



# Wyoming Catholic College



## ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES





*Ordination of Fr. Westerman at the Cathedral of  
Our Lady of Walsingham for the Ordinariate of the  
Chair of St. Peter, June 29, 2024.*

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

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If there's one thing about my time at Wyoming Catholic that I'm most grateful for, it's an unfractured mind: a unified vision of the world which penetrates the entire personality. It means to have the ability to look at reality without being confused or overwhelmed by the complexity of it. As a man called to the priesthood, I need the wholeness of mind and heart to lead others to healing. I must see the many parts of the Mystical Body and how they work together, and I owe my vision to God's grace as it unfolded at Wyoming Catholic College. To be men of healing for our times, to see man for who and what he is, we must have the contemplation of unfractured minds.



**Fr. Trevor Lontine ('14)**

*Priest of the  
Archdiocese of Denver*

IT WAS AT WYOMING CATHOLIC THAT I FOUND THE STRENGTH TO BE TRULY CATHOLIC IN THIS MODERN WORLD; IT WAS HERE THAT I HAD TIME TO DEDICATE TO PRAYER AND HAD FRIENDS WHO SUPPORTED ME IN MY SEARCH.

**—Sr. Mary Agnes Oborny ('13)**

*Final Vows, Norbertine Canonesses, Tehachapi, CA*



I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE ROLE WYOMING CATHOLIC COLLEGE PLAYED IN PREPARING ME FOR MY VOCATION. TRULY, THE FOUNDATION OF MY PRIESTLY VOCATION AND MY LOVE FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH IS IN LARGE PART A PRODUCT OF MY TIME SPENT IN "GOD'S COUNTRY."

**—Father Andrew Westerman ('19)**

*Priest of the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter*







*Dr. Dziad preparing to rock climb  
with Wyoming Catholic students.*



# MOUNTAIN THEOLOGIAN

After graduating from Wyoming Catholic College in 2013, I completed my Master's in Theology at the International Theological Institute (in Austria), before completing my coursework for a PhD in Theology at Ave Maria University. In 2017–2018, I was the Residential Dean and a founding faculty member at St. Martin's Academy, an all-boys boarding school in Fort Scott, Kansas. It was a joy to return with my wife and children to Lander and begin to pass on to a new generation the formation I received. Deeply committed to the vision of a holistic formation for our students, I regularly lead outdoor expeditions and have instructed the freshman 21-day trip five times.



**Travis Dziad, PhD ('13)**

*Assistant Professor of Theology,  
Instructor of Outdoor Leadership,  
and Assistant Dean for Students*

I WORK FOR THE BEATRICE INSTITUTE, AN ECUMENICAL LEARNING AND RESEARCH COMMUNITY THAT PROVIDES HIGH-LEVEL ACADEMIC INQUIRY INTO THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION. MY TIME AT THE COLLEGE PREPARED ME TO DEVELOP AND TEACH ACROSS THE INSTITUTE'S CURRICULUM, AND TO PARENT: MY FIVE SONS ARE ALL RECOGNIZABLY CHILDREN OF WYOMING CATHOLIC GRADUATES.



**—James DeMasi, PhD ('12)**

*Executive Director, Beatrice Institute*

I WOULD TELL MY PROFESSORS, 'HOW CAN I KEEP STUDYING LIKE THIS?' THE ANSWER WAS ALWAYS, 'IF YOU WANT TO KEEP LEARNING, THEN TEACH.' FOR ME, TEACHING WAS ALWAYS ABOUT LEARNING AND WORKING WITH STUDENTS: LOVE OF TRUTH AND LOVE OF MEN.



**—Benjamin Block, PhD ('11)**

*Tutor, Thomas Aquinas College*



*Students study political  
philosophy from the  
ancients to the present day.*



# POLITICS & LAW

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Without a doubt, my WCC education refined my capacity to learn well, both inside and outside the classroom. Particularly in the political world, employers actively seek to hire people who are adept at overcoming challenges, careful thinkers, articulate communicators, and successful collaborators. Thankfully, these qualities are all associated with rigorous liberal arts degrees, so my possession of one automatically made me more attractive to employers and graduate school admissions teams. My political work is a natural fruition of the college's mission to produce 'the truly free man who, because he possesses the intellectual, moral, and theological virtues, can direct himself—with God's grace—to his proper end.'



**Anthony Jones ('21)**  
*Political Science Ph.D. student (Baylor U.), & Policy Contractor, Texas Public Policy Foundation*

THE LEGAL PROFESSION HAS GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE MY CLASSICAL TRAINING IN A REWARDING, IMPACTFUL, AND PROFITABLE MANNER, AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE ANY GRADUATE FROM WYOMING CATHOLIC TO CONSIDER INVESTING THEIR LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE IN THE LEGAL FIELD, WHERE IT CAN BE PUT TO NOBLE USE.



**—Scott Sergeant ('16)**  
*Deputy Prosecutor, Shoshone County, Idaho*

THE CURRICULUM AND PROFESSORS AT WYOMING CATHOLIC PREPARED ME IN SO MANY WAYS FOR THIS PATH IN PUBLIC POLICY—FROM WRITING SKILLS AND PHILOSOPHICAL BACKGROUND TO FOSTERING A LOVE OF POETRY THAT HAS PROVIDED SHAPE, DIRECTION, AND MEANING TO MY LIFE.



**—Chassidy Medard ('17)**  
*Texas Public Policy Foundation, Grants Manager*



*Chris Baker ('12) and Grace Kirwan ('21) on an Italian Altum L'alto trip.*



# LIFE'S PILGRIMAGE

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Looking back at my four years at Wyoming Catholic College, the thing I am most thankful for is the opportunity to live away from the world in an environment that allowed me to grow naturally in ways that I didn't even know existed, and to develop an understanding of the world previously unknown to myself. These opportunities to search for something more ultimately led to the founding of Altum L'alto Pilgrimages, combining outdoor adventure and pilgrimage. I would always recommend that someone go to Wyoming Catholic no matter what field they are interested in pursuing. Wyoming Catholic will certainly be the start of a great adventure for you, if you are open to it!



**Chris Baker ('12)**

*Founder and Director of  
Altum L'alto, offering adventure  
pilgrimages based out of Italy*

THE COLLEGE GAVE ME A DEEP DESIRE FOR EXCELLENCE AND GOODNESS, ESPECIALLY AN EAGERNESS TO TRY AND RE-INSTILL AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL INTO OUR BROKEN SOCIETY. AS A RESULT OF THIS, I HAVE WANTED TO CUT BACK ON THE MATERIALISM OF OUR DAY IN A DRASTIC WAY FOR A LONG TIME.



**—Hannah Graves ('14)**

*Missionary, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Namwera, Malawi*

THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM TRULY CHANGED MY LIFE BECAUSE IT STARTED ME ON A PATH TO MINISTRY. I ENCOUNTERED REALITY IN THE OUTDOORS IN A WAY THAT MADE THE REST OF MY EDUCATION SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT JUST BE STUCK IN MY HEAD; IT GREW IN MY HEART AND BORE FRUIT IN MY LIFE AND ACTIONS.



**—Karl Eby ('13)**

*Wyoming Catholic Outdoor Program Assistant Director*



*James Hannegan restoring historic windows (photo courtesy of Lisa Johnston of the St. Louis Review).*



# BEAUTY OF ART

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After bouncing between jobs at a civil engineering firm, a small remodeling company, and a custom woodworking shop, I applied for a position as a craftsman for a stained glass studio. My time in the trade has taught me to love the beauty of mouth-blown glass and the images an artist can create using glass and sunlight as media. My education at Wyoming Catholic College has given me the depth of character to appreciate my role in the preservation and growth of liturgical art. I joke that a liberal arts degree is a great way to land a manual labor job. However, it is a great way to make a manual labor job meaningful.



**James Hannegan ('12)**

*Job-site supervisor at  
Emil Frei & Associates, a stained  
glass studio in St. Louis, MO*

MY EXPERIENCE AT WYOMING CATHOLIC STRENGTHENED MY BELIEF THAT I CAN NAVIGATE CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS AND MASTER COMPLEX SUBJECTS. THIS GAVE ME THE COURAGE AND FREEDOM TO STEP OFF A TRADITIONAL CAREER PATH.

**—Emily Felsheim ('21)**  
*Photographer and Entrepreneur*



MY BOSSES HAVE SAID THEY ENJOY PEOPLE COMING TO ARCHITECTURE FROM THE LIBERAL ARTS BACKGROUND BECAUSE THEY KNOW HOW TO COMMUNICATE AND THINK WELL. THEY KNOW SUCH A PERSON WILL WORK WELL WITH CLIENTS.

**—Anthony D. Vercio ('16)**  
*Architecture Associate at  
Glavé & Holmes Architecture (Richmond, VA)*





*Students immerse themselves “the best literature,” speaking and writing on it.*



# IMMERSED IN LITERATURE

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My education immersed me in the best literature, philosophy, and theology of the West—a depth of tradition that I hope to bring to my own creative work. The most compelling fantasy and sci-fi have the same elements as any other great work of fiction: an understanding of the order of Creation, of goodness and evil, and of the spiritual battleground of the human heart. My time at Wyoming Catholic grounded me in this understanding, which is so crucial to creating true and beautiful works of art. After graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts, I returned to the Midwest to work as an editor, writing on the side, and publishing my debut sci-fi novel *Markmaker* in 2022 with Chrism Press.



**Mary Jessica Woods ('19)**

*Editor and Author*

MY PROFESSORS TAUGHT ME HOW TO READ AND WRITE WITH CARE AND ATTENTION; TO UPHOLD CERTAIN PRINCIPLES; AND TO STRIVE FOR THE GOOD, THE TRUE, AND THE BEAUTIFUL. THESE GOALS ARE SHARED BY FIRST THINGS, A NEW-YORK-BASED MAGAZINE ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE.



**—Veronica Clarke ('19)**

*Associate Editor at First Things magazine*

IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING ME WITH AN INVALUABLE EDUCATION, WYOMING CATHOLIC INSPIRED A DEEP LOVE FOR OUR HERITAGE AND AN AWARENESS OF MY RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE IT. THIS HAS ALLOWED ME TO CONTRIBUTE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE IMPORTANT WORK THAT WE DO IN BRUSSELS, THE HEART OF THE EU'S INSTITUTIONS.



**—Veronica Lademan ('17)**

*Assistant Managing Editor, The European Conservative*



*John Gassner runs Working Man Bread Co. as a result of discovering the joy of cooking on WCC outdoor trips.*



# SKILLED IN THE TRADES

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The entire WCC experience is so rich: much of it was challenging, but in retrospect I wouldn't have it another way. Without a doubt, my favorite aspect was the people, especially my classmates. I currently bake what I believe to be the highest quality, best tasting, and best looking breads in my corner of Virginia. It's a bizarre path I've taken, but I'd say that is all the more reason to have a foundation in a classical education. You learn how to learn and that is one of the most fundamental skills one can have. I hope that anyone who attends WCC is also able to have the intensity of experiences, richness of culture and bonds of friendship I have been fortunate enough to receive.



**John Gassner ('21)**  
*Founder and head baker of  
Working Man Bread Co.*

I WANTED AN EDUCATION THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN MY FAITH AND MIND. BUT MY DEGREE HAS ALSO BEEN ASTRONOMICALLY HELPFUL IN EMPLOYMENT. I BEAT THE OTHER APPLICANTS IN MY CURRENT JOB BECAUSE OF THE LEADERSHIP I DEMONSTRATED. IN CONSTRUCTION I WAS INVARIABLY PUT IN CHARGE OF MORE EXPERIENCED MEN BECAUSE I WAS A BETTER LEADER.



**—Sean Milligan ('18)**  
*Catholic Chancery of Lincoln Maintenance Supervisor*

MANY OF THE MOST PERSONALLY IMPACTFUL LESSONS I LEARNED AT WCC WERE IN THE MOUNTAINS OR THE DESERT, WHERE I DISCOVERED FRIENDSHIP, FRAILTY, AND THE BEAUTY OF REALITY. FROM MANAGING A RESTAURANT TO WORKING IN A CATHOLIC PAINTING COMPANY, WCC ENABLED ME TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE.



**—Sophia Michael ('20)**  
*Production Admin at JMJ Painters, Loretto (MN)*



*From skiing to speaking Latin—a diversity of interests and activities enables Wyoming Catholic students to become excellent teachers!*



# TEACHING WITH PURPOSE

I was not, like most people, drawn in by the horses, the snow, or the camping; in truth, I hated horses, disliked the snow and cold, and avoided camping. I was drawn in by the heart of what Wyoming Catholic offered: the chance to be formed by the greatest minds, and to become a more actualized version of myself. I have been a first-grade teacher at a small Catholic school for the past ten years now. I do a little job for little people who have little rationality. The wonder and enthusiasm that my students show with every menial task is, I believe, one of the greatest beauties of education. The ability to help build and mold that natural wonder in them comes directly from my formation at Wyoming Catholic College.



**Katey Docherty ('11)**

*Teacher, Faustina Academy  
Irving, TX*

AN EDUCATOR NEEDS TO BE A GENERALIST. EVEN SOMEONE WHO'S CARVED OUT A CAREER AS A SPECIALIST MUST HAVE A LOVE OF AND APPRECIATION FOR THE DEEPER, MOST FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS. QUITE SIMPLY, MY LOVE OF LEARNING COMES DIRECTLY FROM MY TIME AT WYOMING CATHOLIC, AND I'M FOREVER INDEBTED TO HER FOR THAT.

**—Benjamin Corcoran ('16)**

*Math and Science Teacher, Jackson Hole Classical Academy*



I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT MY ABILITY TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION AND MY LOVE OF TEACHING STEMS FROM THE EXAMPLES OF MY PROFESSORS AND THE LESSONS I WAS TAUGHT WITH REGARDS TO TECHNOLOGY AT WYOMING CATHOLIC; I TAKE MY STUDENTS ON A WALK INSTEAD OF TURNING ON A MOVIE EVERY MORNING!

**—Abigail Crimmins ('18)**

*Teacher, Founders Classical Academy*





*Students meet air rescue personnel as part of the Wilderness First Aid course offered at WCC in conjunction with the outdoor program.*



# CARING FOR THE BODY

Liberal arts education becomes ingrained, if we let it, in our minds and hearts. It becomes a part of our very person. In that way it is much like our Catholic Faith; if we are living it well, it speaks for itself. Wyoming Catholic College taught me to know and love truth, beauty, and goodness in a deep and integrated way, and that is the essence of its impact in my day-to-day life. I am currently a student midwife, pursuing my Certified Professional Midwife credential. I have found that a liberal arts BA is the ideal foundation for a specialized degree. There is an organization and focus of intellectual capacity that the study of the Great Books offers us, and it translates beautifully to mastering a technical skill.



**Samantha Stancliffe ('17)**

*Certified Doula and Certified  
Professional Midwife candidate*

THIS COLLEGE PREPARES YOU FOR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING. ONE DAY YOU'RE IN A CLASSROOM TALKING SCIENTIFIC THEORY, AND THE NEXT YOU'RE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN. IT WAS A WONDERFUL FOUNDATION TO PREPARE ME FOR STUDYING AT ONE OF THE TOP TEN MEDICAL PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY.



**—Peter McCullough, MD ('11)**

*Residency, Ascension Via Christi (Wichita, KS)*

ULTIMATELY, WYOMING CATHOLIC INFLUENCES MY JOB MOST BY GIVING ME AN APPRECIATION OF THE BEAUTY OF THE HUMAN PERSON, WHETHER OF MY PATIENT'S BODY IN TERMS OF HOW IT WORKS, OR IN TERMS OF THEIR SOUL AND WHAT IS ON THEIR MIND.



**—Amelia Rizk, DPT ('18)**

*Physical Therapist*

A Priori	A Posteriori
✓	✓
X	✓

Principle: All knowledge of matters  
is reducible to impressions.



Past  $\longleftrightarrow$  Future

Example: The laws which govern the  
universe are uniform across time.

Impressions (part.)  
↓  
Simple Ideas (part.)  
↓  
Complex Ideas (part.)  
↓  
Induction

$$= \frac{\text{fav}}{\text{pos}} = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$$

$$P(A, B) = \frac{P(A, B)}{P(B)}$$

$$\frac{P(A, B)}{P(A)} = P(B|A)$$

$$\frac{P(A, B)}{P(A)} = P(B|A) \cdot P(A)$$

$$\frac{P(A)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(A)}{P(B)} > P(A)$$

Communication and public  
speaking culminates in the Senior Oration;  
here, Andrew Russell ('22) delivers his senior  
oration on epistemological induction.



# PLATO TO PROGRAMMING

After graduation from Wyoming Catholic College, I continued to study classics and philosophy at Berkeley, University of Kentucky, and Marquette University. Right after I finished coursework for a philosophy PhD, I transitioned from academia into tech by taking a job at Anchor Group, a software consulting firm owned by a fledgling fraternity of Catholic men who work, pray, and form themselves in community. Now, as a VP, I spend my days mentoring, clarifying company vision, and leading the pursuit of excellence at work. When life allows, I also enjoy teaching Latin for the Veterum Sapientia Institute. I live in Madison, WI with my wife Miriam and our two delightful daughters.



**Jacob Terneus ('16)**  
*Vice President of Enterprise  
Resource Management Team,  
Anchor Group*

I'VE WORKED AS A DIGITAL MARKETER SPECIALIZING IN SEO AT AGENCIES, IN-HOUSE, AND IN A FREELANCE CAPACITY. SERVING FORTUNE 500 CLIENTS, LUXURY BRANDS, NON-PROFITS, AND CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS HAS GIVEN ME EXPERIENCE ACROSS MANY INDUSTRIES. MY TIME AT WCC, AND THE IN-DEMAND SKILLS AND LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS IT GAVE ME, HAS BENEFITED ME GREATLY BOTH IN MY PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE.



**—Caitlynn Hunt ('19)**

*Digital Marketing Specialist, Pauline Books & Media*

I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO COLLEGE FOR FOUR YEARS TO LEARN COMPUTERS, BUT HOW TO BE WELL-ROUNDED. I WAS STILL ABLE TO PICK UP CODING IN TWO SUMMERS, AND ALL THE SKILLS I NEEDED ONCE I FOUND A COMPANY THAT WAS WILLING TO TEACH ME.



**—John Paul Terneus ('21)**

*Software Developer, Anchor Group*



*Alumni Inshal and Monica Chenet live in rural Michigan with their four children, promoting family community on their property known as “Cottonwood Farm”.*



# THE ULTIMATE CAREER

I really loved being a part of the small, tight-knit community at Wyoming Catholic. I never felt lost in the crowd. I wanted to discern God's will for my life and pursue an all-around excellent formation. That's what made me decide on a really Catholic college, so I threw myself into freshman year with gusto, ready for wherever the path might lead. I got married two days after graduation, then attended graduate school with my husband for a year. Now I am a full-time mom to six children, ages 7 down to 9-month-old twins, dabbling in selling art and teaching piano on the side. To be a good homemaker, one must first be a good wife, and the College's overall formation taught me so many of the 'soft skills' required for being the heart of the home.



**Murielle Blanchard ('15)**

*Wife of Dominic Blanchard ('14)*

*and mother of six*

RAISING LITTLE HUMANS IS OFTEN THE SAME DYNAMIC THAT I ENCOUNTERED DURING WILDERNESS HIGH-INTENSITY, HIGH-STAKES SITUATIONS. SUCCESSFUL HOMESCHOOLING REQUIRES A FLEXIBILITY, SCOPE, AND DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE WHICH THE LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION SETS YOU UP FOR.



**—Caitlin Jay ('12)**

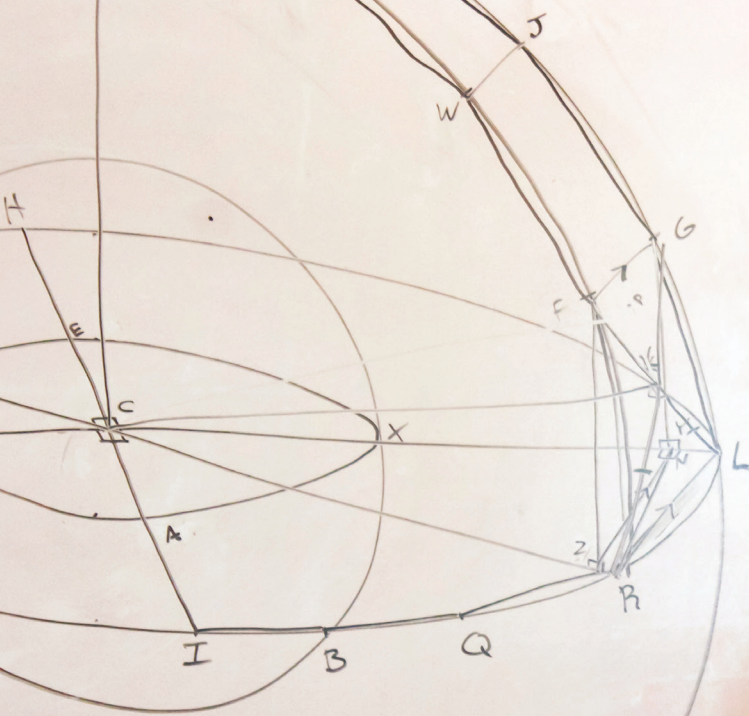
*Stay-at-home mother of six*

MY EDUCATION HAS BEEN IN SUPPORT OF THE ULTIMATE CAREER. I, FOR ONE, NEEDED THE EDUCATION THAT I RECEIVED AT WYOMING CATHOLIC TO BE A GOOD MOTHER. GREATNESS FOR ME IS NOT IN LEADING AN ARMY, BUT IN ROCKING MY CHILD TO SLEEP.



**—Clare Ward ('13)**

*Stay-at-home mother of five*



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$$\overline{CK}^2 + \overline{KL}^2 = \overline{CL}^2$$

$$\overline{CN}^2 + \overline{NR}^2 = \overline{CR}^2$$

$$\overline{CK}^2 + \overline{KL}^2 = \overline{CN}^2 + \overline{NR}^2$$

$$\overline{CK} > \overline{CN}$$

$$\overline{CN} > \overline{CX}$$

$$\overline{CK} \gg \overline{CX}$$

Q.E.F.

ta-da!

CK
KL

CN
NR

$$\square PN, NL = \overline{RN}^2$$

$$\square PL, LN = \overline{RN}^2 + \overline{LN}^2$$

$$\square PL, LN = \overline{RL}^2$$

$$\square PL, LY = \overline{GL}^2$$