

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW BUILDING AT WSU DAVIS

Students should be filing into the second building at Weber State University’s Davis campus a little less than two years from now.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the 120,146-square-foot building took place Nov. 8. The Professional Programs Classrooms Building, as it will be known, will be just east of the campus’ first building.

The expansion is the result of support from the community, the Davis Chamber of Commerce and local state legislators. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert in March signed legislation authorizing funding from the state.

Costing an estimated \$39.9 million, the building will contain classrooms and laboratories to accommodate current high-demand programs and their future expansions. They include nursing, electronics engineering, construction management and interior design.

Bruce Davis, WSU vice provost, said the new building should enhance already strong bonds with the community and allow WSU to continue to meet the growing needs of Hill Air Force Base and aerospace and defense contractors in the area. WSU Davis is in a prime location to serve the Falcon Hill National Aerospace Research Park under development along the western edge of the base.

The new building also will provide the Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering & Science (NUAMES) with a permanent home. With 450 students and plans to expand to 500, the early-college high school currently uses five classrooms and 13 portable classrooms at WSU Davis. Funding for the project will include \$30 million in state funds, \$4 million

from NUAMES and an additional \$4.4 million bond financed by student fees. The new facility will feature a student union, large food court, fitness area and event space.

WSU Davis’ first building opened in autumn 2003. It serves about 3,700 WSU students and more than 150 faculty.





WSU NEWS

Weber State University News & Events Vol. 15 | No. 3 | NOV 2011

SOLAR PANELS SAVE MONEY, PROMPT ‘BEHAVIOR SAVINGS’

Weber State University’s colors are purple and white, but steps are being taken to make the school more green.



Solar panels installed this summer at WSU Davis.

This summer’s solar-panel installations are part of the university’s efforts to become more energy efficient. The university has attained a bronze rating for efforts to measure sustainability performance, and, what’s more, has been recognized for leadership in committing funds for new energy-efficiency financing initiatives.

SOLAR-PANEL INSTALLATION

Solar panels installed this summer at Weber State University Davis represent the first of several projects the Energy and Sustainability Office expects to be placed at the Ogden and Davis campuses. Eighty-four panels installed at WSU Davis are expected to result annually in \$4,000 of energy-cost savings. An interactive kiosk inside the building tracks the panels’ energy production.

Panels added atop the Shepherd Union Building — 132 when the project is completed — should save \$7,500 annually, and a solar-powered water feature near the building allows people to see how blocking sunlight affects power output. Forty-eight solar panels added to the Swenson Building to heat the pool could save \$7,000 to \$10,000 yearly.

Wildcat Village’s first residence hall, opened this fall, features 15 solar plates that heat domestic water for the building.

Jacob Cain, Energy and Sustainability manager, said the projects communicate WSU’s dedication to sustainability. “The panels help us encourage environmentally conscious behavior,” he said. “Students, faculty and staff who might have previously left lights or computers on, now will turn them off because they do not want to waste the power from the solar panels.

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DONATIONS OFFSET CARBON USE

When English professor Hal Crimmel visits his extended family, he has to fly thousands of miles. To help offset his travel both in the air and in the car, he has donated to the recently created Carbon Offset Gift Account.

“I wanted to feel like we were doing our part to help offset the carbon emissions that cause global warming but wanted to donate to WSU versus sending money to a for-profit carbon-offset company,” Crimmel wrote from Germany, where he is a visiting professor this semester at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich. “It’s a first step toward thinking about what other ways we could get involved with renewable energy sources.”

Weber State’s carbon-offset plan has two components. First, the university has decided to offset most of the carbon emissions resulting from university-sponsored travel by paying money from this initiative into an account dedicated to funding renewable and energy-saving projects on campus. This program is a major step toward the university’s pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, as outlined in WSU’s “Climate Action Plan.”

The second component of the plan makes it possible for anyone who wants to offset the carbon emissions they create in personal or professional activities to make a tax-deductible donation to the WSU account. Donations will be used in a similar fashion to support renewable and energy-saving projects on campus.

The new account lets people support WSU while doing something positive for the environment. Crimmel said the plan will generate many positive returns. “These projects will help improve local and regional air quality, but they will also save the university money for years to come by reducing its electricity and natural gas consumption.”

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Weber State’s chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi recently was recognized as a Chapter of Merit by the national organization. Geosciences professor and chapter president **Rick Ford** accepted the award on behalf of the faculty and staff officers of the WSU chapter. PKP is one of the nation’s oldest and most respected academic honor societies. Just 10 percent of chapters nationally received this distinction, and this is the second year in a row for WSU.

Economics assistant professor **Brandon Koford** was awarded the Jesse Burkhead Award for 2010 for his paper titled “Public Budget Choices and Private Willingness to Pay” in *Public Budgeting & Finance*, Vol. 30 (Summer 2010). This award goes to the best paper in the journal that year.

Dean of the College of Health Professions, **Yas Simonian**, and **Paul Eberle**, chair of the Department of Respiratory Therapy, signed a three-year agreement with Xian University and the Affiliated Hospitals of Xian University to develop the profession of respiratory therapy in China.

Assistant zoology professor **Michele Skopec** was lead author on a recent publication titled “Differential expression and activity of catechol-O-methyl transferase (COMT) in a generalist (*Neotoma albigula*) and juniper specialist (*Neotoma stephensi*) woodrat” that was recently published in the *Journal of Comparative Physiology Part C*. Skopec collaborated on the project with University of Utah biology professor Denise Dearing. The purpose of the study was to better understand how woodrats, which are small herbivorous rodents, are able to consume toxic plants.

Chair of the Department of Radiologic Sciences, **Robert Walker**, accepted the second-place award for Best Radiologic Technologist Training Program in the nation, given in October by AuntMinnie.com. In its 12th year, the “Minnies” recognize the best and brightest in medical imaging. Candidates were nominated by AuntMinnie.com members, and winners were selected by a panel of experts in the field through two rounds of voting.

The additional ‘behavior savings’ from solar panels is what makes them a viable project.”

BRONZE RATING

In part because of the solar-panel projects, WSU attained a bronze rating from the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) program.

STARS, a program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), is a framework for institutions to measure their sustainability performance. More than 260 institutions across the U.S. and Canada participate in the program. During the past year, 22 received a gold rating, 55 attained silver and 21 earned bronze.

BILLION DOLLAR GREEN CHALLENGE

WSU’s recognition for its leadership in committing funds for new energy-efficiency financing initiatives

came from the Sustainable Endowments Institute and 15 partner organizations. They launched the “Billion Dollar Green Challenge” to encourage colleges, universities and other nonprofits to invest \$1 billion during the next two years in self-managed green revolving funds to finance energy-efficiency upgrades.

The challenge was inspired by exceptional performance of 32 institutions’ existing revolving funds totaling \$65 million. Weber State’s \$9 million fund was established in 2010 after securing seed money through a loan from the university’s endowment and other capital sources. According to May 2010 projections, WSU is expecting \$1 million in annual energy savings by 2015 and to fully repay the endowment loan, with interest, in nine years.

Among institutions joining WSU in the Founding Circle are Harvard, Stanford, Arizona State and Dartmouth.

WSU SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS

WSU DAVIS: 84 panels, saving about \$4,000 annually, or about 1.9 percent of the building’s electricity costs

SHEPHERD UNION BUILDING: 132 panels when completed, saving about \$7,500 annually, or about 5 percent of the building’s electricity costs

SWENSON GYM: 48 panels, used to heat the swimming pool, saving \$7,000 to \$10,000 annually

WILDCAT VILLAGE: 15 panels, used to heat domestic water

Getintoweber

Nov. 15: WSU men’s basketball vs. Utah State University, 7 p.m., Dee Events Center. Prices from \$8-\$25 and free to students with a Wildcard ID. Tickets/information: 1-800-WSU-TIKS or weberstatetickets.com.

Nov. 15-19: The Department of Performing Arts presents “Xanadu,” the roller-skating, musical adventure about following your dreams, directed by Jim Christian, Val A. Browning Center Eccles Theater. Prices are \$11/\$8. Tickets/information: 1-800-WSU-TIKS or weberstatetickets.com.

Nov. 17-19: The Department of Performing Arts presents Orchestis Dance Theater, 7:30 p.m., Val A. Browning Center Allred Theater. Prices are \$11/\$8. Tickets/information: 1-800-WSU-TIKS or weberstatetickets.com.

Nov. 19: WSU women’s basketball vs. Brigham Young University, 7 p.m., Dee Events Center. Prices from \$3-\$7 and free to students with a Wildcard ID. Tickets/information: 1-800-WSU-TIKS or weberstatetickets.com.

Dec. 4: The 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., St. Joseph’s Catholic Church (514 24th Street, Ogden). Prices are \$25 family/\$7/\$6. Tickets/information: 1-800-WSU-TIKS or weberstatetickets.com.

Jan. 2: Spring Semester 2012 begins.



WELCOME To WSU

- Abby Campbell, Human Resources
- Julie Christensen, Financial Aid
- Ryan Combe, Alumni Relations
- Nicole DeFriez, Enterprise Business Computing
- Mary Jane DuPont, Financial Aid
- Kostantinos Efstathiou, Campus Recreation
- Verena Harkness, Services for Students with Disabilities
- Alex Mathers, Admissions
- Erin Morris, Student Health Center
- Kandice Newren, Stewart Library
- Paul Oldham, Purchasing
- Teresa Reyes, Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Ryan Rowe, Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Mickelle Smith, Services for Students with Disabilities
- Denise Thielholdt, Development
- Joshua VanMeeteren, Facilities Management
- Nancy Waidelich, Academic Technologies Training and Planning
- Kurtis Wilkinson, Admissions
- Bryce Yearsley, Payroll

ON THE MOVE/PROMOTED

- Scott Bitton, Campus Stores
- Jeremy Farner, Design Graphics Engineering Technology
- Dana Gibson, Academic Affairs
- Seth Gilmore, Facilities Management
- Bryan Hamblin, Financial Aid
- Luke Harris, Academic Support Centers
- Dorothy Hill, Women’s Center
- Kritayoth Inpornvijit, Nursing
- Melissa Johnson, Stewart Library
- Malissa Oman, Academic Affairs
- Lynn Thompson, Facilities Management

RETIRED

- Kay Chapman, Campus Stores
- Janice Golden, Shepherd Union;
- Conwey Morris, Facilities Management
- Patricia Umscheid, Stewart Library

CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

PROGRAMS HIT HIGH NOTE

The collaboration of campus and community has recently garnered some rich rewards for Weber State programs.

All-Steinway

An “All-Steinway School” official designation was bestowed on the university during a free concert celebration that featured 18 music faculty, piano students and five Steinway grand pianos.

Generous contributions of \$1.1 million from donors, faculty, staff and students over the course of nearly 10 years resulted in the collection of 41 Steinway and Boston (a division of Steinway) pianos, including three 9-foot concert grand pianos and nine 7-foot concert grand pianos.

Madonne Miner, dean of the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities, said

the distinction demonstrates the university’s commitment to the very best in music education.

“Music educators may specialize in a range of instruments, but no matter what their specialization, all music educators must be able to play the piano,” she said. “Here, the piano they play will be a Steinway.”

Top Toyota Program

Several thousand hours of work over the course of three years paid off recently when the Department of Automotive Technology and the Technician Training and Education Network (T-TEN) program earned a T-TEN Validation.

T-TEN is a two-year associate degree program with an emphasis in Toyota service

technology. WSU is one of only 44 colleges to offer the certification and one of only six schools nationwide to receive the highest distinction. Kevin Roner, automotive service instructor, coordinates the T-Ten partnership. “We are creating high-quality technicians for the dealerships in our community,” he said. “If you’ve taken your vehicle to

any Toyota dealership from Logan to Provo, chances are high that the technician who worked on your car is a Weber State T-TEN graduate.”

Special Collection

Stewart Library Special Collections celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with a new exhibit, “Treasures Brought to Light” that features photographs, rare books and historic artifacts from

more than 200 collections garnered mostly through donations. Special Collections focuses primarily on the history of Weber and Davis counties and has 40,000 volumes of books, 370 manuscript collections and 160 photograph collections. “Many items chosen for this exhibit have never been displayed before and offer rare glimpses into the history of this community,”

said Sarah Langsdon, associate curator of Special Collections. The exhibit will be on display just outside of Special Collections on the top floor of the library until Nov. 30.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

is published by the Office of University Communications. Send submissions and comments to mail code 4025; e-mail: unews@weber.edu; or call ext. 7359.