



WSUNEWS

Weber State University News & Events

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A Decade of Dominance

Men's hoops coaches celebrate 10-year anniversaries

Call it a cliché, but Randy Rahe and Eric Duft are a dynamic duo.

When the coaches first took the reins of Weber State's men's basketball program in 2006 — Rahe as head coach and Duft as an assistant — the Wildcats were reeling from two consecutive losing seasons. Four Big Sky Conference titles and seven postseason tournament appearances later, the two signal callers reflect on a decade of success.

"It's been terrific," Rahe said. "My family and I absolutely love it here. It's gone by very fast, but I've been blessed to have a great staff and wonderful players every year. Weber State and the community are part of our family now."

Rahe has received the Big Sky Coach of the Year honor four times — more than any coach in league history — and he needs only 10 Big Sky wins in 2015-16 to become the career leader in conference victories.

Rahe said there's no way the Wildcats could have accumulated all of those wins without Duft, who is now the associate head coach.

"It's been incredibly advantageous for me to have Eric," Rahe said. "He's a wonderful person; he's a great coach and he's great with the kids. He's been



Fast Five

Time flies for WSU coaching pair

If unswerving improvement is the sign of a winner, the future is bright for the Weber State women's basketball team.

Head coach Bethann Ord and assistant coach Devan Newman entered their fifth seasons in 2015, and they're still wrapping their heads around how much they've accomplished at WSU.

"It's been amazing," Ord said. "The time flies. The community and the people in it, both on campus and off campus, have been wonderful. Ogden and Weber State have been so welcoming from the day I came for my interview. You feel part of something special."

In every season since joining Weber State in 2011, the Wildcats have won more games than they did in the previous year. So far this season, the team is off to the best start in school



Decade continued

my security blanket since we came here, and he's also been my voice of reason. I'm happy that he's stayed this long, and I hope he continues to stay."

Currently in the midst of their 10th season, Rahe and Duft credit the support system at WSU for making their success possible.

"I think what makes Weber a great place to work is the people and the relationships you build," Duft said. "We have the resources to be competitive every year, and those are hard to find, so that's the driving force to our commitment to WSU. We're very happy with where we are."

Despite being happy where they are, Rahe and Duft are still hungry for improvement on and off the court.

"Every year, we want to be in the mix for a conference championship," Rahe said. "We want to get to the NCAA tournament as much as we can, so there's a lot of stuff that we can keep building on. We're trying to run a program the right way with high-character kids, kids who graduate, kids who will make the community proud."

Fast Five continued

history, as Big Sky Conference play begins in January.

"It's been a journey trying to change a culture and turn a program around," Newman said. "I think we're starting to see some of our hard work come to fruition."

Ord and Newman weren't strangers before joining the WSU family. They coached together at Louisville for three years.

"When we came here, I was so excited to be part of Bethann's vision and what she wanted for Weber State," Newman said. "She's wonderful and has such a caring heart for these kids. It's showing right now. We have a special team this year."

Despite the Wildcats' blazing start, both coaches acknowledge the season is still young, and they have a long way to go.

"We haven't done the things we want to do yet, such as win a Big Sky Championship and make a deep run into the NCAA tournament," Ord said. "We're going to keep striving for that every single year. We're just getting started. Rome wasn't built in a day."



Get two free season tickets to men's and women's basketball!

Log into your Weber State portal for tickets to athletic and performing arts events. 2016 conference basketball just tipped off!

WELCOME to WSU

Tamara Bates, Campus Recreation

James Bernstein, Campus Recreation

Kyle Carsey, Athletics Admin and Support

Terra Clarke, Continuing Education

Bree Conlin, Automotive Technology

Randy Durney, Accounting Services

Steve Ford, Facilities Management

Trevor Groves, Facilities Management

Tyler Hardy, Academic Tech Training and Planning

Blair Hellstrom, Bursar & Collection Services

Samantha Hill, Upward Bound

Buck Kolz, Veterans Upward Bound

Melanie Martinez, Office of Access and Outreach

Ivan Mercado, Facilities Management

Stephen Morphet, Academic Support Centers - Programs

James Painter, Career Services

Leslie Park, Student Success Center

Camillea Ray, Stewart Library

Francisco Ruiz, Radiologic Sciences

Craig Sears, Facilities Management

Carly Selden, Dean of Students

Aimee Smith, Radiologic Sciences

Devon Trujillo, Counseling - Psychological Services

Molly Ward, Shepherd Union

Weston Woodward, Facilities Management

Libby Yagi, Goddard School of Business & Economics

On the Move/Promoted

Kirk Barlow, Enterprise Business Computing

Stephen Cain, Enterprise Business Computing

Elizabeth Hansen, Financial Aid Office

Hailey Hanson, Financial Aid Office

Stephanie Jaramillo, Internal Audit

Raymond Salazar, Continuing Education

Daniel Turner, Campus Recreation

Retired

Sharen Hislop, Wildcat Stores

Jolene Koga, Wildcat Stores

Juliana Larsen, Student Health Center

Lisa Nielsen, IT Business Services

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

The journal *Zoological Science* published an article in December 2015 by zoology associate professor Brian Chung and professor Robert Okazaki. The article titled "Preliminary Report of a Neurokinin-Like Receptor Gene Sequence for the Nemertean *Paranemertes sp*" explores tachykinin receptors, which have a wide spectrum of roles in humans from pain sensation to smooth muscle control. Coauthors include former undergraduate students Rainee Stevens, Chelsea Thomas and Laura Palmere, all three of whom are in graduate programs around the country.

English professor Forrest Crawford was named Educator of the Year in December by the Iota Iota Iota Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi

Phi, Incorporated. The distinction honors individuals who have made noteworthy contributions toward improving the quality of life for black Americans.

Weber State's ethics bowl team, coached by philosophy adjunct professor Rachel Robison-Greene, placed second at the Wasatch Regional Ethics Bowl. The team will compete in the national championship in Washington, D.C., in February.

Under the direction of coach Omar Guevara and assistant coach Ryan Cheek, WSU Debate won an invitational tournament in November 2015 and achieved its first top-10 national ranking from the Cross Examination

Debate Association, a professional organization that promotes and oversees intercollegiate policy topic debate competitions.

Business administration professor Shaun Hansen coauthored three articles in the *Journal of Business Ethics*. All three studies examined what leaders can do to build key stakeholders' trust. The most recent article, "Corporate Social Responsibility, Ethical Leadership and Trust Propensity: A Multi-Experience Model of Ethical Climate," appeared in the July issue.

The National Association of Local Boards of Health selected as president Ken Johnson, associate dean of the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions.

Weber State to Receive Legacy Award for Impact on Davis County

Weber State University has delivered educational programs in Davis County for more than 75 years. In recognition of the university's "significant, positive and sustained impact," the Davis Chamber of Commerce will honor the university with its annual Legacy Award.

The chamber's executive board will make the presentation at an awards banquet, Jan. 22 at the Davis Conference Center.

Meeting community needs first drew Weber into Davis County. In 1940, during the throes of WWII, Weber College began offering aeronautics and training courses for pilots and civilian employees at the newly opened Hill Field, later renamed Hill Air Force Base.

The university's longtime quest to establish a major presence in the county was realized in 2003 when the first classroom building on the 106-acre WSU Davis campus

opened its doors. Since that time, the campus has added two additional classroom buildings and a Center for Continuing Education.

More than 3,600 university students take courses there and can choose among 18 complete degree and certificate programs as varied as Master of Business Administration, English, nursing, interior design and construction management technology.

"Weber State University understands that Davis County's future growth and prosperity depend on an educated, well-trained workforce," said Bruce Davis, vice provost and WSU Davis dean. "By enlarging its physical presence, strengthening community partnerships and adapting its educational offerings to accommodate emerging needs, Weber State is poised to serve this diverse, dynamic community for generations to come."

What are the things about Weber State University that make it GREAT, GREAT, GREAT?

This is the question a team from WSU Marketing & Communications set out to answer as it created a positioning statement for the university.

"Weber State already has an official mission statement, but this is different," said John Kowalewski, executive director of Marketing & Communications.

We are Weber.

We put teaching first. We forge strong connections.
We are dedicated and resourceful, down to earth and forward thinking.

**We know how to challenge you,
and we care enough to do it.**

We are proudly rooted in our community while we pioneer beyond boundaries.
We are unique in our ability to welcome everyone who has a dream
— to learn, to grow, to lead, to excel, to find your passion, to provide for your family —

**and we offer the personalized
opportunities, experiences and support**
to transform that dream into reality.

Our doors, and minds, are open.



**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Worthy of Your Dreams

"A positioning statement is more straightforward and puts some 'heart' into a description of who we are and what we do as an institution."

The positioning statement is intended to differentiate WSU from competitor schools and provide a foundation for future marketing efforts.

After crafting a proposed statement, the marketing team conducted a survey to determine if a variety of audiences — students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community — agreed with the statement and liked what it said. Of the 1,264 people who responded to the survey, 81 percent found the statement accurate, and 76 percent said it was appealing.

The survey also gave people a chance to choose their favorite phrases from the statement. "This will be a useful tool in future marketing efforts," Kowalewski said. "We know what alumni think is important, compared to what students selected. We can use that information to create targeted messages depending on which audience we're trying to reach."

Even more importantly, Kowalewski said, "We hope that

everyone affiliated with Weber State, in any way, can read this statement and see themselves represented somewhere within it. That's how we know we've truly captured the essence of our university."

The statement and survey results were reviewed in November by President's Council, which approved adopting and promoting the statement across the university.