Weber Water Warriors

A Water Warrior competition was part of what helped the Facilities Management team reach its water conservation goals four years earlier than originally planned.

In 2016, several professors conducted a water awareness study across WSU campuses. Their findings showed that with impending drought conditions, water usage and practices needed more attention. This study led to the creation of a water conservation specialist on campus and the implementation of new practices to reduce water usage 30% by 2025. WSU achieved this goal in 2021 by installing weather-sensitive irrigation systems and toilets certified by the Environmental Protection Agency, among other ideas.

Drew Hodge, who accepted the position of water conservation and stormwater coordinator in 2016, began by assessing which campus areas were getting too much or too little water and which areas could benefit from xeriscaping — a landscaping style that requires little to no irrigation. His findings led to a campus that uses both xeriscaping and landscaping to maintain a unified look while lowering water usage significantly.

(Continued on page 2)
Water Warriors, continued from page 1

In order to make these efforts a collaborative process, Hodge partnered with landscape manager Tory Bell and his team to create the Water Warrior competition. The competition encouraged landscapers to cut down on a specific area’s water use while still keeping it healthy. At the end of the academic year, those who cut down water usage the most won a coveted office trophy and gift certificates.

“Troy and the landscape crew work their tails off to make this place look good and save water,” Hodge said. “I appreciate all of them and the efforts they do and their willingness to work with me because without them, I wouldn’t be able to do my job to keep this campus looking good.”

In the future, Weber State hopes to increase the capacity of the Lindquist Plaza water feature to irrigate different sections of the Ogden campus and make it more sustainable. The route for the OGX Wildcat Shuttle, which is set to begin campus operations in fall 2022, will also use xeriscaping.

You can find the Water Action Plan at this link.

New Associate Provost, continued from page 1

“Watching my mom, I saw the impact that higher education can have on a family, and that’s why this position means so very much to me,” Oyler said. “We not only help individuals, but we also impact the social and cultural capital of families and communities. My mom taught me that no two individuals are the same and that we should always strive to understand the experience of others so we can grow and learn together, and that’s my goal for everything we do here at Weber.”

Oyler brings experience in data-driven analysis and strategic decision-making and has a strong commitment to equity and inclusion. She has co-authored articles about student success including “Demonstrating student success: A practical guide to outcomes-based assessment of learning and development in student affairs.”

In addition to her administrative work, Oyler teaches courses in the Master of Education and First Year Experience programs. She spends her free time volunteering in the community as a member of the Roosevelt Elementary School Community Council and as an Honorary Commander at Hill Air Force Base.

John A. Lindquist Award
Alex Lancaster

The grandson of Cuban immigrants, Alexander Lancaster, says he learned very early the importance of a supportive community in times of need, so he has made community service an integral part of his university responsibilities.

An associate professor in the Department of Communication, Lancaster directs the interpersonal and small group communication courses. In collaboration with the Center for Community Engaged Learning, students in those courses provide more than 5,600 hours of service each semester. Lancaster’s students have helped community members experiencing a variety of issues, including homelessness, food insecurity and the need for after-school child care.

Lancaster is completing his fourth year as faculty co-advisor to Weber State’s Social Issues Team, which offers students opportunities to conduct research based on community partner needs. Students have completed projects for the Weber-Morgan Health Department, Ogden Police, Forever Bound Adoption Agency, and the Ogden Civic Action Network (OgdenCAN).

The research findings help guide community engagement opportunities because they indicate what issues are timely, relevant and important to community members. The team recently presented the Lt. Gov.’s Office the results of a study on perceptions of Utah voting systems.

“I have found a new appreciation for the amazing work our dedicated students can do and for the good they bring to others when this work involves direct service, engaged scholarship or civic engagement within their communities,” Lancaster said.
Teaching Excellence Honored

Twelve faculty members received the 2022 Weber State University Presidential Teaching Excellence Awards for their teaching impact based on nominations from students and staff. Weber State President Brad Mortensen surprised the teachers with the news, popping into their classrooms or Zoom meetings to present the award and read some of the comments from their nomination letters.

COMMENTS FROM LETTERS:

“He is a dedicated professor, who deeply cares for his students by engaging them in class, creating thoughtful lectures, and developing deep connections with his students.”

“In a semester I went from disengaged in class and unsure of my future to a curious learner.”

“I don’t think I’ve ever been able to understand stuff so well through lecture videos. She does a great job.”

“Students are not sitting in chairs in her classes. They are moving, teaching, and sharing with each other as they practice the teaching skills they will use in their future classrooms.”

AWARDEES INCLUDE:

Tomono Adachi
Instructor of Japanese

Melina Alexander
Professor of Teacher Education

Linda Duhadway
Associate Professor of Computer Science

Ryan Dunn
Assistant Professor of Child and Family Studies

Carrie Jeffrey
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Jean Kapenda
Instructor of Criminal Justice

Loianne Kattelman
Instructor of Accounting

Brad Marden
Adjunct Professor of Health Sciences

Jonathan Marshall
Professor of Zoology

Connie Merrill
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Alvaro La Parra-Perez
Associate Professor of Economics

Aminda O’Hare
Assistant Professor of Neuropsychology

Thanks to generous support of donors, each faculty member received a $5,000 award, either as a cash stipend or to enhance their teaching through professional development, curriculum development, research, or equipment and technology acquisition.
Since 1970, the WSU Alumni Association has presented the H. Aldous Dixon Award to outstanding faculty and staff. The award is given in memory of former President Dixon who served as the school’s chief administrator in 1919-20 and from 1937 to 1953.

**Faculty Awardee:**
**Susan Matt**

Susan Matt began her career teaching history at Weber State in 1999. She has taught subjects ranging from U.S. history to the history of emotions to interdisciplinary courses co-taught with colleagues. She has also mentored hundreds of students. She believes students have power to change the world and endeavors to make history relevant to each one by extending the study of the past to as many people as possible.

As a social historian, Matt focuses on the history of ordinary Americans — how they lived and experienced large-scale events, like revolution, war and economic depression.

In addition to teaching, she has provided a range of educational opportunities to the community. She was part of the Venture program, which offered free college courses to adults with low incomes. In 2020, she used the global pandemic to launch a successful series of free, interdisciplinary classes on topics such as “Pandemics and People” and “The Ongoing Struggle for Civil Rights.”

Matt has held numerous administrative positions, including history department chair and interim associate dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences. In July 2021, she was selected as director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Collaborations.

Since arriving at Weber State, she has written two books, co-authored a third, edited another two, and published dozens of scholarly articles, many of which appeared in highly respected media outlets.

**Staff Awardee:**
**Allison Barlow Hess**

Allison Hess has dedicated 30 years of her life to helping Weber State students achieve more than they first thought possible. She began her career at WSU in 1992 as an adjunct professor, having worked previously as a reporter for KSL-TV.

In 1997, the Department of Communication offered Hess a full-time faculty position. In addition to teaching print, electronic media and public relations, she also worked with hundreds of students as advisor to the student radio station and newspaper. Under her watch, The Signpost earned top accolades from the National Society of Professional Journalists and the Utah Press Association.

Hess was a longtime board member of the Utah Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. For six years, she penned a monthly newspaper column for the Standard-Examiner and used the stipend to create an editorial scholarship for student writers at The Signpost.

In 2010, Hess switched gears to become the university’s public relations director. She is heavily involved in planning and securing media coverage for major university successes and events, including Dream 125, Crystal Crest and the inauguration of President Mortensen. Amidst a global pandemic, she helped organize a successful “socially distanced” graduation event in Stewart Stadium.

Hess received a Weber State University Presidential Staff Award for exemplary service. She will retire at semester’s end.
New Course Materials
Affordability Award

Two Weber State departments and two individual faculty were selected as recipients of The Course Materials Affordability Award, a new recognition sponsored by the Stewart Library.

“It has been amazing to discover the consideration faculty give to the problem and their creativity in seeing it through.” said Andrew Stapley, Stewart Library course materials specialist. “Affordability is especially important for lower-income and first-time college students.”

The departments of health sciences and communication were both honored for improved affordability and access to courses. The changes have saved students an estimated $2 million in textbook and software costs in the past two years.

Also selected were history professor Vikki Deakin and Stephanie Wolfe, associate professor of political science and philosophy.

Since 2021, all of Deakin’s lower-division courses have used materials that can be accessed at zero cost. Previously, textbooks for those courses would have ranged between $50-75 per student. The majority of the textbooks in her upper-division courses are also free, resulting in savings of nearly $100 per student.

Wolfe, was an early adopter of Open Education Resource (OER) materials, which are openly licensed instructional materials that are useful for teaching and learning. She now uses OER materials for 75% of her teaching load. She also spearheaded the initiative to make the Women & Gender Studies minor an exclusive OER program.

Stewart Library has some cost-cutting tips that could apply to a variety of courses.

- OER and Open Access materials are published with the intention of being shareable. The materials are often free and can be used by crediting the creator. Some WSU faculty have written or are writing their own open materials.

- Stewart Library provides access to materials and online resources that are free to students. Rather than a single textbook, students can use a collection of articles, streaming videos, ebook chapters, blogs and websites.

- Day One Access materials have lower negotiated prices for digital content for students or the option of printing learning packets through low-cost campus printing services.

- For more information, contact the library at oer@weber.edu.
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

Chair of the Department of Athletic Training Valerie Herzog and Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences professor Michael Hernandez are Weber State University’s 2022 Brady Presidential Distinguished Professors.

The honor was established in 2006 to recognize WSU faculty members who have demonstrated the highest quality teaching, scholarship, research and community service. A generous gift from Rodney and Carolyn “Mitzi” Brady made recognition funding possible. The late Rodney Brady served as WSU president from 1978 to 1985.

Valerie Herzog

Valerie Herzog finds joy in building strong personal connections with students.

Since she began working at Weber State in 2005, Herzog has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in therapeutic rehabilitation, therapeutic modalities, manual therapy, management and casting. Because of her dedication to students, alumni regularly reach out for advice on personal dilemmas, careers or just to catch up.

She cherishes relationships with current and former students and considers them part of her extended family. When former students, who now work in the NBA, NFL or MLS meet up as opponents, they often send her group photos, knowing how much she values their continued connections with each other.

Herzog is excited about research and has chaired thesis committees for 45 graduate students, many of whom have presented at national conferences or published in peer-reviewed research journals.

Herzog has published 19 peer-reviewed manuscripts and three book chapters. Her research frequently includes students, with 20 undergraduates co-publishing and co-presenting their research.

Hernandez has authored and co-authored several publications, including scholarly articles, a book chapter and field guides. His research frequently includes students, with 20 undergraduates co-publishing and co-presenting their research.

Hernandez’s vision of building an interdisciplinary geospatial education center serving northern Utah’s rapidly growing geospatial industry was achieved with the establishment of the Northern Utah Geospatial Technology Education Program (NUGeoTec). Through a National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technology Education grant, he and geography professor Eric Ewert developed the curriculum, certificate programs and minor supported by both the departments of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Geography, Environment & Sustainability.

The NUGeoTec program demonstrates how two departments in two different colleges can work together to develop a successful interdisciplinary program. This seamless collaboration led directly to Weber State’s first joint faculty position, which bolstered geospatial education and research in the departments, doubling enrollment to more than 50 students.

Hernandez is currently director of NU GeoTec and past director of the Geospatial & Environmental Applied Research (GEAR) Lab.

Michael Hernandez

Michael Hernandez strives to provide a positive learning environment, teach relevant topics and help students achieve their educational goals, so they leave the university prepared for success.

Hernandez began his Weber State career in 2003. He has taught geographic information systems and remote sensing courses to students from disciplines across campus, demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of his work.

As a geospatial scientist, Hernandez’s research centers on the application of geospatial technologies in studying geologic processes and hazards, geospatial education, wetland hydrology and the transport of nutrient fluxes caused by wildfires. He has collaborated closely with colleagues, including advising student projects such as identifying ice deposits in Mars craters with physics professor John Armstrong, and island biogeography of fish fauna with zoology professor Chris Hoagstrom.

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A new tool at WSU is enabling students to prove their knowledge to potential employers, and the university is asking for your help in spreading the word.

As of January 2022, ePortfolios through the Portfolium platform are available for free to all WSU students, and they can access their portfolios even after they graduate. Students who create an ePortfolio can showcase the projects that helped them develop their skills, going deeper than a resume would.

“If you are familiar with just about any social media platform, you’ll be right at home in Portfolium,” said Robert Ameling, assistant director for internships with WSU Career Services. “It is easy to upload documents and edit information. Students can come to Career Services to learn more about how they can use their ePortfolios in their job search.”

Students and faculty can access ePortfolios through Canvas by clicking “folio” on the account menu.

Faculty members can make ePortfolios part of their curriculum, empowering students to demonstrate their knowledge and reflect upon learning. Several templates are available for faculty members to use. Just search “ePortfolios” in Canvas Commons. You can also contact WSU instructional designers directly at instructionaldesign@weber.edu and ask for their assistance in implementing ePortfolios in Canvas.

EPortfolios can also become part of program-level or course-level assessment.

“The review of authentic assessment and student reflection — hallmarks of ePortfolio — can provide faculty with evidence and insight to support the ongoing improvement of programs,” said Stephanie Speicher, WSU’s digital fluency faculty-in-residence and assistant professor of teacher education. “Linking the assignments that students have designed and completed not only elevates our ability to know if they have met course outcomes, but also provides the critical skills that students can transfer to future careers.”

For more information on using ePortfolios, visit the faculty ePortfolio page on WSU’s website. You can also share the student ePortfolio page with your students.

Nicole Defenbaugh, organizational communication associate professor, co-presented “The Story Collectors: Narrative as a Vehicle for Interprofessional Growth” at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Conference.

Electra Gamón Fielding, Spanish associate professor, published the book chapter “Selling the ‘Authentic’: Performance and Hybridity in Carlos Saura’s Carmen and Ana Castillo’s Peel My Love Like an Onion” in the first edited collection dedicated to Latinx author Ana Castillo, Transnational Chicana Perspectives on Ana Castillo.

Economics faculty Doris Geide-Stevenson and Álvaro La Parra-Pérez’s paper “Economists are agreeing with each other more” was cited by the Economist in an article by the same name.


Zoology professor Christopher Hoagstrom co-authored “Biogeography of the Machrybopsis aestivalis complex (Teleostei: Cyprinidae): emphasis on speciation and ancient heterospecific mitochondrial transfer,” which was selected as one of two “Editor’s Choice” articles for the February 2022 issue of the international journal Environmental Biology of Fishes.

Mark LeTourneau, English professor, published “Polarity Allomorphy in Arabic Imperatives” as the lead article in the 2021 issue of ‘Al-Arabiyya [Arabic].

Presidential Distinguished Professor of Economics John Mukum Mbaku, co-authored a blog on water conflicts in Africa and appeared as one of three panelists to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on democracy in Africa in the Council on Foreign Relations’ Darryl G. Behrman Lecture on Africa Policy. He also presented, “Towards Long-Term Solutions and Management Options for the Nile Basin,” as part of the UCLA Water Law series. Mbaku’s article “International Human Rights Law and the Tyranny of Harmful Customary and Traditional Practices on Women in Africa,” was published in the California Western International Law Journal.

Assistant professor of electrical engineering Alyssa Mock received the Paule Drude Award at the 9th International Conference on Spectroscopic Ellipsometry for her pioneering work on generalized ellipsometric analysis of ultra-wide bandgap metal oxides with low-crystal symmetry.


Tanya Nolan, associate professor of radiologic sciences was named Outstanding Educator of the Year from the Association of Collegiate Educators where he and

Microbiology professor Craig Oberg’s article “Comparison of growth and survival of single strains of Lactococcus lactis and Lactococcus cremoris during Cheddar cheese manufacture” was selected as editor’s choice and featured in the Journal of Dairy Science where he and microbiology professor Michele Culumber also co-authored “Review of taxonomic changes in dairy-related lactobacilli.”

English professor Scott Rogers authored “‘Goblin Market,’ Sisterhood and the Church Penitentiary Association” for the Journal of Victorian Culture.

Associate professor of history Matt Romaniello received a 2022 Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society to conduct research in the United Kingdom for his new book, Unplanned Obsolescence: Modernity and the Loss of the Natural World, a study of sustainable materials before the industrial era; he was also elected to a second term as president of the Forum on Early-Modern Empires and Global Interactions (an affiliate organization of the American Historical Association).


Nathan Rives, history instructor, presented his paper “Financing the Bible in 1821: Christianity and the Early US Market Economy after the Panic of 1819” at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association annual meeting.

Associate professor of political science Stephanie Wolfe authored the chapter: “Reparations and the Role of Apologies” for the Oxford Handbook on Atrocity Crimes published by Oxford University Press.
Four Weber State employees were honored with the Presidential Outstanding Staff awards. This year's committee selected winners from nominations across campus. The honorees each received $2,000, a plaque and reserved parking.

Colleen Boam

As administrative assistant, Colleen Boam is the nucleus of the chemistry department. She recently added the responsibilities as College of Science Store manager and chemistry teaching lab manager. Not only did she have to learn the accounting system but also all the chemicals, consumables, instruments and safety equipment required. Boam also orders supplies for the chemistry labs and supports the student workers in the store and the labs. Her superb organizational skills have made the store more efficient. Faculty constantly seek Boam’s help, and chemistry majors get to know her early in their coursework because she finds solutions to academic challenges.

Jacob Cain

“Wicked Smart” is how colleagues describe Jacob Cain. Following graduation as a Weber State physics major, he became the university’s first energy manager. Cain was the chief architect behind WSU’s successful plan to get the campus to carbon neutrality at least a decade before the promised goal of 2050. He tackled the problem from several angles, adding hundreds of solar panels, upgrading to LED lighting, retrofitting windows, using hybrid vehicles and making heating and cooling more efficient. In 2016, Cain received a promotion to operations director in facilities management, where he has developed a team of professionals who effectively maintain the campus.

Amy Huntington

Amy Huntington is director of Wildcat Scholars, a program that provides a structure for many first-generation, low-income and BIPOC students to transition to college. Under her leadership, what began as a one-semester course with 13 students has grown to a full year of academic study with eight courses for nearly 200 students. Those who participate are 20 percent more likely to stay at the university compared to their peers. Huntington oversees the Wildcat Scholars budget and schedule. She also recruits and supports instructors and supervises student employees. Students seek her advice with academic and personal challenges, and she empowers them to become effective advocates for themselves.

Chrissy Stice

As the dean’s administrative specialist for the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities, Chrissy Stice has helped unite all administrative assistants in the college. Under her leadership, they now meet monthly to discuss common challenges. She also provides one-on-one training to help new hires successfully navigate university processes. Stice willingly serves on search committees and collaborates on event planning, retreats and scholarships. She spent several months working with Human Resources, Payroll Services and University Legal Counsel to standardize adjunct contracts for all the departments in the college; the template is now a model campuswide. Stice sets an example of excellence as a leader in the college’s front-line service team.
Fulbright Scholar to Work in Tunisia

Selected as a Fulbright Scholar for 2022, communication professor Sheree Josephson will spend several weeks this summer in Tunis, Tunisia, working to support and expand a public radio station that focuses on serving the needs of listeners in underserved and disadvantaged communities.

With a doctoral degree in communication, and a lifelong passion for media, Josephson will spend several weeks at the station, helping the radio staff increase visibility through an enhanced website and an increased social media presence. Josephson is also writing grant proposals to secure additional funding to expand the station’s reach beyond Tunis.

“I am so excited to work with this group of devoted community radio volunteers,” Josephson said. “We have much in common with our devotion to free speech, open and transparent government, and serving disadvantaged communities.”

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, Secretary of State Antony Blinken congratulated Weber State for inclusion on the 2021-2022 list of “Top Producing Institutions” of U.S. Fulbright Scholars. Blinken wrote, “This achievement is a testament to your institution’s deep commitment to international exchange.”

The Fulbright program awards approximately 8,000 grants annually between scholars and students. Weber State faculty have received 15 Fulbright Teaching and Research appointments in the past 23 years.

On the Move/Promoted

Adrienne Andrews, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Welcome to WSU

Stephanie Abello, Administrative Services
Sandra Baltazar, Student Affairs
Katelyn Beeler, College of Health Professions
Shawn Bennion, Education Access & Outreach
Briana Bridgman, Medical Lab Science
Phillip Brown, Online & Continuing Education
Marci Chapman, Davis Learning Academic Support Centers - Programs
Juan Claudio, Performing Arts
Emily Cruz, English
Tyler Dingman, College of Arts & Humanities
Laurel Duncan, Respiratory Therapy
Koryann Freeze, University Police
Kirk Godfrey, Online & Continuing Education
Jamie Harris, Assistant Academic Support Centers - Programs
Caleb Henney, Application Development
Hayden Lee, Student Union
Michael Mental, Athletics Admin and Support
Paige Patno, Admissions Office
William Peterson, Browning Center
Sarah Renner, Admissions Office
Bradley Skalka, Academic Technology Services
Arin Tooker, Financial Aid Office
Randall Waechter, College of Science
Christian Williams, Facilities Management
Jessica Wright, Financial Aid Office
Patricia Aragon, Human Resources
Richard Campos, Student Success Center
Bernard Cannon, Facilities Management
Amie Clawson, Medical Lab Science
Jenna Daniels, History
Joan Gustafson, Sustainability Practices Research
Leslie Howerton, Communication
Zachary Hurst, Facilities Management
Lisa Jamison, Student Success Center
Lynette Jensen, Online & Continuing Education
Luis Lopez, Online & Continuing Education
Jill Morales, Career Services
Ian Niklason, Online & Continuing Education
Avery Oakes, Facilities Management
Ariel Olson, Student Success Center
Alexandra Park, Stewart Library
Kelani Purvis, Admissions Office
Stephanie Quinn, Physician Assistant Medicine
Emily Ragan, Student Success Center
Bethany Rhoades, Online & Continuing Education
Emily Romo-Hendrix, College of Science
Raymond Ruiz, Academic Technology Services
Ameedaun Seelye, University Police
Logan Stickney, Facilities Management
Rebecca Stromberg, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Retired
Bruce Bowen, Provost’s Office
Robin Scott, English

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