A New Era in WSU Housing

The construction of phase one of Wildcat Village is complete, and students have settle into the first building. This WSU Housing project replaces LaSál, Wasatch and Stansbury halls, which were demolished. Provost Tony Trujillo said, “This is the first step in creating a new campus environment that will foster community and promote engagement.”

“Wildcat Village represents a new era in residential living for students,” said Brett Perozzi, WSU associate vice president for Student Affairs. “It features living environments that will foster community and promote engagement.”

Designed to encourage people to gather, Wildcat Village will have lounges, common kitchens and eating areas and other amenities. The semicircle positioning of the buildings was designed to foster community spirit by opening onto a courtyard with playing fields, a volleyball court and fire pit.

In planning for the new complex, Daniel Kilcrease, WSU’s graduate student who will conduct research on the federally threatened Pecos bluntnose shiner and evaluate the success of a river-channel restoration project, has received a $200,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The grant will support a league from South Dakota State University, has received a $41,000 Digital Humanities grant for a three-part project, “A New Era in WSU Housing” and writing.

Gastroenterology


John Chung

Brian Chung


To sign up as a faculty reviewer, visit weber.edu/ncur2012 and click on “Faculty Volunteers.” Closer to the conference, faculty, staff and students will have an online schedule of presentations, guest speakers, excursions and a graduate school fair.

New Wildcat Leaders

Three new members of Weber State University’s Athletics department bring experience and enthusiasm to their positions promoting and coaching student-athletes.

With the season under way, Tom Peterson is on the court as the new head coach for women’s volleyball. He is recognized as one of the most decorated and well-credited volleyball coaches in the western United States.

“The experience was worth the wait,” Peterson said. “I am excited to be part of the Weber State family and community.”

Peterson came to Weber State after serving as associate head coach for the women’s team at University of South Dakota for the past two seasons. He had also served for one season as an assistant coach in 2009.

Peterson has more than three decades of coaching and recruiting experience in both men’s and women’s volleyball. He has coached in seven NCAA men’s championships, and his teams have won four Division II and five Division III national championships at Penn State University (1994) and Brigham Young University.

Peterson earned his doctorate in 1992 from BYU in physical education administration, curriculum and instruction. He earned his master’s degree in professional leadership from BYU in 1982 and a bachelor’s degree in physical education from BYU in 1978.

Bethann Shapiro Ord will soon begin her six-year term as the women’s basketball head coach. Ord has 21 years of coaching experience, including coaching in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament and a three-year stint at the University of Louisville in three of the past four seasons including the 2009 NCAA championship game.
“As faculty work with students in developing their research, we tell them it isn’t really complete until they’ve communicated that research to a professional audience,” Cavitt said. “NCUR will give them that opportunity.”

Students who aren’t presenting at the conference are welcome to volunteer or attend conference sessions.

“NCUR offers something for everyone at Weber State,” Cavitt said. “Plus, it’s a chance to show our beautiful campus and an opportunity for other universities and colleges to see how committed we are to undergraduate research and our students. We have a lot to be proud of at Weber State University.”

Welcome to WSU
Jodie Benabe-Matz, Psychological Sciences; Heather Chapman, Academic Affairs; Melissa Chauvet, Academic Support Centers; Steven Coleman, Academic Support Centers; Patricia Glover, School of Accountancy; Geertruida de Groot, Library; Britteny Haycock, Continuing Education; Brady Howe, Athletics Administration and Support; Yeonsoo Kim, Communication; Wendy Larson, Continuing Education; Cody Lyon, Continuing Education; Michael Moon, Student Involvement and Leadership; Gregory Parkhurst, Economics; Scott Peterson, Academic Tech Training and Planning; Zachary Robbins, Student Affairs; Jennybeth Thompson, BIS; Nurgül Ukevua, Economics; Lisa Wood, Child and Family Studies.

On the Move/Promoted
Marcy Avalos, Student Affairs; Dorothy Hill, Women’s Center; Andrea Jensen, Continuing Education; Travis Knight, Facilities Management; Barbara Nikitason, Continuing Education; Melissa Oman, Academic Affairs; Lisa Pedersen, HPHP; Seth Wilhelmsen, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.

Retiring
Judy Glommom, HPHP; Howard Noel, Communication; Kathleen Spendlove, Teacher Education; Bonnie Van Cleave, Human Resources; Tom Van Cleave, Facilities Management; Raymond Wong, Teacher Education.

Faculty Mentoring Brings Student Awards
Students have traveled the globe recently showcasing their work and research completed alongside faculty who have motivated, monitored and mentored.

Family Council Award
Two family studies students who worked with WSU child and family studies associate professor Paul Schwanveidt have received national recognition for their undergraduate research examining how religion affects stepfamily interactions.

The paper “Religiosity Impacting Stepfamily Dynamics as Mediated by Dyadic Adjustment” earned the 2010-11 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Project by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) and will be awarded in November. The research was conducted and written by Michelle Burton and Andrew Chris. Academic departments from more than 200 NCFR-affiliated colleges and universities in the United States and Canada were eligible to submit papers for the competition. Burton and Chris credit Schwanveidt for their success, along with WSU’s Office of Undergraduate Research, which provided $3,700.

Genetics Conference
New findings about the DNA of Great Salt Lake brine flies took a Weber State University student to one of the most important molecular genetics research conferences in the world. Amanda Truong, a junior studying zoology, traveled to Kyoto, Japan, July 26-30 for the annual meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology & Evolution.

Nominated by her research advisor and mentor, zoology professor Jonathan Clark, Truong was one of only 10 undergraduate students selected by the society from universities worldwide for the conference scholarships. Truong presented a poster with findings gleaned from hundreds of hours of study during the past three years collecting brine flies from the lake and examining them in the DNA Lab at WSU.

Truong shared her findings with the gathering of 1,000 scientists at the event.

Sticks + Stones
Sticks + Stones, a collaborative design project led in part by Weber State University visual arts professor Mark Biddle, was recently named winner of the International Core77 Design Education Initiatives Award for its Berlin 2010 project.

Sticks + Stones Berlin 2010 focused on culture, migration and representation. In one component of the project, students took to the streets of Berlin wearing T-shirts with the question “What would people call me behind my back?” printed on the front. They approached people randomly and asked them to write directly on their backs.

According to Biddle, the initiative was meant to give physicality to the way people label each other. More than 40 students from six different universities collaborated on the project.

CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS
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Sept. 22: Convocations and WSUSA Arts and Lectures welcome Jewish-reggae sensation MatiSoul, noon, Shepherd Union Ballrooms. The event is free for anyone with a Wildcard and wristband available at the information desk. Cost is $5 for the public. For information, call 801-626-7334.

Sept. 19-28: The 14th annual WSU Greek Festival includes lectures about Ancient Greek influences on a variety of disciplines; a readers theatre performance of Aristophanes’ comedy, “Wealth”; and the Classical Greek Theatre Festival production of Euripides’ “Iphigenia in Tauris.” The lectures and readers theatre performance are free. “Iphigenia in Tauris” tickets are $11/$8, 1800-WSU-TIKS, webstoretickets.com or at the door on the night of the performance. Find a complete schedule at weber.edu/performingarts.

Sept. 25: The Department of Performing Arts presents Weber State University Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Val A. Browning Center Auditorium, $5/$4, 801-626-6431.

Oct. 6-7: The 13th Annual Diversity Conference will feature the topic, “Unpacking the Knapsack of Invisible (And Not So Invisible) Disabilities.” The sessions are free and will cover such subjects as autism, veterans and disabilities, traumatic brain injury and sexual expression for people with disabilities. For more information, call 801-626-7420, fcrawford@weber.edu.


“Is this an exciting time for Weber State athletics? I have great coaches, staff, student-athletes and community support,” Gocht said. “I’m looking forward to the opportunities and the chance to help shape the bright future of Weber State athletics.”

Gocht has held marketing, sales and consulting positions with the NBA, WNBA, and four university athletic programs. In addition, he worked at the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic for 10 years.

Gocht earned a graduate assistantship at the University of Tennessee, working in the women’s athletics department, while pursuing a master’s degree in sports administration and management.

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WSU has hosted a series of undergraduate research conferences over the last two years. The Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research, pictured here, was held in February 2011.

Important Facilities Information
The NCUR steering committee has been working with each of the colleges to determine which classrooms and areas can be used for conference sessions. The event will take place mainly in the Shepherd Union, McKay Education and Wattis Business buildings and Elizabeth Hall.

Cavitt wants faculty to be aware that some classes will be relocated on March 29-30. He said in many cases professors have chosen to incorporate NCUR into their spring syllabi. Rather than having students volunteer or attend conference sessions.

Faculty and staff should encourage students to get involved with NCUR and to submit their faculty-mentored research projects for review.