

DREAMS  
HAPPEN  
HERE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

## 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.**

**Tarl Langham** wanted a different career. **Shaun McBride** wanted to become an entrepreneur and have fun doing it. **Jessica Miller** wanted to be an award-winning journalist.

Their circumstances were different. Tarl was a 35-year-old single father, Shaun a returned missionary who had a knack for reading people, Jessica a traditional student who worked her way up through the ranks of *The Signpost* to become editor in chief. They had one thing in common: They each came to Weber State University with a dream.

*And that's where the magic happened.*

**DREAMS  
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Tarl graduated in the spring of 2017 with a bachelor's degree in information systems & technologies. He has been accepted to a master's degree program at the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania. When he graduates, Tarl will have his choice of careers with Fortune 100 tech companies and will command a six-figure starting salary, says his professor Randy Boyle.

**Dream come true.**

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Shaun graduated in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in professional sales. He went from skate shop owner, to online jewelry seller, to the social media star known as "Shonduras." He takes a different approach to digital media and marketing — showing, rather than telling, people how to have fun with high-level brands such as Disney, Taco Bell, Red Bull, Doritos and Viacom. Shaun recently landed on Forbes' list of 30 Under 30.

**Dream come true.**

**DREAMS  
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Jessica graduated in 2009 with her bachelor's degree in communication and earned her Master of Professional Communication degree in 2013. While at Weber State, she wrote over 100 articles for *The Signpost* and often broke stories of community significance or impact. In 2011, she accepted a job covering justice and safety at *The Salt Lake Tribune*. In April 2017, she and a team of journalists wrote a series of investigative reports on campus sexual assaults, which won a Pulitzer Prize.

**Dream come true.**

These are just three examples of why I get up every morning excited to be president of this university. And there are so many others. I hope, after reading this year's report, that you, too, wake up excited to be a part of Weber State — an institution where dreams are transformed into realities.



Charles A. Wight  
Proud President  
Weber State University





From Facebook to Snapchat

DREAMS HAPPEN HERE

Photo by Zac Williams

to Forbes' 30 Under 30

**SHAUN McBRIDE**  
Class of 2012



*His dream:* To make his story as cool as he wants it to be



He refers to himself as a professional “fun-haver,” but Weber State technical sales alumnus Shaun McBride is much more than that. The social media mogul known as “Shonduras” was recently named to the Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list for marketing and advertising, not long before he signed a lucrative content creation deal with Viacom.

McBride, who got his start selling jewelry on Facebook, has amassed millions of followers on social media, where he is most popular on YouTube and Snapchat. Now he works with brands such as Nickelodeon, MTV and Taco Bell on their social media strategies. Most recently, McBride purchased an e-sports team and launched a company called Spacestation Gaming.



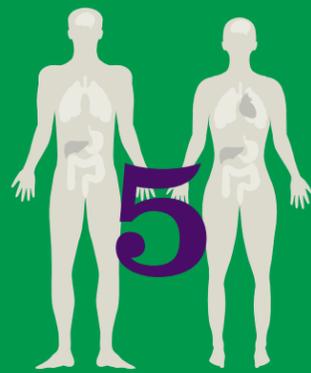
**SHONDURAS**  
**1,076,905**  
The number of YouTube subscribers “Shonduras” had as of July 2017

“Shonduras” has remained close to Weber State, building a new home in Syracuse, Utah. In March 2017, he returned to Weber State to speak to professional sales students in the Shepherd Union Wildcat Theater.

# Experiences HAPPEN HERE



The renovations were made possible by the Lawrence T. and Janet T. Dee Foundation and WSU's Office of the Provost. The center's namesake, Annie Taylor Dee, helped establish Ogden's Thomas D. Dee Memorial Hospital in the early 1900s. The hospital featured the Dee School of Nursing, which became affiliated with Weber College in 1932.



The number of technologically sophisticated mannequins in the Dee Simulation Center

## Not Your Ordinary Lab

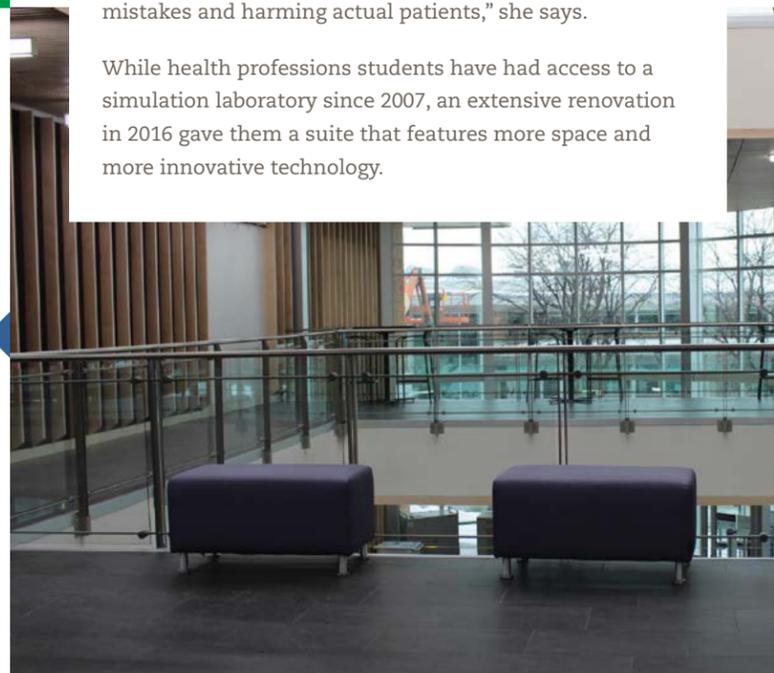
WSU's Annie Taylor Dee Simulation Center looks and sounds like a hospital. And that's the whole idea.

Nursing students rush to care for newborn "twins." Emergency care and rescue students report the "mother's" vital signs. Ventilators whoosh, EKG machines beep, and respiratory therapy students take turns counting compressions on the infants — "one and two and three and ...."

While the "patients" aren't real — they're lifelike mannequins — the setting, according to respiratory therapy student Kamiah Lansing, "feels real."

"It teaches us how to respond in an actual medical environment, without having to worry about making mistakes and harming actual patients," she says.

While health professions students have had access to a simulation laboratory since 2007, an extensive renovation in 2016 gave them a suite that features more space and more innovative technology.



## In With the New

Students and faculty returning in the fall of 2017 will be delighted to find renovations completed on the Stewart Library. The project, 14 months in the making, delivers a host of welcome changes and upgrades. For instance, an emphasis has been placed on incorporating more natural light via skylights and walls of windows. New amenities include faculty research rooms and a testing center.

## A Bright Star in the WSU Universe

Physics professor Stacy Palen may research the death of sun-like stars, but her teaching and community outreach bring life to the study of astronomy.

As director of the Ott Planetarium, Palen has inspired thousands of school children and other audiences to look up and ask questions. She has written several grants and secured funding, including \$1 million from NASA, to upgrade planetarium facilities and resources, such as production of full-dome video for the planetarium environment.

Palen has used many of the world's great telescopes, including Hubble. On NPR's popular show, *Science Friday*, she discussed the telescope that will succeed Hubble, and what it may reveal about the cosmos. At Weber State, she has advised several astronomy projects, one of which is to develop the infrastructure and program for two observatories on top of the new Tracy Hall Science Center.

Palen is the author of two introductory astronomy textbooks and a workbook for hands-on learning activities. Her text, *Understanding Our Universe*, has been adopted by more than 100 university programs.

Palen says her honor as a 2017 Brady Distinguished Professor is both motivating and validating: "Being recognized for the work I have done with students has made me 'double-down' on trying to do it even better."



# From *Signpost* Editor to Pulitzer Prize Winner

## JESSICA SCHREIFELS MILLER

Class of 2009,  
2013



Francisco Kjolseth/Salt Lake Tribune

*Her dream:*  
To become a journalist who makes an impact



Jessica Schreifels Miller arrived at Weber State with a clear idea of what she wanted to study: journalism. She'd found her passion in high school, writing for TX, the teen section of the *Standard-Examiner*.

At age 20, Miller was selected as editor in chief of WSU's student newspaper, *The Signpost*. Driven, she graduated from Weber State in just three years and earned her Master of Professional Communication degree four years later.

After receiving her bachelor's degree, Miller reported first for the *Standard-Examiner* and then as the cops reporter at *The Salt Lake Tribune*. There, she received a call that a Brigham Young University (BYU) student claimed she was punished for honor code violations following a report of sexual assault. That story led to a yearlong, statewide investigation and to *The Tribune's* 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting.

"Other people in Utah did this story," Miller says, "but I think we went deeper, and we

kept pushing. I wonder if we hadn't done that, if we hadn't kept writing story after story, it would have just been dismissed as a bad week in public relations, and nothing would ever have changed."

In June 2017, BYU announced it had formally adopted an amnesty policy for victims or witnesses of sexual assault.

At the Pulitzer ceremony, Miller was inspired by reporters who had earned the award multiple times. Motivated to join that group, she knows every good story begins by asking the right question.

"Journalism makes you curious," Miller says. "You look at things and don't just take them at face value. You think, 'What's the real story? What's really going on?' Journalism has become part of my identity: I am a woman, living in Ogden. I am a wife, and I am journalist. It really has become the core of who I am."



Photo by Zac Williams

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HERE



## A Good Leader, a Great Professor

Students credit Michael J. Stevens, chair of WSU's Department of Business Administration, with broadening their understanding of what makes a good leader and changing their lives for the better.

When he's not nudging students forward, Stevens is equipping the world with increased knowledge. He has produced more than 90 publications. Other scholars have cited Stevens' articles nearly 800 times. In addition, he co-developed the Teamwork-KSA Test, Global Competencies Inventory and Intercultural Effectiveness Scale. More than 100,000 individuals in 170 countries have used these assessments.

For his scholarly efforts, WSU's John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics named Stevens a Smith Fellow from 2008-2015 and then a Buehler Fellow. At WSU, he has collaborated with the Women's Studies Executive Committee to aid women in navigating particular challenges in business. He also offers his "Leadership Through People Skills" course free to WSU faculty and staff.

In the community, Stevens has served with the Sunstone Education Foundation, Howard Park Early Childhood Center and EnTeam Institute, a nonprofit educational foundation with the goal of building communication through cooperative games and activities.



## Teaming Up for Health Care

When health care professionals work as a team, patients benefit. That's why interprofessional education — teaching students from all health professions disciplines how to provide team-based, collaborative care — is the future. And the future will arrive at Weber State in the fall of 2018, when the Ezekiel R. & Katherine W. Dumke Center for Interprofessional Education in Health Care (IPE) is set to open.

The 10,000-square-foot facility will provide health professions students with a centralized location in which to collaborate and communicate with faculty, and learn how care is delivered in a true medical setting. The high-tech building will also be a place to conduct research and stage conferences, lectures and presentations.



## Off to an Incredible Start

More than 100 people applied to WSU's nurse practitioner program — the newest track in the university's Master of Science in Nursing program — in the fall of 2017. That's more than double the amount it had in its first semester a year earlier.

To maintain its ability to offer personalized experiences and support, and its ability to place students in clinical settings, the program was able to accept only 24 students.

"We had so many wonderful applicants that we increased our acceptance number from 20 to 24," explains Susan Thornock, chair of the School of Nursing. "But it was difficult to turn away so many good students. We're going to evaluate the success of the first cohort upon its completion and then consider expanding."



weber.edu/ecr

# From West Point to Weber

DREAMS HAPPEN HERE

Photo by Zac Williams

**AMANDA KING**  
Class of 2017



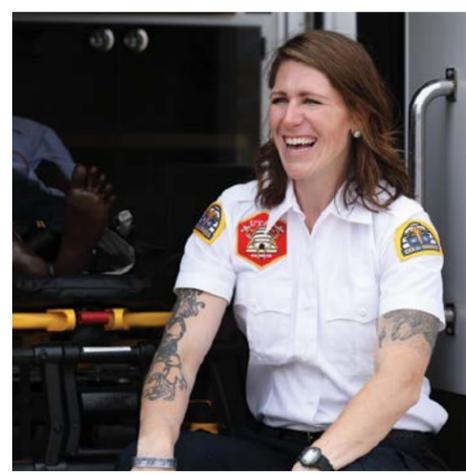
*Her dream:*  
To study health professions in honor of a fallen friend



Amanda King recalls smiling faces and helpful classmates during her first day at Weber State University — a stark contrast to the serious military discipline at the U.S. Military Academy, aka West Point.

However, King didn't pick WSU for its friendly atmosphere.

King graduated from West Point in 2006 and served eight years in the Army. While on tour in Afghanistan, her friend and fellow soldier, Jennifer Moreno, an Army nurse, was killed during a rescue mission. "I wanted to follow in her steps with medicine since she was unfortunately not able to," King says. WSU offered the quickest path for King to fulfill her dream.



**3**  
The number of tours King served in Afghanistan, spending a total of 1.5 years in the country

Last spring, King graduated from WSU's paramedic program. For now, she works for a private ambulance service but hopes to eventually get the training she needs to become a fire department paramedic. "Weber State was definitely what I needed to make my dreams come true," she says.

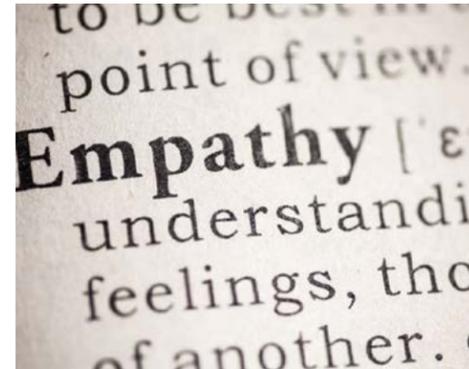


## Social Science Renovation Underway

After more than four decades of dutifully serving Weber State, the Social Science building is being renovated into Lindquist Hall, a showstopper facility that will provide learning opportunities for years to come.

The building is named in honor of the Lindquist family. **John E. Lindquist**, president of Lindquist Mortuaries and Great Western Insurance, gifted \$5 million to help the dream become reality. In addition, the Utah Legislature allocated \$14 million for construction in 2017, with the intent of earmarking another \$15 million in 2018 to complete the project.

Lindquist Hall is scheduled to open to students in January 2019.



## How Does That Make You Feel?

Thanks to two WSU professors, we can now add empathy to the ever-growing list of benefits associated with reading literature. English professor **Sally Shigley** and psychology professor **Lauren Fowler**, who heads up WSU's neuroscience program, joined forces to study a possible connection between literature and empathy.

The study measured the psychological signs of empathy (facial muscle activity, heart rate, skin temperature) in its subjects as they read the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Wit*. The play chronicles a woman battling stage 4 cancer. The results of the study showed that reading literature was a good way to elicit empathy because readers assumed the role of the main character.

Shigley and Fowler have presented the study at several conferences, including one at Oxford University. It will soon be published into a book.



## Professor Offers Firsthand Knowledge of Syrian Crisis

Before international scholar and Syrian refugee **Abdul Nasser Kaadan** began teaching at WSU as a visiting international history professor, he taught at the University of Aleppo in Syria and was a orthopedic surgeon running a prosperous clinic. He has a medical degree and a Ph.D. in history of medicine.

By 2015, life in Syria consisted of daily bombings, attacks and kidnappings. Kaadan and his wife fled their homeland to seek refuge in Turkey.

They arrived in Utah in December 2016. In the spring of 2017, Kaadan taught courses on the history of science, the history of the Middle East and the Syrian crisis. He will continue to teach through the fall of 2017.

"Weber State is very lucky to have Dr. Abdul Nasser Kaadan as a visiting scholar on our faculty," says **Susan Matt**, history department chair. "He is an internationally known scholar and a pioneer in the field of the history of Islamic medicine. His research has been groundbreaking.

"In addition to his outstanding record of scholarship, we are fortunate to have Kaadan lend a firsthand perspective on the origins and consequences of the ongoing crisis in Syria."

# From High-School Dropout to Harvard Faculty



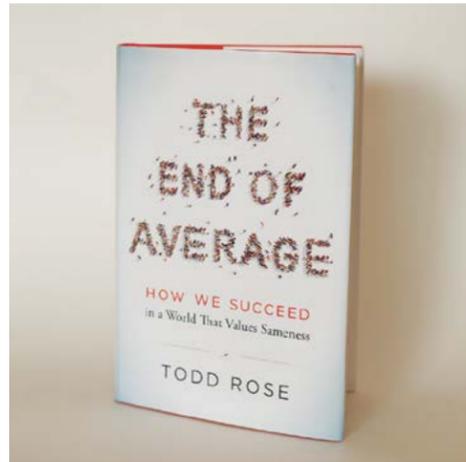
DREAMS  
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Kris Smibbe/Harvard Staff Photographer

**TODD ROSE**  
Class of 2000



*His dream:* To dispel the myth of “the average”



Todd Rose came to Weber State in the late 1990s a high-school dropout with a 0.9 GPA. He had been labeled a class clown, a troublemaker, and, as he explained in his new book *The End of Average*, “More than one school official told my parents that they would have to temper their expectations about what I would be able to achieve in life.”

Rose, however, felt that “something wasn’t right with [that] analysis.” “I felt sure I had something to offer; it just seemed like there was a profound mismatch between who I really was and the way the world saw me,” he wrote.

At WSU, Rose forged his own path based on his strengths and weaknesses, and found success. Today, he is the director of the Mind, Brain, and Education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he leads the Laboratory for the Science of the Individual.

Rose believes that “the average” is a mythical yardstick that hurts everyone. His mission is to dispel the myth of “the average” and help the public understand the importance of the individual.



**“Human beings don’t line up perfectly. There is no average learner. They have strengths and weaknesses. They all do. Even geniuses do.”**  
— Todd Rose

*From* **Master Mechanic**

*to* **Master's Degree at Carnegie Mellon**

**TARL  
LANGHAM**  
Class of 2017



*His dream:* To work with computers and be a role model to his children

**35**

Age when Tarl enrolled at WSU in 2013

**2,800**

The number of Dream Weber students WSU sponsored in 2016-17

**\$135,000**

The average starting salary for graduates of Carnegie Mellon's Master of Information Systems Management degree

**\$16,965,094**

The amount of money awarded to Dream Weber students since 2010

In the fall of 2017, newly minted WSU information systems & technologies (IS&T) graduate Tarl Langham began working on his master's degree at Carnegie Mellon University. When he earns his graduate diploma, Tarl will be coveted by Fortune 100 tech companies and command a six-figure starting salary.

Hard to imagine that the divorced, single parent of three almost abandoned his studies at Weber State. In spring 2016, Tarl, who had been working as a master mechanic for nearly 12 years, missed a deadline for financial aid. The Pell Grants and student loans he'd been surviving on, were gone. Panicked, he contacted associate provost Eric Amsel. Less than 24 hours later, Tarl learned he qualified for WSU's Dream Weber program, which pays tuition and fees for Utah students whose annual household income is \$40,000 or less.

IS&T professor Randy Boyle says Tarl has a bright future because he's a hard worker, and he views setbacks as "opportunities to try harder."

Read more about Tarl's story at [weber.edu/annualreport](http://weber.edu/annualreport).

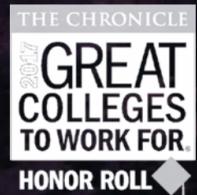
**DREAMS  
HAPPEN  
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Photo by D'Arcy Benincosa



# WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

## Facts & Figures



Weber State University was named a **2017 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR** by the Chronicle of Higher Education

MORE THAN **225** degree programs



### Fall 2016 Enrollment by COUNTY OF ORIGIN

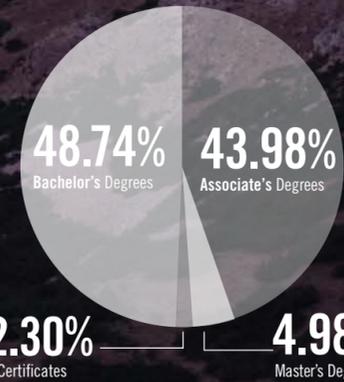
Weber: 31.12%  
Davis: 40.87%  
Salt Lake: 6.14%  
Other Utah: 12.50%  
Outside Utah: 8.22%  
International: 1.15%

### Weber State University RANKED AMONG:



Great Value Colleges' **BEST COLLEGES** for **ADULT LEARNERS**

### Distribution of Graduates' 2016-17 DEGREES & AWARDS



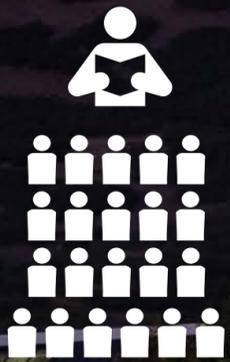
### TOP 10<sup>1</sup> DEGREE PROGRAMS 5-YEAR TOTAL Academic Years 2013 through 2017

1	Nursing	3,623
2	Radiologic Sciences	1,151
3	Business Administration	982
4	Computer Science	812
5	Criminal Justice	731
6	Medical Laboratory Sciences	707
7	Health Promotion and Human Performance	699
8	Professional Sales	684
9	Accounting/Taxation	643
10	Engineering Technology	618



**143**

Student-athletes earned **ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS** IN 2016-17



STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO: **21:1**

**26,809** Fall 2016 Enrollment



**13** MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

**\$1,711,785** million

The amount WSU saved on its electric, natural gas and water bills in fiscal year 2016

In 10 years, WSU has reduced its electricity consumption by 29 percent, its direct carbon footprint by more than 30 percent and its natural gas consumption by more than 33 percent, while the university has grown by more than 375,210 square feet.

### Weber State University WAS NAMED TO:



The Princeton Review's **GUIDE TO 361 GREEN COLLEGES: 2016 EDITION**



The Sierra Club's **2016 COOL SCHOOLS LIST**



As of July 2017, WSU has provided more than **\$90.5 million** in **SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID** to more than **13,141 STUDENTS** for the **2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR.**

# Celebrating 10 Years of Strengthening Communities

Established in 2007, WSU's Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL), originally called the Community Involvement Center, offers wonderfully diverse programs that enrich lives in local communities.

For 10 years, students have amassed over a million service hours working within the three pillars of community engagement — service, democratic engagement and community research. CCEL participants have served the greater Ogden community, the state, the region, the country and the world.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY  
2016-17

5,264

The number of students engaged in the community

105

The number of community partnerships CCEL has

141,543

The number of service hours contributed by WSU students (That adds up to 16 years!)

\$3,400,000\*

Value of service hours

\*Calculated by Independent Sector

1,333,821

The number of service hours students have contributed in the past 10 years



From NULC Workshop

to *The New Yorker*

MARIO  
CHARD

Class of 2007

*His dream:*  
To write poetry

For its final 2016 issue, *The New Yorker* published Mario Chard's poem, *Machismo*, which touches on issues of national identity, immigration and drug use.

"When we walk away from any reflection, when we choose to ignore it, we grow smaller in the reflection itself," Chard says. "And that act, for me, lies at the heart of the idea of *Machismo*."

But before his words graced the *New Yorker's* pages, Chard honed his skills as an English major at WSU. After earning his bachelor's degree in 2007, Chard completed a Master of Fine Arts at Purdue University and earned the Wallace Stegner Fellowship in poetry from Stanford University. Currently, Chard teaches English at an independent preparatory school in Atlanta. He has also taught writing and poetry courses at Purdue, Stanford and WSU.

Among Chard's many accomplishments, Robert Pinsky, a former U.S. poet laureate, recently selected Chard's book *Land of Fire* for the Dorset Prize from Tupelo Press.

"Weber brought in Robert Pinsky as the keynote speaker at NULC [National Undergraduate Literature Conference] in 2004," Chard says. "I had no way of knowing that 12 years later he would select my own book for a prize."

MACHISMO  
Refugio from Mexico is not Mexico,  
is every man who makes other men  
the convex mirror of his buckle  
Refugio, who turned his daughter go  
n the mirror of his own—the last y  
to Refugio—the night he carried h  
before the war to give her Mexico  
war, before a man nan  
ould be hu



32

The number of years WSU has hosted the National Undergraduate Literature Conference, which has featured many award-winning authors such as Robert Pinsky, Chard, Ray Bradbury and Terry Tempest Williams

DREAMS  
HAPPEN  
HERE

Photo courtesy of Mario Chard

# Connections HAPPEN HERE



## President Wight and Wife, Victoria, Serve Abroad

During the spring of 2017, a team of 20 volunteers, including WSU President Charles A. Wight and his wife Victoria Rasmussen, traveled to Ghana as part of a study abroad trip.

Trip director Lisa Trujillo, WSU respiratory therapy associate professor, has extensive knowledge and experience with service work in Ghana. In 2016, she helped the University of Ghana implement the country's first and only respiratory therapy degree program.

The trip was Wight's first international service trip with WSU. While in Ghana, he taught short courses on malaria prevention and represented the Rotary Club of Ogden, a trip sponsor. He also met with leaders at the University of Ghana to discuss their respiratory therapy program, which continues to receive development support from WSU.

## Great Ideas and a Cup of Coffee

Valuable business ideas, great networking and a cup of coffee are drawing Utah entrepreneurs to a monthly gathering at Weber State Downtown known as 1 Million Cups (1MC).

In partnership with Weber State and Ogden's Small Business Development Center, 1MC is a national program created by the Kauffman Foundation that came to Ogden in 2016. Held the first Wednesday of the month, two local startups make six-minute presentations followed by 20 minutes of feedback from community members in attendance.

Already attracting overflow crowds, 1MC is open to the public. "This is a way for the community to come together," says organizer Brandon Stoddard, who also directs the Hall Global Entrepreneurship Center in the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics. "We can each get personally involved in making Ogden one of the most enviable places to work, live and play."

## OgdenCAN and Ogden Will

Ogden's East Central Neighborhood, which stretches from 20th to 30th streets and Washington to Harrison boulevards, is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the city. Of the 15,528 residents who call the area home, 19 percent live in poverty and face challenges involving education, housing and access to health care.

Through the newly established Ogden Civic Action Network (OgdenCAN) — a coalition of local stakeholders, including WSU — the residents of the East Central Neighborhood will have dedicated partners to connect them with resources focusing on three priorities: housing, education and health.

"Those three areas are intertwined," says Brenda Kowalewski, WSU's associate provost for high-impact programs and faculty development. "If you're going to create healthier residents, you have to address their housing, their access to health care and their access to good, quality education."

OgdenCAN was formed after WSU President Charles A. Wight signed Campus Compact's 30th Anniversary Action Statement in 2016. Endorsing the statement required the university to create a civic action plan that would demonstrate Weber State's commitment to the public purpose of higher education.

Kowalewski says it only made sense that a plan for the community needed to be created by the community.

"WSU is absolutely committed to the community," she says. "We're Carnegie classified for community engagement. We have a very strong relationship with Ogden City, so when we started to look at developing this civic action plan, it was natural for us to turn to the city and ask, 'If this plan is about the institution fulfilling its public mission, then we need to write it with and for the community. Would you join us?'"

The answer was simple, according to Bill Cook, former executive director of the Ogden City Council. Cook retired in 2017 but remains involved with OgdenCAN. "This was the perfect opportunity for the city to collaborate even more with the university and have a direct impact on a part of our community that is struggling," he says.

In 2016, Ogden City became the first city in the U.S. to endorse Campus Compact's action statement. Today, the coalition features seven anchor institutions, a number of allies, including local businesses, organizations, nonprofits and government entities, and residents of the East Central Neighborhood.

"One of the things that excites me about OgdenCAN is this notion of partnering collectively," Kowalewski says. "Many organizations, WSU included, have worked in this community, but individually. Now we get to explore partnerships collectively and join hands to address the same set of concerns."



### OgdenCAN anchor institutions:

- McKay-Dee Hospital
- Ogden City
- Ogden Regional Medical Center
- Ogden School District
- Ogden-Weber Tech College
- Weber-Morgan Health Department
- WSU



*Campus Compact is a national coalition of 1,000+ colleges and universities that are committed to the public purposes of higher education, building democracy through civic education and community development.*



From Ogden, Iowa

to Ogden, Utah to Graz, Austria

**JESHUA  
VAN SICKLE**  
Class of 2018

*His dream: To  
make a difference*

March 2017 was a good month for WSU junior and athletic therapy major **Jeshua Van Sickle**. In his words, "It was incredible." It began with him presenting a grant proposal at the Special Olympics Winter World Games in Graz, Austria, and ended with him being named a Newman Civic Fellow.

Originally from Ogden, Iowa, Van Sickle transferred from Iowa State University to Weber State in 2015. "I grew up in a family with eight siblings, and we were pretty well known in our town," he says. "I wanted to go where I could trek things out on my own, where I could find me for me."

Van Sickle has volunteered and interned with Special Olympics Iowa and Utah since his freshman year and has immersed himself in almost every aspect of the organization — from coaching, to event planning, to business management.

In 2016, he helped the Utah chapter successfully write a grant to Special Olympics International to create more opportunities for Special Olympics athletes to interact with students in local schools.

"There's a saying that Special Olympics coaches don't realize they're the ones being coached. That's so true," Van Sickle says. "You get so much benefit and don't even know it. But when you do realize it, you think, 'Wow, why isn't everyone doing this, and why haven't I been doing this my whole life?'"

During the World Winter Games, Team Romania gifted Van Sickle with the carved Special Olympics necklace he proudly wears. "I never take it off," he says.



The Newman Civic Fellow Awards honor extraordinary college students who demonstrate a commitment to solving problems in communities across the country. Fellows are nominated by college and university presidents who are members of Campus Compact, a national organization committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education.

**DREAMS  
HAPPEN  
HERE**

Photo by Zac Williams



12,338

The number of hours WSU students and interns have volunteered with CAPES! since its inception in 2013. Students work with the children; interns work behind the scenes to prepare weekly programs, social events and the graduation celebration.



## These Superheroes Wear CAPES!

Angie Van Leeuwen watches her son Bryson, age 9½, from across the Swenson Gymnasium. For a moment he holds his ears — there are children playing a variety of games, and it's incredibly loud — as he and a few other kids have fun with the balloons decorating the walls.

Bryson has pervasive development disorder not otherwise specified, or PDD-NOS, one of the four autism spectrum disorders. He is in his seventh semester of Weber State's CAPES! program. Also known as the Children's Adaptive Physical Education Society!, CAPES! runs for 10 weeks in the fall and spring. It pairs Weber State students one-on-one with children ages 5-12 who have developmental and/or physical disabilities.

Children participate in swimming and other activities, which are aimed toward helping them reach their optimal independence..

Angie sees Bryson running around and smiles. "He's made huge steps in the last three years," she says. "He makes eye contact. He reciprocates communication. He no longer throws fits. CAPES!

has really helped him train his behavior to handle anger and frustration. He's covering his ears right now because he's sensitive to noise, but he's handling it."

James Zagrodnik, a WSU assistant professor of physical education, and Natalie Williams, an associate professor of teacher education, run CAPES! Students in two of their courses — Adaptive Physical Education and Human Exceptionality — work to grow each child's social interactions, balance, dexterity, motor skills, strength and fitness.

Angie says she and Bryson have both been blessed by CAPES!

"What I love about the program is no one knows what the other children's disabilities are," she says. "We're just all on the ladder working our way up, and I love how they don't label the children. Bryson loves it and asks for CAPES! every semester. I say, 'Bryson, are you sure? There are kids on the waiting list to get in,' but he says, 'Mom, please I just love it.' It's the one thing he absolutely adores."

Over four years, more than 60 different children have filled 249 available slots. Many children, like Bryson, have enrolled in multiple semesters.

## Mowing *with* Meaning

Jared Abney was diagnosed with dyslexia in the second grade. A struggling reader, he began to hate school. In high school, it was football that kept him going, that and his job as a teacher's aide in a classroom for students with severe disabilities. "I knew then that I wanted to work with individuals with special needs as my career," he says.

Today, Abney, a WSU alumnus, works in an elementary special education behavior unit. He took his desire to work with individuals with special needs to a new level in 2016, when he established Mentor Mowing.

A service-based, nonprofit lawn-care company that hires and trains individuals ages 12 and older with varying disabilities to mow residential and commercial lawns, Mentor Mowing helps its employees learn new skills and find success.

Mentor Mowing is now in its second lawn care season. While clients pay a weekly rate for services, it's not enough to sustain the organization. Abney relies on donations and grants. In 2016, after seeing a newspaper article on Mentor Mowing, James Zagrodnik, a WSU assistant professor of physical education, and Natalie Williams, an associate professor of teacher education, who run CAPES!, reached out to Abney and made him aware of grants available through WSU's Alan E. and Jeanne N. Hall Endowment for Community Outreach. Abney applied and received a Hall grant.

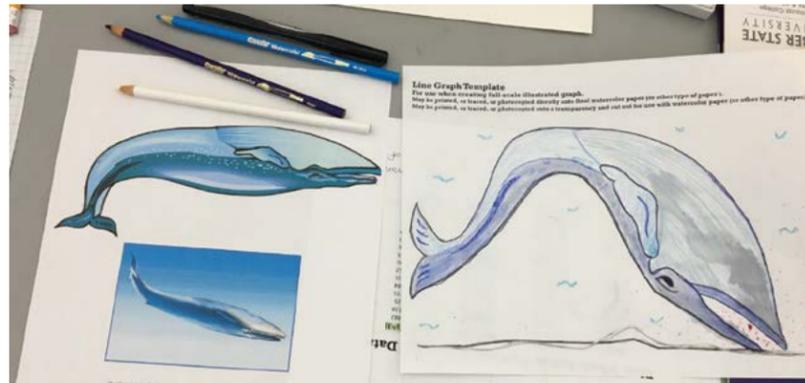
"It was amazing and was the next step in Mentor Mowing being able to hire and train more individuals with special needs," Abney says.



The number of crew members Mentor Mowing employs

38

The number of clients Mentor Mowing has in its second season, up 17 from the first season



## Bringing the Arts to Teachers

Participants at WSU's 2017 Arts Integration Conference had a whale of a time learning about, well, whales. For the third consecutive year, WSU partnered with marine biologists from Stanford University's Goldbogen Lab to present sessions that combined science and engineering with the arts, including music, media arts, visual arts, dance and drama.

The conference is part of the Arts Learning Collaborative — a partnership between the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities and the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education. It teaches attendees, including teachers, arts specialists and WSU teacher education students, ways to link the arts with other core subjects.

The conference is just one of the events hosted by the Arts Learning Collaborative; arts integration workshops are also held throughout the year. The Utah State Board of Education funds the workshops in support of the statewide Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program.

**76+**

The number of elementary schools served by the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program in the communities surrounding Weber State

**102**

The number of participants who came from across the state to attend the 2017 Arts Integration Conference



## Touting Teachers

In an effort to increase enrollment in the Weber State Teacher Education program and address a statewide teacher shortage, WSU spent the 2016-17 academic year highlighting the benefits of teaching while also dispelling myths and negative rhetoric surrounding the profession. A two-minute video (available at [weber.edu/annualreport](http://weber.edu/annualreport)) spearheaded the campaign, going viral worldwide on Facebook to the tune of 300,000 views and 75,000 engagements (likes, comments and shares).

Other efforts included bus wraps, Wildcat magazine stories, mailers, an All-Star Teacher Night at a WSU men's basketball game, a yearlong Twitter thank-you campaign and a private screening of *Star Wars: Rogue One* for WSU Teacher Education alumni. The Moyes College of Education also partnered with the Utah Council of Education Deans to create a WSU-branded teacher education commercial, which aired on KSL-TV in the spring of 2017.

**680,000**

The number of impressions generated on Facebook by WSU's *Be a Teacher* video, the most popular social media post ever created by WSU



BRIAN RAGUE

JOHN S.  
HINCKLEY  
FELLOW AWARD



RICHARD FRY

JOHN A.  
LINDQUIST  
AWARD

## Using Computer Science to Change the World

WSU professors Brian Rague and Richard Fry use their computer science expertise to make positive changes in the world, online and offline. During the 2016-17 academic year, both were honored for their work.

Rague, professor and chair of the School of Computing, received the John S. Hinckley Fellow Award, which honors faculty who demonstrate a commitment to teaching, scholarship and service.

Rague was instrumental in establishing WSU programs such as the Computer Literacy Center, where students learn to improve their computer skills; the Computer Science Simulation Lab, where students research augmented and virtual reality systems; and the Master of Science in Computer Engineering, the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology's first graduate degree.

In addition, Rague works to increase participation of underrepresented populations in computer science, such as women and minorities.

Fry, a computer science associate professor, received the John A. Lindquist Award, which WSU's Center for Community Engaged Learning presents to faculty who provide students with an excellent education while also addressing community needs.

Fry has led a number of international service-learning trips. He and his students helped underprivileged students in Thailand learn English with a custom-built app. They digitized medical records for a hospital in Ghana. They also created a web application that tracks, documents and archives the impact that the lack of available health services has on children living in rural New Zealand.

Fry and his students also have worked on software programs benefitting Catholic Community Services and Runway Ruby's, a restaurant at Hill Air Force Base that employs adults with special needs.

## Bolstering STEM Education

Building a habitat to sustain life on Mars, coding video games and designing robots for competition are just a few of the ways WSU's College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST) helps young learners explore the world.

Fun and rewarding science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs target different interests, needs and ages. The most intensive experience is the pre-freshman program known as WSU PREP. High-achieving seventh- through ninth-graders from the Davis, Ogden and Weber school districts spend seven weeks during three summers at the university receiving accelerated STEM instruction. In addition to classes, the 200 participants are mentored by college students. They also visit museums and business, and experience a taste of college life.

The FIRST Robotics programs attract nearly 3,500 statewide. As Utah's FIRST affiliate partner, Weber State faculty, staff and students help direct three competitions: FIRST LEGO League for fourth- through eighth-graders, FIRST Tech Challenge for seventh- through 12th-graders, and FIRST LEGO League Jr., for kindergarteners through fourth-graders. Teams identify and analyze a current problem and present a solution. They also design, build and program robots for competition, while learning to be cooperative and gracious team members.

To encourage young women to investigate STEM opportunities and careers, EAST hosts multiple events, including Parent/Daughter Engineering Day, SheTech and Girls Go Digital.

Thanks to the help of generous donors and volunteers, the outreach programs are offered free or for low cost.

**6,000+**

The number of public school students involved in EAST's STEM outreach programs each year

**375**

The number of people who volunteer annually for EAST's outreach programs



## A Community to Believe In

When Adrienne Andrews began working at Weber State University in 2005, she discovered a community that she not only believed in, but also acted on, promoting diversity and inclusion.

Since 2015, Andrews has helped take those efforts to new heights as WSU's first chief diversity officer.

On campus, Andrews oversees a range of diversity programs and works with faculty, staff and students, along with the community, to create an inclusive environment. Off campus, she serves on several diversity commissions. Last summer, she helped launch a series of town hall conversations about race in Ogden.

"Diversity and inclusion is not just my work," she says. "This is our work together."

The Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business committee recognized her efforts, particularly on behalf of women, by presenting her with the 2017 ATHENA Leadership Award.

**6**

The number of town hall conversations, where as many as 250 people have participated as of June 2017



## Startup Ogden Transforming Downtown

Three years after its inception, Startup Ogden is so successful, new businesses are spilling into neighboring buildings; the organization has given \$100,000 in grants to Weber County businesses; and the name of one of its creators was added to Utah's list of 100 Most Inspiring Entrepreneurs.

Opened in 2013 at WSU Downtown, Startup Ogden is an innovative, high-tech space that gives support to individuals with a dream and a passion for starting small businesses.

Utah Venture Entrepreneur Forum honored WSU's Alex Lawrence, Startup Ogden's advisory board chair, as one of the 100 Utahns in 2017 who is actively inspiring real people and encouraging world-changing entrepreneurial ideas.

# From Weber to Emory University's

# Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery Fellowship



DREAMS  
HAPPEN  
HERE

Photo by Zac Williams

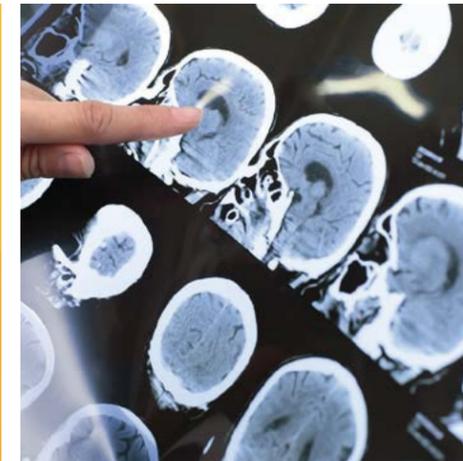
DAN  
COX

Class of 2008

*Endoscopic skull base surgery is a minimally invasive procedure that allows surgeons to remove tumors and lesions through the nose versus a large opening in the skull.*

71%

The average rate of WSU students accepted to medical school over the last seven years, which is well above the national acceptance rate of 38 percent over the same time period



*His dream:*  
To become a surgeon

When then-cabinet builder Daniel Cox enrolled at Weber State in 2004, he wasn't sure he'd enjoy science, so he decided to take his required science classes first, just to get them out of the way.

It was a good decision.

He recalled, "I wasn't a good student in high school, but during my freshman year at Weber, a microbiology course opened my eyes.

"I remember going home and reading my textbook, not because I had to, but because I wanted to. The next day I was sanding cabinets — I loved to work with my hands — and all of a sudden I just stopped, looked at a coworker and said, 'I'm going to go to medical school.'"

Fast forward to June 20, 2017.

Cox and his wife, **Tori Edwards Cox**, had just welcomed their fourth child into the

world at 2 a.m. Daniel was days away from finishing his ENT residency at the University of Utah Hospital. He was weeks away from moving his family to Atlanta, where he would be participating in an endoscopic skull base surgery fellowship at Emory University.

"Weber State offered so many opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten at other, larger schools," Cox said. "During my first anatomy class at medical school (at Washington University of St. Louis), the professor asked how many of us had performed dissections on human cadavers. I'm surrounded by students who had attended Harvard and Yale, and only three people raised their hands.

"I was one of them, thanks to Weber State."



## 'Atmosniffing' Out Air Pollution

Instead of seeking shelter in the mountains from Utah's winter inversions, members of WSU's High Altitude Reconnaissance Balloon for Outreach and Research (HARBOR) team stayed in the valley to send their tethered balloon 500 feet above Ogden to obtain samples of the smoggy air.

The team's own patent-pending "AtmoSniffer," which measures the particulate matter floating in the air, was attached to the balloon. Particulate matter — one aspect of poor air quality — forms after ozone, nitrogen and ammonia mix. During inversions, pollutants become trapped in the valleys until storm systems push them out.

In January 2017, the U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, launched a large-scale study, in collaboration with state agencies, Weber State's HARBOR team and other universities, to collect air-quality data. As John Sohl, the WSU physics professor who oversees HARBOR, told the *Standard-Examiner*, "It was an effort to make the largest set of measurements of winter inversions ever done."

The results will eventually be used to help Utah clean the air.

The HARBOR team features WSU undergraduates and alumni from a variety of science, technology, engineering and math disciplines, and even local high school students. The group presented preliminary findings at the Air Quality: Science for Solutions conference in Salt Lake City in March 2017.

Briana Scroggins/Standard-Examiner

## Wins HAPPEN HERE



# 2,078

The number of career points scored by  
Jeremy Senglin, breaking Bruce Collins'  
37-year-old WSU record

## Records Aplenty

Wildcat point guard **Jeremy Senglin** is running out of room on his basketball résumé. The two-time Big Sky champion leaves Weber State as the school's highest-scoring player, with 2,078 career points. He leads the Big Sky in 3-pointers, with 345. Senglin's 2016-17 season netted him a second First-Team All-Conference honor, as he led the nation with 132 3-pointers, breaking the Big Sky single-season record. He adds these accolades to his MVP honor from the 2016 Big Sky Tournament, where he led the Wildcats to their second title in three years.

## Appetite for Service

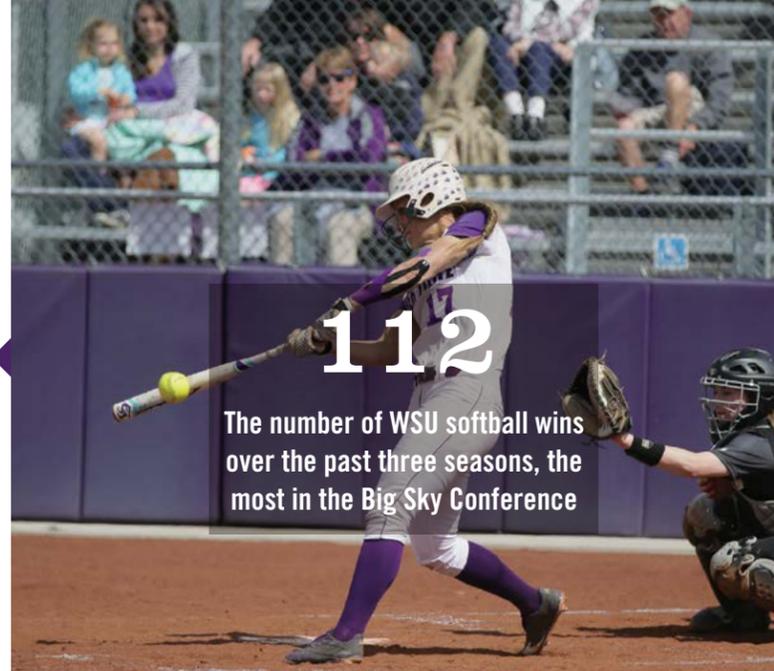
When he's not busy building a successful collegiate basketball program, **Randy Rahe** is busy building sandwiches. As part of the Coaches vs. Cancer campaign, the WSU men's basketball coach spent an afternoon working at Subway in January 2017. The four-time Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year (the most in league history) made an effort to help fund cancer research and set an example for all Weber State student-athletes and Spirit Squad members.



Matt Herp/Standard-Examiner

## Softball Repeat

In 2017, the WSU softball team earned its second consecutive regular-season Big Sky championship. The Wildcats hosted the Big Sky tournament and narrowly missed a three-peat, falling to Montana in the championship game. Weber State put an exclamation point on the season, advancing to the championship round of the National Invitational Softball Championship.



112

The number of WSU softball wins over the past three seasons, the most in the Big Sky Conference

## National Champs x 2

Weber State claimed two national championships at the 2017 NCA and NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Wildcat cheer squad won the Division I Coed crown (their third in six years), while the Wildcat dance team won the Hip Hop Division I title.



9

The number of Weber State individual titles at the 2017 Big Sky Outdoor Track & Field Championships, the most by WSU since 2009

## Record Breaker

Senior Jamie Stokes broke the school record in the 1,500 meters during the 2017 Payton Jordan Invitational at Stanford University, posting a time of 4:15.95. Her time broke Amber Henry's 2013 record of 4:16.07. A week after the invitational, Stokes won the 1,500-meter title at the Big Sky Outdoor Track & Field Championships, setting an outdoor championship record of 4:19.51.



4:15.95

WSU senior Jamie Stokes' record-breaking time in the 1,500 meters

## David Blair Grabs Gold

Utah's only gold medal from Rio arrived home around the neck of Weber State alumnus and Paralympian David Blair, who broke his own world record to place first in the 2016 Paralympic Games discus event.

Blair was born with a small left leg and misshapen foot, commonly known as clubfoot. Between his birth and 10th grade, he underwent eight surgeries at Shriners Hospital for Children in Salt Lake City. Doctors fused the foot at a 90-degree angle. While Blair's foot has no movement, the surgery allowed him to run, much like a prosthetic would.

Blair attended Weber State on a track scholarship. When he graduated in 1999, he held six Weber State records in hammer, discus and indoor weight. At a distance of 200 feet and 8 inches, his record-breaking hammer throw still holds.

## Championship Sweep

Weber State runner Ellie Child pulled off the impressive feat of winning three conference championships in one season, earning the individual title at the 2016 Big Sky Cross Country Championships, and finishing first at both the 2017 Big Sky Outdoor and Indoor Track & Field Championships. Her victory in the outdoor steeplechase capped an impressive career at WSU just a few months after she won the indoor 5,000 meters. Child finishes her career as a five-time individual Big Sky champion to go along with the Wildcats' 2015 team cross country championship.



10:14.21

WSU senior Ellie Child's Big Sky Championship-winning time in the steeplechase at the Big Sky Outdoor Track & Field Championships (Child won by nine seconds)



6,605

The number of service hours contributed by WSU student-athletes and Spirit Squad members in 2016-17



64.11 meters

The length of Blair's gold-winning, record-setting discus throw at the Paralympic Games



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