From the desk of our director

by Michiko Nakashima-Lizarazo
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Happy Spring!!!!

We are appreciative for every person who has provided our staff and students your support.

Love UT. Give UT was fun and quite a success! We truly enjoyed preparing the web sites with photos and mission statements. Your donations mean so much. Sonora Grill Dining for Dollars was well attended including over 30 students from WSU Student Association and Hispanic Area Council. The main dining area was full of Wildcats such as alumni, faculty, staff and more students. We thank you!!!!

Student government elections were exciting and there was never a dull moment. Our University has increased the amount of ethnic minority students campaigning for and winning both academic and constituency seats. Way to go Wildcats!!!!

Students, as you prepare for finals, please feel free to utilize the MSC services and resources available to you. It is rewarding to see you studying and utilizing the computer areas in the center. We hope you like the new accommodations and continue to visit.

We hope you can join us in celebration of another tremendous and fulfilling semester. As described in this newsletter, we still have many activities and events in April and May where you can participate. Awards and recognitions will be held throughout April to acknowledge the incredible and committed work of faculty, students, staff, and supporters like you. Congratulations and hugs to the family, friends, and supporters of the WSU graduating class of 2015. WSU’s Commencement is on May 1st. See you there.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter! Go Wildcats!!!!

Native American Graduate Banquet

by Maria Huerta
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The American Indian Council (AIC) is planning the first annual Native American Graduate Banquet. Native American students, with the assistance of AIC advisor Tashina Barber, developed the event to showcase the educational goals that Native American students have accomplished and give them a small incentive to achieve them.

The qualifications to attend the event are: the student must have self-identified as Native American and they must have applied for graduation. The event will include students that graduated in Fall 2014 as well as those graduating this semester. The time and date for the event is April 27th, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m in the Shepherd Union Ballrooms. Dinner will be provided for students where they can bring up to two guests, which may include a parent, a spouse, a child, etc. Those attending will also have the opportunity to hear from a guest speaker and enjoy live entertainment from talented Wildcat peers.

We encourage all Native American students applying for graduation verify that they have self-identified as Native American. We would not like for you to miss this great opportunity!
Byron Warfield Graham Scholarship

Byron Warfield-Graham graduated from Weber State University (WSU) in 1972 with a degree in Political Science, Philosophy, and English. His legacy at the university had a big impact amongst the under-represented communities such as low-income families, ethnic minority groups, and all other underprepared college students. While at WSU, Byron first made his mark in the English department where he successfully pushed Weber State University to allow the hiring of student tutors.

As one of the first three tutors, Byron's job focused on students from under-represented communities. The goal was to teach the grammar and writing skills necessary to succeed.

To continue his legacy, a scholarship fund was developed and awarded to WSU students who are active members of the university’s very own Black Scholars United (BSU) and have exemplified excellence in community and extracurricular involvement.

The following students were chosen to receive this scholarship:

• Jeffrey Henry
• Melvin Jackson
• Niesha Miller
• James Riley Painter
• Champagne Perry
• Jennifer Wyllie

Byron and his wife, Audrey, have been student advocates and activists for charitable work and community projects within low-income and under-represented communities. They are continuing their work by recently donating to the Dream 125 campaign, which has the purpose of helping Weber State University provide more opportunities for the advancement of knowledge and campus improvement to make students’ dreams come true.

What is your vision or direction for BSU?

BSU has a long and professional history at Weber State University since it was founded in 1968. My vision is to see it continue to rise, to advance the cause of social justice, and to increase the leadership and scholarship of African American students at Weber State University.

What are some upcoming BSU events that you would like students to know about?

BSU Barbecue! On Saturday April 11, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This is an open event for everyone on campus as an end of the year celebration.

#BLACK LIVES MATTER PRESENTATION will be on Sunday, April 12 at 10:00 AM with a worship service followed by lunch and community forum at 1:00 PM. This event is in conjunction with Embry Chapel AME church. This is an open discussion for the community and Weber State University to discuss the quality of black lives in Ogden, Utah and what we can do to make things better.

Juneteenth! This event will be held at Weber State, on Friday and Saturday, June 20-21 (Exact time TBA). Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States, dating back to June 19, 1865.

What is your background and some of your beliefs on education? What are you passionate about that keeps you motivated?

I am glad my parents motivated me to go back to school; because of their persistent push I was able to achieve many things. I received a Bachelor’s Degree for Education of Science, Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Masters in Gifted and Talented Education. I later went back to school to get a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy. I have lived all over the world, and I came to Utah 10 years ago.

My husband fell in love with the scenery so we decided to stay in Utah. My passion is for young people. Working with the students and education is everything I do. Education is dear to my heart and it is the key to get out of poverty and have a better life. Education helps your mind from being imprisoned. When you do not have knowledge people can use you, mistreat you, and abuse you. If you have knowledge you have power and working here at the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) helps me empower others. I have been where some of the students are, struggling with school, I know that experience.

What is the best thing about working at the MSC?

Working with everyone and looking at the brilliance at Weber State University. I stand in awe. That’s the best part of my job. I see it in the students and I know it is there. They are going to make this world a better place not just for themselves but for older generations, and the generations that will come in the future.
Grants Available for Undergraduate Research/Importance of Undergraduate Research

by Sujely Mendoza
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Students who participate in the research process gain great experience and skills that are not usually available in a classroom setting. The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) strengthens the learning environment of Weber State University students. Their purpose is to mentor students as researchers and as scholars. Their mission is to help students build a research project with the help of mentors.

OUR encourages mentored research by providing funding through material, equipment, scholarships, and publication of research. Grants are available on their website (www.weber.edu/OUR). They have long term grants, short term grants, and travel grants. Long term grants support significant indepth projects that continue through two semesters and may include summer research. Short term grants are for smaller, independent student projects like preliminary or exploratory research, and expenses for larger projects.

I spoke with students at Weber State University and asked them what the importance of Undergraduate Research is to them. William Peterson answered “It sets you up for the professional world to find answers to real life problems.” Daniel Haws said, “We are able to do projects and it would not be possible without the office of Undergraduate Research.” Max George said, “We have the opportunity to apply research methods to questions we have in class. We are able to perform and test our questions in a research environment.”

There are many benefits to participating in undergraduate research. First, you become marketable for graduate school and employment. Second, you have the opportunity to apply theories that you have learned to real-life situations. You also improve your critical thinking and problem-solving skills. If you are looking for more information, OUR is located in the Stewart Library, room 58. OUR office hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Forrest Crawford Distinguished Stewardship Award

by Amber Fast | Peer Mentor | amberfast@weber.edu

Nalley Ruiz received "The Forrest Crawford Distinguished Stewardship Award" from Dr. Crawford. Dr. Crawford, former assistant to the president for Diversity, is known for his diversity initiative and commitment to Weber State University. This award goes to graduate students who have received a master degree at Weber State University and have been involved with the Multicultural Student Center.

To be a potential applicant you must prove you have improved a process, advocated for others, demonstrated leadership on campus, and academic field or profession; as well as, supported civic engagement, and promoted multiculturalism with direct impact to the campus or community.

Nalley Ruiz is the Director of Health Administration for Weber State University. She graduated from Weber State University with a Master of Health Administration. Ruiz is part of the advisory staff for Health Administration Services (HAS), Master of Health Administration (MHA), and Image of Northern Utah.

 Ruiz is very honored to have received this award. She states, “I have known Dr. Crawford for a long time, and receiving a award from him has made this more meaningful. ” Ruiz believes it is it important to give back to the community like people from her past that helped her succeed in education. “I used to be in the health care field, but I decided to go into education to help underrepresented students to go into higher education. ”

She works to get students involved in any type of education whether it is a four-year degree or going to a technical school. “Education
Upcoming Events on Campus

by Jasmine Pittman | Peer Assistant | jasminepittman@weber.edu

WSU will be holding a talk on April 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Center for Diversity and Unity (located in room SU 232 in the Shepherd Student Union) to discuss eugenics, its history, and the overall idea of the concept.

The Center for Diversity and Unity, located in room SU 232 of the Shepherd Student Union is hosting one of their last events on April 22 at 9 a.m. -1 p.m. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about stereotypes regarding LBGT relationships, and how to combat them, while giving more factual information about LBGT relationships as well.

On April 25th, 2015 from 7:30p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Val A. Browning Center, Weber State University will be holding the biennial One-Act Play Festival. Tickets are on sale and available online now at weberstatetickets.com.

The Crystal Crest Awards were born out of a desire to honor members of the Weber State Community who have distinguished themselves. The event will be on April 25 at 7 p.m. in Shepherd Union Ballrooms.

continued from the The Forrest Crawford Distinguished Stewardship Award

is education” commented Ruiz. Education has greatly impacted her and has led her to opportunities to advance and create relationships. Ruiz is proud of her accomplishments, and is extremely grateful to Dr. Crawford. She said, “Dr. Crawford has set an example to follow. He has achieved a lot, and has inspired me. I want to make a difference like Dr. Crawford.”