

WINTER 2009

VENTURING FORTH

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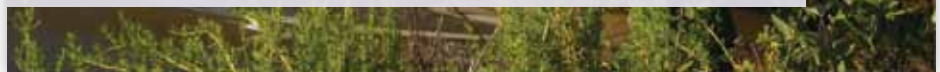
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Only at Weber

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Weber Now

SAVE THESE DATES! WRITE THEM DOWN WITH YOUR PEN! HAVE FUN AT WSU IN 2010!



CULTURAL AFFAIRS SERIES

January 23, 2010

Kitka

March 17, 2010

An Evening With Bill Shannon

February 20, 2010

Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana

April 9, 2010

Habib Koité and Bamada



ALUMNI EVENTS

JUNE 11, 2010

Mark your calendars now for the 9th Annual Drive for Scholarships!

ATHLETICS

February 5, 2010

7 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Montana

February 6, 2010

7 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Montana State

February 12, 2010

7 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Northern Arizona

February 13, 2010

7 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Northern Colorado

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

March 5-6 and 9-13

The Light in the Piazza

April 1-3

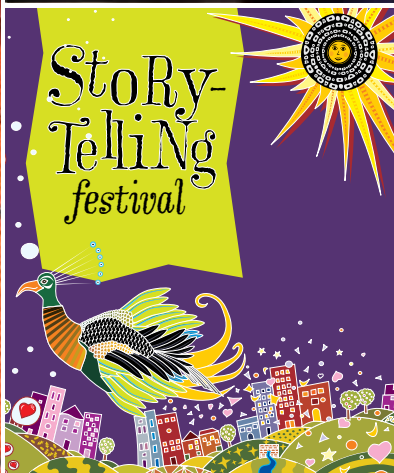
Orchesis Dance Theatre

April 5, 7 and 9-10

Bonneville Chamber Music Festival

April 9-10 and 13-17

Our Town



STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

February 22-24, 2010

This popular annual event will feature four nationally recognized storytellers. In addition, local, regional and student storytellers will lend their voices for the celebration.

Visit weber.edu/storytelling for schedules and information.

CONTACT INFO

WSU Alumni Association
801-626-7535
alumni.weber.edu

Tickets for Cultural Affairs,
Performing Arts and
Wildcat Athletics events:
801-626-8500 or 1-800-WSU-TIKS
weberstatesports.com

On the Web:
wsuculturalaffairs.org
weber.edu/performingarts
weberstatesports.com

JOHN KOWALEWSKI, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



FOR HE'S A BOEING GOOD FELLOW
George Comber, associate professor of manufacturing engineering technology at WSU, spent eight weeks this summer with the Boeing Corporation after being named one of its 2009 Welliver Faculty Fellows. One of only nine engineering professors worldwide to be invited to the prestigious fellowship, Comber visited Boeing plants, shadowed personnel and met company executives. Drawing on his experiences at Boeing, Comber implemented a new academic emphasis on plastics and composites in WSU's College of Applied Science & Technology this fall.

NEW TRUSTEES

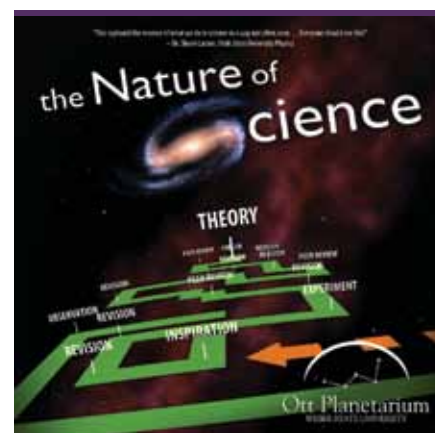
After a seven-year absence, **Steve Starks '03** returned to the WSU Board of Trustees this summer. Starks, who served as a trustee during his term as student body president (2001-02), was appointed to a four-year term by then Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. Starks serves as executive vice president for operations of The Larry H. Miller Group.

WSU Alumni Association president **Christopher Davis '79** and 2009-10 student body president **Tyler Lathem** will fill one-year terms on the board. **Jerry Stevenson** and **Alan Hall** were elected as chair and vice-chair for the board, respectively.

NOVEL CONCEPT

How is it that in this increasingly digital age the novel continues to be a relevant form of entertainment? That's the question English professor **Michael Wutz** explores in his new book, *Enduring Words—Literary Narrative in a Changing Media Ecology*. In the book, published this fall, Wutz

explores how the novel has evolved and reacted to the advent of new media such as photography, the phonograph and film.



PROMOTING SCIENCE

Recent graduate **Ron Proctor '09** thinks science sometimes gets a bad rap. So he developed a senior project aimed at educating people about how science benefits all facets of our lives. In addition to creating the online community thenatureofscience.org, Proctor created a 20-minute video "The Nature of Science." The site and video are designed to communicate



**23,331
STUDENTS**

23,000 AND COUNTING

One year after enrollment topped 20,000 students for the first time, fall 2009 saw the university's enrollment achieve a new milestone: 23,000 students.

During the last two academic years, WSU's enrollment has jumped from 18,081 students to 23,331, a 27 percent increase.



For Earth Day 2009, members of WSU's Environmental Club planted 135 trees in four locations in the span of an hour, setting a new Guinness World Record in the process.

what science is, how scientists work and how individuals can get involved. Proctor wrote, produced, directed and narrated the film, which has attracted interest from as far away as Turkey, Argentina and New Zealand, in addition to local school districts.

NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE COMING TO WSU

WSU has been selected to host the 26th annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research in 2012. The three-day conference, which is expected to attract nearly 3,000 students and faculty, is the foremost undergraduate research conference in the United States. **John Cavitt**, director of WSU's Office of Undergraduate Research, said the selection is "a terrific opportunity to highlight undergraduate research on our campus," and provides acknowledgment that WSU has taken a leadership role in supporting these kinds of educational opportunities.

PROJECT PRIME

A pioneering WSU program designed to increase the number of teachers trained to work with students with disabilities has received funding for a new cohort. WSU's Project PRIME (Preparing Research-based Inclusive Multidisciplinary Educators) was created by teacher education professor **Fran Butler** in 2007 to help the state of Utah develop and train more special education teachers. A grant offered through the Utah State Office of Education funds the program, which is available to individuals who have a bachelor's degree and already are working in local charter and public schools assisting students with mild to moderate disabilities.

ADVOCATING ETHICS REFORM

Following extensive research, including interviews with state legislators, a group of WSU students is encouraging Utah lawmakers to adopt more comprehensive ethics reforms. Under the umbrella of the Richard Richards Institute for Politics, Decency and Ethical Conduct, the WSU Student Ethics Committee spent three months identifying which ethics concerns were the most important to state lawmakers. Based on their research, the eight-student committee recommended the formation of an independent ethics commission, adoption of campaign finance limits, implementation of more stringent lobbying guidelines, and adoption of an independent redistricting commission. The bipartisan group shared its findings with Gov. Gary R. Herbert.

BRANCHING OUT

How many trees can be planted in one hour? For Earth Day 2009, members of WSU's Environmental Club planted

135 trees in four locations in the span of an hour, setting a new Guinness World Record in the process. In addition to trees planted on the Ogden and Davis campuses, students beautified Ogden's 25th Street and a Clearfield city park. Twenty-five fruit trees were placed on the Ogden campus, capable of producing 100 bushels of fruit a year. Harvested fruit will be donated to a local charity. 🍎



Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert meets with members of the WSU Student Ethics Committee.



Life in the FAST LANE

AMY HENDRICKS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

WHEN NATIONAL HOT ROD ASSOCIATION (NHRA) driver Hillary Will crashed her top-fuel dragster at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway in 2007, Jill Jensen, the racetrack's medical supervisor, expected the worst. Who wouldn't? The nitromethane-powered racer, which was going about 300 mph at the time, broke into pieces about three-quarters of the way into the run.

"You really had to see it to believe it," said Jensen, an alumna of Weber State University's paramedic program. "Try to imagine a vehicle that produces 8,000 horsepower and goes from 0-330 mph in just over four seconds suddenly disintegrating."

Amazingly, Will came out of the accident with just a bruise on her arm. In fact, Jensen says a lot of drivers walk away from accidents that look fatal to spectators.

"The cars are incredible," Jensen said. "They're built to take most of the impact of a crash away from the driver. Hillary's wreck was one of the worst accidents I've seen at the speedway, but her car did what it was supposed to do—break apart. It saved her life."

Jensen joined the speedway's Emergency Medical Services/Fire/Safety Team in 2005, after working for an ambulance service in Utah, then in Las Vegas. Treating injuries is her main responsibility, but she's also had to learn a variety of other skills while working at the racetrack, like firefighting, truck towing, cleaning up oil spills and even removing drivers from vehicles using the Jaws of Life.

"Every day is different. I love that some days I get to play paramedic, some days I get to play firefighter, some days I get to help tow cars. It definitely makes for an interesting workday," laughed Jensen.

And, of course, there are the cars and celebrities. "I've met and treated NASCAR drivers like Tony Stewart and Kurt Bush, but if I had to pick a style of racing I like best, I'd have to pick drag-racing," Jensen said. "The racers are really down to earth."

Being a paramedic wasn't Jensen's first career choice—she actually wanted to be a physician's assistant up until the first time she drove an ambulance—but Weber was always her first choice for college.

"Although I grew up in Vancouver, Wash., I knew about Weber State because my parents grew up in Ogden," Jensen explained. "I wanted to go to a college that had more of a homey feeling to it, one with small classes, one where the professors were more personable. Weber was just what I was looking for."

Jensen earned her bachelor's degree in zoology with a minor in chemistry in 2000. She received her associate of applied science degree from the paramedic program in 2004. "The professors were great. They not only taught me how to be a good paramedic, they taught me about the importance of professionalism and how to interact with patients," Jensen said.

In October, Jensen was a featured speaker at the paramedic program's 35th anniversary celebration. "It was really fun to come back and share my experiences with others," she said. "I feel it's important to give back to Weber because it's given me everything I have."

While in Nevada, Jensen also earned her associate's degree in nursing. "Who knows, I may come back to Weber State one day for my bachelor's degree in nursing. I just can't seem to get enough of this education stuff," she laughed. 🍷

Visit [youtube.com/watch?v=YLqF1QALfk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLqF1QALfk) to watch Hillary Will's crash at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.



Softball Team *prepares for* INAUGURAL SEASON

TRAVIS CLEMENS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

ON A MID-SEPTEMBER AFTERNOON, Weber State University's new softball team is practicing indoors, at the Stromberg Complex, thanks to a fall thunderstorm.

Junior transfer Aubri Chiquete, who comes to Ogden from Phoenix, is adjusting to a new climate, as well as a new team. "This is different, but it works," she said.

Chiquete is not the only newcomer to WSU's softball team, which will play its first game since 1983 this spring. Everything about the team is new: the players, the field, the coaching staff and the conference.

In December 2007, WSU announced the restoration of Wildcat softball. Tina Johnson, who previously led Colorado College's softball program, was hired in July 2008 to coach the newly formed squad; an invitation to play in the Pacific Coast Softball Conference came in October 2008; and a field was constructed this year north of the Dee Events Center.

GETTING STARTED

Since her hire last year, Johnson has identified and recruited players with whom to build her program.

"We look for players who are intelligent, who are good students first, have a competitive nature and are athletic," she said. "They need to have the desire to work hard and be OK with a little adversity."

Johnson admits there are challenges with starting a program, but she believes there are also positives. "You don't have any baggage," she said. "We can set our own traditions and expectations. We have a blank slate."

Johnson has filled her roster's blank slate with a mix of junior college transfers and freshman. "We were very particular about all of the players we brought in," she said. "Our transfers are good leaders, and I think our freshmen are pretty mature, too."



COMING TOGETHER

Chiquete, one of Johnson's recruits, has been down this road before. She spent her first two years of eligibility at Yavapai College, where they also had started a new softball team. "I like to be able to make history and start something new," she said. "Everyone comes in open-minded, ready to learn and work hard."

Genasee Aman, a freshman outfielder from Spokane, Wash., thinks the players are blending well. "We get along really well as a team," she said. "I think that will help us a lot."

Chiquete is optimistic about the team's chances. "We'll compete," she said. "I know a lot of people are skeptical about first-year programs, but at Yavapai, we went to nationals and nobody expected that."

STRIVING FOR SUCCESS

If the Wildcats are going to have success in the Pacific Coast Softball Conference, Johnson thinks the team will need to be fundamentally solid in all aspects of the game.

But that's not all that goes into running a successful program according to the first-year Wildcat coach. "I believe it's more than just winning ballgames that makes a program successful," she said. "We want the kids to really be invested and understand their roles."

Another of Johnson's goals is to involve WSU's former players. "We're excited to be here," she said. "It's a fresh start, but we want to connect with our alumni. We want that history to tie in as we start this new generation of Weber State softball." 🍓

VENTURING FORTH

WSU course offers chance of a lifetime

GENTRY REINHART, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

"I was never able to get a college education growing up. This was an opportunity for me to study at the college level. It opened up my mind to all these different subjects I was never able to take."

-June Chekel

THREE YEARS AGO, shortly after immigrating to the United States from Russia, Svetlana Behnken had to make a daunting decision. After discovering the bachelor's degree she had received in her native country was only partially recognized by U.S. learning institutions, she had to choose whether or not to go back to school, in a new country, where she was still learning the language.

Feeling a little intimidated, Behnken sought advice from fellow Russian immigrants, who encouraged her to enroll in a new, introductory humanities program offered through Weber State University's Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities and the Utah Humanities Council.

"I signed up," Behnken said. "At first I was scared to take the classes, but I thought, 'Why not? I need to try.'"

Today, Behnken couldn't be happier with her decision. "It was absolutely wonderful, especially for those who were new arrivals in a new country," she said. "It was very interesting, and the teachers were amazing."

Now in its second year, the program, called the Ogden Venture Course, is a year-long, pass/fail humanities class taught by WSU faculty two nights per week at the Ogden-Weber Community Partnership Center. Students earn 10 credit hours upon successful completion. In addition, they have access to child care, books, field trips, tutoring and transportation, all free of cost.

TAKING EDUCATION TO THE COMMUNITY

The Ogden Venture Course was modeled after a program founded by author Earl Shorris, who piloted the original course in 1995 at the Roberto Clemente Family Guidance Center in Manhattan. Shorris hoped to provide opportunities for low-income residents and others, who, for different reasons, never had the option to pursue a college education.

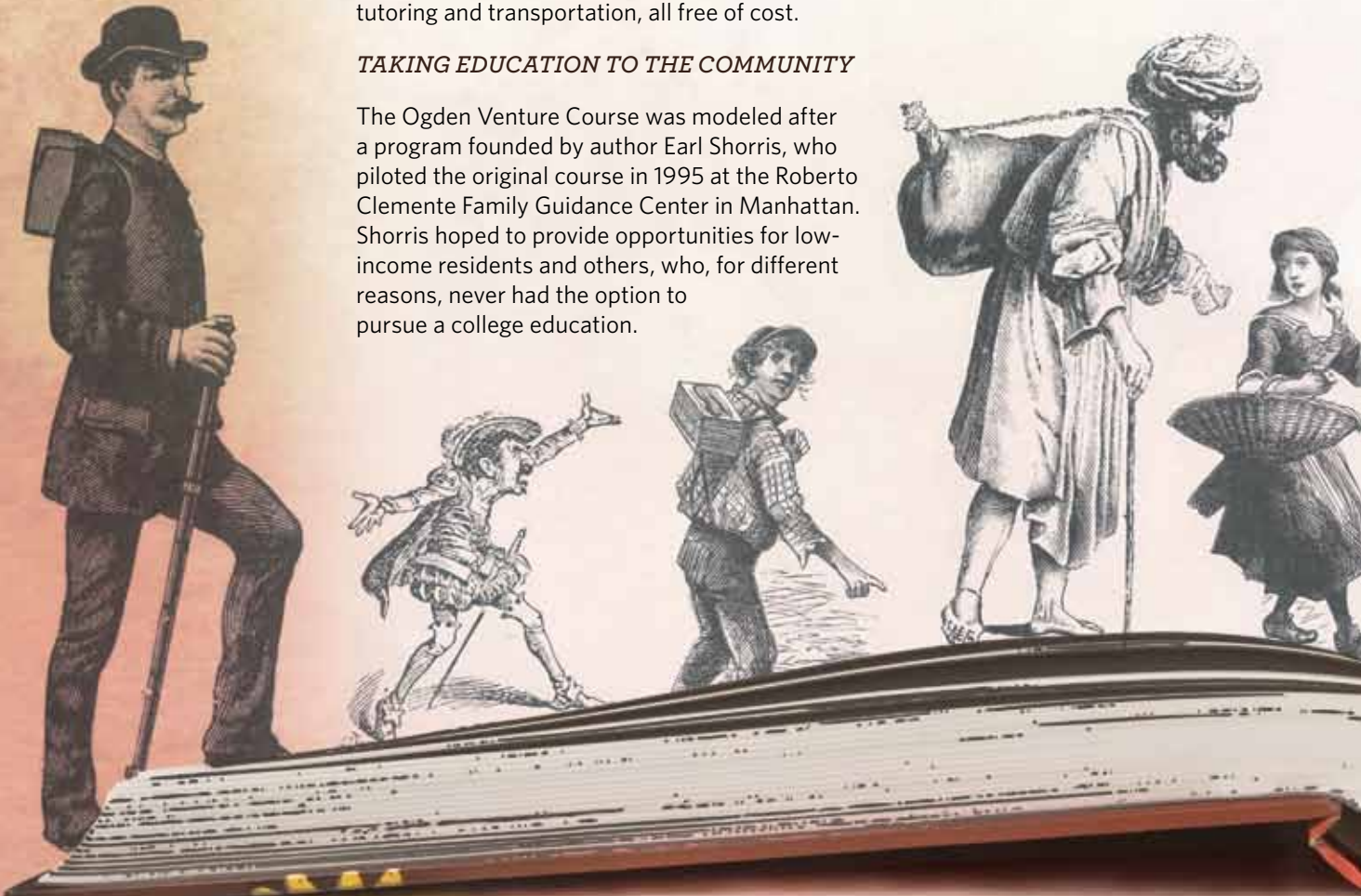




Photo courtesy of Svetlana Behnken

Students who are part of the Ogden Venture Course are as diverse as the subjects they study. They transcend socioeconomic, age, gender and nationality barriers. Busy single moms with no higher education experience, students who already possess degrees from foreign institutions, elderly and teenagers alike meet twice a week to learn.

But with all the differences the students have outside the classroom, they have one thing in common: a passion for knowledge and the will to improve themselves.

On a fixed income at 80 years old, North Ogden resident June Chekel had all but given up hope on higher education. Thanks to the unique course, she got her chance, and she embraced it.

"I was never able to get a college education growing up," she said. "This was an opportunity for me to study at the college level. It opened up my mind to all these different subjects I was never able to take."

Shannon Butler, director of the Ogden Venture Course and WSU English professor, has dedicated herself to the program over the last two years, even counseling and giving rides to students. She has seen the benefits that such a unique opportunity provides not only to participants, but faculty as well.

"I was about to retire," Butler said. "But working with the students in this course has rejuvenated me, and the university community has been really supportive. People on campus that I hardly know have asked how they can help."

Curriculum for the course is designed to introduce students to college-level subjects such as literature, American history, art history, philosophy, writing and critical thinking.

WSU associate professor of English Debi Sheridan chose to highlight a multicultural theme in her literature class. "This semester the class is almost predominantly immigrants," she said. "Being an immigrant myself, I strive to introduce things from outside the United States, so almost all the stories I use are from foreign sources."

Students develop essential reading, writing and thinking skills through research papers, reading assignments and group discussions.

WSU professors who teach the classes find the experience rewarding. "I think the students' thirst for knowledge is what impressed me most," Sheridan said. "I sometimes feel underprepared because they are so thirsty for knowledge and so willing to share their perspectives."

PURSUING A DREAM

Of the 19 students who graduated from the 2008 inaugural class, five decided to continue their education at Weber State. Others, like Chekel, didn't plan on pursuing a degree, but still felt the course was well worth the time and effort. "It was certainly beneficial to everyone who attended, and I really enjoyed it," she said.

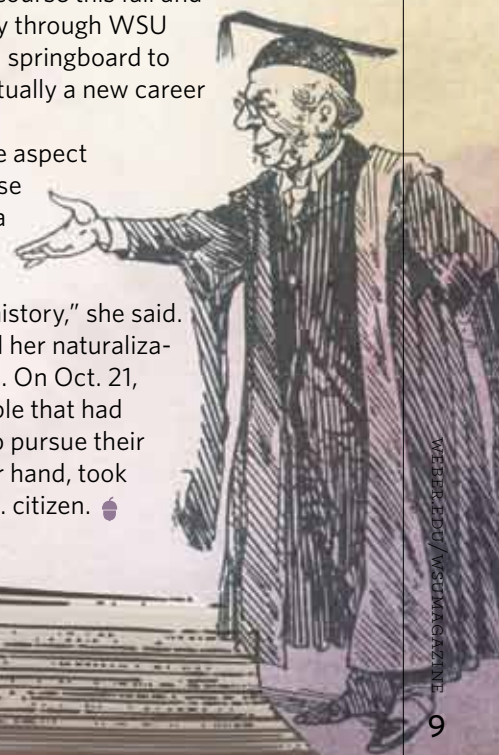
The Ogden Venture Course has given area residents a chance most of them would never have known otherwise. According to Butler, this provides a sense of accomplishment that is sometimes hard for these students to find.

"These people want to have a different life," Butler said. "They have a desire to learn. It's not just because the opportunity is there; they've been waiting and waiting for the opportunity and when it finally comes, they seize it."

For some, the Ogden Venture Course is a jumpstart to a college career. For others, it's a chance to meet new people and have access to higher education at little or no cost. For Behnken, who finished the course this fall and is currently working her way through WSU accounting classes, it was a springboard to further education and eventually a new career in the United States.

Behnken also credits one aspect of the Ogden Venture Course for helping her prepare for a very important test: her citizenship exam. "It was helpful to know American history," she said.

Last fall Behnken passed her naturalization exam with flying colors. On Oct. 21, 2009, in a room full of people that had also come to this country to pursue their dreams, Behnken raised her hand, took the oath, and became a U.S. citizen. 🍷





"With a growing global economy and highly interconnected countries and cultures, we think it's very important for our students to become connected."

—John Cavitt, Director of the WSU Office of Undergraduate Research

Preserving a Wetland, Exploring a Culture

JON MCBRIDE, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

WHEN A GROUP of Weber State University professors and students traveled 1,500 miles to Nayarit, Mexico, last spring, they had high hopes. They wanted to get the most out of their research experience. They wanted to connect with a different culture. And most of all, they wanted to make a difference.

They got what they wanted—and more.

The results of their research could influence the preservation of a Mexican wetland and possibly lead to the creation of a national park.

The WSU group that went to Mexico included zoology professor John Cavitt, associate professor of economics Therese Grijalva and history professor Susan Matt. They began their research last spring with some of their undergraduate students. The group traveled to Nayarit together, specifically focusing on a wetland complex called the Marismas. Their research initiated a survey that would assess the value of the wetland area for migratory shorebirds.

The data the group collected is now being used to develop a long-term monitoring project for the Marismas funded by Kennecott Utah Copper.

GETTING INVOLVED

The research is part of WSU's Global Scholars Initiative.

The GSI, which was created in 2008, allows WSU faculty-student teams to conduct research in collaboration with faculty-student teams from other universities throughout the world.

The group's trip to Mexico was the maiden voyage for the GSI, but more faculty and students are expected to get involved and go to different parts of the world in the near future.

In the Marismas research, the WSU group has been working with the Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit. This international research experience is unique for undergraduates and provides an asset in today's economy.

"With a growing global economy and highly interconnected countries and cultures, we think it's very important for our students to become connected," said Cavitt, director of WSU's Office of Undergraduate Research.

WSU economics student Chance Kendall said the opportunity showed him that he *could* make a difference.

"This research has potential to influence policy-making decisions and possibly even redefine the concept of political boundaries," Kendall explained. "Never before have I felt like I was actually doing something to both promote my learning and serve a greater community purpose."

GETTING INFORMED

The Marismas in Nayarit is the winter habitat for millions of shorebirds from the Great Salt Lake. All of the WSU faculty-student teams tied their research back to the shorebirds and their migration.

Cavitt's research focused on the habitat usage of the shorebirds. Before any conservation efforts could start, Cavitt, along with his research team, needed to understand how the shorebirds utilized the wetland sites. They studied 17 different sites over the course of a week, counting 30,000 birds and finding a significant population decline over the past 12 years.

Grijalva's research focused on the local economic and ecological issues regarding the conservation or development of the shorebirds'

surrounding area. Her group conducted a series of surveys to determine how local residents weighed the risks and benefits associated with preserving or developing ecological resources.

Matt's research focused on the human migration of Mexicans into the United States — such individuals have historically been referred to as "birds of passage." Through extended personal interviews, Matt compiled stories from returned migrants who reported a longing for home while

working in America. While economic factors compel many people in Nayarit to work and live in the United States, the migration has emotional sacrifices.

GETTING INSPIRED

For the students involved in the research, the experience in Nayarit was beneficial and memorable.

"The GSI experience has, first, helped me link my two passions: Spanish and zoology," said Lucas Hall who accompanied Cavitt on the trip. "Second, it has helped solidify my desire to continue with research. Furthermore, it has instilled in me the interest to become involved in international affairs, either for a university or the federal government."

The experience is also having an impact on the way these three faculty members teach concepts in the classroom.

The results of Grijalva's research show that there are statistical differences between the students in Mexico and students at WSU. The students she worked with at WSU were more likely to choose to preserve, rather than develop, environmental resources. Also, students in Mexico were not as comfortable with experimental methods and what they were expected to do.

"When I teach about the 'safety standard' in my environmental economics class, I can explain that sometimes markets fail to provide the goods that individuals want," Grijalva said. "If we left decisions to the market, our findings suggest we would overdevelop environmental resources, when, in fact, society may prefer to preserve environmental assets rather than develop them."

The group plans to make another trip to Nayarit this spring to continue its research with another crop of students. There are also hopes to secure more funding, include more professors and make connections in more areas of the world.

"One of the real benefits of this kind of experience is that students get a two-for-one learning opportunity," Cavitt said. "They are not only gaining research experience, but they're also gaining international and cultural experiences."

Cavitt, Grijalva and Matt will make a presentation about the Global Scholars Initiative and their experiences in Nayarit at the upcoming Council on Undergraduate Research National Conference, which will be held at WSU in June. 🍷





"I think this program is going to make all of our teaching more fresh, more challenging. You can't rely on an old set of notes when your whole class is suddenly different."

—Cliff Nowell,
economics professor



EAST MEETS WEST, AND VICE VERSA

WSU's Chinese exchange programs inspire learning

NATALIE CLEMENS, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THEY CAME TO Weber State University from Shanghai Normal University in China with some specific goals in mind: one, complete their bachelor's degrees, two, practice English, and three, experience American culture.

They were met with some challenges: one, learning a new language, two, adjusting to a different learning environment, and three, adopting American cuisine.

After having been in Utah for a few months now, the 19 Chinese students enrolled in WSU's two-plus-two international economics program have begun to realize those challenges have made their education—and life in the western United States—even more enjoyable.

Mao Yue is one of the Chinese students studying full time on the Ogden campus. She, along with the other students, takes most of her courses in economics, but also branches out into everything from English 1010 to botany. "It's exciting ... the classes, the activities, everything," she said.

Xian Zhang agreed, but joked about her eating habits: "We just can't get used to American food. I cook every day."

TWO YEARS THERE, TWO YEARS HERE

Offered through WSU's John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics, the two-plus-two international economics program inspires learning and fosters cultural understanding by having students study two years in Shanghai and two years in Utah.

The 19 Chinese students at WSU fall semester are part of the first group to attend full time. They are learning to adapt to an American style of learning. "There is much more interaction here," Yue said. "In China you can't comment. It is just lecture."

Teaching to a different audience also requires professors to adapt. "You really have to rethink what you do in the classroom," said Cliff Nowell, founder of the two-plus-two program and associate dean for faculty development in the Goddard School. "I

think this program is going to make all of our teaching more fresh, more challenging. You can't rely on an old set of notes when your whole class is suddenly different."

As part of the Goddard School's partnership with Shanghai Normal University, professors from the business school also go there to teach. They go voluntarily and spend a month at the university.

"Teaching in China is a fantastic experience," Nowell said. "It has made me a better teacher here."

More students are expected to enroll in the program over the next few years, and Lewis Gale, dean of the Goddard School, hopes it will expand to include students from other countries.

"I expect we will sign additional agreements with other universities from at least four countries in coming years," Gale said. "The professional development of our students is enhanced through multicultural engagement with international students in their classes."

Nowell hopes the partnership eventually will lead to WSU students studying at the Shanghai university. "We would love to have students spend a semester there," he said.

MORE CONNECTIONS WITH CHINA

The Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions also has created an exchange program with the Heilongjiang Forestry Health College in Jiamusi, China. The two universities offer student and faculty exchanges and faculty scholar programs to study abroad.

A LESSON IN MANDARIN

This fall, Weber State University offered Mandarin Chinese for the first time in more than 20 years, and the class rosters filled up fast.

The Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures opened one section of first-year Mandarin for the fall 2009 semester, but due to high demand, quickly added another. WSU also added a course in Chinese calligraphy for fall 2009.

Debbie Stauffer, WSU sophomore, leaves in January to teach English in China. She was eager to take the course. "I wanted to have a basic knowledge of Chinese before I went," she said. "It's been hard to learn on my own, so it's exciting to take the class."

Tom Mathews, chair of WSU's Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, said the courses serve a growing need for Chinese speakers in Utah and in the United States. "Economically and politically, people who have some knowledge of Chinese are going to do much better than people who don't."

Upper-division and second-year Chinese courses may be offered in the future, Mathews added.

More than 60 students from the College of Health Professions have participated in the program, learning eastern medicine techniques and philosophies.

"In China, they focus a lot on harmony of the body, mind and spirit," said Casey Adkins, a WSU senior studying dental hygiene. "They believe if you have harmony with all of those, you have balance in your lives and then you stay healthy."

Adkins went to Jiamusi last May. "It helped me appreciate what we have here in the United States, and it broadened my horizons as to other medical treatments," she said.

From acupuncture to baby massage, the WSU students watch demonstrations and take part in hands-on workshops throughout China during their stay.

"The students are learning about eastern medicine, where they use a combination of herbs and tea for health promotion," said Stephanie Bossenberger, chair of WSU's dental hygiene program. "They also study acupuncture and the meridian flow of medicine through the body."

Adkins said seeing eastern medicine techniques firsthand showed her there are other ways to prevent diseases. "I think we need to keep our minds open to other advances and other medicines, so we can treat patients with what would benefit them most," she said.

WSU students also participate in public health activities during their trips, taking blood pressures and providing health counseling.

"The experiences the students have gained (during study abroad trips) have been beyond what we can teach in our classrooms and hospitals," said Yasmen Simonian, dean of the Dumke College.

As part of the partnership, members from Heilongjiang visit WSU each year, where they participate in programs in the College of Health Professions and observe undergraduate research projects. They even help future study abroad students prepare for travel in China by teaching them basic phrases and how to use chopsticks.

"They had the students practice picking up peanuts and M&Ms with chopsticks," laughed Bossenberger. "It was really fun."

The College of Health Professions is currently exploring additional study abroad opportunities. "These kinds of programs allow our students to experience diversity in culture and health care worldwide," Simonian said. "What a wonderful way to learn."





WSU *Salutes*



On Oct. 15, 2009, the Weber State University Alumni Association celebrated Homecoming by honoring these outstanding WSU alumni and friends. Some teach, some volunteer, some lead, but each honoree gives heart and soul to his or her endeavors—and the community around us. We salute their accomplishments and are proud of their affiliation with Weber State University.

“It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.” —Leonardo da Vinci



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Thomas R. Kunz is president and CEO of Century 21 Real Estate Corporation, one of the world's largest residential real estate sales organizations. Prior to starting with Century 21 in 1982, he owned an employment agency and served as president of a software company.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Calvin L. Murri wanted to be a basketball coach when he was at Weber, but his part-time job as a driver for Wells Fargo led him to become president and chief operating officer of Loomis, the nation's largest cash-in-transit organization with more than 20,000 employees worldwide.



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

Steve Starks '03 is the executive vice president for operations for the Larry H. Miller Group and is the managing director of the Utah Policy Partnership. He served on the WSU Board of Trustees as student body president and recently was appointed by the governor to serve on the board again, just six years after graduating.



LEWIS W. SHURTLIFF AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

LaWanna (Lou) Shurtliff taught school for 30 years and worked tirelessly to guarantee a strong, effective and quality educational system for children. She served 10 years in the Utah House of Representatives and was director of both the Utah Education Association and the National Education Association.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Rodney H. and Carolyn "Mitzi" Brady served as president and first lady of Weber State College from 1978-1985. Education has always been important to the Bradys, and their service has benefitted a multitude of local and national organizations. President Brady recently retired as CEO of Deseret Management Corporation.



EMERITI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Edward (Ted) Boyle '42 flew over many countries as a bombardier pilot in World War II and, as vice president of CitiBank, he later lived in many of them. His 30-year career in international banking provided him the opportunity to work closely with government officials and dignitaries around the world.



EMERITI HOMECOMING ROYALTY

Vance C. Pace '59 married the girl elected "Friendliest Girl at Weber College," Nancy Hollist '59. Together they made friends around the globe during Vance's 30-year career as a foreign service diplomat. They attribute much of their success to their experiences at Weber. Now retired, the Paces continue to "pay it forward" as active volunteers for the alumni association and their community.

View biographical videos online at alumni.weber.edu/sv

WSU Salutes is held each year at Homecoming. The public is invited to attend this *free* event.

CLASS NOTES

30s

Vera P. Carter '33 fondly remembers her time at Weber College, from the devotionals to her dormitory to the tuna sandwiches at a local confectionary. There were 262 students in her graduating class, and she scans *WSU Magazine* for familiar names. Vera, who turned 95 in August, has five children, 17 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She lives in Morgan, Utah.

Marie Widdson Beecher '39 was a schoolteacher in Eden and Taylor, Utah, and also taught at Roy Municipal School. She wrote and published a community history, "Hooper, Our Hometown." Marie recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She has been involved in the Hooper Women's Club and Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

40s

James J. Whetton '41, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, owned Jim Whetton Buick and currently owns Good Health, LLC, in Harrisville, Utah. He served as chairman of the Buick National Dealer Council and president of the Ogden/Weber Chamber of Commerce, the Weber County Industrial Bureau and the Ogden Golf and Country Club. Jim also has been on the McKay-Dee Hospital Center governing board for 25 years.

Carl A. Lechtenberg '46, who was stationed at Fort Sam Houston during World War II, entertained troops as a member

of the 323rd U.S. Army Band and Skyliners Orchestra. In 1954 he joined General Motors, and after 31 years of service retired as regional business manager. He and his wife, Nada, recently celebrated 58 years together.

Jack Porter '48 received a law degree after attending Weber. He worked as a deputy to the California Office of the Attorney General for 42 years and was also a member of most of the federal courts located in California.

50s

D. Boyd Crawford '50 worked for the Ogden City School District for 30 years and received a state outstanding business teacher award. An avid skier, Boyd served on the Snowbasin Ski Patrol and recently received a 50-year award from the National Ski Patrol. He and his wife, **Claudia Malan Crawford '59**, recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Claudia has operated her own beauty salon for more than 30 years. She is a member of Soroptimist, an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women.

D. Kent Ellis '57 worked as recreation division administrator for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation until 1977. He and his wife of 50 years, **Diann Furniss Ellis '58**, formed the Kean Recreation Co., selling parks and recreation equipment in Utah, Idaho and Montana.

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WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2009-10 LEADERS



CHRISTOPHER G. DAVIS '79

PRESIDENT, WSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Christopher Davis grew up in Ogden and attended Weber State College, majoring in political science and history. After graduating from law school, he returned to Utah and worked at the Weber County Attorney's Office. Davis

previously served as president of the alumni association in 1988-89. He is now the city manager for Roy, Utah.

As WSUAA president, Davis' goal is to develop stronger connections between alumni and current students through programs like Take a Wildcat to Lunch. He also hopes to increase the number of scholarships offered through the alumni association by increasing WSUAA membership.



TROY D. POLL '11

*PRESIDENT,
WSU STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION*

Troy Poll served as a student body officer in 2008-09 and was responsible for bringing guest speakers and concerts to WSU. He served on the board of the Student Alumni Association prior

to becoming president. Poll has enhanced SAA membership benefits with a discount card to area businesses and restaurants. He is excited to work with the WSUAA-sponsored student fan club Purple Pak to increase student participation on campus.

Poll will graduate with a degree in marketing in 2011.



LARRY LEATHAM '59

PRESIDENT, WSU EMERITI ALUMNI COUNCIL

Larry Leatham hopes to make a difference while serving as president of the Emeriti Alumni Council by working closely with the Student Alumni Association and alumni volunteers on several service projects. The EAC sponsors the Purple

Paw Award of Excellence and reunites alumni through class and program reunions.

Leatham, who retired from the Weber School District, was presented the 2008 Carl Perkins Humanitarian Award by the Utah Association for Career and Technical Education. He received the national award in November 2009. He was recognized for outstanding meritorious contributions to career and technical education.



PETER J. OWEN '08

PRESIDENT, WSU YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL

Peter Owen is a former student body president who graduated with a major in finance. He worked as an analyst for Flying J before taking a position with JD Clark & Company.

Under Owen's leadership, the Young Alumni Council is organizing service projects and networking events, including workshops on utilizing job search engines and online resources, and raising funds for a new scholarship.



The WSU Alumni Association champions Weber State University by fostering spirited and lasting ties among alumni and friends.

News and events online at alumni.weber.edu
E-mail us at alumni@weber.edu or call 801-626-7535.

CLASS NOTES ALUMNI UPDATES

60s

Rodney S. Page '60 retired after 25 years of serving as a judge in Utah's 2nd District Court, which serves Davis, Weber and Morgan counties. Gov. Scott Matheson appointed him in 1984. Prior to being a judge, Rodney served two terms as the Davis County attorney.

Larry Chesley '64 was held as a prisoner of war for seven years during the Vietnam War. His jet was shot down in April 1966 on his 76th mission. He retired as a lieutenant colonel and later wrote a book about his experiences as a POW. Larry also served as an Arizona state senator.

Joy E. Mower '65 retired after teaching 29 years at Ben Lomond High School and one

year at Washington Junior High School. She taught physical education and coached the basketball, volleyball, tennis, swimming, and track and field teams. She also taught computer classes. Joy later worked for the Internal Revenue Service. She has won awards for bowling, tennis and golf.

J. Dan Stallings '66 retired from Betaseed with 40 years in the sugar beet industry. He received a master of science degree in agronomy and began his career with Amalgamated Sugar in Nyssa, Ore., as a research agronomist. After joining Betaseed in Kimberly, Idaho, he continued research with disease testing and variety development. He is married to **Susan Bryan Stallings '66**.

70s

Paul Neuenschwander '70 has been appointed chief of staff for Utah Lt. Gov. Greg Bell. Paul retired from a lengthy career in the mortgage banking industry and successfully ran for the Utah House of Representatives. He has served on boards for the U.S. League of Savings Institutions, Utah Bankers Association, the Road Home and the WSUAA.

Brad Drake '71 is executive director of Catholic Community Services of Utah. A nonprofit agency, CCS is the social service arm of the Catholic Church in Utah. The organization works with those in need regardless of religious affiliation. Brad is the first member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to lead CCS.

Greg Bell '72 was recently selected as Utah's lieutenant governor. Prior to his appointment, he was an attorney and property developer. He served on the Farmington City Council from 1990-94, was mayor of Farmington from 1994-2002 and was elected to the Utah Senate in 2002. Greg and his wife, JoLynn, have six children and 17 grandchildren.

James Minster '72 has served eight years on the South Ogden City Council. He has been a reserve officer for the South Ogden Police, a full-time police officer, a South Ogden City volunteer fireman and fire chief. James also served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, where he received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service. He and his wife, Nancy, have been married 43 years.

Dean W. Carver '74 is analytic director at CENTRA Technology and retired head of the CIA office of East Asian affairs. He now contracts with the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive, where he is responsible for tracking foreign efforts to illicitly acquire U.S. sensitive technologies and trade secrets. He also helps develop strategies to protect the United States' critical national economic assets from foreign threats.

Boyd L. Rasmussen '75 retired from the budget office of Hill Air Force Base after 31 years. He was also a bus driver for 16 years at Wasatch Transportation. Boyd served in the U.S. Naval Reserve and the Utah National Guard, retiring after 31 years. He has been married for 50 years to **Delsa Owen Rasmussen '59**. Delsa is retired from America First Credit Union. The couple lives in Ogden and has four children and 12 grandchildren.

Dan Dean '76 returned to Weber after a 32-year absence and is now an assistant track and field coach, specifically responsible for the Wildcat sprinters and hurdlers. Both Dan and his daughter, Ally, hold Weber State school records and are Big Sky champions. Dan was inducted into the WSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992. He previously coached at Ben Lomond and Bonneville high schools. Dan and his wife, Charla, have been married 34 years.

C. Brett Nilsson '79 was selected to represent the United States on the World Council



24/7
Find us online anytime
at alumni.weber.edu, where you can network, renew friendships and read our newsletter, CyberCats.

You can also find WSU on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



of the World Federation of Insurance Intermediaries. Brett is senior vice president for Ogden's Buckner Co. and chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America. He also has served the Independent Insurance Agents of Utah. The association awarded Brett its highest honor, the Burgener Award, a distinction that has been awarded only five other times in the organization's history. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Layton, Utah.

80s

Annette Brinkman '87 co-authored *Help Teachers Engage Students: Action Tools for Administrators*, featuring key strategies for maximizing student engagement in the classroom. Annette became an early childhood specialist, then a school administrator, and is now a coach and consultant for Utah school districts.

Kathryn Ellison Firth '88 taught French at Box Elder Junior High School and Viewmont High School. She was an active election judge and was on the Layton Arts Council. Her hobbies include sewing, genealogy and swimming. She and her husband of 50 years, Ralph, have six children, 20 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

90s

Joyce Martinez Peña '91 is an instructional coach at West Middle School in Nampa, Idaho, where she was named 2009 Teacher of the Year.



Steve J. Johnson '94 lives in Huntsville, Utah. An artist, his works have been exhibited at the Eccles Community Art Center.

Maren Anderson Coffman '95 is an assistant professor of nursing at the University of North Carolina. She divides her time between teaching and research, having received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study adult Latinos' access to health care. She also owns Epiphany Chocolatiers, where she duplicates Europe's finest chocolates. Maren lives in Fort Mill, S.C., with her husband and four children.

Jeff Perkins '95 owns SelectionOne, a recruiting business that provides executive recruitment, exit interviews and other services for employers in Wichita, Kan. The company also provides career counseling and résumé writing for job candidates. Jeff lives in Wichita with his wife and four children.

Jenn Rapp '96 has acted and danced in national tours, including one for "Blues Clues" and one for "Dora the Explorer." She directed, staged and

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CLASS NOTES ALUMNI UPDATES

choreographed family shows based on characters including Dora, Clifford the Big Red Dog and SpongeBob SquarePants. She recently choreographed and directed the family show "Thomas & Friends Live."

Marcie Valdez '97 is program director for Catholic Community Services of Utah. She served the Red Cross of Northern Utah as financial development and community services director for 10 years where she helped with fundraising and oversaw the armed services and utility assistance programs. She has a 6-year-old daughter.

Julie Park '98 is executive director of internal audit at WSU, where she is responsible for both internal audit and information security. Julie has been with WSU for five years working as a senior auditor and information security manager. She is a certified information systems auditor, certified information security manager and certified fraud examiner. She is also certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT.

Stephen M. Thornley '98 is an account manager for Radian Guaranty and is responsible for new account development and maintaining relationships with clients throughout Utah. A Weber County resident, he is a member of the Utah Mortgage Lenders Association and has more than 10 years of experience in sales, insurance and territory management.

Jason P. Hansen '99 is a specialist in Mohs surgery, a type of microscopically controlled

surgery that is highly effective for common types of skin cancer, at Intermountain Medical Group at Memorial Clinic in Salt Lake City. Jason completed an internship at LDS Hospital, a dermatology residency at the University of Iowa and a fellowship in Mohs surgery and procedural dermatology at the Skin Surgery Center in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Randy Ricks '99 is currently working as a district attorney team clerk at the Regional

Justice Center in Las Vegas. He will graduate from law school in 2010. Randy is a member of the American Center for Law & Justice.

OOs

Pam Vineyard Boucher '00, '02 received her master's degree in business and works as a unit chief of Operational Satellite Tracking & Launch Control at Hill Air Force Base. She has been presented the Spirit of

the American Woman Award, Phoenix Award and Gail A. McIntyre Award. Pam survived two bouts of ovarian cancer. She loves to bicycle and enjoys painting and gardening.

Deborah Lindstrom '00 works at Hill Air Force Base as a logistics consultant with NexOne. She is president of the Ogden chapter of Soroptimist, an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women.

Alumni Legacy Nonresident Scholarship

Continue the Wildcat tradition!

If you earned a degree from WSU and now live outside Utah, your child can attend Weber State through the Alumni Legacy Nonresident Scholarship Program, which waives the nonresident portion of tuition.

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April, June and November...

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Mari Rikuno Stuart '01 is a nurse midwife at the Ogden Clinic, where she provides comprehensive care for female patients. Mari has eight years of experience in women's health and speaks both English and Japanese. She is a board-certified nurse midwife and women's health nurse practitioner.

Adam Bingham '02 has been in the U.S. Air Force for seven years. He flew the C-17 in the 2009 Hill Air Force Base Air Show. Adam earned his master's degree and is an instructor at Altus Air Force Base, Okla. He has been deployed several times on dangerous missions. He and his wife, Shalisa, have a daughter.

Paul Draper '02 worked with professor and writer/director Jim Christian to add a touch of magic to the premier of Christian's "Sleepy Hollow." Draper works as a magician/illusionist/mind reader in Las Vegas.

Dustin Havey '06 is a pediatric physician assistant in Ogden. As a mid-level practitioner, he evaluates and treats children under the supervision of a pediatrician. He is fluent in Spanish, is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, and is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Meghan Rawson Mann '06 is employed by Davis Hospital & Medical Center and lives in Ogden with her husband, Gregory.

William G. Love '07 is a semi-retired writer, researcher, preservationist and museum volunteer. His first novel, *Atrocities*, was recently electronically published on the Kindle, Amazon's wireless reading device.

Hillary Hansen Flanick '08 works at BioLife Plasma Services and lives with her husband, Mike, in Clearfield, Utah.

Seth Pilkington '08, '09 works as an auditor for the certified public accounting firm of Schmitt, Griffiths, Smith & Co. Seth previously worked as a controller for the U.S. Institute of Languages.

Jessica Hess '09 graduated magna cum laude with a degree in nursing before earning her master's degree. Trained in family practice, she works at the Circle of Life Women's Center in South Ogden. She is certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and has experience providing care in psychiatry, long-term care, and gynecology and obstetrics.

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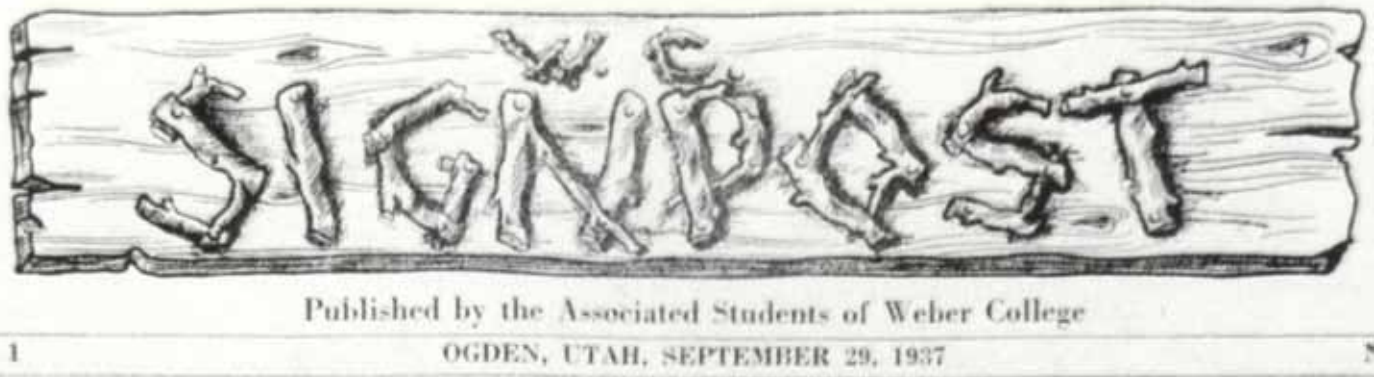
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ONLY AT WEBER



TRAVIS CLEMENS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

In the fall of 1935, an A-frame bulletin board appeared on the Weber College campus. Thumbtacks held signs announcing school functions. There were also spaces dedicated to school groups, humor and individual ads. "The board became so popular you almost had to wait your turn to get close enough to read what was on it," remembered Weber College alumnus Robert Wangsgard.

And thus was the beginning of the student newspaper, appropriately named *The Signpost*.

Wangsgard was instrumental in helping start *The Signpost*, a publication that continues today.

That year, Wangsgard was editor of the school's yearbook, the *Acorn*. In the fall, his advisor, Cluster Nilsson, approached him about creating a way for the college to distribute information to the students. "At their meetings, the faculty had decided to ask the editor of the *Scribulus* and me to come up with some ideas on that," he said.

Wangsgard spoke with Melvin Jennings—editor of the *Scribulus*, a student-run literary magazine at the time—and they decided to get their two staffs together to see if anyone was interested in creating such a program.

"There was a great interest in it," Wangsgard said. "Nine people from our two staffs said they would like to see what they could do to disseminate information throughout the school."

One week later, *The Signpost* first appeared at Weber in the form of the bulletin board. "It was all organized with instructions on what could be posted and how long it could stay there," Wangsgard said.

The bulletin board remained a fixture for the college during the next two years. In the fall of 1937, however, *The Signpost*

transitioned to a newspaper format with a drawing of a board of wood for its masthead.

Over the next 75 years, *The Signpost* continued to change and grow. It became a weekly publication in 1959, moved to three issues each week in 1990 and started publishing online in 1997.

Larry Stahle, who served as the faculty advisor to *The Signpost* from 1980 to 1995, believes that though the newspaper has transformed over the years, its benefit to student journalists is constant. "I think if you did a study, you'd find *Signpost* students really get involved, enjoy their university experience and graduate," he said. "It's an experience that helps them grow and develop beyond the classroom."



1954 *Signpost* staff.

Today, former staffers are sprinkled throughout local and national media organizations, as well as the governor's office and the Utah Supreme Court. Its alumni include former college athletes and famous musicians.

Throughout the years, the newspaper's students have been rewarded for their hard work with numerous awards from the Utah Press Association and the Society of Professional Journalists.

Last April, Weber State University invited former staffers to return to campus for the first reunion of



**Robert Wangsgard, in 1935
and at the *Signpost* reunion
last April.**

The Signpost. Allison Barlow Hess, who has served as the newspaper's advisor since 2001, felt compelled to organize the reunion to help alumni connect with what's currently happening at the newspaper. "I wanted all of our alumni to see what we're doing and feel a part of it," Hess said. "They should feel like this is their home at Weber State and that they can stop by anytime."

At the reunion, Wangsgard was recognized with a spirited round of applause by those in attendance. "It made me feel good," he said. "I am kind of proud of having been involved in something that was so popular back then and kept on going." 🍷

"SIGNPOST FIRST;
PLEASURE AFTERWARDS"






SIGNPOST STAFF

Frank McQuinn	Thomas McRay	Phyllis Brown
Assistant Editor	Associate Editor	Associate Editor
John Longford	Joe Dussan	Lillian Olson
George Mayan		

FROM THE 1936 ACORN

For several years there had been a constant demand by the students of Weber College for a medium of direct expression, both opinions and news. Such a medium has materialized this year. It is embodied in the *Signpost*, which regularly "goes to press" twice a week. Conceived and sponsored by the executive officer of *Acorn* and *Scribulus*, this publication has in one year, grown to be a popular feature of the College. To the faithful staff members, it was: "*Signpost* first; pleasure afterwards."

All the important student news, opinions, scandals, activities, and "wisecracks" were featured in this unique publication. Reading the *Signpost* became a regular part of the students' schedule. Whenever the *Signpost* failed to appear, the students knew that something was amiss.

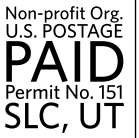
The Signpost has been instrumental throughout the year in promoting greater interest in school activities and has contributed much to the enlivenment of school spirit.



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Going Green

Beginning this semester, students can breathe a little easier when they ride the campus shuttle. The university has replaced several diesel shuttle buses with new dual fuel-powered vehicles, which run on gasoline and compressed natural gas (CNG).

The new Diamond Coach buses with Ford chassis seat 20 and can transport up to 30 people at a time. They are quieter than their predecessors and much more fuel-efficient. University fleet manager Mike Whetton predicts this change will save \$200,000 a year.

The introduction of the first three CNG buses was so well received WSU has added two more CNG shuttles to its fleet.