Growing into the future.

1946: Enrollment reaches 1,000 students in the post-World War II boom

1963: Enrollment exceeds 5,000 students; Weber College becomes Weber State College
As I talk with different constituent groups in Northern Utah, I’m continually reminded of the strong connections that form between Weber State University and this community. Whether it is curriculum designed to meet the work force needs of Hill Air Force Base, or faculty conducting research to benefit local industry, or students performing community service projects in the public schools or nonprofit agencies, the common thread that runs through the 2008-09 academic year is community engagement.

We don’t just reside in Northern Utah; our faculty, staff and students partner with individuals and organizations to make a difference. It’s fitting that we were selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive the Community Engagement Classification in December 2008.

WSU was honored for Curricular Engagement and Outreach & Partnerships. Among the more than 6,500 institutions in the United States that are eligible to apply for the Carnegie Foundation designation, only 173 have been recognized for this particular honor. Fewer than half of those recognized are public regional universities like Weber State.

This prestigious honor stands as external validation of the many ways community engagement is woven into the fabric and culture of the university.

Along with engaging the community, 2008-09 was a record-setting year for enrollment of students. Fall semester enrollment exceeded 20,000 for the first time ever, topping out at 21,674. The previous high for enrollment was 18,821, set in 2003. Projections indicate that, by 2030, enrollment at WSU could reach 30,000 students.

We have been working to build new facilities and an infrastructure to support this enrollment growth. The completion of Elizabeth Hall, coupled with the remodeled Stewart Bell Tower Plaza, Shepherd Union Building, Stewart Library entrance, and Lampros Hall has transformed the central campus in Ogden. The new facilities have created a greater level of energy on campus. Students are spending more time on campus, studying, meeting with friends, working on extracurricular activities and connecting with faculty.

With new and expanded facilities, WSU hosted the world in two major events: the annual conference of the International Society for Teacher Education (ISFTE) and the 11th Annual Youth Archery World Championships.

Our vibrant campus environment and emphasis on undergraduate research were catalysts for two national organizations to announce plans to visit WSU in the near future. The Council on Undergraduate Research will come to WSU Ogden in 2010, bringing with it a number of faculty, administrators and others with an interest in promoting undergraduate research. In 2012, WSU will host more than 3,000 undergraduate students from across the United States at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

In a year of unprecedented economic challenges for higher education, it’s exciting to report that WSU is continuing to thrive and grow, thanks to the efforts of our faculty and staff and the support of our alumni and donors. In the pages that follow, you’ll meet some of the engaging students, staff and faculty who are reaching out to our community in meaningful and productive ways.

F. Ann Millner, Weber State University President

1980: Enrollment tops 10,000 students; Construction begins on Wattis Business Building

2008: Enrollment exceeds 21,000; Stewart Bell Tower Plaza is renovated
Serving our community.

Total # of WSU Students Participating
4,799

# Service Hours Logged
97,343

$1,971,195*

Value of Service Hours

*Calculated by Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs
VOLUNTEERING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WSU students have big impact on others

In 2008-09 the value of Weber State University students’ service to the community is estimated at $1.9 million. Some students volunteered as part of a classroom service-learning project. Others showed up at the university’s Community Involvement Center with a desire to help.

They befriended those in need of a friend. They mentored those who needed role models. They assisted the elderly in getting the help they need. They made a difference. Their efforts—and the efforts of the university to reach out to the community—did not go unnoticed.

In addition to receiving the prestigious Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, WSU has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for three consecutive years. The honor roll is the highest national recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.

Following are some service highlights from the 2008-09 academic year:

- The AmeriCorps program at WSU had 141 active members who completed more than 47,000 hours of service. AmeriCorps is a program where students earn money to attend college or repay qualified student loans in exchange for community service.
- WSU volunteers helped a number of community organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club, Youth Impact, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, Midtown Community Health Center, Best Buddies and many others.
- The AmeriCorps program at WSU had 141 active members who completed more than 47,000 hours of service. AmeriCorps is a program where students earn money to attend college or repay qualified student loans in exchange for community service.
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Whether it’s student-athletes reading to elementary school children or zoology majors conducting applied research on behalf of local organizations, the commitment to serving the community is ingrained in the culture of Weber State University.

SHOWCASING SERVICE

WSU hosts inaugural service symposium

A tangram, a Chinese puzzle consisting of a square divided into seven pieces, can certainly boost children’s critical thinking skills, but when WSU’s Moving Company brings the puzzle to life, learning becomes even more fun. Created by performing arts professor Erik Stern, Moving Company uses choreography to teach local elementary school children math, communication and self-expression.

Moving Company was one of 20 service projects featured during WSU’s inaugural service symposium April 10. Hosted by the Community Involvement Center, students showcased their volunteer work with schools and organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics.

MENTORING FUTURE UTAH SCHOLARS

In high school, Javier Chavez never thought he’d be a role model—a good one, anyway. He skipped some classes. He didn’t take studying seriously. And he certainly didn’t think about college.

Fortunately, he had a change of heart.

“I was able to turn myself around and become a better student,” says Chavez, who now uses his story to inspire local junior high school students.

As a volunteer for Mentors for Utah Scholars, a program he helped coordinate in the fall of 2008, Chavez, a WSU sophomore, works with Mt. Ogden Junior High students in the YMCA after-school program. Many of these students have no desire to go to college. Chavez hopes to change their minds.

“A lot of these students don’t believe they are capable of going to college,” Chavez explains. “I tell them it’s possible if they try hard, and that if I can do it, they can do it.”

Chavez is grateful for the opportunity he’s been given to work with students in the after-school program. “Working with the students in this program reminds me of how far I’ve come. I know now that education is an opportunity that should not be wasted.”
Setting the stage for record-breaking successes.

PLAYING TO WIN

Freshman piano student Fan-Ya Lin became the first WSU student to win the Utah Music Teachers Association (UMTA) State Concerto competition. She followed that accomplishment by taking third at the International Beethoven Sonata competition in Tennessee, despite being the youngest participant and facing students from Juilliard and the Eastman School of Music. With only four days to prepare a different repertoire, Lin won the Snowy Range regional competition in Wyoming.

Big Sky regular-season conference championships for Wildcat athletics
STUDENTS GET INVOLVED, GET INSPIRED

Weber State University students had a stellar year, in the classroom, in academic competitions, on the playing field and in extracurricular activities. A few highlights ...

The Weber State spirit squad became the 2009 Division I NCA/NDA National Champion after wowing judges at the Daytona Beach, Fla., national championships in April. The cheer squad, coached by Summer Willis, upset seven-time defending champion Stephen F. Austin State University in the finals. With the win, WSU’s cheer squad became the first team in Utah to win a national championship.

WSU student-athletes capped a successful year by winning the Big Sky Conference Sterling Savings Bank Presidents’ Cup for the second straight year and the fourth time in the seven-year history of the prestigious honor. The award recognizes success in the classroom as well as on the field. Twelve of Weber State’s 14 Big Sky athletic squads finished with a grade point average of at least 3.0. The Wildcats won Big Sky regular-season championships in men’s basketball and women’s soccer, while the football team won a co-championship in Big Sky Conference play for the 2008 season to contribute to the overall victory in the presidents’ cup.

Four WSU students received national recognition at the Phi Beta Lambda national competition in Anaheim, Calif., in June 2009. Brittany Chase from Clearfield, Antony Joseph from Nigeria, Jeremy Ward from Riverdale and Kristina Yamada from West Point placed in the top 10 in five categories at the event. Individuals, state teams and local chapters competed in more than 50 different events representing the organization’s focus on business and leadership development. The winners were selected from among PBL’s membership of 250,000 students and advisors.

135
record-setting # of trees planted in one hour by the WSU Environmental Club

LEGENDARY CARNEGIE

This spring, performing arts professor Tom Root and the WSU Wind Ensemble took the stage at Carnegie Hall, the first Weber State group ever to perform in the legendary concert hall. The ensemble gave the closing performance at the New York City Wind Band Festival, held in April.

WORLD RECORD TREE PLANTING

As part of this year’s Earth Day festivities, the WSU Environmental Club set a Guinness World Record for planting the most trees in an hour. Club members planted 135 trees in various locations on the Ogden campus, WSU Davis, Clearfield Park and 25th Street in Ogden.
When Jeff Eaton’s thoughts turn to summer, he doesn’t think about vacationing in the tropics. Instead, the Weber State University geosciences professor thinks about conducting geology field research with his students in and around Tropic, Utah.

Eaton owns a home in the small community, located just east of the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park. For six weeks in the summer, his house is transformed into the unofficial “WSU Geologic Field Station,” where students gather to analyze data gathered during field investigations on the Colorado Plateau.

Eaton’s students jump at the chance to work alongside their professor, a recognized authority on Cretaceous paleontology. Cameron Thompson, for example, worked three summers with Eaton.

“The experience I received working with Dr. Eaton provided me a solid foundation for research in graduate school,” Thompson says. “Everything Dr. Eaton does, he does so that each one of his students may learn and grow to become better scientists.”

Eaton receives no additional pay or teaching credit for his summer work. He does it strictly to give students hands-on geological experiences.

In 2008, Eaton was awarded WSU’s prestigious John S. Hinckley Award for excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. In nominating him, his colleagues praised his commitment to teaching, saying he is a professor students will long remember.
Brenda Marsteller Kowalewski grew up in rural Maryland, in a town with strong working-class roots. At a young age, people-watching became one of her favorite pastimes. But it wasn’t until she got to high school that she began to notice just how different people could be.

“When I went to high school, I met kids from other elementary schools and I could tell there were serious differences in the way they grew up and the way we grew up. I remember thinking, ‘What’s that about?’ says Kowalewski, who would go on to study human behavior on her way to earning a PhD in sociology.

Today, Kowalewski, one of WSU’s 2009 Presidential Distinguished Professors, teaches students to observe the world around them, ask questions and embrace each other’s differences. She also encourages students to think beyond the classroom by engaging in service-learning projects that integrate community service with academic study.

As co-director of WSU’s Community Involvement Center, Kowalewski also helps professors incorporate service-learning components into their courses. “When you can give students the opportunity to apply the knowledge they’ve learned in the classroom to a real-world setting, then I think you’ve really hit the mark,” she says.
Connecting undergraduates with research opportunities.

WSU STUDENTS AND FACULTY ADOPT A GENOME

WSU microbiology students are among the first in the nation to adopt a microorganism as part of a pioneering federal DNA research program conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy. In January 2009, four WSU science professors attended a workshop in California where they learned how to decode microbial genomes—the genetic information that makes up a cell and controls what it does. The research findings will be entered in a national database.
The Global Scholars Initiative (GSI) provides an opportunity for faculty-student research teams at WSU to participate in an intercultural exchange of knowledge as they work in collaboration with faculty-student teams from the Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit in Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico.

WSU professors Therese Grijalva, John Cavitt and Susan Matt began GSI research last spring with their undergraduate students. The group traveled to Nayarit together, specifically focusing on a wetland complex called the Marismas, which is the winter habitat for shore birds from the Great Salt Lake.

Cavitt’s research focused on the habitat usage of the shore birds. Grijalva’s research focused on the local economic and ecological issues regarding the conservation or development of the surrounding area. Matt’s research focused on the human migration of Mexicans into the United States—such individuals have historically been referred to as “birds of passage.”

Grijalva said the GSI research has informed her teaching. “When I teach about the ‘safety standard’ in my environmental economics class, I can explain that sometimes markets fail in providing the goods that individuals want,” Grijalva says. “If we leave decisions to the market, we find that we overdevelop environmental resources when, in fact, society may prefer to preserve environmental assets rather than develop them.”

For the students, the experience in Nayarit gave them some direction and insight. “It’s not very often that students get these opportunities,” says Chance Kendall, a WSU economics student who assisted Grijalva. “Whenever a student does get involved, it’s usually something along the lines of gathering or entering data into a computer program and having it spit out some results. However, we dealt with actual people. This research has the potential to influence policymaking decisions and possibly even redefine the concept of political boundaries.”

Cavitt, Grijalva and Matt will make a presentation about the Global Scholars Initiative and their experiences in Nayarit at the upcoming Council on Undergraduate Research National Conference, which will be held at WSU next June.

The Global Scholars Initiative project was honored at WSU with the Gwen Williams Prize for Extraordinary Work by Faculty and the Hemingway Collaborative Project Award.

SNAKES IN THE CHEATGRASS

Zoology major Lucas Hall turned a lifelong interest in snakes into a research project that was published in the January 2009 issue of the Western North American Naturalist journal.

Hall signed on for the zoology research project to determine if this was the career path he wanted to pursue. Along with his wife Erin, and fellow undergraduate researcher Nik Pietsch, Hall spent four months capturing western racer and Great Basin gopher snakes on Antelope Island, using funnel traps that were checked daily.

Hall’s research indicated that the coverage of cheatgrass, an invasive, non-native annual plant found throughout much of the West, reduced the number of snakes. “You would still find them, but the numbers were drastically reduced,” Hall says.

The research prompted Hall to do a follow-up study examining how cheatgrass affects the deer mice population on the island. After he graduates in 2010 with a dual major in zoology and Spanish, Hall plans to enter a zoology doctoral program. He would like to become a professor and share his passion for reptiles with future students.
Lighting the path for learning.
For the past three summers, Weber State University has partnered with the late Larry H. Miller to provide educational experiences for Utah’s public school history and science teachers.

The Larry H. Miller Education Project, which is administered through Continuing Education, began as a way to improve history and science teaching in public schools throughout the state by providing hands-on instruction from WSU faculty at historically and scientifically significant sites.

“Many of the teachers who have participated had never been east of the Mississippi River,” says Gene Sessions, WSU history professor. In the past three years, the project has taken history teachers to New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and sites relevant to the settling of the western United States. Science teachers have visited alternative energy power plants and national parks.

“I’m a big fan of public education,” Sessions says. “I feel like we’re doing something great for the teachers and the children who will benefit from better instruction.”

Thirty teachers are chosen for each seminar from across the state through a competitive application process. In addition to having all their expenses covered, participating teachers also receive a stipend to purchase teaching materials for their classrooms.

“It’s a great experience for the teachers,” Sessions says. “On our most recent trip, one of the teachers came up to me at Arlington National Cemetery. He practically had tears in his eyes and said, ‘You know I’ve taught about the American Revolution and the Civil War for 15 years, but it’ll never be the same now. It’ll never be the same, because I’ve felt it.’”

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**Larry H. Miller Education Project supports history, science teachers in public schools**

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**PROMOTING SCIENCE IN GRADES K-12**

Ron Proctor believes science sometimes gets a bad rap. So he developed a video and an online community, [thenatureofscience.org](http://thenatureofscience.org), aimed at educating people about science and how it benefits all facets of our lives.

As part of his senior capstone project for the bachelor of integrated studies degree, Proctor created a 20-minute video “The Nature of Science.” The video, like the Web site, is designed to communicate what science is, how scientists work and how individuals can get involved.

WSU faculty members from various scientific disciplines, including astrophysics, geology, microbiology and zoology star in the show. Proctor wrote, produced, directed and narrated the film.

The video—originally shown on the Ott Planetarium dome at WSU—has been reformatted for DVD. The show already is attracting international attention; it’s being translated into Spanish by a planetarium in Argentina and Turkish by a planetarium equipment distributor in Turkey. Planetariums in Mexico and New Zealand also have expressed interest in the show.

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**HELPING STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE**

WSU is partnering with the Ogden City Schools in a new program, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or GEAR UP, designed to increase the rate of high school graduation and encourage college participation among underrepresented youth.

Each year, WSU students and staff mentor a cohort of 900 junior high school students from the Ogden area, helping them set educational goals, learn about options for attending college and take preparatory classes.

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**18,540**

# of local students touched by WSU science outreach programs last year
Collaborating to reach new heights.
When aerospace contractors replace the titanium springs on the doors of passenger jets and military cargo planes with newer carbon composite springs, they must be confident the parts can handle the pressure. A device, retrofitted and upgraded by two Weber State University professors and a student, will assist them in testing the new springs prior to installation in the aircraft.

The testing device winds each spring up to six times, exposing it to 2,000 pounds of torque. Information about the integrity of the spring is collected throughout the winding and relaxing processes and recorded using a software program developed by WSU computer engineering instructor Julie McCulley.

Kelly Harward, associate professor of manufacturing engineering technology, and student Kurt Brown have been working with McCulley on the project since April 2008. For most of that time, they worked on developing the mechanism and equipment without having the actual torque tester on site. When the device arrived, the team spent three weeks quickly modifying and refining the cabinet to increase the efficiency of testing the springs.

“This project demonstrates how the expertise of our faculty and students helps meet the needs of our partners in business and industry,” says Bradley Stringer, director of the Utah Center for Aeronautical Innovation & Design (UCAID) at WSU. “Our primary focus is serving as a resource for the aerospace and defense contractors clustered in Northern Utah.”

The project drew on experts in mechanical engineering, electronics and computer software engineering to complete. A key part of the overhaul involved installing a modern electronics interface that could conduct the test and collect detailed information about the performance of the spring at various points in the torque test.

UCAID, based at WSU, comprehensively serves the nation’s aviation and aerospace industries by conducting applied scientific and engineering research for aviation industry partners and their clients.

UCAID offers expertise in life sciences, physical sciences, and mechanical and electrical engineering, employing professional engineers and scientists who can apply their knowledge of these classic disciplines to contemporary aviation issues.

**SPRINGING INTO ACTION**

*WSU-modified device helps aerospace industry*

“AT EASE, SOLDIER*

Weber State University recognizes the unique challenges and needs of military students and takes great pride in helping them achieve their educational goals. WSU’s commitment to the men and women of the Armed Forces has earned the university not one, but two “military-friendly” commendations.

Military Advanced Education (MAE) magazine, which is distributed to military education officers around the world, recognized WSU as one of the 60 top military-friendly colleges and universities in the nation for 2008. Schools were selected based on military enrollment, military-friendly policies and programs, military contracts and feedback from students.

In August 2009, *G.I. Jobs*, a national magazine that assists transitioning military members and veterans in their search for civilian employment, ranked WSU in the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide. The university was commended for its efforts in recruiting military students.

Locally, WSU faculty members and students work closely with Hill Air Force Base (HAFB) on projects and research that support the base and its mission. The university also is actively involved in a major educational endeavor to train civilian employees on base by providing a variety of education and training programs.

**WALKING ON ‘AER’**

*WSU professor earns Boeing fellowship*

Weber State University faculty member George Comber was one of nine engineering professors worldwide to be selected for the 2009 Welliver Faculty Fellowship Program, a prestigious honor granted by the Boeing Corporation, the world’s leading aerospace company.

Comber, a manufacturing engineering technology associate professor, shadowed Boeing personnel to get a closer look at the company’s technical and business programs.

This fall, Comber will lead the implementation of a new academic emphasis on plastics and composites in WSU’s Department of Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology. He will share what he learned at Boeing with his students.
Partnering to grow local business and industry.
In the summer of 2008, Holly Halverson entered the city of Ogden and Grow Utah Ventures’ competition for entrepreneurs, Concept to Company. She had an idea for a new product: a lightweight ladder to mount on trucks and SUVs that makes it easier to put items on the roof. Halverson felt she had the makings of an innovative product, but she didn’t know how to turn the idea into reality.

That’s where the staff of the Technology Outreach Center of WSU’s Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) initiative came in. Halverson won $5,000 in cash, plus another $5,000 in services from USTAR as a runner-up in Concept to Company. Christian Volmar, associate director of USTAR at WSU, became the project manager for the Rack Ladder and headed up a team of WSU students, faculty and staff who created a prototype and a business plan for Halverson.

MBA student Jenny Ezhova helped with early business strategy planning and also designing the aesthetics of the product, including the choice of a color palette. Matt Peterson from the Weber Entrepreneurs Association conducted market research. Ron Carter from the Utah Center for Aeronautical Innovation & Design (UCAID) led redesign efforts, made connections to key suppliers, and mapped out the required testing for safety and durability. Students and staff from the automotive technology program helped with testing and provided general feedback on the product.

“Christian and Jen were both fabulous,” Halverson says of her experiences with USTAR staff. “It was great to have them there to answer questions. Just knowing I could call on Christian and the other members of the team, even for simple questions, was a tremendous help.”

Halverson has produced 100 units and is selling them to local bike and ski shops. She is also negotiating with manufacturing companies to produce the Rack Ladder in larger quantities.

As this Layton entrepreneur is quick to point out, “I had an idea, but the USTAR team created the business plan. They helped me turn my idea into a marketable product.”

CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS

WSU helps entrepreneur launch product

In response to a nationwide shortage of qualified laboratory testing personnel, Weber State University and ARUP Laboratories, a leader in innovative laboratory research and development, have partnered to promote and facilitate the education of laboratory testing professionals.

The partnership provides enhanced opportunities for laboratory personnel at ARUP client institutions to obtain associate’s and bachelor’s degrees in clinical laboratory sciences through WSU’s groundbreaking Web-based curriculum.

WSU is the first university to offer complete clinical laboratory sciences degrees online. The program includes the study and performance of laboratory tests vital to the detection, diagnosis, treatment and study of diseases.
Welcoming the world.

GREEN BUILDINGS

Elizabeth Hall & Hurst Center for Lifelong Learning
On a hot July day, a flood of teenage archers filled Weber State University's football practice field for the 11th Annual Youth Archery World Championships, their vividly-colored shirts displaying their teams’ origins: United States, Australia, Croatia, Indonesia, Italy, Spain, Hungary and many other countries.

The more than 400 archers were greeted by a campus transformed by recent renovations, including the redesign of the Stewart Bell Tower Plaza and the building of Elizabeth Hall and the Hurst Center for Lifelong Learning.

In addition to the archery championships, WSU Ogden—with its updated facilities—attracted several other groups this summer, including the International Society for Teacher Education (ISFTE) and the Utah Leadership Academy.

During the ISFTE 2009 seminar, participants from more than 20 nations exchanged ideas on how to enhance teacher education. The Utah Leadership Academy was attended by more than 100 elected student leaders from Utah’s colleges and universities, who participated in workshops and exercises designed to boost leadership skills.

Two major events already have been scheduled for the future.

The Council on Undergraduate Research will come to WSU Ogden in 2010, bringing with it a number of faculty, administrators and others with an interest in promoting undergraduate research. The National Conference on Undergraduate Research will take place in 2012. More than 3,000 attendees are expected to attend the event, where students from across the United States will present their research.