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Leaving Lasting Tracks: Honoring College Retirees and Celebrating Continued Impact

In the eloquent words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, "Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks, and that means don’t do it just for yourself. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived." This sentiment resonates profoundly within our college, where the legacy of our retiring faculty and the impact of our current faculty and staff help shape the educational journeys and lives of countless students.

As we bid farewell to our retiring CSBS colleagues, Sara Dant, Carla Trentelman and LTC Angelique Pifer, we reflect on their contributions that have left indelible tracks on the college’s and university’s history and the lives of those they have touched. These educators have not only imparted knowledge but have also inspired students and colleagues with their passion, dedication and commitment to excellence. They will be deeply missed.

While we celebrate the achievements of our retirees, we also acknowledge our remarkable CSBS faculty and staff who serve with distinction and zeal. Your innovative teaching methods, mentorship and guidance for our students are instrumental in shaping the next generation of leaders, thinkers and changemakers. We are fortunate to be in a profession where we can have such a profound influence on the lives of our students. Justice Ginsberg’s wise words remind us of the importance of making a lasting impact, of leaving tracks that inspire, uplift and endure. As we honor our retiring faculty and recognize the contributions of our current CSBS team members, let us renew our commitment to leaving tracks that will shape our college's legacy and make a difference in the world.

- JULIE RICH
DEAN, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
For our 2023-24 CSBS Distinguished Lecture, we brought renowned anthropologist and MacArthur Fellow Jason De León to WSU to discuss his work as executive director of the Undocumented Migration Project. De León also met with CSBS and CAH students for a Q&A session about his research. This event was a collaboration with the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities, Browning Presents! and the Rosemary Conover Endowment Lecture Series in Anthropology.

For the first time (possibly ever), our college was able to represent Weber State University at the WSU Day on the Hill at the Utah State Capitol. Every year, WSU faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members visit the Utah State Capitol during the legislative session. We were invited to bring representatives from some our disciplines, including the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, the Master of Social Work program, the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service, the Crime Scene Investigation program and the Department of Psychological Science, to discuss the work we do in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences for our students and our community.
Many of our students are actively engaged in undergraduate and graduate research projects throughout their academic journey at WSU. Here are a few highlights from spring semester:

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology**
- Eighteen students presented at the WSU Sociology & Anthropology Research Conference on a variety of topics, including sustainability, mental health, identity, archaeology and more.

**Department of Criminal Justice**
- Several undergraduate and graduate students presented at conferences across the country. At the Western Association of Criminal Justice Conference in Washington, Max Shuman received second place in the student poster competition and the CJ team won the annual trivia bowl.

**Department of Geography, Environment & Sustainability**
- Eleven students had poster presentations at the 2024 Intermountain Sustainability Summit. Ian Nuttall won the Undergraduate Research Category and Bryan Dorsey’s GEOG 4420 students won the Collaboration Award and Green Design Award for their work with Ogden City Planning.

**Department of History**
- Three students presented at the 2024 Phi Alpha Theta Regional Meeting at Utah State University, with Elizabeth Hatch receiving an honorable mention for Best Paper.

**Department of Political Science & Philosophy**
- Thirteen students in Mary Beth Willard’s honors course, Keep or Cancel: Immoral Art and Immoral Artists, presented posters at WSU’s Research & Engagement Symposium.

**Department of Psychological Science**
- Twenty-five students and seven faculty presented at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association annual convention. There, the students competed in and won the Psych Bowl, a inter-college psychology trivia competition, beating out nine other regional universities and colleges.

**Department of Social Work & Gerontology**
- Four undergraduate and graduate students assisted in qualitative analysis and data collection for Barrett Bonella’s Ambrose Amos Shaw Endowed Chair project on the impact of engaged-learning practices on career trajectory.
Sara Dant’s remarkable career at Weber State University spans over two decades with her first joining the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences in July 2001. Dant has, without a doubt, made an impact on her students, colleagues and the university as a whole in her 23 years at WSU.

During her time here, Dant was not only known for being an excellent professor but also a mentor that forged strong connections with students, helping them find growth both academically and personally. One of her favorite courses to teach has been HIST 1700, the basic American history course for general education requirements. According to Dant, “It’s in this class where students who thought they ‘hate history’ discover that it’s incredibly powerful, moving and important.”

In addition to being a fantastic professor and mentor in and out of the classroom, Dant chaired the Department of History for the past seven years. “I’ve had the privilege of working with talented, generous and supportive colleagues and getting to call that ‘my job,’” Dant said. “The Department of History is dynamic and essential to the university and the larger community, and what’s really great, great, great about both it and Weber State is the people.”

Now that she is retiring, Dant is moving to Sante Fe, New Mexico and plans to spend some quality time in the “still wide-open spaces of the West and hopefully write about this land that I love in various public-facing venues, tapping back into my journalism background while still ‘teaching’ history to wider audiences.”
Before Lieutenant Colonel Angelique Pifer started her position in the Army ROTC at WSU, she built a successful career in the military. She graduated from California State University, Sacramento and earned her commission from the University of California, Davis ROTC in 2001 as an Air Defense Artillery Officer, branch-detailed from Military Intelligence.

Prior to her commission, LTC Pifer began her service in the United States Army Reserve as a Psychological Operations Specialist. LTC Pifer served in leadership positions across the spectrum of tactical, operational, and strategic operations, both in state-side units, and abroad. She conducted multiple partner-nation engagements, and deployed to Turkey, Iraq and Jordan.

While working in WSU’s Army ROTC program, LTC Pifer has loved watching her Cadets grow into their roles as leaders in the program and in their communities. She also appreciated the support she received from Dean Rich and university leadership, as she was able to shape the program to where it is today. “With their support, we have been able to expand out military history requirements to include conducting three extensive staff rides to California, Hawaii, and Europe,” LTC Pifer said.

Post-retirement, LTC Pifer has accepted an internship position with MarketStar and plans to take advantage of all the outdoor adventure opportunities in Utah, which is what drew her to live and retire here in the first place.
Carla Trentelman started teaching as an adjunct at Weber State University in 2005 and was hired to a tenure-track position in 2009. Trentelman has made a significant impact on our campus community, building strong connections with her students as well as with colleagues in the college and across campus.

Two things that Trentelman has always been passionate about are community service and sustainability. The first class she taught as a WSU adjunct integrated community-based research into the coursework, and not long after that, she involved students in community service projects. “I really wanted my students to get engaged with the local community in ways that would benefit both them and the community,” Trentelman said.

When she wasn’t involved in community-based research and service, she was often involved in WSU’s sustainability conversations as well as wider conversations about sustainability in Utah. “I’ve taught the environmental sociology class since I came to WSU, and each time I taught it, when I got to the unit on water I would say, ‘I could teach a whole class on this topic!’” Trentelman said. So of course she developed an entire course on the topic called “Thirsty Society: A Sociology of Water,” which ended up being one of her favorite classes to teach.

When asked about her plans post-retirement, she responded, “One of the things I’m really looking forward to is not having to plan!” Other than her plans to not plan, Trentelman is looking forward to spending time with her husband, her kids and especially her Grands, as well as “trading in my academic hat for one of advocacy, and to be involved in our community, because it’s our community and I can’t not.”
“Dr. Dant’s classes got me excited about the history of the American West. She is an exemplary professor who has shaped my academic career and my experience here at Weber State University.”

Elizabeth Hatch, Class of 2024

“It’s hard to express how grateful I am for Sara’s mentorship. She has been one of the most influential people in my academic career, and I can honestly say I wouldn’t be where I am if I had never met her.”

Amber Bell, Class of 2020

“LTC Pifer has been a big influence on my ability to adequately study and succeed in the nursing program. She gave me good insight into leadership both from what she taught and also how she conducted herself.”

Cadet Student Kobe Hales, Class of 2024

“The Wildcat Battalion and Weber State have been lucky to have someone like LTC Pifer as the PMS. I have better been able to maintain good study habits and accomplish more in large part because of her.”

Cadet Student Benjamin (Tyson) Young, Class of 2024

“Dr. Trentelman not only fostered my growth as a writer and sociologist but also instilled in me the belief that with perseverance, dreams are within reach. Her mentorship transcends the confines of the classroom, leaving an enduring impression that continues to shape my journey beyond Weber State University.”

Breanna Child, Class of 2021

“Dr. Trentelman has been a guiding light through the maze of uncertainty, instilling confidence and belief in my abilities both personally and academically. I will be forever grateful for her leadership and her friendship.”

Mike Nguyen, Class of 2012
H. ALDOUS DIXON AWARD
Sara Dant
Professor and Chair, History

JOHN A. LINDQUIST AWARD
Carla Trentelman
Professor, Sociology

PRESIDENTIAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
Shannon McGillivray
Associate Professor, Psychological Science

JENNINGS G. OLSON AWARD
Madeline Mackie
Assistant Professor, Anthropology

AMBROSE AMOS SHAW ENDOWED CHAIR
Stephanie Wolfe
Professor, Political Science

FACULTY CAREER CHAMPION AWARD
Timothy Black
Assistant Professor, Psychological Science
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Jean Kapenda**: Presented “Africa in World War II,” a three-part lecture series, for the CSBS Black History Month Lecture.
- **Douglas Routh**: Presented results from group research project, "Periods of Neglect: A Scoping Review of Feminine Hygiene Product Provision Among Incarcerated Women" that he worked on with McKenzie Wood and MCJ student Nicole Garrett at the Annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Chicago, IL.

DEAN’S OFFICE

- **Genesis Vasquez Rivas**: Accepted to the Graduate Studies in Education, Higher Education Leadership program at Weber State University.
- **Nicholas Ferre, Genesis Vasquez Rivas, Victor Blocher, Emily Rupp and Jackson Anderson**: Funded by WSU’s Staff Development Grant to present “Empowering Tomorrow’s Leaders: Highlighting the Impacts of Student Peer-to-Peer Mentoring on Academic Success & Development” at the Utah Advising Association 2024 Advisement Conference.

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

- **Dan Bedford**: Presented “Landscape and temperature in Ogden, Utah” at the Confluence 2024: Ogden River Symposium in Ogden, UT.
- **Bryan Dorsey**: Ogden Residential Infill collaboration with the Ogden City Planning Department in his GEOG 4420 class won the Intermountain Sustainability Summit Collaboration Award and the Green Design Award.
**FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**HISTORY**

- **James Almeida**: Presented “Choosing Slavery in the Potosí Mint, 1574 - ca. 1630” at the Tulane University Mines, Metals, and Monies Symposium.
- **Abdulnaser Kaadan**: Presented "The Achievements of Some Muslim Physicians During the Medieval Ages" at The 28th International Institute of Islamic Thought & Civilization World Professional Lecture. Attended the SAMS 7th Symposium: Building Leadership Skills in Medicine in Orlando, FL.
- **Matthew Romaniello**: Presented “'A little too partial to the ceremonies of their own church': John Glen King's Investigation of the Russian Orthodox Liturgy in the 1760s” at the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History conference in Columbus, OH. Presented “Dr. Matthew Guthrie and the Pursuit of Cures for ‘Cold’ Diseases in the Eighteenth Century” at the Department of History, Ohio State University. Presented “Creation through Destruction: Animal Materials and their Afterlives in the Eighteenth Century” as part of the workshop, "Fragile Things: Material Culture and the Russian Empire" sponsored by Yale University and the Peabody Museum.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY**

- **Bob Fudge**: Presented "Dignity and Degradation," an excerpt from the first chapter of a book he is writing, at the joint meeting of the North and South Carolina Philosophical Societies at Davidson College in North Carolina.
- **Richard Price**: Published “Contesting Obscenity: Book Challengers and Criminalizing Literature” in the *Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy*.
- **Janicke Stramer-Smith**: Presented "Follow the Money: Linking the Military's economic interests and its political behavior in the Middle East" at the International Security Section's annual conference at the Airfare Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.
- **Stephanie Wolfe**: One of nine invited participants for the Kwibuka 30: Making Memory and Legacy in Rwanda workshop, where she presented “Agency in the Post-Genocide Memorialization Process in Rwanda” at Clark University.
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

- Sarah Herrmann: Co-chairing the 2024 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues conference, "Frontiers of Justice: Using Psychological Science to Reinvigorate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" in Philadelphia, PA in June 2024. Received a Nature and Human Health Utah Pilot Grant with psychological student Taylor Evans for the purchase of plants for their research project, "Examining the Effect of Plants in the Classroom on College Student Mental Health and Academic Performance," as well as a $1,000 grant from the Ralph Nye Charitable Foundation through the WSU Office of Undergraduate Research and $500 for the Sustainability Teaching, Application, and Research Grants from the Sustainability Practices and Research Center.

SOCIAL WORK & GERONTOLOGY

- Barrett Bonella: Visited Washington, D.C. with social work students, Steffine Amodt, Jennifer Spieth, Joni Anderson and Seth Wright, to work with the ONE campaign and advocate for funding to prevent severe illnesses and improve infrastructure in countries still experiencing extreme poverty.

SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

- Madeline Mackie: Published “Use of hare bone for the manufacture of a Clovis bead” in Scientific Reports.
- Carla Trentelman: Presented “It’s Complicated... Or, My Journey as a Broad Broad” at The 2023 Last Lecture hosted by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

THE OLENE S. WALKER INSTITUTE OF POLITICS & PUBLIC SERVICE

- Awarded $83,000 from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Help America Vote College Program to recruit and train Hispanic poll workers.
THANK YOU

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

MAKING DREAMS HAPPEN

Check out some of the ways you can support students, faculty and staff in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.

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