

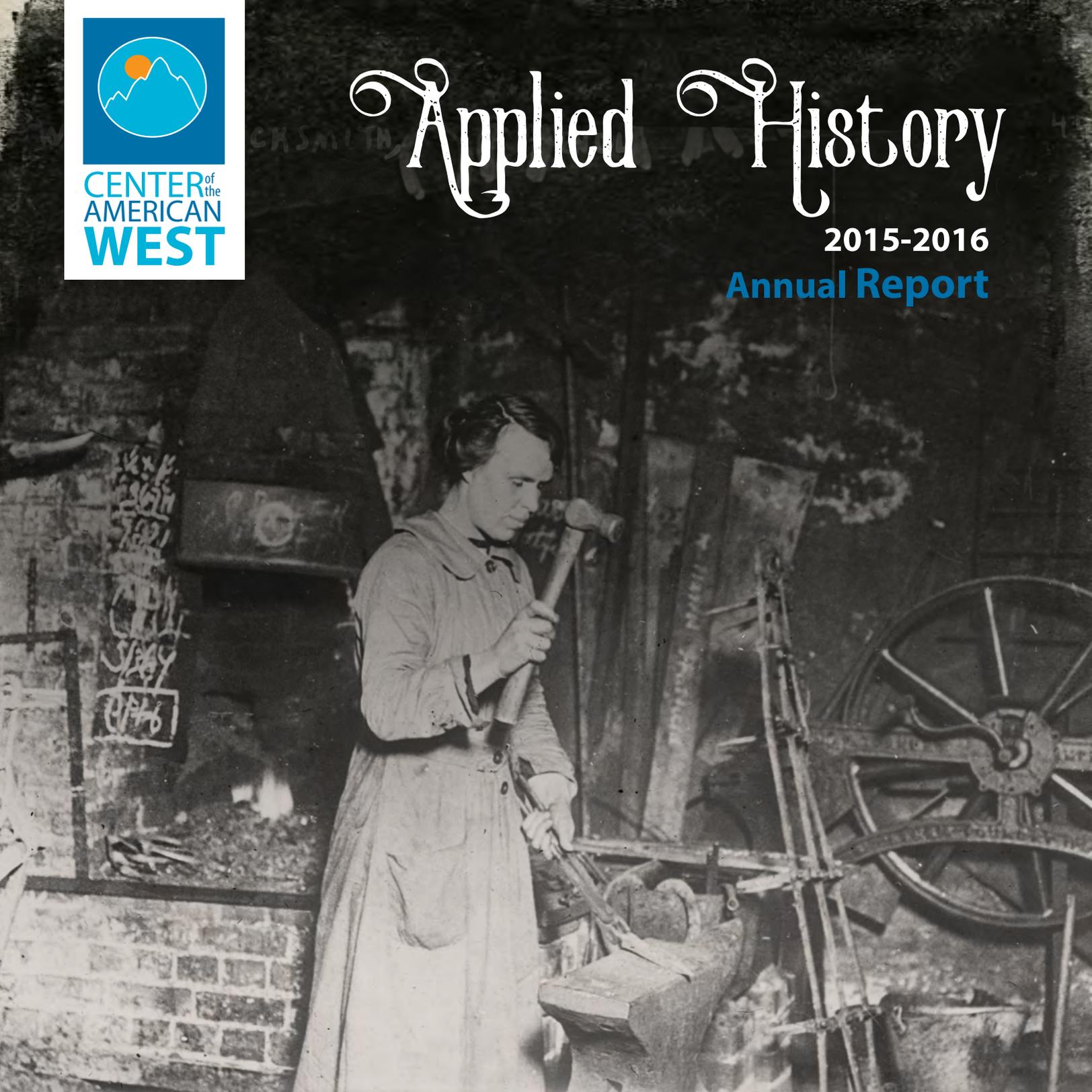


CENTER of the  
AMERICAN  
WEST

# Applied History

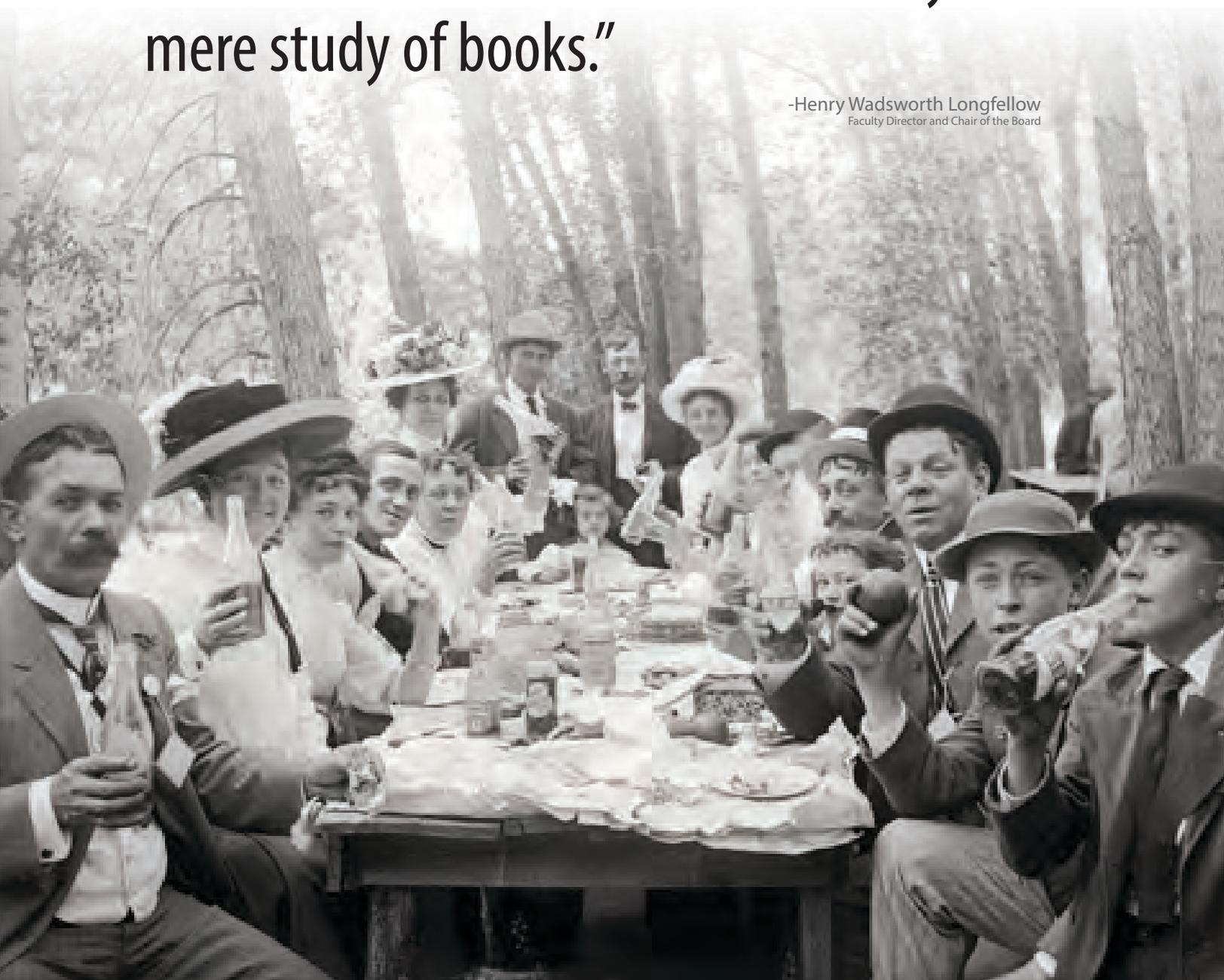
2015-2016

Annual Report



“A single conversation across the table  
with a wise man is better than ten years  
mere study of books.”

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
Faculty Director and Chair of the Board



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**Photo:** Jack Thompson congratulates the Seventeenth Annual Thompson Writing Award Contest winners. Read more on page 10.

# 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. While our motto captures the Center's vision, the guiding theme of this Annual Report—Applied History—serves as our central technique for turning Hindsight into Foresight. How do you best use historical perspective as a navigational system in difficult times? We do so by paying equal attention to accurate and thorough historical research, and to the needs, identity, and concerns of the audiences we are addressing. It is a juggling act performed, at times, with the flexibility, modesty, and resilience of the traditional Fool, updated to the 21st century.

The Center of the American West is also an academic center, and much of the freshness and energy we apply to contemporary issues come 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 the Grace Arrington Kempton Student Gatherings at Patty Limerick's and Houston Kempton's house, our internship program, the Thompson Awards for Western Writing, and our Certificate in Western American Studies. Students working toward that certificate have the added advantage of being eligible for our Beardsley Family Scholarship. 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 in the welcome tasks of spreading the methodology of Applied History to students, engaging them in conversations and providing them abundant opportunities to explore and expand their education, their skill sets, and their life goals.

**Photo:** Grace Arrington Kempton Student Gathering, hosted by Patty Limerick and Houston Kempton, featuring Colorado Music Hall of Fame Inductee Chris Daniels.



# THE KEYS TO THE CENTER'S EXPANDING REACH

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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.





# A LETTER FROM

*Patty Limerick*  
Faculty Director & Chair of the Board

There are many good reasons to prepare and circulate an Annual Report for the Center of the American West. But perhaps the best reason is this: it guarantees that we follow the advice we offer to others and practice what we preach.

Looking at others or looking at ourselves, consistency requires us to follow our institutional slogan, "Turning Hindsight into Foresight." And, in truth, there is something surprisingly restful and restorative about performing this activity with the Center itself as the subject for assessment.

Looking back over a year overflowing with programs, speeches, projects, overtures, initiatives, conversations, and consultations, we think you will join us in finding unmistakable evidence that a central practice keeps the Center's work on a steady course. From July 1, 2015, through to June 30, 2016, our various enterprises converged on our commitment to drawing lessons from history to help Westerners navigate through the present and into the future.

As Applied Historians, we make no claim to power of prophecy or prediction; we are, in fact, over-supplied with historical evidence establishing the fact that foretelling the future with precision and certainty does not figure in the skill sets of normal human beings. Instead, Applied Historians seize on every opportunity to invite people to take a break from the preoccupations and antagonisms of the present and to shift their attention to historical stories. The stories from the past seem to cluster into three categories: inspirational tales, offering examples to follow and emulate; cautionary tales, making a case for carefully paced, deliberate action, or sometimes for forswearing action entirely; and "do-not-expect-anything-to-be-simple" tales, mapping the terrain where overconfidence can lead to missteps and land mines await the arrival of the naïve.

In the months covered in this report, the growing force of three social, cultural, and political dilemmas have placed a premium on the Center's work:

1. A fixation on the present has worn away at the capacity of Americans to place themselves in the larger unrolling of time. Efforts to resolve conflicts or address problems stand little chance of success without an understanding of the origins of those conflicts and problems. And yet it is no easy matter for an agency, institution, organization, agency, or set of elected officials to enlist the help of a professional who can deliver historical background and perspective as a service that is free of the encumbrance of jargon and narrow professional preoccupations, directly applicable to the needs of particular audiences to become aware of their location in time.

2. The features of our world that have corroded society's respect for accuracy present themselves as overpowering: social media's powerful role in creating and maintaining the echo chambers where the likeminded congregate, and the climate of distrust that has destroyed the credibility of every imaginable source of information or understanding.

3. In colleges and universities around the country, enrollment in history courses and numbers of history majors have been plummeting. When young people express an interest in becoming historians, the response to this aspiration is often a barrage of well-intended advice from their relatives and friends, urging them to surrender this misguided ambition and make a wiser choice with a better prospect of securing a satisfying job.

Consider these three dilemmas in isolation from each other, and they remain troubling and confounding.

But think about these dilemmas in relationship to each other, and the mind moves quickly to three remedies, ready to mobilize and deploy:

1. Applied History offers a telling and tranquil exploration, performed for and presented to many public audiences, of the arenas of human knowledge where accuracy can be very precisely gauged as well as the arenas of human knowledge where uncertainty must be honestly and humbly acknowledged, thereby constructing a steady and convincing foundation for trust and credibility.

2. Applied History cultivates, in its practitioners, the interrelated and compatible capacities for gaining and holding historical knowledge and for engaging in the entrepreneurial conduct that will position the next generation of practitioners to match those skills to the groups and organizations in urgent need of them.

3. Applied History offers a set of skills and opens a range of opportunities that gives the lie to the proposition that degrees in history rarely lead to satisfying employment.

Focusing attention on the Center's practices in Applied History is decidedly not a retreat from the Center's well-established custom of soliciting and drawing together the wisdom of experts and specialists in every imaginable discipline and specialization. On the contrary, the participation of faculty and students from other academic areas—engineering or political science, linguistics or geosciences, film studies or business administration—has never been more crucial to the Center's success. The issues facing the West are so complex that a historian attempting to work in disciplinary isolation and solitude would soon be overwhelmed and defeated!

Allied with colleagues and comrades from every domain of human knowledge, Applied Historians offer an irresistible invitation to "the better angels of our nature" to come out of hiding: by noting that nearly all the problems and dilemmas up for a historical reckoning originated before the people of the present arrived on the planet, Applied History overrules the customs of blame, recrimination, and accusation that so regularly derail efforts at productive public conversation and problem-solving.

And here ends this Call to Action, masquerading as a Foreword to an Annual Report!

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



# A LETTER FROM

*Kurt Gutjahr*  
Program Director

Two weeks after being hired by the Center of the American West I attended my first “all-staff meeting.” It was not a symposium on the key issues that face the West. Nor was it a roll call of researchers and students reporting on their progress on various projects (although we did share plenty of this kind of information). No, the first “all-staff meeting” was a potato chip party featuring Kettle Brand potato chips.

Patty had met the CEO of Kettle Brand Chips when they were both speakers at an Oregon conference. He was quite taken with her and the Center’s mission and decided to send the Center a shipment of multi-flavored potato chips. That day, sitting around the offices of the Center, eating mango chutney flavored chips, and listening to my co-workers discuss their projects, I knew that I’d found a rare work environment. Since that meeting I’ve attended an improvisational acting workshop in order to learn important lessons about public communication; I have worn Groucho Marx glasses (see staff photo) just to reveal how effectively we avoid the peril of taking ourselves too seriously; I have danced with a broom because it was there; and I have commissioned a welder to create a gilded pickle (the official “Fool for a Day Award”). And these are just a few examples of the Center’s one-of-a-kind approach to the often very serious and earnest work we do.

And what is that work? As many of you know, our motto is “Turning Hindsight Into Foresight™.” While it is an excellent goal, it doesn’t fully define us because for the Center it’s not just what we do, it’s how we do it. The Center turns hindsight into foresight by ensuring that we do accurate, in-depth, and thorough historical research exploring the elements that shape the West—land use, energy, tribal sovereignty, and more—and we communicate that information by ensuring that we know the identity, concerns, and interests of the audience we are addressing. Sometimes we use humor in the form of a limerick, other times in the form of a rubber chicken, to break the tension that often surrounds these issues. Determining the relevance of a historical event also requires that we question our own assumptions and conclusions. To that end, we do our best to understand challenges through the eyes of the people who are facing them most directly. To paraphrase the great blues artist Curtis Salgado, we attempt to “walk a mile in another man’s blues.”

In a world filled with so many people so determined to use their opinions to create change, the Center fosters an environment for generating understanding of both the facts and the people who embrace doubt and contest the meaning of those facts. In essence, we throw one big, ongoing, potato chip sampling party and we ask everyone to come—rural and urban community members,

students and professors, engineers and philosophers, elected officials and bureaucrats, and each of you. We call this combination of research, outreach, and public engagement Applied History.

The pages of this report reveal the tremendous and widespread public thirst for this approach. In the research section, you’ll find descriptions of a range of projects including one that focuses on updating interpretative plans for the “nature” National Parks to better incorporate Indian History and Indian experience into their interpretative content. Applied History is also alive in our events, as is evidenced by Will Wilson’s visit as part of our Modern Indian Identity series. Mr. Wilson described and displayed his wet plate photography project as an ‘updating’ of famed and, now and then, controversial Western Photographer George Catlin’s portraits of Native Americans. Our academic programs include internships to give students work experience at such notable organizations as the Native American Rights Fund, the Nature Conservancy, and History Colorado; the Grace Arrington Kempton dinners to give students a chance to meet leading professionals and public figures in Colorado; and our Certificate in Western American Studies to provide students an interdisciplinary understanding of the West. As the profiles throughout this report reveal, students working with the Center have gained valuable skills that prepare them for both academia and the wider world.

And as evidenced by her numerous activities, our Faculty Director Patty Limerick is the living, breathing, speaking, and writing embodiment of Applied History. In addition to serving as State Historian and as a member of the National Council on the Humanities, Patty has also been applying history to the sticky issues water managers face, to the intertwined histories of the recreation and extraction economies, and to the questions that arise when energy production comes into contact with suburban life.

Applied History is a key component of our certificate program, our internship program, our events, and our research. It is how we transform hindsight into foresight. We feel passionately that an understanding of history, combined with the skills required to communicate that understanding, are essential not only for dealing productively with the region’s issues, but also for creating a world that is better able to handle complexity. Please join us as we promote the cause of Applied History as the Center moves steadily, and confidently, into its twenty-sixth year, its fiftieth year, and its hundredth year.

Best,



Kurt Gutjahr  
Program Director

# OUTREACH

From humor to energy, from land use to water use, from education to commemoration, the Center of the American West and its Faculty Director literally do it all. The Center is a one-of-a-kind, collegiate educational unit that takes every opportunity to get the word out to a wide variety of public audiences, applying academic knowledge and research to real life situations and scenarios. The Faculty Director is our primary ambassador, bringing the Center's vision and expertise to a wide variety of audiences. Below you will find just a small sampling of the numerous outreach activities Patty has pursued throughout the year.

## Heading into the Interior

In conjunction with Patty's work on her upcoming book on the Department of the Interior (see publications page for more), Patty delivered a range of talks on this topic, field-testing ideas, gathering audience feedback, and surveying and mapping routes of escape from the widespread assumption that the history of bureaucracies is inherently boring. Below you'll find a sampling of those talks:

- History Colorado Rocky Mountain National Park Centennial Speaker Series, Denver, Colorado (August 6, 2015)
- Silicon Flatirons Conference, CU Boulder, Boulder, Colorado (September 17, 2015)
- Scripps Fellowship Seminar, Boulder, Colorado (October 1, 2015)
- Western Lands & Peoples: Perspectives on the American West Lecture Series, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana (October 16, 2015)
- Society of American Foresters (SAF) Front Range Leadership Academy, Fort Collins, Colorado (January 29, 2016)
- Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, New Haven, Connecticut (February 2, 2016)
- Association of Partners for Public Lands Convention, Spokane, Washington (March 9, 2016)

## Return to Familiar Territory, with a Few Unexpected Twists: Water and Energy

Because of *A Ditch in Time*, and the Center's phase of involvement with a National Science Foundation Sustainability Research Network project on Natural Gas, Patty continues to receive plenty of invitations to speak on water management and oil and gas development. And yet these invitations do not always lead to her giving the "same old presentation," summarizing previous findings. For example, at the conference of the National Water Resources Association, Patty moderated a panel on experiments to substitute collaboration for opposition in dealings between water management agencies and environmental activists. As always, these talks present new opportunities for the Center to return to its research and find new ways to apply that knowledge to the needs of diverse audiences. Below is a sampling of these talks:

- 35th Oil Shale Symposium, Salt Lake City, Utah (October 5-6, 2015)
- National Water Resources 2015 Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado (November 5, 2015)
- Society of Petroleum Engineers, Young Professionals Division Lunch and Learn, Denver, Colorado (November 11, 2015)
- Colorado Water Congress 2016 Annual Convention "Raising the Bar, New Standards for Colorado's Water Community," Denver, Colorado (January 28, 2016)
- National Public Radio's "Going There: The Future of Water," Fort Collins, Colorado (May 24, 2016)

## Outreach in Education

Patty and the Center of the American West continue to contribute to the field of education in a variety of venues. This past year, Patty contributed to innovative programming at academic conferences, guided K-12 teachers through new approaches to teaching Westward Expansion, and served as a guest lecturer for a number of University of Colorado Boulder classes.

- **Earth Educators' Rendezvous 2015, University of Colorado Boulder (July 14, 2015)**
- Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher's Seminar, University of Colorado Boulder (July 19-24, 2015), "The American Environment in Historical Perspective."
- University of Denver Higher Education Discussion, Denver, Colorado (September 18, 2015). Inauguration celebration for the University of Denver Chancellor Rebecca Chopp.
- American Historical Association's 130th Annual Meeting "Global Migrations: Empires, Nations, and Neighbors," Atlanta, Georgia (January 7-10, 2016)
- Guest Lecture, Greg Hobbs' class (L4700), Colorado Legal History & Practice at the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado (February 23, 2016)
- Guest Lecture, Christian Hammons and Dan Boord's class (CMDP 5600), Documentary Lab Seminar at the University of Colorado Boulder (February 26, 2016)
- Guest Lecture, CAMW 2001: The American West, University of Colorado Boulder (March 15, 2016)
- The 47th Annual College English Association Conference, Denver, Colorado (April 2, 2016)
- The 109th Annual Organization of American Historians Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island (April 6-10, 2016)
- The Western Association of Women Historians' 48th Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado (May 13, 2016)
- Advanced Placement United States History Presentation, Louisville, Kentucky (June 2, 2016)

## Interviews Aplenty

Because of the Center of the American West's interest in a wide range of regional (and national) issues, Patty has gained expertise on a range of topics. This last year Patty has been called upon to utilize that expertise for a number of interviews, whether it be for high school students competing in the National History Day competition, or for National Public Radio seeking to gain perspective on our complex public lands issues. A sampling of these interviews includes:

- National History Day interview with two Fairview High School students, Boulder, Colorado (December 16, 2015). Topic: National History Day project regarding Old Bent's Fort.
- Oregon Public Radio, Marketplace interview with Mitchell Hartman, Boulder, Colorado (January 4, 2016). Topic: Western land use/ownership and resource exploitation.
- *New York Times*, The Upshot interview with Margot Sanger-Katz, Denver, Colorado (January 5, 2016). Topic: History of federal land management out West.
- *The Economist* interview with Andrew Miller, Boulder, Colorado (January 5, 2016). Topic: The place of land in concepts of the American West.
- *Congressional Quarterly* interview with Daniel Bloom, Denver, Colorado (January 7, 2016). Topic: The Bundy led occupation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Oregon.
- *Denver Business Journal* interview with Ed Sealover, Boulder, Colorado (January 11, 2016). Topic: State Historian announcement.
- *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* interview with Bill Zlatos, Boulder, Colorado (February 23, 2016). Topic: The Alamo's role on subsequent American history and Americans' conceptions or misconceptions of the West.
- National Public Radio, The Takeaway interview with John Hockenberry, Boulder, Colorado (May 27, 2016). Topic: The disappearing American West.
- Havey Productions interview with Jim Havey, Denver, Colorado (June 8, 2016). Topic: The history of Colorado Fuel and Iron for a film on Pueblo, Colorado.
- Oregon Public Radio, Marketplace interview with Mitchell Hartman, Denver, Colorado (June 15, 2016). Topic: The economics of ranching.

## Denver Post Columnist

Patty also serves as a columnist for *The Denver Post*. During the 2015-2016 year, one that was fraught with election year tension, Patty penned the following pieces. All articles are available on our website at: [www.centerwest.org](http://www.centerwest.org).

- "National Park Service saves more than history (it saved me)," (July 17, 2015).
- "Historians in times of crisis," (August 14, 2015).
- "Hold on to your sense of humor, America," (September 18, 2015).
- "The myth of the vanishing Indian," (October 16, 2015).
- "The Paradox of Bernard DeVoto," (December 18, 2015).
- "Why I fell in love with Colorado," (January 15, 2016).
- "Obituary writers' prose and diplomacy," (February 19, 2016).
- "True faith and allegiance," (March 18, 2016).
- "A lack of nuance in today's political scene," (April 15, 2016).
- "Thanks, parents, for letting me teach your children," (May 13, 2016).
- "Fracking opponents and the opposite of peaceable assembly," (June 17, 2016).

### Earth Educators' Rendezvous 2015, University of Colorado Boulder (July 14, 2015)

The 2015 First Annual Earth Educators' Rendezvous brought together researchers and practitioners working in all aspects of undergraduate Earth education. The "Rendezvous" welcomed faculty from all disciplines who are interested in improving their teaching about the Earth, administrators

from geoscience departments and interdisciplinary programs that want to become stronger, and education researchers of all types. At this event Patty moderated a plenary panel about fracking in the context of teaching about controversial issues. The goal of the panel was to inform the attendees about the scientific and societal issues related to fracking and to help the attendees think about how to use fracking and related issues as opportunities for critical thinking.

# ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

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The Center offers students prime opportunities for firsthand learning about Western issues past, present, and future. Students who discover the Center via one of our faculty affiliates, our annual writing contest, or our public events are likely to find themselves invited to meet with governors, senators, policy makers, Supreme Court

justices, journalists, public land managers, and others actively engaged in working on today's American West. Each of our programs engages students with the wider world, helping them to translate their academic education into real world action and employment.

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## Internships Program

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

This year, seven students interned with The Nature Conservancy, History Colorado Center, and Native American Rights Fund. Interns shared weekly online journal entries and gave thoughtful, vivid, and good-humored presentations about their experiences which reaffirmed 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.

On May 6, we celebrated the graduations and certificate completions of four students: Atherton Phleger, BA English-Creative Writing; Jessica Akselrad, BFA Art Practices; Keenan Ordon-Bakalian, BA History; and Abe Solberg, BA Geography. We look forward to seeing them again, and in the meantime, we are keeping track of their ongoing explorations and accomplishments.

## Hoffman Scholars Fund

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

## Beardsley Family Scholarship

This year, the Center awarded the Beardsley Family Scholarship to Fine Arts major Jessica Akselrad, who first encountered the Center in the Fall of 2014 in our intro course; and then, at the instructor's urging, attended a reading by Acoma Indian poet Simon Ortiz during a week-long commemoration of the Sand Creek Massacre.

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, which was established and endowed by current Center Board member Pamela Beardsley, and is also supported by the annual Center of the American West Fandango fundraiser.



*Katie*

## KATIE ARMSTRONG

### Undergraduate Student Highlight

By chance, I discovered the Center of 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!

## 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 Arrington Kempton, who passed away in February 2012. In keeping with her warm and community-minded spirit, and her lifelong love of social gatherings, especially with young people in attendance, the Grace Arrington Kempton Fund supports cozy student gatherings featuring inspiring, noteworthy Westerners. It is not difficult to see why students love these unique dinners and become Grace Arrington Kempton regulars, inviting their classmates who then form their own ties with the Center; and even continue to attend post-graduation whenever they are in the neighborhood.

This year's dinners, hosted at the home of Patty Limerick and Houston Kempton, featured these guest speakers: Colorado Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia and Claire Garcia, Director of Race, Ethnicity and Migration Studies at Colorado College; Colorado Supreme Court Justice Allison Eid and Troy Eid, Chair of the Federal Indian Law and Order Commission and Shareholder in the Denver office of the international law firm of Greenberg Traurig LLP; Chris Daniels, blues/funk/swing musician and Colorado Music Hall of Famer; and Neal George and Russell George who is the President of Colorado Northwestern Community College and former executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

Author Frank Bergon, whose Western-themed books of fiction and non-fiction have earned him several prestigious literary awards, gives keynote address at the Seventeenth Annual Thompson Writing Awards Banquet.



# ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

(CONTINUED)

## Seventeenth 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 already impressive writers.

The April 29 awards banquet was attended by eight exuberant winners and their guests, along with contest judges, Board members, and other Center community members.

Kicking off the evening was author Frank Bergon, whose Western-themed books of fiction and non-fiction have earned him several prestigious literary awards. Following his keynote address, our first prize winners, each introduced by one of the judges who selected their work, read excerpts from their winning entries in the categories of fiction, poetry, memoir, creative non-fiction, and academic non-fiction. To see the list of the winners and to read their work, please go to the Center's Thompson Awards Website: <http://centerwest.org/academics/writing-awards/past-winners>.

**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.**

**Top Photo:** The Center's Program Director Kurt Gutjahr giving introductory remarks.

**Bottom Photo:** Proud Thompson Writing Award Contest winners from left to right - Darren Alberti, Kevin Loeffler, Atherton Phleger, Tania Elmore, Catherine Jansury, Julia Frankenbach, and Samuel Eric Bock.



Tania

## TANIA ELMORE

Undergraduate Student Highlight

Tania Elmore is a twenty-year-old Western American Studies Certificate Program student who is also a History major. Hopefully she will not be an undergrad forever, but it's taking a while. She has been passionate about history and historiography since childhood, and has a wide range of interests within the field, with disability history (especially neuroatypical historical characters) and, of course, the fascinating past of the American West topping the list. Other areas of interest which she can expound upon at great, possibly even painful, length are psychopathology, all things pop culture, and disability rights. She likes to fancy herself a writer of fiction and poetry. Her love of the American West was borne of her lifelong residency in Colorado, and her love of Western history was kindled by a fascination with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Her experiences with the Center of the American West and as a certificate student have been nothing short of magical. It has been an absolute blessing to find a place where her, at times esoteric, interests fit. The connections she's made with fantastic scholars have been lovely and eye-opening, and her passion for the American West has been, to use an absolutely abominably clichéd turn-of-phrase, kindled into a roaring fire by the Center. She is truly honored to be here, in the Center, and in this annual report.





CENTER OF THE AMERICAN WEST  
WELCOMES YOU TO

## Spring has Bloomed

17TH ANNUAL  
Thompson Awards  
for Western American  
Writing Banquet

Featuring

*Frank Bergon*

Author of *Shoshone Mike*

Friday, April 29, 2016

6:00 RECEPTION, 7:00 DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY  
UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL CENTER PATIO TENT  
CU Boulder Campus



THE THOMPSON AWARDS FOR WESTERN AMERICAN WRITING ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF JACK AND JEANNIE THOMPSON.



# RESEARCH

## New and Forthcoming Projects

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### RESEARCH STAFF

**Jason Hanson, Research Faculty**

**Brooke Neely, Research Fellow**

**Jeff Roche, Visiting Scholar**

**Kathy Kambic, Adjunct Instructor**

**Adrienne Kroepsch, Graduate Instructor and Research Assistant**

**Sam Bock, Graduate Instructor and Research Assistant**

**Will Rempel, Undergraduate Research Assistant**

The research staff at the Center of the American West works on topics as diverse as the West itself, synthesizing leading academic scholarship and original research into engaging and accessible publications, presentations, and more. This year, our staff has engaged in a particularly broad range of applied history projects, and among our noteworthy achievements was the completion of the Governor's Love Colorado initiative. Inspired by Governor Hickenlooper's goal to promote Centennial State pride by emphasizing Colorado history in K-12 classrooms, Center staff convened a partnership between subject-matter experts and local teachers to create annotated primary source booklets on Colorado's history. These booklets are now hosted on the Center's website and are available to anyone who shares our passion for learning about those who preceded us in making Colorado their home.

Working in a characteristically collaborative mode, the Center has also initiated a partnership between CU's Center for Native and Indigenous Studies and the National Park Service aimed at fostering better dialogue with American Indian tribes. With Brooke Neely at the helm, and with a grant from the University's Outreach Department in our pockets, the Center and our partners have charted a course we hope will support Rocky Mountain National Park's interpretive staff as they deepen alliances and collaborations with American Indian tribes, adding to the recognition of local Indian history among Park visitors.

These are just a few of the Center's ongoing initiatives, and we hope that you will read on to discover more about some of our other projects. Our endeavors range from a *Journal of the West* theme issue on western beer to a multi-lingual glossary for terms commonly used when talking about hydraulic fracturing. In every undertaking, we blend historical insight with a merry sense of humor in the hopes of shedding light on and offering a fresh view on some of the West's most complex issues.

## FEATURED PROJECTS

### The Brew West

#### The West Explained Over a Couple of Beers

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 and Sam Bock aimed at this goal in a new issue of *Journal of the West*. Jason, serving as guest editor and author, penned an introduction to the issue entitled "Western History Explored Over a Few Beers." Jason also co-wrote the article "New West, Brew West: Home Brewing an Industry in the West" with Michael McCullough of California Polytechnic State University and Josh Berning of the University of Georgia. The issue also featured an essay by noted Western Historian, Elliott West, "Beer: A Western and Human Tradition." This work explores the craft beer industry's roots in homebrewing and seeks an answer to the question of how craft beer became so popular in the West. Meanwhile, Sam's article explores what canned craft beer tells us about the social, economic, and environmental contours of the twenty-first-century West.

### A Multi-Lingual Glossary for Citizen-Explorers Bravely Entering the Controversy Over Hydraulic Fracturing

#### Defining the Language of Oil and Gas Development

A person who wishes to engage in the conversation about fracking (or is that frac'ing, or fraquing?) in an informed and reasoned manner must be able to decipher communiqués thick with technical terminology and jargon. They need a glossary at the ready to help translate the language of oil and gas development. Last 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. In 2016, the Center partnered with Austen Bernier to produce *Glosario del Fracturamiento Hidráulico*, a Spanish language translation of the Hydraulic Fracturing Glossary.

### Colorado in the Classroom

#### The Governor's Love Colorado Initiative

Governor 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 thought-provoking topics in Colorado history through a collection of engaging primary sources. The resources were selected and annotated by subject-matter experts who provided a narrative explaining how the topic connected to larger themes in American and world history. Classroom teachers from several grade levels then assessed the sets for alignment with state education standards and provided suggestions on how to use them with students, thereby providing them the "Teachers Stamp of Approval." The first of these sets became available to teachers this school year. They cover the Japanese Internment Camps at Amache, Bent's Fort, Lincoln Hills and Colorado's Civil Rights Movement, and more. You can find them at: <http://centerwest.org/projects/k-12-education/the-governors-love-colorado-initiative>.

## American Indian Histories in the National Park Service

### How can the National Park Service Improve Interpretation of American Indian History?

The Center of the American West, in collaboration with CU's Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies and the National Park Service, is embarking on a project aimed at promoting a more consistent and inclusive dialogue between American Indian tribes and the National Park Service. Though individual parks maintain relationships with interested tribal stakeholders, not every park is successful in its mission to consult and cooperate with tribes when it comes to presenting American Indian history to the general public. Our project's initial phase will bring together tribal representatives, scholars, and Park Service personnel in Rocky Mountain National Park to discuss ways to expand the interpretation of the park's American Indian histories with subsequent workshops to follow that broaden the project's scope and scale to include other National Park Service units, scholars, and tribal stakeholders throughout the West.

## The Significance of the Bureaucrat in Western American History

### Hair-Raising Tales from the Department of the Interior

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

## Colorado Encyclopedia

### Articles About Colorado's Past and Present

Ever wondered how Aspen went from a sleepy mining town to the popular haunt of celebrities? Do you want to know how the Five Points neighborhood in Denver got its name? Look no further than the Colorado Encyclopedia: a collection of accessible articles by experts about Colorado people, places, events, and things! This project is spearheaded by CU Professor of History, William Wei, who also is a Center of the American West Emeritus Board member. The Center's researchers serve as an editorial team for producing articles about Colorado Places in this expansive publication project being led by Colorado Humanities and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Colorado Encyclopedia is currently available as an open prototype at [www.coloradoencyclopedia.org](http://www.coloradoencyclopedia.org).

## WRITING IN-PROGRESS AND FORTHCOMING

**"Rocky Mountain National Park" – Article by Sam Bock for the *Colorado Encyclopedia* (under review, expected publication December 2016).**

**"Denver-Julesburg Basin" – Article by Adrienne Kroepsch for *Colorado Encyclopedia* (under review, expected publication December 2016).**

**"Greeley, Colorado" – Article by Adrienne Kroepsch for *Colorado Encyclopedia* (under review, expected publication December 2016).**

**"Community Engagement in Colorado Museums" – Brooke Neely. Forthcoming report that explores the ways museums work to engage diverse communities within Colorado. Expected in 2017.**

**"Sand Creek Massacre: Then and Now" – Article by Brooke Neely with Thomas Thomas (National Park Service) for *Colorado Encyclopedia* (under review, expected publication December 2016).**

**"How to Build a Better Park: The Attributes of Enhancement Value" – Literature review of how parks interact with property values by Jason Hanson with Patty Limerick, Sarah Thomas, and Paul Heffron (under review with the *Journal of Planning Literature*).**



## NICOLI BOWLEY

Undergraduate Student Highlight

When I tell someone that I am studying history, I often get the response, "So you want to be a teacher?" The truth is, teaching is nowhere on my radar! I have long been searching for a way to turn my passion for history into a career. When I realized being a 'historical expert' on TV shows such as *Pawn Stars* was not a viable option, I started looking for opportunities on the CU campus.

I happily found the wonderful community at the Center of the American West, and through them I got an internship at the History Colorado Center as a research assistant. Not only have I learned the ways of museum operations from archives to curation, I have had the opportunity to research topics that I would not have encountered otherwise. In doing so, my eyes have been opened to the West's often misunderstood, yet rich history. Best of all, I know exactly what career I want to pursue and I owe it all to the Center.

## FEATURED PROJECTS & OUTREACH

### Applied Projects

- *By Their Hats, Horses, and Homes, We Shall Know Them* – Jason Hanson, Lead Exhibit Developer. In collaboration with History Colorado staff and Patty Limerick, Jason designed an exhibit featuring historic photos of Colorado and its residents. History Colorado Center, Denver, and at History Colorado Community Museums statewide (Opened June 18, 2016).
- *Awkward Family Photos* – Jason Hanson, Lead Exhibit Developer. In collaboration with History Colorado Staff, Jason oversaw the installation of the traveling exhibit Awkward Family Photos. History Colorado Center (Opened June 18, 2016).

### Talks & Presentations

- “Oil and Gas Development in the South Platte River Basin: An Evolving Energy-Water Nexus” – Adrienne Kroepsch. Paper presented at the American Water Resources Association, Colorado Chapter, Annual Symposium, Golden, Colorado (April 22, 2016).
- “The Colorado Brewing Industry: History and Sourcing” – Jason Hanson. Invited and delivered a presentation to brewing industry professionals at the Golden Sudsposium, Golden, Colorado (April 28, 2016).
- “Beer Here! A Local History of Brewing in Colorado” – Jason Hanson. Keynote Address to the Golden Sudsposium Conference of Colorado Brewers, Golden, Colorado (April 28, 2016).
- “Beer Here! A Local History of Brewing in Colorado” – Jason Hanson. Invited and delivered a presentation to Golden Beer Talks (civic organization) Golden, Colorado (May 10, 2016).
- “The Untimely Death of Fred Brammier” – Sam Bock. Invited presentation to the Tamarack Optimists Club, Denver, Colorado (August 4, 2016).
- “Revisiting Racial Space: Belonging and Community in Educational Institutions” – Brooke Neely. Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems annual meeting, Seattle, Washington (August 21, 2016).

### Service

- Sam Bock serves on the Boulder Valley School District’s National History Day advisory board and was a head judge for the regional competition (2015 – present).
- Brooke Neely serves as an Advisory Member for the Exhibit Development Task Force at the Museum of Boulder (2015 - present).
- “National History Day in Colorado State Finals” – Sam Bock 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, 2016).

### Achievements & Honors

- Former Graduate Instructor and Research Assistant Adrienne Kroepsch received her Ph.D. in Environmental Studies in May. She has been hired as an assistant professor in Energy, Environment, and Society within the Liberal Arts & International Studies Division at the Colorado School of Mines.
- Visiting Instructor Kathy Kambic has been hired as a tenure track faculty member in the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.
- Graduate Instructor and Research Assistant Sam Bock passed his comprehensive exams and is now a PhD. candidate in the history department.
- Undergraduate Research Assistant Will Rempel, who successfully defended his undergraduate honors thesis on the geography of fracking in the Denver-Julesburg Basin, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in Geography.

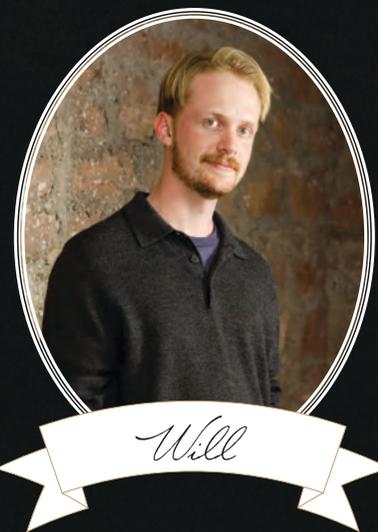
## THE CAW CATALOG

### 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



### **WILL REMPLE** Undergraduate Student Staff Highlight, Graduated Spring 2016

With my position as a research assistant nearing its end, I would like to thank the Center for this unique opportunity and for the projects and events in which I was allowed to participate during the last three years. This list includes the Center's certificate program, numerous initiatives related to the study and understanding of oil and gas development, a trip to Yosemite, and the other lectures, presentations and forums that addressed different but equally important subjects related to the history, character, and issues of our region.

Just as memorable as the subjects I studied and events I took part in are the people I did this with, because my experience and lessons from the Center would not be remotely the same without the extraordinary community of co-workers, students, faculty, board members, guest speakers, and other Center affiliates. I will especially be forever thankful to Patty for what I learned about the value of respect, reason, and humor. I have come to greatly appreciate the Center's conciliatory manner in addressing conflict, and hope to continue this practice in any future endeavors that await me. The bowl of chocolate and candy at the front desk was also pretty great.

# CENTER STAGE

## Event Highlights 2015-2016

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The Center of the American West presented a diverse array of programming for the public this year. We honored National Book Award winner and *The New York Times* columnist Tim Egan with the Stegner Award; we introduced our first “Fool for a Day,” *The New Yorker* cartoon editor, Bob Mankoff; and we continued our public conversation about hydraulic fracturing with a book release event for *Fracture*, a collection of essays, stories, and poems about hydraulic fracturing. We also brought you another event in our Modern Indian Identity series, this one featuring photographer and artist, Will Wilson.

### Center of the American West Annual Retreat Portland, Oregon

September 24 – 27, 2015

The Center of the American West’s 2015 Annual Retreat was held in Portland, Oregon. Portland, a kindred spirit to Boulder, is also a city that has taken unique approaches to a range of issues including transportation, city planning, water, and much more. Guided by Former Oregon Secretary of State and current Portland State University Professor, Phil Keisling, the Center toured the wine country, visited with the Starker Family and toured their private research forest, chatted with Mayor Charlie Hales, experienced some of Portland’s famous food culture, and heard hair-raising tales of maritime life from Astoria-based seamen Scotty Parker and Mike Phillips. These retreats are truly distinctive and memorable opportunities for gaining an understanding of the inner workings of a region while deepening a sense of affiliation and shared understandings for the participants.

**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.**

### The Center of the American West’s Fool for a Day Featuring The New Yorker Cartoon Editor Bob Mankoff: “The History of Humor and the Humor of History”

October 14, 2015

This year the Center hosted the first Center of the American West Fool for a Day Award. This award was created to celebrate those individuals whose 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. In addition to serving as the Cartoon Editor of *The New Yorker*, Mr. Mankoff is the author of *How About Never — Is Never Good for You?: My Life in Cartoons* and is the editor of *The Complete Cartoons of the New Yorker*. On this evening, Mr. Mankoff regaled the audience with stories about his journey from a psychology grad

And the Center presented author Craig Werner and his book *We Gotta Get Out of This Place* as part of a co-hosted Vietnam 50th Commemoration event with American Music Research Center, CU Boulder Student Veterans Association, CU Veteran Services, the Conference on World Affairs, the International Affairs Program, and the CU History Department. Add to that the Annual Retreat, and our Fandango Scholarship fundraiser featuring Senator Gary Hart, and it all adds up to a busy, and highly engaging year.

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

student to cartoonist. Along the way he highlighted the work of a number of cartoonists as he dispensed lessons about life, ethnicity, marriage, love, and most of all, humor. At the end of the evening, the Center awarded Mr. Mankoff with an honorary Gilded Pickle and the audience gave Mr. Mankoff a standing ovation.

**This award was made possible by the generosity of Bill and Jane Reynolds.**

### Modern Indian Identity Featuring Diné Photographer Will Wilson

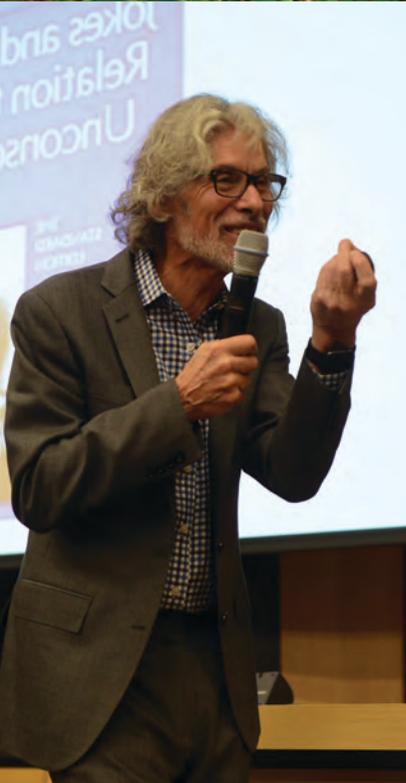
October 26, 2015

The Modern Indian Identity series features contemporary Indian people telling their stories in ways that confirm the compatibility of tradition with innovation. William (Will) Wilson is a Diné photographer who spent his formative years living in the Navajo Nation. In 2007, Wilson won the Native American Fine Art Fellowship from the Eiteljorg Museum, and in 2010 was awarded a prestigious grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation. Wilson created the innovative project The Critical Indigenous Exchange, because he was impatient with the way that American culture accepts the evocative images of photographer Edward S. Curtis’s portraits as accurate transcripts of reality. For many non-Indians, even today, Native people remain frozen in time in the Curtis photos. Wilson is resuming the documentary mission of Curtis from the standpoint of a 21st century indigenous photographer, building a contemporary vision of Native North America. Over the course of the evening Wilson highlighted a number of his projects, including his Talking Tintypes. These photographs, embedded with codes, literally come to life. When smart phone users point their phones at them, the subjects start speaking, playing music, or even dancing for the viewer.

**This event was made possible by the generosity of Liz and Tony Moores.**

Bob Mankoff, Cartoon Editor of *The New Yorker* regaled the audience with stories about his journey from a psychology grad student to cartoonist in a talk entitled “The History of Humor and the Humor of History.”

Anna Starker, fourth generation owner of Starker Forests, Inc. led the Center of the America West's Annual Retreat participants on a tour of their private research forest in Portland, Oregon.



## Book Release

### ***Fracture: Essays, Poems, and Stories about Fracking in America***

February 18, 2016

*Fracture* brings together the voices of more than fifty writers who explore the complexities of fracking through first-hand experience, investigative journalism, storytelling, and verse. At a time when politics and profits inhibit our ability to have meaningful discussions about fracking, these creative pieces provide an opportunity to improve the quality and expand the range of our national conversation. This book release event featured Pam Houston, Patty Limerick, and the book's editor Taylor Brorby who read selections from the book. They then engaged in a conversation about the complexities presented by writing from a stance of advocacy, discussing the ways this approach can have both positive and negative impacts on the literary quality of the work.

## Book Release

### ***Craig Werner's We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War***

March 28, 2016

The Center of the American West, in conjunction with the American Music Research Center, the Conference on World Affairs, CU Boulder Student Veterans Association, CU Veteran Services, the CU History Department, and the International Affairs Program proudly hosted Craig Werner for a presentation on his co-authored book, *We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War*. In *We Gotta Get Out of This Place*, Doug Bradley and Craig Werner place popular music at the heart of the American experience in Vietnam. They explore how and why U.S. troops turned to music as a way of connecting to each other and the world back home and of coping with the complexities of the war they had been sent to fight. They also demonstrate that music was important for every group of Vietnam veterans—black and white, Latino and Native American, men and women, officers and “grunts.”

Students, Vietnam Veterans, and community members filled the hall, asking Werner a range of questions, and in many instances recounting touching stories about particular songs of the era that still hold meaning for them. The Center is proud to be part of the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration series of events and will continue to host them in the coming year.

To find out more about the Vietnam Commemoration events go to:  
<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

## Wallace Stegner Award

### **National Book Award Winner Timothy Egan**

April 13, 2016

The Center of the American West proudly presented the 2016 Wallace Stegner Award to author and journalist, Timothy Egan. This award is given to an individual who has made a sustained contribution to the cultural identity of the West through literature, art, history, lore, or an understanding of the West. In the spirit

of Wallace Stegner, the recipients have demonstrated singular achievement, creativity, and dedication to the perception of the West and Western issues, and have communicated to others the importance and uniqueness of the West as a distinct region. In short, the award is presented to those who have faithfully and evocatively depicted the spirit of the American West.

In front of a packed house, Patty Limerick interviewed Mr. Egan, as he reflected on his upbringing in a loud and boisterous Irish American family. Over the course of the interview Egan spoke poignantly, and thoughtfully, about the relationships he formed with his interview subjects, noting how intense encounters with ordinary people gave him a unique access to the broader sweep of history. Mr. Egan educated, edified, and entertained. At the end of the interview, the Center of the American West Board members, staff, and faculty took the stage and presented Mr. Egan with the 2016 Wallace Stegner Award.

**A special thanks to Al and Carol Ann Olson for making this event possible.**

## A Center of the American West Traditional Fandango

### **Featuring Senator Gary Hart**

June 10, 2016

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 Senator Gary Hart took part in a wide-ranging conversation with Patty Limerick about his youth, the current political climate, and national security issues. Lorenzo Trujillo and his Northern New Mexican Band followed, leading guests through a series of energetic dances. This year's Fandango raised over \$16,000 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 scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 to worthy Center of the American West Certificate students who meet the scholastic requirements.

**To learn more about the Fandango and to learn how you can participate, please call the Center at 303-492-4879.**

**Top left photo:** Al and Carol Ann Olson, sponsors of the Wallace Stegner Award Program pose for a photo with Timothy Egan.

**Top right and bottom photo:**

In front of a packed house, Patty Limerick interviewed Mr. Egan, as he reflected on his upbringing in a loud and boisterous Irish American family.



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

## Statement of Income and Expense For the period ending June 30, 2016

(With Comparative Totals for 2015)

### 2016 Details

	Jun-16	Jun-15	CU Funded	Other Revenue	Grants	Gifts
<b>Beginning Balance</b> <small>(if applicable)</small>	278,690.69	453,915.02	(22,320.00)	25,507.11	63,000.00	212,503.58
<b>Income</b> <small>(Incl. Cash, Budget, Revenue)</small>	662,865.90	824,732.82	334,084.00	61,855.02	25,729.95	241,196.93
<b>Salary Expense Total</b>	628,975.92	690,398.89	358,459.22	36,120.03	17,926.17	216,470.50
Faculty			111,715.38	17,258.36	17,926.17	129,538.28
Officer/Exempt			52,319.64	2,435.54	-	6,680.81
Classified Staff			162,483.83	5,043.21	-	15,758.20
Students (Incl. Student Faculty)			18,440.37	2,919.90	-	17,910.94
Benefits			-	8,463.02	7,165.60	53,188.08
<b>Operating Costs Total</b>	257,367.95	223,115.64	2,479.49	48,773.48	638.18	205,476.80
Operating Expenses			18,326.10	73,429.03	-	190,607.95
Travel			-	5,814.97	638.18	9,668.85
Equipment			-	-	-	-
Indirect Costs				7,429.48	-	5,400.00
Other <small>(Transfers)</small>			(15,846.61)	(37,900.00)	-	550.00
<b>Available Balance as of June 30, 2015</b>	22,317.17	147,042.10	(49,174.71)	2,468.62	37,270.05	31,753.21
<b>CUF Spendable Balance</b>	105,576.39	124,245.60				105,576.39
<b>Total Available Balance</b>	<b>127,893.56</b>	<b>271,287.70</b>				

Statement of Assets  
For the period ending June 30, 2016

	Fiscal Year 2016		Fiscal Year 2015	
	Asset Amount	Actual Expenses as spent from asset categories	Asset Amount	Actual Expenses as spent from asset categories
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	278,690.69		263,349.79	
<b>Asset Type</b> <small>(received during the fiscal year)</small>				
<b>CU Appropriations</b>	311,764.00	360,938.71	304,234.00	338,902.27
<b>Grant or Contract Activities</b>	25,729.95	18,564.35	-	-
<b>Gifts and Donations</b>	241,196.93	422,747.30	342,138.57	412,812.84
<b>Endowment Earnings (Spendable)</b>	105,576.39		124,245.60	-
<b>Royalty Income</b>	255.77	280.68	393.68	592.19
<b>Other Income (Ancillary)</b>	61,599.25	84,612.83	72,855.57	55,081.08
<b>Total Assets</b>	1,024,812.98	887,143.87	1,107,217.21	913,514.53
<b>Net Assets</b> <small>(as of June 30, 2016)</small>		<b>137,669.11</b>		<b>193,702.68</b>

We offer here a few words of explanation about the Center's financial statements. This last year the Center created a new endowment fund called, "The Center of the American West Quasi-Endowment for Excellence" because quasi-endowments allow the Center to earn interest on the gift money we receive. We transferred all gift money into that fund. This is reflected in the income and expense section of the financials, as that transfer into an investment fund is categorized as an "expense." Hence, our bottom line looks much different than it did in the previous year. However, the funds in the Quasi-Endowment for Excellence are available for the Center use at any time, so they should be understood as liquid assets. The fund that the gift money was transferred into appears in the Endowment holdings section of the report. Given the fact that we are comparing our financial performance to the previous years, we thought this was worth an explanatory note. The Center is in a very similar financial position as it was in 2014-2015; it is simply that the money has been moved into different types of accounts.

Endowment Holdings  
For the period ending June 30, 2016

Endowment Name	2016	2015
<b>Beardsley Family Scholarship</b>	86,445.13	74,158.32
<b>CAW Gifts</b> <small>(Quasi-Endowment for Excellence)</small>	-	56,847.30
<b>Endowed Chair</b>	2,422,032.50	2,632,944.60
<b>Hoffman Scholars</b>	104,017.88	113,689.67
<b>Olson Stegner Award</b>	115,960.90	126,743.15
<b>Reynolds Humor Initiative</b>	237,635.88	274,407.96
<b>Thompson Awards</b>	287,642.45	303,666.02
<b>Wren and Timothy Wirth</b>	138,967.99	151,889.49
<b>Total</b> <small>(as of June 30, 2016)</small>	<b>3,677,499.21</b>	<b>3,578,086.91</b>

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The names that follow represent friends who helped make fiscal year July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016 a success. We extend our sincere thanks for your support of the Center of the American West.

Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and comprehensive listing of donors for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The Center of the American West apologizes for any incorrect listings, spellings, or omissions.

## SUSTAINING DONORS

Richard and Joyce Brown

Anonymous

Nancy and Gary Carlston

Woody and Leslie Eaton

Alan and Carol Ann Olson

W.W. Reynolds Companies

(with special thanks to Bill and Jane Reynolds)

Jeannie and J.C. Thompson, Ph.D.

Tish and John Winsor

## \$10,000+

Anonymous

Gary Klein

Alan and Carol Ann Olson

Jeannie and J.C. Thompson, Ph.D.

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

Joyce and Richard Brown

Anthony and Liz Moores

Wayne Swanson Charitable Fund

(with special thanks to Joy and Denny Swanson)

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

The Norman Foundation

Pam Beardsley

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Gary

## GARY KLEIN

### Donor and Board Member Highlight

It has been so gratifying to contribute to the Center of the American West over many years, in large part because of Patty Limerick. She is one of the most innovative, genuine, and inspirational leaders you will ever meet and it is easy to support the programs and research she cultivates at the Center. Patty brings excellence with a healthy dose of humor to everything she does.

I've lived my entire life steeped in the vibrant western culture that the Center of the American West seeks to understand and protect. From growing up in the Black Hills of South Dakota to building a family and career in Colorado, my life experiences have shaped a deep personal connection to the work of the Center. What Patty, Kurt, the researchers, and students do so well is to illuminate issues that impact our precious region from all perspectives, creating a healthy exchange of ideas. The lectures and events put on by the Center are intellectually stimulating and fun, especially the Center's Annual Board Retreat. The Center of the American West is a unique gem that deserves the support of anyone who cares about preserving our special heritage.



Troy

## TROY EID

### New Board Member Highlight

When it comes to handling legal matters involving Native American tribes, Indian Country Today calls Troy Eid “the heavy artillery.” But there is nothing heavy about him, at least not physically: A veteran marathoner and trail-runner, Troy’s recent competition includes winning a 25-mile race from Navajo Mountain, Utah to Rainbow Bridge National Monument in a remote part of the Navajo Nation known as Naat’is’áán (“Stronghold of the Enemy”). Troy, who served as the United States Attorney for Colorado under President George W. Bush, is a Principal Shareholder with the Denver office of Greenberg Traurig LLP. He teaches American Indian law and environmental law at the University of Colorado and the University of Denver. From 2010-14, Troy chaired the Indian Law and Order Commission, a blue-ribbon task force which advises the President and Congress on public safety matters affecting all 567 federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native tribes. A recipient of the Navajo Nation Bar Association’s Member of the Year Award, Troy is a student of traditional Navajo law. He serves on the Navajo Judicial Conduct Commission, which oversees the ethics of the country’s largest tribal court system. Troy and his wife Allison Eid, a Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, live in Morrison and have two children. He graduated from Wheat Ridge High School, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago Law School.

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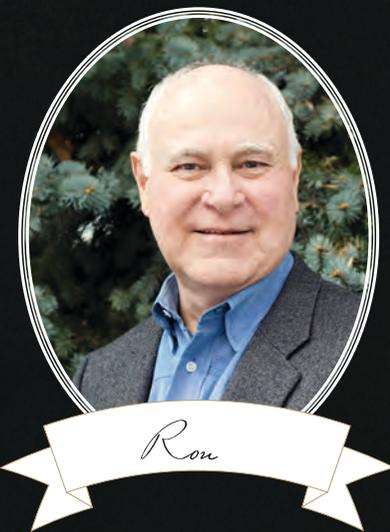
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## RON STEWART

**New Board Member Highlight**

Ronald J. (Ron) Stewart is a retired newspaperman, who edited and published newspapers in Colorado, California, Nevada, Nebraska, and Oregon. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Northern Colorado. In addition to serving on the Advisory Board for the Center of the American West, he has served as a board member for CU's ATLAS program and volunteered at CU's Center for Media, Religion and Culture. He and his partner, Becky Roser, are actively involved with CU's College of Music—Becky as a board member and donor, and Ron as a donor and enthusiastic listener. His debut novel, *Then Comes a Wind*, was published in 2015. Earlier this year, the novel was nominated for Best New Fiction of 2015 among Colorado authors. His book was inspired by his mother's family, who homesteaded in the Sand Hills of Nebraska in the early 1900s. Ron, a Colorado native, was born in Denver. "I'm quite interested in applying," Ron said, "the things I've learned as editor and publisher of small-market newspapers in the West, to the concerns of CU's Center of the American West. Until I accepted a seat on the Center's Board, it hadn't occurred to me that my career has put me at the center of many of the principal issues of the West (water, forestry, agriculture, tourism, sprawl, environmental protection, and so on), as well as some of the major players who have addressed them." Ron and Becky live in Boulder, a few blocks west of campus.



Katie

## KATIE KING

### New Board Member Highlight

As a National Board Certified social studies/history teacher and self-proclaimed “Conservator of Effective Citizenship,” Katie King has more than a decade of experiences in middle and high school classrooms in Colorado and Washington. Preparing students to be productive and informed citizens constitutes the foundation of her instructional philosophy, and inspires her daily lesson planning as well as involvement in longer-term and larger-scale school- and district-wide curriculum development. As a new Board member for the Center of the American West, Katie is committed to extending the Center’s Applied History initiative into local classrooms by bringing prickly subjects—from fracking to public lands management—into school curricula. In doing so, she hopes to equip 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. Born in Colorado Springs, Katie earned undergraduate degrees in history and journalism from CU-Boulder, an M.A. in curriculum and instruction from CU-Colorado Springs, and is completing an M.A. in history at CU-Boulder as a James Madison Memorial Fellow.

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Greg

## GREG MOORE

### New Board Member Highlight

When I moved to Colorado in 2002 to edit *The Denver Post*, a mutual friend told me I had to meet Patty Limerick. A native Midwesterner, relocating from Boston, I knew nothing of the West. Patty and I had a wide-ranging lunch, she gave me some brochures, and a 14-year relationship was born. The Center promotes engagement around critical issues that resonate for the entire country from energy to the environment to transportation. Her columns in *The Denver Post* further that dialogue. After leaving *The Denver Post* in April, I couldn’t say no to Patty when she asked me to join the Board. I believe in the mission, and I want to contribute and continue to learn. I have a growing interest in public lands, endangered species, transportation, and development. I also deeply admire the Center’s interdisciplinary approach to examining these issues through embracing history, the sciences, and even religion. It makes these topics accessible to a broad range of people. I count myself among them and look forward to doing important work with the Center.

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## LYNN ROSS BRYANT

**Emeritus Board Member Highlight**

When I began teaching in Religious Studies at CU in 1987, my research focus was Western American nature writers and I had a geographical love for the American West. Obviously, I had to connect with Patty Limerick. At this point, the Center was just a glimmer in Patty's eye. Over the years it has been so exciting to witness it expand and grow. I have continued to be challenged by the range of perspectives the Center brings together to address the problems in our world. When Patty suggested I give a talk in her lecture series to see how my ideas, arriving from my study of nature writing, would deepen our understanding of the National Parks, my own focus changed. The Parks' creative efforts to redefine themselves through the integration of new cultural and ecological insights became a zone of unending interest for me. This Fall when I was back in Yosemite with the Center, I recognized even more meaning and dynamism in the ways that the Parks utilize scientists, along with humanities' insights and humanists, in applying knowledge in the Parks. I think the Center in its technique of noting—and enhancing—the curiosity of affiliated scholars, may be on to something.



*David*

## DAVID SKAGGS

**New Board Member Highlight**

David Skaggs served six terms in Congress (1987-99) as U.S. Representative from the 2nd District of Colorado. That experience, six years as a state representative, and now 45 years as a Colorado resident, have given him a deep appreciation of Colorado and the West and its openness of mind and geography.

David is a lawyer with the Denver office of Dentons US LLP, where he leads the legal team challenging the constitutionality of the Colorado Taxpayer Bill of Rights. He is co-Chairman of the Board of the U. S. House of Representatives Office of Congressional Ethics and was Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education in the Ritter Administration. He's a member of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Iraq and the U. S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

Skaggs is a refugee from back East. He grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Wesleyan University and Yale Law School before entering active duty in the Marine Corps, where he saw service in Vietnam in 1969.

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*Beth*

## BETH OSNESS

**New Faculty Board Highlight**

I've done a lot of work with women and youth in the Eastern and Western Agency of the Navajo Nation using theatre-based methods to explore energy issues. I enjoy being a Center Faculty Affiliate because of the Center's emphasis on Applied History. The theatre that I do can be categorized as Applied Theatre because I work with non-traditional performers in non-traditional spaces to highlight social justice issues. The emphasis is on the artistic process rather than the product. For example, in New Mexico I held a solar-powered shadow puppet theatre energy forum. Youth were supported in "trying on" multiple perspectives as they engaged in an improvisational forum centered on an energy issue they identified as important to their communities. Students made a cardboard shadow puppet, researched their character's perspective, wrote notes directly onto the opaque puppet, and performed an improvisational energy forum in class. Recently I also mounted an original show entitled Sol-Her Energ-He at Tuba City High School with youth to explore energy issues. Several CU students travel with me to engage students in creative embodied clean energy exploration.



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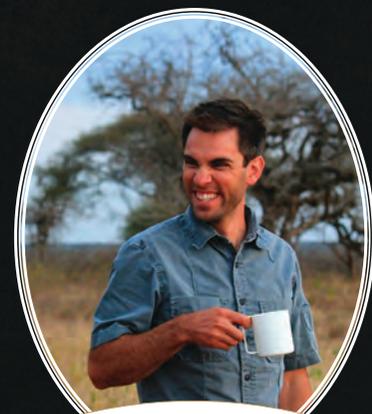
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*Joel*

## JOEL HARTER

### New Faculty Affiliate Highlight

Joel Harter is Associate Professor in the Environmental Studies Program and Faculty Director for the Masters of the Environment professional degree program at CU Boulder. For over a decade, Joel has worked with communities, decision makers, and conservation managers to understand human behavior in communities near national parks, national forests, and other protected lands. He is the Director of the Communities and Forests in Oregon (CAFOR) project, which focuses on understanding forest management, local livelihoods, and wildfire in working landscapes of eastern Oregon. CAFOR is built upon and supported by strong local partnerships. By engaging stakeholders, drawing from a range of perspectives, collecting stories, and learning about the timber and resource legacy of rural communities, Joel seeks to better understand working landscapes and their management. Joel interacts with the Center primarily through the Masters of the Environment program. The goal of his work, and this program, is to produce meaningful dialogue that leads to place-based solutions that also contribute to the education of a new generation of scholar-practitioners who will support the advancement of knowledge about the rapidly changing working landscapes in the American West.



*Caroline*

## CAROLINE HOYT

Emeritus Board Member Highlight

Caroline Hoyt graduated from CU with a degree in Architecture in 1968. Together with her husband Tom, they founded McStain neighborhoods, a pioneering green building company. Over the ensuing decades, their company has designed and built over 6,000 houses in Boulder County and across the northern Front Range. Her passion revolves around land planning. Designing communities that will work today and can evolve and change into the future requires being a good student of history. Along with the Center of the American West, Caroline has served on the boards of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance and the First National Bank of Colorado. She is involved in land conservation in Colorado, Utah, and California. In her spare time, she enjoys sketching, traveling, and water color painting.

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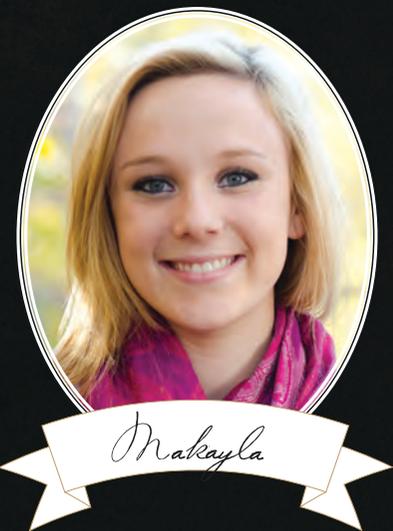
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**MAKAYLA MCGIVERN**

**Undergraduate Student Staff Highlight,  
Graduated Spring 2016**

Makayla McGivern is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado Boulder with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Throughout her coursework as an undergraduate, Makayla served as a student assistant in the events office at the Center of the American West. The Center helped open Makayla's eyes to issues pertaining to the community of the West and taught her that holding an optimistic, comedic attitude is the best way to approach any situation. Makayla hopes to pursue a career within the mental health field and eventually make her way back to school to attain a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology.



# CENTER STAFF

University of Colorado Boulder

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The Center staff consists of administrative employees, research staff, and various part-time students from all disciplines within the University of Colorado. Together we are the diversified and highly creative team that brings you the events, programs, and research publications that you love.

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**Assistant Production Editor:** Austin Quinty

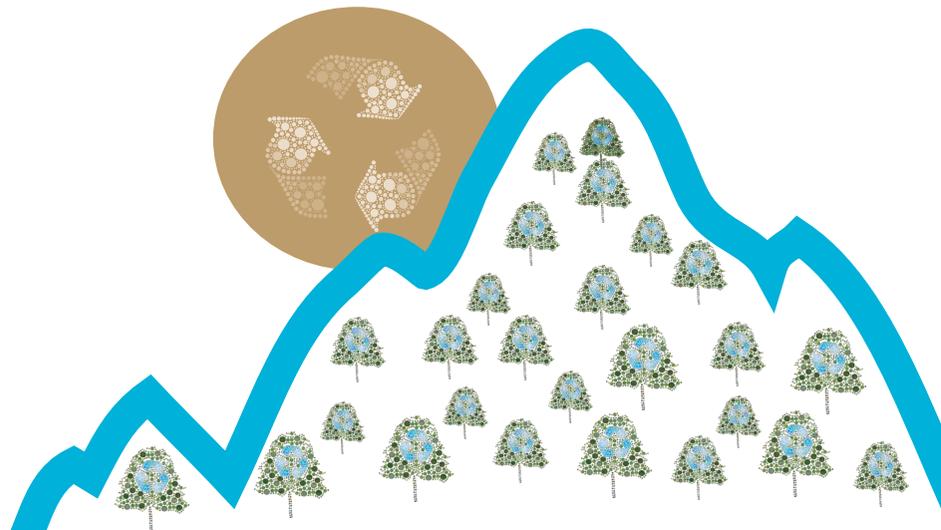
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**Articles contributed by:** Kurt Gutjahr, Roni Ires, Patty Limerick, Austin Quinty, and Will Remple.

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