

“Wallace Stegner and Western Lands” Honors Think Tank Class

This fall, Professor and Stegner Center Director Bob Keiter and Stegner Center Fellow Steve Trimble will offer “Wallace Stegner and Western Lands,” an Honors College think tank class. The class is part of the Stegner Center’s yearlong celebration to honor the centennial of Wallace Stegner’s birth, which will be commemorated on February 18, 2009.

“This class will support our goal to build on Stegner's knowledge and insights to promote thoughtful conservation and to establish ‘a society to match our scenery’ in the American West,” said Professor Keiter. “As a law professor I will join with Steve Trimble, a writer and photographer, to offer students an interdisciplinary approach to natural resource and environmental matters.”

The class is a year-long undergraduate class that will include 12 students, each of whom will apply and receive a \$1,000 scholarship if selected. The class will spend the fall semester absorbing background information by reading Stegner and other materials related to the West, public lands and natural resources. Outside speakers will visit the class weekly to offer additional insights, and the class will take a trip to the Moab area over fall break to meet with various groups interested in the future of Canyonlands National Park.

Among others, reading materials will include Stegner’s *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West* and *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*. Other works include *Wallace Stegner and Western Lands* by Philip Fradkin, *Cities in the Wilderness: A New Vision of Land Use in America* by Bruce Babbitt, *Fire on the Plateau: Conflict and Endurance in the American Southwest* by Charles Wilkinson, and *Bargaining for Eden: The Fight for the Last Open Spaces in America* by Stephen Trimble.

The spring semester will be spent working on a class project related to an issue of current interest, likely to involve public land management and potential boundary adjustments in the vicinity of Canyonlands National Park in Southern Utah.