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AWARDS HONOR FACULTY RESEARCHERS

Four faculty members were honored with the third annual RISE (Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurial) Awards. The program honors faculty who have impacted Weber State, the community and the world through their contributions and research. This year's recipients were honored with a \$1,500 prize and presidential recognition for research that illuminated such diverse subjects as geosciences, the dairy industry, mental health courses and entrepreneurship programs in Ogden.

"The reason why we have these awards is to recognize what our faculty are really doing right," said **James Taylor**, director of Office of Sponsored Projects and Technology Commercialization, which sponsors the awards. "I thought it was important we have something concrete that recognizes those individuals who have been outstanding in research fields."

The 2021 awardees are geology professor **Adolph Yonkee** and microbiology professor **Craig Oberg** for the Outstanding Research award; **Sally Cantwell**, chair and professor of nursing, for the Innovation Success award; and **Alex Lawrence**, professional sales assistant professor, for the Norsatch Entrepreneurial Spirit award.



NEW DIVISION AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

A newly announced division will help improve the university's diversity efforts.

The new division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will provide a central point of leadership for critical initiatives involving EDI issues among students, faculty and staff. This is the most significant change to the university's organizational structure in more than 28 years. The reorganization creates a foundation to support the EDI goals outlined in the university's strategic plan, [Weber State Amplified](#).

Adrienne Andrews has been appointed the first vice president of the division, earning full approval from the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Andrews said the division has important and difficult work to do in its efforts to make Weber State a more diverse, inclusive and equitable community, but that the five-year strategic plan provided a foundation for work and an impetus for change.

She has served in a variety of roles advancing the issues of diversity at the university for 17 years, most recently serving as the Assistant Vice President of Diversity – Chief Diversity Officer.

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Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

#LouderandProuder

Shelly Bellflower, Academic Technology Services and IT Services director, received the John Howard Leadership Award at the District 15 Toastmasters Awards Ceremony for outstanding communication and leadership for five or more years.

Philosophy professor **Robert Fudge** published “Aesthetic Consolation in an Age of Extinction” in the international journal *Philosophical Papers*.

Valerie Herzog, athletic training department chair, was selected as a Fellow by the board of directors of the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions.

Head of Special Collections **Sarah Langsdon** authored *Images of America: Ogden: The Charles Maccarthy Images*, a book highlighting historical images taken by a prolific photographer in Ogden at the turn of the 20th century.

Presidential Distinguished Professor of Economics **John Mukum Mbaku** recently published “Counter-Terrorism Laws and Human Rights in African Countries” in the *Washington University Global Studies Law Review*.

The Utah Recreation and Parks Association awarded **Lisa Meerts-Brandsma**, assistant professor of outdoor and community recreation education, its 2021 Outstanding Academic award.

Scott Moore, medical laboratory sciences assistant professor, published the chapter, “Basic Endocrinology” in the text *Clinical Chemistry: Principles, Techniques, and Correlations*, 9th edition.

Keith Osai, child and family studies assistant professor, published the chapter “Family Life Education with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander American Families” in the text, *Family Life Education with Diverse Populations*,

2nd Edition; he also co-presented “Culturally Competent Practices in Working With Indigenous, Black, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Families” at the annual meeting for the National Council of Family Relations.

Katarina Pantic, teacher education assistant professor, presented the keynote address “Sustaining Women’s Participation in Computer Science Majors: Lessons Learned from Women Who Persevered,” at the European Computer Science Summit.

Presidential Distinguished Professor of English **Mikel Vause** published his 10th book of poems *A Most Terrible and Deadly Season: Poems of War*.

Weiwei Wang, assistant professor of accounting, published “Individual Investors’ Responses to Mutual Fund Fire Sales and Sell-Side Analysts’ Price-Correcting Revisions” in the *International Journal of Managerial Finance*.

EDI Division, continued from page 1



“I am honored to accept this new opportunity at Weber State, an institution that is walking its talk and putting students first,” Andrews said. “The leadership and support of and for students, faculty and staff at all levels is manifest in the work of equity, diversity and inclusion as we strive together for the success of all.”

The new division combines several existing programs, centers and offices that currently exist but were housed in two areas (Student Affairs and the President’s Office), including:

- Center for Diversity & Unity
- Center for Multicultural Excellence

- Diversity & Inclusive Programs
- LGBT Resource Center
- Office of Diversity – Chief Diversity Officer

Dual reporting lines for the new division also include:

- Campus Recreation (Shared leadership with Student Affairs)
- Women’s Center gender-equity advocacy (Women’s Center will continue to report to Student Affairs)

The strategic plan also articulates the university’s commitment to become an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution by increasing the percentage of students who identify as Hispanic or Latinx to 15% by 2025.

A new position as director of Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution will also be created with the support of [Ally Financial](#) and will report to both the new vice president and to the President’s Office. The changes take effect immediately in order to move the university forward quickly in achieving its commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

HINCKLEY, COLLABORATION AWARDS

JOHN S. HINCKLEY FELLOW



MATTHEW ONDRUS

When mathematics professor **Matthew Ondrus** joined the Weber State faculty in 2007, he brought a strong commitment to make math accessible and achievable for all students. He was recognized for his success as this year's John S. Hinckley Fellow.

Ondrus serves as the advisor to math majors and also co-chairs the Quantitative Literacy Task Force, which is focused on the math requirements for non-majors. The task force has helped identify concerns, challenges and successes to make improvements in general math education. Thanks in part to the recommendations of the committee, the math completion rate for first-year students has increased by 20% in the past six years.

To help improve the chance for student success in the university's core math class, 1050, Ondrus also offers a one-week course before fall and spring semesters for students

who took the prerequisite, but feel they need a refresher. He also assists with various aspects of Concurrent Enrollment math courses, which provide college-level credit to high school students. At the same time, he's helped create a calculus curriculum that meets the needs of engineering and computer science students.

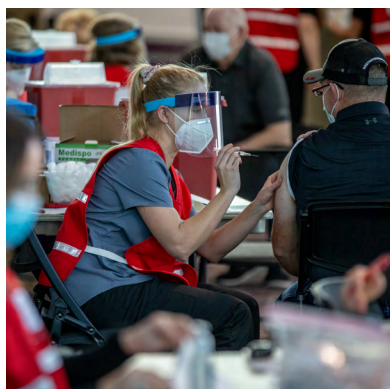
In his research, Ondrus focuses on "Lie algebra representation theory," which studies symmetry, using an algebraic lens. He and research colleague Emilie Wiesner from Ithaca College in New York have written a number of papers on the topic.

"More than anything else, success in math has a lot to do with access to opportunities," Ondrus said. "The longer I do this, the more frequently I am reminded that all these students are much more than students. They have dreams and goals and families that love them, and I want to play a small part in helping them be the best versions of themselves."

The John S. Hinckley Fellow Fund was established in 1990. Hinckley was president of Ogden's Dodge dealership. He chaired the Weber State College Centennial Gift Campaign from 1986-1989 and received an honorary degree in 1989.

EXEMPLARY COLLABORATION AWARD

The Exemplary Collaboration Award was given to the Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing COVID Task Force, which was instrumental in testing, contact tracing and vaccinations for thousands of members of the campus community.



Even before broad testing was mandated, **Sally Cantwell**, school of nursing chair, and **Matthew Nicholaou**, medical laboratory sciences chair, set up a COVID-19 testing protocol, so when the state began requiring both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing, Weber State was ready.

To run the testing, they first solicited volunteers from the Dumke College of Health Professions, but then expanded across campus as the need grew. Eventually more than 450 Wildcat volunteers signed up and tested 17,000 individuals on both the Ogden and Davis campuses.

Another critical component of COVID containment at WSU was contact tracing. Associate professor of nursing **Kathleen Cadman** helped **Mike Davies**, WSU emergency manager work out the logistics and carry out contact tracing for more than 1,000 individuals on-campus who had been in contact with someone who had COVID.

In coordination with Public Safety Director **Dane LeBlanc**, nursing professors **Valerie Gooder** and **London Draper Lowe** helped Weber-Morgan Health run a mass vaccination clinic at the Dee Events Center. Gooder and Draper Lowe trained, screened, credential-certified and enrolled more than 200 faculty, staff and students from the Dumke College to assist the Weber-Morgan Medical Reserve Corps. The clinic distributed nearly 100,000 doses of life-saving vaccines from January to June 2021.

"We were all witness to the Herculean efforts that our COVID-19 team took to keep our students, faculty, staff and the community protected," said **Yas Simonian**, dean of the Dumke College. "They accomplished this by great teamwork, sharing, collaboration, expertise, educating, communicating, care and selfless giving."

Arts Plaza Comes to Life *with Help from Weber State*

Before the Dumke Arts Plaza in downtown Ogden opened to fanfare in December, it was just a vision — a vision that a group of Weber State arts advocates helped make a reality.

The plaza, located at 445 25th Street, will serve as an arts-focused community space that integrates Weber State with downtown Ogden.

A visually arresting sculpture extends from the plaza over 25th Street, beckoning locals and visitors to check out the free and welcoming location with its unique lighting, benches and water-friendly landscaping. The innovative, two-level design will support many types of art from large-scale installations to both large and small performances. The plaza also includes an LED screen for film and video displays.

The first major installation was conceived and curated under the direction of **Lydia Gravis**, director of the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery, and art professor **Matthew Choberka**, who is also founding director of the new Matthew S. Browning Center for Design. They received the help of administration, faculty and staff in the College of Arts & Humanities, including **Deborah Uman**, **K Stevenson**, **Todd Oberndorfer** and **Molly Painter**.

When Weber State first reached out to internationally renowned sculptor Chakaia Booker about an exhibit, the only thing they had to show her was an empty dirt lot and an architectural rendering of the dream.



LYDIA GRAVIS SPEAKS DURING RIBBON CUTTING

“She believed in our vision and agreed to the exhibition in good faith, and for that we are grateful to her for not only sharing her work with Ogden, but also for graciously joining us in this epic transformation,” Gravis told the crowd gathered for the ribbon cutting.

Booker is known for creating monumental, abstract works from recycled automotive

tires and stainless steel for both gallery and outdoor public spaces. Her works are contained in more than 40 public collections and have been exhibited across the U.S., Europe, Africa and Asia.

“Considering the history of cars and transit, and the freedom they afford, the automotive tires she uses inherently symbolize upward mobility, expansion and possibility,”

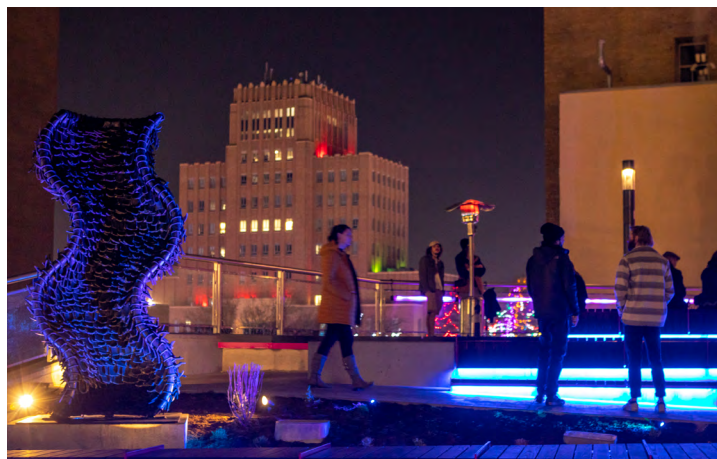


Gravis explained. “This new Dumke Arts Plaza represents the same for Ogden as it eliminates barriers associated with traditional ‘white cube’ art galleries or museums that sometimes deter people from experiencing meaningful, thought-provoking art.”

Because of the supply chain challenges that have plagued many construction projects, the plaza received its finishing touches just hours before the dedication. Thanks to Weber State associate project manager **Jake Hansen**, Booker’s three large sculptures were in place for the ribbon cutting and will remain on display through Sept. 30.

Financial support for the project came from the Dr. Ezekiel R. & Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation, the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities, and the Matthew S. Browning Center for Design. The plaza will not only allow visitors to experience art, but also provides a beautiful new space for Weber State students and faculty to showcase their work to the public.

You can learn more about Dumke Plaza at this [link](#).



Compensation Tops *Legislative Priorities*

As the Utah Legislature kicks off its annual session, Jan. 18, Weber State will work with local legislators to help advance the interests of the university and its community partners. Wildcats got a quick start on the hill, hosting the annual WSU Alumni Day at the Capitol on Jan. 19.

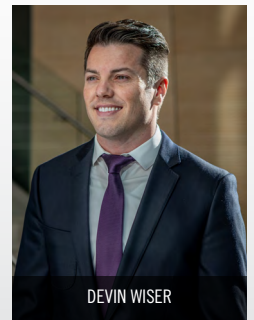
During the 45-day session, WSU's executive director of government relations, **Devin Wiser**, will help the university track legislation and trends that affect all aspects of the institution. This year's focus will be the passage of compensation increases for faculty and staff. A positive sign came in December when the Legislature's Executive Appropriations Committee set aside funding for a 3.5% salary increase.

The university's operating budget is another significant priority. The legislative team will work to secure degree-granting institution performance and growth funding to support additional salary needs, mandated costs across campus, and strategic plan goals. In addition, Weber State will seek legislative support for the large-scale renovation of the David O. McKay Education Building.

Collaborating with Ogden City, the university will also work to bring a secure facility to the Ogden area that will enhance growth of small and medium-sized aerospace and defense technology companies in the region. The facility would lead to educational partnerships with Weber State's various colleges and employment opportunities for graduates.

Like always, many bills will arise that could have an impact on Weber State and higher education and will require a proactive and collaborative approach. If you are aware of issues that are of concern to the university, please reach out to Wiser at devinwiser@weber.edu, as he coordinates all of our responses. Also, if you are participating with a group from a class or project that is going to the Capitol, please let him know, so he can coordinate other potential visits or activities that might be of interest.

Finally, please plan to attend the annual legislative report to campus, March 4, at 2 p.m.



Web Best Practices Training

If you maintain any web page on the weber.edu website or want to learn how to, sign up for web best practices training (#631-05) in [Training Tracker](#) in your eWeber portal. The web team in Marketing & Communications will teach you more about building and editing web pages effectively while staying on brand. You'll also learn about the importance of web accessibility, using photos and text and who to ask for help when you need it.

**Want to
learn more?**

Resources and other information are available at the redesigned [Marketing & Communications](#) website. Learn about what we do and how we can help make you and your event, web page or design project great, Great, GREAT.

Welcome to WSU

Hannah Arnold, *Facilities Management*

Joshua Aydlette, *Athletics Administration*

Xaviera Barfuss, *Non-Traditional Student Center*

Anthony Bassett, *Facilities Management*

Katelyn Blanch, *Women's Center*

Rynae Bowden, *Student Success Center*

James Brunker, *Facilities Management*

Timothy Chapman, *Academic Support Centers*

Woocheol Choung, *Athletics Admin*

Krystiana Davis, *Online & Continuing Education*

Jane Ditmer, *Associate Provost's Office*

Elizabeth Fairchild, *Online & Continuing Education*

Amanda Garcia, *Facilities Management*

Stephanie Hamilton, *Online & Continuing Education*

Kayell Kendell, *Student Success Center*

Anthony Ludwig, *Exercise & Nutrition Sciences*

Ivette MacQueen, *Chemistry & Biochemistry*

Nasima Madbouhi, *Admissions Office*

Rodney Marchant, *Student Success Center*

Timothy Maw, *Online & Continuing Education*

Daelen McCumber, *Payroll*

Emily Miller, *Academic Support Centers*

Tyler Oelling, *Academic Support Centers*

Brianuna Olsen, *Center for Community Engaged Learning*

Brandon Parker, *Academic Support Centers*

Lisa Rajigah, *Online & Continuing Education*

Brianna Spoo, *Political Science & Philosophy*

Brad Thompson, *Facilities Management*

Jennybeth Thompson, *Bachelor of Integrated Studies*

Rachel Trotter, *Office of Community Development*

Jacob Tweedy, *Facilities Management*

Meagan Waldrip, *Stewart Library*

Nichole Warren, *Online & Continuing Education*

Tammy Watson, *College of Arts & Humanities*

On the Move/ Promoted

Jennifer Arnold, *Financial Aid Office*

Joseph Atkin, *Veterans Upward Bound*

Corinne Bigler, *Registrar*

Christopher Bischoff, *College of Health Professions*

Katie Browning, *Career Services*

Patty Burton, *Human Resources*

Tammy Bush, *College of Education*

Koby Byington, *Academic Technology Services*

Tyler Christensen, *Facilities Management*

Conner Christiansen, *Wildcat Stores*

Mark Farrell, *Application Development*

Katie Fenton, *Bursar & Collection Services*

Jenny Frame, *Associate Provost's Office*

Eduardo Franco, *Access & Diversity*

Erich Goeckeritz, *Development*

Amber Hansen, *Bursar & Collection Services*

Dustin Huntsman, *Advancement Services*

Heidi Nelson, *Purchasing*

Kaycee Paskins, *Nursing*

Nathan Paulsen, *Facilities Management*

Kathryn Paulson, *Student Affairs Strategic Initiatives*

Raymond Ruiz, *Academic Technology Services*

Trevor Searcy, *Facilities Management*

Samantha Steffan, *Academic Support Centers*

Whitney Stoddard, *College of Health Professions*

Lance Ure, *Application Development*

Alexandra Ward, *Academic Support Centers*

Irma Zavala, *College of Arts & Humanities*

Retired

Jack Rasmussen, *Teacher Education*

Awards, continued from page 1

Outstanding Research Award

Adolf Yonkee is considered one of the leading educators and field geologists in the nation. Through numerous external grants, he has developed an internationally recognized research program, which has been included in 17 peer-reviewed publications in geoscience journals and has resulted in more than 30 scientific conference presentations. Additionally, his research has contributed to exceptional mentoring and teaching.

Craig Oberg's research has involved the study of bacteria and viruses in the Great Salt Lake, immunological and antimicrobial effects of essential oils and collaborative efforts to develop new theories on the cause of pressure ulcers. His most recent research focused on the cause of a cheese defect, which resulted in millions of dollars a year in lost revenue for the dairy industry. Oberg has also led a collaborative team to identify mitigation strategies and risk factors; he holds several patents.

Innovation Success Award

Sally Cantwell created the course The Complex Role of Healthcare Professionals, which discusses challenging topics such as myths and facts of mental health and suicide,

emotional intelligence, ethical decision making, evidence-based practice in understanding patient perspectives, and nurse and family resiliency. Her course helps nursing students overcome gaps of learning after graduation to better prepare them as they enter the workforce. Cantwell is also a certified QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention trainer.

Norsatch Entrepreneurial Spirit

Alex Lawrence was the driving force behind WSU's downtown center, which contains Startup Ogden, a tech community that promotes collaboration and co-working to encourage innovation. Lawrence organized Startup Weekend events, with sessions for planning, pitching and perfecting business ideas. He also served as the initial director of the Hall Global Entrepreneurship Program.

A committee of deans, faculty and previous winners selects each year's recipients.



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