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THIS ISSUE



Fulbright Scholar STRENGTHENS INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS AT WSU

Mary Machira, executive director of Weber State University's Office of International Programs & Services, received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award that took her to Seoul this summer, where she engaged with South Korea's higher education system and built relationships with universities there.

Each year, the renowned Fulbright Scholar Program offers awards for recipients to teach, conduct research and implement professional projects around the world. Machira chose South Korea because of growing interest at WSU to develop stronger ties with Korean schools and increase transformative learning experiences rooted in global best practices.

"Having international students on campus not only enhances the community's cultural experience, but also enriches the classroom experience by adding diverse perspectives and ways of thinking," Machira said.

This fall, WSU boasted its largest enrollment of new international students ever with 372 students, bringing the total number to 832. More than half of those students are from Nepal, drawn to WSU by positive word-of-mouth, affordable tuition and the sense of community created by Nepalese students in Utah, Machira said.

"For international students, Weber State offers the prestige of studying at a U.S. university, along with access to learning experiences and extracurricular opportunities that may not be available in their countries," she said.

New Director EYES GREATER HEIGHTS FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

Yesenia Quintana, the new director of Weber State University's Community Education Center, knows exactly what kind of impact continued education can have on families. Her mother learned the alphabet as an adult, and Quintana said community education had a "transformational" effect on her family.

Quintana is a WSU alum and experienced staff member excited to take on her new role at the CEC. Located in central Ogden, the center offers ESL classes, career development and other programs to further the education of Ogden and Weber County's Spanishspeaking population.

Quintana envisions the CEC as a welcoming place for Spanish speakers to embark on their college and career journeys: "We want to increase access to resources and experiences, while also strengthening the fabric of our community, creating a ripple effect of connections and opportunities."

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RAVI KROVI

The beginning of fall semester is always an exciting time for students, faculty and staff. This year, we trended positively in enrollment thanks to efforts led by colleagues in Student Access & Success, the International Office and our academic advisors, among others.

I am really proud of the tremendous progress we have made over the last decade, notably in our six-year graduation rate, first-year retention rate and in addressing completion gaps. This is by no means an accident. It is largely possible due to the efforts of all our faculty and staff over time and a willingness to challenge our own assumptions. Organizational behaviorists refer to this as organizational learning. A learning organization has the ability to introspect and rethink itself with a growth mindset. Across the university, departments have done just that, innovating and being willing to engage in a continuous learning and transformation process.

There will be increasing pressure on us to generate alternate revenue streams to offset enrollment losses as we approach the anticipated enrollment cliff in 2026. This coming year, we will focus on improving the firstyear retention and conduct a curricular analysis of our offerings. I am looking forward to working together as a campus community and invite you to join our working teams. Please send an email to provostwsu@weber.edu if you are interested.

I am also mindful of the challenges that our university has faced in the last few months. Many of us are still grieving over the loss of beloved colleagues. We are also dealing with many of the legislative compliance requirements. Please know that my office is here to help as we continue to navigate these difficult situations. We have resources available on the <u>Academic Affairs website</u>.

Thank you for everything you do for our great university. Please join me in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for our students.

Sincerely, **Ravi**



A new partnership between Weber State University and Hill Air Force Base will expand education opportunities for military members, their families and civilian employees by offering master's degree classes on base. WSU will become the first public university in the state to be part of an airbase education program.

"Weber State is dedicated to the mission of supporting Hill Air Force Base and the Air Force," said WSU President **Brad Mortensen**. "Not just because it's good for our economy and creates good opportunities for our students, but because it's good for our national defense and our freedom."

WSU works collaboratively with Hill AFB to identify and offer high-demand degrees for enlisted and civilian employees, including Master of Business Administration and Master of Health Administration. Additionally, WSU will offer a non-credit certificate in project management, which helps prepare students to take a project management certification exam.

WSU plans to hold classes in Hill's Education & Training Office building, open to anyone with base access, including



active duty military personnel, dependents, retirees and civilians.

"We need every airman to be able to fulfill their personal and professional potential," said Col. Jeffrey Holland, 75th Air Base Wing and installation commander at Hill AFB. "It's partnerships with our educational institutions like Weber State that make that possible."

ALL "RISE" FOR TOP FACULTY RESEARCHERS

For the sixth annual Research Impact Success and Emerging Research Awards, Weber State University recognized three outstanding faculty dedicated to pushing the boundaries of research and a commitment to fostering impactful programs that resonate within WSU and beyond.

KATRINA TWING, recipient of the Emerging Researcher Award, was recognized for contributions to microbial ecology and environmental microbiology. Her research focuses on roles of microorganisms in extreme environments, particularly in deep subsurface ecosystems. Twing's work explores how these microorganisms adapt to and influence their surroundings, which has significant implications for understanding global biogeochemical cycles and the potential for life in similar environments on other planets. Her innovative approach combines fieldwork, laboratory experiments and advanced genetic analysis, pushing the boundaries of knowledge in her field.

EMILY JANUARY, honored with the Outstanding Research Award, made strides in the field of digital humanities. Her research bridges the gap between traditional humanities scholarship and modern digital technologies, offering new ways to explore, preserve and interpret literary texts and historical documents. January's work emphasizes accessibility, creating digital platforms that allow wider audiences, including students and researchers from various disciplines, to engage with complex texts and archives. Her projects have seen significant student involvement, providing them valuable experience in cutting-edge research methods.

SHIRLEY DAWSON received the Programmatic Impact Award for leadership in the special education community at WSU. This program achieved significant outcomes that resonated locally and nationally. Dawson's vision for the program involved innovative strategies that combined academic rigor with community engagement, ensuring students gain practical skills while making meaningful contributions to society. Her program has also secured external funding, which allowed for its expansion and sustainability.



WEBER STATE HELPS MILITARY NURSES STEP INTO NEW CAREERS AS EDUCATORS

Weber State University is helping veterans seamlessly transition from military service to civilian careers as nurse educators, partnering with the U.S. Department of Defense's SkillBridge program, which gives military personnel the opportunity to gain civilian work experience before they separate from the service.

"Weber State is known as a military-friendly school," said London Draper Lowe, WSU nursing professor and SkillBridge program coordinator. "We care about the military community and want them to be part of our school."

Retiring or separating military nurses with a master's or doctoral degree can apply for a five-month internship at WSU, which involves working alongside instructors to learn and experience all aspects of nursing education.

Lowe said the SkillBridge partnership unlocks new career paths for veterans while also allowing WSU to tap into a highly trained, highly skilled workforce.

Michael Humphrey, a women's health and family nurse practitioner who recently retired from a 22-year career with the U.S. Air Force, was the first intern to complete WSU's SkillBridge program this spring. He was recently hired as a nursing instructor in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

"This partnership provided an avenue for me to share my distinct experience over the past two decades in the military," Humphrey said. "Being given the opportunity to train the next generation of nurses is a true honor for me."

SPIDERS PROVIDE WEB OF INSIGHT

During the summer, Antelope Island is literally crawling with information on the Great Salt Lake's ecosystem. Since 2019, **Rebecka Brasso**, zoology associate professor at Weber State University, has studied the orb weaver spiders found in abundance on the island, tracking their mercury levels.

The spiders are indicators of potential environmental dangers. As birds and other animals feed on them, any contaminants they've accumulated — like mercury from the lake — may be transferred.

"Mercury at high concentrations is a potent neurotoxin," Brasso said. "But even really low concentrations of mercury can cause things like immune system dysfunction or reproductive impairment."

Brasso and her students have collected and analyzed hundreds of spiders, using the data to form a better understanding of how mercury from the lake makes its way into the food web.



WEBER STATE ADDS AVP TO BOOST STUDENT SUCCESS

On July 22, Weber State University welcomed **Ahmad Sims** as Associate Vice President for Student Success. Committed to removing barriers to student success, Sims brings a wealth of experience in higher education leadership, having made contributions to academic advising, student retention and degree completion. He holds a doctorate in higher education leadership, a master's in human resource management, and a master's in conflict analysis and resolution.



"BE BRILLIANT" IS NOW AWARD-WINNING CAMPAIGN

Weber State's "Be Brilliant" campaign, spearheaded by the Marketing & Communications department, received an Award of Excellence from the University & College Designers Association. Part of the integrated campaign category, the prize recognizes the department's outstanding work on print ads, social posts, web pages, commercials, digital ads, swag and more. Also recognized by UCDA were **Alexandra Lopez-Nadal** and **Sydnie Knowlton** for their web work on the new <u>Master of Accounting website</u>.

FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Michael Ault, associate professor of communication, published "Building Buying-in: Understanding the Anticipatory Socialization Phase of Workers in a Full-Life Organization" in *Management Communication Quarterly* and "Structurational Divergence for Tongan Students in Higher Education: Navigating Conflicting Cultural and Higher-Educational Structures" in the Journal of Intercultural Communication Research.

Elizabeth Balgord and **Adolph Yonkee**, geosciences professors, were named Ambros Amos Shaw Endowed Chairs for the College of Science.

Timothy Black, assistant professor of psychology, coauthored "Preliminary Analysis of Genetic Markers for Functional Ethanol Tolerance in Honey Bees (Apis mellifera) Using a Free-Flying Paradigm" in *Insects*.

Brandon Burnett, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, earned the Sustainability Research Award for "Heavy Metal Reclamation from Electronic Waste through Environmentally-Friendly Extraction Methods" with WSU undergraduate student researchers.

Heather Chapman, senior director of data and analytics, and **Jessica Oyler**, vice president of Student Access & Success, presented "Using Cocurricular Data to Predict and Enhance Student Success Metrics" at the 2024 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Annual Conference. Chapman also presented "The State of Predictive Analytics: A Round Table Discussion."

Laurie Coburn, associate professor of radiologic sciences, published "Choosing and Narrowing a Research Topic" in *Radiologic Technology*.

Gina Cook, Department of Child & Family Studies associate professor, presented "Drawing the Line: How and Why to Set Healthy Boundaries in Home Visiting" at the Strengthening Families Conference.

Amanda Feld, academic advisor in the Goddard School of Business & Economics, and **Richard Campos**, assistant director of General Studies Advisement & Marketing, presented on advising queer students at the University Academic Advising Committee conference.

Carie Frantz, associate professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, co-authored "Toxic Elements in benthic lacustrine sediments of Utah's Great Salt Lake following a historic low in elevation" in Frontiers in Soil *Science* and "Primary to post-depositional microbial controls on the stable and clumped isotope record of shoreline sediments at Fayetteville Green Lake" in *Geobiology*. **Ivana Fredotovic**, chief data officer, and **Daniel Jensen**, data training and communication manager, presented "Data Magic: Empowering Data-Informed Decisions through Data Literacy" at the 2024 Association for Institutional Research Forum. Fredotovic also co-presented "A Leadership Mindset: Thriving in the Modern IR Landscape" and "Calling All Villagers: Data Governance Efforts Need IR and IT Professionals."

Health Administrative Services faculty **Lindsay Garr**, **Miland Palmer** and **Darcy Carter** co-authored "Are Graduate Entrance Exams Shutting Out Diverse Students? The Experience of an MHA Program" in the *Journal of Health Administration Education*.

Becky Jo Gesteland, English professor, published a short essay, "Educated," in MicroLit Almanac.

Jessica Greenberg, associate professor of theatre, will be a featured lighting designer in the upcoming book *Collected Light Volume 3: Women in Entertainment Lighting.*

Dustin Grote, assistant professor of teacher education, published "Lost in Translation: Information Asymmetry as a Barrier to Accrual of Transfer Student Capital" in *Community College Review*.

Eddie Hill, associate professor of outdoor and community recreation education, published "Friendship, competence and CGMs: Piloting a medical specialty tween day camp" in *The Physical Educator Journal*.

Jim Hutchins, professor of health sciences, Mylynn Felt, assistant professor of communication, and Misty Allen, resource sharing course materials manager, received a Hemingway collaborative grant to create the two-part textbook Integrated Human Anatomy & Physiology.

Carrie Jeffrey and **Tressa Quayle**, associate professors of nursing, co-authored "Harnessing the Untapped Potential of Ambulatory Clinical Placements in Prelicensure Nursing Education" in the *Journal of Nursing Education*.

Justin Kani, assistant professor and librarian in the Goddard School of Business & Economics, co-presented "Aligning AI Tools with the ACRL Framework: Leveraging Perplexity.ai to Support Student Learning" at the Generative AI in Libraries Conference.

Sachini Kodi, assistant professor of exercise and sport science, published "Postural Control During Perturbations" in the textbook Motion Analysis of Biological Systems.

Monica Linford, College of Science academic advisor, earned the Presidential Award for Community Engagement.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT.)

John Mukum Mbaku, economics professor, was published in multiple journals, including Minnesota Journal of International Law and North Carolina Journal of International Law.

Alyssa Mock, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, published "Effective uniaxial dielectric function tensor and optical phonons in (-201)-plane-oriented beta-Ga2O3 films with equally-distributed six-fold rotation domains" in *Physical Review Applied*.

Health Administrative Services colleagues **Miland Palmer**, **Darcy Carter** and **Cory Moss** earned first place in the poster competition at the Association of University Programs in Health Administration Conference.

Nicolás Pérez-Consuegra, assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, coauthored "Discrimination of tectonic provinces using zircon U-Pb ages from bedrock and detrital samples in the northern Andes" in GSA Bulletin.

Sandeep Kumar Rangaraju, associate professor of economics, presented "The Time Varying Effects of Oil News Shocks" at the Society for Economic Measurement. Rangaraju was also selected to be associate editor for *Empirical Economics*.

Justin Rhees, associate professor of medical laboratory sciences, published "The Influence of Academic Resilience and Academic Self-Efficacy Upon Academic Achievement in Medical Laboratory Science Education" in *Clinical Laboratory Science*.

Nathan Rives, history instructor, presented "'We Are Not at War with Her Charitable Institutions': New England's Bible Societies and the British in the War of 1812" at the New England Historical Association 2024 Spring Meeting.

Tiia Sahrakorpi, engineering instructor, co-authored "Scrapbooks as Sites of Technology: The Women's Institute and the Material culture of 1960s Rural England" in *Technology and Culture*.

Elaine Schnabel, assistant professor of organizational communication, wrote "Font of All Blessings" for the Utah Journal of Communication.

Shane Schvaneveldt, business administration professor, was keynote speaker on "Global Climate and Water Crises: Addressing Environmental, Economic and Social Challenges" for Kenya's Maasai Mara University Biannual International Multidisciplinary Conference.

Justin Sciarini, certified social worker in the Counseling & Psychological Services Center, co-authored "Value Transitions During Religious Disaffiliation from the Latterday Saint Faith" in the *Journal of Religion and Society*.

Caitlyn Tems, assistant professor of applied climate science, co-authored "Regional Fluctuations in the Eastern Tropical North Pacific Oxygen Minimum Zone during the Late Holocene" in *Oceans*.

WeiWei Wang, School of Accounting & Taxation associate professor, co-authored "Nonfinancial 8-K disclosures and individual investors' trading during earnings announcement window" for the International Journal of Managerial Finance and presented "The Impact of Profitability Pressure and Capital Market Valuation on Tax Haven Engagement" at the International Academic Conference on Contemporary Corporate Governance Issues in the Digital Economy.

Stephanie Wolfe, political science professor, co-authored "Memorial museums and burial sites: Rwanda's unfinished memory work" in *Memory Studies*.

Keith Yowell, business intelligence and reporting analyst in the Office of Student Success Analytics, presented "Maximizing Impact: Practical Insights from Building ML Tools for Higher Education" at the 2024 Higher Education Data Warehousing Conference.

Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation faculty **James Zagrodnik** and **Ryan G. Zimmerman** and their students presented "Physiological Effects Of Playing Pickleball And Skill Level" at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting.

New Director, continued from page 1

Talking to and learning from residents in the community is a crucial part of her role, and she wants to prioritize consistent communication: "I want the CEC to be a place where they can feel a sense of belonging and find their footing at Weber State."

Quintana also aims to develop experiential opportunities for WSU faculty and students. Those interested in partnering with the CEC can contact Quintana at ex. 7911. Weber State earned a Bronze Seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts that fostered high levels of student voter engagement in the 2022 midterm elections. WSU was also recognized for its action plans to get more students registered and to the polls in 2024.



WE KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER





1. ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER CUP

For the sixth time in WSU history, the Athletics Department earned the Big Sky Conference Presidents' Cup, more than any school in conference history. The Presidents' Cup is given annually to the school that excels both academically and athletically. Pictured here: WSU Athletic Director **Tim Crompton** accepts the trophy from Big Sky Commissioner Tom Wistrcill.

2. GOING GLOBAL

In the past year, about 30 departments at Weber State have offered international education opportunities through Study Abroad. This summer alone saw WSU faculty leading students on trips to Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy and more.

3. EXPLOSIVE TRADITIONS

Thousands showed up for the 45th annual Lindquist Family Symphony Pops Concert and Fireworks, which lit up the skies above WSU in July. With music from the New American Philharmonic and a battery of 16 cannons provided by the Cannoneers of the Wasatch, it was a literal blast!

4. COLLABORATIVE ART

A community engagement art project brought a blast of color to the Dumke Arts Plaza in Ogden. Designed by Los Angeles-based artist Megan Geckler, "A dream that comes in color" came to life with help from WSU and community volunteers. <u>Watch the video</u>.

5. 'BACK TO SCORCH' INTERVIEW IS FIRE

Communication major Brodee Kendrick sat down for a "spicy" interview with WSU President **Brad Mortensen** to get his back-to-school advice, plus the answer everyone wants to know: How many parking tickets has he been issued during his 20 years at Weber? <u>Watch the video</u>.

6. GET READY FOR DISC GOLF

Disc golf at Weber State is back, thanks in large part to WSU preventive maintenance technician **Jacob Serio**, who headed up the project. The new nine-hole course is located south of the substation off Skyline Drive above the Ogden campus, near the trailhead for the WSU Discovery Loop. Serio said the "beautiful little spot" is perfect for everyone, from beginners to pros.

Welcome to Weber State

Madison Arnsbarger Economics

Kristina Barker Nursing

Harlan Barnard University Police

Norman Barrett Facilities Management

Kimberly Beck Botany

Alex Benedict Microbiology

Sabrina Berndt Stewart Library

John Blomquist Purchasing

Tanner Boyd Legal Counsel

Jennifer Brennan Counseling & Psychological Services

Emily Briggs Davis College of EAST

Thomas Brown English

Tony Cella Marketing & Communications

Rachel Chase Psychology

Abigail Child Honors Program

Yu-Jung Chu Electrical & Computer Engineering

Kerri Clement History

Katelyn Cooper Student Pathways

Aundrea DeMille Center for Community Engaged Learning

Hugo Decampos Business Administration

Casey Doyle University Police

Zander Dunstan Facilities Management

Ben Evjen Visual Arts

Sydney Fairclough Wildcat Scholars

David Folsom School of Accounting & Taxation

Ivy Frampton Browning Center Alex Francis Facilities Management

Todd Francom Facilities Management

Anna Gabur Sociology

Margaret Gray Development

Fausto Guerrero Online & Continuing Education

Dalan Guthrie Performing Arts

Zahraddeen Gwarzo Construction & Building Sciences

Porter Hall Facilities Management

Cameron Hanson Enterprise Services

Elizabeth Hatch Wildcat Advantage & Internships

Kymberlee Hatch Online & Continuing Education

Josee Haycock Athletics Admin and Support

Donovan Head Facilities Management

Shara Heuer Strategic Regional Partnerships

Kaitlyn Horisk Botany

Michael Humphrey Nursing

Dawson Johnson Facilities Management

Zach Jones Bursar and Collection Services

Mackenzie Kasper College of Science

Katie Kassler Communication

Michael Keeney IT Business Services

Jennilyn Keinsley Marketing & Communications

Randal Kerr Health Admin Services

Alex Kimbi Infrastructure Services

Hannah Knight Nursing

Havilah Kornhaber Mechanical Engineering

Roy Kwon Provost's Office Jordyn Leslie Psychology

Alyia Lindsey Glenn Psychology

Tia Luther Disability Services

Aakash Matham Infrastructure Services

Jean Medberry Communication

Sarahi Mendoza Fernandez Social Work

Sandee Miller Social Work

Kassandra Mitchell Child & Family Studies

Tawnie Moore Athletics Admin and Support

Ashley Morford English

Lena Morgan Sustainability Practices Research

Alexis Morrissey Campus Recreation

Jaden Muir Student Involvement and Leadership

Beatriz Mulligan Student Pathways

Joseph Mulligan Foreign Language

Olof Nilsson Microbiology

Ukamaka Olisakwe English

Jeff Pashnick Botany

Stefanie Pease-Romero Nursing Leonard Perry Jr.

Athletics Admin and Support

Benjamin Phifer Business Administration

Madeline Phillips Purchasing

Nathaly Pimienta Provost's Office

Ran Qi Visual Arts

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Shanelle Redding Learning and Student Support

Elizabeth Richards College of Education

Ethan Richards Facilities Management Brittany Rocha College of Arts & Humanities

Yecenia Rubalcaba Learning and Student Support

Tiia Sahrakorpi College of EAST

Gissel Santoyo Online & Continuing Education

Shaury Searle Manufacturing - Systems Engineering

Ahmet Sezen Mechanical Engineering

Stephanie Shapiro Online & Continuing Education

Amani Shatnawi School of Computing

Kyra Shea Athletics Admin and Support

Ahmad Sims Associate VP for Student Success

Samari Smith Online & Continuing Education

Vanessa Smith Child & Family Studies

Lauralee Solimeno Center for Community Engaged Learning

Zachary Stireman Facilities Management

Michelle Terry Business Administration

Robyn Thompson Athletic Training

Jordan Titensor Athletic Training

Audra Turner Honors Program

Demi Uffelman

Deborah Vaughn

Collette Wilfong

Jennifer Wilkey

M. Rose Ybaben

Social Work

Marisa Yerace

English

Serena Woodhouse

Botany

Teacher Education

Joel Tweedy Financial Aid & Scholarships

Dual Enrollment and Outreach

Online & Continuing Education

Administrative Services

Retired

Mary Kay Amicone Women's Softball

Eric Amsel Provost's Office

Sara Dant History

Darcy Gregg Child & Family Studies

Kristin Hadley College of Education

Amber Hansen Bursar and Collection Services Suzanne Harley Botany

Mark Henderson Performing Arts

Jo Ellen Jonsson Professional Sales

Kent Kidman Mathematics

Wade Kotter Stewart Library

Shauna Morris Construction & Building Sciences Tamara Robinette Counseling & Psychological Services

Donita Ruth Student Union

John Schwiebert English

Deborah Sheridan English

Jeffrey Steagall English

Erik Stern Performing Arts Penee Stewart Economics

Barbara Trask Zoology

Carla Trentelman Sociology

Christine Vilches Stewart Library



Speech provides an extracurricular place for students to find their voices. Reasoned discourse takes a topic and provides a framework or lens on how to view it, how to approach it, and then many times covers what can be done about it.

MARK GALAVIZ, communication

instructor and director of WSU's speech team, which won the Northwest Forensics Conference for the third year in a row.

QUOTABLES



Ultimately, people walk away knowing they're saving and prolonging lives, and that's really what we're 'battling' for.



BRAD MORTENSEN, WSU president,

on the annual Blood Battle between Weber State and Utah State University to see which school can donate more blood to the American Red Cross. Everyone has a story to tell. What I love about this industry and art form is that we can create worlds from nothing.



ANDREA BALTAZAR, director of Weber State's film studies program. Less than five years after launching, the program went from four students to 85. Earlier this year, Baltazar and her students produced a documentary for the 100th anniversary of Peery's Egyptian Theater in Ogden.



A huge highlight of the trip was seeing students experience the culture and practices of Nepal and knowing that they were taking in new ideas and respecting people and practices that are unfamiliar to them.



HAYLEY PRINE, Outdoor Program coordinator, who participated in a three-week service-learning trip to Nepal this spring, which culminated with a hike to Mount Everest's base camp.

CONTACT US

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