Planting Seeds of Knowledge

President of Weber Stake Academy Still Teaching Students

It's no surprise that the first president of Weber Stake Academy, Louis F. Moench, planted seeds of knowledge.

What might be a surprise is that students, faculty and staff can still see and turn the pages of Moench's plant collection, dating back to 1883, in the Mary Carver Hall Herbarium located in Tracy Hall Science Center Room 345.

That's not all. In addition to the three dozen Moench pages, the herbarium houses approximately 120 pages from John Lind, the first faculty member to hold a Ph.D. at Weber. His degree was in geology, but from the time he was hired in 1910, through much of his 28-year career, he was a one-man Department of Science, teaching courses in geology, mineralogy, chemistry, physics, zoology, physiology, physical geography and Latin.

Both collections are beautiful: the plants brittle but intact, the handwritten information clearly legible, the paper a little yellowed, but unwrinkled and unmarred. The pages have been well loved and well cared for by herbarium curator and botany professor Stephen Clark.

"When people see the pages and the dates, they gasp and say, 'Oh. Wow!!" Clark acknowledged as he carefully pulled the pages from their storage case.
On his retirement in June, after 54 years of teaching, Clark will transfer the Moench and Lind collections to University Archives to make sure they are forever preserved.

“These pages show a tradition, a history,” Clark said. “They tell me something about the person. I have a real fondness for these guys who were naturalists.”

Moench’s plants came from Bern, Switzerland. They were collected over a five-year period and include samples of cumbine, monkshood and mallow. Lind gathered plants from all over the world.

“Lind knew plants. He knew animals. He knew rocks. He knew the stars,” Clark said. “He knew everything. He was an in-the-dirt, hands-on kind of scientist.”

Clark has followed in the footsteps of those collectors. As an ethnobotanist, Clark has traveled five continents studying plants, particularly how they are used by Native Americans, witch doctors, shamans and healers.

His collection numbers around 7,000 pages, and while he’s examined plants around the world, the plants he’s cataloged come from Northern Utah, particularly close to the university. He’s helped build the Weber State herbarium into a collection of approximately 26,000 plants.

“It’s a really good little collection,” Clark said. “We thought, with our resources, we would make a really nice reference collection for the plants in the immediate area, and that’s what we’ve done here.”

Moench is credited with helping establish formal education in Weber County. His plants, collected more than 130 years ago, are a tangible reminder of his legacy.

“I think they’re just priceless. I mean, they’re just absolutely priceless — 1883,” Clark exclaimed. “I look at these and think, ‘Gosh, this is so cool.’

On the Move/Promoted

Paul Ashton, Wildcat Stores
Troy Bell, Facilities Management
Lyndsay Carter, Admissions Office
Jenny Eckenbrecht, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Kent Forsberg, Facilities Management
Aimee Golden, Continuing Education
Raine Ingram, College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology

Retired

Robert Barney, Facilities Management
Jolene Frazier, Payroll
Alicia Giralt, Foreign Languages
With the help of some additional advisor salary funds, this past fall, Academic Affairs asked each college to assume responsibility for playing an active role in WSU’s retention initiatives. Already engaged in a range of strategies to improve retention, advisors and others in the colleges now are calling and messaging students who are in danger of not registering for upcoming semester classes. Dashboards housed in the Weber Portal provide data to advisors about which students were registered in the previous semester but have not yet registered for the subsequent semester. The data help track whether a student applied to graduate, accepted financial aid, filed for FAFSA, has been suspended or is subject to a repayment or registration hold.

Whatever the reason for a student’s non-registration, an advisor contacts the student and helps the student resolve issues that may be blocking him or her from continuing.

As of January 2018, for example, advisors made 5,399 attempts to contact unregistered students, reached a total of 1,339 students, and successfully pre-registered 527 of them for spring. Advisors also recorded reasons students gave for leaving. In this most recent round, 29 students noted they were not returning because they were non-degree seeking, 28 had personal reasons, 21 financial reasons, 25 academic challenges, and nine were transferring.

While we may not get complete reasons from all students, the record of reasons will allow us to consider if we can take steps to provide further resources to help keep students in school. Students who have been contacted have expressed appreciation for the extra support, care and attention offered by advisors.
Registration Schedule Builder (RSB):

What is RSB?
Just in time for summer and fall preregistration, WSU will have a new tool up and running that will make registration a snap for our students. Registration Schedule Builder, available through the e-Weber portal, helps students design an optimal course schedule based on our course offerings and their personal needs. It allows students to select multiple courses, then displays different scheduling options from that criteria.

RSB also allows students to import their plans from CatTracks, save their favorite schedules, and send their schedules to another person. Best of all, students will be able to register directly from RSB.

How does it work?
To build a new schedule, students can import their schedules from CatTracks, or they can type in course prefixes and numbers, enter course titles or search by the instructor. RSB then generates all possible schedules with that course combination.

Students can add preferences such as “filter by all morning schedules” or “filter by campus.” Or, they can block time for work or other activities, and RSB will display schedules that best fit their needs.

What are the benefits?
In addition to being a valuable tool for students, RSB has a powerful data analytics tool that goes beyond reactive data and historical registration trends. The campus community can view and download formatted reports with detailed information about student scheduling trends and conflicts.

This robust system will make registration convenient and easy for students and help them on their path to graduation. For additional questions, contact the Registrar’s Office.

TUESDAY TIPS

Supporting Student Success

As Weber State renews and re-energizes its focus on student success, it is important that every member of the university community feel engaged in and educated about these efforts.

One easy way to get connected is by signing up for the new Tuesday Tips email newsletter, distributed by the Student Success Steering Committee as part of the university’s Weber Thrives initiative.

Tuesday Tips takes a quick-hit, “news you can use” approach to let staff and faculty know about university news, events and resources that can help you support students. It also has information you can share with students about upcoming deadlines, available assistance, or programs or tools they might not know are available.

You can sign up for Tuesday Tips on the Weber Thrives website at weber.edu/weberthrives. The signup page is under Get Involved in the main menu.
Working on marketing materials for your course, academic program, department, college or event? Visit Weber State’s brand website first.

You’ll find tools to create effective, engaging messages while meeting university standards. This includes, but is not limited to, help with fliers, videos, newsletters and webpages.

“When we have a consistent look, feel and voice to marketing materials, our messages are stronger and can make a bigger impact,” said Ashley Hilton, marketing and project manager in University Marketing & Communications. “By following the WSU brand, your messages will be clear and unified with the rest of the university.”

**TOOLS ON THE BRAND WEBSITE INCLUDE:**

- **Official logos** for colleges, academic departments, administrative departments and more
- **Templates** for brochures, newsletters, PowerPoints, emails and more
- A link to Weber State’s **social media guidelines** and best practices
- Weber State’s **color palette**, so you know which shade of purple represents the university and which color represents your college
- **University standards** on graphics, photos and video

Visit [weber.edu/brand](http://weber.edu/brand) to explore what’s available.
Faculty & Staff Accomplishments


Zoology professor Jonathan Clark presented “DNA Barcoding of Great Salt Lake Macroinvertebrates,” a peer-reviewed talk, at the 7th International Barcode of Life conference, held in Kruger National Park, South Africa, November 2017. Co-authors were zoology students Oscar Bedolla and Sabrina Haney. More than 300 scientists from 73 countries attended the world’s leading venue on the use of genetic data to examine the diversity of life on Earth.

Ryan Dunn, child & family studies assistant professor, received the Best Family Economics Paper of the Year award from the Family Economics Focus Group of the National Council of Family Relations for his co-authored publication, “The impact of family financial investment on perceived parent pressure and child enjoyment and commitment in organized youth sport,” in the journal Family Relations.


Assistant marketing professor Jesse King co-authored the article “Does Attorney Advertising Influence Patient Perceptions of Pelvic Mesh?” in the journal Urology.

Carrie Ota, child & family studies assistant professor, received the Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher Educator Award from the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, which recognizes meritorious leadership and professionalism in early childhood teacher education.

Assistant professor of child & family studies Pamela Payne was recognized by the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences as a third-place winner in Human Development/Family Relationships for a paper on the Northern Utah Marriage Celebration.

Christopher Yencha, assistant professor of economics, coauthored the paper “Small Business Borrowing and Peer-to-Peer Lending: Evidence from Lending Club” in Contemporary Economic Policy.

Weber State was honored recently as one of the “Best Colleges for Latinos 2017.” The award, given by Latino Leaders to 50 institutions around the country, was based on student enrollment, faculty, diversity strategies and Latino student populations.

City Weekly voters selected Weber State’s School of Nursing as the “Best of Utah” in the category Nursing College/University. The magazine’s 120,000 subscribers took part in the 60-day, online survey which is used for the popular “Best of Utah” edition of the magazine.