WWAMI

Newsletter

Fall 2023



Dr. Thalken – Lifetime Teaching Award

Article from the Douglas Budget: By Jackson Day

"The biggest highlight (of my career) has been dealing with the students. They're all driven; they all really want to do well. It's just a breath of fresh air," Thalken said. "The traditional approach to students is to intimidate and demean them. We all have seen that making rounds in a huge hospital, but I decided that wasn't very helpful.

"So, after the first couple of students, my approach was to let the student go interview the patient, not have me in the room at all. They'd come back and present the patient to me and then tell me what their assessment and plan was. If it sounded good to me, we didn't change anything. If there was something we needed to add, we talked about what we needed to add, and what we should look into. Through this, the students were actually practicing medicine."

Over the course of his career, Thalken has received four separate excellence in teaching awards from the University of Washington School of Medicine's Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWA- MI) Regional Medical Education Program, the most recent being the Richard M. Tucker
WWAMI Faculty Excellence in Teaching Lifetime Award.

"(The awards are) all student driven, fortunately. I mean, if the administration was doing it, it'd be one thing. The students are the people I care about when I'm trying to teach. The administrators, I assume they already know all this stuff," he said.

Looking back on his career, Thalken is thankful for the opportunities and experiences he's had. "Not everybody in medicine wants to work in facilities. Despite a small town. As small towns go though, this place has incredible the fact there's a lot of people that are not happy with it right now, I don't know where I could have practiced and been treated this well, got paid this much and had the services available to me."

RUOP Sites/Students Summer of 2023

Brayden Feusner – Cody
Galen Tribble - Evanston
Hannah Mills – Torrington
Hyrum Hopkin - Sundance
McKenzie Stampfli – Rawlins
Ross Cook - Sheridan
Shayna Bauer – Buffalo
Thomas Robitaille – Gillette
Casey Pikla – Fremont County
Franklin Powell - Thermopolis
Aaron Erickson – Powell
Andrew White – Douglas

Getting Ice Cream in Thermopolis



Celebrating Natalia Brown – 10 Years with Wyoming WWAMI



Natalia Brown, our wonderful Program & Business Services Manager in the Laramie office, started with Wyoming WWAMI in October 2013. During her time with the program, she has progressed from an Office Associate to a Project Coordinator to a Business Manager to her current position. In all of these positions, she has excelled, elevated the program, and supported faculty, staff, & students admirably. She has helped Wyoming WWAMI navigate two UWSOM curriculum changes, various expansions or renovations to the WWAMI space, and guided countless course leads, facilitators, and other contributors to WWAMI. Natalia has supported 220 students during her tenure with the program, many of whom are now practicing physicians in Wyoming. On top of all of this, she is an amazing colleague and someone who by example inspires others to strive to be their best. We are so fortunate to have her as a part of our WWAMI-ly. Natalia's 10-year anniversary with the program was recently recognized and celebrated locally during our student research symposium.

Introducing the entering class of 2023

E-2023 WWAMI Medical Education

University of Wyoming


Chantelle Barr
Worland


Clara Bouley
Sheridan


Quinton Brooks
Sheridan


Bradford Burns
Story


Brandi Carreau
Laramie


Annaliese Fitzsimmons
Greybull


Sabrina Gay
Pinedale


Dean He
Casper


Rafael Homer
Laramie


Anh Huynh
Cheyenne


Emma Miller
Lander


Kaden Moore
Powell


Sai Kit Ng
Laramie


Aaron Nichols
Cody


Rylie Pilon
Gillette

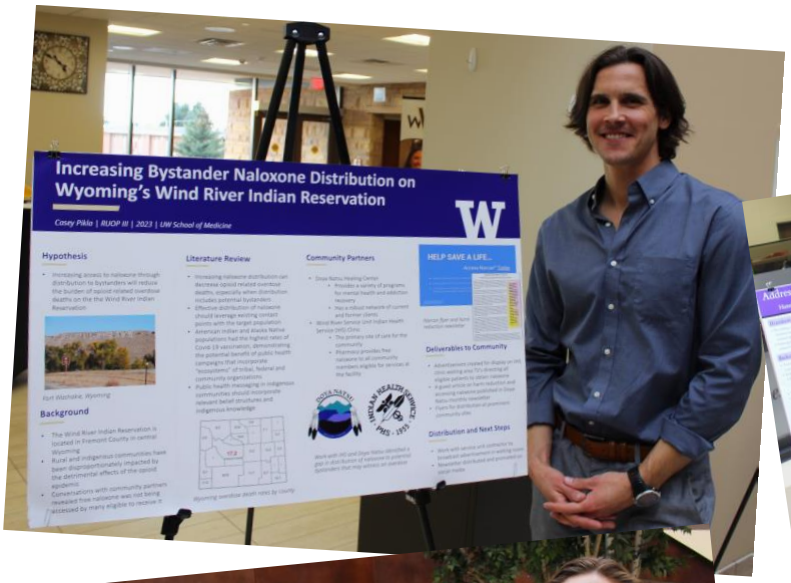

Matthew Rasmussen
Burlington


Hyrum Ruby
Buffalo


Tatiana Smith
Casper


Victoria Toscana
Gillette


Anna Ujvary
Green River









Awards

- **Madeleine Prince ~ Top Scholarship of Discover Project**
- **Franklin Powell & Thomas Robitaille ~ Top Community-Engaged Projects**
- **Caleb Hoopes ~ People's Choice Award**

The Research Symposium took place at Ivinson Memorial Hospital on the evening of Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

WWAMI medical students, listed by hometown and research presentation title, are:

Big Horn -- Andrew Quinn, "Spinal Tumor Surgery for Metastatic Cancer: Complete vs. Partial Resection and Treatment"; and Andrew White, "Heavy Alcohol Use and Binge-Drinking in Douglas, Wyoming."

Casper -- Thomas Robitaille, "Fighting Media with Media: Addressing the Youth Mental Health Crisis in Gillette, Wyoming, by Meeting Them Where They're At."

Cheyenne -- Madeleine Prince, "Assessing Barriers to Diagnosis Among Children with Pediatric Lupus"; and McKenzie Stampfli, "Age Friendly Healthcare in Rawlins, Wyoming."

Cody -- Trent Bronnenberg, "Analysis of Biologic Therapies in Pregnancy with Maternal Rhematologic Disease"; Aaron Erickson, "Community Awareness and Intervention Prompts for Hemorrhage Control in Powell, Wyoming"; Brayden Feusner, "Addressing Alcoholism in Cody, Wyoming"; and Galen Tribble, "Utilizing an Infographic to Increase Human Papillomavirus Vaccination in Evanston, Wyoming."

Jackson -- Franklin Powell, “Assessing general opioid literacy and awareness of high school students in Hot Springs County, Wyoming (Hot Springs Health, Thermopolis, Wyoming)”; and Heidi Taggart, “Enhancing Post-Stroke Outcomes Through Direct Patient Education in Dhulikhel, Nepal.”

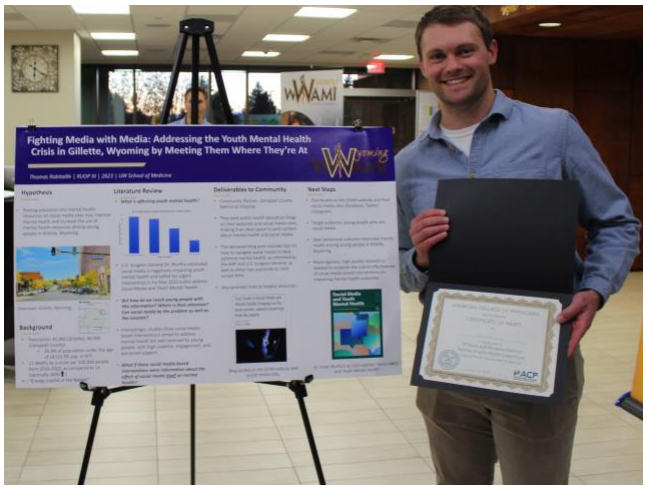
Lander -- Ross Cook, “Community-Provided Fentanyl Test Strips: A Legal, Cheap and Easy Harm Reduction Program for Sheridan, Wyoming”; Cale Hinkle, “Building Trust in Providers Through Biographies on the Blackfeet Reservation”; and Casey Pikla, “Increasing Bystander Naloxone Distribution on Wyoming’s Wind River Indian Reservation.”

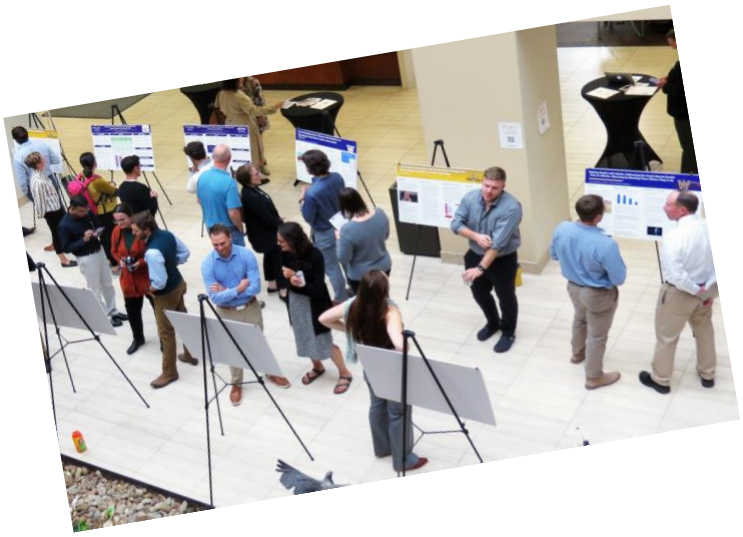
Lovell -- Hyrum Hopkin, “Improving Healthcare Workers’ Mental Health in Sundance, Wyoming.”

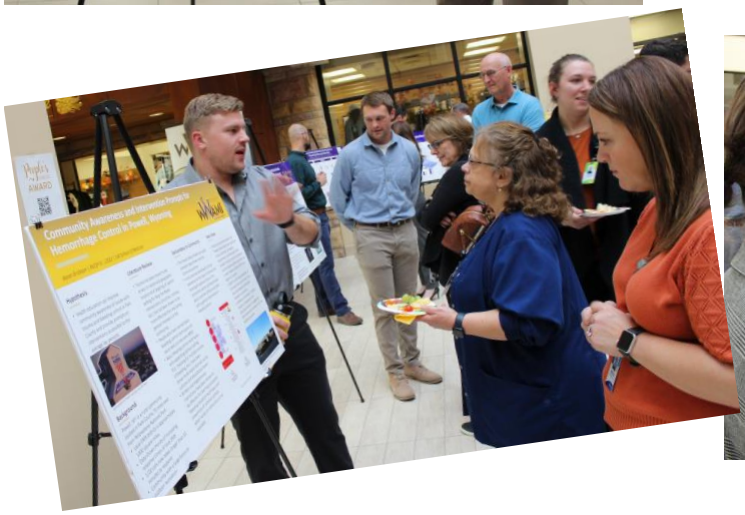
Powell -- Jenni Ebersberger, “Hepatitis C Care Continuum Among People Who Inject Drugs in King County, Wash.”; and Hannah Mills, “Addressing Teenage Pregnancy in Torrington, Wyoming.”

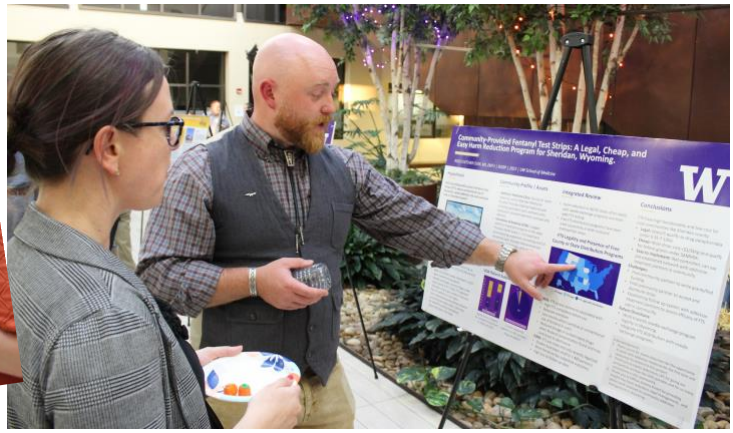
Sheridan -- Caleb Hoopes, “Characterizing Right Ventricle Function in Physiologically Aged Male Mice.”

Thermopolis -- Shayna Bauer, “Enhancing Health Literacy and Promoting Preventive Medicine Among the Geriatric Community in Buffalo, Wyoming.”









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