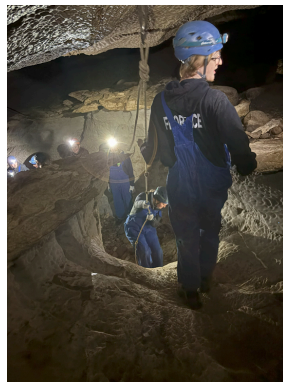


Claudia Troxel, Biological and Physical Science Instructor:

This has been a busy semester! It started with being awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching in January. I am beyond honored to be a recipient of this award.

This semester, I revamped my BIOL2020 class. After updating the course outcomes, the class will now be equivalent to the University of Wyoming's BIOL 2022 class: Animal Biology. Some new learning activities included a tour of Boulder Choke Cave in Sinks Canyon to learn a little about cave ecology. The pictures say it all:



This was my first year introducing March Mammal Madness (MMM) to my BIOL2020 class, an activity that mimics March Madness, but as it relates to Animals. MMM includes information about evolution, ecology, animal biology, and so much more! The students had to create and present posters of combatants that were displayed on the bulletin boards in the hallway, which generated a lot of interest from people passing by the boards. The students also made predictions and filled out a bracket. It was a fun and engaging activity that related back to content we had just learned in the classroom. This year, over 900,000 students participated in MMM across the United States! Next year, I hope to expand it to staff at CWC as well, to encourage learning about Biology beyond the classroom (and Polar Bear was the winner this year :)



This semester, I was invited to participate in the RIDE Initiative by Kathy Wells, Jennifer Kellner, and Brittany Yeates. This initiative works to bring more performance-based assessments into the classroom. I collaborated with Tylyn Gerber (nursing program) and two science teachers at Riverton High School. My personal focus was on expanding science communication for BIOL 2020 students. I presented my results at both the local Celebration of Learning at CWC on April 28, as well as the RIDE Student-Centered Statewide Celebration of Learning held at CWC on May 9. My journey is summarized in the slide below:



The Journey

3 minute Flash Talk on Citizen Science Project they completed

PEOPLE-POWERED RESEARCH
ZOONIVERSE
A community of people who help to advance research, science, and knowledge

Keeping laboratory notebook collecting data for semester

Podcast communicating animal form and function

Mini poster presenting original inquiry-based research on animal behavior

Lastly, Lucy Graham, Kirsten Kapp, and I will be attending a week-long workshop in Colorado Springs the first week of June to learn about incorporating CRISPR gene editing into our gen-ed Biology (BIOL1010) class. We will be meeting this summer after the workshop as well to work on revamping our course for the fall, and we are excited to bring cutting-edge, authentic research experience into our class.