History Professor in China as Fulbright Scholar

According to history professor Greg Lewis many Chinese scholars got interested in cinema because the government assigned them to take an interest.

Lewis became interested in Chinese cinema as a way to learn the language and study the culture, but what started as an educational pursuit turned into a passion. Now he is in China on a Fulbright Scholarship to research and write the history of Chinese cinema for a forthcoming textbook.

“The film offers clearer insight into the culture with less filtering,” Lewis said. “I was to more films, I became aware of government propaganda, and although it still exists, the drop in propaganda in films since 1989 has been noticeable.”

Lewis has introduced many in the Weber State community to Chinese culture, language and history through the Chinese film series. For 20 years, the series has screened six to eight significant Chinese films each year that Lewis has captained with English subtitles.

“The series attracts people from campus and the community,” Lewis said. “They bring other students, locals and even Chinese who live here in Utah. The films engage them, and I enjoy the wide-ranging discussions that ensue.”

Over the years, Lewis has made many trips to China. The most recent was this summer when he taught a course on American films to Chinese students at the People’s University of China in Beijing. The class viewed such classic films as “The Grapes of Wrath,” “The Best Years of Our Lives,” and “On the Waterfront.”

“The Chinese scholars are excited to see this knowledge shared with western audiences,” Lewis said. “We have relatively few Chinese cinema historians here in the U.S.”

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program sends 1,100 American scholars and professionals each year to more than 125 countries to lecture or conduct research in a variety of academic and professional fields.

Lewis hopes that upon his return he will be able to entice some of the scholars and filmmakers he meets to come to WSU and speak to students and cinema enthusiasts at future screenings.

Instead of teaching during this 10-month stay, Lewis will focus primarily on research and interviewing. As Chinese cinema approached its centennial anniversary in 2006, the government authorized scholars to write several dozen books on the subject. Lewis plans to translate those works, as well as speak with some of the scholars and filmmakers.

Once Lewis returns to Utah, he will be busy bringing the best of Chinese cinema scholarship to the states through his forthcoming textbook, which he estimates may take another year or two to complete.

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At 6:43 a.m. on Aug. 11, a four-inch gas line ruptured and subsequently exploded in the tunnel beneath the Technical Education Building. The explosion and fire caused extensive damage to the south wing of the building.

Reports on the scene indicate there are two known fatalities and 12 victims with injuries who have been transported to area hospitals.

For the 45 staff and faculty members who make up the Weber State University Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Aug. 11 was not a typical day at work.

Summoned by a Code Purple message that went out at 7:47 a.m., this dedicated group of employees received the information above as part of their initial briefing at WSU’s first comprehensive functional emergency operations exercise.

Under the leadership of incident commander and university police chief Dane LaBlanc, the EOC members quickly moved into their respective teams and began working to mitigate the hypothetical incident.

For the next four hours the employees in the EOC were not purchasing agents or groundskeepers, professors or staff writers. They were members of functional teams that include operations, planning, logistics, finance and crisis communications.

(continued on page 2)

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Assistant physics professor John Armstrong presented his research to the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) in London this summer. His presentation, called “60 Minutes to Near Space,” focused on his research with WSU students and the university’s High Altitude Reconnaissance Balloon for Outreach and Research (HARBR) project and its applications in geology, astrobiology and astronomy. Armstrong also was invited to attend the RAS’s special discussion meeting to discuss his work “Astrobiology on the Moon.”

Nancy Collinwood, director of Student Involvement and Leadership, was selected president-elect of the Utah Professionals in Student Involvement and Leadership organization at the annual professional conference in Park City in July. Collinwood has been at WSU since 1998.

Luke Fernandez, manager of Program and Technology Development, had an essay published by academiccommons.org. The work is titled “Phones Each Day Keep the Instructor OK; Mobility and Place in American Aca- demic Life.” Fernandez suggests that as universities invest in mobile learning they must also recognize the virtual inherent in place-bound education.

Assistant zoology professor Christopher Hoagstrom was lead author on three recent publications. The first, “The Native Range of Walleyes in the Missouri River Drainage,” was published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. The second, “Rapid Species Replacements Between Fishers Management,” was published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. The third, “A large-scale con- spiracy of our lives,” and “On the Waterfront.”

This is a Test... This is Only a Test

This Issue

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From Parking to Payroll

Lisa Allen

Laura Read worked side by side with Read for six months before assuming the job June 16.

“Ben has done everything possible to help me succeed,” Allen said. “In 30 years, he never missed getting a payroll out; I am com-

milete to continue that streak.”

The payroll office is responsible for paychecks, but the staff also keeps careful records on employee wages, benefits and taxes. The new job keeps Allen busy. “Rarely is there a time when we’re not running a payroll,” she said.

“Paychecks for salaried faculty and staff are generated 24 times a year. Paychecks for hourly employees are generated 26 times a year. That’s 50 payrolls in 52 weeks.”

Allen credits her staff with keeping everything running smoothly. “They are extremely dedi-

icated to getting work done. It’s impressive.”

(continued on page 2)
Physics professor John Stohl served as the liaison between emergency medical crews and the EOC. He was stationed in the northeast corner of the A parking lot, where he would have been interfacing with the fire department and other emergency response teams if there had been an actual explosion. Instead, he was calling buds from the operations chief and occasionally calling with “injects,” such as information that a victim was under the rubble, to simulate the ongoing nature of a crisis situation.

“The main goal of an exercise is to learn how to work together and to make sure any problems or flaws in our system are discovered while we’re role-playing rather than in a real situation,” Stohl explained.

University police lieutenant Mike Davies, the emergency manager at WSU, believes the exercise was a success. “It helped us identify strengths and areas for improvement, which is exactly what an exercise should do.”

For Davies, the strengths include “the crisis communications plan and our ability to adapt to that plan in a disaster, our understanding of the various roles and responsibilities and our ability to collaborate between sections within the Emergency Operations Center.”

Davies identified the need for a stronger communications infrastructure, including more radios and telephones dedicated to the EOC, as an area for improvement. He also mentioned that identifying personnel to staff a call center and streamlining the resource order form are goals in coming months.

LeBlanc commended Davies’ leadership and the work of EOC staff for making WSU “a call center and streamlining the resource order form are goals in coming months.”

Large: Requisition

Are your old computers barely lurching along? Have you received the go-ahead to get rid of them? You will need to create a requisition, which is necessary for goods or services exceeding the $1,000-per-card limit. Requisitions must be submitted using the Lynx Financial Self Service website at lynx.wsu.edu or through the Web portal. You must attend training to learn how to create requisitions. Register at training.wsu.edu.

Note: A requisition is an internal request only. When you submit a requisition, the Purchasing Department will put the requested items or services out to public bid and verifies that all vendors are properly licensed and insured. Once this has been completed, a purchase order is issued. A purchase order is a binding agreement between the university and a vendor for goods and/or services.

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**Small: Petty Cash**

Let’s say you find a great deal on staple removers, so you pick up a dozen for your department. Any order is a binding agreement between the university and a vendor for goods and/or services. The MAE Celebrates First Decade

WSU’s Master of Business Administration program marked its 10th anniversary with a gala and benefit Oct. 1. In keeping with the theme of “Education With Impact,” the gala featured an address and fundraiser with humanitarian Greg Mortenson, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and author of Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Peace the World. The gala also celebrated the graduates of its 500th student this December’s commencement.

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