

# 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.

"Film offers clearer insight into the culture with less filtering," Lewis said. "As I went to more films, I became aware of government propaganda, and although it still exists, the drop in propaganda in films since 1985 has been noticeable."

Lewis has introduced many in the Weber State community to Chinese culture, language and history through the Chinese film series. For 10 years, the series has screened six to eight significant Chinese films each year that Lewis has captioned with English subtitles.

"The series attracts people from campus and the community," Lewis said. "The films bring together 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."

Instead of teaching during this 10-month stay, Lewis will focus primarily on research and interviewing. As Chinese cinema approached its centennial anniversary in 2005, 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 hopes to bring the best of Chinese-cinema scholarship to the states through his forthcoming textbook, which he estimates may take another year or two to complete.

"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'll 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.



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



*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 LeBlanc, 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.

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## From Parking to Payroll



Lisa Allen

When Lisa Allen pulled on to campus the morning of Dec. 14, 2009, out of habit she headed to Parking Services. "As I passed the parking building on my way to the Miller Administration Building I took a deep breath and knew it was the first day of a new chapter," Allen said. It was the first day of an internship that would lead to her becoming the university's new payroll manager.

"It took me awhile to stop turning into the wrong entrance of campus," Allen said laughing. She had worked at parking services since 1986, first as a part-time employee and eventually as manager, overseeing both parking and risk management.

"I loved parking services, but this was an opportunity I couldn't let pass me by," Allen said.

The position became available when Ben Read, Weber State's payroll manager for 27 years, announced his retirement in 2009. Allen worked side by side with Read for six months before assuming the job June 16.

"Ben has done everything possible to help me be successful," Allen said. "In 30 years, he never missed getting a payroll out; I am committed 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 dedicated to getting work done. It's impressive."

## 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 (HARBOR) 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 "iPhones Each Day Keep the Instructor OK; Mobility and Place in American Academic Life." Fernandez suggests that as universities invest in mobile learning they must also recognize the virtues 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 Fishers Management*. The second, "Rapid Species Replacements Between Fishes of the North American Plains: a Case History from the Pecos River,"

was published in the journal *Aquatic Invasions*. The third, "A large-scale conservation perspective considering endemic fishes of the North American plains," was published in the journal *Biological Conservation*.

Professor **Robert Okazaki** from the zoology department has co-authored a paper titled "Comparative Study on Thermotolerance of Artemia Resting Eggs from Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, China," which was recently published in *Aquaculture*. Okazaki conducted international collaborative research with Chinese and WSU colleagues to determine if the North American *Artemia* species has been introduced into China and whether the Chinese brine fly populations are genetically different from those of the Great Salt Lake.

Pi Lambda Theta selected **Tim Speicher**, assistant professor in athletic training, as a recipient of a research grant for his study, "Effect of cueing on learning transfer among pre-professional undergraduate healthcare students engaged in a case-based analogical reasoning exercise." His research found that students who were cued to compare multiple patient case examinations were more apt to transfer their learning to successfully solve a novel patient case than non-cued subjects.

Based on the work in his classes, which help students become more engaged citizens about natural resource issues, zoology chair and professor **Sam Zeveloff** gave a presentation titled "Civic Engagement and Mammalogy Education" at the 90th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.



(Test, continued from page 1)

Physics professor John Sohl served as the liaison between emergency medical crews and the EOC. He was stationed in the northeast corner of the A2 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 fielding calls from the operations chief and occasionally calling with “injects,” such as information that a victim was trapped 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,” Sohl 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 the 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 one of the leaders in the state in emergency preparedness. “We have averaged 4-3 exercises a year over the past several years,” LeBlanc said. “And that’s a lot, especially for people who do this on top of their regular jobs.”

He noted that approximately 40 employees have taken at least six of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training classes required to keep the institution in compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines.

He and Davies’ plans call for more functional exercises leading up to a full-scale exercise that includes role playing with victims and emergency responders.

### Tips to being prepared in an emergency:

**Make a plan:** Create a plan for you and your family ahead of time that details where you will meet and how to account for each other during an emergency.

**Get a kit:** Make or purchase a 72-hour kit with enough critical supplies for you and your family. Keep in mind that batteries and food in your kit will need to be replenished.

**Stay informed:** Emergencies are very dynamic and events change rapidly. To stay safe and stay informed at Weber State University, **sign up for Code Purple**. To sign up, log in to the eWeber portal and click on the link under the WSU Code Purple channel on the main eWeber page.

BLOCK PARTY



## getintoweber

**Oct. 14:** WSU’s Ralph Nye Lecture Series will present Bob Harmon, vice president of marketing for Harmons Inc., noon, Wattis Business Building Smith Lecture Hall Room 206/207, 801-626-6063. Event is free.

**Oct. 16:** Laps for Lyndsay, a fundraiser for the National Ability Center, fun 1-mile walk, 8 a.m.-noon, Stewart Stadium, \$20. [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)

**Oct. 18-30:** WSU’s Department of Visual Arts presents the Biennial Faculty Exhibition, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Kimball Visual Arts Center Shaw Gallery, [weber.edu/dova](http://weber.edu/dova) or 801-626-6455. (Free exhibit continues through Nov. 20.)

**Oct. 22 & 23, 26-30:** WSU’s Department of Performing Arts presents “Under Construction,” a play written by Charles Mee and directed by Tracy Callahan, 7:30 p.m. and

2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, Val A. Browning Center Eccles Theater, \$10/\$7, 1-800-WSU-TIKS. (Contains adult themes).

**Oct. 26:** WSU’s Department of History presents an evening of discussion with Mark Rudd on his book “Underground: My Life with SDS and the Weathermen,” 7 p.m., Stewart Library Hetzel-Hoellein Room, 801-626-6699 or [sdant@weber.edu](mailto:sdant@weber.edu). Event is free.

**Oct. 27:** WSU men’s and women’s basketball will host a Purple and White Meet the Team event to preview the 2011 season, 7 p.m., Dee Events Center, 801-626-7414. Event is free.

**Oct. 30:** WSU football vs. Montana, 1 p.m., Stewart Stadium, \$14/\$12/\$10/free to WSU students with Wildcard ID, 801-626-8500 or 1-800-WSU-TIKS.

## Welcome to WSU

Tiffany Anderson, Facilities Management; Kristen Arnold, Sales and Service Technology; Melissa Bamfo, University Communications; Joyce Barra, Nursing; Samantha Champlin, Financial Aid; Andrew Chen, IT Infrastructure; Linda Cowdin, Computer Science; Amie Doepking, Admissions; Chad Downs, Facilities Management; Marci Farr, Library; Shane Farver, Communication; John Gibson, Student Affairs Maintenance; Yulia Goff, Veterans Upward Bound; Alyson Grant, Bookstore; Patrick Hampton, Community Involvement Center; Kevin Holdsworth, English; Rieneke Holman, Nursing; Brandon Koford, Economics; Cindi Kranek, Clinical Laboratory Sciences; Ruth Little, Evaluator Office; Lorenzo Lopez, Facilities Management; Christina Millard, Sponsored Projects; Mackenzie Olsen, SEC Operating; Ahelibaik Mahemuti, Mathematics; Deborah McKee, Developmental Math; Joy Nakaishi, Athletics Administration and Support; Melissa Neville-Swensen, Nursing; Kaycee Paskins, Continuing Education; Carlos Pessoa, Respiratory Therapy; Fernanda Phillips, Admissions; William Pollett, English; Robin Pyper, Alumni Relations; Russell Reeder, Student Affairs Maintenance; Timothy Speicher, Health Promotion and Human Performance; Patricia Turner, Nursing; Drew Tyler, Communication; Emil Vargason, Accounting Services; Jennifer Walker, Health Promotion and Human Performance; David Wells, Communication; Cheryl Wendt, Child and Family Studies; Kimbal Wheatley, President’s Office; Brady Yamashita, Facilities Management; Mary Yonkee, Developmental Math; Jonathan Zempter, Academic Support Center.

## On the move

Lisa Allen, Accounting Services; Matthew Cain, Developmental Math; Heather Jones, Accounting Services; Julie Kakazu, Clinical Laboratory Sciences; Andrea Keith, Bursar and Collection Services; Heidi Munk, Network Systems; Lisa Ostermiller, College of Science; Anita Proul, Automotive Technology; Michael Richter, Bursar and Collection Services; Deborah Sheridan, Continuing Education; Natalie Struhs, Teacher Education; Kurtis Wilkinson, Admissions; Katherine Dreyer, Nursing; Jennifer Wright, Student Success Center.

## Retired

Keith Allred, Design Graphics Engineering Technology; Norris Bancroft, Psychology; Craig Campbell, Child and Family Studies; Donna Cheney, English; Kay Gillespie, Criminal Justice; Stephen Green, Electronics; Laird Hartman, Continuing Education; Maryellen Jones, Computer Science; Shirley Leali, Teacher Education; Ronald Mano, School of Accountancy; Robert Milner, Manufacturing Engineering Technology; Ben Read, Payroll; Linda Thornock, Electronics; Maxine Westmoreland, College of Science; Deanna Williams, Nursing.

Source: Board of Trustees reports, May-August 2010

## CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

### MBA Celebrates First Decade

WSU’s Master of Business Administration program marked its 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Promote Peace One School at a Time.

The MBA program also will celebrate the graduation of its 500th student during this December’s commencement.

### NASA Honors Ott Planetarium

For its educational and inspirational use of Hubble Space Telescope images, NASA selected WSU’s Ott Planetarium as top in the nation and gave it a Gold Star distinction in the Top Stars contest.

Ott Planetarium was honored for its show, “Expanded View.” Planetarium specialist AmyJo Proctor created the 23-minute program, which explores some of the most beautiful deep-space objects through the eyes of the Hubble, Spitzer, and Chandra space telescopes.

See the images at the planetarium or go online at [weber.edu/planetarium](http://weber.edu/planetarium).

### WSU Hovercraft Ready for Blast Off

The hovercraft, which took nearly 15,000 hours worth of work by 25 students under the direction of engineering technology professor Bill Clapp, just passed another test toward its ultimate purpose — getting destroyed.

For two years, senior students have refined the remote-controlled hovercraft, which Clapp envisions as a light-weight, inexpensive, environmentally friendly craft that could be used for military target practice.

Clapp and 10 students spent much of September putting the latest version through its paces on the Bonneville Salt Flats test range. “The results from our tests on the Salt Flats were spectacular,” he said.

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

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