New Names, New Degrees

EAST College

During summer break, the College of Applied Science & Technology (COAST) changed its name and became the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST).

The new name emphasizes WSU’s expanding engineering programs, including the new Master of Science in Computer Engineering, approved July 31, by the Board of Regents. Also they approved a new Master of Science in Nursing-Nurse Practitioner program.

With the additions, Weber State now offers 13 graduate programs, including accounting, athletic training, communication, criminal justice, education, English, health administration, business administration (MBA), nursing, radiologic sciences and taxation.

Computer Engineering

The master's degree in computer engineering complements a new bachelor’s in computer engineering. Students who complete the bachelor’s can then earn a master’s in one year.

The department developed the program after reviewing similar degrees at several universities across the nation. More than 25 students are expected to begin the program in fall semester, with anticipated growth to more than 110 by 2020.

“WSU has had sustained success in its baccalaureate programs in computer science and electrical engineering,” said Brian Rague, computer science chair. “Providing a master’s degree in computer engineering that draws on the faculty expertise, curriculum and research within both of these established programs emerged as an appropriate and exciting opportunity.”

Nurse Practitioner

The new nurse practitioner master’s degree will be the third track in WSU’s Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program. The other two emphasize nurse executives and nurse educators. WSU graduates approximately 400 baccalaureate nursing students each year. The nurse practitioner program will begin in the fall of 2016.

“We will be on the forefront of advancing the field of nursing,” said Melissa Neville, MSN program director. “By adding this nurse practitioner program, the School of Nursing will add a higher-level clinical component that will support our present philosophy. We want to prepare nurses who can practice at all levels and meet the demands of changing health care.”

Introducing Enrique Romo

Enrique Romo's eyes light up when he talks about helping underrepresented students pursue and successfully complete college.

“I want to make sure that, from the very first time we have an interaction with a student, they know they're talking to someone they can trust, someone who wants what's best for them,” he said, pausing for a moment to ask if he was talking too fast. “I'm sorry. I'm just excited, really excited.”

Romo joined Weber State University in August in the newly created role of executive director for Access and Diversity. He will oversee the following areas:

- Access and Outreach;
- Diversity and Inclusive Programs;
- Center for Multicultural Excellence;
- Transition Programs and Partnerships; and
- LGBT Resource Center.

The former deputy to the vice president of Diversity and Community Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, Romo brings 18 years of experience to his role at Weber State. At UT Austin, he worked specifically on student success.
Introducing Enrique Romo (continued from p. 1) with programs aimed at increasing the number of underrepresented students in the educational pipeline.

“These types of programs and resources are incredibly important, especially here in Ogden, which has one of the largest percentages of Latinos in Utah,” Romo said. “We need to ensure that we’re giving the next generation of professionals in our community the tools they need to be successful.”

Romo said Weber State’s prioritization of diversity and access is one of the reasons he was drawn to the position. “When I came to campus to interview, I felt comfortable. I felt an energy,” he said. “The administration’s commitment to students from all backgrounds aligned with my commitment, and I knew this is where I wanted to be.”

A self-described servant leader, Romo is taking time to get to know the members of his team. He is also making connections in the community. “We have such an important job. Together, we can effect change, meaningful and significant change at the institutional and community level. Working together, the possibilities are endless for our students.”

Alumni, faculty, staff and students will celebrate Homecoming 2015: A Wildcat Tradition beginning Sept. 11 and culminating Sept. 19 when WSU kicks off against Sacramento State.

Athletes, coaches, Waldo, the Pep Band and the nationally award-winning WSU Spirit Squad will highlight the annual pep rally Sept. 14 at 12:30 p.m. at the Stewart Bell Tower Plaza. They will take the excitement downtown Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. with the Wildcat Walk from Union Station to the Ogden Amphitheater.

A pregame tailgating party will begin at 4 p.m. Sept. 19 in the north parking lot of Stewart Stadium. The football game begins at 6 p.m.

Tara Peris-Caputo, Student Involvement and Leadership assistant director, said everyone on campus should take advantage of the fun. “Homecoming’s events, festivities and game invite the campus community and surrounding Ogden community to come together and celebrate Weber State being great, great, great!”

For a more detailed list of homecoming activities, visit weber.edu/homecoming.

The Weber State University/Ogden City College Town Initiative was honored June 2 with the Larry Abernathy Award given during the International Town & Gown Association conference in Washington D.C.

Weber State has worked with Ogden City and local organizations for more than 125 years to offer quality programs and educational opportunities to students and citizens. A charter signing Oct. 1, 2013, formalized the partnership and provided a structure to sustain relationships and coordination.

“Throughout its history, Weber State has been committed to serving our surrounding community,” said President Charles A. Wight. “This College Town Initiative with Ogden City is the linchpin in our recent efforts to nurture the university’s ongoing relationship with our region. I am delighted that Weber State and the city have been recognized with this award.”
WELCOME TO
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Olga Antonio, Center for Multicultural Excellence
Robert Ball, School of Computing
Krystal Banner, Student Success Center
Aaron Bateman, University Police
Micah Bauer, Visual Arts
Cynthia Beynon, Nursing
Kelly Boyce, Campus Recreation
Randall Boyle, Business Administration
Rachel Brock, Athletic Training and Nutrition
Marijo Burkes, Nursing
Brandon Burnett, Chemistry
Christopher Chapman, Counseling & Psychological Services
Bonnie Christiansen, Provost’s Office
Jeffrey Clements, Business Administration
Rebecca Coombs, Business Administration
Brian Cottle, Health Administrative Services
Jami Cottle, Nursing
Jami Daly, WSU Charter Academy
Veronica Dawson, Communication
Kristin DeLucia, Sociology
Charles Dunn, Child and Family Studies
Brett Fowers, Facilities Management
Lindsay Garr, Health Administrative Services
Shanice Gipson, Admissions Office
Lewis Grant, Enterprise Business Computing
Marcy Green, Dental Hygiene
Jorden Gustin, Athletics Admin and Support
Sang Hyuk Ha, Enterprise Business Computing
Vicky Hansen, Nursing
Christopher Herb, Health Promotion and Human Performance
Silvia Higueros, Continuing Education
Jennifer Hill, Wildcat Store
Tiffany Hogan, Athletics Admin and Support
Lindsay Holland, Academic Support Centers
Scott Horsley, Visual Arts
Eric Howerton, English
Jordan Hyde, Psychology
Lisa Jamison, Admissions Office
Baylee Jemison, Admissions Office
Daniel Jensen, Student Success Center
Benjamin Johnson, Nursing
Daniel Jonas, Performing Arts
Jean Kapenda, Criminal Justice
Andrew Keinsley, Economics
Randall Kent, Mechanical Engineering Technology
Jesse King, Business Administration
Alexander Lancaster, Communication
Heeuk Lee, Criminal Justice
Peter Loebach, Sociology
Margarita Lopez, Registrar’s Office
Rebecca Mabile, Campus Recreation
Taylor Mason, Admissions Office
Jacob Matson, Facilities Management
Stephanie McClure, Women’s Center
Lori McPherson, Visual Arts
Rachel Middleton, Library
Cora Neal, Mathematics
Joshua Nelson, College of Arts & Humanities
Blair Newbold, Automotive Technology
Marvin Orrock, Health Sciences
Jody Perkins, Access and Outreach
Kristin Rabosky, Physics
Sandep Rangaraju, Economics
Douglas Richards, Psychology
Mark Roberts, Athletics Admin and Support
Enrique Romo, Access and Diversity
Christopher Sawaya, Academic Tech Training and Planning
Kiley Spirito, Physics
Jeffrey Stuart, Continuing Education
Victoria Thacher, Dental Hygiene
Julie Thompson, Academic Support Centers – Programs
Bradley Vieth, Performing Arts
Alan Walker, College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology
Jill Walker, Student Success Center
Andrew Wright, School of Business & Economics
Lixuan “Grace” Zhang, Business Administration

Promoted/Transferred

Lori Aston, Development
Sharon Bowman, Continuing Education
Jennifer Brustad, Admissions Office
Nathan Clark, Development
Derek DeBruin, Health Promotion and Human Performance
Debra Hansen, Payroll

Madonne Miner, Provost’s Office
Jessica Oyler, Student Affairs Strategic Initiatives
Brenda Smith, Development
Megan Sheets Smith, Continuing Education
Michael Vaughan, Poverty and Inequality Center

Retired

Roger Anderson, Manufacturing Engineering Tech
Ronald Anderson, Printing Services
David Bishop, Campus Recreation
Bradley Carroll, Physics
Michael Chabries, Criminal Justice
Kenneth Cusdeback, School of Computing
Richard Dahlkemper, Health Administrative Services
Shirley Dunford, Academic Support Centers
Jeffrey Eaton, Geosciences
Linda Eaton, Sociology
Bill Fruth, Shepherd Union
Joyce Garcia, International Student Services
Helen Handley, Continuing Education
Mary Hansen, Developmental Math Program
Carol Michelle Heward, Criminal Justice
Dorothy Hill, Women’s Center
James Jacobs, Visual Arts
Julie Killebrew, Nursing
Nancy Kunci, Nursing
Susan Makov, Visual Arts
Richard McDermott, School of Accounting & Taxation
Fred Meaders, Shepherd Union
Melody Neely, Dental Hygiene
Mark Peterson, Continuing Education
Joann Reynolds, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Chris Rivera, WSU Davis
JoAnne Robinson, President’s Office
Thomas Root, Performing Arts
Donalyn Sessions, Academic Support Centers
Richard Sirke, Facilities Management
Zhuolin Yu, Business Administration
Betty Zaleski, Enterprise Business Computing
Following wins at the area and division levels, Shelly Belflower, Academic Technologies, Training and Planning director, took third place at the District 15 Table Topics International Toastmasters Competition. Competitors in the speech event came from 85 clubs in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada.

Kirk Hagen, engineering department chair, authored the text “Introduction to Renewable Energy for Engineers.” The book, published by Pearson, was released in August and is specifically geared for entry-level engineering students.

Communication department chair Sheree Josephson co-presented a paper titled “How Reader Comments on News Websites Influence User Behavior” with Jennifer Toomer-Cook, a 2015 graduate of the Master of Professional Communication program, at the 29th annual Visual Communication Conference in Cannon Beach, Oregon, in June.

Assistant engineering professor Christopher Trampel’s paper “Eddy-current coil interaction with a perfectly conducting wedge of arbitrary angle” has been named the 2015 Outstanding Journal Article by the American Society for Nondestructive Testing. Trampel and co-author John Bowler, from Iowa State University, will be recognized at a banquet in Salt Lake City this October.

Zoology professor Sam Zeveloff has published a paper in the international journal Mammalia called “Unique loss of cheek teeth and subsequent ossification in a mountain goat (Oreamnos americanus).” The article describes the unprecedented occurrence of the virtual complete loss of cheek teeth in an elderly adult male mountain goat from northern Utah that survived for several months without these teeth. The paper was co-authored by Christopher R. Schulze, a conservation officer with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, who graduated from Weber State in 2007.

EXCELLENT WORK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

The Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA) honored Weber State’s Facilities Management (FM) team with its highest international honor, the “Award for Excellence,” a designation that remains valid for five years.

To qualify for the award, FM submitted an extensive report outlining its innovations in leadership, strategic planning, customer and employee relations, which have led to beautiful buildings and grounds. A team of judges visited campus and interviewed FM staff and campus community members. What they found was “a culture within the Facilities Management department that enables their employees to excel, and translates into creativity and pride in their work as they tackle challenges on campus.”

For example, creative employees have implemented innovative strategies to reduce energy consumption. Weber State was the first institution of higher education in Utah to meter every utility in every building on campus. That, along with many other improvements, has helped reduce energy consumption by 30 percent — a savings of $1.4 million in 2014 alone.

Two-hundred and fifty employees help maintain buildings and grounds on 500 acres in Ogden and Layton. Kevin Hansen, associate vice president of Facilities and Campus Planning, said the goals are to prevent failure, operate at the lowest reasonable cost and make customers happy.

“Webber State is an inviting place. It’s a place where people feel welcome, and they enjoy being here,” Hansen said. “That’s what we want them to feel. We want them to feel that joy, that happiness.”

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Back in Business:
Miller Administration and Browning Center

With a few days to spare before the beginning of fall semester, the president, his staff, human resources, payroll, purchasing and all other tenants moved back home to Miller Administration.

Residents were displaced during this summer’s major remodel. New energy-efficient windows, ceilings, paint, carpet and bathroom fixtures are easy to see. What’s underneath is great as well, including the most efficient heating and air-conditioning system available with controls in every room, LED lighting, fire sprinklers, alarms, new electrical wiring and copper piping throughout.

The 92-day, $4-million dollar project was the fastest major Weber State renovation on record and should last the university another 30 years. Project manager Travis Hogge said he was pleased to transform a drab building into a dynamic work space.

“Previously if you walked in, it was like walking into a dungeon,” Hogge said. “Now it’s bright; it’s inviting. It looks like a business office ready to greet the campus and its guests.”

The Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts is receiving its finishing touches before the first major community concert scheduled for Sept. 24.

“We want to provide our faculty and students the most up-to-date theatrical learning environment possible,” said Frank Bradshaw, Browning Center director. “We want our patrons to have a theatrical experience that wows them, allows them to enjoy creative talents and instills in them a desire to return.”

Theater goers are sure to enjoy the new amenities, including:

• Wider, more comfortable seats
• Wheelchair spaces with companion seats
• State-of-the-art assistive-listening system
• Upgrades to sound, lighting and paint
• Center and cross aisles in the Austad Auditorium
• Digital displays in the lobbies
• New roof over the building’s theater sections

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University News is published by the Office of Marketing & Communications. Send submissions and comments to mail code 4025; email: ahess@weber.edu; or call ext. 7948.