



# WSU NEWS

Weber State University News & Events

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## Campus Celebrates Successful Fundraising Campaign



# \$125 million and counting ...

### Dream 125: The Campaign for Weber State University

is no longer a dream. It's a reality. The fundraising campaign kicked off with a flourish of balloons and bands Jan. 7, 2014, on the university's 125th anniversary. With more than two months to go, already the campaign has exceeded its \$125 million goal.

The campaign ends officially June 30, 2016, but the university invited faculty, staff, donors and campus community members to celebrate success at two lively parties.

A Hollywood-themed donor event April 12 included the premiere of a 70-minute documentary chronicling the university's 125-year history. WSU alumnus and award-winning filmmaker Issac Goeckeritz produced the film "Great Oaks from Small Acorns Grow: The Story of Weber State University." The voices, faces, stories and memories of Weber State's successes helped underscore the importance of a fundraising campaign. Money raised will

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## Sharing Knowledge, Providing Scholarships

When longtime manufacturing engineering technology professor **Kerry Tobin** goes on industry visits, he always runs into former students. "There's nothing more fulfilling than seeing them on the job, earning good incomes, supporting their families, being tax-paying



citizens, except maybe also being able to say, 'Hey, I taught your dad', and, in one case, 'I taught your grandfather,'" said Tobin, smiling.

A Weber State College alumnus, Tobin earned a certificate of proficiency in machine tool technology in

1972 and a bachelor's degree in manufacturing engineering technology in 1975. After a successful career as a manufacturing engineering technologist, Tobin returned to his alma mater in 1981 to teach in the Department of Engineering Technology.

"It just seemed natural," he said. "I had mentored others as a student, and now I had experience that I could share, that I wanted to share."

Today, Tobin is also sharing a portion of his earnings with students, in the form of a hybrid scholarship endowment. He and his wife, Shanna, have pledged \$40,000 to be paid over a five-year period. The endowment will provide immediate and ongoing support for Weber State University manufacturing engineering technology students.

"It's a good feeling, to give back," Tobin said. "I think the longer you're at Weber State, the more you start to want to give back. You realize you're grateful for so many things. Weber State did so much for me."

## DIXON AWARDS

Associate athletic director Amy Crosbie and history professor Gene Sessions were the recipients of the Alumni Association's 2016 H. Aldous Dixon Award.

### Amy Crosbie



For six years, Amy Crosbie has served as WSU's associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, the highest-ranking female within athletics. She's an advocate for female athletes and administrators and helps ensure student-athletes take full responsibility for their conduct and grades.

"Occasionally I find myself sitting across from students after they have made a poor choice," Crosbie said. "In these moments I support them, work to understand their

background and identify teaching moments where I can help them grow, mature and learn from their mistakes."

Crosbie also gets student-athletes engaged in the community. Under her leadership, they have collected and donated 771 school supplies, 758 pairs of shoes, nearly 1,000 pounds of canned food and 500 pounds of travel-sized toiletry items.

"Student-athletes are faced with an inordinate amount of pressure to be successful," Crosbie said. "Encouraging them to participate in community service helps them bloom and feel connected to a purpose beyond their own."

### Gene Sessions



History professor Gene Sessions earned his bachelor's degree from Weber College in 1964. He returned as a faculty member 10 years later, and for the past 41 years has been one of the university's biggest cheerleaders and favorite professors.

Sessions attends every home game of every sport to support students. In 2011, Sessions found a solution to the rising price of textbooks by putting his required course materials online.

Widely respected for his knowledge of Utah and Mormon history, Sessions has authored books and published numerous scholarly articles. He is one of only a handful of WSU faculty to have received the university's two most prestigious awards — the Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor and the John S. Hinckley Fellow Award.

"I think our most important responsibility to our students is to make them proud that they are students at Weber and that they know they are attending the very best undergraduate institution in the state, hands down," Sessions said.

## LINDQUIST AWARDS

Two innovative professors, who have enhanced the community and classroom with thoughtful partnerships, were selected as the John A. Lindquist Award recipients: Azenett Garza, psychology professor, and Becky Jo Gesteland, English professor and interim associate dean of the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities.

### Azenett Garza



For more than a decade, psychology professor Azenett Garza has involved students in engaged learning through service and research in the Ogden community.

Garza, along with psychology instructor María Parrilla de Kokal and student volunteers, evaluated the Ogden City Weed and Seed program and the Utah Basic Skills Competency Test. She also helped develop a student-volunteer internship program to promote higher education among Head Start children in the Ogden School District.

In 2013, Garza assumed the role as director of the university's Community Research Extension. She and her students are participating in United Way's Ogden United Promise Neighborhood initiative. Their research will help determine how nonprofit organizations and government entities fill gaps in education and services to families and children in central Ogden.

"To see students realize all they can be involved in to help those in need and to continue to help and empower the community through research are most meaningful in my academic career," Garza said.

### Becky Jo Gesteland



English professor Becky Jo Gesteland helps students gain practical experience in technical writing as they partner with nonprofit organizations to develop websites, design documents and write grants.

In the senior-level, grant-writing course, students work closely with community partners to identify organizational needs; research appropriate funding sources; and plan, develop and write grants. Community partners have included Ogden's Union Station Foundation, YMCA, Ogden Nature Center and Head Start.

Thanks to the work of Gesteland and her colleague English professor Shelley Thomas, all six of WSU's professional and technical writing courses have a community collaboration component.

Gesteland is also the coordinator for the Engaged Learning Series (ELS) and the Community Engaged Learning Fellows Program.

"Students want to be connected to the community, and by creating opportunities for them to address issues of public concern, we expand students' educational experience, develop better connections with the community at large and perhaps make our world just a little bit better," Gesteland said.

Weber State University's  
**147th Commencement**  
will be held

**Friday, April 29, 2016**  
Dee Events Center  
8 a.m.



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## WELCOME to WSU

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**Amanda Geilman**, *Education Access and Outreach*

**Connor Larsen**, *Payroll Services*

**Mary Machira**, *International Student Services*

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## On the Move/Promoted

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**Rachael Combe**, *Financial Aid Office*

**Matthew Driggs**, *Registrar's Office*

**Jacob Hansen**, *Printing Services*

**Michelle Owens**, *Financial Aid Office*

**Lisa Vermillion**, *Financial Aid Office*

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## Retired

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**John Durney**, *Facilities Management*

**Janna Wahlen**, *Facilities Management*

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*Dream 125 continued*

support student scholarships, provide faculty and staff with technology and training, and enhance the campus with modern facilities.

The campus joined in the celebration April 13 when Dream 125 combined with the annual WSU Student Association Club Carnival to create “Carnival of Dreams 125.”

Festivities in the Shepherd Union began at 10 a.m. and culminated between 1 and 1:25 p.m. with confetti cannons, music, Waldo, the Spirit Squad and President Charles A. Wight’s announcement of the fundraising total.

He reminded the crowd that for the university to continue to succeed, individuals will need to continue to contribute generously. April is dedicated to faculty and staff giving.

“Weber State proudly acknowledges its role in propelling generations of bright students to promising futures,” Wight said. “For more than 125 years, we have supported students in making their dreams happen, and we look forward to continuing that support well into the future.”



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## Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

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The National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society elected **Isabel Asensio**, associate Spanish professor, vice president of the west region for the 2016-19 triennium. In her role, Asensio will serve also as a member of Sigma Delta Pi’s national executive council.

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Visiting assistant professor of communication **Veronica Dawson** presented papers at two major conferences. At the Western States Communication Association conference, she presented “The organizing role of social media professionals.” At a once-every-10-year Organizational Communication conference, she presented “Organizations, organizing, and identity in social media.”

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**Roberto Garcia**, teacher education assistant professor, will present his paper “Analyzing

the effectiveness of a critical race praxis through critical discursive psychology” at the 2016 American Educational Research Association Centennial Conference in Washington, D.C.

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Foreign languages professor **Alicia Giralt** was elected to a three-year term in the governing body of the Council of Undergraduate Research in the Arts and Humanities division.

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Teacher education professor **Linda Gowans** was awarded the Utah Association of Teacher Educator’s Distinguished Teacher Educator award at the Feb. 19 annual conference.

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**Hailey Gillen Hoke**, assistant communication professor, presented the paper “An examination of supervisor

sex, organizational satisfaction, and organizational dissent” at the Western States Communication Association conference in San Diego. The paper included data from a communication research methods course and was co-authored by recent communication graduate **Katie Rigby**.

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**Blake Nielson**, professional sales department chair, and **Tim Border**, professional sales associate professor, published the paper “Teaching and training future sales professionals how to negotiate with real world experience” in the *Journal for Advancement of Marketing Education*, Vol. 24, No. 1. The research investigates tools to teach salespeople and students how to become master negotiators by application of concepts in real-world situations.

# Distinguished Professors

Two Weber State University professors acclaimed for contributions to their disciplines have been named the 2016 Brady Presidential Distinguished Professors.

The honor was established in 2006 as a way to recognize outstanding WSU faculty members who demonstrate the highest quality of teaching, scholarship, research and community service.

Funding for the recognition was made possible by a generous gift from Rodney and Carolyn Brady. Rodney Brady served as president of WSU from 1978-85. The recipients will be honored during the university's spring commencement ceremony.

## John Mull



A contributor to the fields of ecology and entomology, John Mull is lauded for his work on a national, local and university level.

His service has included being on the American Museum of Natural History's Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners. His national efforts earned him recognition as the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners' Professor of the Month.

Currently Mull directs the Ritchey Science & Engineering Fair, is a member of the WSU Environmental Issues Committee and frequently contributes to the Honors Program. He also created a display on bees for Snow Canyon State Park and has served as co-organizer of the Antelope Island Spider Festival. He served as chair of the Board of Directors for HawkWatch International, the world's leading nonprofit group dedicated to birds of prey.

In the past five years, Mull has co-authored five peer-reviewed publications and published several book reviews. Also, he collaborated on eight professional presentations to groups such as the Society for the Study of Evolution, the International Congress for Conservation Biology and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Mull earned a doctorate in biology and ecology from Utah State University and has been a faculty member at WSU for 19 years.

## Paul Schvaneveldt



Realizing that education begins long before college, Department of Child & Family Studies Chair Paul Schvaneveldt has dedicated himself to improving families and literacy in the community.

Schvaneveldt founded the WSU Family Literacy Program and Healthy Relationship Education Project, which received WSU's Exemplary Interdisciplinary Collaboration Award in 2015.

Schvaneveldt has guided more than 70 student research papers. These papers have been presented at local, regional, national and international levels, including four that received outstanding research paper awards from the National Council on Family Relations.

He has served as chair of the Families Alive Conference and as president of the Family Science Association. Gov. Gary Herbert appointed him chair of the Utah Marriage Commission from 2012-15, which coordinates healthy relationship programming in the state.

Schvaneveldt has authored more than 80 journal articles, book chapters and academic conference presentations. Research topics have ranged from exploring factors of adolescent development to understanding Latino family processes. The last subject — and a religious mission in Bogotá, Colombia — particularly informed his year in Ecuador as a Fulbright Scholar with the U.S. Department of State.

He earned his doctorate in human development and family studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and has been a WSU faculty member for 13 years.

## HINCKLEY AWARD FELLOW



A role model for faculty and students, **Hal Crimmel** has been named the 2016 John S. Hinckley Fellow. Crimmel serves as chair of the English department.

In his teaching and research, Crimmel blends the discipline of English with contemporary concerns in ecology, biology and the environment. He was a leading figure in the creation of the WSU Sustainability Practices and Research Center. His interdisciplinary perspectives are reflected in his edited collection of essays "Desert Water: The Future of Utah's Water Resources."

"Crimmel uses his energy to translate WSU's vision as a center of undergraduate research and community service into a practical reality," wrote English professor Michael Wutz in a nomination letter.

As a scholar, Crimmel has presented regularly at national conferences, published five books and contributed to numerous articles and several films. Crimmel has been a Fulbright Scholar and also a visiting professor in Germany, China and Austria.

## COLLABORATION AWARD



Two programs that bring art and science to life for children in the Ogden community were honored with the Exemplary Collaboration Award.

Science in the Parks and Arts in the Parks host approximately 5,000 Ogden youth during their six-week summer sessions. Science in the Parks began in 2007; two years later, the model was expanded to the arts.

Physics professor **Adam Johnston**, who directs Science in the Parks, decided to take science to the children as they participated in free summer lunch programs. The settings also create a playful, active environment — that children then associate with science and art.

The programs each attract as many as 250 a day where children are nourished mentally and physically.

"We are proud of — and sometimes surprised by — the success and impact of our collaborative effort," Johnston said.