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Collaborations Create Community Cohesion

Rachel Badali MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Less is More

Two Weber State professors and their students are collaborating to build a small demonstration studio with an even smaller impact on the environment.

Jeremy Farner, design engineering technology associate professor, and **Julie Rich**, geography professor, are working together to construct a net-zero “living laboratory.” The

building will be so efficient it will produce the same amount of energy it uses, or more.

“We are trying to prove that a well-designed, small space can be functional and comfortable, not to mention super green,” Farner said.

Once it’s complete, the studio will be used to demonstrate green building practices. Students will use the space as a classroom to learn about sustainability, and the community can visit it to learn more about efficiency.

A team of Farner’s students are building the studio in Rich’s backyard. The finished product will be 498 square feet and will feature a main floor and upstairs loft.

Although the studio is small, Farner, Rich and the students want to show that it’s possible to live with less, without

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Playing to the Beat

A multidisciplinary project will add musical instruments to the Melba S. Lehner Children’s School playground.

Professors and students from engineering technology, teacher education, music and music education are collaborating to build a percussion playground. The area will feature interactive instruments for children to create music while they are outside.

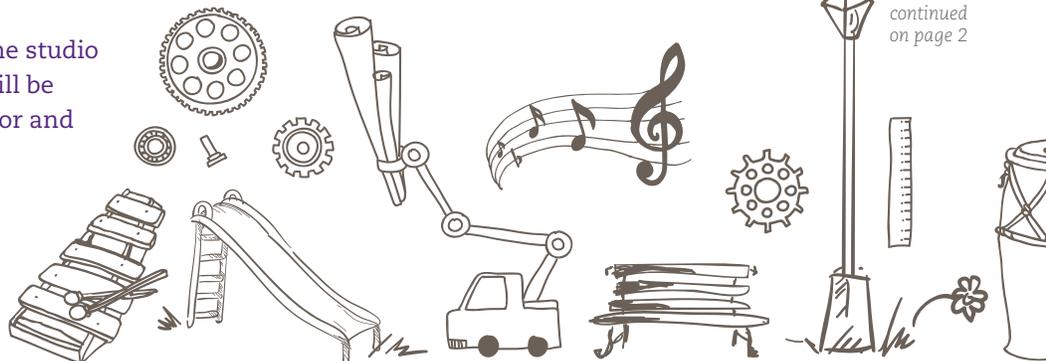
The idea began years ago when economics professor **Therese Grijalva** discovered a musical playground in Moab, Utah, which her children enjoyed far more than a typical outdoor play area.

“I thought it would be a natural fit here,” Grijalva said. “Every person I’ve proposed the idea to has gotten really excited. We all have different reasons for liking it, but the energy behind this project is amazing.”

Megumi “Meg” Usui, design engineering technology associate professor, is working with her senior students to design and build the instruments. They plan to construct three music stations on the school’s existing playground.

The team has spent spring semester coming up with the design, including the layout of the instruments and what materials will work best. Former provost

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New Associate Provosts Selected

Two longtime faculty leaders have been selected to direct key academic initiatives as new associate provosts.

Psychology professor Eric Amsel will serve as associate provost for academic programs and assessment, beginning in April. Sociology professor Brenda Marsteller Kowalewski assumed the position of associate provost for high-impact programs and faculty development in January.

Amsel joined the faculty in 1996, and from the start took pride in mentoring and encouraging students to conduct undergraduate research. His students have participated in a number of Amsel's professional research projects, which have focused on cognitive development in groups ranging from young children to practicing scientists.

Kowalewski served as WSU's presidential chair for community engagement as well as executive director of the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL), a position she's held since 2006. Kowalewski led WSU's efforts to attain the Carnegie Foundation's Community



Engagement Classification, which demonstrates the school's dedication to working with the community.

In addition to other publications, Kowalewski and Amsel co-authored two articles about teaching and student engagement and co-edited the book "Promoting Student Engagement Volume 1: Programs, Techniques and Opportunities." Both have been honored as WSU Brady Presidential Distinguished Professors.

"Eric has served as an exceptionally successful department chair and has been involved in numerous leadership positions in Faculty Senate, professional and student disciplinary organizations and academic campus initiatives," Miner said. "As director of CCEL, Brenda has garnered extensive national attention for WSU's commitment to connect course work with community work. Brenda has shown herself able to juggle multiple roles and to work creatively with a wide range of people." When they are not involved in academics, Amsel enjoys competitive curling, and Kowalewski plays and coaches lacrosse.

Less is More continued

sacrificing quality of life. To do this, they are outfitting the studio with the basic amenities of a typical home, including adequate living space, electrical heating and appliances. The studio will also include solar panels to provide all of the electricity.

Extensive work has been put into making sure the studio is as environmentally friendly as possible. All of the building materials were chosen with sustainability in mind, and some of the lumber used in construction was repurposed from an existing shed on Rich's property.

"As more and more pressure is put on Earth's resources, we need to look at alternative ways to make our homes more efficient," Rich said. "It is a privilege to be working alongside WSU students to make this project a reality."

The Beat continued

Michael Vaughan provided additional funding for the project.

"Therese has a great deal of passion for this project, and I am pleased that her efforts have come to fruition," Vaughan said. "I am certain the musical playground will be a great addition to the children's school."

The group's goal is to have the playground installed by the end of summer 2016.

"This is the type of project that fits right in with Weber State's mission," Grijalva said. "We're incorporating so many different disciplines, and the children are really going to benefit."

Presidential Outstanding Staff Awards

Four Weber State employees, nominated by their peers and chosen by committee, were presented with this year's Presidential Outstanding Exempt and Non-Exempt Staff awards.

The employees each received \$2,000 cash, a plaque, reserved parking for one year and performing arts tickets.

For more than 20 years, **Aiko Flowers** has been known to move mountains in service to the university. As the office manager in the School of Nursing, she works quietly, but efficiently, managing the details that ensure the School of Nursing is viewed in a positive light by the campus community.

Colleagues say Flowers never refuses a student or faculty member who asks for help. She's tenacious in finding the answer from an extensive network of contacts on campus, in the community and even at the state level.

Flowers does not expect praise for her follow through but considers perfection a part of the job.

Ruth Little moved recently from admissions to the position of enrollment specialist in the registrar's office.

She distinguished herself as a top-rate database system problem solver. She knows where student records' issues hide, how to find the answers, and what steps are required to resolve them.

Little's knowledge and diligence allow her to complete tasks with speed and precision, while still offering encouragement and assistance to others. She has been instrumental in improving the transfer articulation process for all incoming transfer courses. Though most students will never know, Ruth's dedication to efficiently handling student records is a vital part of their academic success.

As the university celebrates its most successful private fundraising campaign in history, the leading development director, **Carol Biddle**, gets a great deal of credit. Biddle's efforts have made the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities the top fundraising unit in the Dream 125 campaign.

Biddle worked in partnership with the dean to establish the Arts & Humanities Advisory board, which has become a university model for its ability to attract leadership, volunteers and financial support to the college.

Biddle also helped raise funds for the Ogden Nature Center and served on the Boys' and Girls' Club Board. She is active in the community, solidifying the good will people have toward Weber State.

As associate general counsel at Weber State since 2007, **Stephanie Hollist** has a deep understanding and commitment to the university.

In 2014, the university provided legal advice in more than 50 different areas of law. Hollist was either the primary or secondary attorney responsible for 42 of those areas. She grasps complex challenges, recognizes the legal principle, quickly conducts research and communicates her results clearly to all levels of university hierarchy.

In student-conduct cases, Hollist calmly and confidently deals with difficult situations in a way that de-escalates conflict and promotes understanding. She has the ability to balance justice and mercy, weighing the needs of the individual with the needs of the institution.

WELCOME to WSU

Christopher Barragan, *Development*

Kelly Bills, *Athletics Admin and Support*

Jeremiah Brennan, *Veterans Upward Bound*

Jaylynn Bryson, *Nursing*

Charles Collingwood, *President's Office*

Emily Criswell, *Wildcat Stores*

Kimberly Ealy, *College of Engineering,
Applied Science & Technology*

Carl Eddy, *Facilities Management*

Julie Gee, *Nursing*

Preston Hadley, *Athletics Admin and Support*

Levi Jackson, *Visual Arts*

Heidi Jenkins, *Athletic Training & Nutrition*

Paul Kuehne, *Facilities Management*

Terence Lewis, *Health Promotion &
Human Performance*

Joshua Merrill, *Facilities Management*

Justin Owen, *Facilities Management*

Mark Rudolph, *Development*

Jeannette Smith, *Academic Support Centers*

John South, *Academic Support Centers*

Jamie Stein, *Human Resources*

Lori Stewart, *Academic Support Centers*

Courtney Thornock, *Facilities Management*

Robert Vermillion, *Facilities Management*

Timothie Vigil, *Facilities Management*

Lamont Von Niederhausern, *Facilities
Management*

Wesley Walsman, *Academic Support Centers*

On the Move/Promoted

Brandon Bishop, *Facilities Management*

Kayleb Boyko, *Facilities Management*

Matthew Cain, *Academic Tech Training
and Planning*

Tara Peris-Caputo, *Student Involvement
and Leadership*

Retired

Margie Esquibel, *Alumni Relations*

Janet Nelson, *Financial Aid Office*

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Veronica Dawson, visiting assistant professor of communication, published an article in *The Journal of Social Media in Society* Vol. 4, No. 2 titled “Who are we online? Approaches to organizational identity in social media context.” Her research shows how the discourse of organizational identity has changed as a result of the “persistent, public, editable and immediate context of social media platforms.”

Matthew Nicholaou, assistant professor of medical laboratory sciences, mentored Karissa Wang, a senior at Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering & Science (NUAMES), during her research project. Wang designed a way to combat drug-resistant bacteria, earning her a spot in the semifinals of the Intel Science Talent Search, a nationwide science competition. She was one of only 300 students in the country, and the only one from Utah, who made it to the semifinals from a pool of 1,750 entrants.

Zoology professor **Robert Okazaki** co-authored an article in the American Chemical Society publication *Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering* with visiting professors **Sufeng Wang** and **Qingrui Zhang** from China’s Yanshan University. Titled “Efficient Phosphate Sequestration in Waters by the Unique Hierarchical 3D Artemia Egg Shell Supported Nano-Mg(OH)₂ Composite and Sequenced Potential Application in Slow Release Fertilizer,” the article reports on the practical use of the outer layer of brine shrimp resting eggs. Okazaki also co-authored “DNA Taxonomy of *Paranemertes* (Nemertea: Hoplonemertea) with Spirally Fluted Stylets,” which was published in *Zoological Science*.

The Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters awarded **Richard Sadler**, history professor and former dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, the 2016 Distinguished Service Award. The accolade honors individuals for exceptional service

to education or academic service to citizens in Utah.

Van Tinkham, performing arts professor and resident scenic designer, received an Excellence in Theatre Education Award. Bestowed by the Board of Governors for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, Region VIII, the honor recognizes faculty and staff for “fostering, supporting and developing a greater respect and appreciation for theatre, theatre education and all who participate in it.”

Associate finance professor **James Turner** published a paper titled “Casting Doubt on the Predictability of Stock Returns in Real Time: Bayesian Model Averaging Using Realistic Priors” in the *Review of Finance* Vol. 19, No. 2. The research questions whether stock returns were ever predictable in real time and also suggests that returns may no longer be predictable even if real-time constraints are removed.



Breathing Easier

The Utah State Board of Regents has approved a new Master of Science in Respiratory Therapy (MSRT) degree.

The program will provide credentialed respiratory therapists with advanced knowledge and practice in adult critical care, and as newborn and pediatric specialists, pulmonary function technologists, sleep disorder specialists and asthma educators.

Graduates will be prepared to conduct evidenced-based research, work as college faculty or in health administration and department leadership positions. The program, which is 36 credit hours, will begin offering courses fall 2016 with a planned enrollment of 20.

With MSRT, Weber State now offers 14 master’s degrees.