

2010 Hinckley Lecture

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Past Hinckley Fellows

- 2010 Cliff Nowell, Economics
- 2009 Judy Elsley, English
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- 2003 Frank Guliuzza, Political Science
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- 2001 William H. McVaugh, Psychology
- 2000 John M. Mbaku, Economics
- 1999 Arthur Adelman, Visual Arts
- 1998 Craig J. Oberg, Microbiology
- 1997 Dolly Samson, Information Systems & Technologies
- 1996 Donald Sharpes, Teacher Education
- 1995 Gloria Z. Wurst, Zoology
- 1994 Ronald Mano, Accounting
- 1993 Samuel I. Zeveloff, Zoology
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- 1991 Gene A. Sessions, History

Please join us in Fall 2011 for the 12th Annual
Hinckley Lecture, to be given by the
2011 John S. Hinckley Fellow, selected for
outstanding teaching, service, and scholarship at
Weber State University.

<http://weber.edu/hinckley>

11th Annual Hinckley Lecture

Dr. Cliff Nowell

**Associate Dean for
Faculty Development
and
Professor of Economics**

**2010 John S. Hinckley
Fellow**

Non-Response Bias in Student Evaluations of Teaching

November 5, 2010

1:00 PM

Hetzel-Hoellein Room
(Special Collections)
Stewart Library



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Dr. Cliff Nowell

Non-Response Bias in Student Evaluations of Teaching

For as long as colleges and universities have been conducting student evaluations of teaching (SET), faculty have questioned the validity of information collected. Substantial effort has been expended to improve the SET process, and researchers have communicated a consistent understanding of why students evaluate teachers as they do. Still, a lingering question which has not been adequately addressed regarding the value of using SET data to evaluate teacher performance is whether or not the students who complete the SET questionnaires administered at the end of the semester accurately represent the opinions of all the students enrolled in the class.

Using a unique set of data, Drs. Gale and Nowell show that no sample selection bias is likely to be present in teaching evaluations conducted at the

end of the semester. Data gathered at the end of the semester, from a subset of students enrolled in the class, does not create a bias in the conclusions drawn from the analysis of SET data even though the data is drawn from a non-random sample of students who are present at the end of class.

Biography

Dr. Cliff Nowell began his career at Weber State in 1988 as an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department. Since that time, Cliff has served as an Administrative Intern to the Provost, Chair of the Economics Department, Associate Dean of Faculty Development and Interim Dean of the John B. Goddard School of Business and Economics.

Shortly before joining the Weber State faculty, Cliff received his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Wyoming where he also received his Master's and Bachelor's degrees.

In addition to his dedicated service to WSU, Cliff has authored and co-authored a number of articles for publication in journals such as, the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, the *Journal of Economic Education*, *Experiments in Environmental Economics*, *Ecological Economics*, and the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, to name just a few. His areas of research emphasis include faculty performance as assessed by student evaluations, student cheating, and economic ecology.

Dr. Nowell currently teaches Economics courses focusing on managerial economics, business statistics, econometrics, money and banking, environmental economics, and industrial organization.