

AHC Completes Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund Grant

The American Heritage Center received a grant in 2008 from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund to preserve and digitize a portion of the Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection. The Cultural Trust's mission is to support Wyoming's culture and heritage through grant funding of innovative projects for the enjoyment, appreciation, promotion, preservation and protection of the state's arts, cultural and historic resources; and to support and invest in Wyoming institutions that help further this mission, such as the AHC.

The Henning Svenson collection originated in the early 1900s through the work of professional photographer Henning Svenson. Born in Sweden in 1879, Svenson immigrated to the United States in 1903 and arrived in Laramie two years later and set up a photography studio. At the time he estimated Laramie had about five hundred residents and Svenson began a concerted effort to take photographs of as many of them as he could as well as documenting the town and many of the community's significant events. For many years he continued to photograph Laramie, the University of Wyoming, and the surrounding area, including the Snowy Range, Fox Park, and Happy Jack.

After Svenson's death in 1932, his daughter Lottie and her husband, Dr. W.B. Ludwig, purchased the studio from Svenson's wife. The business was called Svenson-Ludwig for a time, but then became Ludwig Photo Enterprises. William E. Loyer purchased the firm from the Ludwigs and his wife, Carol Ludwig Loyer, served as vice president. Ludwig Photo is the oldest photographic retailer and oldest film processor in Wyoming. Anne Loyer Brande and her husband Evan donated the collection to the AHC in 2007.

The collection contains more than one hundred thousand negatives (8 x 10, 5 x 7, and panoramas), many of which are portraits. The non-portrait images portray the changing customs and habits surrounding life in a small Wyoming town and at the University of Wyoming. Subjects include Laramie businesses, rodeos, theater productions, parties and celebrations, railroads, ranches, social events, and winter sports.

The Cultural Trust Fund grant in the amount of twenty thousand dollars allowed the AHC to digitize 3,916 of the most notable images in the collection and preserve 2,500 of the negatives by duplicating them



Employees of Laramie's Piggly Wiggly store on 2nd Street, take time to pose for Henning Svenson in 1929. Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection, American Heritage Center.

From the Director



Mark Greene

My last column in the newsletter was rather gloomy, I realize, though an accurate reflection of our reality. This column, however, will be upbeat. Not because our budget situation has improved substantially, because it hasn't, but rather because our fiscal status has not become worse. There is much to be said, during these still rocky economic times, for mere stability. In fact, there is a better than even chance that the AHC will receive just enough one-time financial assistance from a small reallocation of funds within the university that we are currently not expecting the necessity of further reducing our staff during the 2010-11 accounting period. This is some cause for me to take a different tone in this column compared to last, but there is much more.

Most importantly, despite significant budget and staff reductions this fiscal year, the Center has protected and even strengthened its core programs and services. Let me give you a brief (and not nearly comprehensive) overview of some of our most important activities since my last column. We can start with our reference and education efforts. Our reading room continues to be nearly or completely full much of the time, as is our Alfred Jacob Miller Classroom (a gift of Robert Graff), which we use to introduce classes—whether from UW, community colleges, or public schools—to the new (to them) world of conducting research in primary sources. This past year our reference department was reorganized, welcoming a new manager, Ginny Kilander (a veteran of AHC reference and teaching duties), and two new reference archivists. The reconfigured department has “clicked” wonderfully, resulting not only in improvement to our already outstanding reference service, but successful completion of several long-delayed internal projects with direct implications for our reference work.

We recently presented an award for fall semester's best paper by a UW undergraduate based on research in our collections: the winner was Emmet Daunt, in the department of History, for a paper titled, “Waves and Warriors,” about the impact of World War II on Hawaii and the Philippines, done for a Comparative U.S. Colonialism course (the AHC has many fine collections relating to Americans' travel to and impact on Asia and the Pacific). This award, funded entirely by voluntary donations from AHC employees (a remarkable testament to the commitment of our faculty and staff in our mission to support undergraduate education), relies on teaching faculty from across campus to nominate and submit the best papers from their courses.

In an effort to further expand the number of courses and the breadth of academic departments that regularly use the AHC's collections, we have established a task force on

faculty outreach. One could argue that this additional focus is gilding the lily, in that the Center already works with more students from more departments than the vast majority of college and university research repositories. But given the centrality of undergraduate instruction to the AHC's mission, and the enormous success we have demonstrated with those courses that do employ our holdings, it seemed only natural to expand that effort even further.

We have, in fact, recently seen the fruits of this labor. For the first time in memory we attracted a faculty member from the political science department to integrate AHC research into one of her courses. Political scientists have been reluctant to do archival research for so many decades that within the field a small but growing number of academicians are publishing articles urging their colleagues to return to archival research—see, for example, Douglas Harris, “Recovering History and Discovering Data in the Archives: An Alternative Mode of Research for Congress Scholars,” in Paul, et al, eds, *An American Political Archives Reader* (Scarecrow Press, 2009), 424-440. Our groundbreaking “Innovative Teaching and Research Grants,” which provide funds to UW faculty in support of developing new courses based on AHC collections, this year brought our first ever application from a faculty member in Engineering. And I have had promising discussions just last month with the new dean of UW's college of law, about his interest in developing a course using archival collections as the basis for creating mock trials.

There is yet more evidence of our success in supporting UW faculty as well as our other researchers. Professor Alyson Hagy, of UW's English department, mined the Center's holdings for ideas she used to write her new book, *Ghosts of Wyoming: Stories*. In fact, Prof. Hagy frequently had her creative writing students devise fictional stories based substantially on historical incidents or figures they discover at the AHC (one of those stories earned its author the Center's undergraduate research award the previous semester). In sending a copy of her book to the AHC she wrote, “I did a great deal of research for the stories in the book in the AHC, and they would not exist as they do without the AHC and the great people who work there.” Just as indicative of the Center's excellence is a note we received from a first-year faculty member in the history department: “The vast collections of the AHC were one of the enticements for me to join the faculty at UW....I look forward to continuing my collaboration with the staff at this fine institution.”

But our reference archivists assist scholars from across the nation and around the world as well. For example, a scholar from Los Angeles wrote to “acknowledge the extraordinary treatment that was accorded to me on my research trip to the American Heritage Center,” particularly thanking reference archivists Ginny Kilander, John



Waggener, and Leslie Waggener, “who went out of their way to help.” And what of amateur researchers? We see many in our reading room. One wrote, “Ginny was a wealth of knowledge to us on both days we were there....I valued greatly her ability to be professional yet warm and comfortable....” For me, this description aptly sums up the type of service provided by all our reference archivists to all our patrons.

Space does not permit me to go much further for now, but in my next column I plan to continue reviewing our initiatives and accomplishments in core program areas. As important as our reference function is to the AHC, our core functions extend further, to processing collections and digitizing them—two additional means of making our collections accessible to researchers—to soliciting, acquiring, and accessioning new collections, to oral history projects that create their own unique primary source material for researcher use, and to educational efforts aimed at both teachers and students in the public schools (several of these last two activities being recently undertaken under the auspices of our Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership). Moreover, space permitting in our next issue I would also like to review some of the recent professional achievements of our archivists and rare books curator, most of whom continue to forge national or international reputations for excellence.

In the paragraph or two I have remaining for this column, I would like to honor three individuals who have made a significant difference to the AHC in recent months. One is retired professor of education, Louise Jackson, who has donated to our Toppan Rare Books Library a fine collection of early 20th-century children’s books. More than that, however, she has provided in her will for an extremely generous endowment to be established at the AHC to support that collection, and related programs to promote the teaching and research use of the books and to expand the collection over time. Professor Jackson has done even more for us; she has joined our Board of Advisors, giving volunteer time to assisting the Center in outreach, fundraising, and collection development.

Another notable supporter is James Ehernberger, a noted railroad historian, who also has donated his collection to the AHC (and is a frequent researcher in our reading room); Mr. Ehernberger, too, has recently made provision for his estate to provide the Center with an endowment to support his collection, railroad history, and the history of transportation more generally. Last but not least, last year former U.S. ambassador to Guatemala Thomas Stroock passed away. An important political and business figure in Wyoming for more than half a century, Ambassador Stroock, too, had donated his papers to the AHC, and also gave us his time for an extended set of oral history interviews. Without having informed us in advance, he also had made provision in his will to establish an endowment at the AHC. Such extraordinary generosity by three individuals—donating not only their important historical papers but also substantial gifts of funds—is one important way the Center will continue to remain strong into the future.

In my next column, while discussing our digitization efforts, I will have occasion to honor another collection donor turned major philanthropist, Dr. Lawrence Woods. But I would be remiss if I omitted yet one more donor/supporter, Mr. Wayman Wing, an alumnus of UW and important architect in New York City. Mr. Wing donated to the AHC his family papers, documenting a Chinese-American family growing up in small-town Wyoming, and recently made a surprise unrestricted cash gift of well into five figures. Unrestricted gifts such as this are, of course, of vital importance to us, because they permit us not only a bit of breathing room during uncertain economic times, but also the flexibility to support promising new initiatives to better serve our patrons. Equally important, however, is the fact that so far this year our overall annual fund donations—gifts ranging from \$5 to \$5,000—are running ahead of our projections (albeit conservative projections, because of the economic situation). This tells me we are succeeding in our effort to be among the best repositories in the nation—and that we have a group of friends who deeply appreciate the importance of history and our efforts to preserve and promote it. My deep thanks to all of you. ■

AHC Awards Grants to UW Faculty and Students

The AHC recently awarded four Teaching and Research Grants to three UW faculty and several UW students. Dr. Anthony Denzer and graduate student Kendra Heimbeck received a grant to support research regarding the original plans for the UW Engineering Hall, which was built in 1926. The research is one component of a larger thesis project to assess the feasibility of major new construction of the

building.

John “Mac” Blewer, a graduate student in the Geography Department, received a grant for his project titled “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid: Representations and Remembrances in Wyoming and the West.” He will conduct research in several AHC collections, including Larry Pointer and Grace Raymond Hebard, while also doing fieldwork in communities

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Hollywood Producer David Brown Dies

Hollywood film producer David Brown, whose papers are held by the AHC, recently passed away at the age of 93. Born in 1916 in New York City, Brown received degrees from Stanford University and Columbia University during the 1930s. During World War II he served as a first lieutenant in the psychological warfare section of U.S. military intelligence. After the war he became a fiction editor, serving as editor for *Liberty* magazine and eventually serving as managing editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine. In 1951 he accepted the position as head of the story department at film studio Twentieth Century Fox. Brown left the financially strapped studio during the early 1960s.



David and Helen Gurley Brown. David Brown Papers.

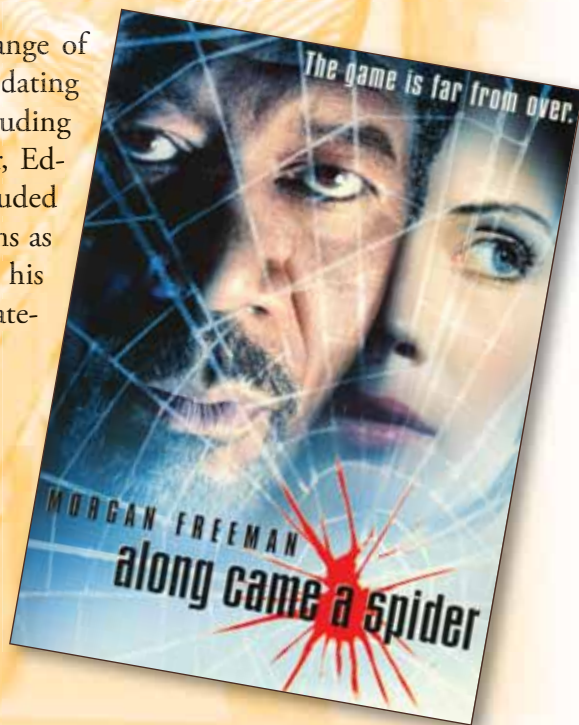
Brown married Helen Gurley in 1959. During the 1960s she had success as an author of such books as *Sex and the Single Girl* and *Sex and the Office*. David then came up with the idea of a revamped *Cosmopolitan* magazine that targeted young women and launched in 1965 with Helen as editor.

David Brown returned to Twentieth Century Fox and worked closely with Richard Zanuck. In 1972 Brown and Zanuck formed their own company and went on to produce numerous award-winning and popular films. Their partnership, which lasted until 1988, produced such films as *Jaws*, *The Verdict*, *The Sugarland Express*, and *Cocoon*. They served as executive producers for *The Eiger Sanction* and *The Sting*, which won the Oscar for best picture in 1973. After the partnership dissolved, Brown went on to produce such films as *A Few Good Men*, *Deep Impact*, and *Chocolat*. He also produced plays on Broadway, including *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Sweet Smell of Success*. Besides

producing, Brown also authored several books, *Let Me Entertain You* and *Brown's Guide to the Good Life without Tears, Fears or Boredom*.

The David Brown Papers at the AHC contain a wide range of material covering his life and career. There is correspondence dating from 1934 to 2006, with more than three thousand items including letters from Irving Berlin, Eddie Cantor, Dwight Eisenhower, Edward R. Murrow, Richard Nixon, and many others. Also included are production files for many of his films and stage productions as well as manuscript notes and publishers' correspondence for his books. Additionally, the collection contains audio and video materials with radio and television appearances. ■

After David Brown and Richard Zanuck dissolved their production, Brown went on to produce many other films, including *Along Came a Spider* released in 2001, and starring Morgan Freeman and Monica Potter. David Brown Papers.



AHC Undergraduate Research Award

Emmet Daunt, a student in UW's History Department, received the AHC's Undergraduate Research Award for the 2010 spring semester. His paper, "Waves and Warriors," written for Dr. JoAnna Poblete-Cross' "Comparative U.S. Colonialism" class, examined the effect World War II had on the inhabitants of Hawaii and the Philippines. Daunt used the papers of Frank Fletcher, commander of U.S. Naval forces in the Pacific, Hubert Gater, a U.S. soldier captured at Bataan who spent rest of war in a prisoner of war camp, Charles Hiles, a naval officer stationed at Pearl Harbor at the beginning of the war, and Earl LeRoy Sackett, naval officer and commander of the

U.S.S. Canopus stationed in the Philippines, all held by the AHC, for his research.

Dr. Poblete-Cross wrote in her letter nominating Daunt's paper, that he "skillfully used AHC collections to provide both breadth and depth of knowledge about this time period and these places. He discussed a wide range of issues in a clear and cogent manner, bringing the history to life with well select-

ed quotes from the various AHC collections. His paper also demonstrates the diverse range of topics one can research at the AHC."

Daunt received a check for \$500 for the award, which is funded entirely by AHC staff and faculty. ■



Photograph of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. AHC Collections.

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frequented by the two members of the Hole-in-the-Wall gang. Blewer will investigate whether many of the plaques, statues, and events in Wyoming named after the two outlaws came into being after 1969 and the release of the Paul Newman and Robert Redford film *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

Professors in the History and Political Science departments also were awarded grants. Teena Gabrielson from Political Science received a grant for her project "Archival Research in American Political Thought." The grant will pay a graduate student to conduct research to identify two relevant cases

for Gabrielson's "American Political Thought" class. The cases would then be used in her class during the spring semester. JoAnna Poblete-Cross is also looking for AHC materials to use in her history classes. She already has had her students in the class Comparative U.S. Colonialisms research AHC materials, and is looking for more collections for that class as well as for a new class she is developing about the history of immigration to the United States.

The funding for the Teaching and Research Grants is provided by an endowment established by the late Thomas O'Leary. ■



Ludwig Collection continued from page 1

to film. All of the digitized images are now available online from the AHC's digital collections website at <http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu:8180/luna/servlet/ahc-ludwig-1-1>.

In February, Ben Goldman, AHC's digital manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the results of the grant to the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund board. He also dem-

onstrated how to access the images on LUNA, the system which allows access to AHC's digital collections. The board was pleased to view many images from

the Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection and impressed by the searching capability of LUNA. ■



Patrons at Laramie's Connor Hotel bar enjoy a late morning drink. Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection.

Megan Barber is New AHC Business Manager



Megan Barber.

Megan Barber recently began work as the AHC's new business manager. For the past five years she has been in the UW College of Law and will remain there while she also works at the AHC.

Megan received a B.S. in accounting at UW. She grew up in Kimball, Nebraska, with a ranching background and has worked in banking, healthcare, public accounting, and private business.

At the Law School Megan has recently served on the Construction Committee for the \$4.5 million addition to the school and served on the search committee for the dean among other task forces and committees. She is looking forward to learning more about the AHC and contributing as a member of our administrative team. ■



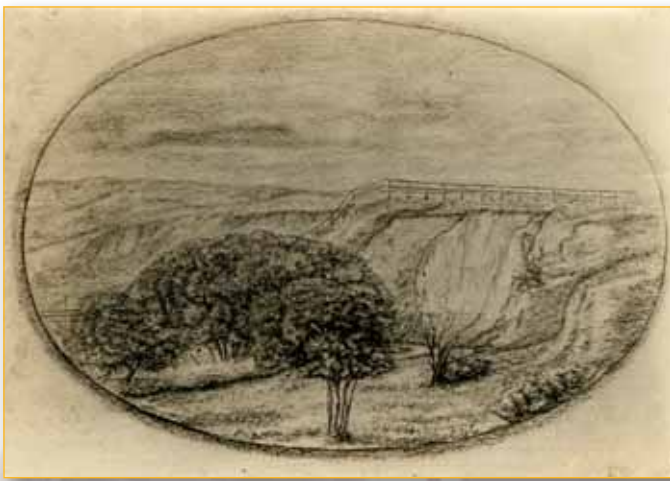
AHC Receives Delmas Foundation Grant by Keith Reynolds

During the spring of 2009 the AHC received a five thousand dollar grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation to create a CD with materials from our collections for use in high school classrooms. The CD would also contain a lesson plan based on the primary sources.

The CD, which is nearly complete, focuses on materials related to westward migration, an important topic in the teaching of U.S. history. Four collections are featured, the Morton E. Post Family Papers, Thaddeus Capron Family Papers, James Bertenshaw Family Letters, and the John Stephen and Frances Jennings Casement Papers. During the 1860s, Post worked as a freighter in Colorado before moving to the newly formed city of Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1867 where he worked in the banking



An envelope containing one of the letters in the collection of the James Bertenshaw Family Letters.



This sketch is included in one of the letters in the Thaddeus Capron Family Papers.

and livestock industries. Capron served as an officer in the U.S. Army on the western frontier after the Civil War and served at Forts Bridger and Laramie among others. Bertenshaw left his family in Indiana in 1864 to travel to the Montana gold fields. A year later he left for San Francisco, only to die during his westward journey. Jack Casement had a contract to lay track for the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad during the late 1860s and often wrote to his wife who stayed at their home in Ohio.

The lesson plan will depend less on traditional themes of westward movement and will instead be more about the human aspect of living in Wyoming during the second half of the nineteenth century when loved ones are separated by long distances. The plan will include letters from each of the collections, as well as images, maps, and other digitized items aimed at getting students interested in western history. ■

Star of King Kong in UW Geological Museum

One of the more intriguing AHC artifacts is this triceratops model from the Samuel A. Peeples Collection. The model is presently on loan to the UW Geological Museum and is the centerpiece for the exhibit “King Kong and Wyoming’s State Dinosaur” curated by AHC Collections Manager Bill Hopkins.

The model was first used in an uncompleted 1931 film titled *Creation*. The stop action footage for this movie was then used in *King Kong*. However, the triceratops was edited from the finished version of the 1933 movie, although the original *Creation* test footage can be found on the R1 *King Kong* DVD released by Time-Warner in 2005. The exhibit discusses the technique of stop-motion photography and that the triceratops is Wyoming’s state dinosaur. ■



The triceratops from the Samuel A. Peeples Collection.





PHOTO from the ARCHIVES

David Brown and Richard Zanuck produced the wildly popular film *Jaws* in 1975, directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Roy Schneider, Richard Dreyfuss, and Robert Shaw. Three years later Brown and Zanuck produced *Jaws 2*. Schneider reprised his role of Sheriff Brody, although Jeannot Szwarc directed the movie, not Spielberg. David Brown Papers.