



CENTER^{of the}
AMERICAN
WEST

Unconventional WISDOM



2013-2014
Annual Report



Turning Hindsight Into Foresight™

The Center of the American West takes as its mission the creation of forums for the respectful exchange of ideas and perspectives in the pursuit of solutions to the region's difficulties. We at the Center believe that an understanding of the historical origins of the West's problems, an emphasis on the common interests of all parties, and a dose of good humor are essential to constructive public discussion.

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About the Center

When confronting tough issues, both regionally and nationally, the Center of the American West is known for its nonpartisan stance and its ability to encourage dialogue. It does so by using clear and compassionate communication to get at the root of whatever predicament we face so as to find common ground. Our methods include using good humor and balanced listening to refresh old alliances and build new ones by clarifying and reconciling the wide-ranging convictions and opinions of Western citizens. We believe our greatest assets are the ability to draw on the lessons of history, to pay attention to the present moment, and apply our unique brand of unconventional wisdom in ways that lay the groundwork for conversation. That mission is evident in our motto, "*Turning Hindsight into Foresight*." Our years of experience suggest that the West's appetite for such an approach is voracious.

This year, the Center continued its work on the contentious issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing and natural gas development with fourteen more Boulder based FrackingSENSE events. We also took the series to the city of Greeley, where we forged alliances with a range of groups to put on educational events about natural gas development. But we did not only do natural gas development events. In addition, we teamed up with CU's ATLAS Institute to host a remarkable evening featuring the renowned artist Christo. We worked with a large group of partners to help teachers get more Colorado history into their classrooms. We collaborated with Colorado

Public Radio on a multimedia series exploring what we can learn about the West from beer. And in February we hosted a special Words to Stir the Soul event honoring the late *Denver Post* columnist, Ed Quillen.

The Center of the American West is also an Academic Center and much of the freshness and energy we apply to contemporary issues comes from our engagement with the University of Colorado student population. Throughout the year both undergraduate and graduate students participate in a wide range of Center events including Faculty Dinners at Patty Limerick's house, our Internship Program, the Thompson Awards for Western Writing, and our Certificate Program. This year we are thrilled to be offering the Beardsley Family Scholarship to students enrolled in the Center of the American West Certificate Program. Although the Center is very much engaged in a wide spectrum of conversations going on in the region, as well as nationally, we are equally engaged with students in conversations about their education, their skill sets, and their life goals.

As the Center's reach expands, our resources are keeping pace, providing us greater opportunities to help people explore beliefs and convictions in order to understand each other's position and to create unconventional solutions. This is the bedrock upon which the Center of the American West rests and the foundation from which we have grown.

The Keys to the Center's Expanding Reach:

- A unique capacity for lively and disarming written and spoken communication.
- A proven ability for refereeing, umpiring, and inviting the "better angels of our nature" to emerge, even in bitter and disputed terrain.
- A substantial list of influential and often-cited publications.
- A widespread reputation for trustworthiness and credibility.
- An astonishing faculty team of experts on every imaginable Western issue.
- A stunning contact list of affiliates and allies that ranges from federal, state, and local government agencies, to a myriad of nongovernmental organizations, to a vast array of the West's most influential writers, scientists, artists, musicians, and thinkers.
- A dedicated and talented staff.
- A broad range of experience and knowledge provided by the Board of Directors.
- A group of screened and selected students of spirit and talent who are committed to clear, compassionate, engaged, and thoughtful communication.

On October 17, 2013, Center of the American West, in conjunction with ATLAS brought Christo, the internationally renowned artist, to present a lecture on two works in progress Christo and Jeanne-Claude: *Over the River & The Mastaba*.

Top photo courtesy of Ira Liss.

Turning Hindsight Into Foresight™





A Letter from Patty

Faculty Director and Chair of the Board

The famous economist John Kenneth Galbraith grew up in humble circumstances which, initially, may not seem to have much bearing on the Annual Report of the Center of the American West.

But here's the link (not in the sense of an item to click on, but in the sense of a connection that knits seemingly fragmented stories together).

In 1958, Galbraith took an existing phrase, "conventional wisdom," and assigned it a sharp-edged new meaning as "the ideas which are esteemed for their acceptability," "familiarity," and "predictability." Galbraith then gave the conventional wisdom a very rough time, pointing out that it is "always in danger of obsolescence," and ever at risk of losing "its relation to the world."

As this Annual Report indicates, the Center of the American West is not "in danger of obsolescence," and it is certainly not at risk of losing "its relation to the world." On the contrary, from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, the Center stood in a very dynamic relationship to the world. Our public programs on hydraulic fracturing and natural gas development gave us the best imaginable opportunity to test what we had learned about neutrality and about the challenge of convening people for civil and evidence-based discussions of controversial issues. From time to time, we took on the task of pulling together the lessons that seemed worthy of the public's attention.

Activities of that sort are simply incompatible with deference to "the conventional wisdom." Rather than clinging to "acceptable," "familiar," and "predictable" ideas at a FrackingSENSE talk, we are constantly taking in new knowledge and interpretations, and, just as constantly, noting and reacting to the audience members' responses to those ideas. Our activities range across a wide spectrum of venues and topics: the annual, week-long Gilder Lehrman K-12 Teachers' Institute on environmental history and the West, culminating in a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park; several forums bringing managers of water utilities into conversation with figures from the natural gas industry; the enlisting of co-sponsors, holding a wide range of positions on natural gas development, for our Greeley FrackingSENSE programs; the annual Thompson Awards for Western American Writing contest; drawing on Center adventures to write monthly columns for the *Denver Post* (yes, these are "single-authored," but my teammates at the Center always serve as useful sounding boards for the ideas in these columns); and organizing our introductory course on Western American Studies around the theme of Westerners finding opportunities for unexpected alliances. In all these activities, we were never complacent, never smug, never lethargic, and (almost never) conventional!

In the year 2013-14, we did our best to steer the work of the Center in ways that challenged the conventional wisdom and also retained and drew on the power of the unconventional wisdom that our diverse predecessors in the West found in their enterprises and experiences. In the writings and actions of those who

came before us, as well as in the work of many brave and dedicated Westerners of today, we find the opportunity for a robust harvest of unconventional wisdom.

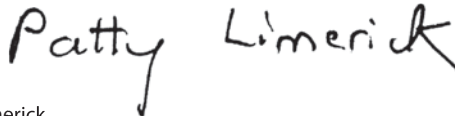
John Kenneth Galbraith, his biographer tells us, "was born in 1908 into an Ontario farm family, and his early academic experience hardly seemed to prepare him for a Harvard faculty appointment." He had "no prep-school training, no trips to Europe for polish, no Ivy League education." Quite the contrary: Galbraith had "grown up in tiny Iona Station, a farming hamlet just north of Lake Erie with only twenty-five or thirty inhabitants, and been educated at Willey's School, the local one-room schoolhouse."

More than thirty years ago, in several social settings at Harvard, providence gave me the chance to approach John Kenneth Galbraith and converse with the man who made "the conventional wisdom" into a household phrase. Alas, this conversation did not happen because of two unmistakable character traits: Mr. Galbraith was too scary, and I was too shy.

John Kenneth Galbraith, the Harvard Professor, was indeed intimidating and a person of great stature in every sense of that word. But Ken Galbraith, farm kid from rural Canada, left a written legacy that lives on as unconventional wisdom and guidance.

"To a very large extent," Galbraith wrote, "we associate truth with convenience... We also find highly acceptable what contributes most to self-esteem."

Tracking the wisdom of these observations, over the past year, the Center of the American West, has resisted the temptations of convenience and self-esteem and stayed free and clear of obsolescence. At a time of widespread worry about the connection of higher education to the world around it, unconventional wisdom—drawn equally from the past and the present—serves us as an asset and an anchor.

Yours,


Patty Limerick
Faculty Director and Chair of the Board

A Postscript Offering a Reward for the Quick-to-Respond

If you are of a certain age, there is a good chance that the name "John Kenneth Galbraith" instantly brought an image of solemnity and gravity to your mind. If so, drop everything else you are doing (except for reading the rest of this Annual Report) and sit down with a copy of Galbraith's essay, "Who Was Thorstein Veblen?" It is reprinted in *The Essential Galbraith*, edited by Andrea D. Williams, but if you contact us at the Center, we will make sure that this essay is soon in your hands. This essay shows Galbraith's wit and verbal playfulness in high gear; plus, you will learn about one of the world's most interesting "public intellectuals," Thorstein Veblen. And here's the really good news: the first three people to read this essay will have the opportunity to take part in a dinner, with absolutely extraordinary company, at which this essay will be a featured item of discussion!



A Letter from Kurt

Program Director

Many of you know me as the literary type. Every once in a while when introducing me, Patty will trot out my MFA from Iowa, or my MA from the University of New Mexico, or even my undergraduate BA from CU as evidence of my extensive background in Western American Literature. It gives me a kind of academic street cred. "I have degrees and I know how to use them." Given my background, conventional wisdom would have it that I would be a bit of a literary snob. But I have to admit to a guilty pleasure: the self-help book.

I'm a self-help addict, and oddly enough the Center is a direct beneficiary of that addiction. I have audio recordings entitled *Midlife and the Great Unknown*. I've dedicated a whole bookshelf in my home to these titles: *How to be an Adult*, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, and *The Art of Power*. These books are part psychology, part philosophy, but mostly hands-on. They provide guidelines for what to do when faced with unexpected yet persistent challenges and help you understand why you do the exact opposite. They actually help.

My addiction started just after I graduated from CU. My career plans focused on hitchhiking around the United States, writing in my journal, and reading Friedrich Nietzsche and Jack Kerouac. My father was appalled so he gave me the classic book *What Color is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers*. I put the book in storage, and a few days later walked out to the highway, stuck out my thumb, and headed west.

But books stick around. I returned from my trip, and there this one sat. I was bussing tables in a restaurant, and I could not see my next move. I took the book off the shelf, and it provided specific exercises that helped me to see what it was I did well and what pathways I could take to turn that into a career. My father had provided his already introspective son with something new: a purpose for trying to understand himself. The world held promise, and so did I.

This last year the Center of the American West followed in my footsteps and went introspective. We didn't hit the road with backpacks and journals, although we did visit Greeley with great success (see our highlighted events). The Center is nearly 30 years old, so it seemed time for a little midlife examination. We asked ourselves:

What do we do best and how do we do it?
Can we do more of it, and can we do it even more effectively?

To help us explore these questions we enlisted a team of extremely insightful self-help gurus – the Center of the American West Board of Directors.

These gurus told us that the Center of the American West has become a trusted authority because the Center cares deeply about the West, but, more importantly, because the Center works on the issues Westerners face by applying its own brand of unconventional wisdom that shakes, opens, and reconfigures minds. The Center relies on a fresh perspective and a distinctive twist. That twist, as we found out, is creativity. David Brooks put it best in a recent column. Creative people (and organizations) "don't flee from the contradictions," but instead they have the distinctive "ability to hold two opposing ideas at the same time."

The Center has a bevy of assets – access to a range of scholars and public servants who can provide a comprehensive understanding of a myriad of complex issues; a capacity to start out forcefully, take in information, and adjust the course of action; and a merry sense of humor. But our strongest asset is the way in which we take (to steal the title of one of the best known self-help books and Robert Frost's poem) "the road less traveled" when approaching the problems we face as Westerners. Thích Nhất Hạnh could have been talking about the Center when he said, "Every thought you produce, anything you say, any action you do, it bears your signature."

So thumb through these pages, visit our section on FrackingSENSE, or our Research and Scholarship page, or our Student Activities page. Read the profiles of our donors, students, and faculty affiliates. In each of these you will find a signature "unconventional wisdom" at work. While we have uncovered some of the Center's greatest strengths, we are not done. We are always open to coaching, suggestions, and more. If you have any insights for us (or a great self-help book), please feel free to join our self-help guru team. We'd love to hear from you.



Kurt Gutjahr, Program Director

Outreach

The Center of the American West is situated on the campus of the University of Colorado Boulder. Given our activity in a variety of arenas, from energy to land use to Native American identity — and given our extensive contact list — it would be easy to forget that the Center is first and foremost a collegiate educational unit. Fortunately for the Center and for our future, we understand

both the responsibility and the opportunity this offers us. Once again this year, Patty appeared both locally as well as nationally, bringing the Center's vision and expertise to a variety of audiences. Here you will find just a small sampling of the numerous talks Patty gave throughout the year.

Fracking Up a Storm – Hydraulic Fracturing and Natural Gas Presentations

In the fall of 2012 the National Science Foundation awarded the AirWaterGas Sustainability Research Network a \$12 million grant to study Natural Gas Development and Hydraulic Fracturing. The Center of the American West had the lead role in communicating the study's findings to the general public. As a result, Patty visited numerous groups to talk about the complex issues around hydraulic fracturing and natural gas development. This past year's presentations include the following appearances:

- July 17** – Clinica at Biennial of the Americas in Denver, CO
- August 20** – Littleton Rotary Club in Columbine Valley, CO
- October 23** – Retired Faculty Association Business Meeting at the University of Colorado in Boulder, CO
- October 30** – Wyoming Institute for Humanities in Laramie, WY
- January 29** – Tribal Summit on the Four Corners in Denver, CO
- February 12** – Democratic Women of Boulder County in Boulder, CO
- March 26** – Frasier Meadows Retirement Community in Boulder, CO
- March 30** – Harding Lecture, South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD
- April 22** – University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, CO
- April 28** – Water Research Foundation in Golden, CO
- May 13** – Northern Colorado Geology Group in Fort Collins, CO
- May 21** – CU Boulder Denver Area Alumni Club in Denver, CO
- June 27** – Consensus Building Institute, Local Responses to Unconventional Oil and Gas Development in Denver, CO

Re-immersed in “A Ditch in Time: The City, the West and Water”

Released in 2012, *A Ditch in Time: The City, the West and Water* continues to generate praise and numerous invitations for Patty to speak to a diverse array of groups, including:

- August 6** – 25th Annual Natural Gas Strategy Conference and Executive Forum, Rocky Mountain Energy Summit in Denver, CO
- August 8** – Keynote Speech Project WET Foundation Conference in Denver, CO
- September 9** – American Water Works Association, Rocky Mountain Section Conference in Keystone, CO
- September 19** – Visit to Professor Karen Ramirez's CAMW 2001 The American West Class Presentation University of Colorado in Boulder, CO
- October 5** – American Association of University Women, Conversations with Authors fundraiser in Loveland, CO
- October 9** – Visit to Professor Desera Crow's Graduate Course, Environmental Studies 5000, University of Colorado in Boulder, CO
- October 15** – Denver Garden Club in Denver, CO
- October 16** – Rotary Meeting in Greeley, CO
- December 9** – American Water Works Association Lunch and Learn in Denver, CO
- February 13** – Water Crisis in the West: Thinking Like a Watershed in Albuquerque, NM
- March 12** – Interview for *The Great Divide*, a documentary on Colorado water in Denver, CO
- May 5** – National Groundwater Association Groundwater Summit in Denver, CO

Jeffrey Mitton, a Professor in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at CU Boulder guided a nature walk in Rocky Mountain National Park for our Gilder Lehrman Institute participants on July 25, 2014.

Adventures in Moderating

Because of the Center of the American West's work in creating diverse, civil forums for discussion, Patty has increasingly been recruited to moderate similar discussions throughout the Front Range. A sampling of those include:

October 28 – Environmental Defense Fund Discussion - Changing Climate and Weather Impacts in Colorado in Denver, CO

January 8 – Petrie Institute Symposium at the Denver Art Museum - Journeys West in Denver, CO

June 5 – Getches-Wilkinson Center Summer Conference - Water and Air Quality Issues in Oil and Gas Development: The Evolving Framework of Regulation and Management in Boulder, CO

June 19 – El Pomar Foundation - The Future of Fracking in the Centennial State in Colorado Springs, CO

“The American Environment in Historical Perspective” The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teachers’ Seminar Boulder, CO - July 20-25, 2014

For the past ten years, Patty has partnered with The Gilder Lehrman Institute, leading a weeklong seminar for K-12 teachers from across the nation. This seminar uses focused case studies to explore the larger picture of environmental history, a subject that has grown increasingly complex as historians deepen their understanding of the vast role of “anthropogenic change” (also known as “history”!) in reconfiguring the places and processes we think of as “natural.” Much of the seminar explores the transformation of attitudes, from the assessment of North American landscapes and resources by early settlers, to the recognition of the changing “baseline” of global warming. Additionally the seminar presents a reconsideration — and revision — of the usual polarity pitting utilitarian approaches in opposition to preservationist approaches to the management of nature. With guest speakers drawn from CU and CSU's environmental history and environmental studies programs, seminar participants received expert instruction on topics ranging from nineteenth-century landscape painters and the history of camping to mountain pine beetles and shale gas production. The concluding field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park gives the themes of the lectures and discussions a down-to-earth grounding in a visit to one of the most popular units in the nation's public lands.



Brooke's research focuses on collective memory and racial politics in the American West.

Brooke Neely

Visiting Scholar

Brooke has been unofficially affiliated with the Center for a number of years, but in the fall of 2014 she officially joined the Center of the American West as a Visiting Scholar. Brooke's research focuses on collective memory and racial politics in the American West, and she looks at how these issues play out around the Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse memorials in the Black Hills of South Dakota. At the Center, Brooke will study public history efforts in the American West, exploring how museums and memorials can present complicated historical topics in more thoughtful and nuanced ways.

Brooke received a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a BA in sociology from Whitman College. She has published articles in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and other journals, and she has a book under contract with the University of Nebraska Press titled *Unsettled Stone: Carved Mountains and the Politics of Race, Place, and Memory*. When not at the Center, Brooke can be found running after her toddler daughter or enjoying a still moment with her husband.





The arts of communication and collaboration, for they really are arts, have been paraded before me every day...

Emily Haver

Student Staff Highlight

The Center of the American West has uniquely enriched my college experience. I have come in contact with – and learned from – many people, from the founder of *Denver Voice* to the Governor of Colorado. The arts of communication and collaboration, for they really are arts, have been paraded before me every day. I have seen the great results that come from these arts and they have inspired me with the hope that change can be made in this world and that reasonable, intelligent people do exist!

I have met great and respected friends and colleagues at the Center, who were there for me when my life washed away and also held me to a high personal and professional standard. My time at the Center has been about balance. Where else can you spend one day dressing up John Wayne as a snowman and the next find yourself knee deep in official record keeping that was due yesterday? All while keeping your sense of direction, your sense of purpose, and your sense of humor intact.

Academic Engagement

The Center recruits and engages CU students, offering beyond-the-classroom opportunities and a welcoming, supportive community. Students grappling with decisions about life after college may find inspiration from the extraordinary faculty and other Westerners they meet at Center events. This can provide a framework for connecting their passions with their studies to create meaningful careers that will benefit society, the environment, and themselves.

Internships

The Center of the American West sponsors a variety of internships for juniors and seniors at CU Boulder. Under the guidance of a faculty sponsor, students work for prominent non-profit organizations and governmental agencies in today's West.

This year, four students interning at The Nature Conservancy and the History Colorado Center shared weekly online journals and gave final presentations about their experiences. These presentations were glowing testimonials to the powerful influence that this program is having on the lives and career paths of our students.

Western American Studies Certificate Program

Our eighteen-credit-hour program offers undergraduates of all majors a regional studies curriculum spanning the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Students take the introductory and capstone courses, and select four more courses from our list — one in humanities, one in natural sciences, one in social sciences, and one elective. In this way, students piece together an understanding of the West in line with their own unique interests.

This spring, psychology student Brendan Monahan (highlighted on page 12), graduated with a bachelor of arts degree and Western American Studies certificate.

Hoffman Scholars Fund

The Hoffman Scholars Fund was established in 2005 to engage motivated CU undergraduates in the enterprise of reducing conflict and finding solutions to the West's problems as well as connecting academic thought and inquiry to real-world dilemmas. The fund was named after University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman, who adopted the phrase "a university without walls" to capture her vision for CU. The fund covers travel expenses for students to attend conferences and other events with Center faculty and researchers.

This year, the program sponsored the participation of students Jaquelin Pelzer and Atherton Phleger in the Center's annual retreat, which was held in Missoula, Montana.

Top: Western Studies certificate student Brendan Monahan celebrates his graduation with his professors, family members, and friends on May 8 at a University Hill restaurant.

Bottom: Dean Stephen Leigh converses with students at the "Fandango" fundraiser on June 6, 2014. Proceeds from this year's event were used to benefit the Beardsley Scholarship Fund.



As I approach graduation this fall (!), I will cherish the time I had at the Center for what I've learned...

Ashley Sanks

Student Staff Highlight

As I signed up for classes freshman year, I never expected my relationship with the Center to extend past my Residential Academic Program class. At that point in time, Colorado was the farthest West I had ever been, and I was not particularly interested in going farther or learning more. Luckily for me, I was gravely wrong for all of the right reasons.

I started working here in the midst of our Nation Possessed event, a whirlwind of activities that propelled me directly into the fervor and drive of the Center. Seeing the speakers, student congress, and general conversation, I found myself in a place that wasn't shy about asking questions and working together to find answers. Two years later, I've seen that drive continually make itself apparent and assertive in our events from FrackingSENSE to student dinners and general conversation in the office. As I approach graduation this fall(!), I will cherish the time I had at the Center for what I've learned: that maybe the answers aren't right under our noses, but we have to go out and question all that's around us and find them for ourselves.

Academic Engagement (continued)

Fifteenth Annual Thompson Awards for Western American Writing

Each year, the Center of the American West awards cash prizes to talented CU students writing on Western topics. The recognition bestowed by these awards helps to launch the careers of budding writers. Author and CU creative writing professor Stephen Graham Jones gave the keynote address this year, providing a list of tips for up-and-coming writers that left the audience in stitches. We are ever grateful to Jeannie and Jack Thompson, whose generosity and support make this contest possible. The winning entries for this year and years past are posted at our website.

Beardsley Family Scholarship

This year, the Center awarded its first Beardsley Family Scholarship to anthropology and neuroscience student Ella Salvator. These scholarships honor the memory of Center Board member George Beardsley, who continually urged us to take every opportunity to find and engage deserving CU students who could benefit from the Center. To be eligible, students must be full-time, with a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and be enrolled in the Center's Western American Studies certificate program. Two scholarships are offered each spring.

The Center, with the kind assistance of donors, has established the Beardsley Family Scholarship endowment fund. Proceeds from this year's "Fandango" fundraiser were used to benefit that fund.

Grace Kempton Student Gatherings

In April 2012, the Center received \$5,000 from an anonymous donor to establish a fund in memory of Grace Kempton, who passed away in February 2012. In keeping with her warm and community-minded spirit, and love of social gatherings, the Grace Kempton fund supports cozy student gatherings featuring inspiring, noteworthy Westerners.

This year's dinners, hosted by Patty Limerick and Houston Kempton, featured the following Westerners: sisters Suzanne Jones of The Wilderness Society and Boulder City Council and Elise Jones, Boulder County Commissioner; Matt Lepore, director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; Board member and environmental law attorney Jeff Maslow; Andrew Romanoff, former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives; and CU President Bruce Benson and community leader Marcy Benson.



Quite possibly the best-kept secret at CU, the Center of the American West...

Brenden Monahan

Undergraduate Student Highlight

Up the creaky stairs of Macky is the best bunch of people on the CU Boulder campus, which places them high in the running for the best bunch of people in the world. Here lies the Center of the American West.

Quite possibly the best-kept secret at CU, the Center of the American West will "plug us into the social pipeline," in the quotable words of actor Jim Carrey. Because of the Center, I've put my networking on the fast track. Patty Limerick's introductory American West course gives students the unique opportunity to bridge the gap between undergraduates, community leaders, executive directors, county commissioners, and university administration.

The hospitality doesn't end there. Patty will often invite students into her home for an evening of intellectual discussion, food, and the occasional quirky limerick. Nowhere else have I seen such a collaboration of various interests converging. I am constantly thankful for the experience and the opportunities it has provided for my future.

On May 1, 2014 we celebrated this year's winners at the Thompson Writing Awards banquet.



Research & Scholarship

New and Forthcoming Projects from the Center

The Love Colorado Initiative

Bringing Colorado History into Classrooms

Governor John Hickenlooper has asked the Center of the American West to lead an effort to facilitate opportunities to bring Colorado into classrooms around the state from kindergarten through college. The centerpiece of this multifaceted initiative is a series of booklets that explore topics in Colorado history through a collection of engaging primary sources. The resources are selected and annotated by subject-matter experts who build a narrative explaining how the topic connects to larger themes in American and world history. Classroom teachers from several grade levels then assess the sets for alignment with state education standards and provide suggestions on how to use them with students. Jason Hanson is editing the emerging catalog of curricular resources, the first of which are being made available to teachers during the 2014-2015 school year.

Getting the Message

Deciphering the Language of Oil and Gas Development

A person who wishes to engage in the conversation about fracking (or is that frac'ing, or fraquing?) in an informed and reasoned manner must be able to decipher communiqués thick with technical terminology and jargon. Informed citizens need a guide to help them fully understand the messaging that comes from every perspective when it comes to hydraulic fracturing. In fall 2014, Adrienne Kroepsch, Will Rempel, and Patty Limerick have created just such a guide, designed to provide citizens with the vocabulary essential for effectively engaging in the discussion over oil and gas development and for understanding the findings of natural and social scientists studying the topic.

The World Beneath Our Homes

A Journey Deep Into the Underlying Issues of Hydraulic Fracturing

As oil and gas operations become more visible along the heavily populated Colorado Front Range, the state has become a focal point in the national debate over hydraulic fracturing. In this new report, Patty Limerick, Adrienne Kroepsch, and others explore the issues that trigger controversy in oil and gas development, taking special care to map the disconnects in dialog that derail serious and substantive discussion.

An Unexpected Kinship

Extractive Industry and Outdoor Recreation in the West

In one common narrative about the history of the US West, the extractive industries that dominated the regional economy in the nineteenth century

were supplanted in the twentieth century by an economy based on lifestyle amenities and outdoor recreation. In this narrative, conventional wisdom casts the region's two iconic economies in opposition to one another. This characterization of these enterprises is only at best partially accurate. While we recognize their differences, we see a great deal of kinship between extraction and recreation. And we believe that contemplating their similarities produces the framework for a richer and more complete narrative for the twenty-first-century West. Sarah Thomas and Patty Limerick are collaborating on this exploration of surprising affinities in the modern West.

The Brew West

The West Explained Over a Couple of Beers

In 2013, the eleven Western states profiled in the Center's *Atlas of the New West* accounted for 23 percent of the nation's population but 41 percent of the brewing operations. Shine a light on a pint of beer brewed in the West and, in the right hands at just the right angle, that light will refract through the brew in ways that illuminate many of the broader themes of the region's history. Jason Hanson is organizing a project that aims to shine that light, guest editing an issue of the *Journal of the West* that will use beer as a starting point for exploring various aspects Western history, from economic transitions on the mining frontier to the development of transportation systems across our wide open spaces to the evolution of an environmental ethos in the region. The issue is due to be published in the autumn of 2015.

The State of Craft

A Multimedia Look at Beer in Colorado

For a long weekend every October, Colorado is the center of the craft beer universe as the Great American Beer Festival showcases the best American breweries for enthusiasts from around the world. This year, the Center has teamed up with Colorado Public Radio to take a look at beer's economic, cultural, and historic role in the state. Jason Hanson and Sam Bock wrote and edited a series of topical essays and radio stories published and aired by CPR in the first week of October. They are available now online at CPR.org.

Mutual Benefit

Building Vibrant Communities

Amid rising concerns about the personal and public costs of sedentary lifestyles and the environmental threats posed by sprawling development patterns, the creation of parks and open space can be a positive

response to some of the most pressing issues of our moment. In an era of overstretched municipal budgets, it is important that communities invest wisely in these amenities if they are to reap full benefits and justify expenditures. To help these communities, a team of Center researchers led by Jason Hanson, Sarah Thomas, Patty Limerick, and Paul Heffron have conducted an extensive review of studies exploring how parks, open space, and other public lands create value within communities. Our goal is to identify and spotlight tools that forward-thinking decision-makers can use to increase well-being, prosperity, and economic resiliency in their communities through the smart development of parks and open space. We are currently articulating our findings in a series of lit review articles.

What Ever Happened to the Smalley Creek Oil Shale Claims?

A Legal History of the Rock that Burns

When a reporter for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel contacted the Center with a story about a man's claim that the federal government stole his family's oil shale claim in northwest Colorado "in the middle of the night," our effort to help the reporter get his facts straight launched us into an exploration of the fascinating and often confusing legal history of oil shale. Ryan Rebhan and Jason Hanson eventually wrote up their findings in a white paper that examines the history of oil shale law and its implications for Shale Country today. Jason and Ryan are presenting the paper at the annual Oil Shale Symposium this fall and revising it for publication.

Exploring the Interior

The United States Government and the American West

For more than two centuries, the federal agencies now gathered in the Department of the Interior have played lead roles in the story of the US West. And yet, the history of bureaucracies can strike even engaged and historically attuned citizens as a terminally boring subject. Patty Limerick hopes that her forthcoming book, *Exploring the Interior*, will invite readers to recognize and reflect on the great significance of Interior and the people, places, and creatures whose destinies are intertwined with this vast and complicated bureaucracy. In the second decade of the twenty-first century, when antigovernment sentiments swirl around the nation, Patty is discovering, thinking, writing, and speaking about how one of the largest units of the federal government can provide nearly as much adrenaline as the hang-gliding, extreme skiing, and high-risk rock climbing often performed on lands managed by Interior.

A Ditch in Time

The City, the West, and Water

Accolades continue to accrue to *A Ditch in Time*, which was recently nominated for History Colorado's 2014 Barbara Sudler Award. Already praised as not to be missed by *Newsweek/The Daily Beast*, lauded by Governor Hickenlooper as "a great read," selected as a Colorado Book Award finalist, and assigned in classrooms around the state, the book is enjoying ongoing success. Now Fulcrum Publishing is planning a second printing to ensure that Patty Limerick and Jason Hanson's exploration of the history of water in Denver remains available at a bookstore near you.

Reports

The Nation Possessed, 2013

What Every Westerner Should Know About Oil Shale, 2009

The Power to Change the World, 2009

High Energy Prices and Low-Income Americans, 2009

Climate Change in Rocky Mountain National Park, 2008

What Every Westerner Should Know About Energy Efficiency and Conservation, 2007

Climate Change and Aspen, 2006

Cleaning Up Abandoned Hardrock Mines in the West, 2006

Living with Fire, 2006

Western Futures, 2005

Ranchland Dynamics, 2005

What Every Westerner Should Know About Energy, 2003

Making the Most of Science in the American West, 2003

Boom and Bust in the American West, 2002

Facing Fire: Lessons from the Ashes, 2001

Books

A Ditch in Time: The City, the West, and Water — Patty Limerick and Jason L. Hanson, 2012

An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World — Anders Halverson, 2010

Remedies for a New West: Healing Landscapes, Histories, and Cultures — edited by Patricia Limerick, Andrew Cowell, and Sharon K. Collinge, 2009

New Geographies of the American West: Land Use and Changing Patterns of Place — William Riebsame Travis, 2007

Seeing and Being Seen: Tourism in the American West — edited by David M. Wrobel and Patrick T. Long, foreword by Earl Pomeroy, 2001

Atlas of the New West — cartography by James J. Robb, edited by William E. Riebsame and Hanna Gosnell, 1997

Thomas Hornsby Ferril and the American West — Thomas Hornsby Ferril, Robert C. Baron, Stephen J. Leonard, and Thomas J. Noel, 1996

Arrested Rivers — Chuck Forsman, Helen Mayer Harrison, and Newton Harrison, 1994

A Society to Match the Scenery: Personal Visions of the Future of the American West — edited by Gary Holthaus, Patricia Nelson Limerick, Charles F. Wilkinson, and Eve Stryker Munson, 1991

Center Stage

Highlighted Events

The Center of the American West spent much of this last year working on unconventional natural gas development and hydraulic fracturing. We put on sixteen separate FrackingSENSE events, both here and in Greeley. While we shifted our approach by encouraging our speakers to offer evidence-based positions that might lead to recommendations and prescriptions for the future, we navigated that terrain with civility and the Center's trademark non-partisan neutrality. We traveled outside of the borders of Boulder, and in the process enlisted a range of congenial and supportive co-sponsors including the City of Greeley, KUNC Public Radio, *Greeley Tribune*, *Weld Air & Water*, Synergy Energy, University of Northern Colorado, and the UNC Faculty Task Force on Hydraulic Fracturing. We'd

like to thank these co-sponsors for the trust they put in us. We look forward to working with them again in the future.

And while much of our attention was focused on unconventional natural gas development, we also found time to honor those who take the unconventional approach to our region including the late Ed Quillen and his contributions to the West, and to host the internationally renowned artist Christo for an engaging evening of conversation. We thank all of our participants and co-sponsors and especially you, our audience, for a remarkable year.

FrackingSENSE: What We Know, What We Don't Know, and What We Hope to Learn About Oil & Gas Development

February 2013 –April 2014

The Center of the American West, Boulder County, and the AirWaterGas Research Network produced and hosted a lecture series that began in February 2013 and continued through April 2014. The Center brought speakers with substantial expertise on natural gas development to provide a measured, honest exploration of the controversial topic of hydraulic fracturing. Participants in this year's FrackingSENSE series included: Barbara Green, Roger Fragua, Josh Joswick, Pete Morton, Norman Warpinski, Rebecca Watson, Robert Martin, former Senator Tim Wirth, Jim Martin, Howard Boigon, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Will Fleckenstein, George King, and Matt Sura. Podcasts of the series can be found on the Center's website at www.centerwest.org/podcast/index.xml.

FrackingSENSE Greeley: Taking it On the Road – A Community Discussion About Oil & Gas Development in Greeley, Colorado

April 14th, 28th, and May 12th, 2014

Organized by the Center of the American West, in conjunction with the AirWaterGas Research Network, and with support and participation from the City of Greeley, KUNC Public Radio, *Greeley Tribune*, *Weld Air & Water*, Synergy Energy, University of Northern Colorado and the UNC Faculty Task Force on Hydraulic Fracturing. The Center presented three evenings of educational content on drilling practices, risk assessment with air quality emphasis, and the regulatory environment for oil and gas. Participants in the FrackingSENSE Greeley series included: Patty Limerick, John Adgate, Garry Kaufman, Matt Lepore, Mike Paules, David Baumgarten, Gary Graham, Will Fleckenstein, Joe Ryan and Debra Higley. Podcasts of the series can be found on the Center's website at www.centerwest.org/podcast/index.xml.

Fandango: A Center of the American West Tradition

June 6, 2014

Every June, Centerites come together for what we call a Fandango — an old-fashioned barn dance. Named after a "lively Spanish American dance," the evening features great food, great music, and great conversations. This year former Democratic Governor Bill Ritter and former Republican Senator Hank Brown engaged in a wide-ranging conversation conducted by Patty Limerick about the state of contemporary political dialogue. Lorenzo Trujillo and his Northern New Mexican band followed, leading guests through a series of lively dances. This year's Fandango raised money for the newly created Beardsley Family Student Scholarship — a fund generously created by Pam Beardsley in honor of her husband, the late George Beardsley and his vision of creating opportunities to engage young people. This scholarship will provide two \$1,000 scholarships to worthy students meeting the academic requirements. To learn more about the Fandango and how you can participate, please contact the Center.

The Center of the American West took FrackinSENSE on the Road to Greeley, CO. Panel participants included: Patty Limerick, John Adgate, Garry Kaufman, Matt Lepore, Mike Paules, David Baumgarten, Gary Graham, Will Fleckenstein, Joe Ryan & Debra Higley.



Annual Board Retreat: Missoula, Montana

September 26-29, 2013

To learn more about the peoples, cultures, and issues in the West, every fall the Center and its supporters embark upon a three-day expedition to a different Western locale. One part seminar and one part field trip, the retreat is an opportunity to become better acquainted with our region. Last year, the Center visited Missoula, Montana, and the surrounding area. Participants visited the Flathead Reservation and met with political and cultural leaders of the Salish-Kootenai Confederated Tribes and learned about their efforts at managing their resources. In the evenings Centerites immersed themselves in the company of Montana's most accomplished – and most engaging – writers and thinkers. Speakers included Daniel Kemmis, Judy Blunt, Deirdre McNamer, former Congressman Pat Williams, Thompson Smith, Germaine White, Whisper Camel-Means, Craig Barfoot, Antoine Incashola, Les Bigcrane, Joe Durglo, Tom McDonald, Brian Lipscomb, William Kittredge, Annick Smith, Debra Magpie Earling, Dave Emmons, Lois Welch, Andrew Smith, and Lily Gladstone. These retreats are truly one-of-a-kind experiences. To find out more about these annual retreats and to get information about how to participate, contact the Center.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Over the River & The Mastaba

October 17, 2013

The Center of the American West, in conjunction with the ATLAS Institute (Alliance for Technology, Learning, and Society), brought internationally

renowned artist Christo to present a lecture on two works in progress. "Over The River" is a proposed temporary work of art that will suspend 5.9 miles of silvery, luminous fabric panels high above the Arkansas River in south-central Colorado. "The Mastaba," a project for Abu Dhabi, will be the largest sculpture in the world, made from 410,000 multi-colored barrels to form a mosaic of bright sparkling colors, echoing Islamic architecture. The event attracted nearly a thousand attendees from across the state, an overflowing audience that Christo engaged with great passion, compassion, and humor.

Words to Stir the Soul: A Tribute to the Work of Ed Quillen

November 12, 2013

Words to Stir the Soul: *Deeper into the Heart of the Rockies* was a book release event honoring the late *Denver Post* contributor and preeminent Western public intellectual, Ed Quillen. Friends, family, and fans joined together to hear readings of his work and to celebrate his extraordinary life. Readers included Allen Best, Christopher Braider, Art Goodtimes, Patty Limerick, Ed Marston, Betsy Marston, Laura McCall, Tom Noel, Cohen Pert, Laura Pritchett, Abby Quillen, and Martha Quillen. As Abby Quillen, Ed Quillen's daughter and editor of *Deeper in the Heart of the Rockies* said, "My dad had a knack for humor, an encyclopedic knowledge of Colorado history and lore, and he was never scared to say what he thought about anything."

September 26-29, 2013, the Center of the American West visited Missoula, Montana, and the surrounding areas for the annual Board retreat.





On June 6, 2014, former Democratic Governor Bill Ritter and former Republican Senator Hank Brown engaged in a wide-ranging conversation conducted by Patty Limerick.

Financial Information

Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Statement of Income and Expense

For the period ending June 30, 2014

(With Comparative Totals for 2012 and 2013)

	Jun-14	Jun-13	Jun-12	2014 Details			
				CU Funded	Other Revenue	Grants	Gifts
Beginning Balance <small>(if applicable)</small>	430,562.87	314,438.73	225,614.73	(13,485.00)	22,950.80	159,596.33	261,500.74
Income <small>(Incl. Cash, Budget, Revenue)</small>	819,046.11	905,984.01	704,899.19	295,195.00	57,275.79	105,111.00	361,458.32
Salary Expense Total	632,894.50	566,726.43	480,387.27	280,193.21	12,978.80	64,197.69	275,524.80
Faculty				83,659.28	-	13,672.00	166,817.51
Officer/Exempt				49,167.66	-	7,372.23	12,068.87
Classified Staff				119,331.45	9,798.00	11,207.94	33,099.86
Students (Incl. Student Faculty)				26,657.32	-	15,347.85	-
Benefits				1,377.50	3,180.80	16,597.67	63,463.56
Operating Costs Total	178,201.91	223,135.98	135,688.76	13,422.00	59,395.04	41,928.46	63,456.41
Operating Expenses				12,503.00	51,486.28	6,367.98	56,883.68
Travel				-	2,800.55	1,016.98	2,272.73
Equipment				-	-	-	-
Indirect Costs					4,096.49	34,543.50	-
Other (Transfers)				919.00	1,011.72	-	-
Available Balance as of June 30, 2014	438,506.57	430,560.33	314,437.79	(11,905.21)	7,852.75	158,581.18	283,977.85
CUF Spendable Balance	339,993.37	310,788.67	154,242.60				339,993.37
Total Available Balance	778,499.94	741,349.00	468,680.39				

Statement of Assets

For the period ending June 30, 2014

	Fiscal Year 2014		Fiscal Year 2013		Fiscal Year 2012	
	Asset Amount	Actual Expenses as spent from asset categories	Asset Amount	Actual Expenses as spent from asset categories	Asset Amount	Actual Expenses as spent from asset categories
Beginning Balance	430,562.87		314,438.73		225,614.73	
Asset Type <small>(received during the fiscal year)</small>						
CU Appropriations	295,195.00	293,615.21	260,618.00	242,705.54	275,814.00	303,922.84
Grant or Contract Activities	105,111.00	106,126.15	281,822.00	175,335.14	103,225.00	55,876.12
Gifts and Donations	361,458.32	338,981.21	321,833.36	313,925.58	263,403.83	226,176.03
Endowment Earnings (Spendable)	339,993.37		310,788.67	-	154,242.60	-
Royalty Income	1,213.34	2,505.49	1,571.33	1.68	245.35	293.85
Other Income (Ancillary)	56,062.45	69,868.35	40,139.32	57,894.47	62,211.01	29,807.19
Total Assets	1,589,596.35	811,096.41	1,531,211.41	789,862.41	1,084,756.42	616,076.03
Net Assets <small>(as of June 30, 2014)</small>		778,499.94		741,349.00		468,680.39

Endowment Holdings

For the period ending June 30, 2014

Endowment Name	2014	2013	2012
Wren and Timothy Wirth	155,755.91	138,189.68	131,341.33
Thompson Awards	300,931.23	266,957.77	253,728.05
Endowed Chair	2,680,160.76	2,364,831.03	2,226,574.21
Hoffman Scholars	116,598.69	103,435.32	98,309.36
Olson Stegner Award	129,986.16	115,311.47	109,596.93
Beardsley Family Scholarship	50,776.53	-	-
Balance <small>(as of June 30, 2014)</small>	3,434,209.28	2,988,725.27	2,819,549.88

Acknowledgments of Contributions

The names that follow represent friends who helped make fiscal year July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014 a success. We extend our sincere thanks for your support of the Center of the American West.

Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and comprehensive listing of donors for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The Center of the American West apologizes for any incorrect listings, spellings, or omissions.

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Patty Limerick's unflinching good humor and, indeed, her sense of fun, create a productive environment for problem solving.

Alan & Susan Cohen

Donor Highlight and Board Member

I grew up believing that the American West was a place both of opportunity and of transcendent beauty. Traveling throughout the West and devouring historical studies have reinforced that belief, but increased my concern that both the opportunity and beauty may be threatened by bad political choices. The Center of the American West provides a forum for reasoned but respectful discussion of various points of view on important issues confronting us. The Center brings together professionals from history, literature, the performing arts, anthropology, geography, the earth sciences, and other academic fields with activists and other interested parties who often find it difficult to talk rationally with each other. In spite of the contentiousness of the topics that the Center brings to our attention, Patty Limerick's unflinching good humor and, indeed, her sense of fun, create a productive environment for problem solving. I have been a supporter of the Center from the very first event that I attended — an interview with a former Secretary of the Interior. The Center's programs keep the West a place of hope.



Center of the American West bridges are engineering marvels. Some are constructed of a rare material, humor alloy.

Catherine Kunce

Donor Highlight and Faculty Affiliate

The Center of the American West should be nicknamed “The University Corps of Engineers.” Not because it grants degrees in Engineering, but because it builds so many bridges. Bridges between students and faculty, between business leaders and the university, between administrators and staff, between citizens and governmental officials, between scholars and activists—and between the past and the present. Their bridges bring together people living across chasms of difference.

Center of the American West bridges are engineering marvels. Some are constructed of a rare material, humor alloy. The lightness of humor alloy belies its capacity to bear a tremendous amount of structural weight.

Every scrap of metal donated to the Center’s bridge-building efforts, whether copper from pennies, nickel from nickels, or even more precious metals, is always gratefully appreciated, for the Corps never charges a toll for anyone who wishes to use its engineering wonders.

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Since 2001 Pete's research has focused on oil and gas development in the Rockies. His topics include the fragmentation of wildlife habitat from drilling...

Pete Morton

New Board Member Highlight

Pete Morton, PhD is a consulting economist based in Boulder, Colorado, who works with the Conservation Economics Institute – a non-profit think tank. He is widely published with papers covering subjects including managing federal timber sales under contract, the economic benefits of wilderness and recreation, natural amenity economic development patterns in the American West, timber demand on the Tongass National Forest, and the fiscal challenges associated with thinning trees in Colorado. Since 2001 Pete's research has focused on oil and gas development in the Rockies. His topics include the fragmentation of wildlife habitat from drilling, economically recoverable amounts of oil and gas in National Forest roadless areas, the role of risk assessment in federal decision-making, and developing the concept of phased energy development. In March 2014, Pete presented an overview of his current research at the Center of American West's FrackingSENSE 2.0 lecture series. Pete earned both his Masters of Forestry and a PhD in Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University. Pete serves on the Advisory Board for PLAN-Boulder County. He has lived in Colorado for more than 25 years and is an avid skier and mountaineer.

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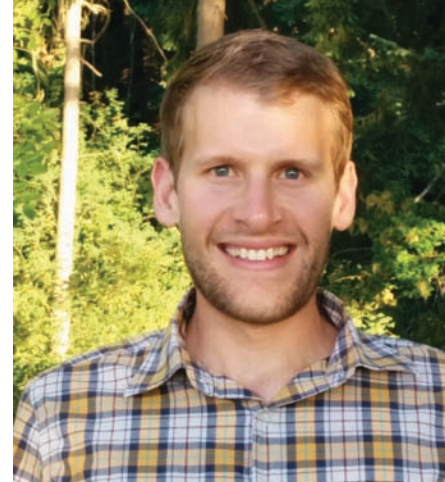
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Jonathan has a BA in Environmental Studies from CU-Boulder, a certificate in Western American Studies, and...

Jonathan Nelson

New Board Member Highlight

Jonathan Nelson came to appreciate what it means to be a citizen of the West through the Center's Western American Studies program. Jonathan has a BA in Environmental Studies from CU Boulder, a certificate in Western American Studies, and a certificate in Energy Policy and Economics from the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute. After graduation, Jonathan worked as a Research Analyst for E Source. He provided expert analysis and research-backed opinions to utility companies and industry stakeholders on demand-side management strategy, electric rate design, wholesale power market dynamics, smart grid, federal and state regulatory policies, and analysis of coal and natural gas markets. He then worked for Franklin Energy Services implementing energy efficiency programs for Xcel Energy in Denver, Colorado. Recently Jonathan has combined an interest in analytics computer programming and his energy industry experience to create software that helps electric utilities accurately assess the costs and benefits associated with behind-the-meter distributed solar PV. He is passionate about using technology and advanced analytics to defragment data and demystify the facts around business problems and natural resource issues.

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Dan is in the process of starting his own non-profit focused on river restoration in the West. River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow...

Dan Omasta

New Board Member Highlight

Dan Omasta graduated from the University of Colorado in 2011 with a degree in Political Science focused on Environmental Policy and Land Management. At the same time, he also left the Center of the American West with a Certificate in Western American Studies. Dan has recently returned from New Zealand, where he worked with a small rafting company to help the NZ Department of Conservation with local efforts to revive the endangered Blue Duck population. He currently lives in Crested Butte, Colorado, working part-time for the US Park Service as a Biological Restoration Technician in the Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge. Dan is in the process of starting his own non-profit focused on river restoration in the West. River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow (RRAFT) seeks to aid public land managers in the conservation and restoration of our important watersheds in Colorado, while also promoting environmental stewardship among impacted communities. Dan is a passionate fly-fisherman and boater, and can often be caught playing on rivers all over the West!



Ms. Rogers' project development experience includes renewable/conventional energy and mineral and infrastructure projects on public and Indian lands...

Connie Rogers

New Board Member Highlight

Connie Rogers advises companies in project development, litigation, and transactions, primarily on federal public lands and Indian lands, with particular emphasis on compliance with federal land management statutes, the National Environmental Policy Act, species protection statutes, federal Indian law and cultural resource and religious freedom concerns, and state and local permits. Prior to resuming her practice at Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP in the fall of 2010, Ms. Rogers served as Deputy Solicitor for Energy and Mineral Resources at the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she was the lead Interior lawyer on all manner of issues relating to the development of renewable and conventional energy and mineral resources on Interior-managed lands. Ms. Rogers' project development experience includes renewable/conventional energy and mineral and infrastructure projects on public and Indian lands; environmental and cultural resources compliance in federal permitting; financing, due diligence, land acquisition, and leasing for wind, solar, transmission, and biomass projects; special use authorizations for educational and research facilities on federal lands; working with stakeholder groups; and defense of legal challenges to project approvals.

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Jeannie received an Alumni Recognition Award (2007) and was the recipient of the University Women's Club Margaret Willard Award for community service (2010)...

Jeannie Thompson

New Board Member Highlight

Jeannie Thompson is a past Chair of the Board of the CU Foundation and is on several UCB Advisory Boards. Along with husband Jack, she served as the volunteer co-chair of the recent "Creating Futures" fundraising campaign for the university. Most recently, she was a senior consultant in outplacement with Lee Hecht Harrison in Denver and Chicago; she is a certified mediator. Jeannie has almost 40 years of experience in health care, personal and career counseling, MBA admissions, workforce education and executive development and mentoring. Jeannie received an Alumni Recognition Award (2007) and was the recipient of the University Women's Club Margaret Willard Award for community service (2010). She served on the Presidential Search Committee that brought President Bruce Benson to the University of Colorado. She has held management and consulting positions with a number of Chicago organizations, including the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and Mentium Corporation (a mentoring organization). Jeannie earned a BA in Zoology from the University of Colorado Boulder, plus her MA in Counseling Psychology and an MBA from Northwestern (The Kellogg School).

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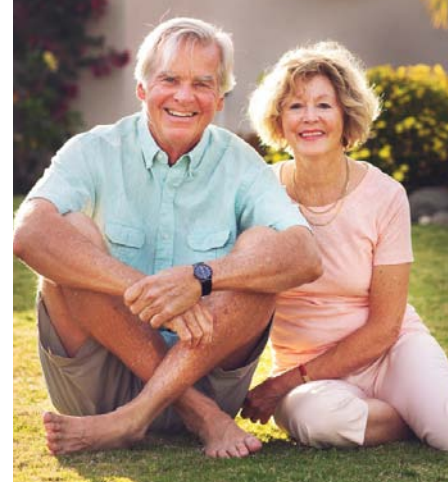
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Now almost fifteen years after that first meeting, we have accumulated a bulging storehouse of memories and intellectually stimulating experiences...

Al Olson

Emeritus Board Member Highlight

Our adventure with the Center of the American West began when we, then-Chicagoans, met Patty while attending a CU Seminar in Boulder. We were immediately taken with her extraordinary range of Western interests and her spectacular storytelling ability. A year or so later, Patty invited Al to serve on the Center of the American West's Advisory Board of Directors, which led in short order to an ambitious project to revitalize the Center.

Al spearheaded this initiative in his role as Vice Chair of the Board, a position he held for nine years. Now almost fifteen years after that first meeting, we have accumulated a bulging storehouse of memories and intellectually stimulating experiences, not to mention a great cadre of Center friends. The list of Western experiences instigated by the Center, ranging from distinguished speakers, student writers, public forums, scholarly publications, original research and wide-ranging field trips, secures for the Center an enviable reputation, in our opinion, as the leading university-sourced investigator of all things Western. We treasure our time with it and its people.



Of particular joy has been my service on behalf of the undergraduate students as a Thompson Writing Awards non-fiction judge.

Sid Wilson

Emeritus Board Member Highlight

The opportunity to serve as an Emeritus Board Member for the Center of the American West has been a thoroughly rewarding experience. My experience with the Center has allowed me to witness firsthand its methods for developing and implementing its vision. This has provided me the means to contribute to other non-profit boards in a more productive way, as well as helped me improve the bottom line of my company, A Private Guide, Inc.

Of particular joy has been my service on behalf of the undergraduate students as a Thompson Writing Awards non-fiction judge. The subjects covered by the students have sparked my interest enough to warrant further research or even an excursion to a destination or site that was the subject of their essays. But perhaps most of all, the greatest satisfaction I have as an Emeritus Board Member is in the knowledge that my service, and the service of those who have served with me, continues to support Patty and the Center in the mission to provide a forum where “the better angels of our nature” can continue to work towards making the American West the promised land of all our aspirations.

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...Franz Kafka and the German-Jewish art historian Aby Warburg...have played a key role in bringing him in touch with the Center of the American West...

Davide Stimilli

Faculty Affiliate Highlight

Davide Stimilli is an associate professor of German, Comparative Literature, and Jewish Studies and chair of the department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures at CU Boulder. Davide has written extensively on Franz Kafka and the German-Jewish art historian Aby Warburg. These two figures have also played a key role in bringing him in touch with the Center of the American West: first, by engaging in memorable conversations with Patty Limerick on the subject of bureaucracy and the department of Indian Affairs and how reading Kafka could help to make sense of it all, and then by jointly staging a two-day workshop on the photographic images and Native American cultures, which will remain, to all those who were fortunate enough to participate, unforgettable, when an ill-fated exhibition on Warburg's journey to the Southwest in the waning years of the nineteenth century had to be cancelled by the CU Art Museum last spring. Davide lives in a canyon above Boulder with his wife Françoise, a professor of painting and drawing at CU.



It is not an easy path but when we try to make these connections there is so much that can be learned that is not in textbooks...

Melanie Yazzie

New Faculty Affiliate Highlight

In the spring of 2014, I was fortunate to sit in on meetings convened with the assistance of the Center of the American West. These meetings included a range of scholars discussing the controversial photographs of Aby Warburg and their impact on Native Peoples. It is at educational moments like this when we cross the boundaries within academia and become involved with our Native American communities that make being at CU Boulder a highlight in my life. It is not an easy path but when we try to make these connections there is so much that can be learned that is not in textbooks or in traditional classroom spaces. In my own research I work towards this and building bridges to many locations around the world through art making and art sharing.

Melanie Yazzie has taught at the University of Colorado in the Department of Art and Art History at Boulder since 2006. Yazzie's work is held in many prestigious collections, and she has had over 100 group and solo exhibitions combined. Yazzie makes prints, sculptures, paintings, and mixed media works.

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Center Staf

The Center staff consists of administrative employees, research staff, and various part-time students from all disciplines within the University of Colorado. Together

we are the diversified and highly creative team that brings you the events, programs, and research publications that you love.

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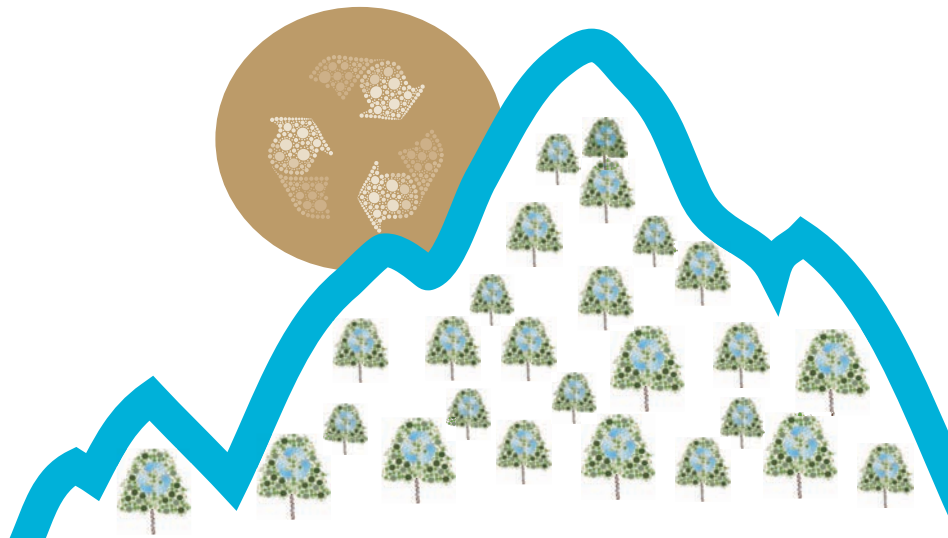
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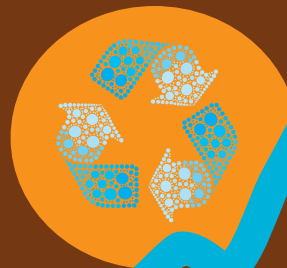
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“At a time of widespread worry about the connection of higher education to the world around it, unconventional wisdom—drawn equally from the past and the present—serves us as an asset and an anchor.”

-Patty Limerick
Faculty Director and Chair of the Board

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