

In the Year 2006: WSU, World, Culturally

In 2006, Weber State University experienced a significant "rebound" year in its athletic programs, celebrated major academic milestones, and continued its community-focused initiatives.

The "Rahe Revolution" Begins

The most notable event in 2006 was the hiring of Randy Rahe as the men's basketball head coach.

- **Instant Success:** In his very first season (2006–07), Rahe led the Wildcats to a 20-12 record. [\[source\]](#)
- **Championship Run:** The team swept the Big Sky Conference, winning both the regular-season and tournament titles. [\[source\]](#)
- **NCAA Tournament:** This performance earned the Wildcats a trip to the 2006–07 NCAA Tournament, where they famously faced a powerhouse UCLA team in the opening round. [\[source\]](#)

Academic and Campus News

- **Utah Professor of the Year:** For the third time in four years, a WSU faculty member was named the Carnegie Utah Professor of the Year in 2006, cementing the university's reputation for teaching excellence during the F. Ann Millner era. [\[source\]](#)
- **Community Impact:** The WSU Dental Hygiene Clinic partnered with local professionals to launch the "Give Kids a Smile" initiative, providing free dental care to underserved children in the Ogden community. [\[source\]](#)

Physical Campus Changes

- **Davis Campus Expansion:** Following its opening a few years prior, the WSU Davis campus in Layton continued to expand its course offerings and professional classroom spaces to accommodate the growing number of non-traditional students in Davis County. [\[source\]](#)

2006: The Social & Tech Boom

- **Twitter and YouTube:** Twitter was launched, and Google famously acquired YouTube for \$1.65 billion.
- **Pluto's Demotion:** The International Astronomical Union officially reclassified Pluto as a "dwarf planet," shrinking the solar system's planet count to eight.
- **The "Great Rewind":** For the first time ever, the U.S. housing bubble began to show its first major signs of cracking as home sales started to drop significantly, foreshadowing the 2008 financial crisis.

2006: The "Web 2.0" Revolution

- **Internet:** *Time* magazine named "You" as the Person of the Year, acknowledging the millions of people contributing to user-generated content like YouTube and Wikipedia.
- **Film:** *High School Musical* premiered on Disney Channel, becoming a massive cultural phenomenon that defined a generation of students.
- **Music:** Amy Winehouse released *Back to Black*, and Shakira's "Hips Don't Lie" was the inescapable song of the summer.