Coming Soon: A New Weber.edu

After nearly nine years of the same look, the WSU website is getting a much-needed facelift, along with a variety of features to make it more user-friendly. The new site is expected to launch in September.

Staff members from Marketing & Communications teamed up with the IT Web Development group to tackle this challenging project, getting additional assistance and input from Web developers in other university divisions, such as Student Affairs and Continuing Education.

The new weber.edu homepage has been designed to appeal to prospective students, presenting the information they are likely to be looking for.

“Prospective students are doing much of their college research and decision-making online,” said Jen Philion, Web editor for Marketing & Communications. “A frustrating experience with your website can put you out of the running without anyone at the school even knowing it happened.”

With that in mind, the team conducted a user survey in 2013 to find ways the site could be improved. “Many people pointed out inconsistencies in site navigation, difficulty in finding information they were looking for, and also how hard the site was to use on a mobile device, like a smartphone or tablet,” Philion said.

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EWEBER’S FACELIFT

Along with the weber.edu redesign, WSU students, faculty and staff will soon see a new version of the eWeber portal.

“The concept of portals is changing, especially with the rise of mobile applications, and we wanted to keep pace with user expectations,” said IT Web Development manager Peter Waite. “The user interface has been completely redesigned to create an experience that is more familiar to students today.”

The new eWeber takes an icon-based “app store” approach. Users will no longer need to log in to reach the eWeber homepage, where they will be able to find the applications they want by searching or browsing categories. Users will only be prompted to log in once they select an application. The new format also will allow users to create a favorites list of applications they use most.

Like the WSU website, eWeber will be fully responsive, meaning it is designed to work with mobile devices in addition to your desktop. It also will incorporate important system notifications, like password changes and Code Purple updates, via a global navigation bar.

“We’ve also added a new search function,” Waite said. “We’ve never had the ability to search in eWeber before, and I think that will be a welcome change for users. It makes it very easy to find what you want quickly.”

The new eWeber will be introduced as a beta test version, soon after the launch of the newly redesigned website. Look for links in the existing portal to try it out; the Web Development team will be seeking user feedback before the full launch, expected in January 2015.
Staff Members Get New Pay Grades

In 1996, Bill Clinton was running for re-election, “Independence Day” and “Twister” blew away filmgoers and eBay first came online. At Weber State University, the current staff salary structure and position grades were implemented.

This fall, Human Resources will introduce a new salary grade structure and position grading process. The changes are the result of extensive review by President’s Council and the help of a consulting firm. “The old system is outdated,” said Cherrie Nelson, assistant vice president for Human Resources. “This new system uses external market data in addition to higher ed data.”

Two methods were used to determine new position grades: a benchmark job, and the job valuation tool.

A benchmark job is a brief, generic version of a job description used to help employers match comparable jobs throughout a particular recruiting market. Benchmark descriptions provide general details regarding the role, level of responsibility and qualifications for the job.

The job valuation tool assesses a job’s value when no benchmark job is available. The tool takes into consideration the scope of responsibilities, job impact and required knowledge.

The new structure, taking effect Oct. 1, provides more flexibility because it features fewer pay grades, but wider salary ranges.

The changes do not affect faculty. Exempt and non-exempt staff will be informed of their new position grades through one-on-one meetings with supervisors in late September or early October. The majority of staff will see no change in pay or benefits as a result of these changes. A small number of employees will receive pay increases.

“I’m excited that the new system is up-to-date and provides formal administrative guidelines that ensure pay is administered consistently across the university,” Nelson said.

For more information about the change, visit: weber.edu/HumanResources/Compensation.html.

NEW FEATURES

The most obvious change to the homepage is a new spotlight area, which will rotate through images and messages highlighting various areas, initiatives and major events at WSU. Directly underneath is a new admissions feature, where prospective students can click on icons to find information on applying, academic programs, costs and financial aid.

A featured events area will pull a selection of upcoming events from the main university calendar, and a news section highlights WSU’s most recent headlines.

Changes in navigation include a dropdown “mega-menu,” where users can find the most-used links in each category, or click through to new landing pages that contain more information on admissions, academics and student life. Also, the new site features a top navigation bar and expanded page footer with popular links – including a little person icon at top right that will be the new login spot for eWeber.

MOBILE-FRIENDLY

A large change behind the scenes has been the process to make the site “responsive,” meaning the site detects what kind of device it’s being viewed on and shifts accordingly.

“Moving to a responsive design is the biggest challenge of this project,” said Philion. “We’ve had to think through how people behave on a phone compared to a desktop, and the navigation needs to be organized differently. It’s like building two sites at the same time.

“User testing has been extremely important in helping us figure out where people are having problems, so we can try to fix those trouble spots before we launch.”

Because of this mobile-minded change, Web Development team members have created all new, responsive templates in Site Manager. Content will be automatically transferred from current templates to the new ones so the entire WSU site becomes responsive – not just the homepage.

“The mobile audience for our website has been steadily increasing, and now accounts for around 15 percent of our traffic – but we had many people say they only visited on mobile when they absolutely had to,” said Philion. “We expect that making weber.edu responsive will increase those numbers even more, as people find the site easier to navigate.”
Welcome To WSU

Nathan Alexander, Dumke College of Health Professions
Bryce Allen, Performing Arts
Jennifer Anderson, Business Administration
Sheila Anderson, Child and Family Studies
Matthew Bass, Facilities Management
Susan Bellomy, Development
Paul Bugnet, Athletics Admin and Support
Kimberlee Caldwell, Dumke College of Health Professions
Kabi Catalano, Development
Kaylene Chalmers, Nursing
Emma Clark, Student Involvement & Leadership
Tracy Covey, Chemistry
Dana Delling, COAST
William Denning, HPHP
Grant Duff, Athletics Admin and Support
Kyle Feuz, School of Computing
Morgan Fradley, Campus Recreation
Eliza Fry, Foreign Language
J. Garcia, Teacher Education
Hailey Gillen, Communication
Jennifer Gnagy, Economics
Matthew Gnagy, Economics
Sean Graham, Academic Tech Training and Planning
Sonja Green, Communication
Savanna Grotz, Research Support Services
Janell Hale, Nursing
Robin Haislett, Communication
Janae Hollenback, International Student Services
Amy Holmes, Continuing Education
Marzieh Islami, Health Administrative Service
Holly Jarvis, Visual Art and Design
Jedediah Johnson, Facilities Management
Trevor Johnson, Financial Aid Office
Chase Kwallek, Facilities Management
Alvaro La Parra Perez, Economics
Weston Laren, Continuing Education
Lorrie Lee, Developmental Math
Garrett Lever, Athletics
Michael Mitchell, Continuing Education
Amber Mobley, Student Success Center
Leslie MOCK, Nursing
DeAnna Mower, Teacher Education
Suketu Naik, Engineering
Jean Norman, Communication
Milad Palmer, Health Administration
Rachael Peck, Accounting Services
Prapan Pratoomchat, Economics
Lorrie Rand, Stewart Library
Douglas Richards, Psychology
Justin Rigby, HPHP
Heather Root, Botany
Sheryl Rushton, Teacher Education
Victoria Schaffner, Nursing
Gina Shelley, Teacher Education
Akhpone Singha, School of Computing
Cody Squadroni, Continuing Education
Amy Stegen, Nursing
Kathryn Stuart, Bursar and Collection Services
Sara Summers, Geosciences
Laura Terry, Athletics
Bryant Thompson, Business Administration
Lance Ure, Continuing Education
Carol Volante, Nursing
Jacob Wilkey, Career Services
Isaac Wood, Athletics Admin and Support
Nadia Wrosch, Teacher Education
Lixuan Zhang, Business Administration

Promoted/Transferred

Mark Adams, Child and Family Studies
Chad Downs, Facilities Management
Jason Eborn, Career Services
Alan Ferrin, Academic Tech Training and Planning
Kathy Gabaldon, Registrar’s Office
Crystal Giordano, Admissions
Gilbert Green, Facilities Management
Mark Halverson, Facilities Management
Travis Hogge, Facilities Management
Wendy Fox Kirk, Business Administration
Patrick Moody, Admissions
Devan Newman, Athletics
Paul Pilkington, Women’s Track
Jonathan Vance, Facilities Management

Retired

Farhang Amiri, Physics
James Blaisdell, Athletics
Eugene Bozniaik, Botany
Joyce Buck, Child and Family Studies
Frances Butler, Teacher Education
Randy Chatelain, Child and Family Studies
Vivian Donaldson, Athletics
Dan Fuller, Economics
Jackie Nye, University Advancement
Dale Ostlie, Physics
Stephen Russell, Business Administration
Nancy Stauffer, Parking Services
Jeffrey Williams, Mail Center
James Wilson, Geosciences

Public Safety a WSU Priority

The doors of the new Public Safety Building were opened to the public on Aug. 14, following the ribbon cutting.
The 10,000-square-foot facility houses the WSU Police Department and Parking Services. The building is equipped to handle routine public safety, but also designed to convert to the Emergency Operations Center in a campus emergency.
“The public safety building on the front porch of the university demonstrates the institution’s commitment to public safety,” said University Police Chief Dane LeBlanc.
The campus community will find the location convenient for issues related to parking.

Norm Tarbox, VP Administrative Services; Dane LeBlanc, police chief; Crystal Taylor, director Parking Services, Charles Wight, president; Steve Nabor VP Financial Services
Anthropology professor Brooke Arkush published an article “Communal Pronghorn Hunting in the Great Basin: What Have We Learned Over the Last 25 Years?” in the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly.

Brady Brower, assistant history professor, was appointed a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, for the 2014-15 session. He will work on a book project exploring social biology and the evolution of French republicanism.

Tracy Callahan, performing arts professor, was selected to direct the production of the play Mockingbird at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Mockingbird was part of WSU’s 2013-14 theater season of new plays. The work has since been nominated for several awards and special recognitions.

Matt Choberka, chair of the visual art and design department, coordinated the opening of the exhibit “A house we both can live in.” In addition, Choberka and adjunct faculty member Adam Bateman participated in the opening with several pieces of art and sculpture.

Associate nursing professor London Draper Lowe published “Disaster Readiness for Nurses in the Workplace: Preparing for the Zombie Apocalypse” in the professional nursing journal Workplace Health and Safety.

Respiratory therapy chair Paul Eberle and assistant professor Lisa Trujillo, along with Idaho State University professor Kent Whitaker, published the fourth edition of their text “Comprehensive Perinatal Pediatric Respiratory Care.”

On behalf of the respiratory therapy department, Paul Eberle also accepted the award for outstanding credentialing success from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. More than 90 percent of WSU respiratory therapy students achieved professional credentialing during the reporting period from 2011 to 2013. Just 30 schools of more than 400 were recognized at the national conference in July.

Psychology professor Lauren Fowler and English professor Sally Shigley had their chapter “Feeling your pain: Exploring empathy in literature and neuroscience” published in July in the book Rethinking Empathy Through Literature.

Stephen Francis, associate history professor, was selected to attend the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar program titled “Representations of the ‘Other’: Jews in Medieval England.” The five-week seminar was held at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies in England.

From zoology, associate professor Brian Chung and professor Robert Okazaki presented a paper at the Eighth International Conference on Nemertean Biology held in Qingdao, China, in June. The paper was titled “Novel identification of a neurokinin receptor-like gene sequence in nemertean Pananemertes peregrina.” Zoology graduates, Rainee Stevens, Chelsie Thomas and Laura Palmere were co-authors on the presentation. Okazaki was a co-author on four other conference papers and will serve as co-editor for the conference proceedings, which will be published in the Journal of Natural History.

Assistant economics professor Greg Parkhurst received two grants to study conservation agriculture in Malawi, Africa. Two student researchers spent the summer in Malawi collecting data; three others will interpret the data this fall. The project, “Agglomeration Payments for Catchment Conservation and Improved Livelihoods in Malawi,” will recommend subsidies that encourage conservation practices to improve farm output.

During the summer, 27 students and five faculty members participated in the one-month humanitarian, study-abroad program “Mozambique: Community Engaged Learning.” Faculty who ran the summer program included Julie Rich, geography; Alicia Giralt, foreign language; Jeremy Farner, design graphics engineering technology; Kathleen Cadman, nursing; and Joanne Lawrence, performing arts. WSU partnered with No Poor Among Us (NPAU) a Utah-based nonprofit organization. The goal was to build a women’s center in the village of Boane in Mozambique. WSU students and NPAU raised $60,000 for construction and helped launch the center. During the summer, students and faculty engaged 50 Mozambique women in a number of educational efforts, including budgeting, raising chickens, gardening, hygiene, first aid and everyday English.

Emergency care and rescue assistant professor William Robertson and instructor Taufiq Shah will present “The Baker’s Dozen of Clinical Education: 12 + 1 considerations toward avoiding the ‘Bueler’ factor,” at the National Association of EMS Educators Symposium in Reno, Nevada, in September.

The American Health Information Management Association honored Patricia Shaw, chair of health administrative services, with its 2014 Literary Legacy Award, a distinction given to individuals who have made a significant difference in the health information management profession.

Yasmen Simonian, dean of the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions, was elected vice-president of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. She also was elected to represent the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions for the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Chair of business administration Michael Stevens co-edited the book Global Leadership: Research, Practice and Development, which earned honorable mention as Book of the Year from the International Academy of Management.

Performing arts professors Yu-Jane Yang and Shi-Hwa Wang served as both guest artists and directors of the Sid & Mary Foulger International Music Festival held on campus in July. WSU symphony director Francisco de Gálvez directed the Utah Symphony. Yang and Wang selected musicians from around the world to participate.

Catherine Zublin, associate dean of the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities, recently was selected as the chair of Design, Technology and Management for Region 8 of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The national theater organization involves 18,000 students from 600 colleges and universities nationwide.
If you receive a Code Purple message to

**LOCKDOWN**
Secure and barricade the door, be silent and wait for further instruction. *Prevent an intruder from entering your area.*

**SHELTER IN PLACE**
Stay in a safe place indoors until further instruction. *Avoid dangerous conditions outside the building.*

[Weber.edu/CodePurple](http://weber.edu/codepurple)
Are you ready to take the necessary action to protect yourself and others around you in an emergency?

Join the campus wide
CODE PURPLE DRILL
Wednesday, Sept. 17
10:07 a.m.

Taking simple and decisive action during a crisis could mean the difference between life and serious injury, or even death.

What is CODE PURPLE?
Code Purple is an emergency notification system that gives Weber State University the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly — by text, voice and email message. By enrolling in Code Purple, you will receive safety-related information, regardless of your location: weber.edu/codepurple.

Here’s what will happen on SEPT. 17
- Everyone who has registered for Code Purple will receive a message to either Lock Down or Shelter in Place. Know the difference.
- Take THREE MINUTES to talk to students and colleagues about what you would do in the event of an actual alert.
- At 10:10, you will receive an “All Clear” message.
- You can return to your daily activities with more confidence that you know what to do in an emergency.

Here’s what you should do TODAY
- Sign up for Code Purple to receive emergency text messages and calls: weber.edu/codepurple.
- If you have already signed up, make sure your contact information is up to date.
- Encourage your colleagues and students to do the same.

Here’s what you should know:

LOCKDOWN
Should a hostile or armed intruder be on campus, you will be directed through Code Purple (the university’s emergency notification system) to lock down. This means you should secure and barricade doors and windows. Once you are barricaded, you should remain silent and wait for further instruction.

SHELTER IN PLACE
Should there be severe weather conditions or a hazardous material spill, you might be advised to shelter in place. This means you should stay in a safe place indoors in order to avoid dangerous conditions outside the building. In the event of a hazardous material spill, you may be directed to turn off ventilation systems or seal off areas where outside air could get into the room.