

College of Arts and Sciences

# A&S REPORT

Summer/Fall 2006, Volume 22, Number 3

*A note from the dean*

*A&S Homecoming Events . . .2*

*Living in the age of the dinosaurs. . .4*

*Romancing Wyoming. . .6*

UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

*New Thinking*

# A note from the dean...

## Making connections with A&S alumni

Traditionally, the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors (BoV) meets twice a year on the UW campus in Laramie. This past spring, we decided that the BoV might be interested in getting together in another part of the country and proposed holding a meeting in Washington, D.C. After all, one of the BoV's original and continuing members, Vice President Dick Cheney, happens to reside in Washington, and a multitude of other A&S graduates now pursue their professions in our nation's capital. Almost immediately, Vice President Dick Cheney (B.A. and M.A., Political Science) and Mrs. Cheney extended an invitation to host a reception in their home at the Naval Observatory. In addition, three more A&S graduates, Dennis Stanford, (B.S. Anthropology, division head, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History), Doug Owsley, (B.S. Zoology and Physiology, curator and division head, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History), and Nancy Gwinn (B.A. English, director of Smithsonian Libraries) agreed to meet with us in their respective labs and offices.

So, on July 16 and 17, several BoV members and their spouses braved Washington's 100 degree temperatures to attend our first non-Laramie meeting. On Monday, July 17, we visited the labs of Dr. Stanford and Dr. Owsley in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum and on Tuesday, Dr. Gwinn hosted us in one of the Smithsonian's rare books rooms. The Smithsonian Institution is a national treasure, and all graduates of UW must feel a sense of pride knowing that UW alumni play such significant roles in its



Photo by BoV member  
Doug Hecox

*A&S Alumnus Vice President Dick Cheney and Dean Oliver Walter have a discussion during the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors Washington D.C. meeting.*

The BoV is vitally interested in promoting science and math education and to this end; Vice President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Peter Brunson discussed his organization's efforts in this regard with



*Dean Oliver Walter*

us. This was followed by discussions with two officials of the National Endowment for the Arts concerning funding for the fine arts, especially renovation and construction of fine arts facilities.

The high point of our Washington meeting was, of course, our reception at the home of the vice president. As is always the case, Dick and Lynne were exceedingly gracious and engaged each of us in discussions and questions, ranging from the wonderful art in the home to challenges in the Middle East. We also were delighted that Senator Craig Thomas was able to attend the reception. We met a number of A&S alumni, including many from Senator Enzi's staff, at a reception hosted by BoV member Doug Hecox in the wonderfully renovated Union Station. In all, I think those BoV members who were able to attend this Washington gathering agreed we had a successful event.

On another front, the new creative writing program in the Department of English received a major boost this past summer. First, one of the positions made possible by the new Hathaway Endowment, established by the Wyoming Legislature this spring, was awarded to the program. It will be used to fund prominent visiting writers who will teach in this one-year-old program. Second, one of the university's best known scientists, Jeff Lockwood, has agreed to teach in the program, as well as in the Department of Philosophy. Jeff is a prolific writer. His works include *Locust: The Devastating Rise and Mysterious Disappearance of the Insect that Shaped the American Frontier*, *Prairie Soul: Finding Grace in the Earth beneath My Feet*, and *Grasshopper Dreaming: Reflections on Killing and Loving*.

We're looking forward to an interesting and stimulating new school year. If you have the opportunity to join us on campus, please do so.

## Tapping creativity requires adequate room to stretch

Four decades ago, world-renowned pianist Van Cliburn performed at the University of Wyoming campus. The venue for his concert was the UW Fieldhouse. To think that he presented his artistry in a building that also served as a rodeo arena seems unimaginable now. A shocked 1965 editorial in the *Branding Iron* called for the construction of a new facility for the fine arts, which, thankfully, opened six years later.

The Fine Arts Center has performed yeoman's service to the university and the people of Wyoming. Visibility of the fine arts on campus increased dramatically. Bringing art, music, and theater and dance together under one roof allowed them to share and build upon each other's strengths. Performances at UW received appropriate venues. The Main Stage Theatre and Concert Hall, with their spacious lobby, remain the strength of the facility.

Since the building opened in 1972, UW fine arts have developed regional and national reputations. Students in the Department of Theater and Dance compete and consistently win awards in the Region VII Kennedy Center/American College Festival. Few theatre and dance departments throughout the nation are as successful as ours. Until the current building opened, the university did not even have a Department of Theater and Dance. The new facility created space for a reorganization of campus resources to bring this department into being. Two dance instructors moved from the Physical Education Department to join five professors from the Speech Department to form the newly created academic unit. They taught 40 students, many of whom were education majors. The program flourished, and today 14 full-time faculty



Dale Walker  
Director of Development

members instruct 120 theatre and dance majors and minors and produce high-quality performances.

Nearly 500 students now major in the arts—an enormous increase from the 275 who did so in 1970. Faculty numbers have similarly increased, as

have programs and opportunities offered by the Departments of Art, Music, and Theater and Dance. In the Department of Art, students now study ceramics, printmaking, and graphic design, media that were not available three decades ago. World music entered the Department of Music curriculum, increasing opportunities for music students to study abroad. Jazz Studies, a recently developed program, provides students with a broad-based curriculum for performance in big bands and combos, improvisation, composition and arranging, history, and pedagogy. The voice and choral division has added several new ensembles, and the UW Symphony Orchestra continues to receive recognition.

We are bursting at the seams. To address this, we are now planning to significantly expand our facilities. References to this project appeared in newspapers during the summer. We have had conversations with a number of our alumni and friends. Giving our students room to stretch their wings will benefit their education and the cultural life of the entire state. We look forward to providing our students and faculty resources equal to their talents.

Managing Editor/Graphic Designer  
Diana Marie Waggener  
Coordinator of A&S Public Relations

### Cover Photo

*"In the Chemistry Lab"*

By Sam Kerr  
A&S Dean's Office

### About the Photo

Assistant Professor Franco Basile, Department of Chemistry (left), explains the operation of a Mass Spectrometer to undergraduate student John Allhusen (Casper, Wyoming) and visiting high school student Esther Uduehi (Evansville, Indiana). A device that measures mass-to-charge ratio of ions, the Mass Spectrometer can be used to assist in homeland security, environmental analysis, forensics, and medical diagnostics. Basile and two of his colleagues will speak at this year's Morning of Courses. For more information about Morning of Courses and its speakers, please see Page 3.

### Contact Information

A&S Report is published by the College of Arts and Sciences three times per year. Address comments and questions to either Diana Marie Waggener, Managing Editor, or Oliver Walter, Dean: College of Arts and Sciences, Department 3254, 1000 East University Avenue, Laramie, WY 82071; or send e-mail to [asdean@uwyo.edu](mailto:asdean@uwyo.edu).

## ADVANCEMENT TEAM

### Dean

Oliver Walter

### Associate Deans

Greg Brown

Audrey Shalinsky

### Director of Development

Dale Walker

### Associate Director of Development

Sidney Walter

### Development Assistant

J. M. Romsa

Persons seeking admission, employment, or access to programs of the University of Wyoming shall be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, or political belief.

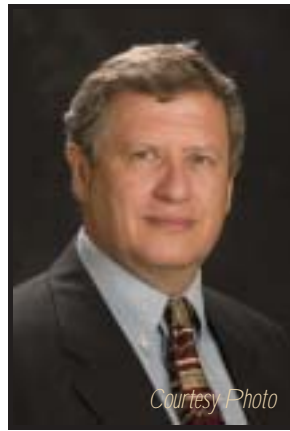


# A&S Homecoming EVENTS



## Alumnus Doug Owsley to speak at Keith and Thyra Thomson Honors Convocation

A&S Alumnus Doug Owsley (zoology 1973), world-renowned physical/biological anthropologist, is the guest speaker for the 2006 Keith and Thyra Thomson Honors Convocation. Division head for Physical Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., Owsley investigates human bones—both ancient and modern. Although he is trained in the study of ancient skeletal remains, he also has applied his expertise in the area of forensic anthropology. Owsley has assisted in identifying human remains found in mass graves in the former Yugoslavia, the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, and at the Pentagon after 9/11. For his work at the Pentagon plane crash, he received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Department of the Army, in 2002.



*A&S Alumnus Doug Owsley*

A celebration of academic achievement, the convocation is scheduled to take place at the start of Homecoming weekend, **Friday, October 13, 2006, 3 p.m. in the A&S Auditorium.** A&S students who, during the previous academic year, made the President's, Dean's, and Freshman Honor Rolls are recognized. Undergraduate students,

nominated by professors from all college disciplines and selected by a faculty committee, present their independent research. In addition, the college showcases performing arts students.

"This event is about honoring students who are committed to learning. Doug Owsley is among our most notable alumni," says Dean Oliver Walter. "What a wonderful opportunity our students have to listen to him speak. We are thrilled to have him join us."

Owsley is a recipient of the 2006 UW Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award and, in 1994, he was named one of the 75 Exemplary Alumni during the College of Arts and Sciences Diamond Jubilee Celebration. In the November 2005 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine, Owsley was named, along with such noteworthy people as Maya Angelou, Bill Gates, and Yo-Yo Ma, "35 Who Made a Difference."

A Lusk, Wyoming, native, Owsley found his passion for anthropology while a UW zoology student considering a career in medicine or dentistry. He then received both his master's and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology at the University of Tennessee. His talk is titled "17th Century Hard Knocks: Life in Jamestown."

Open to the public, this event is free of charge. For more information, please check out the A&S Web site at [www.edu/A&S](http://www.edu/A&S), or call the College of Arts and Sciences Development Office at 307.766.2755.



You are invited to refer prospective students to UW. The goal of the program is to actively seek and recruit students who will make positive contributions to our campus, community, and their fields of interest. If you know such a student, please place her/his name on the On Deck Web site ([www.uwyo.edu/ondeck](http://www.uwyo.edu/ondeck)).

# Morning of Courses features the Department of Chemistry

**A**n A&S Homecoming attraction, Morning of Courses will be held Friday, Oct. 13, 2006, at the Wyoming Union Ballroom, beginning at 9 a.m. A proud College of Arts and Sciences tradition, Morning of Courses presents diverse scholarship representing a college of arts and sciences. University of Wyoming alumni, faculty, staff, students, and all interested parties are encouraged to attend free of charge. This year's featured speakers are in the Department of Chemistry. The study of matter and its interactions with other matter and energy, chemistry seeks answers to questions that affect all living beings. As the French Biologist Louis Pasteur once said, "There are no such things as applied sciences, only applications of science."

Assistant Professor Franco Basile will discuss *"The Science behind the Detection of Biological Weapons: Challenges and Strategies."* During his talk, *"The Importance of being Folded: How Proteins Fold (and What Happens if They Don't,"* Assistant Professor Jan Kubelka will explain how certain diseases, such as Mad Cow Disease and Alzheimer's, occur when proteins don't function properly. Professor B. Patrick Sullivan will address the timely issue of energy production and consumption with *"Moving Toward Direct Use of the Sun's Energy: Solar Electricity and Artificial Photosynthesis."*

For more information about the speakers and their topics, please call the Department of Chemistry at 307.766.4364 or send e-mail to [chemistry@uwyo.edu](mailto:chemistry@uwyo.edu). To inquire about Morning of Courses, call the College of Arts and Sciences Development Office at 307.766.2755 or send e-mail to [asdean@uwyo.edu](mailto:asdean@uwyo.edu).



*Join A&S for a reception  
honoring 2006  
UW Alumni Association Award  
recipients*

**Friday, Oct. 13, 2006  
10:30 a.m.**

**Wyoming Union Ballroom**

Medallion Service Award Winner  
**John Clay**

UW Distinguished Alumnus  
**Doug Owsley**

UW Distinguished Alumna  
**Mary Ellen Smyth**



## *A&S BoV issues new matching gift challenge*

**B**eginning in 2003, the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors offered to match first-time A&S College or department gifts of \$50 to \$1,000. The original matching program was established to support UW's recently completed five-year *DISTINCTION* campaign, which raised \$204 million for UW.

Over the past two years, hundreds of A&S alumni and friends accepted the challenge and the A&S BoV provided \$75,000 in matching funds.

Despite the conclusion of the official UW fund-raising campaign, the board recently voted to continue to match gifts of \$50 to \$1,000. This new match was passed in honor of recently retired Executive Director of Advancement Lois Gelb, who blazed a trail for fundraising in A&S. In addition, for alumni and friends who made their first gift to the college after July 1, 2003, the board will match additional gifts that exceed the previous one, up to \$2,000.

If you have not yet made a gift to A&S or one of its departments, now is the perfect time. For more information, call Director of Development Dale Walker at 307.766.4106.

# The Art and Science of keeping history alive

## Living in the age of the dinosaurs

By Diana Marie Waggener, Coordinator of A&S Public Relations

Dinosaur line drawings by A&S Alumna Scott Hartman

Scott Hartman, science director for the Wyoming Dinosaur Center and Dig Site (WDC), has an artist's eye and a scientist's mind. Curiosity about functional morphology (deciphering how animals work, or how extinct animals might have worked) and a desire to reconstruct the appearance of dinosaurs have allowed Scott to put his gifts to work. "Like many young kids, I was fascinated with dinosaurs," he notes. "I suppose I just never grew up. More seriously, I've always found interesting the dichotomy between how society views dinosaurs and how science does. Also, I have a strong interest in science education at various age levels and few subjects elicit more enthusiasm from young students than dinosaurs."

Although he has no formal art training—other than two high school drawing classes—Scott has supplied anatomical reconstructions—primarily line art—of dinosaurs to publications, artists, and educators for the past 10 years. He is a consultant for several paleo-artists, such as the Charlie McGrady Studio, which creates dinosaur exhibits and recently completed the Dinosaur Walk at the Mall of America in Minnesota. Scott's work also can be seen at the University of Wyoming Geological Museum, as well as WDC where he uses his artistic talents and scientific acumen to ensure that every display and activity is as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

Portraying dinosaurs with precision is a significant aspect of Scott's work—both as a consultant and as the WDC science director. "People tend to learn very visually," he explains. "Most people spend more time in a museum looking at the drawings than they do reading the text on the signs. If we don't portray dinosaurs as



*Courtesy Photo*

*Scott arranges the neck of a dinosaur cast. Mounting skeletons requires great precision.*

animals but, instead, get lazy and illustrate them as Godzilla-inspired monsters, is it any wonder why much of the public has a hard time understanding life through time? It seems to me that it is our responsibility to use the best knowledge available to provide an accurate and interesting account of the history of life on Earth."

Visiting the WDC is an excellent way to experience the history of life on Earth. Located in Thermopolis, the

museum boasts 12,000 square feet of exhibition area, presenting fossils and life forms from the earliest geologic time periods in chronological perspective. More than 200 displays are up, and the central hall contains full-sized mounted skeletons, including nearly 20 dinosaurs. Scott became WDC science director in May 2005 while finishing his bachelor's degree in the

Department of Zoology and Physiology, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences.

No work day for Scott is typical or predictable. He manages various research projects, including recent work on a new specimen of Archaeopteryx—a fossil that serves as an example of “transitional form,” showing birds are descended from reptiles. He designs displays for the museum and oversees field excavations at the 500-acre area on Warm Springs Ranch where more than 60 identified sites are located. In addition, Scott is responsible for educational outreach, and he offers public talks and consults with research programs that involve developing sites outside of the United States. He is responsible for collections management and spends much of his time fielding questions on the phone or through e-mail.

And Scott knows his dinosaurs! Among his research interests is the way dinosaur knees operated—this goes back to his interest in functional morphology. To correctly restore the appearance of dinosaurs, it is important to understand the position of the knee because that information greatly influences how they looked and walked. “It also tells us what they couldn’t do,” Scott explains. “Most dinosaurs couldn’t straighten their knees like we can. Of course, documenting those patterns in lots of extinct animals also helps us trace how the knee has evolved over time.” Understanding dinosaurs from the inside and out helps define nuances that have been previously overlooked.

Dinosaur research has come a long way over the past two decades. Scott says, “A new dinosaur variety is described every five to six weeks, so we have identified literally hundreds of new species. Twenty years ago, people still illustrated dinosaurs with their tails dragging on the ground like glorified lizards. Ten years ago, there still was legitimate debate about whether or not birds evolved from dinosaurs. Five years ago, we were just finding the first Chinese dinosaurs with wings that didn’t fly.” As new fossils are uncovered, new theories evolve and devolve. Researchers are constantly inspired to dig a little deeper, so to speak. “I could provide a brief summary of how our understanding of dinosaurs has changed,” says Scott. “Pick a dinosaur, any dinosaur,” he challenges.

What about *Tyrannosaurus rex*? Scott cites one study that shows that *T. rex* had a particular organic development cycle. By looking at growth rings in *T. rex* bones, researchers learned that juvenile *T. rex*es grew very fast until they hit their version of the “teen years,” followed by a slower growth period. “*T. rex* spent a lot of time at a smaller body size before finishing its growth to full adult size,” says Scott. “It is believed that this expanded time at a smaller body size might have allowed

*T. rex* to fill two different ecological niches—one as a fast but smaller bodied subadult, and one as a stupendously large (five-plus tons) adult.” Perhaps the most surprising research involving *T. rex* is the debate about whether *T. rex* was a scavenger or a predator. “While this issue gets lots of coverage in popular books and on the Discovery Channel, it never received serious debate within the scientific community, as it is widely recognized that there are no land carnivores that scavenge *all* the time. Only animals like Vultures that can soar for hundreds of miles can find enough carrion to live off of,” Scott comments.

Another species that has inspired a great deal of speculation and scholarly attention is *Coelophysis* of the famous Ghost Ranch Quarry in New Mexico, excavated in 1947. One of the earliest specimens of this seven-foot dinosaur was found with the remains of a juvenile *Coelophysis* in its stomach area. Initial reports were that the animal may have given live birth, but by 20 years ago

that idea was discarded because we know that all dinosaurs laid eggs and the juvenile was in the stomach region—not the pelvic region. “So, most paleontologists assumed that the adult had eaten the juvenile, which didn’t seem unlikely because the Ghost Ranch Quarry seems to have been formed

during a long drought as animals died around a drying water hole,” Scott explains. “Most animals will eat juveniles when under that much environmental stress. That said; closer examination in the last 10 years or so has shown that the juvenile is not actually *inside* the stomach. It is beneath the rib cage; the adult *Coelophysis* had simply died on top of it. This isn’t even weird, as most of the *Coelophysis* skeletons in Ghost Ranch overlie other specimens. It was just a coincidence that one of the first skeletons was preserved in this manner.”

Working in a field steeped in new findings and controversy makes for exciting days and explains the need for integrity in research and the way animal life over time is characterized. “For me,” Scott notes, “the most interesting fact about dinosaurs that I’ve learned is the contrast of their reality to our societal expectations.” He goes on to explain that most people tend to think of a “dinosaur” as something that is outmoded and just waiting to die—like an old computer. “Not only did the dinosaurs wrest control of the planet away from some very tough competition, including our own ancestors, but there are still more than 8,000 dinosaur species (birds) alive today, which is twice as many as there are mammal species.” So, according to Scott, we are still living in the “age of dinosaurs.”

“A new dinosaur is described every five to six weeks . . .”

*Continued on Page 8 . . .*

# Romancing Wyoming

Lee Haines is the voice for the  
Buffalo Bill Historical Center

By Diana Marie Waggener, Coordinator of A&S Public Relations

Arizona native Lee Haines began his courtship with Wyoming more than three decades ago, long before he earned a master's degree in journalism (1984) at the University of Wyoming, and long before he became the director of public relations for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (BBHC). Lee took a long and circuitous route—similar to one of those scenic byways for which Wyoming is famous—to the BBHC. His story begins here: “I first came to Wyoming in the fall of 1972 after I graduated from high school,” Lee explains. “I was attracted by the romance of hunting and fishing and what I thought of at the time as the ‘cowboy’ way of life.” Although he was in Wyoming for just a few

months, Lee says the experience stayed with him, and he returned to the state after receiving a bachelor's degree in Spanish (with a translator's certificate) from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

In the fall of 1978, Lee began working as a cook at a hunting camp, operated by the Triangle X Ranch, near Enos Lake in the Bridger-Teton wilderness south of Yellowstone National Park. The hunting camp involved a 14-mile horseback ride from Turpin Meadows corrals along the Buffalo Fork River. Lee did that for four seasons. “I can't imagine a better way to spend autumn than in the high country,” he notes. “We would pack in to set up camp in late August. Elk season would start September 10 and run through early November, and we'd be in the back-country for as long as possible, depending on how soon and early the snow came. More than anything else, I felt connected to the natural world in a way that I haven't found to be possible living in town.”

During summers, Lee worked at the Triangle X Guest Ranch in Teton National Park between Moose and Moran Junction. He married his wife



Courtesy Photo

*College of Arts and Sciences alumnus Lee Haines received a master's degree in journalism in 1984. He serves as the director of public relations for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming.*

Val, a Yellowstone Park ranger at the time, along the Snake River in Teton National Park. “My love for the land, the wilderness, the people, and the independence grew,” Lee says. He became a Wyoming resident and entered UW graduate school. “I thought with a journalism degree I would be able to work in my choice of places,” Lee comments.

The first place that journalism degree took Lee was to Dubois, Wyoming, where he was editor of the *Frontier*. “Working on a small town newspaper is the best training ground in the world,” says Lee. “You have to do everything—report, write, edit, write headlines, take photos, process film, plan the layout, print halftones, sell the ads, take the layouts to the press, bring the papers back, and deliver them. That experience prepared me to work in communications in general.”

From there, Lee's career took a different path and he left Wyoming—for a while. “Amazing how being able to write accurately and create a successful visual message plus a strong work ethic can put a person at the top of the hiring heap,” he says. “So, I became a technical writer for an aerospace company in Arizona. That's where I began to work in public relations, marketing, and advertising.” Lee worked for a large zoo in the Chicago area immediately before joining the BBHC in February 2005. “There are definitely similarities between these businesses,” he says, “Similar challenges, similar audiences, and similar stories to share with those audiences.”

A visit to the BBHC, located in Cody, Wyoming, (the eastern gateway to Yellowstone National Park) is an all-day or even a two-day event. Guests move from the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, containing works by such artists as Frederic Remington and Joseph Henry Sharp, to the firearms museum that has the most comprehensive assemblage of American firearms in the world. The Buffalo Bill Museum examines both the personal and public lives of Buffalo Bill Cody—the consummate cowboy—and it tells his story within the context of history and myth. The Draper Museum of Natural History, supported in part by the National

Science Foundation (NSF), integrates natural sciences with humanities to present a broader perspective of the American West.

Reopened to the public in June 2000, the Plains Indian Museum depicts the Plains Indians and their culture, traditions, values, and histories, as well as the

contexts of their lives today. No wonder the BBHC is known as the “voice of the American West,” and Lee is the voice of the BBHC.

Promoting an historical center comes easy to Lee, who believes that to care about a place is to understand its history and present issues. “The West is part of the American character and identity—both its myth and reality,” notes Lee. “It’s not just preserving history that is important. It’s critical that we make it relevant to today and to tomorrow as well. And that’s what we do here—make the West relevant in all its aspects.” Lee enjoys watching visitors take in the natural and cultural history at the BBHC and works to communicate the excitement and knowledge found within this dynamic center.

Work days in the BBHC Public Relations Department, including Lee, a media relations/publications manager, and a public relations assistant, are as dynamic as the place they publicize. “As with most communications jobs, we may have our day carefully scheduled,” says Lee,” but one

phone call in the morning can change things completely. So we have to be flexible and responsive. We work until the work is done. Most importantly, what we try to share is our own passion and wonder with visitors and potential visitors. Our jobs are about words and pictures and caring about the stories we have to tell.”

Like a cowboy poet, Lee has developed those stories of the old and new West over time. Wandering the museums and art gallery within the BBHC gives him much to consider. He is interested in how common themes and experiences are represented throughout the center. “A CM



*The BBHC offers visitors numerous ways to experience the old West. The center has five areas of expertise: the wild west, American firearms, Plains Indians, Western Art, and the Yellowstone ecosystem. Pictured above, teepees are erected outside of the BBHC main building. To learn more about the BBHC, visit the Web site at [www.bbhc.org](http://www.bbhc.org).*

Russell painting showing cowboys roping a grizzly captures a relationship between man and grizzly at a point in time,” Lee notes. “The story of grizzlies in the Draper Museum of Natural History captures the association between man and grizzly in an entirely different way. In the Plains Indian Museum, you

can see the ties between grizzlies and the Plains Indian peoples, an altogether different one from that portrayed in the Firearms Museum.” These observations are not so different from one Lee makes about watching a weasel transition from brown to white fur as winter approached during one of his seasons with the hunting camp. This deep appreciation for life cycles and interactions between humans and nature are akin to Buffalo Bill Cody’s experiences and to stories depicted by western artists whose works are on display at the BBHC.

Lee’s love affair with Wyoming and its pristine land and the “cowboy” way of life make it easy for him to tell the story of the West in such a way that preserves history and makes the modern West relevant to a wide audience. “I’ve learned—reinforced really, because I learned this long ago—that when you love a place, when you identify with it, it’s easy to devote the time and energy necessary to take care of it,” says Lee. “That goes for the BBHC, Cody, this region, and this state.”

## Living in the age of the dinosaurs

*Continued from Page 5...*

While Scott finds dinosaur research compelling, his true passion lies in evolutionary theory, leading to his interest in the origin of birds. "This subject is one of the most important transitions in the history of land animals, so it gets to the crux of major evolutionary transitions," he says. "Also, findings related to the origin of birds, such as the feathered dinosaurs from China, are completely reworking the way people think of dinosaurs." Scott notes that although some find his research controversial, there is evidence that birds evolved most of their flight adaptations as ground-dwelling theropod dinosaurs (those with small forelimbs), a completely different way than bats and pterosaurs (extinct



*Scott takes measurements of a skeleton to help him restructure the animal so it is anatomically correct. To learn more about the WDC, visit the Web site at <http://wyodino.org>.*

flying reptiles) seemed to have taken flight, which, according to most authorities, happened in trees.

By studying multiple issues from the origin of birds to the function of dinosaur knees, Scott seeks answers to what he describes as one of the Big Questions: "How did we get here?" And while that question is impossible to answer to everyone's satisfaction, the knowledge gained along the way is applicable to more practical questions like

understanding the environment, genetics, development, and even human behavior. "I am utterly in awe of the grand diversity of life that has existed on our planet in its history," says Scott, "and I can't think of a better subject to spend one's life trying to understand."

## Outstanding Graduates 2006



Each year, the College of Arts and Sciences honors high achieving graduates. During the annual Outstanding Graduates Commencement Breakfast, award winners pose for the camera. Pictured from left to right: **Front Row** (seated): Erin Stoesz, Amy Laursen, Carmelle Case, Laura Vietti, Kellie Nelson, and Lara Noldner. **Back Row**: Molly Hoon-Hanks, Michelle Neumann, James Hamilton, Desiree Henricksen, Jared Mahylis, Danielle Olden, Eric Hoversten, Angela Granum, Eric Reynolds, Kathryn Olson, Jonathan Hughes, Natasha Swan, Rachel Crocker, and Dean Oliver Walter.

## Outstanding Alumni and Former Faculty



A&S Award winners and family members take time to have a photo taken at the annual banquet. Pictured from left to right: **Front Row** (seated): Daphne Fautin, Henrietta Mueller (widow of Werner A. Mueller), Outstanding Alumnus John D. Haun, Barbara Rockwell (accepting for June Etta Downey), Donna Fautin Raforth (accepting for Reed Fautin). **Back Row**: University of Wyoming President Thomas Buchanan, Charlie Fautin, Outstanding Alumnus Edward A. Wise, Outstanding Alumnus David J. Burman, Dean Oliver Walter, and Christopher Mueller.



# Alumni and Friends Communiqué

E-mail your news to [asdean@uwyo.edu](mailto:asdean@uwyo.edu), or mail information to: College of Arts and Sciences Public Relations, Department 3254, 1000 East University Avenue, Laramie, WY 82071.

**Ann L. Anderson Berry**, M.D., (B. A. Zoology and Physiology 1994) is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, where she practices neonatology.

**Thomas P. Berry**, D.D.S., (B.S. Psychology 1994; B.S. Zoology and Physiology 1996) recently opened his dental practice, Innovative Dental, in Omaha, Nebraska. He practices general and cosmetic dentistry.

**Matthew Brush** (B.A. Communication 1993) manages a small luxury Inn, in Napa Valley California.



Photo By Lisa Wright,  
College of Arts and  
Sciences Writing Intern

**Mark Collins** (M.S. Geography 1981; MPA 1991) is the new city manager of Laramie, Wyoming. Before returning to Laramie, he was city manager for Gunnison, Colorado, and Grand Lake, Colorado. To read more, check out the Alumni Profile on the A&S Web site at [www.uwyo.edu/a&s/](http://www.uwyo.edu/a&s/)

**Thomas Eaton** (B.A. English 1987) was appointed assistant professor of English Education and director of Undergraduate Studies, School of English, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A former Wyoming resident (Goshen County), Eaton was the 2001 winner of the National William Faulkner Short Story Competition and a four-time literary award winner for *Southeast's Journey Magazine*.

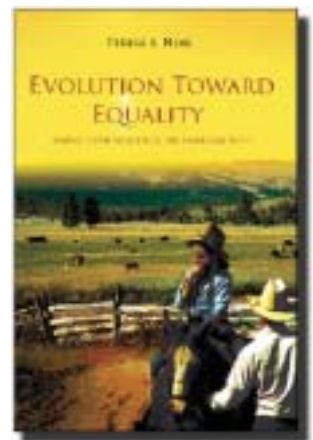
**Robert Hill** (M.A. Botany 1975) was promoted to associate professor of adult education with tenure at the University of Georgia, in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy.

**Ryan J. Howell** (B.A. Anthropology 1996) founded a cultural resource management archaeology company, Black River Archaeology, LLC, in West Salem, Wisconsin. Black River Archaeology offers engineering consulting,

specifically historic preservation planning, permitting, and mitigation services in the fields of both archaeology and history to various clients, ranging from engineering companies, municipalities, state and federal agencies, and Native American tribal nations. The mission of Black River Archaeology is to protect and research archaeological and historical sites while supporting the project development and business needs of clients by providing professional, high-quality, and cost-effective archaeological/historical project consulting and surveying services. For further information, see the Web site at [www.blackriverarch.com](http://www.blackriverarch.com).

**Don Lawson** (B.A. Geology 1948; M.A. Geology 1949), consulting geologist in Casper, Wyoming, received the Life Membership Award from the Division of Professional Affairs of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists at the association's annual convention. Life Membership is the highest honor bestowed by this organization.

**Teresa S. Neal** (B.A. English and American Studies 1978) recently published a women's history book, *Evolution Toward Equality: Equality for Women of the American West*. The book focuses on second generation daughters of the American West during the development of western territories and states. Neal believes that there was "a moment in western settlement when women achieved unparalleled equality and freedom." A Wyoming native, Neal currently teaches at Lakewood Colorado High School. She has been selected as a Marquis' Who's Who in American Women, in American Education, in the American West, in America, and in the World. She has presented at the National Women's History Project Conference and the Conference of the Western Association of Women Historians at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.



Courtesy Photo



## College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors summer meeting builds alumni relationships



Photo by  
Director of Development Dale Walker

*This summer, the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors (A&S BoV) held a meeting in Washington, D.C. While there, they attended a reception hosted by BoV member and A&S alumnus Vice President Dick Cheney. Pictured are: (Back Row: left to right) Paul Carlin, Roy Shlemon, Dean Oliver Walter, Dan McNerney (Spouse of Caitlin Long), Thomas Spicer, John McNeill, Henry Bauer, Caitlin Long, Melvin Cox, and Greg Dyekman. (Front Row: left to right) Gwin Johnston, E.G. Meyer, Vice President Dick Cheney, and Lynne Cheney. (Not Pictured: Doug Hecox). Learn more about this special event by reading "A Note From the Dean" inside this issue of A&S Report.*

UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department 3254  
1000 East University Avenue  
Laramie, WY 82071

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Denver, CO  
Permit No 2378