

Randy Jones
Memorial
Lecture Series
**Robert G.
Stanton**

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Fool for a Day
**The Center
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Fracking**SENSE**
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ABOUT THE CENTER

All of us at the Center of the American West have worked hard to take in information and opinion in a spirit of tranquil reflection and to arrive at fresh conclusions. In that cause, we try to listen as much as we talk (not always the easiest practice for our chatty group!). Trying to help with regional and national predicaments, we are in constant motion, renewing old alliances and building new ones. We steer by the commitments to draw on the longer-term perspective of history, to assess the conflicts and dilemmas of the present in an open and exploratory manner, and, improbably enough, to mobilize a sense of humor as a strategy for disarmament. Our motto sums up our mission: "Turning Hindsight into Foresight." Years of experience suggest that the West's receptivity to such an approach is unlimited.

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 in Western American Studies program. We are pleased to offer 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.

This year, the Center continued its work on the contentious issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing and natural gas development with three more FrackingSENSE events in Boulder as well as an event we produced for the community of Timnath. But in true Center fashion, we did not remain monomaniacal. We also hosted former National Park Service Director Robert Stanton, held two film screenings, awarded the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group the 2015 Stegner Award, and launched the Center of the American West Humor Initiative with an event held on April Fool's Day. In addition, we worked with a large group of partners to help teachers get more Colorado history into their classrooms, and our research team worked on a wide array of topics, from craft beer to the unlikely kinship between extractive industry and outdoor recreation. And as always, Patty spoke to a wide range of audiences on an equally wide range of topics. In these pages you'll find all of this, and much more!

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 April 20th, 2015, the Wallace Stegner Award is presented to an organization for the first time, the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group.

Former National Park Service Director Robert G. Stanton addresses Center certificate students before the 2014 Randy Jones Lecture.

[Read more about Robert G. Stanton on page 18.](#)





A LETTER FROM PATTY

Faculty Director and Chair of the Board

Before I moved to CU in 1984, I spent several years investigating the distinctive cultural habits and customs of Harvard University. At another university, the academic unit that I walked by every day might have been named the American Studies Program. But, with characteristic institutional self-esteem, the Harvard program was called "American Civilization." To passersby, this arrangement delivered a reliable supply of amusement. When the phone rang, the person answering would briskly proclaim, "American Civilization!"

Surely one or two of the people hearing this proud claim must have felt compelled to respond, "Thank heavens! I have tried every approach I can think of to get in touch with American Civilization, and now I have it on the line!"

Our organization is called the Center *of* the American West partly because, at the time of our founding, another university was home to a Center *for* the American West. And yet, inspiration from the months I had spent in daily encounters with American Civilization was also on my mind.

And so, as we follow our custom of answering the phone and saying, "Center of the American West!" I live in hope that a caller will finally say, "What a relief! I was beginning to doubt that the vast and sprawling American West *had* a center, and now I have found it by dialing 303-492-4879!"

The presumption of our name carries equal measures of humor and the earnest ambition to do everything we can to advance the cause of regional self-understanding. As this Annual Report makes clear, in the 2014-15 fiscal year, our curiosity and interest embraced a wide range of topics and concerns. We drew on the talent and spirit of Faculty Affiliates from nearly every imaginable discipline on the campus, and the audiences we addressed brought together people from many different Western constituencies and locales.

While our approaches often showed their kinship to the wide-reaching panoramas favored by early photographers, we also focused attention on particular subjects and themes, as we have done with our series on Modern Indian Identity, our extended exploration of hydraulic fracturing and natural gas development, and our efforts to respond to Governor John Hickenlooper's request that we provide lesson plans and documents that will position K-12 teachers to feature case studies from Colorado history as they tailor their courses to respond to state education standards. And, consistently, our engagement with the federal agencies that have played such consequential roles in shaping the American West combines the wide-angle view with grounded case studies in particular Western places.

In the 2014-15 fiscal year, as in every year before, our varied enterprises gained their coherence from a region-wide network of people who we know – friends who, in turn, know the people we want to meet. The famed rule of six degrees of separation (initially postulated as connecting Kevin Bacon to anyone on the planet) has little bearing on the Center of the American West: When it comes to friends of friends (or opponents of friends, for that matter!), it is very rare for us to go beyond three degrees, and it is far more common to stop at two. On our

best days in 2014-15, it seemed as we had been able to persuade the residents of a giant region to present themselves as if they were, in fact, neighbors in a small town. It is a particular success when we are able to find a place in that sense of community for our predecessors – the diverse people of the Western past whose aspirations and actions remain such active forces in our world today.

Our distinctive celebration of humor, now made official with the Spring 2015 launching of the Center of the American West Humor Initiative (made possible by Bill and Jane Reynolds), is a crucial force in allowing us to combine the wide-angle view with a sharp appreciation for detail. Serving as the WD-40 for reducing friction in situations of conflict, humor has also provided us with a unifying force, as opponents who planned to find each other intolerable find that wit and merriment interfere with their ability to maintain a frown or scowl.

As to what holds the Center itself together, in this year a group from the Center's Board came together to provide an inventory of the core qualities that make our organization both distinctive and deserving a long existence. I quote from the list compiled by people who know us well:

1. Focus on Western subject matter
2. Historical perspectives to understand contemporary Western American issues and challenges – "Turning Hindsight into Foresight"
3. Convener of forums that enable civil discourse and the exchange of ideas for solutions to Western problems
4. An honest broker of diverse perspectives
5. Methods for disarming contention through humor, story-telling, and surprising fresh perspectives
6. The identification of common ground by appealing to Westerners' common loyalties and citizenship
7. Open-mindedness
8. Generosity
9. Family feel
10. Commitment to the student experience by providing opportunities for students to discover their passions and excel in their post-graduate lives

I conclude with an invitation to everyone who is reading this: Ask yourself if this list captures what you have found worthy of your attention and support, and let us know of any additions, revisions, or clarifications that would position us to live up to the obligations of a group with the good fortune to be called the Center of the American West.

Yours,



Patty Limerick
Faculty Director and Chair of the Board of the Center of the American West



A LETTER FROM KURT

Program Director

I was raised in Oceanport, New Jersey, for most of the first nine years of my life. At the time, my father was working for Bell Labs and my mother was taking care of my little brother and sister and me. We lived in an old, Revolutionary-era home, complete with a root cellar, a chicken hutch, a grape arbor, a structure the previous owners had called a “raccoon house,” and a honeysuckle inextricably affixed to the back fence. I loved that place because it had the feel of a rural farm even though it was planted quite firmly in suburbia. We even had a swimming pool.

So when my father came home one day and announced to the family that he’d taken a job teaching at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, New Mexico, I had mixed feelings (at best). I imagined New Mexico would be a sand-covered wasteland filled with cactus and snakes; the people would all be cowboys or Indians and I’d have to start wearing a cowboy hat. The only context I had for understanding the West came from television shows like *F Troop*, *Bonanza*, and *Gunsmoke*. In my imagination I assumed that everything that I saw in those shows happened in New Mexico, except for one important difference: In New Mexico, it happened on sand.

The day we actually arrived in New Mexico, all that changed. We had chosen to drive across country, the whole family (three kids, two parents, and no air conditioning) in a 1967 Dodge Dart station wagon hauling a camper behind us. The key moment of that trip came when we crested Raton Pass and crossed into New Mexico. I expected a Lawrence of Arabia scene – undulating sand dunes as far as the eye could see. Instead, spread out in front of us was a landscape that my TV-charged imagination had thoroughly failed to conjure.

Mountains floated like boats on the hard desert floor, the colors ranged from muted browns and yellows to the vibrant green of the squat pinion trees. Roads sliced through the undulating landscape going off to a somewhere that looked like nowhere. For the first time in my life I felt as if the entire world was laid out in front me, on a platter, ready to be absorbed. Of course, I later learned what a true desert was, later learned about the complex history of the state, of the people, of the cowboys, and of the Indians. But that first glance, that first panoramic vision, imprinted on me an understanding that my expectations were never going to be met, and that the world was always going to be far more complex, and hence far more interesting, than I could ever imagine.

I bring this up because all of these years later, I have managed to become part of an organization that is based on this underlying principle – things are far more complex than they appear.

In the quest to understand complicated issues from all sides, we at the Center find that we must engage in “critical appreciative inquiry” (I’m creating this phrase even though it does have some foundation as a model people use when attempting to create positive organizational change). By this clumsy phrase, I really mean that we must go and talk with, and listen to, lots and lots of people about the West and their work in their respective fields. We take this mission to heart.

This past month we met with the head of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science; the director of the Getches Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment; the leadership committee for the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Complex; a high school history teacher in Aurora, Colorado; the Dean and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences; a scholar who is visiting the Center and will be using our offices for a work space for his new book; a former visiting scholar and his entire family; and the manager of the Denver Public Library Western History Collection. We also talked to two faculty affiliates about proposing a project on the EPA accident on the Animas river, interviewed and hired someone to translate the Center’s hydraulic fracturing glossary into Spanish, and met with a number of our board members to get input on what the Center does do and how we can do it better.

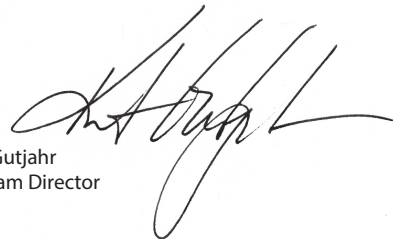
We do all of this in part because we at the Center want to make sure we understand the issues we are addressing from as many angles as is humanly possible. That way, when we do “say” something about the West, we feel confident that we’ve done our due diligence. But the other happy accident is these conversations often lead us to not only new human alliances but also to new ideas. Part of the recipe for the Center’s success, and really part of its operating principle, is knowing how to listen, but then knowing how to take all of these disparate conversations and meld them into a series of events, reports, projects, and much more so we can provide a broad vision – a wide-angle perspective, if you will – on the issue and on the region.

You might think that our list of meetings would all be compartmentalized, but each conversation informs the other conversations. Before you know it, we are convincing the climate change scientist, who we initially contacted because we wanted him to speak at an Indian Water Conference, to participate in an event on humor. So while it could appear that the range of speakers and events in this Annual Report (and believe me there is a range, from energy advocate Dr. Tony Ingraffea to Rocky Mountain Search and Rescue) represents a kind of attention deficit disorder, it coheres around the Center’s distinct ability to capture the huge expanse that is the West, and to capture it in a manner that provides both a coherent point as well as adds to a broader and deeper understanding of the West.

At the age of nine, I wasn’t quite so sure about my father’s western experiment, but now I can say it was the best possible thing for me. I only hope that the contents of this report can give you a glimpse of what I felt that day, driving over Raton Pass, seeing the distinctive aspects of a landscape that is far more complex, and as a result far more satisfying, than any you have known.

Best,

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 list of contacts – 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 position offers us. This year the Center's Faculty Director, Patty Limerick, once again appeared locally, nationally, and internationally, 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

Departing from the National Science Foundation Sustainability Research Network AirWaterGas project in 2014 did nothing to reduce the flow of invitations for Patty to speak and to moderate panels on hydraulic fracturing and natural gas development. Patty spoke at a wide range of venues and occasions: guest lectures in CU classrooms and one private K-12 school; inclusion in very visible panel discussions; and work with tribes and tribal governments. At every engagement, she offered updates and insights on "what we know, what we do not know, and what we hope to learn about hydraulic fracturing." A sampling of her talks is below:

- Energy Summit hosted by BizWest, Loveland, Colorado (July 10, 2014).
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Anniversary Conference, Vail, Colorado (July 17, 2014).
- Colorado Oil and Gas Thought Leaders Dinner at the 2014 Rocky Mountain Energy Summit, Denver, Colorado (August 6, 2014).
- "Community Conversations" at Colorado Mountain College, Rifle, Colorado (August 23, 2014).
- Greeley City Council, presentation on the Greeley FrackingSENSE series, Greeley, Colorado (September 2, 2014).
- "Under Western Skies International Conference: Environment, Technologies, and Community" at Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (September 10, 2014).
- Scripps Institute for Environmental Journalism Fellows Luncheon at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado (September 18, 2014).
- Fracking and Environmental Justice symposium, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado (October 22, 2014).
- Watershed School, Boulder, Colorado (November 17, 2014).
- Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado (December 8, 2014).

- School of the Environment and Sustainability Colloquium Series, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado (January 28, 2015).
- University Women's Club Luncheon, Boulder, Colorado (February 10, 2015).
- Denver Petroleum Club, Denver, Colorado (February 12, 2015).
- Rocky Mountain Land Institute's 24th Annual Conference, "Western Places, Western Spaces," Denver, Colorado (March 11, 2015).
- Society of Petroleum Engineers Exploration and Production Health Safety, Security, and Environmental Conference in the Americas, Denver, Colorado (March 18, 2015).
- ConocoPhillips Center for a Sustainable WE²ST at Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado (March 25, 2015).
- Colorado Water Officials Association Conference, with graduate student and CAW researcher Adrienne Kroepsch, Loveland, Colorado (March 26, 2015).

Water and Energy Intersect

Even though it has been two-and-a-half years since the publication of *A Ditch in Time: The City, the West, and Water*, invitations for Patty to speak on the subject of water have not dried up. A sampling of these speaking engagements from the past year is below, but it is noteworthy that the list of talks on hydraulic fracturing and natural gas above includes several that integrate the topics of water and energy.

- Colorado Heritage Club at Anthem Ranch, Broomfield, Colorado (October 15, 2014).
- Leeds Real Estate Center Holiday Luncheon, Denver, Colorado (December 3, 2014).
- Teach-In on The Western Frontier, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma (March 9, 2015).
- Water Law Symposium at the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado (April 10, 2015).
- Special Districts Association's Water Management Forum and Colorado Foundation for Water Education's Water Fluency Course joint luncheon, Denver, Colorado (May 20, 2015).
- Colorado Counties, Inc., Keystone, Colorado (June 2, 2015).
- Media Ecology Association National Convention, Denver, Colorado (June 11, 2015).

Adventures in Moderating

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

- Natural Gas Symposium, former Governor Bill Ritter's annual conference sponsored by Colorado State University, Denver, Colorado (September 24, 2014).
- Ute Tribe Tribal Energy Conference, Denver, Colorado (October 14-15, 2014).
- Annual South Platte Forum, Longmont, Colorado (October 22, 2014).
- 50th Annual Colorado Business Economic Outlook Forum, Denver, Colorado (December 8, 2014).

Outreach in Education

The Center of the American West is engaged with a range of issues, including how history is taught in K-12 classrooms and the state of higher education at the nation's universities and colleges. This past year Patty had several opportunities to talk on this subject, including:

- **"The American Environment in Historical Perspective," Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher's Seminar, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado (July 20-25, 2014).**
- 54th Annual Conference of the Western History Association, Newport Beach, California (October 17, 2014).
- American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado (November 6-9, 2014).
- Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri (April 14-18, 2015).
- Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists Western Roundup, Denver, Colorado (May 28, 2015).
- University Network for Collaborative Governance, Morrison, Colorado (May 31, 2015).

"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 nationwide. 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

Denver Post Columnist

Patty Limerick also serves as a columnist for the Denver Post. During the 2014-2015 year, Patty penned the following pieces all of which are available on the Center's website at www.centerwest.org.

- "Limerick: With blame out of the way, it's time to solve these issues." July 18, 2014.
- "Limerick: Humor, sorrow and Robin Williams' suicide." August 16, 2014.
- "Limerick: Armchair quarterbacks of the world, unite." September 19, 2014.
- "Let's meet, talk about history." October 18, 2014.
- "Limerick: How can we get more of the electorate voting?" November 14, 2014.
- "Limerick: Looking beyond the race and the riot gear." December 20, 2014.
- "Limerick: The complicated history of extraction in Colorado." January 17, 2015.
- "Limerick: How ice concentrates the mind." February 14, 2015.
- "Limerick: Riding express bus from Denver to Boulder provides true convenience." March 14, 2015.
- "Limerick: Campaign bloviation reform." April 18, 2015.
- "Limerick: John Wesley Powell, the original credible heretic." June 20, 2015.

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 the University of Colorado and Colorado State University's environmental history and environmental studies programs, seminar participants receive 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.



Tracy Lizée

Undergraduate Student Highlight

By chance, I discovered the Center for the American West during my senior year while browsing among potential certificates to add onto my degree. What I mistook as simply adding on a few classes turned into an enriching experience that has affected my life on multiple levels. Little did I know, that tucked away in Macky I would find the creative, thoughtful community I had been long searching for on campus! Connecting with Patty and everyone involved at the Center has opened up many doors for me, and, furthermore, has encouraged me to continue asking, "why does this matter?" about not only Western issues, but across all topics.

The open forum of the Center is a unique platform that extends beyond the classroom. In addition to public lectures, Patty regularly invites friends of the Center into her home for dinner and a spirited discussion led by a reputable member of the Western community. The cooperative of students and faculty that make up the Center has inspired me in so many ways, and I'm always looking forward to the next dinner where I'll see all those friendly faces!



Abe Solberg

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

It took me nearly twenty years to finally make it to Colorado. I was born in the suburbs of Chicago, but something always was drawing me westward. I think initially my fascination with the West was a result of my affinity for cowboys. I wore a cowboy hat and boots to my first day of preschool, so it's fair to say that cowboy culture was my early introduction to the West.

I realize now that I wasn't properly introduced to the West until I was introduced to the Center. The Center shattered everything I thought I knew about the West and showed me a much more nuanced picture of the region I now (and will) call home. For that, I am so thankful. My John Wayne West taught me nothing of communication, understanding, or problem solving.

The Center's goal of "turning hindsight into foresight," as well as its commitment to using "a dose of good humor" in discussions, have so far been my greatest lessons from school. I thank Patty, Kurt, Roni, and everyone at the Center for inviting me to join the most open, honest, and encouraging community at CU Boulder. I will take the lessons I've learned with me for the rest of my life.

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

The Center reaches out to CU students from a number of angles, always with the intention of offering them a welcoming and supportive community network. Students become involved with the Center through many avenues including public events, other students who are already affiliated with the Center, or by being introduced by the Center's faculty affiliates. An invitation to a dinner is often a student's first encounter with the Center—a cozy and festive feast where they meet exceptional faculty, students, and noteworthy guest speakers. As students have reported to us, this often starts an enriching and life-

Internships Program

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

This year, our internships were with The Nature Conservancy and History Colorado Center. Interns shared weekly online journal entries and gave presentations about their experiences. Their presentations affirmed the powerful influence that this program has 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, art history major (and also our History Colorado Center intern) Tracy Lizée, along with neuroscience and anthropology double-major Ella Salvator graduated with certificates in Western American Studies.

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

Every June, Centerites come together for our "Fandango" – an old-fashioned barn dance. The evening features great food, great music, and great conversations.

changing relationship with the Center. Many students take advantage of the Center's Internship program and intern at high-profile Western organizations, others attend out-of-state conferences about Western issues with the Faculty Director, Patty Limerick, and others simply stop in for a cup of tea and a chat between classes. The relationship that students develop with the Center often provides the personal touch that makes a huge difference in their educational experience as they navigate a path that will put their educational degrees into the service of their life passions and goals.

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's Hoffman Scholar was Amorina Lee-Martinez. She attended the Center of the American West's Retreat to Tucson, Arizona where she met a range of regional leaders and engaged with the Center of the American West's Board Members and Donors. To learn more about the Retreat go to page 18 in the Annual Report.

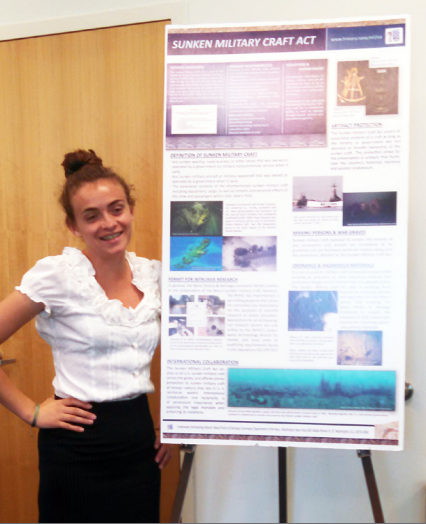
Beardsley Family Scholarship

This year, the Center awarded the Beardsley Family Scholarship to two students: English major Atherton Phleger and Geography major Abe Solberg. These scholarships honor the memory of Center Board member George Beardsley, who passed away in 2011. Mr. Beardsley frequently and emphatically urged us to take every opportunity to find and engage deserving CU students who could benefit from the Center. This program, established and endowed by Pamela Beardsley and supported by the Center of the American West Fandango, is growing so it will soon be able to accommodate up to four student scholarships. To learn more about the Fandango, go to page 20 in the Annual Report.

Beardsley Scholarship participant, Atherton Phleger an English major socializes with Center Board Member Pete Morton and Center staff member Jessica Brawner at the Fandango.

Read more about this year's Fandango on page 20.





ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT (continued)

On May 1, 2015 Fiction writer John Vernon gave the Keynote address as we celebrated this year's winners at the Thompson Writing Awards banquet.

Grace Arrington 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 guest speakers: Rick Cables, Vice President of Natural Resources and Conservation at Vail Resorts, and former Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and Anthony Ingraffea, Professor of Engineering Emeritus at Cornell University one of the most high-profile and controversial speakers in the year's FrackingSense2.0 series.

Sixteenth 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. Fiction writer John Vernon, author of *Lucky Billy* and *The Last Canyon*, gave the keynote address this year, including a reading of his "Ten Commandments for Writers." The winning entries and the "Commandments" are available for download at our website.

We are ever grateful to Jeannie and Jack Thompson, whose generosity and support have made this contest possible for the benefit of CU students now and for years to come.

Emily Haver

STUDENT STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Ahoy! My Dear Centerites:

This summer I took an internship with the Underwater Archaeology Branch of the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) at the Washington Navy Yard in DC. Entering into the purgatory-like state of "intern" has been an eye-opening and humbling experience; fortunately, an undaunted western spirit and Center-learned diplomacy have led to a fruitful adventure. I have reveled in the history of the National Archives while researching WWII ship plans, and have translated salvage law into popular media tools to bring cultural heritage to the public. I am awed by the history and power of Washington and, by turns, feel proud and insignificant. I suppose it comes from realizing I am a very small part of a very large whole, but that whole is strong and great. Washington, DC, and NHHC are teaching me how to play just a small part in a very big project.



This year's Grace Arrington Kempton student gatherings featured the following guest speakers: Rick Cables, Anthony McLeod, Mike King, and Anthony Ingraffea.

To learn more please visit our website at www.centerwest.org



2015 Thompson Writing Award Winners from left to right:
Michael Ian Byars, Esther Reed, Laura Ridyr, Alessandra N. Link,
Amanda Knopf, Willow Michele Hagan, Molly Marie Henze.

RESEARCH

New and Forthcoming Projects

RESEARCH STAFF

Jason Hanson, *Senior Professional Research Assistant*
Brooke Neely, *Visiting Fellow*
Sarah Thomas, *Visiting Fellow (now Research Affiliate)*
Adrienne Kroepsch, *Graduate Instructor and Research Assistant*
Sam Bock, *Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant*
Will Rempel, *Undergraduate Research Assistant*

The research staff at the Center of the American West works on a diverse array of topics, synthesizing leading academic scholarship and original research into engaging and accessible publications, presentations, educational materials, and more. In every endeavor, we apply our unique historical perspective on contemporary issues and a hearty sense of humor in the service of helping Westerners make sense of their world today.

FEATURED PROJECTS

A Glossary for Citizen-Explorers Bravely Entering the Controversy Over Hydraulic Fracturing *Defining the Language of Oil and Gas Development*

People who wish 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. They need a glossary at the ready to help translate the language of oil and gas development. This past year, Adrienne Kroepsch, Will Rempel, and Patty Limerick created just such a reference, 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.

Hydraulic Fracturing *A Down-to-Earth Guide to Conversational Conduct that Minimizes Collisions and Stays on Track*

In public hearings and in social gatherings, discussions of hydraulic fracturing for the production of natural gas and oil often proceed rapidly to (at best!) stalemate and gridlock and (at worst) bitterness and hostility. In a sequence of short texts, released to the world in digital form over a period of several weeks, Patty Limerick will put forward ten “helpful hints” that, if taken to heart, could enhance the quality of communication and, thereby

improve the state's and the nation's capacity for productive decision-making. And if that goal seems too ambitious, then the Center will scale back to the humble goal of helping people “in the middle” (i.e., those who have been perplexed and befuddled by the intense feeling aroused by hydraulic fracturing) arrive at a better understanding of why the subject has become so controversial.

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 bring Colorado into classrooms around the state from kindergarten through college. The centerpiece of this multifaceted initiative is a series of booklets that explore a range of topics in Colorado history through a collection of engaging primary sources. Subject-matter experts select and annotate the primary resources and build a narrative explaining how the topics connect 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 edited the emerging catalog of curricular resources and they are now available to teachers throughout Colorado.

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. But 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 a richer and more complete narrative about the past and the present that will guide us as we approach the twenty-first-century West. Sarah Thomas and Patty Limerick are collaborating on this exploration of the West's surprising affinities.

The Brew West *The West Explained Over a Couple of Beers*

In 2013, the eleven Western states profiled in the *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 leading a project that aims to shine that light, guest editing an issue of the *Journal of the West* that will use beer as an entry point for exploring various aspects of 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 scheduled for publication in the Spring of 2016.

The Significance of the Bureaucrat in Western History Hair-Raising Tales from the Department of the Interior

If you have any interest in explorers, the transcontinental railroad, homesteaders, Indian people, cowboys, mining, water, wildlife, petroglyphs, national parks, energy development, or the contested role of science in politics, you are already a person preoccupied and entranced by the agencies clustered in the US Department of the Interior. You may not have had the chance to know yourself in these terms, but that's about to change. For the last century and a half, the federal agencies now gathered in the Department of the Interior have played lead roles in the story of the US West. In a habit of mind much in need of remedy, the history of bureaucracies can strike (and *has struck*) even engaged and historically attuned citizens as a terminally boring subject. But there are many stories about the Department of Interior that carry much intense narrative interest: tales of passion, brutality, corruption, idealism, tragedy, and sometimes madcap humor. Just as the satisfactions of bird-watching are much advanced in the company of a knowledgeable guide, similarly, the satisfactions of bureaucrat-watching are enhanced (or perhaps brought into being) by the company of an enthusiastic guide. This book will be that guide.

SELECTED WRITING

- "The Center of the American West" – Article by Jason Hanson for *Journal of the West* vol. 52, no. 4 (published September 2014).
- "How 'Beer and Steer' Parties Put Colorado at the Center of the Craft Beer World" – Article by Sam Bock for CPR.org (Colorado Public Radio) (October 1, 2014).
- "Innocent of Hops: The Case of Colorado's First Craft Beer" – Article by Jason Hanson for CPR.org (Colorado Public Radio) (October 14, 2014).
- "The Potential Impact of Recreational Facilities in a Park on Property Values in Highlands Ranch" – White paper prepared by Jason Hanson for the Highlands Ranch Community Association (December 2014).
- "Meet Us In St. Louis" – Program essay by Jason Hanson and Patty Limerick for the Organization of American Historians annual conference (April 16, 2015).

In Progress and Forthcoming

- "Brewers Want the Best": Growing a Brewing Industry in the Centennial State" – Cover story article by Jason Hanson for *Colorado Heritage* (September/October 2015).
- "New Rig on the Block: Spatial Policy Discourse and the New Suburban Geography of Energy Production on Colorado's Front Range" – Article by Adrienne Kroepsch for *Environmental Communication* special issue on hydraulic fracturing.
- *Unsettled Stone: Carved Mountains and the Politics of Race, Place, and Memory* – Book by Brooke Neely, under contract with University of Nebraska Press.



Brooke Neely

CENTER STAFF HIGHLIGHT

When I arrived as a visiting scholar at the Center of the American West last fall, I brought with me a gnawing question: How do we reckon with the dark past of the American West? I had studied this question in the Black Hills in South Dakota, where Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial stand as giant granite reminders of the legacy of conquest. I hoped to broaden my scope and pay particular attention to the ways historical sites (such as museums, memorials, landmarks, and more) work to tell diverse and complex stories about our past.

As I considered how to focus my project, I began attending events for the sesquicentennial for the Sand Creek Massacre. One hundred and fifty years earlier, United States volunteer cavalry killed scores of Cheyenne and Arapaho people who were camped peacefully along the banks of Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado Territory. This tragedy marks one of the ugliest chapters in Colorado history and it symbolizes the kinds of injustices that were brought about by U.S. settlement in the region. It became clear that the 150th commemoration offered a timely and relevant case study for considering my larger question.

I immersed myself in the Sand Creek activities, interviewing many of the participants in the commemorative efforts and learning as much as I could about this event and its legacy. The sesquicentennial offered a unique opportunity for people to reflect on the history of conquest in meaningful ways. But I quickly saw how challenging it is to commemorate such a traumatic and contested historical event. Who has the authority to tell the story? How should the story be told? And what could we do to reckon with this tragedy? Many people have good intentions and many organizations have made great strides to include more voices as they interpret American West history. But Sand Creek attests to the fact that we have more work to do. We will be addressing these dilemmas in a forthcoming Center of the American West report.

Studying Sand Creek has not provided easy answers for how we ought to reckon with our past. But it has provided a rich lens for contemplating the complexities of this question. And it provides some measure of hope that we as Westerners, broadly and diversely defined, are heading in a direction of more awareness and, possibly, more useful action as well.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & OUTREACH

- “War of the Words” – Adrienne Kroepsch was featured in an article about fracking glossary in High Country News by reporter Sarah Gilman (September 18, 2014).
- “The State of Craft: A Multimedia Look at Beer in Colorado” – A collaboration with Colorado Public Radio organized by Jason Hanson (October 1-15, 2014).
- “So You Think You Own an Oil Shale Claim?” – Invited presentation by Jason Hanson for Civil and Environmental Engineer Seminar Series at Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado (October 2, 2014).
- “Local Hops Can’t Keep Pace with Colorado Breweries” – Jason Hanson was featured in this Colorado Public Radio story by Ben Markus (October 2, 2014), rebroadcast nationally on Here and Now (November 24, 2014).
- “Assessing Wildfire Mitigation Outreach Strategies in the Wildland-Urban Interface” – Presentation by Adrienne Kroepsch with CAW faculty affiliate Deserai Crow at Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Annual Conference, Avon, Colorado (October 8, 2014).
- “The View from Out There: Public Perceptions of Oil Shale” – Paper presented by Jason Hanson at a plenary session he planned, chaired, and moderated at the 34th Oil Shale Symposium at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado (October 14, 2014).
- “Beer Here! A Local History of Brewing in Colorado” – Invited presentation by Jason Hanson at History Colorado Center’s Colorful Colorado lecture series, Denver, Colorado (December 8, 2014).
- “I Like to Think Heaven is in the Mountains” – Invited presentation by Jason Hanson at Teacher Librarian Day 2015, Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program, History Colorado Center, Denver, Colorado (February 27, 2015).
- “Farms, Hydraulic Fracturing Wells, Cities, and Suburbs: Watching Water in Colorado” – Keynote lecture by Adrienne Kroepsch and Patty Limerick at the tri-annual South Platte Irrigationist Symposium, Loveland, Colorado (March 26, 2015).
- “New Rig on the Block: Reckoning with the Convergence of Oil, Gas, Water, and People on Colorado’s Front Range” – Invited research presentation by Adrienne Kroepsch to the American Association of University Women Boulder Chapter, Boulder, Colorado (April 18, 2015).
- “‘Just Another User Stepping Up to the Trough’: Hydraulic Fracturing Meets Old and New Systems of Water Governance and Infrastructure in Colorado” – Paper presented by Adrienne Kroepsch at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (April 25, 2015).
- “Energy and Water in the American West” – Presentation by Adrienne Kroepsch at the Front Range Conference on Environmental Governance Research at Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado (May 1, 2015).
- “National History Day in Colorado State Finals” – Jason Hanson judged and presented the Center of the American West Award for Best Writing about the West and the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Group Project about Colorado, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado (May 2, 2015).
- “FrackingSENSE: A Societal Training Program in Anticipation of November 2016” – Presentation by Adrienne Kroepsch and Patty Limerick to the Energy Outreach Colorado board of directors on the current state of the hydraulic fracturing debate in Colorado, Denver, Colorado (May 21, 2015).
- “Resident Discourses: Hydraulic Fracturing, Homes, and Energy Production and Consumption in Colorado” – Paper presented by Adrienne Kroepsch at the International Environmental Communication Association, Conference on Communication and Environment, Boulder, Colorado (June 12, 2015).

THE CAW CATALOG

Reports

- A Glossary for Citizen-Explorers Bravely Entering the Controversy Over Hydraulic Fracturing*, 2014
- The Nation Possessed*, 2013
- What Every Westerner Should Know About Oil Shale*, 2009
- The Power to Change the World: The State of the Natural Gas Industry*, 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
- Living With Fire*, 2006
- Cleaning Up Abandoned Hard Rock Mines in the West*, 2005
- Western Futures: Land Use and Future Development in the American West*, 2005
- Ranchland Dynamics in the Greater Yellowstone*, 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



Adrienne Kroepsch

CENTER STAFF HIGHLIGHT

I know a Greeley middle school teacher who describes her city as “the place where history happens, but nobody pays attention.” In 2012, as Colorado’s most recent oil and gas boom manifested itself in Greeley’s midst, and as I pondered potential dissertation topics, her assessment seemed spot on. News coverage of the state’s growing controversy over hydraulic fracturing focused mostly on the cities west of Interstate-25. Activism and policymaking centered there as well. And yet Greeley was literally in the middle of the action – sitting in the heart of the oil patch with a long and tangled relationship to hydrocarbon extraction that, since the 1980s, had gone from a drilling ban to more than 400 wells inside city limits.

So I decided that I would pay attention to Greeley – specifically, to the ways that energy, water, and land use politics continue to collide in the siting of wells there.

Deciding that was the easy part. The hard part, I came to discover, was how to pay attention to Greeley. Would I tune in only for the latest drilling conflict or look further back? Would I listen only to the loudest voices or seek out the muffled ones? Would I entertain only the perspectives that matched my own or consider other ways of seeing things? Fortunately, the Center of the American West already had a methodology that I could turn to for guidance – one that Patty, Kurt, and I field tested while bringing the FrackingSENSE speaker series to Greeley in early 2014. So as I began my fieldwork, I knew what really paying attention would mean. One year later, I’ve spent as much time on an active Greeley well site as I have at meetings of local opposition groups, and as much time asking questions of stakeholders from earlier booms as of those engaged in today’s policy challenges.

But I’m not done yet. I still have to synthesize Greeley’s most important lessons into something that people might actually care to read – in other words, I still have to write up a reckoning of Greeley that’s worth paying attention to. Of course, the Center has models aplenty for that part as well. It also has a prolific coffee pot and a bowl of free chocolate. If you’re looking for me between now and the next annual report, I’ll likely be in close range of both.

CENTER STAGE

Event Highlights

The Center of the American West presented a diverse array of programming for the public this year. We honored the volunteers who risk life and limb to rescue western adventurers who got more than they bargained for; we celebrated the centennial of Rocky Mountain National Park with a visit from Robert Stanton, a dedicated public servant and former Director of the National Park Service; and we continued our public conversation about hydraulic fracturing with a series of programs in Boulder as well as Timnath, Colorado.

Center of the American West Annual Retreat in Tucson, Arizona

October 2-5, 2014

The Center of the American West's 10th Annual Retreat was held in Tucson, Arizona. The Center took on the difficult and complex issue of immigration. Participants were treated to a visit to the border and the famous wall, with the company of Father Peter Neeley, a wise and experienced leader of the Kino Border Initiative. In the Center's manner, we spent time with authors, activists, educators, and community members. We enjoyed visits with Ofelia Zepeda, a noted and admired Tohono O'odham poet; Tucson Mayor, Jonathan Rothschild; former California Congressman Barry Goldwater, Jr.; journalist and author Greg McNamee; ecological scholar Rafael de Grenade; the Southwest Center's Tom Sheridan; rancher and novelist Joe (J.P.S) Brown; and a musical performance by members of Tucson's First Family of Music, the Ronstadts. These retreats are truly distinctive and memorable opportunities to gain an understanding of the inner workings of a region. To find out more about the Center's Annual retreats and to get information on how to participate, please call the Center at 303-492-4879.

Randy Jones Memorial Lecture Series

Robert G. Stanton

October 9, 2014

The Center of the American West hosted former National Park Service Director Robert G. Stanton, who gave the 2014 Randy Jones Lecture in celebration of the centennial of Rocky Mountain National Park. Director Stanton first worked with the National Park Service when Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall started a program to recruit students from traditionally black colleges to work for the Park Service. A former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the former Director of the National Park Service, Mr. Stanton is now a visiting university lecturer and private consultant in national park administration, natural and cultural resource management, and diversity in employment and public programs.

Our Modern Indian Identity series returned with a remarkable screening of a film version of James Welch's novel, *Winter in the Blood*, followed by a wide-ranging discussion with the filmmakers. The Center also screened the film *Losing the West*, followed by a discussion between Patty Limerick and the filmmaker Alex Warren. And we celebrated the University Fool in an event that launched the Center of the American West's new Humor Initiative (for more on that go to the back page of this report).

We'd like to thank all of our participants, the donors who made these events possible, and you for participating in the Center's diverse public programming.

The Randy Jones Memorial Lecture Series was created by CU Boulder's Center of the American West, in collaboration with Rocky Mountain National Park, as a tribute to former National Park Service Deputy Director Randy Jones. Jones served as superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park from 1995 to 2002.

FrackingSENSE A Community Discussion About Oil and Gas Development in Timnath, Colorado

October 20, 2014

In October, the Center took FrackingSENSE on the road to Timnath. In a new format, the Center brought together a panel of experts on hydraulic fracturing to discuss "What We Know, What We Don't Know, and What We Hope to Learn about Risk, Regulation, and Citizen Concerns." Panel participants included Patty Limerick, Howard Boigon, Teresa Coons, Pete Morton, and Craig Rasmuson. Podcasts of the series can be found on the Center's website at www.centerwest.org/podcast/index.xml.

Modern Indian Identity *Winter in the Blood*

February 18, 2015

The Center of the American West's Modern Indian Identity series presented Montana filmmakers Andrew Smith and Alex Smith and their movie, *Winter in the Blood*, for a free screening and conversation. An adaptation of James Welch's much-admired novel of the same name, *Winter in the Blood* offers an intimate portrait of Native life that, as noted film critic Howie Movshovitz says, "leaves 'feathers or leather' clichés behind." Following the film, Howie Movshovitz, Patty Limerick, and Alex and Andrew Smith engaged in a discussion about the film and the unsettling thoughts and intense emotions it evokes.

This memorable program was made possible by Center of the American West supporters Liz and Tony Moores.

Fool for a Day The Center of the American West Launches a Humor Initiative

April 1, 2015

On April Fool's Day, 2015, Patty Limerick, Official University of Colorado Fool (and also Official Fool Emerita of Yale University and Harvard University), spoke on the "Fool's Enterprise: A Personal History."

The role of the Fool has deep origins in human society. In the past, kings and queens recognized the value – really, the necessity – of appointing Fools who would speak openly and even festively of uncomfortable matters that would otherwise proliferate and fester. By breaking the spell of caution, timidity, and fear that held others under its power, Fools dissipated and dispelled a society's accumulation of bad luck. Composed of the world's strangest blend of wisdom and nonsense, this tradition fell into disrepair because of a mistaken notion that Fools were no longer needed in democracies.

Patty's illustrated talk reviewed nearly four decades of adventure and misadventure as a self-confessed, officially appointed, highly credentialed Fool. The reminiscing led to reflections on the value of humor in reducing social tension and friction and in imagining creative solutions to the problems of and the pressures on higher education. It also served to kick off the Center of the American West's Humor Initiative, an enterprise conceived to celebrate those individuals whose skills and temperaments support the central conviction of the Center of the American West: A dose of good humor is essential to constructive public discussion, and not coincidentally, to public health. The centerpiece of this initiative is the Distinguished Visiting Fool for a Day Award, which will be presented once a year on the CU Boulder campus. This award was made possible by the generosity of Bill and Jane Reynolds.

We are pleased to announce the first Center of the American West Fool for a Day Award recipient. On October 14th, 2015, at 6:30 pm in Eaton Humanities 1B50 on the University of Colorado Boulder campus. Bob Mankoff, the illustrious and well-known cartoon editor of *The New Yorker*, accepted the Fool for a Day Award and gave a talk entitled "The History of Humor and the Humor of History." Visit our website to see a video of his thoroughly entertaining presentation.

On April Fool's Day, 2015, Patty Limerick, Official University of Colorado Fool launches the Fool for a Day Humor Initiative with a talk entitled "Fool's Enterprise: A Personal History."



FrackingSENSE Jeffrey Jacquet

March 11, 2015

With the return of FrackingSENSE, the Center continued to bring in speakers with substantial expertise on natural gas development to provide a measured, honest exploration of the controversial topic of hydraulic fracturing. We encouraged our speakers to offer evidence-based findings that might lead to recommendations and prescriptions for the future. Dr. Jeffrey Jacquet kicked off the Spring 2015 series with his talk, "Community Impacts from Hydraulic Fracturing: The Importance of Public Participation and the Distribution of Costs and Benefits." Dr. **Jacquet's** work has analyzed community effects from hydraulic fracturing in states across the United States. Podcasts of the series can be found on the Center's website at www.centerwest.org/podcast/index.xml.

Film Screening Losing the West

April 7, 2015

The Center of the American West hosted a screening of *Losing the West*, a thought-provoking, entertaining, and moving documentary about small ranching and farming. With sweeping shots of the Colorado Rockies, the film comes to a focus on Howard Linscott, a gruff, chain-smoking 70-year-old who has ranched all his life. The film explores whether cherished Western traditions and Linscott's fiercely independent lifestyle can survive a collision with changing settlement patterns and expanding population in the West. Patty Limerick contributed to the film, serving as the principle commentator and talking head. The screening was followed by a conversation between Patty Limerick and the film's director and producer, Alex Warren.

FrackingSENSE Anthony Ingraffea

April 8, 2015

The Center of the American West hosted Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, a CU PhD in Engineering and a prominent critic of hydraulic fracturing. He engaged with Patty Limerick in conversation entitled: "Hydraulic Fracturing and the Hopes of Professors: A Cost/Benefit Analysis of the Choice between Advocacy and Neutrality." Professor Ingraffea is particularly well-known because of his appearance in Josh Fox's influential movie, *Gasland II*. In Boulder, he and Patty explored the complexities involved in both stances of neutrality and advocacy. A podcast of this event and of this series can be found on the Center's website at www.centerwest.org/podcast/index.xml.

Wallace Stegner Award Rocky Mountain Search and Rescue Group

April 20, 2015

For the first time, the Center of the American West presented the Stegner Award – an award designated for individuals who have made a sustained contribution to the cultural identity of the West through literature, art, history, lore, and an understanding of the West – to an organization. Founded in 1947, Rocky Mountain Rescue is an all-volunteer group that embodies the spirit of the

American West, serving not only as the primary mountain search and rescue agency for Boulder County but also assisting other mountain rescue teams from across Colorado and throughout the West. They provide disaster response services in situations such as the 2013 floods along the Front Range, blizzards, and wildfires, along with outdoor safety education to the community. On this evening, a panel of five volunteers recounted stories about both rescues and the culture of the amazing organization. Afterward, the Center presented them with the Wallace Stegner Award and a \$2,000 cash donation. The inscription on the award can be found at: <https://centerwest.org/archives/15767>.

The Wallace Stegner Award was made possible by Center of the American West supporters Al and Carol Ann Olson.

FrackingSENSE Matthew Cotton

April 28, 2015

Dr. Matthew Cotton brought an international perspective to the final installment of the return of FrackingSENSE series. In a talk entitled, "The Politics of Shale Gas in the United Kingdom," Cotton gave attendees a briefing on how the fracking debate is going across the pond. He explained that unconventional oil and gas development is in the very early stages in the U.K., but that it has become highly controversial there nonetheless. Based on an in-depth analysis of the fracking debate in the media and from interviews with a variety of stakeholders, Cotton cited the importance of public access to information as a potential area of consensus in the U.K. He also identified potential consensus brokers in a group (a.k.a, a "discourse coalition") that speaks mostly about protecting special places from extractive activities, recognizes some benefits of the oil and gas industry, and is centrally concerned with transparency and public participation in governance. Podcasts of the series can be found on the Center's website at www.centerwest.org/podcast/index.xml.

A Center of the American West Tradition Fandango Featuring Governor John Hickenlooper and Lorenzo Trujillo & the Southwest Musicians

June 5, 2015

Every June, Centerites come together for our "Fandango" – an old-fashioned barn dance. The evening features great food, great music, and great conversations. This year Governor John Hickenlooper took part in a very lively and wide-ranging conversation with Patty Limerick. Lorenzo Trujillo & the Southwest Musicians followed, leading guests through a series of lively dances. This year's Fandango raised over \$18,000 for the Beardsley Family Student Scholarship – a fund generously created by Pam Beardsley in honor of her husband, the late George Beardsley, and his commitment to creating opportunities to engage CU students affiliated with the Center. This scholarship provides two \$1,000 awards to worthy students meeting the scholastic requirements. To learn more about the Fandango and to learn how you can participate, please call the Center at 303-492-4879.

Governor John Hickenlooper took part in a very lively and wide-ranging conversation with Patty Limerick at this year's Fandango. Lorenzo Trujillo & the Southwest Musicians followed, leading guests through a series of lively dances. This year's Fandango raised over \$18,000 for the Beardsley Family Student Scholarship.

Anthony Ingraffea engaged with Patty Limerick in conversation entitled: "Hydraulic Fracturing and the Hopes of Professors: A Cost/Benefit Analysis of the Choice between Advocacy and Neutrality."



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

Statement of Income and Expense For the period ending June 30, 2015

(With Comparative Totals for 2013 and 2014)

2015 Details

	Jun-15	Jun-14	Jun-13	CU Funded	Other Revenue	Grants	Gifts
Beginning Balance <small>(if applicable)</small>	453,915.02	337,559.11	5,760.59	-	7,850.75	159,596.33	286,467.94
Income <small>(Incl. Cash, Budget, Revenue)</small>	824,732.82	982,266.11	695,989.01	304,234.00	73,249.25	105,111.00	342,138.57
Salary Expense Total	690,398.89	661,895.97	524,242.27	307,961.99	-	64,197.69	318,239.21
Faculty				50,093.35	-	13,672.00	205,981.32
Officer/Exempt				51,093.36	-	7,372.23	6,160.68
Classified Staff				161,241.00	-	11,207.94	13,980.88
Students (Incl. Student Faculty)				20,668.58	-	15,347.85	17,239.95
Benefits				5,680.00	-	16,597.67	75,406.06
Operating Costs Total	223,115.64	218,409.43	146,161.12	30,940.28	55,673.27	41,928.46	94,573.63
Operating Expenses				10,726.35	50,949.60	6,367.98	78,155.01
Travel				-	5,015.40	1,016.98	11,018.62
Equipment				-	-	-	-
Indirect Costs					3,682.49	34,543.50	5,400.00
Other (Transfers)				20,213.93	(3,974.22)	-	(250.00)
Available Balance as of June 30, 2015	365,133.31	439,519.82	31,346.21	(34,668.27)	25,426.73	158,581.18	215,793.67
CUF Spendable Balance	339,993.37	310,788.67	154,242.60				339,993.37
Total Available Balance	705,126.68	750,308.49	185,588.81				

Statement of Assets
For the period ending June 30, 2015

	Fiscal Year 2015		Fiscal Year 2014		Fiscal Year 2013	
	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	453,915.02		337,559.11		5,760.59	
Asset Type <small>(received during the fiscal year)</small>						
CU Appropriations	304,234.00	338,902.27	281,710.00	293,615.21	229,220.00	242,705.54
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	342,138.57	412,812.84	361,458.32	338,981.21	321,833.36	313,925.58
Endowment Earnings (Spendable)	339,993.37		310,788.67	-	154,242.60	-
Royalty Income	393.68	592.19	1,213.34	2,505.49	1,571.33	1.68
Other Income (Ancillary)	72,855.57	55,081.08	56,062.45	69,868.35	40,139.32	57,894.47
Total Assets	1,618,641.21	913,514.53	1,630,613.89	880,305.40	855,992.20	670,403.39
Net Assets <small>(as of June 30, 2015)</small>		705,126.68		750,308.49		185,588.81

Endowment Holdings
For the period ending June 30, 2015

Endowment Name	2015	2014	2013
Wren and Timothy Wirth	151,889.49	155,755.91	138,189.68
Thompson Awards	303,666.02	300,931.23	266,957.77
Endowed Chair	2,632,944.60	2,680,160.76	2,364,831.03
Hoffman Scholars	113,689.67	116,598.69	103,435.32
Olson Stegner Award	126,743.15	129,986.16	115,311.47
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Balance <small>(as of June 30, 2015)</small>	3,677,499.21	3,434,209.28	2,988,725.27

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

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We've been enthusiastic supporters of the Center ever since we moved out here from Back East more than 11 years ago and attended our first event when the Center honored Terry Tempest Williams. Frederick Jackson Turner didn't get it all right, but like the hedgehog he knew one big thing: the West is special. Not just in the beauty of the land and temper of the people, but also in the importance of the issues confronting us – land use, climate change, water rights, energy, social equity, immigration, and more – and how we go about dealing with them. The Center is an incubator of ideas, a forum for the exchange of often-contentious points of view, an educational resource for all who are interested in this special place as we continue to create our own history.



Katie & Ryan King

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Fifteen years ago, in my first encounter with the Center of the American West at a “Words to Stir the Soul” program, I failed to foresee the outsized way the themes of the readings shared that evening would stir my soul. Today, my husband Ryan and I, as Westerners, deeply appreciate the Center’s big-picture approach in getting various stakeholders at the same table to discuss the region’s most contentious issues. Albeit on a smaller scale, Ryan applies many of the Center’s distinguishing strategies, from consensus building to deployment of levity, in his work as a commissioning agent, which, as the Center continually demonstrates, often yields surprisingly positive results. Further, as a teacher, I am confident that bringing prickly topics – such as fracking, water rights, and public lands management – into school curricula equips students for lives as engaged citizens in the West: prepared to participate in civil dialog, able to enjoy absurdities, and ready to empathize with neighbors. I look forward to working with folks at the Center to extend its reach by developing classroom materials that facilitate K-12 teachers’ incorporation of the dynamic subjects the Center broaches.

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JoAnn Silverstein

NEW BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

JoAnn Silverstein is a Professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering at CU Boulder, and the former Director of the Program in Environmental Design and the Residential Academic Program, Sustainable by Design. She has a BA in Psychology (Stanford University), BS, MS and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Davis. JoAnn came to the University of Colorado Boulder as an Assistant Professor in 1982, and her research and teaching area is Civil/Environmental Engineering focused on the application of microbial processes to remove contaminants from water and wastewater, treat wastewater for beneficial reuse, and restore damaged environmental sites such as abandoned mines. JoAnn has been an enthusiastic member of the Center of the American West Faculty Advisory Council where she enjoys judging for the Thompson Writing Awards and the lively interaction with colleagues in the arts and humanities, sciences, and social sciences.



Howard Boigon

NEW BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Howard Boigon is the founder and sole member of Boigon Law Ltd., a Denver law firm specializing in transactional, regulatory, and policy matters in the oil and gas industry, both domestically and internationally. Before founding his own firm, Howard was a partner in the Denver office of Hogan Lovells, a global law firm. Prior to that, Howard served in executive positions at two Denver-based publicly traded oil and gas companies, and was a partner in the natural resources department of Davis, Graham & Stubbs, a Denver law firm. Howard has lectured and written widely on land use issues, regulatory policy, and various aspects of oil and gas law and practice.

Howard is a trustee of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and a member of the advisory boards of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, the Energy Innovation Initiative of CU Law School, and the Institute for Energy Law. Other board memberships include Energy Outreach Colorado and Civic Center Conservancy.

Howard is a graduate of the University of Michigan for both college and law school. He lives in Denver with his wife Carol, a former at-large member of the Denver City Council.

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Teresa Coons

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Teresa Coons is the Executive Director for the John McConnell Math and Science Center of Western Colorado. She works with volunteers and staff to "create enthusiasm and excitement for math and science." Her undergraduate degree is from Colorado State University in physical sciences, and she holds a Ph.D. in immunology from the University of New Mexico. Her research career has spanned the disciplines of basic and clinical research, most recently focusing on occupational and environmental epidemiology, including health-related impacts of mining industry operations in the western United States.

Teresa holds an Adjunct Faculty position at Colorado Mesa University. She is active in the Grand Junction community, having served two terms as a member of the Grand Junction City Council (and one term as Mayor), nine years on the Mesa County Board of Health, and eight years on the Grand Junction Housing Authority Board. Teresa is a fourth-generation Coloradan, raised in the Denver area. She and her husband Frank have two adult daughters and three grandchildren.



Paul Stanley Larmer

NEW BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Paul Stanley Larmer is the Executive Director and publisher of *High Country News*, an award-winning nonprofit that has reported the stories that shape the American West for 45 years. Paul's journalism career started when he was an editorial intern at HCN in 1984. After earning a Master's degree in Natural Resource Policy at the University of Michigan, and working as a freelance writer and media representative for the national Sierra Club, he returned to HCN as an editor in 1992. Since 2002, he has been the Executive Director, dividing his time between editorial projects, drumming up funding, and generally making sure the magazine and website are sailing in the right direction. Every summer he and his wife, Lisa Cook, irrigate a hay crop and grow a few vegetables on their small ranch in Western Colorado.

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After 32 years as a general neurosurgeon in Boulder, Colorado. I took a mini-sabbatical and with my lovely wife, Judy, and daughter, Monica. In the spring of 2000 we did a Semester at Sea voyage. I soon realized how focused I had become in my specialty of neurosurgery and how uneducated I had become in so many other areas. The rekindling of my academic curiosity was life-changing.

Shortly afterwards, Patty and I met and became fast friends. I was asked to serve on the Board of the Center of the American West, which at the time I knew little about. I found that it was truly in its infancy. Throughout this period of involvement on the Board of the Center of the American West, I have witnessed Patty Limerick's enthusiasm as an author, writer, speaker, and teacher of students. She has taken the Center to greater and greater heights. Her ability to humorously arbitrate many contentious and adversarial topics such as energy, fracking, and immigration, with academic excellence and civility, while promoting academic analysis, has been truly inspiring and nothing short of miraculous.

Judy and I congratulate the University, the Board both past and present, and Patty Limerick for being an extremely important asset to all of us.

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HannaLore first became involved in the Center as an undergraduate student at CU-Boulder in 2008 when she studied with Patty Limerick. In 2011, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in History and a Center Certificate in Western American Studies. Following graduation, HannaLore felt fortunate to serve as one of the Center's first recent-graduate board members. In 2012, HannaLore started a Master's program in Applied Historical Research at Boise State University, during which time she focused her studies on entrepreneurial and environmental history of the American West. HannaLore's Master's thesis explored the history of two legacy companies in Boise, Idaho, and their role in creating one of Boise's most iconic structures, The Boise Egyptian Theatre.

As a graduate student, HannaLore also interned with Stevens Historical Research Associates (SHRA), a historical consulting firm in Boise that provides litigation support. In May 2015, HannaLore earned her MA in Applied Historical Research and immediately thereafter was offered a fulltime position with SHRA. As a historical researcher with SHRA she has been able to use her subject matter expertise and strong writing and research skills to help the firm meet its deliverables. HannaLore knows that working at SHRA will allow her to continue to foster her love and passion for Western American History and she hopes to use her position to strengthen ties among the Center, the Boulder community, and Boise.



Andy Cowell

FACULTY AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT

Andy Cowell is a faculty member in the departments of Linguistics and French and Italian. His most recent work includes a bilingual anthology of tradition Arapaho stories, songs, and prayers (U. of Oklahoma Press, 2014), and a project to create both a print dictionary and an online searchable lexical database of the language. Working with a number of students, he has also updated and expanded his "Arapaho Language Project" website (www.colorado.edu/csilw/alp/), which is used by high schools and colleges in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Wyoming, as well as by individuals, for learning the language online. His linguistics class this fall will be using the site as well, and the students in the class will be adding additional content.

In addition to his own research, he recently helped establish the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies, which received approval and funding from the campus in early 2014. This new Center aims to build on CU's strengths in Native American studies and move toward a more global perspective on issues such as indigenous knowledge, the effects of climate change, language extinction, indigenous sovereignty and resource management, and cultural revitalization efforts.

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Shemin Ge

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Shemin Ge is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at CU Boulder. Shemin studies subsurface fluid physics, focusing on groundwater resources in headwater regions. She has a broad interest in exploring the links between groundwater and energy and has worked on storing solar energy in soils and groundwater as well as on exploring thermal energy transport in geologic systems. Her current research seeks to unravel the deep connections between groundwater and earthquakes in tectonically quiescent, yet high energy, production regions. It is on the topics of groundwater and energy that Shemin's interactions with the Center prove to be most intellectually stimulating and gratifying. She hopes that her continued involvement with the Center will contribute to the education of a new generation of scholars and to the advancement of our knowledge about the rapidly changing water and energy landscape in the American West.

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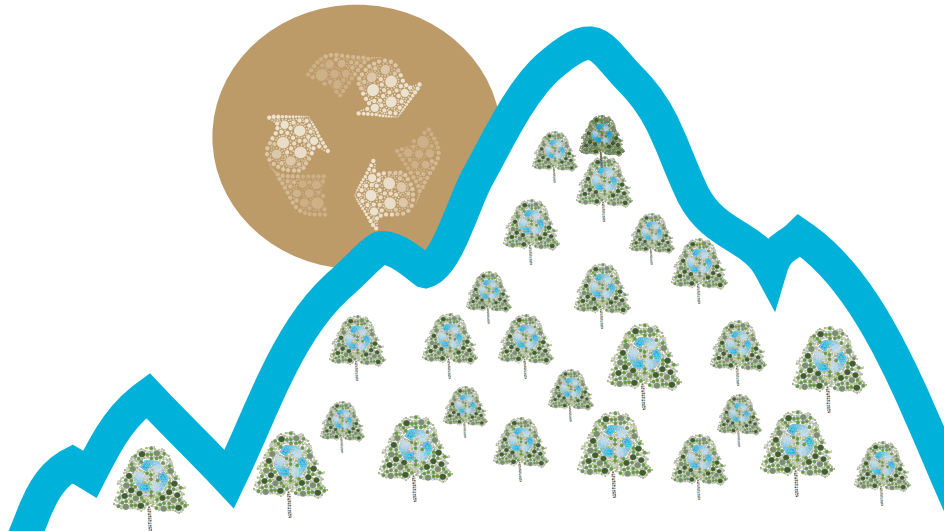
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Also, a special thanks to all of the Center Staff and Friends of the Center.

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A Colorado Energy Romance: The Boulder County Line

The painting project began with a conversation between Patty Limerick and I at the History Colorado Center in Denver in January of 2014. Early on in this conversation, Patty brought forward the idea of commissioning a triptych, an oil painting about the changing energy landscapes of the West. Later, Patty would sum up our agreed upon project in roughly these words, *an oil painting in three panels with three variations on energy landscapes might offer a viewer an initial impression of beauty, and then extend an invitation to think in fresh and valuable ways about energy.*

Once, a friend and neighbor from the little mountain town of Empire, Colorado described my oil painting technique as, *a workingman's realism.* I liked this description because coming from my friend; it translated into painting with clarity and toughness the gritty compromises of daily life in the working landscape of a western mining town. Beauty in his view was not required. And, for my part commissions of Colorado's industrial and energy landscapes had not been expected.

But, beauty, like opportunity, can be found and often surprises. My research on energy landscapes for this commission eventually led me to the Boulder County line along Weld County Road 1. There, I stood next to a large cluster of hydraulic fracturing apparatus in Weld County, Colorado and looked west as the sun began to set behind Longs Peak and Rocky Mountain National Park. It was an early summer evening when the warmth of the sun seemed to fracture the sky and spread light around the clouds in rolling explosions of color.

Beauty resides in the gorgeous light, in the formal complexities of industry, even in the stark contrasts of industry and our national park. The high mountains, terrain of the eastern plains as altered by the demands of an energy economy, and a demand for housing still holds a resilient beauty- a stubborn beauty. Although not the Colorado landscape of pre-packaged spectacular moments, these complex landscapes of hard won compromise and sacrifice are the landscapes that compel me most.

I would like to thank Patty Limerick and Houston Kempton for initiating this project. Painting this triptych has been an invitation to find beauty in the details of solar energy across all three panels, in the scale and pale elegance of wind turbines under construction, and to present the controversies of oil and gas production in the light of heroic compromise.

April 13, 2016 | 6:30 p.m. | Old Main Chapel | CU Boulder Campus



For more information
www.centerwest.org | 303.492.4879

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