New and Improved on Campus

Students are now enjoying classes in the new Ezekiel R. Dumke Jr. & Katherine W. Dumke Center for Interprofessional Education in Healthcare. The building’s grand opening Sept. 4 revealed a 15,000-square-foot, two-story space for health professions students from individual disciplines to study and learn together.

“Faculty and students can collaborate with the community in this new building,” said Yas Simonian, Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions dean. “When members of a healthcare team work in partnership, the patient benefits more from their collective knowledge and expertise. This center gives us additional space to think together.”

The building’s state-of-the-art equipment and facilities will allow students to receive the most current and innovative education. Additionally, the facility is open for local healthcare professionals to connect with the university or conduct research.

One striking feature of the building is a wall-length mosaic that resembles a bone-marrow smear seen under a microscope.

“Human marrow produces 500 billion blood cells per day, which is vital for existence,” Simonian said. “In a way, it tells the future of an individual’s health. The mosaic is a unique and beautiful way for students to view and ponder their future in healthcare.”

Construction continues on two other WSU buildings preparing to open soon.

The Community Education Center, located at 2605 Monroe Blvd., will host a grand opening from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 15 to help WSU further integrate into the Central Ogden area.

The center will offer ESL classes and assistance with college registration or financial aid applications.

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“Navigating the large university campus can be intimidating for many underserved groups,” said Luis Lopez, Continuing Education Programs director. “This center will become a welcoming place for area residents and future WSU students.”

The Community Education Center, will house an early childhood school and the Ogden Civic Action Network. Organizers hope the location and services will help break down barriers to higher education.

On Weber State’s 130th anniversary, Jan. 7, 2019, the campus community will get to see the newly remodeled Lindquist Hall during its grand opening.

Construction crews continue to work on renovations, which include new classrooms, offices, testing center and computer lab, and collaboration spaces. Outdated classrooms and a confusing floorplan are being replaced to give students access to advanced laboratories, spacious lecture halls and convenient study areas.

“Renovations and construction of new facilities are critical to the future of Weber State as we strive to keep up with ever-changing technology and teaching methods,” said Mark Halverson, Facilities and Campus Planning associate vice president. “Please pardon our dust as we continue to improve our campus.”

New College of Science Dean Dares to Ask

Early in her graduate education, the new dean of WSU’s College of Science spent two seasons leading a bear-trapping team to research grizzly and black bear in Yellowstone National Park.

Andrea Easter-Pilcher said she learned two things through those early experiences: First, ensure a snared bear is fully secured before approaching, and second, it’s important to ask for what you want in life.

Easter-Pilcher has asked for and received more than a dozen grants for wildlife conservation research conducted around the world. She was awarded a postdoctoral research appointment in wildlife ecology from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in biological sciences at Montana State University. Easter-Pilcher spent the previous nine years as a faculty member, chair and dean at St. George’s University in Grenada, where she and her students studied endangered island birds.

Twice she was invited to represent the country of Grenada as an official delegate to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): first in Bangkok, Thailand, and then Johannesburg, South Africa.

“My career has been so exciting,” Easter-Pilcher said. “I’ve done research all over the world, and I’ve worked with great faculty and administration. It’s been inspirational and exciting, and I really look forward to continuing that at Weber State.”
Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Dianna Abel, Counseling & Psychological Services director, co-presented “Something’s gotta give: Doing less and being okay” at the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors annual conference in Denver.

Geosciences assistant professors Elizabeth Baldord, Carie M. Frantz and professor Marek Matyjasik received a $320,000 National Science Foundation grant for the project “GP EXTRA: GETUP – Geoscience Education Targeting Underrepresented Populations.” Through the project, the professors will assess the effectiveness of multifaceted pathways to increase recruitment, engagement, graduation rates and career placement of geoscience majors, focusing specifically on underrepresented Latinx and female students.

Robert Ball, computer science assistant professor, presented “GUI-Based vs. Text-Based Assignments in CS1” at the Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education conference in Baltimore. The presentation was based on the paper he co-authored with faculty in the department, Linda DuHadway, Spencer Hilton and Brian Rague.


Jamie Brass, Counseling & Psychological Services assistant director, co-presented “The tide has turned: Challenges facing new internship programs seeking accreditation” at the Association of Counseling Center Training Agencies annual conference in Denver.


Paul Eberle, respiratory therapy chair, co-presented “Coalition for Baccalaureate and Graduate Respiratory Therapy Education” at the Summer Forum Respiratory Care conference in San Antonio. During the conference, WSU was honored with the “Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success” award for the fifth consecutive year. More than 90 percent of WSU graduates passed their rigorous credentialing tests — far exceeding the national average of 68 percent.

Supply chain management professor Stanley Fawcett and assistant professor Amydee Fawcett won the 2018 Outstanding Article award from the International Journal of Logistics Management at EurOMA for a co-authored article “I Know It When I See It: The Nature of Trust, Trustworthiness Signals, and Strategic Trust Construction.”

Economics assistant professor Matt Gnagay presented two papers at the 12th World Congress of the Regional Science Association International in Goa, India: “Spatial Variation in Tenure Security Premium: Evidence from Indonesia” and “Development Premiums and Property Markets in Indonesia.”

Weber State University’s 2016-17 Annual Report, titled Dreams Happen Here, received national recognition after winning a Grand Gold award in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s Circle of Excellence program. The report, produced by WSU’s Office of Marketing & Communications team, in collaboration with the President’s Office and Provost’s Office, was honored in the President’s Reports and Annual Reports category. Amy Hendricks, senior writer/editor, and Hillary Wallace, creative director, managed the project.

Communication chair Sheree Josephson presented “Handbook of Visual Communication” at VisCom, a national conference for visual communication scholars in San Diego in June.

Assistant professors of nursing Jon Kelly and Heather Clark published “Perfectionism among Nursing Students” in the International Journal of Nursing & Clinical Practices.

Shari Leder, Career Services counselor, presented “WSU’s Moyes College of Education and the Office of Marketing & Communication’s work on #BeATeacher” at the American Association for Employment in Education conference in Pittsburgh.

History professor Greg Lewis presented “Education, Management, and Personalities in the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, 1952-1966,” at Fudan University’s May 2018 conference. He also published a review of “Wyoming Samurai: The World War II Warriors of Heart Mountain” in Pacific Northwest Quarterly. Lewis has been secretary of the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies since 2007 and was elected to serve as representative.
on the Association for Asian Studies Council of Conferences for the next three years.


Wayne Miller, Veterans Upward Bound director, published the chapter “Essential practices for student veterans in the California community college system” in the book What’s Next for Student Veterans?

Geography associate professor Alice Mulder and professor Dan Bedford presented “Climate Conversations: Engaging the Community in Discussions of Climate Change,” at the American Association of Geographers annual conference in New Orleans.

Matthew Nicholaou received the Distinguished Author Award in Research and Reports from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science for his co-authored paper with student Karissa Wang, “Suppression of Antimicrobial Resistance in MRSA using CRISPR-dCas9.”

Brett Perozzi, Student Affairs vice president, co-authored the book Internationalizing US Student Affairs Practice: An Intercultural and Inclusive Framework, published by Routledge. He also presented “Developing a Global Lens for Student Affairs Professional Development” at the NASPA International Symposium in Philadelphia, and served as a featured speaker (via Skype) at NASPA’s Latin America and Caribbean conference in Bogotá, Colombia.


Monte Roberts, nursing assistant professor and Respiratory Therapy Simulation Lab director, published “Comparison of the Nursing Student’s Perspective in their Ability to Recognize a Change in Patient Condition Using the Patient Risk Detection Theory in a Simulated Environment” in the Journal of Nursing & Healthcare.

Christopher Trampel, engineering assistant professor, presented “Optimization of an on-skin lens-into-the-body for implantable medical devices” at the BioEM2018 conference in Piran, Portoroz, Slovenia, in June.

Assistant professors of nursing Jamie Wankier and Amy Stegen published “Generating Gratitude in the Workplace to Improve Faculty Job Satisfaction” in the Journal of Nursing Education, June 2018.

Criminal justice assistant professor Monica Williams published the book The Sex Offender Housing Dilemma: Community Activism, Safety, and Social Justice with New York University Press.

Electrical engineering associate professor Larry Zeng published three papers: “Estimation of the initial image’s contributions to the iterative Landweber reconstruction” in Medical Sciences; “Maximum-likelihood expectation-maximization algorithm vs. windowed filtered backprojection algorithm: A case study” in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology; and “Filtered backprojection implementation of the immediately-after-backprojection filtering” in Biomedical Physics & Engineering Express.

Every year, the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) presents a theme for the campus community to discuss and explore. This year’s Engaged Learning Series theme, “Matter of Fact,” challenges people to think critically about fact and opinion, credible sources, how to articulate fact and why science, logic and history matter.

“So much information is at our fingertips, and it is ever more important to understand what is going on in our local, national and global communities,” said Teresa Martinez, CCEL program coordinator. “We need to know how to determine the credibility of information in order to support ideas and arguments.”

The series will offer a variety of events including lectures, musical performances, conferences and symposiums, art exhibits, fact-checking political debates, banned-book week and more.

“We are excited to bring this theme to campus to discuss the importance of reliable information sources and engage campus and the community in ways that get people thinking about the way they approach fact,” Martinez said.

Visit weber.edu/cCEL/els.html for more information and a calendar of events.
Mapping WSU’s Academic Future

For the past two years, Academic Affairs has discussed an academic master plan that will reflect WSU’s commitment to learning, community and access; be responsive to changes in demographics, disciplines and regional demands; and be grounded on accurate data. We took a large step this past spring when we asked 44 department chairs and six directors of High Impact Practice (HIP) areas, such as the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Teaching and Learning Forum, to write a thorough analysis of one of their programs, based on five years of data — and to use that data to project forward.

Here’s what happened:

April 2018: The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) provided data to all 50 writers. The data from 2012-2017 included information such as student-credit-hour generation, general education enrollment numbers, number of majors and graduates, length of time to graduation, faculty/student ratios, program costs, etc.

May 31: The 50 reports completed included not only data, but also recent curricular changes, faculty engagement in HIP areas, post-graduate employment and schooling, pedagogical revisions, advisory board involvement, and faculty and staff innovations and accomplishments. The reports detailed program missions and future direction.

Prior to June 15: Eight deans and associate provost Brenda Kowalewski read the reports from their assigned areas and wrote thoughtful responses, commenting on how well authors employed evidence to support claims, whether they were open to challenging past practices and thinking creatively about future best practices, and how critically they addressed questions about changing student populations, changing demand patterns, and changing disciplinary boundaries.

June 15-29: Six volunteers from the academic master planning task force joined me in reading everything. We christened ourselves the “super readers.” After making our way through the documents, we met for over 12 hours to scrutinize the data, analyze the comments, and understand what it all meant. We discussed how departments compared and what motivated some to move forward while others seemed somewhat stalled.

The super readers agreed unanimously on two things: 1) The commitment of faculty and staff to teaching and learning, to enhancing students’ success, to engaging in exciting initiatives taking place across disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas is exceptional; 2) Reading the complete body of work offered us not only a broad understanding of WSU as an institution, but also of the range and variety of departmental values, goals and missions.

July-August: I drafted letters in response to every program analysis. The letters included words of praise, words of caution, suggestions, comparisons, questions and so on. My goal was to be clear about the values motivating this process and to provide advice to writers for next year — because next year the stakes will be higher. Centralized funding will be available to those areas making the most convincing case about their contributions to WSU’s academic future.

This year’s process was a pilot. The goal of Academic Affairs is to have all departments and colleges participate actively and successfully in drawing the map that will chart WSU’s future.
Welcome to WSU

Ali Alireza, University Police
Kristi Andersen, Health Administrative Services
Mikayla Anderson, Academic Support Centers & Programs
Billie Atsitty de Paiva, International Student Services
McKaela Barney, Dee Events Center
Ashley Barnum, Child and Family Studies
Alison Bass, Facilities Management
Zachary Brady, Administrative Services
Rebecka Brasso, Zoology
Julie Burchell, Nursing
Amanda Butts, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Cory Butts, Health Promotion & Human Performance
Caitlin Byrne, Teacher Education
Ryan Cain, Teacher Education
Meagan Christiansen, Continuing Education
Patricia Cieslak, College of Education
Alyzia Cohen, Athletic Training and Nutrition
Sherri Cox, President’s Office
Courtney Craggert, English
Willard Cragun, University Police
Rebecca Cruz, School of Business & Economics
Kristin Delahoussaye, Athletics Admin and Support
Shannon Dixon, Mathematics
Alexandra Dutro-Maeda, Women’s Center
Angela England, Human Resources
Kevin Fendrick, Academic Support Centers & Programs
Nicole Flink, Professional Sales
Joanna Gauthney, Sociology
Francois Giraud-Carrier, Business Administration
Kelly Glynn, College of Arts & Humanities
Mariangeleca Groves, Geography
Devin Harclerode, Visual Arts
Sydnee Harris, Payroll
Velaida Harris, Athletics Admin and Support
Gene Hill, Facilities Management
Mark Huson, School of Computing
Cheryl Hyatt, Nursing
Brooke Jenkins, Chemistry
Damon Joyner, Athletic Training and Nutrition
Cameron Kapetanov, University Police
Marcia Kawa, Health Promotion & Human Performance
Mandy Kirkham King, Health Promotion & Human Performance
Taylor Klover, Visual Arts
Katrina Marriott, Developmental Math Program
Megan McDonald Van, English
Melissa Neilsen, College of Health Professions
Phattia Nero, Honors Program
Tara Orme, Facilities Management
Keith Osai, Child and Family Studies
Emily Owen, Financial Aid Office
Terry Phillips, Nursing
Scott PoVey, Facilities Management
Stephanie Quinn, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Nathan Rodriguez, Communication
Matthew Romaniello, History
Elizabeth Sandquist, Zoology
Nahid Shekarforoosh, Financial Aid Office
Trisha Small, Nursing
Janicke Stramer-Smith, Political Science and Philosophy
Brittni Strickland, Health Promotion & Human Performance
I. Marlene Summers, Nursing
Sara Triplett, Student Involvement and Leadership
MacKenzie Tuck, College of Health Professions
Bobbi Van Gilder, Communication
Amy Vidmar, Administrative Services
David Wetzel, Engineering Technology
Jeffrey Whitehead, Facilities Management
Ashley Wilkinson, Medical Laboratory Sciences
Valerie Williams, Political Science and Philosophy

Retired

Gerilynn Conlin, Health Promotion & Human Performance
Rosemary Conover, Sociology
Colette Cooper, Student Health Center
Marilyn Diamond, Honors Program
Susan Diersman, Budget Office
Barry Elbrader, Facilities Management
Cheryl Hansen, Foreign Language
Sherrie Jensen, Health Promotion & Human Performance
LaRae Larkin, Social Science Education Center
Claire Nye, Academic Support Centers & Programs
T. R. Reddy, Political Science and Philosophy
Richard Sadler, History
Molly Smith, Health Promotion & Human Performance
Candace Stevens, Registrar’s Office
Joan Thompson, Athletic Training and Nutrition
Mike Whetton, Facilities Management
Billy Witcher, University Relations

On the Move/Promoted

Amy Blunck, Counseling & Psychological Services
Juan Chavez, Budget Office
Jami Daly, Student Health Center
Brody Ellanson, Facilities Management
Adam Farrell, Academic Technology Services
Michael Foley, Facilities Management
Amanda Geilman, Registrar’s Office
John Harroid, Development
David Matty, Provost’s Office
James Maughan, Student Affairs Maintenance
Angela McLean, Disability Services
Megan Moulding, Honors Program
Sarah Singh, Stewart Library
Jeffry Strahan, Engineering Technology
Kandi Tait, Medical Laboratory Sciences
Samantha Transleau, Performing Arts
Lisa Vermillion, Financial Aid Office
Shijun Wang, Performing Arts
Eric Waterfall, Facilities Management
Jamie Weeks, Stewart Library