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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 an orbiting camera, you zoom in for a view of the earth; you can make out North and South America. Closer, you distinguish the general shape of the United States then focus in on the northwest. Even though you don’t have lines drawn, you can visualize an area where Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado share some space. Zeroing in on Goshen County, you can picture Torrington... a little closer and West C Street. Proudly atop the hill, Eastern Wyoming College is an amazing place to be on the planet.

Initially serving as a University of Wyoming Outreach Center, Goshen County Community College claimed its place on the plains. Several of you remember the building and the people who worked there; some of you were students “downtown.” We recognize many of these familiar faces in this issue.

Whether journeying through time with students on spring break to Chaco Canyon to experience ruins of the ancients or assisting the Governor and State of Wyoming to secure a national test site for the most modern Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Eastern Wyoming College remains committed to its role as educational institution, training center, agricultural leader, and engine for economic development.

Founded on a strong tradition, EWC is focused on the future. A campus Master Plan is critical to establish a framework for decision making, and the college has finished a year’s worth of work—ensuring we’re together in making the right moves, in the right sequence, at the right time. Some work is currently underway; exciting projects in design for the next couple of years; forecasted improvements that will enable the college to grow intelligently over the next fifteen to twenty years.

Internally, our academic transfer programs are strong. We continue to honor proud traditions in veterinary technology, cosmetology, and welding. We also know that to remain viable, we must evolve responsibly. National attention stressing the importance of agriculture uncovers hundreds of applications that will be well served through emerging programs to be housed in the Agricultural Technology Education Center. This facility will offer hands-on training in an educational environment designed to enhance relevant active learning. Preliminary work with the University of Wyoming promises to be a partnership that will serve students, the college, the county, and the State well.

Our aerial footprint will reflect physical changes to the campus and improve the community. Based on the premise that EWC has plenty of room to grow, plans optimize land use and creatively position buildings, parking, and open space in complementary patterns.

Watch us grow. A little touch of home in the universe. Stake your claim. Be a part of history.
You can view and print an executive summary. You can review the entire plan online at ewc.wy.edu
Giving Appreciated Assets: An “unappreciated” Tax Break?

As the end of the year approaches and charitable giving begins to be part of your thinking, donating stock or other assets that have appreciated in value can be one of the ways you can help your favorite charity and take advantage of a tax deduction. There is a “double incentive” to using appreciated securities to make a gift. Donors can claim a charitable tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities, AND pay no capital gains on the sale of the assets at the time of the transfer.

For example, Bob Jones owns stock with a fair market value of $30,000, which he purchased originally for $10,000 and held more than one year. If Bob contributes that stock to the EWC Foundation, he can claim a tax deduction for the full $30,000 that the stock is valued at today. Additionally, he is not liable for tax of the $20,000 capital gain when the stock is transferred. By using stock instead of cash, Bob has delivered $30,000 to the EWC Foundation and secured a tax deduction for $30,000 and only at a “cost” of $10,000.

If Bob wants to create or add to an endowment with his gift, the value will double under the State of Wyoming Endowment Challenge matching program.

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The 2012 Annual Appeal has a goal of $50,000. Lead by Foundation members Barbara Bonds, Gary Olson and Todd Peterson, the Appeal has already raised $42,000 toward that goal, from donors, faculty and staff, trustees and members of the EWC foundation board of directors. The Annual Appeal has raised over $130,000 in three years for support of programs and services that directly impact the quality of education at the College. Funds have been allocated to equipment in the College’s newly-renovated science labs, to the College’s important and expanding diversity among the student population, and for support of scholarship needs for traditional and non-traditional students.

Please take a moment as the end of the year approaches, and consider a gift to the 2012 Annual Appeal, and make a continued tax-deductible commitment to expanding student opportunity and quality educational programming at Eastern Wyoming College. Every gift, regardless of size, makes an important difference!!

Thank you!

2012 Annual Appeal
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 have contributed $20,000 to create the Cody McKinney endowed scholarship. The gift has been matched dollar for dollar through the Wyoming Endowment Challenge matching program. The scholarship will initially provide three scholarships to deserving students at the College, one of whom must be a Goshen County resident.

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. Following his graduation from Lingle High School in 1956, he enrolled at UW’s Southeast University Center, which later became Goshen County Community College. After transferring to the University of Wyoming where he majored in agriculture business, John came back to Goshen County to operate the ranch that had been in his family for generations. Following several medical problems which left him partially paralyzed, he sold the ranch and quietly set up the John L. Burns Charitable Trust. John’s legacy to EWC was a gift of $175,000, which will be matched by the Wyoming Endowment Challenge matching program to create scholarship assistance for Goshen County residents. 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.

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.”
Chuck Rogers Receives 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.
2013 AWARD FOR
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

As the University of Wyoming Southeast Center, as Goshen County Community College, and as Eastern Wyoming College, this institution has relied for sixty five years on the commitment and talents of hundreds of individuals. From faculty members, to cooks, to presidents, to business and finance staff, to deans, to vice presidents, to custodians and to office assistants, people whose names are often forgotten with passage of time have worked to create a community college that stands with any other in quality and student opportunity.

With so many names and faces being such a fundamental part of this College's history, it is difficult to single out any one person, or group of people, for recognition as recipients of the Eastern Wyoming College Distinguished Service Award. Yet, so many have left their imprint, and no small amount of their sweat and elbow grease, with this wonderful institution.

The EWC Foundation is proud to recognize four people who exemplified loyalty, commitment, service and support in a critical time in the College's history in their separate roles as EWC staff members. These four are Pauline Deahl, Sharon Jones, Bev Yeik and Betty Hayano.

After being notified of the award, the four ladies sat down with old friends and current Foundation members Donna Beth Downer and Dick Glandt to talk about their roles at the college, the people they knew, and the joys and trials of a college growing into itself.

Donna Beth (DB) First of all, congratulations to all of you for being recognized by the College and Foundation for your long time service and commitment to EWC. Thank you all for taking the time to sit down and visit with us about your experiences at the College over so many years. Let's start with Pauline, and tell us some of the things you did at the school for over 30 years.

Pauline Deahl (PD) We did everything! At the time I started we were in the red building downtown and we were Goshen County Community College. I think we were part of the public schools system for a time. I was part time to start, but worked for the first president Al Conger doing everything from taking notes at board meetings to buying pens and pencils to doing payroll.

Dick Glandt (DG) I'm not sure the College was actually part of the school district under the same board, but we did have a push in the '50s to expand the tax base of the College to the whole county from what was just the school district.

DG: Betty, why don't you tell us a little bit about your first years at the College and what you did.

Betty Hayano (BH) I started in 1968 I worked mainly in the records and registration area, and worked for Mike Varney and Billy Bates. When Guido Smith became Dean of Instruction I worked for him in student records and with faculty related issues. When student records and instruction became...
separate entities, I transferred as an administrative assistant to the Dean of Instruction.

(PD) Do you remember as student named Jerry Stevenson? He had come in to pay his tuition, which was something like thirty five dollars, and he paid it all in pennies! Chuck Rogers and Bev and I took all day to count those pennies. Chuck and I spent an entire day filling out class cards one time also, when he was an assistant to Al Conger.

(PD) Al Conger was a fighter.

(DG) The picture I have of Al Conger was that he was indeed a fighter, even a boxer. He and I would go to all of the local area high schools and tell them there was a college in town, and that they had opportunities for higher education right here in Torrington.

(PD) Al Conger was a bulldog. The first years of the College were involved in politics, and we weren't sure the college would survive. It is my recollection that at one of the legislative sessions, one of our local legislators actually voted "no" on providing state funding for the College. I remember refusing to type one of Al's letters because it was pretty salty. Bev Yeik (BY) I wouldn't have had the nerve to do that.

(DB) Bev; what about you? How did you work into this mix?

(BY) I had lots of jobs, but I guess you could call me a "flotor"...I worked wherever anyone needed me. I was also the "chaperone" for the rodeo team on its out of town trips, working with the rodeo coach at the time Art Davis.

Sharon Jones (SJ) I was actually one of Chuck Rogers students when he taught at the high school before going to work at the College. I really didn't apply for the job. Chuck called me when he lost his assistant and asked me to work with him. There was no hiring committee or application process to go through. After Chuck retired, I worked for Bob Thomas in the business office and eventually took Pauline's position as payroll manager.

(BH) Chuck Rogers was my next door neighbor, and he asked me to work at the College. I knew him when he taught at the high school. I was involved in the conversion of student records to the computer system, which required a lot of hours. We loaded student records and courses on the computer to facilitate registration for on and off campus courses.

(PD) I do remember thinking at one point "Please Lord, let me out of here before they get computers!" I didn't quite make it.

(BY) The Business Office for the College wasn't in the main building downtown. The college had some of us working in a rented house across the street. We had a typing pool, and I helped in the book store. In the first year in the new building on C Street, we sold books in the downstairs hallway on tables set up in one end of the hall before we had a "real" book store.

(BY) The old house across from the College downtown not only had Bob Thomas and the business office. Two of our faculty members had offices in the basement, and I think one of them pretty much lived there.

(PD) The College has changed so much. We did so much outside of what our "normal" jobs would be. It seems like it takes more people on the campus now to do what we did. We made a lot of decisions because we had to. I even remember doing people's W-2 tax forms on weekends.

(BY) I recall when the College was closed due to a blizzard. Fortunately I lived nearby and was able to walk through the drifts. It was difficult for those who had to drive to the College. The year the dorm opened, kids were arriving on campus as we were still cleaning rooms. We all helped put clean sheets on the bed and even fixed dinner for them.

(DB) Who were some of the memorable people you recall from your time at the College?

(PD) There were so many personalities. Walt Samson, who taught economics and geography, willed his coffee cup to Ludwig Pukitis, one of our custodians. The community theater group was always good.

(BY) Doc Simons was very memorable. I would type a lot of his work, but he was a really bad speller. Of course we didn't have anything like spell check at that time. I spent a lot of time in the library looking up how to spell medical terms. Chuck Rogers tried hard to help me, and even brought me a medical dictionary to help find the definitions!!

(SJ) As we've said, we all did so much together. Work was shared or "farmed out" in a lot of cases. We did all the Federal grant proposals in the President's office and were fighting a deadline most of the time. Others would help me by taking a page or two to type from a draft. It had to be perfect...no mistakes or you had to re-type the entire page.

When we got the IBM Selectrics it got a lot easier!

(BH With a smile) How come it takes twice as many people nowadays to get done what we did then? We were always busy, but we still had time for some fun. Chuck Rogers even created an an award called the "Fickle Finger" award. It was an old trophy that had a green rubber glove on it.

(PD) Chuck and Bob Thomas did a lot of the work building the parking lot and the garage and sidewalks. We didn't hire contractors to do a lot of the work because the College was so new and couldn't afford it.

(DG) Tell us some more about the people on the campus.

(BY) When I worked for Mike Varney, I was amazed at the schedules he would produce. Every minute of the day was detailed for his teams.

(BH) We had great instructors. Bob Sadler was a great teacher.

(?) Duane Portwood who taught economics, Margaret Anderson in English, George Wade in theater. I don't remember who the first computer instructor was, but I do remember that when we got the first computer teachers would come in the office and use it for their classes. You could even play poker on it, and I know that Guido was very good at it!

(PD) Dave Manning was one of our instructors, and one day he brought in this burlap sack and set it by my desk and said "have a look". I didn't look that close to start, but when I did it was full of rattlesnakes. He was going to cook them for an event, but I think several of us ended up running out of the office and down the hall.

(SJ) Phil Sheller was a personality. He had a saying that he'd always make. "Nothing was ever so bad you couldn't fix it" which always made us feel better when something went wrong.

(BY) He developed the College's community education program, and had a little office in a "cubbyhole" that had an opening into my office. One student who had been talking to me on some matter, looked in to Phil's office and saw two feet up on a desk. As he left my office he turned and said "by the way...what does that guy in there do anyway?"

(PD) One of the sad things of course was when Al Conger died so suddenly. It started out with just an injury to a finger, but it wasn't taken care of and he died from the infection. He had all of our respect and really got this College off to its start with his dedication and perseverance.

(DB and DG) All of us at the College are delighted that you are getting this award. It's so well deserved, and your dedication and perseverance were equally important to making EWC what it is today. Do you have anything else you'd like to add to our conversation?

(All) We just want you and the College Foundation to know that this is an honor for us. We are truly honored that people want to recognize what we did for so many years just because it was our job.
The Eastern Wyoming College Foundation recently held their annual golf tournament. The top teams were as follows:

1st – Travis Wilkie, Dean VanBuskirk, Mike Dawkins, Matt Moore
2nd – Mark Mattis, Tina Mattis, Nate Kendall, Matt Mattis
3rd – Kris Brooks, Ron Brooks, Bob Childs, Bonnie Childs
4th – Joe Guth, Gaylene Guth, Patrick Guth, Brett Guth
5th – Janice Atkins-Neva, Les Neva, Steve Doll, Alan Doll

There were a total of 27 teams in the tournament. It is estimated that the tournament raised approximately $10,000 which is the highest earnings in tournament history. Funds raised at the tournament are used by the foundation to support EWC students.

For more information about the EWC Foundation activities, please contact Oliver Sundby, Director of Institutional Development at 307-532-8304.
One of three top welders to advance from the American Welding Society/SkillsUSA U.S. Invitational Weld Trials was Tanner Tipsword from Eastern Wyoming College. Tipsword is from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The top three welders now get to compete against one another at the Daytona 500 Speedweek for a spot on the SkillsUSA World Team. The World Skills Competition will take place in Leipzig, Germany in July 2013. At the world event, students will compete against more than 1,000 students representing 52 countries/regions from around the world.

But first, Tipsword will compete at the Daytona International Speedway. The competition will last four days and will test multiple welding processes. The welding requirements are so precise that a number of the welds will require x-ray reviews and hydrostatic pressure tests up to 1,000 pounds per square inch in order to verify the integrity and quality of the welds. This competition will be held in February. One of the many prizes includes a $40,000 scholarship from the American Welding Society Foundation.

“I really have to commend Tanner for the amount of time and effort he has put into the preparation for each of these competitions,” shared EWC welding instructor and SkillsUSA advisor Stan Nicolls. “It truly has been a marathon for him over the past 3-4 months. It has been a great experience to work with him.”

For more information about the EWC welding program, contact the college at 307.532.8275. For more information about the SkillsUSA world competition visit http://www.worldskills.org.
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.
Eastern Wyoming College has recently completed the master planning process. The final report was accepted by the Board of Trustees at their February meeting.

The master planning process began --. The following planning principles were developed to guide the physical development of the campus:

1. Organize the campus to strengthen the academic mission.
2. Optimize the efficiency and utilization of the existing buildings, and identify the potential for new facilities and infrastructure to accommodate future programmatic needs.
3. Enhance the sense of place of the College by reinforcing the portals and defining the edges that identify the campus.
4. Improve the pedestrian and vehicular circulation so that access is safer, intuitive, and functional.
5. Define landscaped open spaces and connections to create vibrant settings for socialization, study, and celebration of the College’s culture and heritage.
6. Develop a comprehensive framework to ensure a flexible and enduring future.

The Campus Master Plan is the result of collaboration between a number of entities that helped guide its formation including: students, staff, faculty, the Facilities Planning Committee, the Leadership Team, the Board of Trustees, the Foundation, and the Community Advisory Committees. This process spanned over eight months and included on-campus meetings, planning workshops, open forums, and formal presentations.

The following are the highlights of the final Campus Master Plan:

• The Plan carefully evaluated the capacity of the Main and North Campuses and determined that the College has enough land area to meet future growth requirements. While not mandatory, a few surrounding properties could be acquired over time to buffer the edge conditions of the campuses.

• The campus core represents the strongest opportunity to exemplify the Master Plan goals of the College. This area of the campus provides several of the best building sites for future programmatic growth, landscaped open space that can transform the sense of place, dramatically improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation, and create new portals into campus that will reinforce the campus edge conditions and improve the perception of first time visitors and the community.

• The future of student housing is addressed with the siting of new residence halls in two effective locations that can be phased based on the College’s needs, that is perpetuated by the eventual replacement of Eastern Hall.

• The Plan addresses a number of open space opportunities that will benefit the campus community by creating memorable landscaped settings, improving stormwater management controls, and augmenting the College’s sustainable practices. Integrated within these improvements will be a safer and more functional network of pedestrian pathways. This system will connect buildings more efficiently, expand campus circulation, and improve street crossings.

• Parking and vehicular circulation received special attention because of the relative importance they play on day to day operations of the College. Parking requirements were met by adding and increasing new parking before any existing were relocated, and by balancing the overall system capacity on sites on both campuses. Vehicular circulation was improved by adding a street to circumnavigate the campus, closing a street through the middle of campus, and adding multiple gateways into both campuses.

• The North Campus provides an excellent opportunity to meet the programmatic growth needs of the College in a meaningful and efficient manner. This campus is the site for the new Agriculture Technology Education Center (ATEC) facility which requires significant adjacent open space and ancillary buildings to accommodate livestock, truck, and trailer parking. In addition, the adjacency of two major programs with complementary requirements. Lastly, the motor pool and bus barn were relocated here in order to maximize the potential for land use on the Main Campus.
The Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) Men’s Rodeo Team finished fourth in the nation at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) held June 9-15 in Casper, Wyo. The EWC Men’s Team qualified for the CNFR by winning the Central Rocky Mountain Region (CRMR) for the 2012-13 season.

At the CNFR, each contestant competes in three rounds. The top 12 in each event qualify for the short round and the national champions are determined by the best time or score on four rounds. Over 400 cowboys and cowgirls from over 100 universities and colleges compete in the CNFR in Casper each year.

North Dakota natives Derek Weinreis and Levi O’Keeffe won the reserve national championship in the team roping. This was Weinreis and O’Keeffe’s second consecutive qualification to the CNFR. The duo placed third in the second round with a 6.2 second run, sixth in the third round with a 6.6 second run and second in the short round with a 6.1 second run making their time on four head 26.2 seconds.

“Derek and Levi have roped great all year long,” said Jake Clark, EWC Rodeo Coach. “Their performance at the CNFR was phenomenal. I am very proud of them.”

Also contributing to team points were Troy Wilcox, of Red Owl, South Dakota, and freshman Cotey Hanson, of Berthold, North Dakota. They placed fifth in the second round of the team roping. “They had tough luck in the third round and were just three places shy of qualifying for the short round,” Clark said.

As the Central Rocky Mountain Region All-Around Champion, Wilcox also competed in the steer wrestling and calf roping at the CNFR. He qualified for the short round in the steer wrestling.

Rounding out the EWC team competing at the CNFR is Dustin Dailey, of Long Pine, Nebraska.

“Of all the great programs across the nation, to end up fourth in the nation is an outstanding finish for the Lancer Rodeo Team,” Clark said. “I am very proud of the entire team.”

“Most of our team is returning this fall,” Clark concluded. “I’m looking forward to next year’s season.”

Hiking into the Past -
and meeting the
“First Americans”

For instructor Ellen Creagar and thirteen EWC students, Spring break 2013 became a first time journey through early southwestern American history. The trip was designed to tour American Indian and Ancestral Puebloan sites in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Joining the class to document their adventure was EWC Webmaster, Ron Bronson. The following is the summary of the journey in the voice of Ellen Creagar, and those of the students as they progressed through the trip.

We left campus March 21 and drove to Cortez, in the four corners area. It was a spectacular drive through country and scenery that many of the students had never experienced, including the peaks of the San Juan Mountains and the broad expanse of the San Luis Valley – and even a ski area!

Day Two – Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

We were met early on the first morning of our trip by Dr. Mark Varien – Director of Research at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and one of America’s premier southwestern archaeologists. Sophomore Klinton Cahoy remarked, “While touring some of the Center’s educational facilities, I, being roughly 6’6”, had some difficulty entering a replica of a pit house, or living space, commonly used by the Pueblo people. I learned that the average height of the Puebloan men at the time was about 5’4”, but this was the first time I was able to see firsthand what these people were capable of doing on a scale that no movie, even a documentary, could ever illustrate. Walking around active archeological excavations at the Crow Canyon while seeing the beauty of sacred areas like Big Sheep Mountain (Hesperus Peak) in the background, illustrated the importance of such a place.” Sophomore Amber Stitt said “One of the most interesting parts of the day for us was getting to observe an actual excavation site and to see hands-on the research being done at this remarkable center.”

Following an orientation on the area and its history (including holding 1300 year old artifacts in our hands) and the early Puebloan (Anasazi) cultures from 600 to 1300 A.D., we left the Crow Canyon facility and drove thirteen miles west to a site within the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument called Sand Canyon Pueblo – a site excavated and analyzed by the staff at Crow Canyon over the past 30 years. As we drove to the Sand Canyon site, Dr. Varien explained landmarks and answered questions: he was a walking encyclopedia, full of knowledge and passion for his topic. Stitt noted: “The impact on all of us was immediate: none of us would ever look at rocks in the same way again, because these seemingly disorganized piles of rocks indicated human impact and a potential kiva or dwelling in a hidden city. So much of what we learned was so different than we expected. I didn’t realize that many of these communities were abandoned around 1300 A.D. for reasons no one yet fully understands.” Klint Cahoy added, “Dr. Varien led us to amazing ancient sites that we were astonished to not only see, but stand in. As a visitor, it becomes clear how these people were resilient and obviously as advanced as their European/Anglo brethren.”
The reality we experienced today was things in their natural state,” continued Cahoy. “Truly, our respect for the Pueblo people, along with all ‘native’ peoples in the world, has only grown from this humbling experience. And with all honesty, we cannot blame the Pueblo nations for wanting to stay in such a beautiful location.”

**Day Three - Mesa Verde National Park**

The coldest of our days greeted us as we packed up this morning and drove from Cortez to Mesa Verde National Park, which sits on a broad mesa averaging nearly 8,000 feet in elevation. As predicted, when we reached the Park Point Overlook at the top of the mesa, it was 13 degrees. (If a group of students from Wyoming can’t handle the wind, who can?) We aborted the sightseeing and headed straight to the Chapin Mesa museum to warm up, then we headed down a walking trail to Spruce Tree House, one of the Park’s most accessible ruins. Allison Martin Briggs explained, “At Spruce Tree House we entered a kiva by climbing down the ladder in the roof – again standing where people lived nearly 800 years ago. I always imagined kivas to be stark and cold. When we all filled the kiva, however, I felt a warmth and camaraderie that I imagined was tenfold for the Pueblo people as this was not only a bonding but a spiritual experience.”

Abby Moore reflected, “After visiting Crow Canyon, I think we were all a little more enthusiastic to visit Mesa Verde. What we expected to see were tangible structures that people used to live in. I don’t think we realized until we got there how majestic and beautiful these cliff dwellings were – even being built around 1150 A.D. You wonder how they could build structures so complex out of raw materials! The scale of the buildings was amazing – some of them with 160 rooms built into the cliff! You can tell that these homes were more than just a place to sleep to the Pueblo people; these gave us a rich glimpse at their culture. It was also very cool to get to see the little details that give Mesa character: petroglyphs, nooks, and fire pits.”

Interestingly, while the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde are incredibly spectacular and are what draw the crowds of tourists, they were built and inhabited for only about the last 75-100 years of the Mesa Verde region’s 700 year occupation. One of the major archaeological questions is why people moved from the tops of the mesa into the more well-protected canyon alcoves. At the end of the day Abby Moore summed it up, “Overall, it was another fruitful day of learning and everyone is excited for what tomorrow will bring.”

**Day Four - Chaco Culture National Historic Park**

Back in the vans… Our longest day lay before us as we needed to travel southward for several hours through northwest New Mexico to visit the largest Puebloan site – Chaco Canyon. A UNESCO World Heritage site managed by the US National Park Service, the ruins at Chaco – essentially a series of cities - were constructed between 850 and 1100 A.D. and stretch over a 15-mile area in a broad canyon bordered by steep rock walls. We left our motel in Bloomfield before 6:30 A.M., and, although we were all tired from the hiking and long days, we were very excited and eager to see the place we had studied. Chaco surprised Ross Breedlove, “I think it’s safe to say that Chaco was and was not what we expected. It’s a very different experience to see Chaco first hand after learning about it in the classroom. Chaco really illustrated the intelligence of the Pueblo people.”

Tarah Werner was fascinated by the size and architecture of some of the Chacoan buildings. She noted, “For the time period, it would have taken decades to plan and build these structures. Some of them were several stories high and had exactly straight corners and precise doors. I also found their complexity amazing, as it reflected just how difficult it was to build such intricate buildings on such a large scale and do it with no tools like those we have now.” Although there is a lot of debate about this, many believe the buildings at Chaco were planned and built around ceremony and were not all functional dwellings. The straight walls of several of the buildings are oriented on a north/south and east/west line and mark lunar and solar cycles. There is also little evidence of human habitation – shards, refuse, cooking smoke or fire – except in one place: Casa Rinconada – a community in the Chaco complex that seemed to hold special spiritual and social significance. According to Breedlove, “The highlight of my day was the hike to the Pueblo Bonito and Chetro Ketl overlooks and through Pueblo Alto and New Alto. Although these buildings are clustered within about a mile and a half of each other, the trail
continued along the mesa overlooking the buildings on the canyon floor. The aerial views are much more spectacular than being inside of the buildings, and it gives an interesting perspective on the park.”

At the end of a long and chilly day, Tarah Werner reflected, “Although it was cold, windy, and an all around long day, the day at Chaco was well worth it.”

Day Five - Bandelier National Monument

I can’t believe we are starting day five, and our last full day of exploration. We arrived at Bandelier about 8:30 A.M. The ranger who gave us a short lecture and slide show, Rory Gauthier, talked to us about the impact of forest fires. (Mesa Verde and Bandelier have had several large and devastating fires in the last 20 years and the burned areas are evident). Mr. Gauthier’s work this spring includes clearing fallen trees and grass from around unexcavated sites so the artifacts aren’t “cooked” in a fire – that was something none of us had ever considered.

Teal Deen was interested to see Bandelier, “When we did our research, we had no clue what Bandelier would truly be like. It was different from every other site we’ve been to. In terms of the surroundings, because it is in a ponderosa forest with a stream running through it.” Nikki Dunovsky also noted the difference, remarking, “Instead of large buttes and sandstone, we saw dwellings in and petroglyphs on volcanic cliffs and structures used purely for living. These structures were not neatly built like those at Chaco with precise straight walls and shaped rock; they were just built to live in.” The students enjoyed the hiking and exploration Bandelier offered. Deen noted, “Entering the cavates (the caves used by people as living spaces) gave me a true understanding of how the ancient people lived day to day. Climbing up a 140 foot ladder to these dwellings mad me appreciate their life style and the dangers they faced on a daily basis.”

Although the oldest evidence (Clovis points) at Bandelier proves that people were there during the Paleo-Indian period, the structures we focused on were among the most recent – with habitation from about 1150 to 1500 A.D. Scientists and researchers like Gauthier and Varien believe it was occupied by people who came from the Mesa Verde and Chaco region after 1150. As an instructor, I also noticed that the questions to the rangers became more sophisticated and thoughtful… for example Nikki Dunovsky commented that, “the petroglyphs were different from the ones we found in Mesa Verde – more elaborate.” Similarly, Jill Lingbloom noted that the “sipapu” (a feature found in the kivas in Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon that allowed their ancient ancestors to emerge into the present world) didn’t seem to exist in the newer structures.

Beautiful weather, our last lunch of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and a drive up the road to see the Valles Caldera (a volcanic crater 13.7 miles wide), capped off a wonderful day together. Now to Santa Fe where we will see the impact of the Spanish!

Night of March 25, day five – Santa Fe

In the words of Olivia Sanchez, “Today we entered the beautiful city of Santa Fe. The streets were full of shops and modern adobe buildings that made each of us glow with excitement. The architecture of the churches and capital building was unbelievable: the Spanish influence was everywhere. The renowned restaurant where we had dinner, The Shed, lived up to its reputation with delicious green and red chili that had us all sweating! “ What a great full day for our trip!”

Jill Lingbloom was fascinated by the history of Santa Fe, as well as its current vibrancy. “Santa Fe was the first capital of New Mexico, established by the Spanish in 1610 and was one of the sites of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 when the Pueblo Indians threw the Spanish out of New Mexico.”

Day six - Pecos National Historic Park

Pecos is the “newest” and most recently occupied of the sites we visited. It was slowly inhabited as people moved from sites like Bandelier in the mid-14th century. Pecos became a full-fledged powerhouse in terms of trade and economics by the 1400s. The main pueblo at Pecos was on a hilltop and had a great view of and access to Glorieta Pass where Coronado and his conquistadors rode through, arriving at Pecos in approximately 1540, on his search for the Seven Cities of Cibola. Coronado actually stopped in the field at the base of this pueblo.
Brandi Graybill was interested in the movement of people at this pueblo, explaining, “The pueblo had a north side and a south side. The south side was occupied at one point, vacated and reoccupied when Indians that were receptive to the Spanish ways moved there (out of the north side). Not surprisingly, the pueblo on the south side was closer to the Catholic Church built by the Spanish. Remaining on the north side were the Indians that wanted to stay traditional.”

For Tanner Waid, the impact of the Spanish was made obvious at Pecos: “We were able to see the ‘lost church,’ built by the Spanish after their settlement there in 1598. In the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, the Indians destroyed the first church, hung priests and ran the Spanish out. Twelve years later, the Spanish came back, but this time, the Indians were more willing to work with them because they needed Spanish help in protecting themselves from the Comanche, a rival tribe.” This site was a turning point in history for these Indian people.

Some of the students took away more than just an appreciation of individual sites seen throughout the week. Nikki Dunovsky remarked that she was surprised: “How surreal it really was to see all of these places. They are truly places that you have to see. I couldn’t believe how magnificent the sites were. The trip was so well planned that everything seemed to go together in order and each new site built on ones we had been to.”

Epilogue

I am proud of each of these students for their never-ceasing energy, stamina and curiosity. As I got behind the wheel of the van to leave Chaco late in day four, and dreading the long drive to Los Alamos as I imagined a van full of sleeping students, I heard the question, in an excited and anticipatory tone, “What’s next?” That was all it took for us to have an interesting and fun-filled drive. As an educator, one student’s spark is all it takes to ignite a day’s worth of excitement.

I had a vehicle full of sparks.

(For more information on the trip, visit the student blogs and posted photographs at hist2490.tumblr.com.)
Eastern Wyoming College Student, Employees and Board Member Recognized

2011-2012

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.
Eastern Wyoming College
Student, Employees and Foundation Board Member
Recognized
(Torrington, Wyoming, February 12, 2013)…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. Nominees were recently recognized at an Awards Ceremony and Legislative Reception held in Cheyenne.

Don Snyder, Grounds Assistant was the nominee and winner of the Classified Employee of the Year award. It is not uncommon to find Don at the College at 3:00 a.m. clearing snow for all of the students and employees who will be soon arriving. Whether he is working on equipment or replacing a sprinkler head, he makes sure the job is done right.

The nominee and winner for Foundation Volunteer of the Year was Patrick Korell. He has served on the Eastern Wyoming College Foundation Board for twelve years and seven of those years he has served as the President. He has overseen the growth and expansion of the Foundation’s assets from $1.5 million to nearly $7 million. The College has directly benefitted from Patrick’s leadership and connection to the school through his many years of teaching on our campus.

The EWC nominee for Student of the Year was Teal Deen. Teal participates in many major activities on the EWC campus and surrounding community. She is Secretary for the Student Senate, President of the Gay/Straight Alliance Organization, Secretary of the Art Club, a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, the EWC Diversity Club and the EWC Diversity Committee. Teal is also a tutor in the Learning Skills Lab, and a tutor at Torrington Middle School. She was intricately involved in the first Ox-fam American Hunger Banquet held on campus. Faculty recognize her as a bright, curious, serious and very enjoyable young woman, with a good attitude toward school and studying.

Dr. Peggy Knittel was nominated as the Faculty Member of the Year and is a long-term science faculty member at Eastern Wyoming College. Dr. K (as her students affectionately call her) is an amazing and dedicated instructor who helps students become better equipped to take the next steps in their educational pathway. Student comments include heartfelt remarks like “Greatest biology instructor I’ve ever had. I learned more than I have in any other class.” “Dr. K is FABULOUS! Love her! I would like all my medical classes to be taught by her.” She encourages students to develop good study habits and attain their goals at the highest levels possible. Peggy has received the gratitude of many such students who are now nurses, medical technicians, science instructors, or perhaps just community college students who learned a little bit more about science from an instructor who took the time and effort to help them along the way.

EWC’s nominee for Professional Employee of the Year was Tami Afdahl, College Relations Director. She has been an asset to EWC in a number of roles. Starting her career at the College as an effective recruiter, she was committed to Lancer pride and continues to “wear the black and gold” in all she does. Ms. Afdahl recently planned, coordinated and directed the marketing and advertising campaign to encourage Converse County voters to vote in support of the special purpose tax. On November 6, the Converse County voters supported the 1% Special Purpose Tax for the new EWC Douglas Branch campus building. She possesses outstanding marketing and public relations skills, strong leadership skills with high standards of personal integrity, she has the ability to empower people, be a direction setter and a strong communicator.
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 bachelor’s 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.

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 haven’t” 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
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 haven’t 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 guidance and direction and structure and that “I always put the lesson plan on the blackboard to help them with that structure and my expectations for that particular class, and also to let them know that I am prepared.”

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 its 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’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 F. Dykes,
Lingle

“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 Bultron,
Newcastle
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 corps 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.
The Eastern Wyoming College Foundation has announced the recipients of the Foundation’s annual awards of recognition. The Distinguished Alumnus is David Briggs and recognized for Distinguished Service are Mrs. Pauline Deahl, Mrs. Sharon Jones, Mrs. Betty Hayano and Mrs. Bev Yeik.

David Briggs, Alliance, NE, is the CEO and President of WestCo. He attended EWC in 1982-1983 and received an Associate of Arts degree in Accounting. He went on to receive a BSBA in accounting from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska in 1985.

Mr. Briggs has held positions with Peter Kiewit and Sons, Omaha as an office manager and compensation supervisor and as a human resources manager. He was the assistant general manager and general manager at WestCo prior to becoming CEO and President.

Mr. Briggs and WestCo provided EWC with the equipment necessary to have a weather camera on campus which shows weather across the North Platte Valley in Torrington. The camera can be accessed through the EWC website.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was first given in 1991, and is based upon exemplary achievement in his or her particular endeavor in life, to include academic, professional, and civic activities or other areas deemed to be appropriate and significant. The award is selected by the EWC Foundation.

The Eastern Wyoming College Foundation is proud to recognize the following individuals for Distinguished Service: Pauline Deahl, Sharon Jones, Betty Hayano and Bev Yeik.

Mrs. Deahl worked at EWC from 1961 to retirement in 1992 for a total of 31 years of service. She served as the Administrative Assistant to the Business Office and secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Jones worked at EWC from 1973 to retirement in 2005 for a total of 32 years. She served as the Administrative Assistant to President Chuck Rogers. She then went on to serve as the Payroll Manager.

Mrs. Hayano served the College for 28 years from 1968 to retirement in 1996. She served as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Services.

Mrs. Yeik began working at EWC in 1965 on a part-time basis. She became a full-time employee in 1966 and retired in 1979. She served as the Supervisor of the EWC Work-Study Program.

During this period of the College’s development and growth, all four served “where needed” on special projects, grant development and submission, payroll and human resources back up, community education, athletics, faculty support, statewide projects such as common course numbering, and development of College capabilities in transitioning from paper records to computerized record keeping. They supported presidents from Al Conger, Chuck Rogers, Guido Smith, Roy Mason and Jack Bottenfield.

This award was first given in 2011 and is based on leadership and significant accomplishment in a college role as an administrator, faculty or staff member, member of the Foundation board of directors, and/or member of the general public to include individuals or individual corporate entities. The award is selected by the EWC Foundation.
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

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.

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-Technician. 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.
Early in the Fall of 2012, Goshen County District Judge Keith Kautz contacted EWC to see if the College would be willing to host the Wyoming Supreme Court for an actual oral arguments session as part of its policy of “bringing the Court to the people.” The planning for the event involved the College, Chief Justice Marilyn Kite, the Goshen County Bar Association, Goshen County Public Schools, and the administrators for the Supreme Court. EWC President Dr. Tom Armstrong and Goshen County Attorney and EWC Foundation president Patrick Korell welcomed the Court to the campus on November 26, 2012 in the EWC theater, with social studies and government classes from EWC, Lingle, Torrington, and Southeast High schools in attendance. Following the official legal and judicial proceedings, the five justices took questions from the audience of students, followed by an EWC-hosted reception for the justices, members of the Goshen County Bar Association, and EWC student senate leaders.
Eastern Wyoming College has announced a change in the administrative position of Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services. Bob Cox, the current VP, has announced that he has accepted the Chief Financial Officer position at Aims Community College in Greeley, CO.

During his four year tenure at EWC, Mr. Cox played a key role in many strategic and infrastructure advancements at the College. His accomplishments include serving a key role in the work to pass a sales tax initiative passed by the voters of Converse County last November to allow for the construction of a new building that will serve the students in Converse County.

He led efforts to improve campus energy efficiency including new windows, light fixtures, HVAC units, direct digital controls and an energy management system. In addition, Mr. Cox was instrumental in the College’s completion of a comprehensive Master Facility Plan. This plan will allow the College to move forward with new infrastructure and building projects in a progressive fashion.

Mr. Cox spearheaded efforts to advance a competitive compensation package, helping the College recruit and retain personnel and also led efforts to increase efficiency in bookstore operations.

“I feel we were able to make great headway in the last four years and wish all the best as the College moves forward with the Master Plan and focus on those programs that make Eastern……Eastern Wyoming College,” commented Mr. Cox.

The College also announced that previous Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services Ron Laher will be returning to the College to replace Mr. Cox.

“Ron was the VP when I arrived at Eastern Wyoming College five years ago. He always provided a sense of security regarding financial affairs. He and our current VP, Bob Cox, knew each other for years and worked well together. Bob has led several critical initiatives to refresh and renovate the campus. His background with Wyoming higher education, the legislature, and financing skills will be missed,” shared EWC President Dr. Tom Armstrong.

“We have been fortunate at Eastern and wish Bob the best of luck at his new position in Colorado; we are fortunate that we will have a seamless transition with Ron. It’s great to have him back on board.”

After Mr. Laher left the Torrington area in 2009, he became the Assistant to the Chair in the Department of Psychology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. There he was responsible for the oversight of all business activities within the department such as finance, human resources, federal and state grants administration, purchasing, and facilities management.

He later joined Rosemont College as the Controller. At Rosemont he was responsible for supporting the Vice President for Finance and Administration. Chief among his duties were the full responsibility of the general ledger, budgeting, and financial forecasting. He also supervised the Office of Student Accounts/Bursar’s Office (which included accounts payable), General Office (switchboard reception and copying), Payroll Office, and Mailroom operations. From October 2011 to February 2012 he was appointed and served at the Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Mr. Laher shared that he is looking forward to the challenging administrative position within higher education that capitalizes on his work experience and allows him to support his family in the Torrington area.

The transition from Mr. Cox to Mr. Laher will take place later in June.
With major funding support from the EWC Foundation the College has completed and opened its new livestock barn. The barn will be a center of activity for the agriculture and livestock judging programs, and is a first phase in the strategic development of a new agriculture education facility planned for the north campus.

Also constructed on the north campus, with grant support from Lowe’s and their partnership with Skills USA, are three “high tunnel” green houses. The high tunnels are designed to provide year round access to agriculture students enrolled in the College’s expanding programs in crops. The high tunnels were constructed by EWC SkillsUSA students, EWC agriculture students, students from the Wyoming Youth Challenge in Guernsey, and local community volunteers.

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.