

In the Year 2011: WSU, World, Culturally

In 2011, Weber State University (WSU) entered a "new era" of campus life, marked by the transformation of its residential landscape and the continued rise of its most famous athletic alum, Damian Lillard. [\[source\]](#)

The Opening of Wildcat Village

The biggest physical change to the campus in decades occurred in August 2011 with the opening of Wildcat Village.

- **Phase I Completion:** The first residence hall (Hall One) opened to students for the Fall 2011 semester. This was the first part of a \$32 million project designed to replace the aging "hillside" dorms (LaSal, Wasatch, and Stansbury halls). [\[source\]](#)
- **Modern Amenities:** Unlike the traditional dorms of the 1960s, these new buildings featured LEED Silver sustainable design, semi-suite layouts, and common "activity-scapes" like sand volleyball courts and fire pits. [\[source\]](#)
- **Demolition Preparation:** The opening of Wildcat Village paved the way for the demolition of the iconic Promontory Tower, which began shortly after to make room for future phases. [\[source\]](#)

Damian Lillard's "Nation-Leading" Season

While Lillard was already a star, 2011 was the year he became a national household name in college basketball.

- **Return from Injury:** After a foot injury sidelined him for most of the previous season, Lillard returned for the 2011–12 season (starting in late 2011) with a historic performance. [\[source\]](#)
- **Randy Rahe's Milestone:** During that same December win, head coach Randy Rahe earned his 100th career victory at Weber State. [\[source\]](#)

Academic and Institutional Milestones

- **Google Transition:** The university began a multi-year process to migrate student and faculty email from the old GroupWise system to Google Apps for Education (Gmail), a major shift in campus tech. [\[source\]](#)

2011: The Arab Spring & Bin Laden

- **The Arab Spring:** A wave of pro-democracy protests and uprisings spread across the Middle East and North Africa, leading to the fall of long-standing regimes in Tunisia and Egypt.
- **Death of Osama bin Laden:** U.S. Special Forces successfully carried out a raid in Pakistan that killed the founder of al-Qaeda.
- **Japan Tsunami:** A massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck Japan, leading to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

2011: Peak Fandom

- **Film:** The decade-long Harry Potter film saga concluded with the release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2*.
- **TV:** *Game of Thrones* premiered on HBO, beginning its run as the most talked-about show in the world.
- **Music:** Adele's album *21* was released, becoming a global juggernaut with hits like "Rolling in the Deep" and "Someone Like You."