

Hello Wyoming Alumni!

On March 26, 1895, eight UW alumni met for the purpose of organizing an Alumni Association. Two weeks later on April 5, 1895, the University of Wyoming Alumni Association was established to “promote the University interests and affiliation of its graduates.” Today, over 115 years later, our mission remains consistent with our initial charge as we strive to “foster a spirit of loyalty and fraternity among graduates and former students and to promote the general welfare, development, achievement, and honor of the university.” To serve the university and our alumni in this common mission is truly an honor and privilege.

Leading the Alumni Association gives our board, staff and me the opportunity to meet UW alumni and friends throughout the nation and the world and to organize a wide range of opportunities to bring our alumni and friends together. Our alumni and friends are vital to the work that takes place every day on our campus to continue to make your alma mater a leader among public land-grant research institutions. We will strive to serve you with the intent to instill pride in your continued association with the University of Wyoming.

The goal of our efforts is to build lifelong relationship between our alumni and the University of Wyoming. We want to draw alumni into becoming members of the Alumni Association. If you are already an annual or lifetime member, we thank you. If you have not yet become a member, we encourage you to do so today. As a member, you will experience great satisfaction in knowing that you are invested in supporting excellence at UW to benefit of more than 13,000 students. We use membership funds to support UW academic programs and initiatives through various means, including networking events, career services, leadership development, new student recruitment, scholarship programs and legislative advocacy.

While being networked with thousands of other Cowboys and Cowgirls who share a common mission to make UW a better place, you will enjoy many perks associated with membership, you will enjoy a suite of benefits including invitations to alumni gatherings, discounted merchandise, travel, insurance, rental cars and moving services, access to research data bases at Coe Library, discounted tickets to UW football and basketball games (new for 2011-12), and access to WyoAlumni! WyoAlumni is our new alumni portal with a directory online for those who have signed up. We encourage you to take just a few minutes to sign up and join this online community. You will find this resource to be valuable as you stay connected with other UW alumni and your association.

The UW Alumni Association is proud to serve you and help you connect with the excitement that surrounds being a Cowboy or Cowgirl. Please plan to join us in Laramie this fall as we will host pregame gatherings on September 3rd (“Meet and Greet”), September 24th (Membership- Appreciation Day), our traditional homecoming activities scheduled for October 14-15th and an Open House on November 5th at our new renovated Alumni House. Our plans for the future include additional events throughout Wyoming and in other cities with significant pockets of alumni throughout the United States.

I am eager to meet as many of you as possible, so please consider this an open invitation to e-mail me at hfr1@uwyo.edu, call me at (307) 766-4166 or introduce yourself to me at the next UW Alumni event. If you have thoughts or suggestions for the Alumni Association, we would love to hear them. We always welcome your feedback.

In closing, I leave you with this account from a 2011 UW graduation reception that I attended in May. A 1976 UW graduate made this comment while honoring his son: “The University of Wyoming is a great place to be and a great place to come back to.” During my first 60 days with the UWAA, this quote has so resonated with me and made our mission crystal clear. The UWAA is to take an active leadership role, while working in cooperation with all of the UW departments and our many supporters and volunteers, to continue to make the University of Wyoming a great place to come back to. I look forward to working with you to accomplish this mission. We want to hear your stories, memories and experiences that capture everything UW is to you and what it should be to all – a great place to come back to – full of pride in being a University of Wyoming alum.

Hope to see you soon!

