

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COWGIRLS



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University of Wyoming President Tom Buchanan

Tom Buchanan became the 23rd president of the University of Wyoming on July 1, 2005.

He earned a bachelor of science degree from the State University of New York, a master's of science from the University of Wyoming, and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining the UW faculty in 1979 as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography, Buchanan taught at the Pennsylvania State University and at the University of Illinois.

Buchanan served as assistant professor at UW from 1979-1985; associate professor from 1986-91; department head from 1988 to 1991, and was promoted to professor in 1991. He served as associate dean of the UW College of Arts and Sciences from 1991-1997, and was named UW's associate provost in 1997. He was chosen vice president for academic affairs in October 1998.

His accomplishments as president include concluding the most successful capital campaign in the history of the university; stewarding the largest single cash gift to the university and successfully leading the university into the realm of corporate giving; achieving extraordinary successes with legislative funding for the university; providing leadership for the conceptual development and initiation of the UW School of Energy Resources and Wyoming Technology Business Center; providing leadership for the partnership between UW and the National Science Foundation that will bring the world's fastest supercomputer to Wyoming; directing an assessment of safety and security issues at UW following the Virginia Tech shooting; and providing the vision for UW's upcoming regional accreditation and the next round of institutional strategic planning

Buchanan received the John P. Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award in 1988 and the College of Arts and Sciences Seibold Professorship in 1990. In 1992 he was named a College of Arts and Sciences Exemplary Alumnus. In 1997 he received an exemplary administration award from the Western Association of Summer Session Administrators, and in 1997 he was chosen for an Educause Fellowship for the 21st Century. Buchanan is former president of the Northwest Academic Forum, a 32 institution consortium of universities in 11 western states. He has continued postdoctoral studies at the Harvard schools of Law, Business, and Graduate Education.

He is married to Jacque, whom he met while a student at UW. They have one son, Eric.



The Buchanan Family
Tom and Jacque

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Athletics Director Tom Burman

It has been an exciting first year for Tom Burman as athletics director at his alma mater.

In the fall of 2006, Joe Glenn and his Cowboy Football team won five of its last seven games of the season to post a third-place finish in the Mountain West Conference — Wyoming's highest finish since becoming a founding member of the MWC in 1999.

During the winter, one of the most remarkable and thrilling seasons in University of Wyoming Athletics history took place when Joe Legerski and his Cowgirl Basketball team posted a school best 27-9 record on the way to capturing the 2007 Women's National Invitation Tournament Championship.

Along the way, Cowgirl Basketball shattered all previous school attendance records, averaging 4,686 fans. The Cowgirls also drew the second largest crowd in the history of Wyoming's Arena-Auditorium — for either a men's or women's basketball game — when 15,462 fans turned out to cheer the Cowgirls to victory over Wisconsin in the WNIT Championship game.

"The WNIT Championship run by the Cowgirls was one of the most exciting accomplishments in the history of our university," said Burman. "When you have a special team and a special season like that you want to make the most of it. We took a bit of a financial risk as we continued to submit bids to the WNIT Committee to host the tournament games. But we believed in our team, and in our fans, and because of the out-pouring of support by Wyoming fans that risk paid off."

The spring saw success in the classroom take the forefront, as UW student-athletes combined for an overall grade-point average in excess of 3.00. That was the first time that milestone had been reached since the spring semester of 2003.

It was also a busy first year for Burman. Following the 2006-07 Cowboy Basketball season, Burman hired former Cowboy assistant coach and former Portland State head coach Heath Schroyer to take over the Wyoming men's program. Schroyer has been instrumental in helping turn around programs at Portland State, as a head coach, and at BYU and Fresno State, as an assistant. Schroyer was an assistant on the Wyoming coaching staff the last time the Cowboys appeared in the NCAA Tournament in 2002.

Another area that Burman focused on his first year back in Laramie was the Cowboy Joe Club. As a former Executive Director of Cowboy Joe from 1995-97, Burman had guided the fund-raising arm of the UW Athletics Department through one of its most successful periods. Upon his return as athletics director, he is utilizing that past experience to push the organization to new heights.

"My goals for Cowboy Joe are to make it a more efficient and aggressive fund-raising entity, while rewarding the loyalty of Cowboy and Cowgirl fans," said Burman. "Our goal is to increase Cowboy Joe revenue from \$2 million to \$3.3 million by the 2009-10 academic year."

He became the first native son to be hired as Wyoming's Athletics Director when President Tom Buchanan announced Burman's hiring as UW's eighth athletics director on Oct. 9, 2006. Burman's original contract was for four years.

"Tom Burman is a Wyoming guy, and some UW fans will applaud his selection on this basis alone," said President Buchanan. "That's not why I hired Tom. Of the five outstanding finalists for this position, Tom was clearly the best person for this position right now."

"The University of Wyoming Strategic Plan for Intercollegiate Athletics has two overarching goals," Buchanan continued. "The first is to ensure that we operate our program with absolute integrity, which includes ensuring that our student-athletes earn a first-rate university education. The second is to be competitive in every sport within the Mountain West Conference."

"The University of Wyoming is poised for greatness in intercollegiate athletics, just as we are poised for academic greatness. Thanks to the vision of our political and institutional leaders — and the good fortune of high energy prices—we have the money, the facilities and the people we need to be competitive. Now, with Tom Burman, I believe we are ready to climb to the top of the Mountain West Conference."

"I am a Wyoming guy," Burman said. "I grew up in Wyoming, got my undergraduate degree at UW, spent five years in the UW athletics department in development and fund-raising and returned to UW earlier this year to raise funds for the University through the UW Foundation. I care deeply about this University and the success of UW Athletics and our student-athletes."

Burman takes over a Wyoming program that is poised for success. "We will build a program that wins conference championships, is a source of great pride to our alumni and generates enthusiasm across this great state," Burman said. "The future starts now."

"At the University of Wyoming, I believe that we should compete for championships. My job is to provide our programs with the resources to compete for championships. That doesn't mean that every year they have to finish first, second or third, but it means that we go into the respective seasons knowing that we have a chance to win a championship."

"I believe we owe that to our student-athletes," he continued. "I have always felt that a great University like Wyoming will provide them with a quality education, quality support services, and a great campus environment. But if you don't provide them a chance to play in a championship game, or a meaningful match, they won't leave UW with a total experience. No matter what, they are competitors, and they want to go home after they have their degrees and tell their kids down the road that they played for a conference championship. I believe in our coaches, and I believe they have that same expectation. We can win championships here because we have."

Facilities are one of the obvious keys to success in intercollegiate athletics. Burman understands how important facilities are to Wyoming's future.

"They are the key," he said. "State-of-the-art facilities are very, very important in recruiting young people. With the indoor practice facility under construction, the continuing enhancements to War Memorial Stadium and the upgrades of our other facilities, we are getting there. We are in the middle of an impressive facility campaign



The Burman Family
Nathan, Kathy, Tom and Drew

project. When we successfully complete that one, there will be more. Fund-raising for facilities is an on-going program. It must be if a program expects to consistently compete at a high level."

While the term "dream job" is often overused, from Burman's viewpoint it describes very well how he perceives his new position. "Dream job" means different things to different people," he said. "The reason this is my dream job is I believe we can have success here, and it is a great place for my family. I want to be here for a long period of time, and I feel good that I can be."

Burman served as Director of Athletics at Portland State University from September 2000 through March 2006. During that time, the graduation rate of PSU student-athletes increased from 36 percent to 44 percent, 11 percent higher than the general university rate. Athletics' successes included Big Sky Conference championships in men's basketball, women's soccer, softball and three championships in women's golf. He also hired coaches who were named conference coach of the year in soccer, golf, volleyball and softball. Under Burman's leadership, annual giving to the Viking Athletic Fund for scholarships increased by more than 98 percent.

Burman earned a bachelor of science degree from UW in 1988 and an M.B.A. in sports marketing and management from Robert Morris University in Coraopolis, Pa., in 1991.

From 1990-92, Burman worked as a project manager for the sports management company DeWilber & Associates in McLean, Va. He began his intercollegiate athletics career as Director of Marketing and Promotions (1993-95) at the University of Idaho in Moscow. Burman returned to UW in 1995 as Associate Athletics Director for Development, serving as Executive Director of the Cowboy Joe Club. In 1997, Burman was named UW Associate Athletics Director for External Affairs. Among other accomplishments, he was instrumental in raising funds for the Rochelle Athletics Center. After serving as Portland State Athletics Director from 2000-06, Burman returned to UW in March 2006 as Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Burman has great respect for the tradition of Wyoming and its intercollegiate athletics program. But he also understands that the department must move forward.

"Tradition is very important to me," he commented. "As I look at the history of Wyoming, I value tradition, but I also don't want to be so concerned about it that we're not progressive. We need to look forward, and we need to be aggressive in how we market ourselves and how we view ourselves. There are many things over time that have been eliminated by previous administrations. We will look at them all and decide which ones we want to bring back over time. I really think if you can have a happy medium between valuing tradition and being progressive that is where you want to be."

"As I look back as a young person growing up in Wyoming, sitting in the Knothole section in the football stadium was one of my fondest memories. To see that it is gone is disappointing, but it was a good decision. As we move forward, we have to value what was here and determine a balance."

Burman is 41 years old, born Jan. 4, 1966. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Drew and Nathan.

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Barbara Burke

Deputy Director of Athletics



Kevin McKinney

Senior Associate A.D. - External Affairs



Bill Sparks

Associate A.D. - Chief Financial Officer



Matt Whisenant

Senior Associate A.D. - Internal Affairs



Josh Rebholz

Associate A.D. - Development



Bill Atencio

Assistant A.D. - Facilities Operations



Conrad Chavez

Assistant A.D. - Academic Services



Bill Hamilton

Assistant A.D. - Ticket Manager



Jennifer Kost

Assistant A.D. - Marketing



Molly Moore

Assistant A.D. - Internal Operations



Michael Aanonsen

Equipment Manager



Debbie Allred

Accounting Associate, Senior



Carl Barnett

Assistant Athletics Trainer



Kathy Berwick

Accounting Associate, Senior



Lynn Claus

Assistant Ticket Manager



Mike Corbett

Office Associate



Ryan Cothorn

Audio - Visual Coordinator



Gwen Cotterman

Academic Coordinator



Mike Cotterman

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



Kathy Crowe-Wagner

Director of Strength & Conditioning



Zach Dechant

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



Dean Dockter

Concessions



Joe Dowler

"W" Club Director



Justin French

Development Officer



Keener Fry

Assistant A.D. - Annual Giving



Andrea Gasser

Assistant Athletics Trainer



Alyson Hagy

Faculty Athletics Representative



Rob Hartman

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



Kathy Dell Hearne

Office Associate



Brian Herzog

Head Strength & Conditioning Coach Football



Ty'Lene Jackson

Spirit Squad Coordinator



Mary Johnson

Office Associate



Betsy Kellerman

Office Associate



Rob Kellerman

Assistant Equipment Manager



Katie Ludwin

Academic Coordinator

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Bill Lyons

Curriculum Director for Sports Medicine



Geoff Mack

Marketing & Promotions Assistant



Jill Malloy

Office Associate



Ace Malsom

Office Associate



Donna Messer

Office Associate



Marisa Reilly

Accountant



Hunter Schurrer

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



Edna Sena

Office Associate



Henrietta Shingleton

Academic Coordinator



Aengle Smith

Office Associate



Jimmy Smuda

Assistant Athletics Trainer



Pam Shuster

Office Associate



Suzy Taylor

Office Associate



Joi Thomas

Assistant Athletics Trainer



Colin Vickers

Concessions Manager



Andrea West

Marketing Assistant



Phil Wille

Director of Compliance



Robb Williams

Head Athletics Trainer



Sarah Williams

Assistant Business Manager

2007-08 UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING HEAD COACHES



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Men's and Women's Cross Country



Joe Glenn

Football



Kristin Hall

Women's Tennis



Joe Jensen

Director of Men's and Women's Golf



Tom Johnson

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving



Joe Legerski

Women's Basketball



Anne Moore

Women's Soccer



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Josey Stender

Women's Golf



Heath Schroyer

Men's Basketball



Steven Suder

Wrestling



Don Yentes

Men's and Women's Track and Field

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