



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Fall Semester 2023 Newsletter

December 2023

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ASSOCIATE DEAN'S MESSAGE



"What is going on in this world?!"

That was the statement from one of our CSBS professors as they told me about the tragic events unfolding at UNLV in Las Vegas, Nevada. It caused me to reflect what solutions may exist to address some of the most pressing of our societal ills. I thought about the work that is being done in our college helping our students gain an appreciation of the diversity that exists in our world. I thought about new courses and programs like in religious studies (through the Department of History), ethnic studies (through the Department of Sociology & Anthropology), and the ethics certificate (through the Department of Political Science & Philosophy). I pondered on what Dr. Stephanie Wolfe's Model UN students, who traveled to San Francisco and Germany this year, learned by representing the interests of other countries and cultures. I considered deleting my Facebook account after reading about research done by a CJ graduate student looking at the relationship between social media and fear of crime. All in all, powerful, life-changing experiences for our students.

In the end though, I was drawn to a 2022 study published in *The Journal of Positive Psychology*. The authors investigated the effect of three therapies aimed at helping reduce anxiety and depression. While all three therapies were successful at reducing the effects of these emotionally disabling conditions, one was found to be more advantageous: acts of kindness. Participants who performed 3 acts of kindness a day on two days of the week demonstrated better social connection, improvement in anxiety/depression symptoms and greater life satisfaction than those who had cognitive therapy. Acts of kindness do require a bit of our time and attention and resources, but they don't require expensive medical visits, ongoing monitoring to tune therapies, or managing the side effects of medications. Just a little TLC for the world around you to improve the lives of others...and you.

So as the snow begins to fall around us, I invite you to take out your shovel. After you have finished your driveway, do your neighbor's next. Then, after the cookies are done baking in your oven, take a plate over for them to enjoy with you. Or maybe join Dean Julie Rich and a group of WSU students on their next study abroad adventure to a far away place to build a school or water supply for a village in desperate need of basic life necessities. As your enemies come knocking at your gate this season, give them the gift of kindness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Horn". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and a cursive "Horn".

- DR. BRENT HORN

ASSOCIATE DEAN, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

CSBS NEW MINORS & CERTIFICATES



ETHNIC STUDIES MINOR

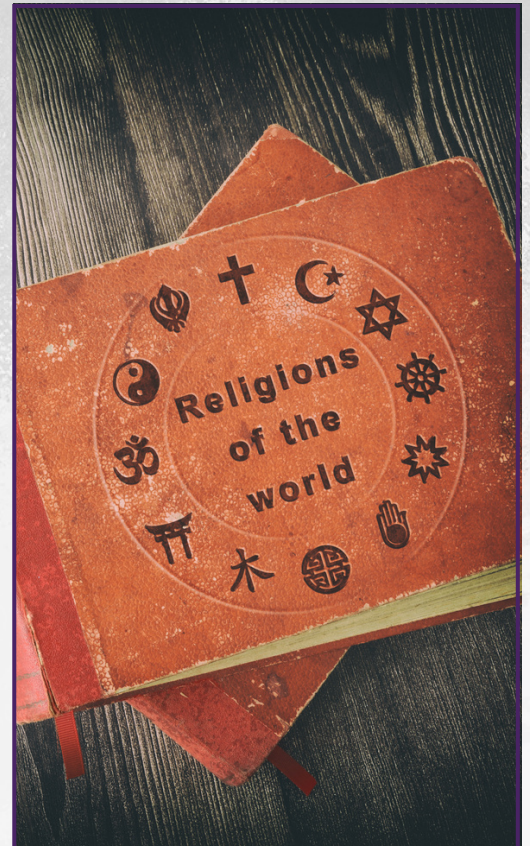
Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Ethnic studies is about learning who we are as individuals, communities and as a country. Students often experience profound awakenings about themselves and their worlds in ethnic studies courses, making it an ideal subject for people looking to explore everything from race in the United States to the development of their ethnic identity. The minor requires 18 credits, 12 of which can be taken from a range of disciplines, including history, geography, social work, criminal justice, and more. Learn more about the new ethnic studies at weber.edu/socanthro/.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MINOR

Department of History

Religion is a crucial part of human identity, community and history. Weber State is itself an increasingly diverse community of students and scholars, and it is important that we take the complexity and diversity of religion seriously in our global world. The religious studies minor helps students develop the critical tools needed to understand how religions function in human societies. Because it is an interdisciplinary minor, students are encouraged to take a variety of courses. Learn more about the religious studies minor at catalog.weber.edu.



CSBS NEW MINORS & CERTIFICATES



ETHICS CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

Department of Political Science & Philosophy

Individuals completing the ethics certificate of proficiency will explore a wide range of theoretical approaches to resolving ethical problems, as well as a variety of applied moral issues across multiple disciplines. With the certificate, students will learn to think critically about and be able to address ethical problems that arise in their professional and personal lives. The certificate requires 18 credit hours and offers electives through multiple departments. Learn more about the ethics certificate of proficiency at weber.edu/polsc.

ALL CSBS MINORS

- Anthropology
- Criminal Justice
- Environmental Studies
- Ethnic Studies
- Geography
- Geography Teaching
- Gerontology
- History
- History Teaching
- International Studies
- Legal Studies
- Military Science
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Political Science Teaching
- Psychological Science
- Public Administration
- Public History
- Queer Studies
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Sociology Teaching
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Women & Gender Studies

ALL CSBS CERTIFICATES

- Ethics
- Forensic Science Fundamentals
- Geospatial Analysis
- Geospatial Technology
- Gerontology
- Juvenile Justice
- Sustainable Land Use Planning
- Victim Advocacy

CSBS STUDENT SENATOR: RUBY VEJAR

Written by: Ruby Vejar

Being a student is hard, however, when you have someone to guide you, it makes navigating school a lot easier. When I started college, my first goal was to get in and get out as fast as possible. I took 18 plus credits, and I had a full-time job. But because I didn't do anything outside of myself, I started to get very bored and very lonely. Eventually, my coworker made me go on an Alternative Breaks trip through the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL). On this trip, we went rock climbing, which is one of my favorite hobbies, but we also did service at Youth Futures. Youth Futures is a capstone project a WSU student made to help youth struggling through homelessness. I thought that it was so amazing that a student like me could do something far more meaningful than just school. The gears in my head changed, and I jumped at every opportunity to get to where I wanted to go.

I went on other Alternative Breaks trips—one to the Lakota reservation in the spring—and got a summer job with the community partner I worked with on that trip. I also continued going on the rock climbing Alternative Breaks trips with the Outdoor Program and went on almost every trip they offered. These trips are low-cost and are great if you are a beginner or a pro. I went whitewater rafting, rock climbing, repelling, ice climbing, snowshoeing and hiking. I eventually competed in their bouldering competitions and even placed every year.



In the academic realm, I applied for many scholarships and went on study abroad trips to Kenya, Ireland and Scotland for zero to little cost because of scholarships that are open to everyone. I joined the Moot Court Team and was able to go to Fresno. I also competed with Model United Nations in San Francisco, got an award, published a paper on structural inequality and now get to chair at the April 2024 conference in San Francisco. Because of that, I got to go to nationals in Germany, and we won an award. Next year, we will hopefully compete in the Galapagos for nationals again in Nov. 2024. In these competitions, I made friends from China, Ukraine, Japan, all over the U.S. and the Philippines.





As you can imagine, all these experiences were fun, but they also served as a good resume builder and helped me make some friends in some high places. When it came time to pay for school, I was able to get scholarships to pay for all of my schooling and then part of some other necessary things like housing and health costs. I was also able to land two internships, one in the State Legislature and another in Washington, D.C.

While all of this was a lot, it really helped me realize that there is more to school than just running from Lind Lecture Hall to Lindquist Hall without saying a word to anyone. I realized school is supposed to be fun. And we are supposed to make friends. If I hadn't tried something new, something outside of myself, I would have missed so much. I by no means am rich. I live paycheck to paycheck. And I am a first-generation student from a first-generation immigrant family who is learning as they go. But doing all these things smoothed out a lot of bumps in my road. I became friends with some of the most amazing people on campus. I even became friends with my professors and advisors.

If you can take any advice from me, it's this. There is a whole army of people at this institution who want to help you, but they can't if you don't speak, they can't if you don't take the initiative to try something new. In short, they can't if you don't dream.

I'm close to graduation, and it's a little scary, but I know if I keep in mind "it's not about me it's about the lives we touch." I will be okay. So keep your chin up. You have a whole army rooting for you. If you just want a friend or want someone to bounce ideas off of or some advice on school, scholarships and life opportunities, email me at rubyvejar@weber.edu or message me on Instagram at [@rubyvejar](https://www.instagram.com/rubyvejar), and I would be more than happy to help out.

I remember my favorite quote from Mr. Rogers, the children's show that taught me English because he spoke slowly, "In times of chaos and fear look around for those who are helping. Look for the helpers."

Please let me be your helper.

CONNECT WITH RUBY:



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STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

We had **many** students present research at the Office of Undergraduate Research's Fall 2023 Research and Engagement Symposium on Dec. 5. We are so impressed with our students and thankful for their faculty mentors.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Shelby Penrod:** On-Camera Correction of Off-Perpendicular Imaging of Fingerprints
- **Robert Uribe:** The Relationship between Social Media Consumption and Fear of Violent Crime

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

- **Caden Bankhead:** Can Aeroponics and Vertical Farming Grow Alfalfa More Efficiently in Utah?
- **Heather Couturier:** Contemporary Pagan and Witch Demographics of the Wasatch Front
- **McKenna Laney:** The Impact of High Traffic on Visitor Experience at Utah's Bear Lake State Park
- **Ian Nuttal:** Measuring the Urban Park Cooling Island Effect in Ogden, Utah
- **Abbey Soukup:** Long-lasting Air Quality and Heat Effects in Current Day Redline and Greenline Districts in Ogden.
- **Tara Tankersley:** Does Bike-ability and Air Quality Favor Certain Demographics and Locations in Salt Lake City?

NEUROSCIENCE

- **Benson Bush:** Replication of the Color Flanker Task with Emotional Words: A Dual Anxiety Approach

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- **Lexie Andrew:** National Model United Nations Conference
- **Macy McCormack:** Healing Through Remembrance: Rwandan Genocide Memorials

STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

POLITICAL SCIENCE (CONT'D)

- **Brooklyn James:** QAnon: The Dangers of a Violent Conspiracy
- **Macy McCormack:** Healing Through Remembrance: Rwandan Genocide Memorials
- **Ruby Vejar:** San Francisco Model United Nations

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

- **Jai Earhart:** Beyond Mental Health: An Intersectional Perspective on Sexual Minorities' Experiences
- **Kylah Hinton:** "Why did he do it?" --A Look at Rape Myth Acceptance and Media
- **Hannah Hughes:** Compassion Cultivation: Self report and Salivary-Alpha Amylase as indicators
- **Zoe Marchant:** When to Slay the Giant
- **Anika Mork:** Caregiver Perceptions of University Childcare Resources
- **Rachel Robinson:** Analysis of gene expression related to learning and ethanol tolerance development in Honey bees
- **Jackson Stringham:** College Students' and Professors' Perceptions of a Student with ADHD: Does the Gender Matter?
- **Preston Thomas:** Expert Interviews - Teaching and Learning Lab

SOCIOLOGY

- **Megan Millerberg:** Navigating the Spectrum: Ethical Dilemmas and Practical Realities in ABA Therapy for Autism

**READ MORE ABOUT STUDENT RESEARCH ON THE
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEBSITE.**

WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



JAMES ALMEIDA

Assistant Professor
Department of History



VICTOR BLOCHER

Academic Advisor
Dean's Office



AMY FRITSCHLE

Administrative Specialist II
Department of Political Science & Philosophy



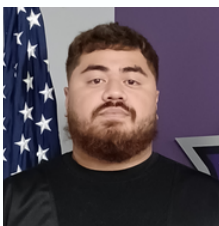
ALICIA GUTHRIE

Administrative Specialist II
Department of Psychological Science



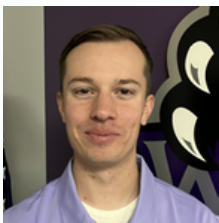
STEPHANIE KNIGHT

Administrative Specialist II
Department of Social Work & Gerontology



SAILOSI KOLOMALU

Supply Technician
Army ROTC



KRAIG ROHDE

Contractor & Military Science Instructor
Army ROTC

WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



ALEX REITZEL

Operations & Military Science Instructor,
Army ROTC



PAUL RIMMASCH

Assistant Professor
Crime Scene Investigation



DOUG ROUTH

Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Criminal Justice



AKIR ROWE

Administrative Specialist II, *Olene S. Walker*
Institute of Politics & Public Service



GENESIS VASQUEZ

Academic Advisor
Dean's Office



VANESSA WATTS

Instructor
Department of Psychological Science



SALLY WEST

Administrative Specialist II
Department of Sociology & Anthropology

FACULTY AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



DAN BEDFORD - RISE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER

Received the WSU RISE (Research, Innovation Success and Entrepreneurship) Award for Outstanding Researcher for a track record of consistent scholarship on human-caused climate change and its impacts.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Dennis Lee:** Published "The Relationship between Media Engagement and Procedural Justice" with WSU student Matthew Armocida in *Deviant Behavior*.

DEAN'S OFFICE

- **Julie Rich:** Published "High-Impact Experiential Learning Opportunities through Global Community Engaged Learning" with Jeremy Farner and Diana Meiser in *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies*.

HISTORY

- **James Almeida:** Presented "Labor Reforms During the Construction of Potosí's Second Royal Mint" in-person in Spanish at the 250th Anniversary of the Potosí Mint Conference Cycle in the National Mint Museum in Potosí, Bolivia.
- **Sara Dant:** Consultant and discussant for Ken Burns' *The American Buffalo* documentary film that premiered on PBS on Oct. 16. Guest on the Idaho Humanities Council *Context* podcast episode "Understanding the Public Lands: Federal Land Management Agencies and the Lands They Manage." Guest on the *Mountain & Prairie* podcast episode "Dr. Sara Dant Returns - 'Losing Eden: An Environmental History of the American West.'" Received the 2024 Dale L. Morgan Award from the Utah Historical Society for the best scholarly article of the year appearing in the 2022 *Utah Historical Quarterly* for "Driving Utah's Rivers: Working Water in the West," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Spring 2022.

FACULTY AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HISTORY (CONT'D)

- **Abdulnaser Kaadan:** Guest lecturer at the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA) in Great Britain where he presented "Ibn Sina, the prince of physicians, and his influences on the western medicine" via Zoom. Invited by The History of Islamic Medicine (HIM) team of The Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA) to be a guest speaker and present "Avicenna: The Prince of Physicians and His Influences on Western Medicine" via Zoom. Presented "Autism and Acquiring a University Education: A Historical Background" at the 2023 Annual WSU Diversity Conference.
- **Leah LaGrone:** Presented at the Jovita Idar Quarter Release Celebration in San Antonio for Hispanic Heritage Month - sponsored by the Smithsonian and the U.S. Mint. Guest historian on the *Historians at the Movies* podcast. Received the 2022-23 Jennings G. Olson Award.
- **Branden Little:** Wrote the afterword for *Humanitarianism and the Greater War*, (Manchester University Press, 2023). Published "Anticipating Dunkirk: The Humanitarian Rescue of Americans in Europe, 1914-17" in *New Interpretations of Naval History: Selected Papers from the Twentieth McMullen Naval History Symposium*, 2017 (Naval War College Press, 2023).
- **Nathan Rives:** Presented his book chapter "'The Noble Example Afforded by the British': The Transatlantic Origins of Bible Societies in the U.S., 1804-1816" at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting during its Second-Book Writers' Workshop.
- **Matthew Romaniello:** Published "Commodities in Context: Moving Materials and Medical Knowledge into Medieval Russia," in *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*.

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY

- **Stephanie Wolfe:** Elected First Vice President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars for the 2023-2025 term.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

- **Aminda O'Hare:** Gave two webinars on "Mind-Body Connections and Whole-Person Wellness: The Role of Mindfulness" for the Florida Library Association and the American Library Association.

FACULTY AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE (CONT'D)

- **Aminda O'Hare & Timothy Black:** Sponsored a collaborative student research presentation at the annual meeting for the Society of Psychophysiology, presented by alumnus Jamie Heiner and current student Hannah Hughes. The presentation was titled, "Self-Report and Salivary Alpha Amylase as Indicators of Educator Burnout." O'Hare also sponsored two other research projects, one presented by alumnus Rochely Martinez-Negron - "Replicating the Effects of Test Anxiety on Cognitive Control: An ERP Study" and another presented by alumnus Grace Winder and current student Benson Bush - "Replication of the Color Flanker Task with Emotional Words: A Dual Anxiety Approach." These projects represent the collaborative work within the Department of Psychological Science and the Neuroscience Program.
- **Sarah Herrmann:** Received the 2022-23 Gene Sessions Excellence in Teaching Award.
- **Leigh Shaw:** Completed the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) course in Inclusive Teaching for Equitable Learning and the ACUE course in Designing Learner Centered and Equitable Courses. Awarded microcredentials in each.
- **Leigh Shaw & Cade Mansfield:** Attended the 13th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Study of Human Development in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with psychological science students Madisyn Carrington, Sydnee Eubank and Thomas Frazier. Shaw and Mansfield presented a paper in a symposium on narrative meaning making in adolescence, and Madisyn, Sydnee and Thomas each presented a poster on data from research collected and coded in the social development lab.

SOCIAL WORK & GERONTOLOGY

- **Mark Bigler:** Presented "Harm Reduction in the Social Work Curriculum: Preparing for Practice and Supporting Social Justice and Human Rights" and co-presented "Harm Reduction: Construction and Validation of an Integrated Practice Model" with Marta Borges and Ines Amaro at the European Conference on Social Work Education in Porto, Portugal.

FACULTY AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SOCIAL WORK & GERONTOLOGY (CONT'D)

- **Steven Vigil:** Gave a workshop presentation "Mindful Approach to Inclusivity - Bias, Transference, and Counter-Transference" at the Zero Suicide Summit 2023.

SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

- **Joanna Gautney:** Published "A new approach to exploratory data analysis in hominin phylogenetic reconstruction" in the *Journal of Human Evolution*.
- **Huiying Hill:** Published "Book review: A Decade of Upheaval: The Cultural Revolution in Rural China" in the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*.
- **Madeline Mackie:** Co-authored "The Geochronological and Geoarchaeological Context of the Clovis-Age La Prele Mammoth Site (48CO1401), Converse County, Wyoming" in *PaleoAmerica*. Published "Beyond market share: Accounting for doctoral program size in recent rates of anthropology faculty job placement" in *PLoS ONE*.
- **Carla Trentelman:** Participated in a panel presentation "Teaching Society and Natural Resources in a Convergent World" at the 2023 International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) Conference in Portland, Maine.

MILESTONES

15 YEARS

Branden Little, History

25 YEARS

Mark Bigler, Social Work & Gerontology

Gregory Lewis, History

Susan Matt, History

Marjukka Ollilainen, Sociology & Anthropology

30 YEARS

Wade Kotter, Stewart Library

40 YEARS

Julie Rich, Dean's Office

Thank You

THANK YOU



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences



MAKING DREAMS HAPPEN

Check out some of the ways you can support students, faculty and staff in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.

CONTACT US

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