WSU Helps Celebrate 150-Year History of Transcontinental Railroad

One hundred and fifty years ago, on March 8, the transcontinental rail lines were laid in Ogden. According to “Weber State College: A Centennial History,” when two lines of steel connected the continent, everything changed in Northern Utah, including education:

“The two decades of Ogden’s history, following the completion of the transcontinental railroad, saw the transition of Ogden from a Mormon pioneer village to a cosmopolitan city with diverse social, cultural, economic and political patterns. The struggle to control Ogden's economic and political future during these decades spilled over into the struggle for control of education.”

As the population of Ogden expanded, educational offerings became more robust and diverse, quickly leading to the foundation of Weber Stake Academy.

Now Weber State will help educate the community about the rich history of the transcontinental railroad as part of the sesquicentennial celebration.

Special Collections, under the direction of curator Sarah Singh, has partnered with the Union Station Museums and Weber County libraries to host the Whistle Stop Tour lecture series and exhibits.

continued on page 2
The lectures will be held at various times and locations around the county, including at Weber State, and will include such interesting topics as “How Ogden Became the Junction City, and Why Salt Lake Never Forgave Us” and “Iron Ladies of the American Railroad.” In addition, Special Collections will host two art exhibits, “Beyond Promontory: The Train Comes to Weber” and “Golden Spike Parade in 1919,” which will feature photographs taken by local photographer Charles Maccarthy during Ogden’s 1919 Golden Spike Parade. The 60 photographs in the Golden Spike Parade exhibit are on display in the Stewart Library.

“T’m hoping people realize even though this event was 150 years ago, they still most likely have a personal connection or have been impacted by the railroad,” Singh said. “That’s really what we’re trying to show: how much the railroad has influenced our lives here in the last 150 years.”

Students in Honors 4900 “Transcontinentals: Railroads and the American West” with history professor Kathryn MacKay, are visiting historical railroad locations. They spent spring break riding the California Zephyr from Sacramento, California, to Salt Lake City.

“The impact of the railroads on the West cannot be overstated,” MacKay said. “Recent scholarship is not about ‘triumphalism’; it’s not about how we conquered place and time. It’s more complicated than that, and this is a great time to reconsider the impact on everything.”

Numerous events will take place in Ogden to celebrate the sesquicentennial, culminating with a nose-to-nose meeting of two steam engines, including the Big Boy, the world’s largest coal-fired steam engine. To get on board with the celebrations, visit goldenspike2019.com for events, times and locations.

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**Registration TIME CHANGE**

Students will no longer have to burn the midnight oil to register for classes. Beginning April 1, registration for class will open at 7 a.m. instead of midnight.

The Registrar’s Office has been concerned about students who may not have access to the internet or a computer late at night, or those who have family and work responsibilities that make staying up late at night a burden.

Changing registration to 7 a.m. means students have access to campus computers and can reach out for assistance during business hours.

“Our goal is to help students reach their educational goals,” Registrar Casey Bullock said. “I believe this change puts the institution in a better position to help students register.”

Faculty and staff can help by making sure students are aware of the change.

Future registration dates, as well as registration times and class schedules, can be found by visiting weber.edu/registration.
PRESIDENTIAL Teaching Excellence Award

Thanks to the generous support of Marcia and Bob Harris, and other donors, Weber State has established the Presidential Teaching Excellence Award.

The award honors teachers whose work helps students achieve significant and important success.

This is the first year for the award, which will be given annually.

Tony Allred, business administration
Tim Border, professional sales
Carie Frantz, earth and environmental sciences
Matthew Gnagey, economics
Catherine Harmston, nursing
Lisa Hopkins, accounting

Emily January Petersen, English
Elizabeth Rocha, nursing
Sarah Steimel, communication
Natalie Williams, teacher education
Stephanie Wolfe, political science
James Zagrodnik, health promotion and human performance

Sara Summers, College of Science
Wendalyn Tran, Associate Provost’s Office
Jared Ursua, Athletics Admin and Support
Randi Weston, Student Affairs Office
Casey Willard, University Housing

On the Move/Promoted

Collette Allen, Purchasing
Patricia Aragon, Human Resources
Colby Black, Financial Aid Office
Jonathan Edwards, Accounting Services
Elizabeth Hill, Associate Provost’s Office
Amy Holmes, Business Administration
Amy Huntington, Provost’s Office
Aubrey Lord, Provost’s Office
Jeanette Lowe, Facilities Management

Rachel Middleton, Student Affairs Strategic Initiatives
Adriana Perez Mares, Financial Aid Office
Sara Pomeroy, Stewart Library
Yesenia Quintana, Center for Community Engaged Learning
Kaden Reed, Facilities Management
Trena Rouche, Access and Diversity
Ian Snell, Wildcat Stores
Patrick Thomas, Legal Counsel
Brad Thorne, Purchasing

Retired

Brian Berlin, Facilities Management
Kathryn Payne, Library
**Allison Barlow Hess** has dedicated more than 25 years to the university, first as an adjunct communication professor, then as a full-time professor and advisor to *The Signpost*, and now as director of public relations, a job she has excelled at for nine years. Last year alone, Hess’ team secured the equivalent of $1 million in broadcast coverage for the university.

While juggling her obligations to the news media, Hess can also be found handling sensitive developments as WSU’s spokesperson, mentoring students, working with campus police to communicate information during emergencies, creating videos to showcase students, and strengthening ties to local communities.

Colleagues note that Hess puts extra effort into everything she does every day and that she is a tremendous ambassador for Weber State.

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**Cynthia Kurien** has a unique talent. Coworkers say she can enter courses with one hand and make travel arrangements, plan an event, reconcile a P-card and submit a requisition with the other, all while giving advice to faculty, staff and students.

Kurien started as office manager in the Department of Visual Arts & Design in 2004 and now holds the rank of administrative assistant III. She supports the department on all levels, but particularly in the shared mission of student success. One of her responsibilities includes training student employees who say, “Cynthia cares enough about us that she becomes a person we can talk to about our lives.”

Kurien is the first person who faculty and staff go to with questions, and she’s never too busy to provide a thoughtful response.

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**Dani McKean**’s colleagues are never at a loss for words when asked to describe her work. They say it’s “excellent, creative, professional, detailed and thoughtful.” Their list is long — a testament to McKean’s collaborative, hard-working spirit.

McKean has worked at Weber State for eight years, first as web development supervisor for Student Affairs and now as the division’s marketing and digital media coordinator. In her current role, she oversees websites and marketing efforts for over 40 departments. McKean seeks input from stakeholders within Student Affairs and across campus to ensure that each department’s web presence is accessible, compelling and authentic. To do this, she has to understand the mission of a variety of programs.

McKean meets every challenge with a smile and never delivers a project until it meets her exacting standards.
“Inside Higher Ed” supports a popular blog where author Matt Reed writes the column, “Confessions of a Community College Dean.” On Feb. 18, he tackled the topic “What I Would Tell My Younger Self.” The post combined Reed’s usual common-sense advice and occasional bits of humor. As I contemplated my younger self, I realized I wished I had celebrated wins more fully and paid attention to gains, even when feeling overwhelmed by ongoing challenges. Today, I want to focus on some recent Weber State victories for all of us to celebrate.

**PROVOST’S MESSAGE**

Madonne Miner

- The **Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research** (UCUR), Feb. 22, attracted over 680 registrants nationally, with 170 WSU students. **John Cavitt**, with help from the Office of Undergraduate Research, hosted a fabulous day of speakers, posters and panels for undergraduates to showcase their work. Meanwhile, attendees got of glimpse of WSU's outstanding facilities, faculty, staff and students.

- Two new task forces should result in savings for students: **The Affordable Course Materials Task Force**, chaired by Stewart Library Dean **Wendy Holliday**, will investigate wide-ranging suggestions for making course materials more affordable, and the **Course Offering Task Force**, chaired by network management technology professor **Allyson Saunders**, will develop a best-practices guide and process to assist in improving course scheduling.

- The Board of Trustees has approved **two new programs in the Dumke College of Health Professions**: the Doctorate of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in leadership and the Doctorate of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in family practice. The proposals now move to the Utah Board of Regents for consideration.

- The Board of Trustees also approved a **new certificate of proficiency in music entrepreneurship**, which prepares music graduates for the economic and labor market they will encounter when they graduate. Required courses include accounting, entrepreneurship, communication and music. Secondly, trustees approved a **new minor in foreign languages: localization**. Localization goes beyond basic language translation and is part of the booming language-service industry. The minor requires students to take not only language classes, but also art, communication, management information systems and computer science.

- Two faculty initiatives are committed to enhancing student success: **The Bracers, Retainers, Attrition Team (BRATS)** has been working since 2016 to investigate and address undergraduate attrition in introductory courses. Education faculty, **Shirley Dawson, Melina Alexander, Dan Hubler, Ryan Dunn, Cory Butts, Alysha Cohen and advisor Natalie Struhs**, identified faculty-led practices that were free, easy to implement and measure. They tested those practices in introductory courses. Thus far, they’ve seen positive results with little burden to instructors. **The Student Engagement, Retention & Transition Success (SERTS) committee** will focus on faculty support, representation and advisement on student success issues. Its goals dovetail with the Student Success Steering Committee and should allow for better communication among all parties committed to enhanced success for our students and faculty.

There’s lots more, but having described these developments, I’m ready to take on some of the challenges I’ve pushed to the back of my desk. I hope you feel the same.
Faculty & Staff Accomplishments
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John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics faculty Clinton Amos, James Hansen and Skyler King published “All-Natural versus Organic: Are the Labels Equivalent in Consumers’ Minds?” in the Journal of Consumer Marketing.

The Utah chapter of Omega Psi Phi — Iota Iota Iota, honored Assistant Vice President of Diversity Adrienne Andrews with the 2018 Community Servant Award and communication assistant professor Nicola Corbin with Educator of the Year Award.

Zoology professor John Cavitt, student Kristen Ellis and two others co-authored the paper “Using remote cameras to validate estimates of nest fate in shorebirds.” It was one of three finalists for the best paper published in Ibis: International Journal of Avian Science in 2018.

Zoology professor Brian Chung and Robert Okazaki, professor emeritus of zoology, co-authored “Nemertean taxonomy—Implementing changes in the higher ranks, dismissing Anopla and Enopla” in Zoological Scripta.


Emergency healthcare chair William Robertson was commissioned by the Department of Education for the United Arab Emirates to review a proposed Emergency Medical Care and Respiratory bachelor’s program at a college in Abu Dhabi.

Executive Director for Access and Diversity Enrique Romo co-authored two articles in the Journal of Hispanic Higher Education: “It was kind of a dream come true: Undocumented College Students’ Testimonios of Cultural Wealth in the College Choice Process” and “Portraits of Ganas: The College-Going Pathways of Undocumented Students at a Texas HBCU.”

Shane Schvaneveldt, supply chain management professor, has been appointed to a three-year term on the American Society for Quality’s Certification Board Committee for Certified Quality Process Analyst.


Christopher Yencha, assistant professor of economics, co-authored “A Test of Policy Makers’ Formal and Lay Theories Regarding Health Care Prices” in the Journal of Public Policy & Marketing.

Zoology professor emeritus Sam Zeveloff presented “A Natural and Unnatural History of the Raccoon” to Tel Aviv University School of Zoology. In addition, his photograph “Opportunist Squirrel” was selected for the “Nature All Around Us” 50th anniversary exhibit at the Natural History Museum of Utah.