The crane above the Elizabeth Hall construction site was the dominant feature on the Weber State University Ogden campus landscape for much of the 2007-08 academic year. As students, faculty and staff adapted their daily routines to accommodate campus construction projects, the crane came to symbolize the many ways our university is building for the future.

The pages that follow illustrate highlights of the vibrant campus culture of 07-08, the year of the crane.

See how WSU students are building a reputation on the national stage. Catch a glimpse of how faculty and staff are building a solid educational foundation through personal interaction, using cutting edge technology. Discover the latest research projects of faculty and students that are building the local economy.

As you view the accomplishments of this past academic year, imagine the possibilities for the future.
Beginning Spring 2008, Weber State University has a new way to provide academic intervention for students who are struggling in classes. Once students are identified by faculty and staff and referred to the Early Alert Referral Service (EARS), they are contacted by an academic advisor who offers encouragement and information about campus resources such as tutoring.

“Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of going to college. Now that I’m about to start, I’m both nervous and excited. It’s a new life, but I’m prepared for this.”

Annaleana Engel wants to be a pediatric nurse. This fall she’s entering Weber State University to pursue her dream, thanks to the Educational Talent Search (ETS) program at WSU and a scholarship from the Ogden Standard-Examiner. ETS College Bound helps students in the Ogden School District, grades 7-12, explore their options after high school graduation. Program staff encourage college attendance through advising, workshops and field trips to help students navigate the higher education admissions process.

John Cavitt, director of undergraduate research and associate professor of zoology, mentors a student researcher at the Great Salt Lake. Cavitt was the faculty advisor for Lindsay Cole’s award winning research presented at Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C.

Undergraduate Research Highlights of 2007-08:

- 174 students presented at the research symposium at WSU
- $152,000 in grant money was given to fund 55 student projects
- 18 Weber State University students presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, hosted by Salisbury University

WSU senior Billy Rutter received the Civically Engaged Student award from the Community Involvement Center. Rutter is best known for educating fellow students on issues of homelessness and poverty. He also has organized blood drives, prepared supplies to ship to third world countries and worked with school children and the elderly.
WSU theater students performed two of five selections in “Musical of Musicals: The Musicals,” as part of the National Short Play Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

BUILDING RECOGNITION ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW, A WSU student represented Utah at the prestigious Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill event at the U.S. Capitol. Zoology graduate Lindsay Cole presented her research on the nest site selection of Great Salt Lake shorebirds.

The WSU Mock Trial team finished third at the American Mock Trial Association’s national tournament in Tucson, AZ.

The WSU Ethics Bowl team finished fifth at the national tournament in San Antonio, TX.

The Community Involvement Center at WSU was listed on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This award, given by President George W. Bush, recognizes universities that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs.

WSU students majoring in athletic training worked with world class athletes at the Dew Action Sports tour in Park City and the 2008 U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships in Salt Lake City.

Broadcast students from the communication department received three grand-prize awards at the National Broadcasting Society national student electronic media competition held in Anaheim, California.

For the third time in the six-year history of the award, Weber State University has captured the Big Sky Conference Sterling Savings Bank Presidents’ Cup. The President’s Cup recognizes outstanding achievement in academics as well as athletic performance of student-athletes.
In 2004, Psychology professor Lauren Fowler began working with the U.S. Air Force to study circadian rhythms and fatigue in fighter pilots, looking for ways to reduce fatigue-related errors. A National Science Foundation grant the following year allowed her to expand her research to include shift workers in law enforcement and other military personnel.

Fowler works closely with students, acting as a mentor on undergraduate research projects related to her own work, including a project that student Kristena Kons was invited to present at Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., in 2007.

Nearby Hill Air Force Base provides an excellent learning opportunity for her students, Fowler says. “We’ve had a great response from various squadrons on the base that were interested in having our students study the effects of fatigue on their specific roles. It’s been a great partnership, and one we hope to continue.”

Nobody likes getting a shot—especially if it isn’t necessary. Yet dental hygiene students commonly subject themselves to the pain and medication of an anesthetic injection so their peers can learn the procedure.

Dental hygiene professor Kami Hanson and her team of student researchers at WSU have spent three years pioneering a mixed-reality technology that combines virtual and tactile components to provide a realistic learning experience for anesthetizing patients.

The technology allows students to learn techniques for local anesthesia in a virtual setting that simulates the real limitations of the dental chair and the patient’s head.

The Effects of Stress on Platelet Function.
A Psychological Analysis of College Basketball Players.
Extraction and Analysis of Trans-fat in Girl Scout Cookies.

This list provides a sampling of students’ articles in Ergo, the Weber State University Undergraduate Research Journal.
PODCASTS, NARRATED POWER POINT SLIDE SHOWS and computer-generated learning games are just a few of the tools available to students who take online classes.

The WSU Online program, known as a leader in innovative technologies and pedagogy, marked its 10th year of providing online instruction to students in 2007-08. The program has seen exponential growth in its first 10 years, from 77 students the first semester to more than 10,000 students today.

Teaching options have flourished alongside enrollment growth. In addition to “online-only” courses, WSU faculty are using web tools to enhance in-person classes and creating a variety of hybrid course modules that replace seat time with online learning.

EDUCATION BUILT ON CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Lifelike mannequins in the Dumke Interdisciplinary Simulation Lab help students learn to diagnose and treat patients suffering from an array of health problems. From high blood pressure to respiratory anomalies, the mannequins can present all kinds of symptoms that replicate the challenges of responding to a patient’s rapidly changing condition.
When a commercial or military aircraft takes off, the Boeing Company understands that every piece of equipment on board must meet or exceed safety standards. So when Boeing asked ATK Aircraft Structures to enhance the passenger door springs on its 767 and C-17 aircraft, without compromising its rigorous safety standards, ATK turned to Weber State University’s aviation initiative for assistance.

Faculty from WSU’s mechanical and electronics engineering technology departments helped develop a torque tester for ATK that evaluates the integrity of composite/graphite springs prior to their installation in the aircraft. The testing device places each spring under tension that is 200 percent of its rated capacity and precisely measures its performance throughout the test.

The ATK collaboration is just one of several aeronautics projects undertaken by the WSU aviation initiative as part of Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.’s Northern Utah aerospace and aviation economic cluster.

With the growing buzz it’s generating, WSU’s aviation initiative is ready to soar.
BUILDINGS FOR THE FUTURE

PHOTOGRAPHY

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