



# Fall 2021 Newsletter

October 2021

## T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

<b>Fall 2021 Dean's Message</b>	<b>P. 2</b>
<b>Welcome, New CSBS Faculty &amp; Staff</b>	<b>P. 3</b>
<b>Meet the new Associate Dean</b>	<b>P. 4</b>
<b>Updates to the Department of Geography, Environment &amp; Sustainability</b>	<b>P. 5</b>
<b>Faculty Accomplishments</b>	<b>P. 7</b>
<b>Funnies</b>	<b>P. 9</b>

# FALL 2021 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

# NEW CSBS FACULTY & STAFF



We are excited to welcome and introduce two new faculty and staff members to the CSBS family!

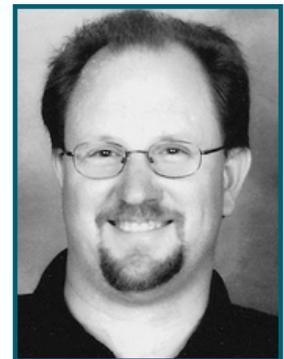


## PAUL RIMMASCH *Instructor of Criminal Justice*

Paul Rimmasch graduated from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, with a bachelor's degree in Forensic Science and a minor in Photography in 1997 and with a master's in criminal justice in 2019. He has worked as a crime scene investigator for Weber-Metro CSI for the past 24 years and is a three-time recipient of the Weber County Sheriff's Office Medal of Merit. Paul has certifications through The International Association for Investigations in latent fingerprint examination and forensic photography.

## *Instructor of U.S. History* ERIC FENRICH

Eric Fenrich earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton before returning to the same school to study for his master's degree in history. He then received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2015 where he specialized in American history during the Cold War. His paper, "Detente and Dissent: Apollo-Soyuz, Ruth Bates Harris, and NASA's Rhetoric of Cooperation" won the 2014 Sacknoff Prize for original research by in the field of space history. Fenrich served as a historical advisor for the PBS series "Chasing the Moon." He is currently working on his book, *The Face of NASA: Racial Inclusion in the American Space Program, 1957-86* which examines the role of NASA management and Black activist groups in integrating the space agency's workforce, including its astronaut corp.



# MEET BRENT HORN, THE NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN

---



Dr. Brent Horn is the associate dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and director of forensic science programs at Weber State University. Born and raised in Sacramento, CA, he has always been fascinated with how and why the physical world works the way it does. He began his college studies at BYU in Provo, UT. After taking two years off school to serve a church mission in Argentina, he completed his BS in Chemistry.

He moved back to California to attend graduate school at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. At CalTech, he learned about the future need for forensic scientists and found his "calling" in science. Upon earning a master's degree in chemical physics, he returned to BYU to complete a doctorate degree in analytical chemistry.

After graduation, Dr. Horn took a post-doctoral position with Sandia National Laboratory in Livermore, CA in the Microfluidics division working on national security projects including chemical and biological weapon detection systems for first responders and facilities protection. He joined the faculty at Weber State University in 2005. At the same time, he began working in the chemistry section of the Utah State Crime Lab while also spending time with the Weber Metro Crime Scene Investigation Unit. These experiences served as an excellent training ground for how science interfaces with the criminal justice system and formed the basis for his philosophy for teaching forensic science and crime scene investigation to Weber students.

# UPDATES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



“So many people think geography is nothing but maps,” Dr. Eric Ewert, chair of the Department of Geography, Environment & Sustainability at Weber State University, said.

Ewert and the rest of the geography faculty have been working for the last several years to challenge that perception through a major departmental overhaul. This is the first full semester since these changes took effect.

About three years ago, Ewert and his colleagues looked through the curriculum, majors, minors and classes and decided to freshen things up, since not much had been updated in decades.

“We changed almost all of it,” Ewert said.

It was a long process. Ewert talked to geography department chairs all over the country, coordinated committees and developed surveys. The changes had to be approved at the state level and the board of regents.

In the end, the department developed a new mission statement and objectives. The WSU geography website says their goal is “**to prepare students to engage in the processes that create more sustainable environments and communities throughout the world.**”

Ewert expressed his desire to introduce students to the “**breadth of geography**, what they can do with it [and] how many career options there are.”

The department now offers three majors: a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Arts and a teaching degree. All geography majors are required to choose one of seven new tracks.

“These [tracks] match up well with our specialties as faculty members and the current stuff in the field and what students are interested in,” Ewert said.

In addition, students have the option of pursuing several different minors, including an environmental studies minor and an upcoming sustainability minor.

One of the highlights of the geography department is a collaboration between Ewert and Michael Hernandez from the Department of Earth and Environmental Science. Together, they developed the **Northern Utah Geospatial Technology (NUGeoTec) program**, which includes two certificates and a minor.

The NuGeoTec program began about six years ago with a National Science Foundation grant. For the next several years, Ewert and Hernandez worked with the advisory board, federal agencies, and city, county and state officials to get the program up and running.

Geospatial technology includes geographic information systems, airborne and satellite imagery, computer cartography and GPS and navigation systems.

“It’s just this massive and growing toolbox of technology that’s all based on location,” Ewert explained.

These tools have many applications. “**Geospatial technology is everywhere, and you probably don’t even know it,**” Ewert said. “It’s on your phone anytime you look at the weather, a Google map, a traffic report, the track of Hurricane Ida, you get an Amazon package [or] you dial up for Lyft or Uber.”

Geospatial skills are in high demand. “Almost all my students who have at least a little bit of this are getting jobs,” Ewert said.

However, Ewert hopes students are in the program to get a foundational education, not just to get a job. “**It makes you a better citizen, a better parent, a better voter, a better consumer.**”

Thanks to funding from the CARES act, the department has received two grants, which are being used to pay the tuition of 20 students in the NUGeoTec program. Ewert is now working on applying for a third grant.

“It’s been a long process, but rewarding, and we’re really excited to see how it goes,” Ewert said.

# FACULTY/STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

---

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **Bradford Reys:** Received Bonnie S. Fisher Victimology Career Award from the American Society of Criminology, Division of Victimology
- **Molly Sween:** Coauthored new edition of *Seven Deadly Sins: Constitutional Rights and the Criminal Justice System*

## PHILOSOPHY

- **Robert Fudge:** Had paper "Aesthetic Consolation in an Age of Extinction" accepted for publication by international journal *Philosophical Papers*.

## HISTORY

- **Matthew Romaniello:** Edited and coauthored intro for *The Life Cycle of Russian Things: From Fish Guts to Fabergé, 1600 - Present*; wrote article in *Making Fish Guts into Isinglass and Glue*; awarded 2021 Virtual Summer Research Laboratory Associateship by the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center at the University of Illinois; presented at *Climate and Society in Eurasia: Past, Present, and Future* (hosted at the University of Illinois)
- **Brady Brower:** Published in *Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Philosophers* collection on Bloomsbury Philosophy Library
- **Branden Little:** Authored a chapter in *The U.S. Navy: Case Studies in its Past, Present, and Future*
- **Vikki Deakin:** Hosted the 35th Annual Front Range Early American Consortium Conference in Ogden
- **Abdulnaser Kaadan:** Presented paper at 19th Annual Billy S. Guyton History of Medicine Symposium

# FACULTY/STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

---

## GEOGRAPHY

- **Rebecca Richards-Steed:** Working on a team studying COVID-19 in Utah; Utah Congressional Boundary Redistricting Host for the AAG Panel; part of the Community Partnership Office through the White House Domestic Policy, Health and Human Services
- **Dan Bedford:** Published “A Valuable Bucket of Cold Water” in *Professional Geographer*

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

- **Gary Johnson:** Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference
- **Robert Hunter:** Wrote column for the *PA Times*
- **Janicke Stramer-Smith:** Authored chapter in *Postcolonial Studies; Entanglements of the Maghreb*

## PSYCHOLOGY/NEUROSCIENCE

- **Sarah Herrmann:** Published papers in *Self and Identity* and *Journal of First-Generation Student Success*
- **Timothy Black:** Presented Learning Outcomes and Expression of Related Genes in Honey Bees for Neuroscience Lectures Series; published papers in *Natural Science* and *Journal of Comparative Psychology*.
- **Aminda O'Hare:** Presented at inaugural international Neuroscience Teaching Conference

## SOCIAL WORK

- **Mark Bigler:** Joined the Board of Directors of the Utah Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

# FUNNIES

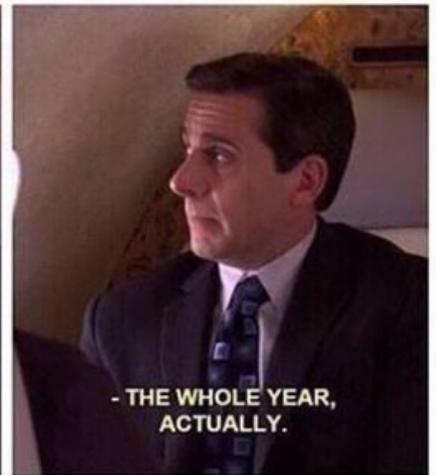
Why was Pavlov's hair so soft?

Because he conditioned it.



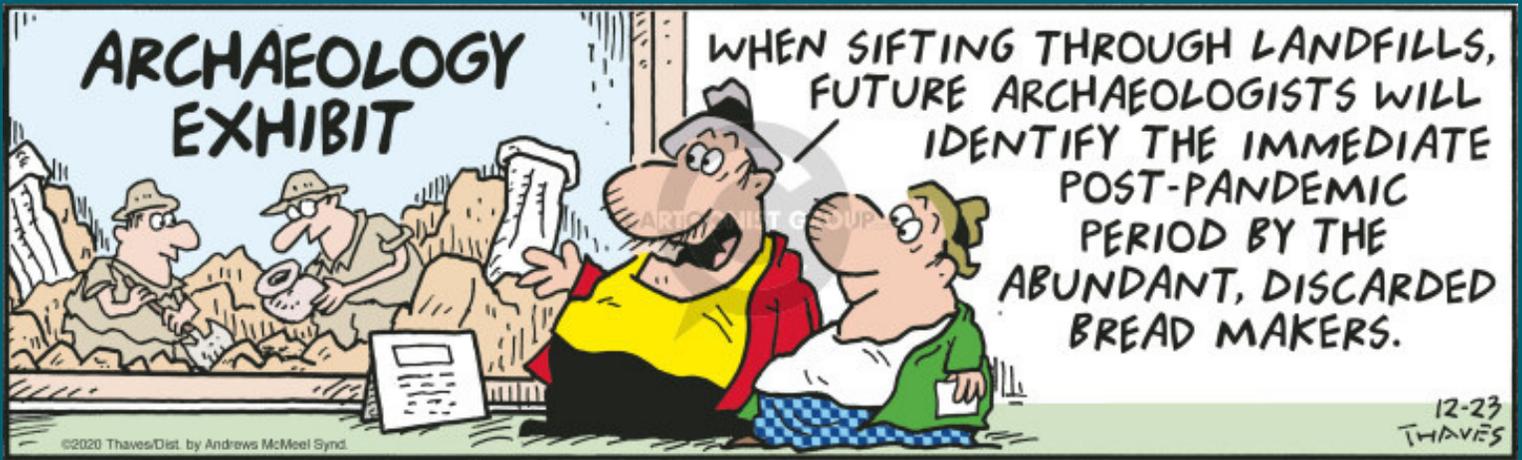
me: can you please round up my grade to an A

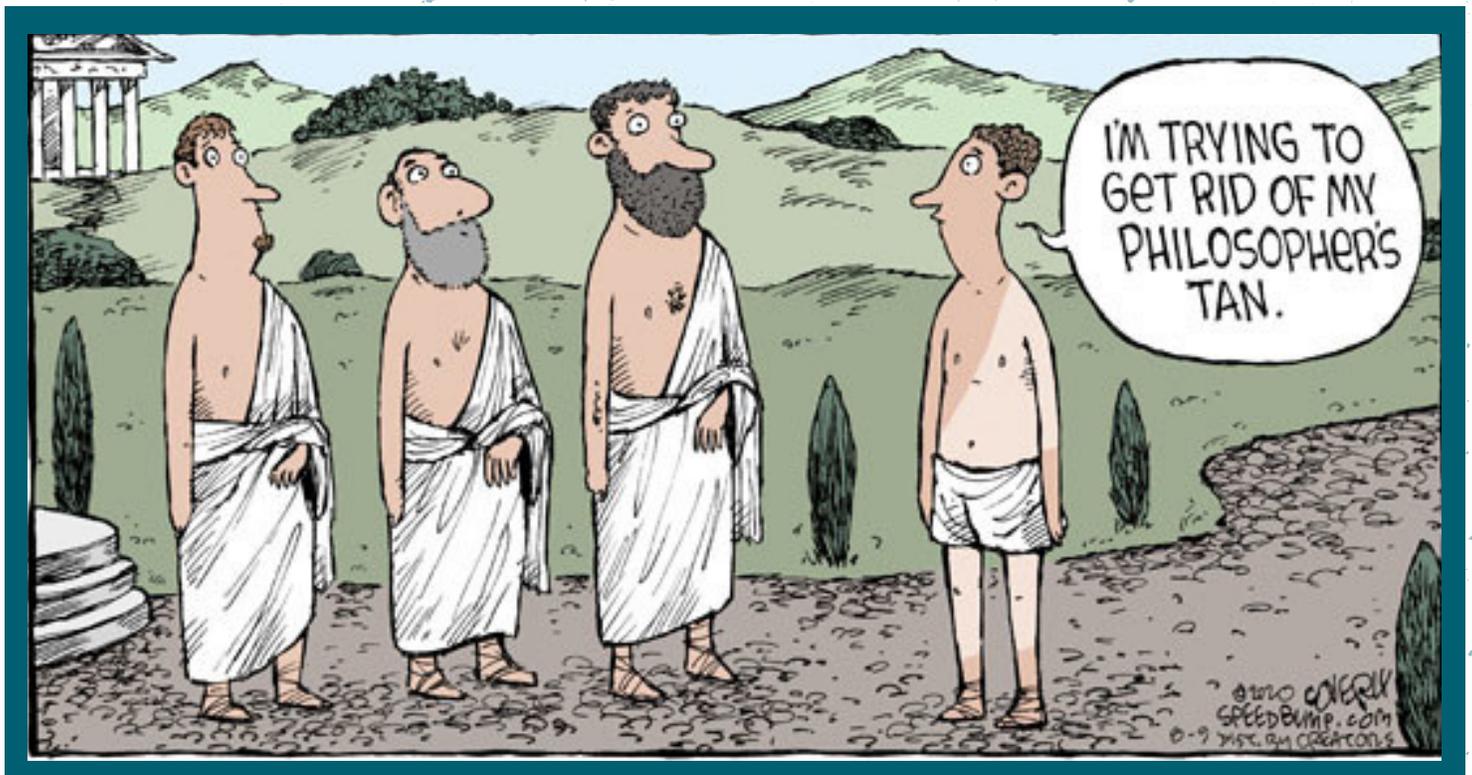
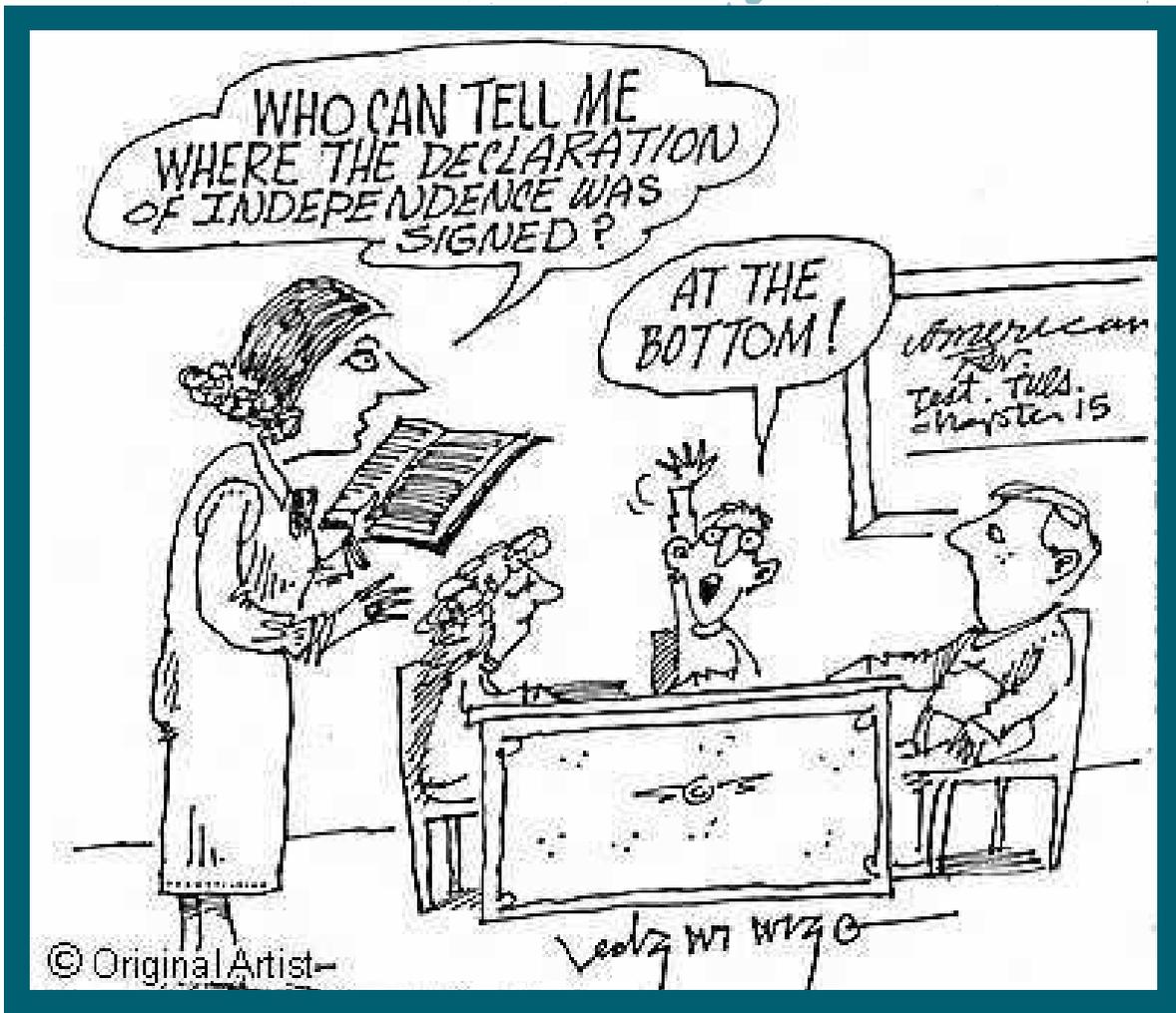
teacher: you have a 55% in the class



When you email your professor at 2am and they respond within a minute







NEVER MARRY A SOCIOLOGIST.

WERE YOU FAITHFUL AND KIND TO ME FOR SIX DECADES BECAUSE YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, OR WAS THAT JUST SIGNALLING.

Looks like the victim was brutally sliced in to multiple pieces

It's over here, Sarge

whyatt

www.creep.com  
SPEED BUMP.COM  
© 1997 CREEP.COM  
4-28

KETCHUP STAIN...  
MUSTARD STAIN...  
BBQ STAIN...