Employee Awards

Four Weber State employees, nominated by their peers, and judged by a committee, were presented with the Presidential Outstanding Professional and Classified Staff award by President Ann Milner on Feb. 15.

The four outstanding employees each received $2,000 cash, a plaque and a reserved parking space for one year.

Classified Staff

Custodial Area Supervisor in Facilities Management Pat Martinez was recognized for her work with custodians and the 35 full- and part-time custodians she supervises. Martinez was commended for improving working conditions by negotiating for new workspaces and securing better equipment for her staff.

Angela Swaner was honored for her work as an office manager for the history department. Along with her regular duties, she organizes the department’s lecture series, coordinates conferences and edits oral histories. Swaner is also a friend to the students; many students credit her with helping them graduate.

Professional Staff

Nancy Collinwood has linked student development and academic achievement as the director of Student Involvement and Leadership. Collinwood supervises a team of five professional staff and more than 90 elected and appointed student-government leaders. Through her leadership, she has generated the necessary support that students need to lead and be successful.

As the Director of Financial Reporting, Wendell Rich, is responsible for the yearly preparation of Weber State University’s financial statements. He also assisted with the redesign of the university’s financial statements. Beyond his day-to-day responsibilities, Rich is also part of the university’s emergency planning team, ensuring WSU would be able to acquire critical resources in a timely manner.

Dr. Brooke Arkush, anthropology professor, had his paper “Native Responses to European Intrusion: Cultural Persistence and Agency Among Mission Neophytes in Spanish Colonial Northern California” published in the recent edition of Historical Archaeology. The paper synthesizes archaeological and ethnohistorical data from five northern California Spanish missions to explore cultural traditions among San Francisco Bay area native groups that had relocated to those colonial settlements between about A.D. 1775s and 1825.

M. Brady Brower, assistant history professor, had his paper “Science, seduction, and the lure of reality in Third Republic France” published in the journal History of the Present. The article discusses a celebrated Italian spiritualist medium and the group of French scientists who studied her in the early 1900s.


Led by Omar Guervara, forensic sciences and communication instructor, Weber State University was selected to host the 69th annual National Debate Tournament. The top 78 forensics teams in the country will spend a week in Ogden from March 28 to April 2, 2013, to determine the national champion. In other debate news, WSU finished 27th in the nation out of more than 100 universities for the final rankings for 2011.

Walt Prothero, adjunct faculty member of zoology and English, was recently recognized with the Triple Slam Award from the Grand Slam Club/Ovis, which is an organization of hunting conservationists dedicated to improving and perpetuating wild sheep and goat populations worldwide. The award was given in recognition of Prothero’s collection of a dozen of the world’s wild sheep (the Ovis World Slam) and all of the wild sheep of North America (the Capra Slam) and all of the wild sheep of North America (the Capra Slam). Prothero has been designated as “Triple Slam number 151”; many of the others on that list are heads of state and members of royal families.

Sarah Steimel, assistant communication professor, co-authored “Re-framing Intercultural Conflict in the Management of Sino-American Joint Ventures,” which won the Top Paper Award in the Peace and Conflict Division of the National Communication Association Annual Convention held in New Orleans in November. Steimel also presented the co-authored paper “Reimagining Social Science Graduate Courses: Specific Workers through the Experience of Substitute Teachers” at the annual convention.

Three other faculty members in the Department of Communication also presented at the conference. Anne Bialowas, assistant communication professor, presented at GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Speech). Her presentation was titled “Breaking the Ice: Conquering Common Anxieties of Public Speaking.” Colleen Garside, associate communication professor, presented her paper “Voices of Collaboration: Community-based Learning, Supplemental Instruction, and Communication.” Becky Johns, communication professor, was a member of the themed panel “Voices at the Crossroads: Religious Women Speaking Out at State Institutions.”

Carla Koons Trentelman, assistant anthropology professor, had her paper about Utehans’ relationships to the Great Salt Lake “Place Dynamics in a Mixed Amenity Place: Great Salt Lake, Utah,” published recently in the journal Human Ecology Review.

Planning Process Helps Shape WSU’s Vision for the Future

You may recall those are the three core themes of Weber State University’s mission, introduced last year as part of the university planning process. The themes and their supporting ideas were generated as the WSU mission was updated to align with changes in the accreditation process adopted by the Northwest Commission.

“The core themes provided the basis for a much larger, more in-depth conversation,” said Kimbal Wheatley, who has been leading the university through the process of updating planning documents that will guide and shape future WSU priorities.

“WSU’s planning process has always tried to keep vision and mission statements that guide short- and long-term decisions and directions,” said associate provost Ryan Thomas, who is leading WSU’s accreditation review process.

During the past eight months, the university planning council has continued to develop and adopt components of the university’s planning documents, including a list of values.

“These are our shared values; they are what the people who make up Weber State commonly believe in and hold dear. They describe the culture we aspire to and how we individually want to behave,” Wheatley said. “They tell students and community what we believe.”

Values also outline expectations for prospective faculty and staff.

With mission and values in place, the council began refining a vision for the university. Unlike a strategic plan, which outlines specific goals and time frames for achieving them, organizational visions tend to be intentionally broad and perhaps tantalizingly out of reach. The intent is to inspire people to strive for excellence.

(continued on page 2)
Day at the State Capitol
Webster State University’s 23 faculty mentors, 60 students and more
200 alumni gathered at the state capitol on Feb. 2 to raise
awareness about the university and its accomplishments.

Students presented posters displaying their undergraduate research projects and alumni dressed in purple to visit with legislators and share information about their alma mater.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for state lawmakers to interact directly with our students and alumni,” said Brad Mortensen, vice president for University Advancement. “The legislators hear from our constituents, and they have a chance to see the ways in which Webster State University students and programs enrich and support our state, our communities and the economic vitality of our region.”

Mortensen, who serves as a legislative liaison, said awareness days are important because they remind state lawmakers about the significant contributions WSU and the system of higher education make statewide.

University of Cambridge Fellowship
Associate economics professor Mary V. Wrenn received the Joan Robinson Research Fellowship in Heterodox Economics to conduct research and teach at the University of Cambridge.

“I am absolutely thrilled about the fellowship, especially the nature of the fellowship — specifically created for research in this discipline,” Wrenn said.

Heterodox economics embraces an interdisciplinary approach to the study of economics as a social science that is intimately and indelibly connected to other social sciences, such as political science, anthropology and history.

WSU has offered Wrenn two years of leave to pursue this opportunity. When she returns, Wrenn’s students will benefit from her continued research, her work with faculty at Cambridge and her exposure to different instructional models.

“Xanadu” Invited to Region Competition
Weber State University’s production of “Xanadu,” directed by Jim Christian, professor of Performing Arts, was selected for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region VIII competition (KCACTF).

This year, the 44th Annual event was hosted by WSU Department of Performing Arts and the Telitha E. Lindquist Department of Performing Arts and the Telitha E. Lindquist

NCUR Update!
Campus will be flooded with more than 3,000 undergraduate researchers and their faculty mentors March 29-31 as they gather for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). The event features poster presentations, oral sessions, performances, plenary speakers, a graduate fair and other special events. Faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend presentations and visit the graduate school fair without registering for the conference.

Also, volunteers are still needed to moderate sessions, assist at the registration desk, greet visitors, help with audio/visual equipment, and more.

To volunteer, or for more information, visit weber.edu/ncur2012.

Purchasing Reminder
The WSU purchasing card (P-Card) is to be used to purchase low-dollar goods and services needed to conduct official university business. It is also to be used for all university travel expenses such as conference registrations, hotels, flights, etc. The card cannot be used to purchase items that exceed the single transaction limit of $1,500 or items on the Restricted Items List.

For a complete list of restricted items, check weber.edu/purchasing/restricted.html

Welcome To WSU
Nicole Beaty, Stewart Library
Jason Bellford, Athletics Admin and Support
Christopher Casquilho, Browning Center
Terra Clarke, Shepherd Union
Michael Erling, Athletics Admin and Support
Alexandra Hanson, Nursing
Austin Hull, Browning Center
Shaney McCoy, Psychological Services
Michael Nakai, Services for Students with Disabilities
Justin Rascati, Athletics Admin and Support
Kenton Spackman, Facilities Management
Emily Stanger, Student Affairs
Craig Stutzmann, Athletics Admin and Support
Jeremy Sultzer, Business Admin
Shawn Swapp, Facilities Management
Sarah Vause, English
Merlene Wilson, Internal Audit

On the Move/Promoted
Laura Albright, Admissions Office
Hyrum Allen, Academic Support Centers
Lindsay Beddes, Academic Support Centers
Darcy Carter, Health Administrative Services
Tori Clawson, Registrar’s Office
Tamra Crittlow, Academic Support Centers
Matthew Driggs, Registrar’s Office
Crystal Giordano, Admissions Office
Sheila Hewitt, Bursar and Collection Services
Sandra Hogg, Human Resources
Fran Hopkin, Admissions Office
Skyler King, Admissions Office
Ruth Little, Admissions Office
LuAnn McDermott, Registrar’s Office
Patrick Moody, Admissions Office
Rachel Freee, International Student Services
Lynn Schow, Registrar’s Office
Candace Stevens, Registrar’s Office
Judith Tassone, Admissions Office
Mindi VanderStein, Continuing Education
Kurtis Wilkinson, Admissions Office

UNIVERSITY NEWS is published by the Office of University Communications. Send submissions and comments to mail code 4025; e-mail: unews@weber.edu; or call ext. 7359.

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