Presidential Transition

Fond Farewell

After five years serving Weber State, Charles A. Wight is flying off to a new adventure as president of Salisbury University in Maryland.

He was loved here for asking everyone to simply call him Chuck, taking a pie in the face at a fundraiser, teaching yearly in tux and tails, getting finger-painted at the children’s school, draping snakes around his neck to support clubs and orgs, and so much more.

He will be missed here for his warm smile, infectious laugh, brilliant mind and commitment to inclusivity, affordability, innovation and teaching.

He will be remembered here for a successful capital campaign, additional funds for the Dream Weber scholarship to support low-income students, seven new buildings, the opening of the LGBT Center, and the appointment of an assistant vice president for diversity.

The campus community wishes both Chuck and Victoria all the best.

Warm Welcome

After 15 years building the university as the vice president for Administrative Services, Norm Tarbox will lead the university as interim president, effective May 1.

During his tenure, he has supervised hundreds of millions in capital projects, including construction of Tracy Hall, three residence halls, the buildings at WSU Davis, the renovation of Lindquist Hall and the Shepherd Union and the expansion of the Wildcat Center and the Weber County Sports Complex.

He found a sustainable way to finance sustainable practices on campus that will help meet the university’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. He installed a 65,000-pound boulder at Tracy Plaza — an instant favorite for photos.

He has championed WSU Athletics and still found time to teach Accounting 2010 every fall semester.

Norm will guide the university until a new president is appointed. His success is Weber State’s success.

Meeting Community Needs With Two New Buildings

The Ezekiel R. & Katherine W. Dumke Center for Interprofessional Education in Health Care (IPE) will offer future health care professionals a rehearsal for real-life work. The 10,000-square-foot building, set to open in August, is designed to meet the growing demand for interprofessional education.

“Caring for patients requires a team of highly trained individuals who perform specialized procedures,” said Yas Simonian, Dumke College of Health Professions dean. “However, when these members of the health care team work in partnership, the patient benefits from their collective knowledge and expertise. Interprofessional education is current, innovative and absolutely the future of health care education.”

Once the building is complete, health professions students, mentors and clinical faculty from different disciplines will have a place to collaborate. The building will include 16 offices, two seminar rooms, four classrooms and collaborative spaces.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

A second new WSU building, located on the corner of Monroe Boulevard and 26th Street, will benefit underserved populations in Ogden. The new Community Outreach Center will
Geography professor Dan Bedford has been a part of the WSU community since 2002. In that time, he has taught nine courses, both lower- and upper-division.

In the last five years, he published the book Climate Change: Examining the Facts, as well as three peer-reviewed articles, a book chapter and has presented at 10 conferences.

An expert in climate change, Bedford participated in a collaborative Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that hosted 23,000 students from 165 countries. In collaboration with the Sustainability Practices & Research Center, he organized a 2017 workshop on teaching climate science for more than 30 teachers. He was awarded an iUtah grant, where he led a National Science Foundation-funded effort focused on a sustainable water future for the state.

For his efforts in involving students in research opportunities, Bedford received the Office of Undergraduate Research Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor Award for the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences. He is the two-time winner of the WSU Sustainability Scholarship Award and is a College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Endowed Professor.

Bedford also directs the Weber State Honors Program.

Economics professor Therese Grijalva led the development of the WSU Research Scholars Program and Research Methods in economics. Since then, more than 300 students have participated in high-impact research projects through that course. She has personally mentored more than 70 undergraduate research projects, and some have presented nationally and internationally.

Grijalva’s research record has set the example for her students. She has published 23 peer-reviewed journal articles, and her work has been cited more than 900 times. She has written four book chapters and presented at more than 30 conferences and universities. Along with colleagues from other institutions, she conducted a comprehensive analysis for the governor’s office regarding the benefits and costs of state and federal public lands in Utah.

She has served on various committees including the National Council on Undergraduate Research. She also worked with students and faculty from engineering, education and performing arts to construct a full-scale percussion playground for the Melba S. Lehner Children’s School.

Grijalva serves as a trustee on Weber Pathways. She was a recipient of a John S. Hinckley Fellow award and has been a Willard Eccles Fellow since 2006.

Communication professor Sheree Josephson has been a pioneer in applying eye-tracking research to visual communication.

She has studied the impact of color in newspapers, television news design, webpage layout, typography, augmented reality and cross-racial eyewitness identification.

In fall 2018, Josephson will begin her third term as Department of Communication chair. Previously, she served as founding director of the Master of Professional Communication program. She has taught 23 different courses during her 25-year tenure.

Josephson also served as founding advisor for WSU’s student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) and Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for communication students. She advised The Signpost for six years; her students won the national SPJ award for college journalism three times.

Josephson recently signed a contract with Routledge Publishing to edit the second edition of Handbook of Visual Communication: Theory, Methods, and Media. She also published the book Visualizing the Web: Evaluating Online Design from a Visual Communication Perspective, as well as more than 20 scholarly book chapters and journal articles. According to Google Scholar, her work has been cited in almost 500 published scholarly articles.
Recently I welcomed parents at a new student orientation. I explained that over the course of my life, I had experienced seven different institutions of higher education as a student, faculty member and now administrator. Of all seven, Weber State stands out for its complete embrace of its core values: access, learning and community. More than any other school I’ve experienced, Weber State knows who it is. I illustrated that self-knowledge by highlighting how we ensure that all our students have a chance to realize their higher education dreams, how we personalize teaching and learning, how we ground educational experiences in the community and embrace our role as a community partner.

I finished by offering parents advice on how they might help us support their students’ success: encouraging students to register for the appropriate quantitative literacy (math) class; take math and English core classes early in their college career; be attentive to balancing time demands of family, work and school as they schedule their courses; and cultivate a growth mindset.

After I finished, one of the moms spoke up to say that in addition to her child who was entering WSU this summer, she had three older children. One had graduated from Weber; two others had elected to attend institutions elsewhere. The experience of her WSU graduate differed markedly — and positively — from the other two. The WSU student knew and liked her professors, made connections with fellow students in her program and felt supported by faculty and staff. Experiences of the other two children were not so positive. Having seen the competition, this mom very much affirmed her fourth child’s decision to attend WSU.

All of us have heard stories like this. I don’t know how this culture of care came into being at WSU, but I know it’s here. I felt it when I arrived 11 years ago. I hear about it in survey comments from graduating seniors. My dental hygienist and the server at The Oaks who brings me pancakes most weekends have told me how grateful they are to the professors and advisors who made them believe they could succeed in college — and who showed them how to do so.

Did WSU’s culture of care come into being because we are an open-enrollment institution and, thereby, attract students who appreciate being given a chance to do college work? Because we have faculty and staff who understand how important it is to extend a hand to students who lead exceptionally demanding lives? Again, I don’t know how WSU has become the special place it is, but in the words of the mom who spoke up at orientation, and my Oaks waiter, and associate provost Brenda Kowalewski who recently addressed the presidential search committee, “Weber ROCKS.” I send my thanks to all of you who make this the special place it is for me and for all the students who choose Weber State University.
Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Jennifer Evans, training and development consultant in the Office of Workplace Learning/Human Resources department, was elected to the Utah chapter board of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources. CUPA-HR serves higher education professionals by providing leadership on workplace issues in the U.S. and abroad. She will serve as secretary for two academic years.

Business administration instructor Charles Kaiser presented the graduation speech for the St. Louis Medium Security Bridging Ceremony. The program, part of the St. Louis University Transformative Justice Initiative, facilitates successful community reentry for people who have been incarcerated.

Zoology Professor Emeritus Robert Okazaki had his article “Thermal induction of heat shock proteins Hsp70 and Hsp90 in tissues of the nemerteans Lineus alborostatus Takakura, 1898 and Quasitetrastemmum stimpsoni (Chernyshev, 1992)” published in *Invertebrate Zoology*. The paper was coauthored with A.V. Chernyshev and E.P. Kotsyuba from the Institute of Marine Biology, Far Eastern Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia.

Economics assistant professor Matt Gnagey presented research on “The Impact of Air Quality on House Prices: An Investigation Into the Actual and Perceived Willingness to Pay for Clean Air” at the meetings of the Western Regional Science Association. The paper was coauthored with economics major Steven Dabb.

Economics assistant professor Gavin Roberts presented “A piece for justice? The effect of voting on equality-efficiency preferences in the laboratory” at the 55th Annual Meetings of the Public Choice Society in Charleston, South Carolina.

The National Association of EMS Educators elected Bill Robertson, chair of the Department of Emergency Healthcare, to its board of directors beginning August 2018.

Economics assistant professor Chris Yench presented his work “The Impact of Net Metering of Solar Energy on Home Sale Price” at the Southern Regional Science Association meetings in Philadelphia. The work is coauthored with Yong Zhang, assistant professor of computer science. Yench was also recognized at the conference for being the technical editor of the journal and serving on the program committee for the conference.

Lindquist Recipient Builds Community

When associate professor of design engineering technology Jeremy Farner talks about building community, he means it literally. He’s helped build schools, homes and orphanages from Ogden to Africa.

For his exemplary accomplishments, Farner was selected as this year’s Lindquist recipient, given in honor of John A. Lindquist, a longtime philanthropist and Weber State advocate.

Farner joined the faculty in 2008. Since then, he has worked with teams to build education facilities and orphanages in Africa, Thailand and Peru. He and the Global Community Engaged Learning team are now preparing a trip to Uganda, Africa.

In addition, Farner is the construction chair for Habitat for Humanity of Weber and Davis Counties. He and his students designed and donated countless hours to build three Habitat for Humanity Homes in Ogden and are working on the next three.

“I am definitely addicted to the rush I get after working with faculty and staff on these projects and seeing the appreciation of those we have given a hand up to,” Farner said. “We stimulate the local economy and morale of the communities where we complete our projects.”
Since 1970, the WSU Alumni Association has presented the Aldous Dixon Award to outstanding faculty and staff. The award is given in memory of former President Dixon, who served as the school’s chief administrator in 1919-20 and from 1937 to 1953.

Bruce Davis’ motto epitomizes the spirit of the Dixon Award: “The student first and always.” Despite his heavy administrative workload as vice provost and Continuing Education dean, he manages to teach one class every semester.

Davis has been a go-to guy for getting tough jobs done since he joined the business school full time nearly 30 years ago. When Weber State needed a steady hand to guide the Division of Online & Continuing Education, Davis was there. When Weber State opened a satellite center in Layton, Davis was there to direct it.

When WSU Davis was built four years later, Davis was there to be its chief administrator. When the university sought a partnership with the NUAMES early college high school to secure a pipeline of future WSU students, Davis was there to be the point person in negotiations and serve as liaison.

Having earned his Ph.D. by taking night classes at the University of Utah, Davis understands firsthand the importance of creating multiple paths to graduation and lifelong learning to accommodate different types of students.

Former students and colleagues describe English professor Mikel Vause as author, poet, scholar, environmentalist, adventurer, mentor and friend. Vause is the quintessential storyteller, and words are the tools of his trade.

Vause began teaching at Weber State in 1982. Since then, he has helped scores of WSU students harness the power of words to gain self-confidence, achieve academic and career goals, diversify their worldviews and find courage in moments of despair. His dedication to scholarly exchange and intellectual enrichment runs deep.

In 1985, to give undergraduate students an opportunity to present their writing to university peers throughout the country, Vause and a colleague organized a conference unique in requesting submissions from undergraduates only. Each year, the National Undergraduate Literature Conference attracts hundreds of student writers and brings some of the world’s most important literary figures to the Ogden campus.

Vause has been entrusted with multiple leadership positions at WSU, including chair of the university’s general education and curriculum committee, and director of Environmental Studies. With Vause’s guidance, the Honors Program gained greater student participation and national recognition.

For nearly 33 years, Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Zoology Sam Zeveloff has displayed a tenacious commitment to undergraduate research. The East Coast native challenged students to look beyond themselves — to think ecologically as they engaged in hands-on learning.

Above all, Zeveloff wanted his students to apply theories and academic abstractions to real-world challenges. To that end, he created a thesis program to facilitate extended student research projects. In addition to conducting field studies of pygmy rabbits, Zeveloff’s students examined mountain goat, bat and raccoon populations. Zeveloff founded Save the Ringtails, a student philanthropy organization.

As chair of the zoology department from 1987 to 2012, Zeveloff directed numerous curriculum initiatives and encouraged faculty to involve students in service learning and civic engagement.

Following the publication of his book, Mammals of the Intermountain West, Zeveloff donated his wildlife illustrations to the university’s Museum of Natural Science. He co-created a study abroad experience to China and Tibet and helped establish an academic exchange with Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit in Tepic, Mexico.
nuames expands to ogden

the weber state university/nuames (northern utah academy for math, engineering & science) partnership will expand to the ogden campus beginning fall 2018.

for eight years nuames has successfully partnered with weber state to offer a rigorous, supportive, early college experience on the wsu davis campus.

of nuames’ 750 students, 63 percent go on to attend weber state; more than half of the school’s seniors earn a wsu associate's degree upon high school graduation. the charter school has been recognized as the no. 1 high school in utah on the utah pace report card for the last five years.

beginning in fall 2018, an additional 200 nuames students will attend classes on the ogden campus. eventually, nuames will be housed in the noorda building for engineering, applied science & technology, which will replace technical education. nuames will contribute $7.5 million toward construction.

nuames principal kelli booth said coming to ogden will allow them to serve more students. the school’s waiting list is in the hundreds. “nuames has helped many students make their dreams of higher education a reality,” she said. “our strong partnership with weber state is a primary reason.”

provide valuable resources to help break down barriers to education.

“navigating the large university campus can be intimidating for many underserved groups,” said luis lopez, continuing education programs director.

“the community education center will become a non-threatening place for area residents and future wsu students. by meeting the community in their neighborhood, we will be able to foster relationships and build trust, which will allow us to improve access opportunities at wsu.”

the center will house the community education center to provide ged preparation courses and assistance with college registration or financial aid applications. it will also include an early childhood school headed by the department of child & family studies. the ogden civic action network, which works to improve the city, will also move into the building. the combination of education assistance, convenient location, childcare and bilingual courses will help more people work toward a college degree.