



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Graduate Education

A Note to Students

Dr. James Ahern, Vice Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Education

Happy Springtime!

As some of you look forward to graduating and all of us look forward to the change of pace that comes with the end of the academic year, I would like to celebrate all of this academic year's successes! We started the year with the establishment of the U.W. School of Graduate Education. Reestablishing a graduate school has been my #1 goal since I stepped into my role in 2017, and I am so pleased that we have arrived at this point. This academic year, Graduate Council and I have been working on developing the by-laws for the graduate school, which will include the re-establishment of the Graduate Faculty. Our work is nearing completion, and we look forward to sharing our proposal with the campus in the early fall.



DR. JAMES AHERN
VICE PROVOST & DEAN OF
GRADUATE EDUCATION

Graduate Student Degree Timeline

Also, in the fall, I will be working with Graduate Council and the Graduate Student Network to create a U.W. Graduate Student Council, which will represent graduate student interests to the graduate school. Please be on the lookout for these proposals, as your feedback will be crucial to making sure that we implement the best policies and practices possible.

In this issue, we highlight some outstanding faculty and students who are receiving the University of Wyoming's highest honors related to graduate education (see pp. 4-9). Congratulations to our award winners! I would also like to celebrate the four U.W. graduate students who recently received National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships: Lindsay Gillikin (Psychology), Annabella Helman (Ecology), Samantha Spoor (Psychology), and Sabrina White (Zoology & Physiology). Congratulations!



University Resources

Mental Health

University Counseling Center (UCC)

Located in Knight Hall, the UCC is open Monday-Friday from 8 am- 5 pm. They offer short-term, **free** support for full-time students. Telehealth and in-person services are available. Visit the [UCC](#) for more!

WellSpring

Available to most in the university and the broader community. Services are **free**, and a variety of times are offered during the week. Visit the [WellSpring](#) website for more.

Psychology Center

Offering affordable services to the university and surrounding areas. Services include psychotherapy, assessment, and diagnostic clarification. Review the [Psychology Center's page](#) for more information.

Wellness

Wellness Center

Found in Half Acre, The Wellness Center offers many opportunities to destress and feel better, including:

- Puppy or kitten play dates
- Wellness and stress management groups
- Massage chairs
- Personal training

Half Acre

Offering something for everyone, Half Acre promotes physical wellness. **Bonus: Even brief exercise can improve mood, concentration, and sleep!**

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center offers a variety of services including a full-service pharmacy, treatment and support for a variety of illnesses and injuries and preventative care. To review more information view [Student Health's website](#).

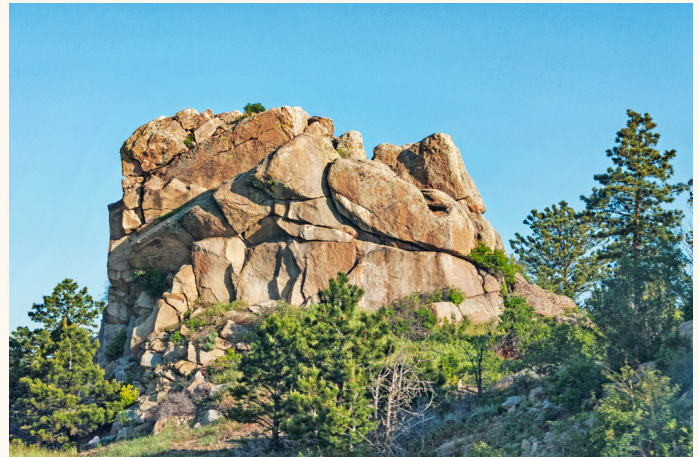


UW Food Share Pantry

The [UW Food Share](#) is open to anyone associated with the university. University of Wyoming, Knight Hall, Room 106.

Hours of Operation:

Monday and Thursday | 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Saturday | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Safe Project

SAFE Project offers free and confidential advocacy to students, staff, faculty, and the University of Wyoming survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and family violence. They can help with safety planning, campus and community referrals, academic support, support reporting to law enforcement and Title IX, protection orders, and more. The campus advocate, Dakota Metzger, can be found at Knight Hall 103 and can be reached either at campus@safeproject.org or 307-766-3434. Visit them on their [webpage](#).

Restorative Justice Center

Restorative justice is a set of practices and philosophies that reframes how we address and respond to harm while building community. The Center offers Community Circles and Restorative Circle and/or RJ Conference support for students or student groups who wish to repair relationships and tend to the community when harm has arisen. Contact the Restorative Justice Program Manager at cnovotn1@uwyo.edu.

Social & Professional Development

Graduate Student Network (GSN)

This Registered Student Organization is focused on improving the professional and social aspects of being a graduate student. GSN activities include:

- Research-specific seminars and speakers
- Focus-group discussions
- Conference presentation feedback
- Social hours

For more information, visit their [Facebook page](#).

University of Wyoming Art Museum



Looking to explore something fun? Need to get your creative juices flowing, or maybe you just need a quiet, relaxing afternoon. The University of Wyoming Art Museum shares in the transformative power of art through exhibiting, preserving, and interpreting visual culture from around the world. The UW Art Museum fosters a connection with humanity and creativity not only in our local UW community, but across the state and nation.

The UW Art Museum is located in the Centennial Complex on the university campus in Laramie. The Art Museum offers a year-round source of education and entertainment for the entire family.

No matter your interests, there is something for everyone at the Art Museum. Exhibits are displayed in a modern and exciting gallery environment. Special programs, lectures, openings, workshops, classes, and tours are held regularly. Visit the [Art Museum Welcome page](#) for more details.

University of Wyoming Innovation Spaces

The **Innovation WYrkshop** is the largest maker space at the UW and one of the largest and best-equipped maker spaces in the Mountain West! **Open, free, and accessible** to UW students, staff, faculty, and the community. Built for you to collaborate, create, innovate, build, invent, tinker, share, make, and learn without limits. The space provides the technology, tools, and training to get started. They offer workshops for various materials, programming, and interests. Whether you are creating for fun or building tools for research, they have something for you!

- 3D Printing and Scanning
- Crafting
- Extended Reality
- Woodworking
- Metalwork

Review more of the workshops and tools they provide at [Innovation WYrkshop](#).

Coe Student Innovation Center is a maker space that provides access to technology for creative, collaborative, innovative, and entrepreneurial projects. **Open** to students, faculty, staff, and the community. Available equipment supports:

- 3D printing & Scanning
- Sewing & Embroidery
- E-Textiles
- Vinyl Cutting
- Large Format Printing
- Scrapbooking
- Machine Learning w/ Circuit Board Creation
- Electronic Analysis Equipment
- CNC Milling
- Laser Cutting
- Laptops w/ CAD & Modeling Software
- Laminating

For more information, visit the [Innovation Center](#).

2023 | Graduate Awards |

The achievements and contributions of every member of the University of Wyoming community provide the foundation of a unique learning environment. The School of Graduate Education would like to send sincere congratulations to all graduate award winners being celebrated, as well as those graduating this spring. Each of you has worked incredibly hard to give back to this institution and to your respective fields. Please take a moment to celebrate your achievements! The School of Graduate Education wishes you the best as you take the next steps into your future.

The University of Wyoming's School of Graduate Education and the Graduate Council have selected the 2023 graduate student and mentor award winners for outstanding teaching and research.

The **Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** recognizes outstanding faculty commitment to graduate student mentoring.

The **John P. Ellbogen Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Awards** go to graduate teaching assistants to honor their excellence in teaching.

The **Outstanding Master's Thesis Award** recognizes a graduate student for an exemplary master's thesis.

The **Outstanding Dissertation Award** is granted to a graduate student for an outstanding doctoral dissertation.

The **Early-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** and the **Mid-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** are given to faculty members for their commitment to mentoring graduate students.

The **Early-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** is presented to a faculty member with less than six years of an academic career at UW.

The **Mid-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** is given to a faculty member with six to 10 years of academic career at the university.

2023 | Outstanding Dissertation | Gabriel Barrile,

Program in Ecology & Evolution

BEHAVIORAL & DEMOGRAPHIC RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN A POND- BREEDING AMPHIBIAN

"Understanding how organisms respond to environmental change is a fundamental challenge in ecology and wildlife management. We studied boreal toads in western Wyoming, USA, to investigate behavioral and demographic responses to infectious disease and several forms of habitat change. Boreal toads in this region were challenged with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), a fungal pathogen implicated in global amphibian declines. Toads experienced changing habitat conditions due to cattle grazing and stochastic variability in spring flooding, whereby high snowmelt runoff collapsed beaver dams and destroyed critical breeding habitats. Overall, our results suggest that disease is an important selective agent in animal habitat and space use. We further show that the effects of climatic variation can manifest via altered season lengths that influence ecological interactions such as host-pathogen dynamics."

-Gabriel Barrile



2023 | Outstanding Master's Thesis | Samantha Power, Speech Language Pathology

GROWTH OF THE CRANIOFACIAL COMPLEX IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF LIFE

"Research is intended to quantify the changes of craniometric variables due to growth, sex, and race and provide large-scale normative data on craniometric variables in children under two. Magnetic resonance imaging scans of 200 children from birth to two years of age were retrospectively analyzed. Seventeen craniometric variables of interest were identified and measured for each participant. Significant growth effects in sixteen of the seventeen variables. Significant sex effects were observed in ten variables. One variable demonstrated significant growth, sex, and race effects. The results indicate children experience significant craniofacial growth in the first two years of life."

-Samantha Power



2023 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Brittany Cangialosi, Psychology

"When considering who I am as a teacher, I reflect on experiences with educators I have encountered during my academic career. Previous educators who have made the greatest impact on me and, in turn, my teaching philosophy are those who have shown a genuine passion for teaching. I want my students to recognize my true passion for teaching and my interest in them as individuals. As an instructor, I aim to create an environment where each individual can learn and grow as a student and is excited to learn. Further, as a teacher, I strive to be approachable and ensure students know they are welcome and encouraged to approach me with questions, thoughts, and ideas surrounding course topics. Beyond this, I strive to foster an environment where students are aware that I have high expectations for their work but are also confident in the fact that they can achieve their goals. Moreover, I hope to instill in them confidence and the skills necessary to achieve these goals and subsequently apply this knowledge outside of the classroom. Ultimately, I aim to create 1) an effective learning environment, 2) teach them skills that are applicable outside of the classroom, and 3) foster an inclusive learning environment."

-Brittany Cangialosi



2023 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Rae Haight, Creative Writing

"My philosophy stands firm on three pillars: the *construction of knowledge, intellectual transparency, and respecting the whole person.*"

"I ask my students on the first day: do their thoughts have an influence on the world? After much discussion, they conclude that their thoughts do influence the world, but only if they can communicate those thoughts to others. Writing empowers them to effectively communicate their thoughts and participate in a democratic society. In doing so, they discover that a consideration of their audience is a consideration of themselves. Writing builds connections that transcend time and space, and this is what I aspire to achieve in teaching it."

-Rae Haight



2023 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Charles Koenig, Anthropology

"I believe that 21st-century anthropology is the epitome of interdisciplinary research. Our field exists at a confluence between hard sciences and humanities where multiculturalism, diversity of thought, and collaboration are combined with interdisciplinary research, the scientific method, and cutting-edge technologies to explore our shared human experience and challenge implicit world views. As a teacher, I weave the Best Practices in Pedagogy with the inherently multidisciplinary structure of anthropological inquiry using a variety of assignments, activities, and implementation strategies. This allows me to engage students of diverse backgrounds while teaching students real-world skills."

"Teaching allows me to continue learning about archaeology and expand my appreciation of humanity. I always strive to improve my teaching and adapt my methods and delivery based on student learning outcomes and engagement. After each course, I reflect on my own experience and work to improve the course using my own observations and student feedback."

-Charles Koenig



2023 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Sydney Polson, Kinesiology & Health

"I have had the pleasure of teaching for the department of Kinesiology & Health for the last two years, during which I have taught and worked directly with more than 380 students. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have taught these students and for the personal and professional growth, I have seen in myself since working as a graduate teaching assistant. Teaching is much more than delivering a lesson plan, and I have had the opportunity to challenge myself as a learner and instructor to think critically by creating activities and assessments that best help my students learn and retain information. I am from a family of educators, and saying I grew up in the schools is an understatement. I have seen firsthand how influential a devoted teacher can be to student learning, and I think it takes a special person to rise to the occasion."

- Sydney Polson



2023 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Sara West, Music

"I worked hard to create clear, attainable learning goals for my students; I know firsthand how difficult learning a musical instrument can be, and so I attempted to break down information into readily understandable, easily definable tasks that could be conquered each week. From this, my students were able to make solid, concrete progress toward their goals. Furthermore, I worked to provide visual, audial, and physical cues relating to each musical task so that students of all learning types could engage with the material successfully."

"Overall, I am grateful for the opportunities presented to me by the Department of Music. I am proud of the teaching that I have done, and I have grown exponentially as an educator."

-Sara West



2023 | Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award | Chip Kobulnicky, Physics & Astronomy

"His qualifications and skills make him exceptional at ensuring that his students have research projects and teaching assignments that are properly planned and executed. Dr. Kobulnicky has at least four students he is currently advising, and we all have different areas of interest. Instead of stifling our interests, he fans the flames or our curiosity by encouraging us to develop research questions that keep us personally interested in our field. For him, this means that he has to become well-versed in a multitude of completely different sub-fields. I do not know any other advisor willing (and genuinely ecstatic) to learn a new subfield just for the sake of one student. Again, this is what sets Dr. Kobulnicky apart from most."

-Cristilyn N. Watkins



2023 | Early-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award | Danielle Bruns, Kinesiology & Health

"Dr. Bruns leads by example and her unwavering work ethic is modelled by her students. She demonstrates strong leadership and deep value for a positive student mentorship culture prioritizing student success. Within this culture, she exemplifies care, empathy, recognition for commitment, approachability, high expectations, and interdisciplinary teamwork. Having had the privilege to serve on some of her graduate student committees, I have witnessed the exceptional quality of her mentorship and commitment to rigorous graduate education standards."

-Derek T. Smith



2023 | Mid-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award | TeYu Chien, Physics & Astronomy

"He provides unique opportunities and academic and personal guidance for all students. In research, he forms a loose framework of professional discussion and instruction, which is complemented by his eager yet hands-off approach to mentoring. Each graduate student is guided by the parameters he sets through the fundamental institution, discussion, and hands-on teaching. The progress, however, is truly in their own hands, and their successes are theirs to own. He allows students to try experiments he thinks may fail and allows them to set aside paths he thinks likely to succeed. Through this, he guides them to develop more refined skills in research planning a preparation. He does this while maintaining an engaged attitude and providing supportive feedback even in setbacks. In addition, he sets aside time for students specifically for non-objective focussed discussion, including career trajectory planning, life outside of work, and discussions of personal interest. Through all this, I have seen many past students build strong academic and scientific prowess on the framework TeYu provides."

-William R. S



Carlton R Barkhurst Fellowship

The Carlton R. Barkhurst Writing Fellowship is intended to help Ph.D. and master's candidates finish their dissertations/thesis in a timely manner. Up to eight Barkhurst Writing Fellowships will be awarded each academic year. Awards will be limited to a single semester of funding, either fall or spring. The single-semester awards will comprise the following:

- Fellowship of \$8,919
- 1 Credit Hour of Tuition
- Optional Student Fee Package
- Student Health Insurance (if selected)

Fall semesters: Applications and a faculty-submitted letter of nomination and recommendation must be completed by **June 30** for Barkhurst Fellowship consideration.

Spring semesters: Application will be available later in the fall semesters.

Visit [WyoScholarships](#) for application and more information.

Origins

University Professor Dr. Samuel H. Knight built the statue following his retirement in 1963. Dr. Knight spent more than 4,000 hours welding the 45-foot-long steel support structure and hammering the copper plates to create the skin texture. The Tyrannosaurus Rex, also known as "Rexie," has been a campus fixture since its installation.

It is speculated across campus that throwing pinecones bring good luck before midterms and final exams.

The lore of Rexie's ability to grant luck to those that offer pinecones as tribute likely spawned out of student impromptu in the 1970s. "The lore predates even my predecessor and me. As long as it is perpetrated through alumni and the Campus Visitor Center, it will be here forever," Vietti said in the 2021 Branding Iron report.

Article based on writings from [UW Branding Iron](#), [UW News](#), and [WyoHistory](#).



Crisis Support

University Counseling Center- 307-766-2187
AFTER-HOURS CRISIS, call 307-766-8989

Laramie Suicide Prevention Hotline
Call or Text: 307-977-7777

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Call: 1-800-273-TALK

Crisis Text Line
Free 24/7 line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Important Dates

- MAY 2** - Last day to defend thesis/dissertation
- MAY 5** - Last day to submit graduate paperwork
- MAY 5** - Last day of classes
- MAY 8-12** - Finals Week
- MAY 13** - Commencement
- MAY 22** - Summer Session 2023 begins
- MAY 29** - Memorial Day- Offices Closed

For other important dates and deadlines, please refer to the [Registrar's Office calendar/deadlines](#).