Distinguished Professors Recognized for Lasting Contributions

Three Weber State University professors, each acclaimed nationally for professional academic and civic contributions, have been named the 2013 Brady Presidential Distinguished Professors. The honor was established in 2006 as a way to recognize outstanding WSU faculty members who demonstrate the highest quality of teaching, scholarship, research and community service.

Funding for the recognition was made possible by a generous gift from Rodney and Carolyn Brady. He served as president of WSU from 1978-1985.

HAL CRIMMEL
Since arriving at Weber State in 2001, English professor Hal Crimmel, has blended his love of literature with his love of nature and has developed a number of dynamic classes that take students into the wilds of Utah, Montana and Colorado. Crimmel has also been involved in numerous ongoing faculty-student collaborations as chair of WSU’s Environmental Issues Committee. His record of creative and scholarly achievement includes serving as the Telliha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities Endowed Scholar from 2006-09 and publication of such well-respected books as “Teaching in the Field: Working with Students in the Outdoor Classroom” and “Dinosaurs Four Seasons on the Green and Yampa Rivers.” His book, “Desert Water: The Future of Utah’s Water Resources,” will be published soon. Crimmel taught internationally during a Fulbright Lecture-Workshop at the University of Salzburg in Austria in 2004 and as an exchange professor to Shanghai Normal University in China and at Ludwig-Maximilians University in Germany.

ADAM T. JOHNSTON
Physics professor Adam Johnston has been cited for influencing numerous WSU students to pursue careers in science and science teaching as well as for making science fun for thousands of public school children with his engaging Science in the Parks summer series. Johnston’s personal research focuses on misconceptions and learning strategies for teaching science. Johnston has an extensive list of peer-reviewed publications, invited presentations and other scholarly achievements, including co-founding “Science Education at the Crossroads,” an annual interactive national conference that has advocated for scholarly reform in science teaching methodologies since 2005. He also works closely with other Utah educators to develop professional learning opportunities for teachers and science curricula appropriate for all levels of instruction.

Among his many awards are the Outstanding University Science Educator Award from the Utah Science Teachers Association (2011) and the Medal for Science and Technology from the governor of Utah (2012).

SHANE J. SCHVANEVELDT
Business administration professor Shane Schvaneveldt has been connecting WSU with the global business world since arriving in 1992. As part of a multimillion-dollar federal grant program co-directed, Schvaneveldt contributed to a national initiative for researching Japanese industry and providing related educational opportunities to American students. In that effort, the Goddard School joined a network of 12 centers nationwide including from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Michigan and Stanford University.

Schvaneveldt played an instrumental role in the creation of WSU’s MBA program and in the development of supply chain management as a flagship program in the business school. Schvaneveldt received the Fulbright Senior Scholar Award in 1999 and was honored by “Utah Business Magazine” with the Green Pioneer Award. The U.S. Department of Commerce selected Schvaneveldt as a member of the Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award. He also served as president of the Association of Japanese Business Studies.

Nation’s Lawmakers Hear From WSU Researchers

As a psychology and neuroscience professor, undergraduate research mentoor and mother, Lauren Fowler knows about sleep deprivation. What she didn’t know was how much interesting research she and her students would conduct on the topic and what recognition it would bring students and the university.

This year marks the eighth time in nine years that a WSU student will present research at the prestigious national Posters on the Hill event held on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. This year’s presenter is Trevor Hicks-Collins, who worked with Fowler for two years teaching, conceptualizing, funding and conducting a study of the sleep cycles of children with autism. Hicks-Collins, whose own son is autistic, confirmed through data collection what he had noticed as a parent — interrupted sleep increases a child’s symptoms of autism.

Sleep cycles have been a specialty at WSU since Fowler began working with the U.S. Air Force in 2004 to study circadian rhythms and fatigue in fighter pilots, looking for ways to reduce fatigue-related errors. National Science Foundation grants have allowed her to expand her research to include shift workers in areas such as law enforcement, military and pharmacy.

“I would never have done this breadth of research if the students had not approached me with ideas,” Fowler said. “This is their research all the way. It inspires me and teaches so much about the breadth of neuroscience and psychology.”

Weber State presenters at Posters on the Hill have come from a variety of disciplines, including psychology, social science, neuroscience and zoology. The number of WSU students selected to present findings to the nation’s lawmakers reflects WSU’s commitment to new and innovative teaching strategies. Some of the presentations that have been heard at Posters on the Hill include:

- "Sleep and the Social Environment," presented by Trevor Hicks-Collins, which explored how children’s sleep is affected by their surroundings. The research found that environmental factors, such as noise and light, can significantly impact sleep quality.
- "Circadian Rhythms in Human Behavior," presented by Lauren Fowler, which investigated the role of circadian rhythms in human behavior and their potential implications for health and well-being.
- "The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Cognitive Function," presented by Trevor Hicks-Collins, which explored the cognitive consequences of sleep deprivation and its implications for public health.

These presentations showcase the innovative research being conducted at WSU and highlight the university’s commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. They also demonstrate the university’s success in fostering a culture of research and innovation, which has led to numerous national recognitions and accolades.

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The coaching job in New Mexico to start a teaching certificate. Trujillo left a degree in physical education and he graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Weber State College offered the athletic internship program for students who have the potential to pursue a college education, but not the support. For 40 years, Trujillo has kept low-income kids, whose parents never went to college, from slipping through the cracks. His "secret weapons" are his self-deprecating humor and ability to relate to young people whose odds of attending college are stacked against them. "How do you inspire kids to go somewhere beyond average?" asked Trujillo. "By giving them dreams and then opportunities to make those dreams become realities."

Trujillo will retire in December 2013. As a graduate student at the University of Maryland, Brenda Marssteller and her sociology program cohorts met regularly to discuss new teaching techniques. The more she heard about service learning and experimented with it, the more dedicated she became to having her students participate in community-based learning projects. "It's hands-on learning," explained the since-married Brenda Marssteller Kowalewski, "and it's for real people, with real needs and real consequences if we don't come through." Building this approach into her course curricula also allows Kowalewski to "do" sociology as well as teach sociology.

Kowalewski came to Weber State in 1995. "I could tell in my job interview that this place is student-centered, and that's where I wanted to be," she said.

In 2006, Kowalewski became director of Community-Based and Experiential Learning. Her first task was to create a Community Involvement Center that would match students with service opportunities and show faculty how to convert existing courses into community-engaged learning (CGL) classes.

Kowalewski is a prolific researcher and academic publications. She has won multiple awards and national acclaim for her groundbreaking studies. Athletic training is one of only two WSU programs designated as a "community engaged program" — meaning students cannot graduate without having a community-based learning experience.

"This development of a desire to give back fills me with pride for our students," Herzog said. "I believe that our graduates’ commitment to serve their community throughout their careers is the most significant outcome of our service-learning program."
The Weber State University community is full of thoughtful, committed people, changing the lives of students through dedicated teaching, service, mentoring and other activities.

Many faculty and staff also support students and programs through charitable gifts and waivers of income. During calendar year 2012, 484 employees gave $216,879 to the university. The following list includes full-time faculty and staff, part-time staff and retired employees who contributed financially last year. Many adjunct faculty also contribute to the university.

Everyone’s generous support will be noted in the spring issue of Weber State University Magazine.
“It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”
—Mother Teresa