



WSU NEWS

Weber State University News & Events

Vol. 24 | No. 2 | January 2021

WSU's New Outdoor Adventure & Welcome Center Opens

The new Outdoor Adventure & Welcome Center is opening for spring semester. The community can join the grand opening event via Facebook live on Feb. 3 at 4 p.m.

The 17,000 square-foot-building will offer a Welcome Center for the Office of Admissions. It will also allow WSU's popular Campus Recreation Outdoor Program to expand the equipment rental center, making room for new equipment and improved efficiency. This center will also support recreational rock climbing by offering bouldering and a 55-foot climbing wall.

"The new center will be an incredible resource for WSU students, faculty, staff and the Ogden community," said **Daniel Turner**, Campus Recreation associate director. "It will be a beacon, helping to recruit students to Weber State by leveraging our incredible outdoor resources and helping students create healthy, active lifestyles and lasting memories."

Located directly north of the Wildcat Village residential complex, the new facility will provide easy access to students and the community. In addition, the Welcome Center portion will serve as a hub for visitor experiences and helping students get oriented on campus.



This Issue

Provost Message	page 4
Vaccination News	page 5
Hinckley Awards	page 6
Accomplishments	page 7

SHARING RICHES

Hillary and Kevin Wallace have worked for Weber State for a combined 25 years. Hillary is now the creative director for Financial Services and Facilities Management and Kevin the marketing manager for Wildcat Stores.

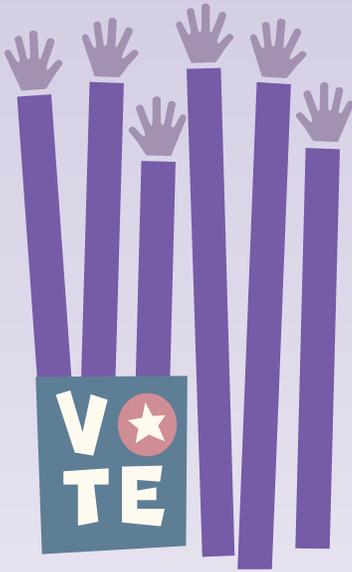
They live close to the university and with their three children enjoy the benefits of a stable life, filled with athletic and cultural events so readily accessible to the Wildcat community.

"We're rich because we have each other, and we have what we need," Kevin said. "We know that education is an essential foundation for prosperity and opportunity in our community and should be accessible to everyone."

The Wallaces, however, have experienced their share of significant health and housing challenges. This year, they have felt the pain of people sickened with COVID, displaced from jobs and homes, and disadvantaged by discrimination.

Together they committed to invest in a better future. And what better way than a Weber State scholarship fund? The Wallaces used their 2020 stimulus check, which "gave us a cushion" to make larger donations than normally possible. Two areas resonated: a diversity scholarship and the 'CATapult Scholarship Initiative, which helps students overcome hurdles that threaten to delay or prevent graduation.

WSU Makes Civic Engagement a *Campus Priority*



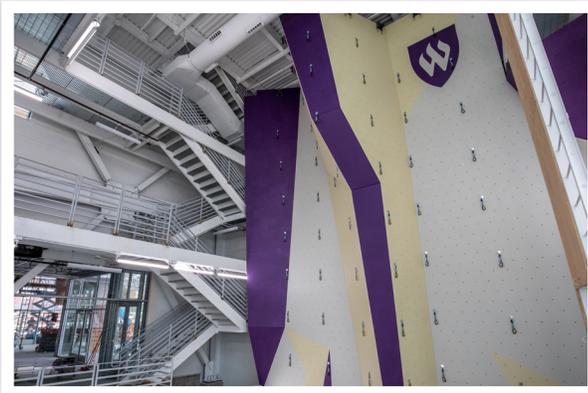
During the fall semester, WSU registered more than 1,000 students to vote and seven of the athletic teams had 100% eligible voter registration.

“WSU has made voter registration, voter education and voter mobilization a top priority,” said **Leah Murray**, WSU political science professor. “We know that our next generation needs to be invited into the process, and they need to feel welcome in the system.”

Weber State took second place in the Campus Cup voter registration challenge hosted by the Utah Lieutenant Governor’s Office. The competition encouraged Utah colleges to get as many students registered to vote as possible.

WSU athletics helped the efforts by encouraging all student-athletes to register to vote. They also organized a voter-registration event, volunteered at the voting polls and created a video explaining why voting matters. ESPN highlighted their activities on the show “Outside the Lines.”

Other students helped with voter registration efforts by making videos, posting on social media and pledging to vote.



Outdoor Center, continued from page 1

A unique component to the new Adventure Center is a three-story, state-of-the-art rope access training center to train people who work and play on high structures. First responders, public safety, emergency personnel and construction workers will have access to a two-story, rescue-training area. They will also be able to use a practice wall with windows to simulate an emergency bailout, a 65-foot rooftop rappelling and rigging area, a training classroom and a three-story catwalk system for rigging to practice all conceivable rescue scenarios.

Sharing, continued from page 1

“Here we were gainfully employed by a university that is fiscally stable when so many people were so much worse off,” Hillary explained. “Weber State has a lot of students who work really hard. Kevin and I believe in second, third and fourth chances, and the ‘CATapult Scholarship seemed just right to lift students at the end of their educational journey.”

President Mortensen launched ‘CATapult during his inauguration, with the goal of raising \$10 million. So far, the university has secured \$2,501,300. To date, 527 grateful students have received an average award of \$846.

During the final faculty and staff town hall meeting of 2020, the president reaffirmed his support for ‘CATapult.

“I just think that has so much potential to help our students from every walk of life to access their education all the way through to the end when they get in trouble,” Mortensen said. “I am committed to seeing that goal through.”

It’s a goal he can only accomplish with help from donors such as the Wallaces who trust the university’s educational mission and fiscal responsibility. “We know Weber State gets money to people who use it best,” Hillary said.

Kevin agreed, “Now we want to pay it forward.”

New Leadership



The Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service announced **Devin Wisner** as its new executive director and political science professor **Leah Murray** as the new academic director with a plan to make campus a center for civic education in the northern Utah region.

Wisner will also serve as the executive director of government relations

and help represent the university during this year's legislative session.

Working previously as chief of staff to Utah's First Congressional District Representative, Wisner brings 10 years' experience in government and the legislative process. Most recently Wisner collaborated closely with diverse partners

at the state and federal levels on various policy matters, including those affecting higher education.

"I've worked to benefit Utah, and primarily northern Utah, basically my entire career," Wisner said. "With that background, I know the crucial role both Weber State and the Walker Institute play in the state and community. I'm excited to both trumpet and enhance those efforts by working with **President Mortensen** and the other dedicated faculty and staff at the university."

At the legislature this year, Wisner will help Weber State monitor the management of Utah's COVID crisis, which will include "raising our voice for campus access to testing and vaccinations," he said.

The university will also track state revenues and advocate against additional budget reductions. In fact, according to Wisner, there is a possibility that some funding will be available to support USHE budget priorities, including compensation increases and performance funding.

Weber State will also push to have funding reinstated for initiatives approved last year that support regional workforce needs and expand partnerships with tech colleges.

New Dean for Arts & Humanities

The new year brings a new dean to the Telitah E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities.

Deborah Uman believes the study and practice of arts and humanities helps people and societies survive and thrive, particularly during periods of tumult. She plans to help the Lindquist College support students and enrich the community with cultural excellence.

"I am excited to join WSU with its deep commitment to access and equity," Uman said. "Lindquist College offers extraordinary opportunities to students dedicated to creativity and analysis. I look forward to working with the outstanding faculty, staff and students to find new ways to communicate our shared understanding of the importance of arts and humanities in our rapidly changing world."

Uman specializes in English Renaissance literature, including writers such as William Shakespeare and John Milton with an additional focus on female writers from the period including Mary Sidney and Aphra Behn.

At St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, Uman chaired the Department of English. She also served as interim director for the film and television studies program and previously directed the women and gender studies program.

Uman holds a bachelor's in English literature from Yale and her master and doctoral degrees in English literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She's also an active musician who plays trumpet in several local orchestras and chamber groups.





Innovation Awards 2020

Four faculty members were honored with the Research, Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Awards. This year's recipients were honored for research that illuminated such diverse subjects as the politics and economics of Africa, microbial ecology, dairy microbiology, nutritional supplements and medical devices.

The Office of Sponsored Projects and Technology Commercialization sponsors the awards and selects the recipients.

- **Outstanding Research:** Presidential Distinguished Professor of Economics John Mukum Mbaku
- **Innovation Success:** Microbiology professors Michele Culumber and Craig Oberg
- **Norsatch Entrepreneurial Spirit:** Chemistry professor Edward Walker

The awardees received a \$1,500 prize and presidential recognition for their contributions and achievements.

The Big Six

PROVOST'S MESSAGE

Companies like Whole Foods, Starbucks, Apple and Trader Joe's have successfully enabled a customer-driven culture of personalized and engaging experiences. Numerous case studies of these and other organizations have documented the resultant benefits, such as increased profitability, market penetration and brand loyalty.

What can academic institutions do to maximize the student experience in a similar manner? Studies conducted by the Gallup organization have shed some insights into the critical factors that define the student experience. The Gallup Alumni Survey, which included interviews with more than 90,000 respondents over five years, explores graduates' perceptions of their college experience and their attachment to their college or university after graduation.

The research from Gallup suggests that undergraduate education outcomes are influenced by the following "Big Six" experiences:

1. **I had at least one professor who made me excited about learning.**
2. **My professors cared about me as a person.**
3. **I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my dreams.**
4. **I worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete.**
5. **I had an internship or job that allowed me to apply what I was learning in the classroom.**
6. **I was extremely active in extracurricular activities and organizations while in attendance.**

These six experiences have been shown to lead to on-time degree completion and also have a stronger relationship to long-term life outcomes such as employee engagement and social well-



Ravi Krovi

being. Unfortunately, just 3% of all college graduates report having all six of these experiences.

How can Weber State develop a compelling value proposition of personalized and engaging experiences for our students?

Faculty Senate chair **Tim Herzog** and I are leading a university-wide task force that is developing a cohesive strategy centered around enhancing personal contact and engagement with our students. We are focusing on developing mentoring relationships, creating opportunities for engagement with students through high-impact educational and extra-curricular experiences, and developing an engaged-classroom environment.

Undoubtedly, many of our faculty and staff are already fostering informal relationships with students. However, fully reaching these goals will require us to fundamentally re-envision and integrate our processes and structure, so they are similar to successful customer-centric companies. We are mindful that our strategies will have to be moderated by an equity lens approach to include under-represented as well as non-traditional students.

As we see it, a culture shift oriented toward maximizing the student experience will be a game changer for their overall success and will continue to make Weber State a "great great great" institution. Go Wildcats!

Weber State Leads in *Testing and Vaccinating*

The team behind Weber State's successful launch of on-campus COVID-19 rapid testing did it again – this time, with coronavirus vaccinations.

Rollout for the COVID-19 vaccine for Weber and Morgan counties began Jan. 5 at the Dee Events Center, with healthcare workers from non-hospital settings receiving their first doses.

WSU's previous experience with creating a point of distribution for H1N1 flu vaccinations in 2009, as well as establishing COVID-19 testing on campus, helped smooth the process this time around, said WSU Public Safety Director **Dane LeBlanc**.

"We are prepared," he said. "We have learned a lot from our testing. We know how to effectively gather the critical information to quickly report back to the health department as required by state law."

Non-symptomatic COVID-19 testing began at Weber State on Nov. 10, less than 48 hours after an executive order from then-Gov. Gary Herbert required Utah's higher education institutions to do so.

LeBlanc said WSU was ready to roll out testing quickly in part due to the work and coordination of a number of people, including **Sally Cantwell**, Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing chair; **Dr. Matt Nicholau**, Department of Medical Laboratory

Sciences chair; and **Jessica Oyler**, Human Resources assistant vice president.

Finding a space, getting enough volunteers and training those volunteers were the biggest logistics problem to conquer, LeBlanc said. More than 300 people volunteered initially to help test, including many healthcare professions students.

With 14 stations, the testing center at the Shepherd Union Ballroom can process 1,000 tests a day. Since testing started, approximately 11,000 total test have been administered on campus, including nearly 3,000 in spring semester.

"We are very fortunate to have a very engaged campus community," LeBlanc said. "I am very amazed and proud of our institution, especially the way they came through with a can-do attitude."

Surveillance testing of staff and students will continue throughout January, with all in-person students required to take a test within 10 days of the start of spring semester. After Jan. 22, randomized testing of students, faculty and staff will begin to help monitor the spread of the virus on campus.

For more information about WSU's COVID-19 testing protocols, visit weber.edu/coronavirus.



HINCKLEY, COLLABORATION AWARDS

JOHN S. HINCKLEY FELLOW



Shirley Dawson

Associate professor of special education **Shirley Dawson** was selected as this year's Hinkley Fellow.

As a first-generation college graduate, Dawson's focus is changing individuals through education. For 22 years, she worked in various positions in the Jordan School District before transitioning to higher education and joining Weber State's faculty in 2013.

Dawson chairs the Teacher Assistant Pathway to Teaching program, which supports nearby school districts in finding and educating quality teachers. She also directs Weber State's chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Her scholarly work is extensive. In 2018, Dawson's was one of

only two projects awarded funding by the National Center for Special Education Research Institution of Education Sciences. She has presented at more than 60 international, national, state and local conferences and has been awarded over \$500,000 to fund research and community service projects.

Most recently, Dawson co-published a four-part series for practitioners regarding special education and career technical exploration in the online journal of the Association for Career & Technical Education.

"I am honored to be recognized by my peers for the Hinkley Fellow Award. I define myself as a teacher, and I believe our jobs are about making a difference," Dawson said. "The legacy of John S. Hinkley, and the essence of what we are doing, is to make a difference every day."

The John S. Hinkley Fellow Fund was established in 1990. Hinkley was president of Ogden's Dodge dealership. He chaired the Weber State College Centennial Gift Campaign from 1986-1989 and received an honorary degree in 1989.

EXEMPLARY COLLABORATION AWARD

Weber State's Global Community Engaged Learning program received the Exemplary Collaboration Award. The program is led by six Weber State faculty and staff: **Kristen Arnold**, interior design; **Jeremy Farner**, building design & construction; **Jay Hill**, football head coach; **Jacie Johnson**, interior design; **Sauna Morris**, interior design; **Julie Rich**, Social & Behavioral Sciences dean.

The Global Community Engaged Learning program undertakes projects in developing nations to help alleviate poverty and helps Weber State students develop skills and confidence to be proactive global citizens. Every year 100+ WSU students are involved in the design, fundraising, planning and execution of an international humanitarian trip.

The projects begin with an interdisciplinary design charette where students enrolled in junior-level coursework in interior design, building design & construction, or construction management work

in interdisciplinary teams to create design proposals for the international non-profit partners.

The projects have created invaluable real-world, experiential learning opportunities for students in Fiji (2020, 2019); Uganda, Africa (2018); Mozambique, Africa (2017, 2014); Peru (2016); and Thailand (2015).

In May 2019, 37 Wildcats traveled to Nambouwalu, Fiji, to improve a primary school in a small village suffering the long-term devastation of cyclones. The group constructed a computer classroom, teacher offices, sick bay for children and enlarged an existing preschool. The projects were augmented with rainwater harvesting for back-up water during the dry season. The group worked with villagers and the school children on the construction. They also created large murals to remind Fijian students that they are now part of the Weber State family.



Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

#LouderandProuder

Health, physical education and recreation instructor **Christina Aguilar** received the 2020 Emerging Dietetic Leader Award from the Utah Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Campus recreation director **Teri Bladen** was elected as chair-elect for the Utah Women in Higher Education board of directors and will become chair in July 2021. She also served as chair of NIRSA-Leaders in Collegiate Recreation, National Directors Institute.

Finance professor **Yuhong Fan** co-authored "Active vs. passive, the case of sector equity funds," in *Financial Services Review*.

Construction & Building Sciences associate professor **Jeremy Farnar** received the "Service to the Industry Award" presented by the Associated General Contractors of Utah.

Pepper Glass, sociology associate professor, wrote the book, *Misplacing Ogden, Utah: Race, Class, Immigration, and the Construction of Urban Reputations*.

Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Communication **Sheree Josephson** published the second edition of the *Handbook of Visual Communication: Theory, Methods, and Media* with Routledge press.

Associate professor of performing arts, **Jenny Kokai**, had her play "Zombie Thoughts" tour virtually with the Montana Repertory Theatre; the kickoff event was held at the Ogren Park baseball stadium.

Director of the International Student and Scholar Center **Mary Machira** serves as co-chair for the Women & Leadership in International Education Member Interest Group for the NAFSA-Association of International Educators, and as chair of the Study Utah Board.

John Mukum Mbaku, Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor of Economics, published, "Constitutionalism and Africa's Agenda 2063: How to Build 'The Africa We Want,'" in the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*; "Threats to the Rule of Law in Africa," *Georgia Journal of International & Comparative Law*; and "The Role of International Human Rights Law in the Adjudication of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Africa," in the *Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs*.

Assistant professor of English **Emily January Petersen** co-authored "Tactics for Professional Legitimacy: An Apparent Feminist Analysis of Indian Women's Experiences in Technical Communication," in *Technical Communication Quarterly*.

Multicultural retention counselor **Monica Rodriguez** was the keynote speaker for the Utah LatinX Youth Symposium.

Matthew Romaniello, associate professor of history, co-edited the book *Russia in Asia: Imaginations, Interactions, and Realities* and authored "Astrakhan and Orenburg: Russia's Asian Trade in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian Commercial History* published by Oxford University Press.

English professor **Scott Rogers'** case study, "Max Headroom: Twenty Minutes into the Future," was published in *The Routledge Companion to Cyberpunk Culture*.

Jennifer Turley, exercise and nutrition sciences chair, published "A Dietary Approach to Reduce Viral Sickness (DARVS)" in *EC Nutrition*.

Political science associate professor **Stephanie Wolfe** wrote the chapter "Memorialization in Rwanda: The Legal, Social, and Digital Constructions of the Memorial Narrative" in the edited volume *Mass Violence and Memory in the Digital Age: Memorialization Unmoored*.

Welcome to WSU

Jennifer Arnold, Financial Aid Office

Joseph Atkin, Veterans Upward Bound

Doyle Ballingham, Facilities Management

Patricia Burton, Political Science & Philosophy

Erica Marken, Development

Stephen Mason, Academic Technology Services

Melissa Meyer, Digital Learning & Professional Education

Karrie Nyre, Radiologic Sciences

Sherie Thornton, Environmental Health & Safety

Leah Warren, Facilities Management

Devin Wiser, University Advancement

On the Move/ Promoted

Ty Christensen, Facilities Management

Rachel Cox, Teaching and Learning Forum

Stevie Emerson, Marketing & Communications

Kirsti Fox, Admissions Office

Christian Goodrich, Application Development

Tracy Hicks, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

David Loy, Facilities Management

Pamela Nandkeshwar, Academic Support Centers & Programs

Natalie Struhs, Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education

Retired

Sally Taylor, Goddard School of Business & Economics

David West, Facilities Management



WSU NEWS is published by the Office of Marketing & Communications. Send submissions and comments to ahess@weber.edu or call ext. 7948. Writers: Allison Hess, Jessica Kokesh and Shaylee Stevens.

