Get Your Free Ed Pass!
The Ed Pass is free this year for students, faculty and staff. Save money and support the university’s commitment to clearing the air by riding the bus and/or taking the train!

Mark Your Calendar for November 10th
The EIC, the CCEL, and the Ogden LDS Institute are sponsoring the event "Provident Living: Homegrown Food For Thought" - an open house at the Institute building from 12-2 pm November 10th with information, demonstrations and samples of how to make and save more food at home (e.g., cheese, honey, food preservation).

Upcoming Screening of WRENCHED
WSU Shaw Gallery Film Screening, partnering with Utah Film Center, is showing WRENCHED on Thursday, October 16th, 7 p.m., at Peery’s Egyptian Theater in Ogden. The film is a documentary about early ecowarriors and friends of Edward Abbey who fought for wilderness and challenged the status quo with monkeywrenching. FREE and open to the public, plus free popcorn! See the movie trailer:

http://wrenched-themovie.com/trailer

Directed by M.L. Lincoln | Written by Patrick Gambuti Jr.

Porter Fox to Talk About the Future of Snow
Attention all winter sports fans! On November 4th, the EIC, Office of the Provost, WSU’s Energy & Sustainability Office, the Geography Department, Ogden City, and Ogden Nordic are sponsoring Porter Fox and his presentation on his book DEEP: The Story of Skiing and the Future of Snow. Porter’s presentation will include video, slideshows, animation and a discussion of the best skiing in the world, climate change and its effect on snow.
Porter Fox writes, teaches and edits the literary travel-writing journal *Nowhere* ([nowheremag.com](http://nowheremag.com)) in Brooklyn. He graduated with an MFA in fiction from The New School in 2004. His fiction and nonfiction have been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Outside*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Powder*, *Salon.com* and *The Literary Review*, among others. He has been anthologized in *The Best American Travel Writing*, nominated for two Pushcart Prizes and was a finalist for the 2009 Robert Olen Butler Fiction Prize.

**When:** November 4th (Tuesday), from noon - 1:00 p.m. Porter will be available to sign books following his presentation.

**Where:** Wildcat Theater in the Shepherd Union

A summary of the book can be found at: [http://deepthebook.com/about.html](http://deepthebook.com/about.html)

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**Students and Faculty Work on Conservation Agriculture in Malawi**

Are you interested in helping to sustain the environment, provide ecosystem service and alleviate poverty? Such was the desire of Dr. Gregory Parkhurst (economics) and two of his students, Jacob Thompson and Gregory (Brent) Peterson. Funded by the National Environmental Resource Council (UK) and AMA BASIS (USAID), Dr. Parkhurst and Dr. Andrew Bell of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) led an international, interdisciplinary research team to promote conservation agriculture in Malawi, Africa.

Jacob and Brent were hired as student researchers to code a baseline survey administered to farmers in the Balaka and Machinga districts of Malawi. While working two months in the field as assistant project managers, they maintained a project blog to communicate their experiences. Go to [http://ssccm.ifpri.info/](http://ssccm.ifpri.info/).

Titled *Smart Subsidies for Catchment Conservation in Malawi* (SSCCM), the project employs an incentive scheme designed by Dr. Parkhurst and Jason Shogren (U of Wyoming) called an agglomeration bonus. The bonus encourages farmers to share conservation agriculture technology with neighboring farmers in order to increase all their earnings. Individual payments are determined only after all the farmers have applied the best practices to preserving the conservation-valued landscape within and across villages.

A second objective of SSCCM is to promote food security. These districts in Sub-Saharan Africa have a poverty rate of over 70%; many villagers report being hungry during numerous months every year. Food insecurity is exacerbated as soil erosion reduces yield. Conservation agriculture technology in Malawi is identified as no-till, intercropping and mulching. This three-prong approach increases soil quality and should eventually create a sustainable annual yield.

The SSCCM project compares the success rates of the agglomeration bonus with a traditional voucher program, which also aims to reduce poverty and food insecurity.

Jacob Thompson graduated from WSU with a B.S. in political science and a minor in economics. Brent Peterson is a senior majoring in business administration.
A Sustainability Practices and Research Center at WSU is almost a reality – awaiting only approval from the Board of Regents. An organizational rather than physical structure, as Provost Michael Vaughan explains, it will connect faculty and staff who are already performing this research and practice “with the hope that efforts . . . will increase and flourish over time.”

A half-time faculty director and a full-time sustainability coordinator will oversee the center’s activities, which will include workshops, lectures and student projects emphasizing interdisciplinary collaborations. The wider Ogden-Weber community will be invited to participate.

An aspect of the center’s work will feature the Susie Hulet Solar Program, which will educate community members “on the benefits of installing solar power in their home, and . . . on what is required if they wish to do that, and then to put them in touch with licensed certified contractors that can do the actual work.”

Hulet has been a supporter and promoter of sustainable projects worldwide as well as a committed member of the EIC at WSU. The program is aptly named. It will strengthen the center’s ability to change people’s reliance on non-renewable energy, a longtime goal of Hulet.

The first thing you notice when walking into the new campus Public Safety building is a lack of new-building smell. This is because the building was constructed with materials containing few or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which means no off-gassing and a much healthier environment.

The building boasts all LED lighting with motion sensors to ensure that lights are not left on when spaces are vacated. Super energy-efficient roof insulation, wall insulation and windows help keep energy bills down. Topping the roof is a white membrane, or “cool roof,” which reflects the sun’s rays and lowers cooling costs in the summer.

The Public Safety building is the first newly constructed all-electric building on campus. Spaces are heated and cooled by a variable refrigerant flow (VRF) mechanical system. This energy-efficient system permits occupants to control the temperature of their individual spaces.

The 20 KW solar PV array on the roof has supplied about 40% of the building’s energy needs since it opened in August. Over the next year, the Energy & Sustainability Office will monitor the building’s energy use to determine how much more solar power may be needed to make it the first carbon-neutral building on campus.
A women's education center in Mozambique began as an idea by the nonprofit organization No Poor Among Us (NPAU) and the desire of Dr. Julie Rich (geography) to have her students help construct the building. By combining forces with several WSU departments, including engineering technology, geography, dance and women's studies, Rich raised approximately $35,000. This, coupled with $25,000 from NPAU, financed construction of the Boane Women's Center, a place where local women can learn, grow and dream. Rich believes, "If we lift a woman, we can raise a nation."

Due to the local construction foreman’s misreading of the design created by WSU engineering technology students, the resulting center is three times larger than anticipated. A positive error, the building now houses 2 medical examination rooms, sleeping spaces for visiting doctors and educators, and a much-needed large assembly-education hall.

Construction began in February and continued in May when 22 WSU students, 6 faculty and 3 staff traveled to Mozambique to help. Using shovels, rakes, handsaws and wheelbarrows, the group completed the nearly 6500 square-foot structure. They mixed, poured and finished 50+ cubic yards of concrete. A passive solar roof will block summer southern heat and store it for winter.

The group also dug and poured footings and a foundation for a chicken coop to house at least 10,000 chickens; they cleared and planted a community garden and individual garden beds; and they constructed composting containers out of cinder block. Priming and painting completed the structures in time for an open house.

Professor Jeremy Farner (engineering tech.) remarked, "For me, it was a life-changing experience! I thought I was going there to teach them about how our Western ways of living were superior and I realized we live with a super-size mentality in almost every aspect of our lives. I am not sure that they didn't teach me about how we have forgotten what it means to live life instead of being a slave to the demands we put on ourselves of living the American dream of a big house with a big yard of green grass and flower beds . . . They are a truly happy people who relish the moment and live a slower pace because they want to!"

Follow the project’s development through photos at the following blog: http://www.mozwoc.blogspot.com/
Desert Water Book Released

Hal Crimmel has brought scientific research together with the experienced voices of environmental social scientists, humanists and activists to provide a broad perspective on Utah water issues. The matters discussed are relevant beyond this state, as similar conditions and concerns—especially over supply and demand in the face of demographic and climate change—exist throughout the West. Some essays are scientific and analytical; others literary and personal. They draw attention to problems that Utah residents and legislators must address but also emphasize ways to build solutions. Desert Water will help citizens, policy makers and anyone interested in Utah’s water supply and use understand the real challenges and ethics involved in managing this vital, finite resource. By increasing awareness, these essays should create a sense of urgency for finding workable solutions.

Hal Crimmel is Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor of English at WSU. Other contributors from WSU are professors Dan Bedford (Geography), Sara Dant (History), and Eric Ewert (Geography).

Class’s Campus Project on Bottled Water to be Published

Fall Semester 2013, the Sociology of Water class tackled an ambitious research project investigating bottled water use and attitudes here at WSU. The multi-method study included a survey of students, faculty and staff; trash audits examining waste from bottled water; and sales data from vending machines and campus stores, among other data. The class compiled a report draft which three students, Anthony King, Zack Bjerregaard and Matt Booth, continued to work on through spring semester and beyond. A poster presenting the research findings won the People’s Choice Award in the poster competition at the 2014 Intermountain Sustainability Summit. Anthony, Zack and Matt presented the findings orally at the WSU Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Sociology and Anthropology Department Research Conference before taking their presentation to the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters Conference held in St. George in April.

Anthony, Zack and Matt turned the research report into a journal manuscript that has been accepted for publication in the 2015 edition of The Journal of the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters. Congratulations to the whole class for conducting excellent and useful research work and to Anthony, Zack and Matt for so successfully disseminating the findings! (Those wanting to read the journal manuscript, email Carla Trentelman at carlatrentelman@weber.edu.)

The first Campus Farmer’s Market took place on September 16 in the Union Building atrium. The Environmental Ambassadors volunteered by helping vendors bring in their wares. Littlefield Farms was the featured vendor selling locally grown produce. Students had a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, ranging from beets to ghost peppers, at their fingertips. Stephanie Mitts, a student sustainability coordinator, organized the event: “I’m really glad that we did not have a large amount of vendors for our very first market. We really wanted to focus on the turnout and make sure that the vendors were happy selling their products. Many of them said they would be happy to come back!” Look for the market to return on October 22nd and November 19th!

On Saturday, September 20th, the Environmental Ambassadors met at the Ogden Nature Center to participate in the Invasive Species Pull-A-Thon. This friendly competition helped raise money to support individual groups and the Nature Center. Plants such as Dyer’s woad and bull thistle were pulled and weighed at the end of the day. A big thanks to everyone who showed up to help eradicate these invasive weeds; together they pulled 118 pounds!

If you would like to be an Environmental Ambassador and help WSU with its sustainability goals, please contact Stephanie Mitts at stephaniemitts@weber.edu. The ambassadors meet in Room 331 every Monday at 1:30pm.
The Intermountain Sustainability Summit, held in WSU’s Shepherd Union Building, is approaching its 6th year. Starting as a fairly small conference in 2010, the summit has grown to become a premier sustainability event in Utah. It provides exceptional educational programs as well as networking and trade show opportunities for students, sustainability professionals, politicians, government officials and interested public.

The 6th Annual Intermountain Sustainability Summit will be held Thursday, March 5th, and Friday, March 6th, 2015. Thursday will feature keynote speaker David W. Orr, acclaimed environmentalist, author and educator. Dr. Orr is the executive director of the Oberlin Project, a joint effort of the City of Oberlin, Oberlin College plus private and institutional partners to improve the resilience, prosperity and sustainability of the area. The project’s ultimate goal is to make Oberlin one of the first climate-positive, or net carbon-negative, communities in the United States. The conference will also conduct sessions covering sustainable food and agriculture, renewable and alternative energy, air quality, water, and waste and recycling.

Students doing sustainability research may submit to a student poster session. Those whose proposals are accepted will receive free admittance to the conference on March 5th and will be eligible to win a cash prize for exceptional work. We encourage faculty to have students submit posters as a course assignment. WSU students who print their posters through the Office of Undergraduate Research will be reimbursed for printing costs.

Friday will feature professional workshops. These include a LEED Green Associate course for those pursuing a professional LEED credential, and a new workshop on Sustainable Behavior Change taught by Dr. P. Wesley Schultz, a widely published expert in sustainable behavior and attitude change, conservation psychology and statistics. His full-day workshop will deliver specific techniques for effective sustainable behavior change and marketing programs focused on the broad model of Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM). It will highlight both effective strategies and pitfalls. Dr. Schultz will also present on Thursday as the plenary speaker.

Information regarding speakers, poster submission guidelines, sponsorship opportunities and the summit in general can be found at www.intermountainsustainabilitysummit.com.

Student Scholarship Announcement

The Great Basin Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association (A&WMA) will be awarding scholarships to one or more deserving undergraduate and/or graduate students enrolled in Utah schools for higher education that will lead to employment in the environmental profession. Please contact Dr. Alice Mulder for more details and the application. Applications are due November 07, 2014.