



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Spring 2022 Newsletter

April 2022

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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Thank you for taking time to read our CSBS fall 2021 newsletter. We are highlighting some of our new faculty and staff that recently joined our college, plus you will have the opportunity to become better acquainted with our newly appointed associate dean, Dr. Brent Horn by reading his message. We are also highlighting the Department of Geography, Environment and Sustainability and sharing what has been done to overhaul that program to create more opportunities for our students. We have included some CSBS-themed humor to hopefully bring a smile to your face.

We are all fortunate to be part of this great college and university. Each day we get to enter our beautiful building to interact with students who are wanting to improve their lives by gaining essential knowledge and skills to make impactful changes in our community and beyond. I have a deep respect and admiration for our CSBS students. Most are working and have families, yet they are choosing to enroll in our classes and join our departments. Each day students arrive on campus to learn and interact with you, our wonderful faculty and staff, to gain the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to exact positive change in the world. We have a tremendous obligation to offer the finest education that we possibly can for our students. What they learn from us today builds a vital foundation for them, and will have a lasting impact on all of our futures.

As we close the end of this semester and begin another in January 2022, let's remember our college motto for the year, "Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities." (-Aristotle) Thank you for all you do for our students, the college, and university. It is an honor to serve alongside each of you as we prepare these students to shape the future.

Julie Rich

- DR. JULIE RICH, DEAN
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

FACULTY/STAFF PROMOTIONS

Join us in welcoming these faculty members
into their new roles!



R. C. MORRIS

Previously: Assistant Professor of Sociology
Currently: **Associate Professor of Sociology**



BRAD REYNS

Previously: Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
Currently: **Professor of Criminal Justice**



MOLLY SWEEN

Previously: Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
Currently: **Professor of Criminal Justice**



AMINDA O'HARE

Previously: Assistant Professor of Psychology

Currently: **Associate Professor of Psychology**



CADE MANSFIELD

Previously: Assistant Professor of Psychology

Currently: **Associate Professor of Psychology**



PEPPER GLASS

Previously: Associate Professor of Sociology

Currently: **Professor of Sociology**



DAVID YODER

Previously: Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Currently: **Associate Professor of Anthropology**



MARIA GROVES

Previously: Instructor

Currently: **Assistant Professor of Geography**



TRACY HICKS

Previously: Administrative Associate III

Currently: **Administrative Associate**

RETIRING FACULTY & STAFF

Join us in thanking these faculty
for their years of service!

RON HOLT

Professor of Anthropology



MONICA WILLIAMS

Associate Professor of U.S. History



JEFF RICHEY

Associate Professor of History



AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITH COMMUNITY REBUILDS

Written by Bryan Dorsey



As part of the 2022 Utah Engaged Faculty Retreat, faculty from around the state gathered in Moab last February. One of the presentations during the retreat featured the partnership between the WSU Department of Geography, Environment and Sustainability and Community Rebuilds (CR), a non-profit affordable housing program in Moab. The presentation was followed by an excursion to observe some of the work being accomplished by CR in the Moab community. WSU Geography Professor Bryan Dorsey and Ellie Grosse from Community Rebuilds led a discussion to address two immediate areas of concern: 1) a housing crisis requiring an expanded, more affordable housing stock, 2) a climate crisis requiring more sustainable building materials and methods. CR operates a building school where hundreds of building interns have received education and hands-on experience on building healthy, high performing straw bale homes. This labor exchange program also offsets the construction costs for the low income household.

This was a unique chance for retreat participants to enjoy the mid-February sunshine and learn more about how the CR program addresses the two concerns of the housing and climate crises. The excursion in Moab included viewing of the CR main office and intern housing facility, both straw bale structures, then several straw bale homes currently meeting the Living Building Challenge above Mill Creek near downtown Moab. Among the dozen or so participants from the state's universities were Jo Blake (WSU Dance Dept.) and Jim Zagrodnik (WSU Health Phys. Ed. Rec. Dept.). The presentation and excursion would not have been possible without the organizing and coordination by Natalie Hales (WSU Campus Engagement Coordinator, Center for Community Engaged Learning).

Professor Dorsey will be returning to Moab with a dozen WSU students registered for a field course on sustainability studies in mid April. One day of the course will be devoted to volunteer work on a CR home, followed by a day-long visit to the Latigo wind farm in Monticello. Both the retreat presentation and field course are efforts to help us all emerge from the Covid pandemic and continue our attention to finding solutions for more affordable housing and reduced carbon emissions. For those interested in learning more, see publications by Professor Dorsey in the journal *Sustainability* and another article on sustainable architecture and straw bale building in press with the *Journal of Sustainability Research*.



Written by Jeremy Farner and Julie Rich

The Weber State University Global Community Engaged Learning (GCEL) program traveled to Ghana with 55 students, faculty and staff over Spring Break (3 -13 March 2022). We partnered with the non-profit organization, Ghana Make a Difference (GMAD). The WSU GCEL team has been working with GMAD since 2019 to design a school for children who are being rescued from slave and sex trafficking.

While in country, the GCEL group started preparing for the construction of the school by using local materials, and incorporating two new brick-making machines to produce over 3000 bricks that require no mortar. These bricks will be used to construct the school and two onsite foster care homes for the children who are unable to be reconnected with their families. Savings from making the estimated 30,000 bricks is allowing eight local Ghanaians to be retained and paid a salary for the next 12-18 months to complete the construction of the school and foster housing.

WSU Interior Design students implemented noise reduction solutions to dampen noise pollution in the existing GMAD buildings using local fabrics that also beautify the existing classrooms and concrete dining hall. A fresh coat of paint on the gate and construction of shelving and organization of all books in the library based on grade level added to the success of the trip.

A team of WSU geography students helped train the older GMAD children in map-making and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Rainwater collection on the main building using a gutter and downspout system will allow irrigation of on-site gardens and the children's playfield. WSU nurses provided health clinics for the GMAD children and local villagers. Please see the video created by one of the WSU students, where he shares his experiences in Ghana. The Weber State University GCEL group will continue to work with GMAD on future initiatives. WSU, the GCEL group and GMAD are deeply grateful to the Stromberg Family for making this project a success and for helping so many students have a life changing experience. The quote the GCEL team referred to very often in Ghana was, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters and create many ripples" (Mother Theresa). Thanks to the Stromberg Family for continually casting many stones and creating ripples of goodness and positive change throughout the world.





GMAD 5-acre Campus where WSU students resided and worked



School building that will be constructed with the bricks that are being produced



Teaching Ghanaian students about mapping and GIS



Installation of African fabrics and panels for noise reduction in buildings



Nursing students preparing the clinic for health screenings

FACULTY/STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HISTORY

- **Abdulnaser Kaadan:** Joseph and Holly Nye Bauman Outstanding Faculty in Honors Award; presented "The War in Syria Obligated Some Orthopedic Operating Rooms to Apply Primitive Ways of Sterilization" at Billy S. Guyton History of Medicine Symposium; presented "Human Anomalies in Some of the Medieval Medical Books"; presented "Some of Asian Physicians Achievements Still Attributed to Western Minds" at The NAAAS & Affiliates 28th Joint National Conference
- **Matthew Romaniello:** presented "'Winter certainly must take the lead': Challenging Climate Determinism at the Russian Academy of Sciences" at University College London in January; presented "What About Helen? Excavating Consent from the Scottish Missionary Society Records," at Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies conference; received Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society to conduct archival research in the United Kingdom for book project, *Unplanned Obsolescence: Modernity and the Loss of the Natural World*; co-edited *The Life Cycle of Russian Things: From Fish Guts to Fabergé, 1600 - Present*, which then made the shortlist for the Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title for 2021
- **Leah LaGrone:** Texas State Historical Association Texas Talks
- **Sara Dant:** Published "Driving Utah's Rivers: Working Water in the West" in *Utah Historical Quarterly*; presented "Tom Alexander and Environmental Stewardship in the American West," Western History Association conference; under contract for second edition of *Losing Eden: An Environmental History of the American West*; Faculty Sustainability Research Award for project *The View from the Top of the World: Climate Change in the West and the World*

FACULTY/STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HISTORY (CONTINUED)

- **Nathan Rives:** presented "Financing the Bible in 1821: Christianity and the Early US Market Economy after the Panic of 1819" at Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association conference
- **Tracey Smith:** Joseph and Holly Nye Bauman Outstanding Faculty in Honors Award

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Monica Williams:** Williams, Monica and Pamela Payne. 2021. "Engaging Undergraduates in Co-curricular Community-based Research: Strategies for Success." Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education 13(3).
- **Heeuk "Dennis" Lee:** Collaborated with CJ student Edilia Popoca Morales on poster contest for Western Association of Criminal Justice conference (1st place)

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY

- **Stephanie Wolfe:** Guest speaker at 28th Commemoration of Genocide Against Tutsis in Rwanda Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio and the Jewish Community Relations Council (via Zoom) on April 11, 2022; Affordable Course Materials Award from Weber State; authored "Reparations and the Role of Apologies" for the Oxford Handbook of Atrocity Crimes
- **Richard Price:** Publication: "Navigating a Doctrinal Grey Area: Free Speech, the Right to Read, and Schools"; conference presentation: "Heather Has Too Many Mommies: Gay Children's Books and the Christian Right Backlash" at Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association; fellowship: 2022 Warren & Spector/Warren Fellowship from the Holocaust Museum Houston; Instructor for Gateway to Learning Educator Workshop at the University of Utah

FACULTY/STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PSYCHOLOGY/NEUROSCIENCE

- **Aminda O'Hare:** 2021 Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award; Outstanding Mentor Award for the CSBS from the Office of Undergraduate Research; 2021-2022 Hemingway Collaboration Award; authored chapter in new book "Creating a Place for Self-care and Wellbeing in Higher Education"

SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

- **Carla Trentelman:** 2022 Presidential Award for Community-Engaged Faculty

Thank You



Making Dreams Happen

Make a gift to the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences in honor or memory of someone.

Contact Us

Reach out to the Dean's Office:

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