Happy November!

Staff Updates: Welcome to the following new staff: Molly Ward, Shepherd Union Director; Melanie Martinez, Administrative Specialist in Access & Outreach; Buck Kolz, Basic Skills Specialist in Veteran’s Upward Bound; James 'Riley' Painter, Technology & Events Specialist in Career Services; Samantha Hill, Math & Science Specialist in Upward Bound; Tamara Bates, Budget & Administrative Support Specialist in Campus Recreation; Jamie Bernstein, Assistant Coordinator of Outdoor Programs; Stephen Morphet, Social & Behavioral Science Testing Center Coordinator; and Carly Selden, Administrative Assistant II for the Dean of Students.

Congratulations to the following staff members for their accomplishments: Daniel Turner has been promoted to Campus Recreation Assistant Director and Coordinator of Outdoor Programs; Isael Torres, an hourly staff member in Access and Outreach, was selected for the 2016 White House Internship Program, which will start January 2016; and Jamie Brass, CPSC, was selected President-Elect of the Utah Psychological Association. She will take over as President in July.

Student Affairs Got Talent last Thursday was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who participated in the show (what amazing talent) and to planning committee members for their incredible work making the event happen. And special thanks to Brenda and Daniel for their awesome facilitation of the show.

Our close colleague in academic affairs, Dr. Ryan Thomas (Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies) is retiring at the end of the semester. Please stop by his reception on
Thursday, December 17 at the Lindquist Alumni Center from 2-4. We will certainly miss him at WSU but wish him all the best in his retirement.

The Weber State Farmington Station held a grand opening on November 17. This addition to Weber State will offer the new Executive Masters of Health Administration, other executive programs, General Education classes as well as Community Education and Concurrent Enrollment courses.

Putting Students Through: The PST Program, Friday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Union Ballrooms, is a touching ceremony where WSU graduates recognize and honor special people in their lives who have helped make their graduation possible. Everyone is welcome to attend. Thanks to SIL, particularly Jackie Edwards, and others who plan the event.

January Division Meeting: Our first spring staff development program, "Helping Students Navigate WSU," is scheduled for January 28 at 2:00 p.m. Don’t miss this excellent session with Jessica Oyler and Bruce Bowen.

President Wight recently asked each Vice President to make a short presentation for the University Planning Council on what we see as Challenges facing Weber State University and solutions to address them. I thought you would be interested the Student Affairs presentation on “Adapting to Changing Student Demographics and Needs” (attached.) Thanks to Jessica for her help preparing the presentation. Other topics included (1) Where Does the Money Come From? (Norm); Information Availability (Bret), and Quantitative Literacy (Madonne).

WSU Positioning Statement: After extensive surveys and focus groups, University Marketing and Communications recently released the following new statement that provides an easily understood summary of what makes WSU unique: We are Weber. We put teaching first. We forge strong connections. We are dedicated and resourceful, down to earth and forward thinking. We know how to challenge you, and we care enough to do it. We are proudly rooted in our community while we pioneer beyond boundaries. We are unique in our ability to welcome everyone who has a dream – to learn, to grow, to lead, to excel, to find their passion, to provide for their family – and we offer the personalized opportunities, experiences and support to transform that dream into reality. Our doors, and minds, are open.

Diversity Update: How many ways can you say “Merry Christmas” or "Happy Holidays”? Did you know many of the symbols used during Christmas come from other holiday celebrations? Check out this cool
Prezi presentation that highlights holidays celebrated throughout the world during this time: [http://prezi.com/enas4eiric95/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share](http://prezi.com/enas4eiric95/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share)

Tech Trivia: During the holidays, people may let their guard down when it comes to protecting their identity. Remember to frequently check your accounts, use your credit card instead of a debit card, and don't shop from public wifi spots. [http://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/2015/11/10/10-ways-to-protect-yourself-from-identity-theft-during-the-holidays](http://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/2015/11/10/10-ways-to-protect-yourself-from-identity-theft-during-the-holidays)

I hope everyone has a safe and joyous holiday and very happy new year! Thanks for all you do each and every day.

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