

Heritage Highlights

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Wyoming History Day

More than 500 students, teachers, parents, and volunteers came together on the UW campus in April to participate in the 23rd annual Wyoming History Day competition. The state contest was the culmination of months of hard work by students from across the state who spent hundreds of hours researching, writing, and developing their presentations. In March, students competed in seven district contests for the honor of advancing to the state contest.

Participating students chose their own topics of study and research from original sources based on an annual theme, which this year was *Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History*. National History Day students researched historic documents and artifacts, conducted oral histories, searched the Internet, and traveled to

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Green River middle school students Talia Sanders, Kyle Weast, Kayli Westling, Tyler Dodd, and Jamie Clark visit with judges after their performance, "Salem Witch Trials."



Lander students Sean Ryder, Mitchell Brauneis, and Miles Armajo perform "Paratroopers."



Lander students Cortney Thoren and Callie New flank their exhibit, "Elvis, A Revolution in Rock and Roll."

Wyoming History Day *(Continued from page 1)*



Gov. Jim Geringer, Savannah Sheehan of Baggs, recipient of the UW scholarship for one year of in-state tuition, and Rick Ewig, AHC Interim Director

historic sites to prepare for their competition. They presented their work in a variety of ways, by creating museum-type exhibits, video documentaries, original performances, or traditional research papers. Among the entries this year were an exhibit on the Plains Indians from a Lander student, a documentary on the Johnson County War presented by two students from Elk Mountain, a performance about Tom Horn by a student from Sheridan, and a paper on Yellowstone National Park from a Rock River student.

UW Vice President for Academic Affairs Tom Buchanan presided over the awards ceremony on April 15 and Gov. Jim Geringer presented the awards to the top students in each category. In addition to competing for the opportunity to represent Wyoming at the national contest, held in June at the University of Maryland, students also vied for more than 30 special awards and scholarships provided by UW and the Wyoming State Historical Society. Wyoming History Day is coordinated by the American Heritage Center and is sponsored by the Wyoming State Department of Parks and Cultural Resources and the Wyoming State Historical Society. Additional information regarding Wyoming History Day, including a complete list of winners, can be found at [//uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/AHC/historyday](http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/AHC/historyday) ■

Owen Wister and the Wild West



Owen Wister

AHC's 11th annual history symposium titled *Owen Wister and the Wild West*, scheduled for September 18-20, celebrates two anniversaries: the 100th anniversary of Owen Wister's western novel, *The Virginian*, and the 50th anniversary of the UW American Studies Program.

The kick-off session on Wednesday evening, September 18, will feature Christine Bold, a Canadian American Studies scholar, who will talk about "The Wister

Moment," and Steve Tatum, from our neighboring state of Utah, will discuss the vision of the West that people in 1902 received by reading Wister's new work. During the following two days, academics, graduate and undergraduate students, and professionals working

in the public sector will reexamine Wister, look at visual representations of the West, and discuss specific western environments including a few on the UW-Laramie campus.

The symposium will conclude with a gallery walk through the exhibit *Wildness in a Frame*, conducted by American studies faculty member John Dorst. American studies faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students look critically at the West and engage the culture of this region through public presentations, of which this exhibit is a fine example. The exhibit will travel to the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody after leaving Laramie.

The symposium is partially funded by the American Heritage Center Associates. All sessions are free and open to the public. For more information contact Vicki Schuster, American Heritage Center, P. O. Box 3924, Laramie, WY 82071; 307-766-5066; vlschust@uwyo.edu ■

George A. Rentschler Distinguished Visiting Lecturer, Shepard Krech, speaks at *Re-figuring the Ecological Indian Symposium*

Anthropologist Shepard Krech, who challenged the image of the American Indian as a protector of the environment, spoke to more than 150 people during the two-day *Ecological Indian* symposium April 25-26. The symposium drew its name from Krech's book, *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*, published in 1999. Krech stated that indigenous people possessed extensive knowledge of their environments, and that he agreed with critics that "whatever the impact of the Indian people on land and resources, it does not hold a candle to the impact of people of European descent." Krech, George A. Rentschler Distinguished Visiting Lecturer, spent two days lecturing to classes and speaking with students and faculty in addition to his public talk.

Several hundred people attended the two-day symposium that included a public lecture by Don Fixico, director of Indigenous Nations Studies at the University of Kansas; a panel discussion of Eastern Shoshone leader Chief Washakie, whose statue was recently placed in the U.S. Capitol to represent Wyoming; and a film, *In the Light of Reverence: Protecting America's Sacred Lands*, and panel discussion moderated by Judy Antell the director of the UW American Indian Studies Program. Eastern Shoshone



Shepard Krech and Rick Ewig

and Arapaho tribal leaders from the Wind River Indian Reservation opened the symposium with a blessing and welcome.

The *Re-figuring the Ecological Indian* symposium was sponsored by the American Indian Studies Program, the American Heritage Center Associates, the Wyoming State Historical Society, and several departments within the UW College of Arts and Sciences. ■

LaFontaine Angling Book Collection Established

On the evening of April 12, 2002, more than 30 people attended the Toppan Library's annual open house for the Wyoming Angler's Symposium. Adrian Bantjes, UW history professor and instructor of a class on fly-fishing literature, was the guest curator who selected the British and American examples for display.

During the open house, the University Flycasters established the Gary LaFontaine Memorial Angling Book Collection in the Toppan Library. Friends and colleagues honored LaFontaine, a much-loved author who passed away last year, by donating books in his

name and creating a collection that will update and supplement Frederick Toppan's collection of more than 500 fishing books already in the library.

Stan Bradshaw and Paul Stimpson from Utah donated books, some written by LaFontaine; and Jack Dennis donated books written by Dennis and others. Fly-fishing specialist Randall Kaufmann, from Oregon, and contemporary sage John Gierach, from Colorado, contributed signed books they had written. The UW Flycasters used club funds to

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LaFontaine Angling Book Collection Established *(Continued from page 3)*



Jack Dennis, far right, and fellow anglers examine books from the Toppan Collection.

purchase a signed deluxe limited edition two-volume set *Trout*, by Ernest Schwiebert.

The LaFontaine Memorial Angling Book Collection was established by Ed Schmidtmann, UW research scientist in entomology; Jack Dennis, noted fly-fishing author, lecturer, and sporting goods store owner; Stan Bradshaw, renowned angler, author and past co-publisher with LaFontaine of the Greycliff Press in Helena, Montana; expert Idaho fly-fisherman and outfitter Mike Lawson; Nick Boyd, geophysicist; and Professor Adrian Bantjes. During the symposium, Toppan Rare Books Curator Anne Marie Lane was recognized for her support of the project. ■

Women's History Month

The AHC hosted its second annual Women's History Month celebration *Thoroughly Modern Millies: Women of the 1920s*, on March 8-9. The two-day celebration featured presentations by AHC faculty members, including "Caroline Lockhart: Anti-Prohibition in the Suffrage State" by Melanie Francis; "Nellie Tayloe Ross: America's First Woman Governor" by Rick Ewig; "Women and the Automobile" by Kent Jaehnig; "Women and Cinema" by Kim Winters; and "New Roles, New Movement: Women and Dance in the Roaring Twenties" by Shannon Bowen.

Other highlights of the celebration included a lively 1920s dance workshop; a display of books on women in the 1920s curated by Anne Marie Lane; a photographic exhibit on the Denishawn Dance Troupe curated by AHC Photo Archivist Leslie Shores; and a display of 1920s dance dresses, courtesy of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The event ended with a concert by "Mrs. Grant's Girls with Gams Orchestra," led by Audio-Visual Archivist, Annie Guzzo. The concert featured numerous selections of popular 1920s music from the AHC collections.



AHC Reference Archivist Melanie Francis shares material from the Caroline Lockhart Collection during Women's History Month.



Elinor Hitchcock Mullens (l) and Teddy Varineau (r), shown with AHC staff member Ronda Frazier, donated vintage dresses to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences historic clothing collection.

Mable Cheney Moudy Papers, ca. 1866-1972

Mable Wyoming Cheney was born on May 2, 1878, in Atlantic City, near South Pass, Wyoming. Her father, Ervin F. Cheney, came west to Fort Sanders as a soldier after the Civil War. He helped survey the town of Laramie and entered the lumber business there in partnership with John Connor. In the 1870s, he moved to the South Pass area, where he operated a wagon and blacksmith shop. He married Mathilda Jane Henry in 1875, and the couple had four daughters and one son. The family moved to Lander shortly after Mable was born in 1878. She graduated from Lander High School and entered the University of Wyoming in 1897, where she took a normal (teaching) degree in 1900. She married Ross Moudy in 1903, and they settled in Laramie, where Ross Moudy taught chemistry at the university and held the appointment of state chemist.

Because of her family background, Mable Moudy took a great interest in the state's history, and she soon began to collect manuscripts and write stories particularly about the Lander area. She wrote and collected materials about her father's life, and she wrote an autobiography of her own life, including her childhood in Lander. Chief Washakie was a frequent visitor to the Cheney home, and Mable recalled that she learned Indian words before she learned English and always wore moccasins as a child because they were easier to get than children's shoes and far more comfortable. The autobiography also covers the years when Mable Cheney was a UW student and the adventures she had traveling between Laramie and Lander. One of the passengers with whom she traveled was a young priest from Ireland, who expressed amazement that a young woman would travel so far without a chaperone. "I am very well chaperoned," she replied, citing two other male passengers, the driver, and the priest himself, all of whom she was sure would protect her in any case of



Mable Moudy and friend visit Fort Sanders where her father served in 1866. n.d.

difficulty. The other passengers "loaded" the stranger as much as possible with stories of storms, wild animals, and Indians, but the stage reached Lander safely without encountering any of these dangers, although one team of horses ran away after being harnessed and nearly overturned the coach.

Mable Moudy was a diligent diarist in her later years, and her annual diaries from 1947 to 1972, the year of her death, form an important part of the collection. During her final years, she was a resident of the Ivinson Home for Aged Ladies in Laramie.

In addition to the diaries and the writings of Mable Cheney Moudy, the collection contains manuscripts and letters of other early residents of Wyoming. Many of these items were solicited by the Jacques Laramie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Laramie, Wyoming) to record the history of the state's people, and they contain rare first person accounts of late 19th and early 20th century Wyoming. ■

AHC Teaching and Research Grants

AHC Teaching and Research Grants are funded through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and offer an opportunity for UW faculty, staff, and students to pursue independent or collaborative research projects or course and symposia development, using AHC's resource material. The following students and faculty members were awarded grants in December 2001:

Art student **Ryan J. Bench** received a \$1,500 award for his project using the Paul and Helen Henderson Oregon Trail Collection to research travel on the Mormon Trail through central Wyoming, specifically focusing on trail routes near Casper and Rawlins. Bench will produce seven paintings that describe and narrate the tremendous landscape that pioneers experienced while traveling through Wyoming.

Justin White, undergraduate student in art, was awarded \$1,500 to create a series of portraits of Jean London, a silent film actress who worked in comedy with Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, and others. White will have

an exhibition of these paintings on the UW-Laramie campus in the fall 2002.

Associate Professor of History **Adrian A. Bantjes** was awarded \$1,000 for a new course titled Fly-Fishing: History, Culture, Society, which used the extensive collections of rare British and American books on fly-fishing from the Toppan Library and the archival collections of the AHC relevant to the history of fly-fishing in Wyoming and the West.

Michael C. Brose, assistant professor of history, was granted \$2,250 for his course Asia Through American Eyes. Archival collections pertaining to China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam will be used for this upper-division or graduate level course. Students will research a collection and produce a research paper based on the view of Asia held by the collection's creator.

Assistant Professor of English, **Alyson Hagy**, received \$500 for her project The Writer's Attic: Writing and Researching Authentic Fiction. Writing students will survey AHC manuscript collections and compose a monologue in the voice of a historical character who witnessed an identifiable historic event to enhance their original fiction writing skills.

Michael E. Harkin, associate professor of anthropology, was awarded \$2,250 for his class titled Teaching Archival Research Methods for Ethnohistory. This graduate course will integrate research in primary documents to develop students' research skills and help the students become more marketable upon graduation.

Associate Professor **Mary Lou Larson** and Assistant Professor **Pamela Innes** in the anthropology department were awarded \$1,000 for their research in the Dimitri Shimkin Collection for a project titled Shoshone Women's Beliefs about Mountain Resource Use. Shimkin's collection includes numerous fieldwork notebooks that contain information from female Shoshone informants about women's movements in the Wind River Range, resource use, and belief about the mountains from the early reservation period to the mid-1930s. ■



"The Gentle Art," Briggs, Ernest E. Angling & Art in Scotland, 1908. Toppan Collection

Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant for Western Trails Awarded to AHC

Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), sixteen Wyoming institutions will be able to make historic materials in their care available to anyone with access to a computer connected to the Internet. "Western Trails," a two-year project through December 2003, will aid in the creation of digital copies of source materials related to the historic western migration of the U.S. population.

The project is a multi-state cooperative that includes archives, historical societies, libraries, and museums in Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. Wyoming partners, including the AHC and UW Libraries, will contribute 500 items toward a project goal of providing better access of western source materials. At least 2,500 digital items will be made available through local online catalogs and a unified catalog that



Grace Raymond Hebard was instrumental in placing this Oregon Trail marker near Fort Laramie, Wyoming, ca. 1934.

will enable participants to search across collections and institutions.

The Web site for the Wyoming Western Trails Digitization project is: [//will.state.wy.us/trails/index.html](http://will.state.wy.us/trails/index.html) ■

Staff Notes

Reference Manager **Carol Bowers** recently teamed with **Melanie Francis** to do a walking tour of historic downtown Laramie for Kathy Evertz' University Studies Class with Francis presenting a living history vignette as Laramie madam, Christy Grover. Bowers also gave a presentation titled *Loving Cecile: The Strange Case of Stanley Lantzer* for the spring meeting of the Wyoming Association of Professional Historians and for the state meeting of the Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Annie Guzzo, audio-visual reference archivist, selected music from the AHC's August Koerting Collection that was performed by the UW Chamber Orchestra in April. Koerting was the director of Laramie's Empress Theater in the late teens and early 1920s. The selections performed, *Zigfield Follies, 1916*, and *Cartoonix*, were originally marketed for silent film accompaniment. In March, Guzzo gave a

special solo performance and informative presentation on music of the American West for the History of the American West class.

Reference Archivist **Ginny Kilander** taught a workshop on paper marbling this spring and continues to serve as a board member of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists and as editor of its newsletter.

Information Manager **Mark Shelstad** gave a presentation on using digital video to enhance access to three-dimensional objects and provide online tours and exhibits at a Collaborative Digitization Project workshop at the University of Denver in April.

Leslie Shores, photo archivist, gave a presentation on dating historic photographs for the Cheyenne Genealogical Society in April and a presentation on Thomas Twiss, Indian Agent, at the spring meeting of the Wyoming Association of Professional Historians. ■



Cheyenne Frontier Days Print Available

By 1928, Cheyenne Frontier Days had grown to a five-day event featuring parades, races, roping, and exhibitions with more than 200 participants competing for prizes and trophies. The “1928 souvenir program,” is the 2002 limited-edition print from the J.S. Palen collection at the American Heritage Center.

Limited to 102 prints, this is the fifth in a series of prints being made available by the American Heritage Center to celebrate the history of Cheyenne Frontier Days. Governor Jim Geringer, UW President Philip Dubois, and CFD Chairman Dale Von Krosigk signed the prints which are available for \$126 each. Proceeds from the sale of this limited-edition print support the programs of the American Heritage Center. Reservations for the print can be made by contacting Vicki Schuster at 307-766-5066 or vlschust@uwyo.edu ■

1928 souvenir program, J. S. Palen Collection

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