny and encouraging presentations of material” and “he is awesome, very fun and energetic.”

The EWC Professional Employee was Aaron Bahmer. Bahmer is Instructional Technologist and has been with EWC since 1998, first as an instructor in Computer Science. He has been in his current position since 2000. He has helped design the college’s distance education courses and his technical expertise is tremendously helpful to everyone at the college.

The nomination for Foundation volunteer of the Year was Richard “Dick” Glandt. Dick has been instrumental in building community relationships which are the core of a successful development and Foundation program and directly relate to enhancing financial support for the college. He has been on the Foundation board since 2006. His knowledge of our community and region has been invaluable as the board has grown and includes exceptionally strong new members.

EWC Board of Trustee member Sheri Lovercheck was also recognized with a plaque for her service as President of the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees.

Nominees were recently recognized at the WACCT Community College Conference and legislative reception held in Cheyenne.
V Punke

It would be hard to find anyone, anywhere, who has more knowledge of, or even affection for, Drosophila melanogaster, than Verle Punke. The creature with the long scientific name turns out to be a fruit fly, and happens to be one of the most important building blocks of a college level biology class. Verle “Butch” Punke has been dealing with fruit flies for several decades as a biology teacher at the high school level, and again as an instructor at Eastern Wyoming College – a position from which he officially retired in 1998.

More on the fruit flies later, but this article is about one of EWC’s finest and most respected instructors, who taught biology for 16 years at the College, then after over a decade in retirement, was called back as an adjunct instructor to help with growing science enrollments combined with instructional staff changes. When he took on the adjunct role in the spring semester of 2012, we asked Butch to tell us in his own words about the differences and similarities of teaching biology to different generations of students.

Butch was raised in Augusta Kansas, just a few miles east of Wichita. He received his bachelors of science degree from Emporia State College, and got his first teaching job in Lovell, Wyoming. He followed that with graduate work at the University of Northern Iowa, receiving his Masters of Science in Biology in 1967. Teaching positions in Pratt, Kansas, and Grand Junction, Colorado, were followed by a move back to Lovell, noting that “I missed the Big Horns.” Not yet finished with his travels, in 1974 he moved to Western Illinois to teach biology at ROVA -- a consolidated rural high school in Oneida, Illinois, that combined the high schools in Rio, Oneida, Victoria, and Altona. Yet the call of the west proved to be too powerful to resist, and Butch and family came to Torrington in 1975, where he taught biology at Torrington High School until his move to EWC in 1982.

“Mr. Punke’s class was very challenging. His style of teaching lead you to self discovery both inside and outside of the classroom. He always tried to make sure students had every opportunity for success. I am thankful he decided to return to the classroom.”

- Amanda Kay Dykes, Lingle
Punke retired from full time biology teaching in 1998, but was “recalled to active duty” for the spring of 2012. Biology instructor Chris Wenzel had moved into the position of division chair for sciences, and the College asked Butch to step in. He said “It was a little nerve wracking, to say the least. But I have so many good friends at the College still, and that the chance to teach again would give me a chance to look at my self worth. I wanted to see if I could still do it.” He set up shop in an office in the newly remodeled science wing, and began to dig through materials he had at home to bring in for teaching. “I was really lucky”, he said, “I had been in the process of throwing out so much of the material I had used in the past, but (EWC’s full time biology instructor) Peggy Knittel asked me to share some lab ideas and it turned out I needed much of what I had been hanging on to.”

After he began the class and lab in January, it didn’t take long for several dozen recycled glass jars to appear in his small office. They were, of course, full of fruit fly larvae. “The fruit fly is perfect for teaching genetics as a part of a broader biology class “ Punke says. “They multiply amazingly quickly – you can have three generations of them in about six weeks. (The fruit flies did so well that many of the other science teachers in Butch’s area began finding them in their classrooms)

Even today, they are the most used animal in biological sciences, and even make major contributions in modern studies and research in many areas, including aging. Punke has been able to give some comparisons on teaching equipment and styles with those he used in prior years. “I never used a power point presentation in my life, and still havent” he noted. I am still wedded to my Kodak slides and overhead projector.” But he went on to note that current biology texts have tremendous amounts of new information in them, especially in areas of DNA research and findings, as well as other scientific discoveries in biology that weren’t dreamed of even twenty years ago. However even with this expansion of knowledge, Punke says “as a general biologist, Im more concerned about a broad background for students at this level. Advances in all of the sciences are amazing, but Im still aiming at fundamentals.”

“ Mr. Punke was a blast to be with in the classroom! He asked his students to be self-sufficient, to think for themselves, and to have a higher appreciation for life. In Mr. Punke’s course, biology became more than reading out of a textbook, the science of life was fun and informative!!”

- Susie Button,, Newcastle

According to Punke, students today are different in a few ways from those he taught over the years, but are in many ways the same. “Of course, it took me a bit to get used to the ball caps and cell phones in the classroom, but basically, students havent changed all that much. Students, especially those I have encountered over many years at EWC, and again just this year, have a solid foundation in values, they are curious, and they want to learn and want to succeed.” He goes on to say, “Their learning styles and study habits have changed of course—they are more used to technology and want to use it. As I said before, they had to adjust a little to my teaching style, which was a bit more old fashioned. But we still managed ‘OK’ Another thing that helped me was that I was teaching the second semester for most of these students, and the first semester is usually tougher on both teacher and student.” He went on to say that students still need
“Mr. Punke was one of the first instructors I had in college. He was very instrumental in my choice to pursue a degree in education and to become a teacher myself. He has a true passion for teaching and a way about him that makes you want to learn. Mr. Punke has always been a great role model for me, and I have been fortunate to not only be a student but a colleague as a teacher over the years.”

- Jake Clark, EWC Math Instructor and Rodeo Coach

While talking about his overall impressions of the College as it is today, Punke says “the atmosphere at the College is noticeably better than it was even five years ago. The teachers and staff are more professional, and clearly have tremendous qualifications. The people I worked close to in the science area and who helped me so much, such as Bob Creager, Peggy Knittel, and Lorna Stickel, all stand out as instructors and solid people who really have students at the center of their focus, and could teach anywhere. As somewhat of an outsider these days, it seems to me that we may not all know what we have here at this college both in faculty and the staff.”

Butch has already accepted an offer to teach the second semester of biology in the spring of 2013. “I'm really looking forward to that. It’s tough to be an adjunct instructor because it’s so different from full time. You don't have your own office, your own classroom and to be honest it’s been harder on my energy level, but I'm excited to be in the classroom again next year.” Punke said. It appears that next spring, the population of fruit flies will once again explode in the EWC science lab, and another group of second semester biology students will get a chance to experience one of EWC’s all time best.

Mr. Punke was passionate about what he was teaching – Biology. I can honestly say that Mr. Punke is one of the best instructors I have ever had in all of my education. He has touched and inspired so many students over the years and should be a role model for any instructor.

- Amy Smith, EWC student registration office
New Employees Introduced to Eastern Wyoming College

Eastern Wyoming College welcomes several new employees to campus this fall. “We are excited to welcome these new faculty members to our EWC family. They bring with them rich academic backgrounds and workplace experiences. Our music position had been unfilled for several years, so we are looking forward to rebuilding a robust music department. The other positions have been refilled from retirements of long-term people which means they have “big shoes” to fill. I’m sure our new faculty members are up to the task, and we are enjoying working with them” shared Dr. Dee Ludwig, Vice President for Learning.

New Instructors
Left to right: Jennifer Minks, Michael DeMers, Rick Darnell and Kaitlyn Steben

Richard Darnell, Math Instructor. Rick holds a M.A, 2012, from Chadron State College in Education, Mathematics and a B.S. 2006, from Regis University, Denver, CO in Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude, B.S. 1988, from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS in Communications. He also holds a Secondary Education Certificate, Mathematics for both Wyoming and Nebraska. Rick has been teaching Math classes as an adjunct at Chadron State College, Western Nebraska Community College, and Laramie County Community College. He has held full-time teaching positions at Chadron Public Schools, Chadron, NE, Liberty Common School, Fort Collins, Co, and Youth PEP Center, Cheyenne, WY.

Jennifer Minks, Business Instructor. Jennifer holds a M.S. 2007, in Accounting from the University of Wyoming, a BS, 2006 in Accounting, University of Wyoming, Cum Laude, and an AA, 2003, Eastern Wyoming College in Accounting. Jennifer taught business classes at UW as a Graduate Assistant. She
received her CPA in 2008 and has been employed as a Staff Accountant for Western Sage CPA’s P.C. in Worland, WY.

Kaitlyn Steben, Agriculture Instructor. Kaitlyn holds a B.S, 2008, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO in Agricultural Science. Kaitlyn holds a M.S. 2012 in Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Wyoming. She has been a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Wyoming. She was an active member of their equestrian team and also served as the Delta Tau Alpha National Agriculture Honor society Historian, Treasurer.

Mai Lee Holmes, Admissions Coordinator. Mai Lee holds a B.S., 2012, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX in Agricultural Communications. Mai Lee has been recruiting Ag students for the Texas Tech College of Agriculture as a student ambassador and a Texas Tech Agri-Techsian. She is a past State Vice President of the Texas FFA. She has been very active in the Texas Tech Block and Bridle, Meat Judging Team, and Natural Resources Agricultural Council. She has also been a public relations and media intern focusing on relations with local communities.

Michael DeMers, Music Instructor. Michael holds a B.A. 2007, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN in Music and a M.M., 2011, University of Arizona, in Music Composition. Michael has been teaching music for EWC over the past year as an adjunct instructor. He has also taught classes for Community Education and has been involved with community theater productions.

Wade Bruch, Workforce Associate Administrative Director. Wade holds a BS, 2004, in Business Administration, Marketing, from Midland Lutheran College, Fremont, NE. Wade previously was the Branch Manager for the U.S. Bank in Torrington. Wade has served on the Community Healthcare Foundation Board and the Goshen County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. “Our workforce development efforts are important to us as we meet the needs of our communities and businesses throughout our service area. Wade has been working closely with the Converse County businesses and industries in order to provide workforce training opportunities” added Dr. Ludwig.
Eastern Wyoming College Rodeo Team Members Qualify for Nationals

Four Eastern Wyoming College Rodeo student athletes qualified for the 2012 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR). Representing the Lancers are: Shelby Winchell, goat tying; Derek Weinreis, team roping; Levi O’Keefe, team roping; and Riley Pruitt, tie-down roping.

The 2011-12 Central Rocky Mountain Region college rodeo season concluded with the University of Wyoming college rodeo April 27-April 29 in Laramie. The 2012 CNFR will be June 10-16 in Casper, Wyo.

Sophomore Shelby Winchell, of Scottsbluff, Neb., won the short round of the final rodeo with a 6.9 second run in the goat tying. This earned her the average title as well as moved her from fourth in regional standings to second. Winchell won the Reserve Champion Goat Tying award for the Central Rocky Mountain Region. “Shelby did what she needed to do at the last rodeo to earn a spot to the CNFR. I’m really proud of her qualification,” EWC Rodeo Coach Jake Clark said. “Shelby is a very dedicated student athlete and definitely earned this qualification.”

Freshman Derek Weinreis, of Beach, North Dakota, and Levi O’Keefe, of Mohall, North Dakota will compete in the team roping at the CNFR. Weinreis won the Reserve Champion Team Roping Header award for the Central Rocky Mountain Region and O’Keefe won the Reserve Champion Team Roping Heeler award. “Derek and Levi came from North Dakota as a team and they really rope well together,” Clark said. “To qualify for the CNFR in their first year of collegiate competition is a great accomplishment.”

Sophomore Riley Pruitt, of Gering, Neb. will make his second trip in as many years to the CNFR in the tie-down roping. Pruitt finished the season in third place in regional standings. “Riley finished fourth in the nation last year as a freshman,” Clark said. “He is a very talented roper. He has had an outstanding college career at EWC and I look forward to watching him at Casper.”

“We are very proud of all our student athletes in the arena, the classroom and the community,” Coach Clark said. “This has been a hard working and outstanding group of individuals.”

Over 400 cowboys and cowgirls from over 100 universities and colleges compete in the CNFR in Casper each year. Contestants compete all year in one of the NIRA’s 11 regions for a chance to rope or ride at the CNFR. Visit www.cnfr.com for schedules and ticket information.

“The CNFR is a great show,” Clark concluded. “We are fortunate to have this event here in Wyoming. I encourage folks to consider coming to Casper in June to support EWC’s student athletes.”
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