WSU Ramps Up Mobile Effort

As the demand for mobile technology increases, Weber State University is making a concerted effort to meet the mobile needs of those on campus — whether on an iPhone, Android or tablet. “Going forward we are thinking mobile first in all of our new development,” said WSU Web services manager Peter Waite. “The first question we ask is, ‘Does it make sense for mobile?’ So, if we start there first. If it doesn’t, then we look to the desktop or other platforms.”

WSU’s mobile efforts have become a campus-wide initiative. Campus educators, staff and students are coming together for conversations about the place of mobile technology in the classroom, innovative teaching methods utilizing mobile technology and a campus-wide plan for mobile tech support. WSU’s mobile website (m.weber.edu), which officially launched in November, provides links to many areas of the traditional WSU website that mobile users are most likely to be looking for — such as university email, campus maps and the university calendar.

WSU students and staff have also developed a mobile application suite. The WSU Testing Center, WSU Computer Labs, Campus Stores, KCWR 88.1 Weber FM and the Student Recruitment Office all have apps. A number of other apps are under development and should be released soon.

More users in more places on campus increase the need for enhanced network infrastructure so that users’ mobile devices have strong enough connectivity. WSU is preparing to dramatically increase the number of internet access points on campus to try to address that need.

“This effort is based on the need to communicate with students in the way that makes sense for them,” said Bob Ellis, Vice President of Information Technology. “Mobile technology will create engaging learning opportunities, allow new and innovative interactions with faculty, keep students informed about their education and provide community members access to the campus.”

Visit weber.edu/mobile for more information about WSU’s mobile effort.

Purchasing Tips for Group Travel

Any employee, who travels with and is accountable for the travel of a group, has several important responsibilities for financial record keeping:

- Before trip:
  Complete Part I of the WSU Travel Log and obtain required approval. Make necessary travel reservations in advance for transportation, lodging, etc.

- During trip:
  Maintain all travel-related receipts. Use the Group Cash Disbursement Record to document cash given to individual group travelers in lieu of per diem.

- After trip:
  Within 10 business days, complete the WSU Travel Log, recalculate expenses, sign and obtain supervisor approval and take the log to the Cashier’s Office for processing.

If you have questions, contact the new group travel manager in Purchasing and Support Services, Paul Oldham. With more than 15 years of travel-industry experience, he can help secure the best accommodations for the best price on flights, hotels and ground transportation. You can reach him by email at pauloldham@weber.edu or by calling 801-626-7024.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jonathan Clark, zoology professor, presented a paper at the Sixth International Symposium on Molecular Insect Science in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, titled “Comparative Genetic Analysis of the Telomere-Associated Transposable Element, He-TA, in Drosophila.” The coauthor was zoology student Haylee Cox.

Azemett Garza, associate psychology professor, coauthored an article in the European Journal of Social Psychology titled “Group Commitment in the Face of Pervasive Discrimination: The Role of Legitimacy Appraisals.”

Leah Murray, associate political science professor, coauthored a chapter titled “2010 U.S. Senate Elections: Stuck in the Middle to Lose” in the book Tea for Only Two: The Ousting of Utah Senator Robert Bennett. The book was published by Lexington Books and analyzes the Tea Party’s impact on the 2010 campaigns for the United States Senate.

Bradford Reynolds, assistant criminal justice professor, coauthored an article titled “Being Pursued Online: Applying Cyberfreestyle-Routine Activities Theory to Cyberstalking Victimization” in the journal Criminal Justice and Behavior.

Get Ready

NCUR date inches closer

For most of the world, the big countdown to midnight happens only once a year, but for Weber State University’s John Cavitt it happened twice in 45 days — once on New Year’s Eve, of course, and once on Nov. 15, when he stayed up to watch the last of the submissions roll in for the 2012 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

As WSU’s director of undergraduate research and chair of the 2012 NCUR steering committee, Cavitt was pleased to see the official total – 3,196. Weber State faculty have since reviewed the abstracts and accepted 2,767 for presentation at NCUR, which WSU is hosting March 29-31.

The foremost undergraduate research conference in the country, NCUR will bring together students from 46 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates to present their research and scholarly and creative works. From Utah students, Weber State had the highest number of abstracts accepted with 165.

“We’ve been planning this conference since 2009, but now that the abstracts have been submitted and reviewed, that makes it a reality for us,” Cavitt said. “We’ll soon have 3,000+ undergraduate researchers at Weber State, sharing their projects and spreading excitement about research on campus.”

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Attending
The three-day event will feature poster and oral sessions on a variety of topics, from biology to literature, to engineering and sport management, as well as performing arts presentations. A plenary speaker will also kick off each day of the conference.

The plenary speakers are:
- Mario R. Capecci, molecular geneticist and winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
- Paul Alan Cox, director of the Institute of Ethnomedicine in Jackson Hole, Wyo., a Time magazine Hero of Medicine, and recent recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from WSU
- Anne Fadiman, award-winning author of The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, the true story of a Laotian refugee family’s interactions with the California health-care system

The conference will also feature a graduate school fair and off-campus excursions to Antelope Island, Snowbasin and Salt Lake City. Faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend presentations, hear guest speakers and visit the graduate school fair without registering for the conference. However, registration is required to participate in NCUR meals and excursions. WSU students who are presenting at the conference will not have to pay registration for any event.

Early registration continues through Feb. 3; late registration begins Feb. 4 and ends Feb. 27.

Because of the wide variety of topics being presented, many WSU professors have chosen to incorporate NCUR into their spring syllabi. Rather than having students attend their regularly scheduled classes those days, some faculty members are requiring students to attend conference sessions within their disciplines.

Volunteering
Faculty, staff and student volunteers are needed to help with the conference. In appreciation, those who sign up and complete eight hours of service will get a T-shirt and flash drive.

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