

Teaching Troops Culture

Anthropology professor accepts new Army post

Ron Holt hopes to help the Army be all it can be in a newly created advisory position.

The WSU anthropology professor is one of eight people nationwide hired to spend the next two years working with military educators to develop a strategy for long-term culture and foreign language training for Army personnel.

In 2008, Holt deployed to Afghanistan with one of the Army’s Human Terrain Teams (HTT) where anthropologists, translators and other social scientists embed with U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq to help bridge cultural differences and misunderstandings between citizens and the military.

“How we deal with people is going to determine whether or not we are successful...”

— Ron Holt
WSU Anthropology Professor

“In Afghanistan, when you deal with a counterinsurgency, the real center of gravity is the people,” Holt said. “How we deal with people is going to determine whether or not we are successful. As part of HTT dealing with people in a culturally sensitive manner, we made some real friendships and averted some crises.”

After returning from Afghanistan, Holt taught courses for the Army at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, the same base where he trained for his Afghanistan assignment. The head of training at Fort Leavenworth thought Holt’s field experience, combined with a PhD in anthropology, made him an ideal candidate.

Holt said he received outstanding support from his department chair, dean and the provost as he accepted the two-year assignment at Fort Benning, which serves a key role in the war on terror. He plans to draw on his classroom experiences as a professor as well as his stint as the first director of the WSU Honors Program to guide him in his work.

His goal is to create a strategy to heighten language learning levels and have teaching materials, websites, guest lectures and library materials in place to support the Army’s commitment to cultural awareness as a tool to maintain peace.

Holt said HTTs are deployed now more than ever, and believes this latest endeavor will show how social scientists can be a powerful tool for peacekeeping.

“At the end of two years, I would like young and senior officers to have a deeper appreciation of how culture works,” Holt said. “I would hope they could go anywhere in the world and relate to situations more empathetically.”



Anthropology professor Ron Holt will say goodbye to WSU for the next two years in order to work with military educators on long-term culture training for the Army.



Lights, Camera, Action

Dee Events Center receives image upgrade



The men’s and women’s basketball seasons tipped off with the Purple and White game which also debuted new multimedia equipment for the Dee Events Center.

Center-court action, commencement and concerts will all look better on the new Dee Events Center integrated video and scoring system, which was installed just in time for the annual Purple and White game at the end of October.

“We have been in need of something that produces a much better fan environment,” said Jerry Graybeal, assistant vice president for administrative services. “It’s so much more spectator friendly; it’s going to blow people away.”

Four big screens, each 6 feet high and 8 feet wide and hung in the center of the arena, will capture all the action on the floor and in the stands for live viewing and instant replays.

“Now when fans are on the Kiss-Cam, everyone will see them instantly on the screen,” said Robb Alexander, development director. “That’s always a fan favorite; they love it.”

Alexander should know. He has announced men’s and women’s basketball games for 34 years. He also helped Graybeal raise the money for the new system. The Stewart Education Foundation provided the majority of the funding; the rest will come from increased sponsorship revenue with companies such as Swire Coca-Cola.

— Robb Alexander
Development Director

“The Stewart Education Foundation trustees were very excited about the proposal,” Alexander said. “They are huge fans and come to all the games, and they want it to be the best experience possible.”

In addition to the screens, spectators will enjoy many other improvements. A digital LED ring will circle the top of the video screens to allow for sponsors and crowd animation messages.

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Share Your Knowledge, Not Your Germs

The H1N1 virus drew a great deal of attention last year, and even though talk of the flu has died down, the germs have not, so Weber State’s pandemic planning committee wants to make sure the campus community remains vigilant in fighting the flu.

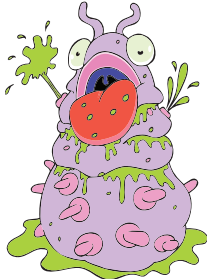
“Often younger people are the target of viruses that become pandemic,” said Valerie Gooder, committee member and director of the master’s program in nursing. “These types of viruses also cause more severe illness among young people. When we have a large number of students who are thrown together in classrooms, activities and hallways, the proximity increases the risk that they will spread the disease.”

— Mike Davies
University Police Lieutenant

“Professors who allowed students to stay home played a key role in keeping the flu from getting out of hand last year.”

The best way to prevent illness in the first place is to **get a flu shot**. This year the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a shot for everyone over the age of 6 months, which is a new and expanded group. “In February, 2010, CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted in favor of “universal” influenza vaccination in the United States to protect as many people as possible against the flu,” according to the CDC website.

The 2010-11 vaccine will protect against three different flu viruses: H3N2 or the “seasonal” flu, influenza B, and H1N1. In cooperation with the public health department, the university has provided on-campus vaccinations for faculty, staff and students.



According to the CDC, the flu season won’t peak until January or February this year and could continue into May. At the university, it is important for faculty and staff to set an example and **stay home** if they are sick.

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FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Physics professor **John Armstrong** and recent graduate Rhett Zollinger published “Additional planets in the habitable zone of Gliese 581?” in the April 2009 edition of the *Astronomy and Astrophysics Journal*. Their research conclusions were just confirmed by a National Science Foundation-funded project.

Performing arts professor **Karen Brookens** will make her solo debut with the Utah Symphony in December. Conductor Jerry Steichen asked her to perform as part of *Celebrating the Holidays with Jerry and the Polar Express*. In addition to the solo *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, Brookens will participate in two additional trios.

Dean **Warren Hill** of the College of Applied Science & Technology was selected as chair of the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. TAC is responsible for accrediting technology programs at both the associate and baccalaureate degree levels across the country as well as in several foreign countries. Last year TAC took accreditation actions on 171 different programs at 69 different institutions.

Communication professor **Sheree Josephson** is the editor of a scholarly book *Visualizing the Web: Evaluating online design from a visual communication perspective*. She is the lead author of the introduction and the sole author of a chapter titled “Using eye tracking to see how viewers process visual information in cyberspace.” She is also the co-author of the epilogue.

The Ogden School District has given WSU performing arts professor **Michael Palumbo** the Empowering Educational Partnerships award for donating hundreds of hours during the summer to repair district orchestra instruments. Because of his service, 30 elementary students will have the opportunity to learn an instrument this year.

Victoria Ramirez, professor of English and director of the creative writing emphasis program, performed with **Stephanie Heath**, recruiter for the Moyes College of Education, in a one-act play, *Tristram Shandy*, Gentleman in the Stewart Library’s Hetzel-Hoellein room. The two also performed at Universe City in Ogden and in the Lake Superior Performance Festival X at Lake Superior State College. Ramirez wrote the adaptation based on Laurence Sterne’s 18th century novel, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*. Heath staged the play and performed as 10 different characters to Ramirez’s role as Tristram Shandy.

Erik Stern, Department of Performing Arts, performed and presented with colleagues at two European conferences this past summer. The first performance, *The Secret Life of Squares*, was for Bridges 2010, an international conference dedicated to the connections between mathematics and the arts, held in Hungary. The second performance was in Paris for the workshop Constructionism 2010 devoted to educational methods that involve “doing and making.”

Professor **Sam Zeveloff** and two zoology graduates, Breanna Bartosz and Kristen Gurr, recently published “On Wolves, Wildlife, and Weather: A Conversation with Douglas W. Smith” in a new book *The Stewardship of Public Lands: A Handbook for Educators*. The volume was published by the American Democracy Project of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C.

New Spalding baskets, which are the same baskets used by the NBA, were installed with LED shot-clock lighting around the perimeter of the backboards; when the shot clock goes off, the whole backboard illuminates.

A score table with LED lighting that is 40 feet wide and 3 feet high will rotate the names of sponsors, display real-time statistics and promote upcoming events. The screen is so bright that when messages change, so does the lighting around the arena.

Although spectators at major sporting events have come to expect colorful illumination, big screens and instant replays, the technology is new to arenas in the Big Sky Conference. WSU still has to determine what the conference will allow as far as lighting and replays. For example the new system has the ability to show instant replays from three different angles; however, in football the Big Sky dictates only one replay, which cannot be broadcast in slow motion.

“We’ve raised the bar in the Big Sky. I mean no other school is going to be able to compete,” said Alan Ferrin, media designer. “We’re the only ones doing this. We have some challenges, but they’re good challenges to have. We are blazing new trails.”



Forward Darin Mahoney takes to the court during October’s Purple and White game.

eye-catching, high-definition system will attract top-notch recruits as well as advertisers.

“This is an exciting time for Weber State,” Bovee said. “The new equipment will allow Weber State not only to enhance the experience from an entertainment and recruiting standpoint, but it will also assist our efforts to raise funds with additional marketing opportunities.”

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Shot Clocks

Under Ferrin’s direction, a team of 12 electronic media students from the Department of Communication will run the cameras and produce the video segments.

“One of the voids in electronic media has been live-event production,” Ferrin said. “The market for that is growing and growing. Our ability to offer that opportunity for students is exciting.”

The director of intercollegiate athletics, Jerry Bovee, said the

The new system has been a collaborative effort between administration, athletics, faculty in the communication department and staff from the Dee Events Center, development, facilities management and multimedia services. Graybeal said fans will be the real winners of this team effort. “The multimedia opportunities will create an unbelievable game experience, there’s no doubt,” he said. “It is going to be mind boggling.”

“Part of the culture here is just to soldier on when we are sick,” Gooder said. “But we have to think of the bigger picture, not wanting to infect other people.”

Those with a fever should remain secluded for 24 hours until after the fever subsides and be vigilant to **wash your hands** and **cover coughs and sneezes**. Faculty members are encouraged to **accommodate students who are sick** or are caring for sick family members.

“Professors who allowed students to stay home played a key role in keeping the flu from getting out of hand last year,” said university police lieutenant and pandemic committee chair Mike Davies. “Our hope is they are willing to do that again because it was a great tool to use against the spread of disease.”

For information about the flu and the availability and location of vaccinations, visit the Student Health Center’s website: weber.edu/healthcenter.

Welcome to WSU

William Brewer, Dee Events Center; **Melanie Butters**, Academic Support Centers; **Joan Gustafson**, Human Resources; **Karin Hurst**, University Communications; **Rachel Kap**, Child and Family Studies; **Guy King**, Facilities Management; **Brian Nielsen**, Facilities Management; **Rachel Smith**, Human Resources; **Dustin Stump**, Facilities Management; **Randal Wilson**, Veterans Upward Bound.

On the Move/Promoted

Bradley Beazer, Bookstore; **Thomas Bell**, Continuing Education; **Anneli Byrd**, Student Success Center; **Lanny Ellis**, Continuing Education; **Morgan Finder**, Student Success Center; **Merritt Gray**, Browning Center; **Judith Hutchison**, Accounting Services; **Megan Jolley**, Child and Family Studies; **Linda Kaiser**, Purchasing; **Shauna Pitt**, College of Health Professions; **Anita Preece**, Administrative Services; **Patricia Rasmussen**, Accounting Services; **Kayli Richardson**, Internal Audit; **Tanya Scott**, Registrar’s Office; **Kellee Smith**, Parking; **Joseph Strand**, Dee Events Center; **Toni Thompson**, Accounting Services; **Mike Whetton**, Facilities Management; **Seth Wilhelmsen**, Admissions Office.

Retired

Linda Taylor, Browning Center.

Source: Board of Trustees reports, September-October 2010



CHOIR & SYMPHONY
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

getintoweber

Nov. 16-20: The Department of Performing Arts presents two one-act holiday musicals written and directed by Kenneth Plain and Jim Christian, “Five Carols for Christmas” and “Jingle Jacks,” 7:30 p.m., Val A. Browning Center Allred Theater, \$10/\$7, 1-800-WSU-TIKS. (Nov. 20, matinee, 2 p.m.)

Nov. 18: Convocations lecture series features National Geographic photographer James Balog discussing his study of glacial ice retreat, noon, Shepherd Union Ballroom B, 801-626-6570 or cah.weber.edu. His work is on display through November in the Shepherd Union Bridge Gallery. Event is free.

Nov. 22: WSU’s Executive Lecture Series presents Franz Kolb, regional director of international trade and diplomacy for the governor’s office of economic development, 5:30-6:30 p.m., WSU Davis Room 110, brucedavis@weber.edu or 801-395-3482. Event is free.

Nov. 27: WSU women’s basketball vs. Utah State, 2 p.m., Dee Events Center, 801-626-8500 or 1-800-WSU-TIKS.

Dec. 3-Jan. 2: WSU’s Department of Visual Arts presents the “Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition”; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Kimball Visual Arts Center Shaw Gallery; weber.edu/dova or 801-626-6455. Event is free.

Dec. 5: Department of Performing Arts presents the combined Choirs and Symphony Orchestra as they perform 500 years of popular Christmas music in two evening performances, 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saint Joseph Catholic Church (514 24th Street, Ogden), \$25 family/\$7/\$6, 1-800-WSU-TIKS, weber.edu/performingarts or 801-626-6431.

Dec. 21: WSU men’s basketball vs. Brigham Young University, 7 p.m., Dee Events Center, 801-626-8500 or 1-800-WSU-TIKS.

CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

Two Groups Bridging Gender Divide in Science

Only 20 percent of all medical school applicants from Utah are women — far below the national average.

Associate zoology professor Barb Trask joined with physicians at the Family Medicine residency program at McKay-Dee Hospital Center to sponsor the second annual “Girls Exploring Medicine” workshop to encourage women in medicine.

To make science less intimidating, the College of Science will offer eight free courses titled “Science Moms.” Created by AmyJo Proctor, assistant director of the Ott Planetarium, the program is a chance for moms to get together in a friendly environment and learn more about science. Participants will meet one Saturday a month from November to June. Each class will focus on a different area of science, from botany to zoology. By participating in activities such as

growing microorganisms, looking at DNA and learning how home strep tests work, moms can then show their children the fun and importance of science.

Music Association Recognizes Outstanding Work

The Utah Music Teachers Association (UMTA) recently honored performing arts professor Yu-Jane Yang with its 2010 Legacy Award.

The annual award is the highest honor given by the organization and recognizes a member who has created a great legacy to the music community not only through exemplary teaching and mentoring but also with outstanding professional accomplishments and exceptional service to the profession.

UMTA has more than 600 members, including music teachers in the public schools, studio teachers and university professors.

Dance Transcending Sound

The National Dance Education Organization selected dance professor Amanda Sowerby and dance adjunct Alysia Woodruff to present at its national conference.

The presentation, titled “Dance and the Deaf Culture,” covered information revealed during a yearlong investigation of dance in conjunction with WSU Moving Company dancers and the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind’s Deaf Education Program.

Conference participants learned about Moving Company as a model for community-based learning and how the integration of dance and American Sign Language can build bridges between deaf and hearing communities.

Goddard School Recognized Nationally

For the fourth consecutive year, Weber State University’s John B. Goddard School of Business &

Economics was included in the Princeton Review’s “Best 300 Business Schools” publication.

The New York-based education services company has selected the Goddard School’s Master of Business Administration program for inclusion in the 2011 edition of its book, which is now available at bookstores throughout the United States.

The Goddard School debuted in the 2008 edition of the Princeton Review. According to the

review, inclusion in the book is based on several criteria such as regard for the schools’ academic programs and other offerings, institutional data collected about the schools, and opinions of students attending the schools.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

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