

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2010

**CREATING MUSICAL
THEATER**

ALUMNI REMINISCE
ABOUT LOVE
AT WEBER

MUSIC STUDENTS
WIN NATIONAL
COMPETITION



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Weber Now

SAVE THESE DATES! WRITE THEM DOWN WITH YOUR PEN! HAVE FUN AT WSU IN 2010!

SCIENCE IN THE PARKS

June 7 through July 16, 2010

The interactive science program will spend several days at each of six Ogden-area parks. This summer program is free for kids of all ages.

For dates and locations, visit community.weber.edu/otreach



PHOTOS BY ZAC WILLIAMS

TRAVELING WILDCATS

WESTERN CARIBBEAN Cruise

December 5-11, 2010

Cabins start at \$299



Spend seven glorious days in December exploring the Western Caribbean. Ports of call include the island of Cozumel and the Isla de Roatan located in the Bay Islands of Honduras. Here, you'll experience unparalleled snorkeling on the world's second longest coral reef.

For additional information, call 801-626-7535 or visit alumni.weber.edu and click on "Travel."

LINDQUIST FAMILY SUMMER POPS CONCERT AND FIREWORKS

July 11, 2010

Bring the family and join the fun of the 32nd annual concert and fireworks spectacular featuring the New American Symphony Orchestra at WSU Ogden's Ada Lindquist Plaza.

ARCHERY WORLD CUP, STAGE 3

August 3 -7, 2010



Elite archers from more than 30 countries will compete at WSU and Ogden's Lindquist Field. This is the first time the United States has hosted an Archery World Cup stage.

Visit ogdenwc.com for more information.

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

June 11, 2010

9th Annual Drive for Scholarships

Proceeds fund scholarships for WSU students. Reserve your tee time now!

alumni.weber.edu



HOMECOMING

September 25, 2010

WSU vs. UC Davis

Watch for the summer edition of the alumni newsletter for more information, or check alumni.weber.edu



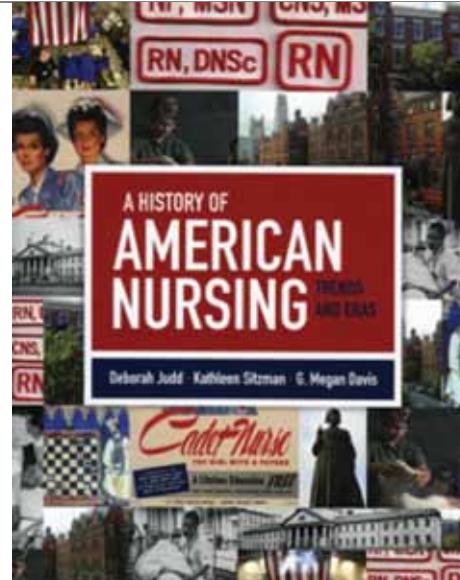
ZAC WILLIAMS

JOHN KOWALEWSKI, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



FUNDING BIG IDEAS

Ten WSU research projects deemed to have commercial appeal recently received Technology Commercialization Grants worth nearly \$330,000 from the Utah Science Technology and Research (USTAR) initiative. The grant recipients, WSU faculty and staff



**\$330,000
from**



who represent a diverse cross-section of academic disciplines, work in partnership with local industry. Funded projects range from a product to extend the lifespan of aircraft landing gear to synthetic saliva to a wireless aviation headset. One project uses statistical models to predict a job candidate's likelihood of success in a specific role.

A NEW CHAPTER IN NURSING HISTORY

The textbook, "A History of American Nursing: Trends and Eras" by WSU faculty **Deborah Judd, Kathleen Sitzman** and **G. Megan Davis**, has been chosen as a winner of the 2009 American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year award. In contrast to large gray tomes of the past, the 265-page, softbound volume examines the profession's history (starting with the American colonies) and moves through trends and eras to create a "more streamlined, yet inclusive" text. First published in March 2009, the book is already in its third printing.



DUST IN THE WIND

A group of WSU students have received a grant from NASA to do some light dusting — of the stratosphere. WSU's High Altitude Reconnaissance Balloon for Outreach and Research (HARBOR) team has received a

\$25,000 grant from NASA

to monitor atmospheric dust over the Wasatch Front. In particular, the researchers are trying to learn more about stratospheric aerosols, an important but poorly understood aspect of Earth's climate, said assistant physics professor **John Armstrong**.

See more pictures at <http://space.weber.edu/harbor/galleryflight.shtml>



President F. Ann Millner announces the creation of the Dream Weber program at the state capitol.

Dream Weber

Weber State University has launched a new program encouraging students to dream big, without worrying about the price tag.

The Dream Weber program — the first of its kind in Utah — provides free tuition to Utah resident students whose annual household income is equal to or less than \$25,000 and who are Pell Grant eligible.

The program has sparked tremendous response. As of March 1 this year, 1,947 students with annual household incomes equal to or less than \$25,000 had applied for financial aid at WSU, compared to 1,036 in 2009. That's an 88 percent increase.

Dream Weber is made possible through private donations designated for scholarships for underserved populations with acute financial need. These private donations, combined with federal and state financial aid funds, finance the program.



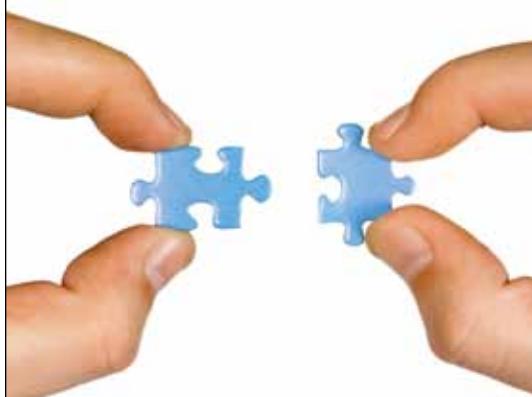
GAME ON

POSTERS ON THE HILL

Christian Petersen wouldn't describe himself as a video game enthusiast, yet his research on gaming took him to Washington, D.C.

Petersen, a senior earning his degree in psychology at Weber State University, represented the state of Utah at the 2010 **Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill** event April 13, held at the U.S. Capitol. At the event, he shared the results of his research with national lawmakers, results that suggest computer gaming can be, contrary to common opinion, beneficial.

Petersen conducted a study with university students to determine how computer gaming affects alertness and visual response. He found significant increases in both variables after students played Halo 3. This is the fifth time in six years that a WSU student was invited to represent the state of Utah at the prestigious annual event.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

Sometimes success begins with a simple opportunity others take for granted — like a job interview. For more than two decades, WSU's Services for Students with Disabilities has worked with the federal Workforce Response Program (WRP). A recruitment and referral program, WRP connects federal sector employers nationwide with college students and recent graduates with disabilities, who are interested in summer or permanent jobs. According to program coordinator **Angie McLean**, WSU has seen the number of students placed more than triple since 2007. Last year 16 students were placed, many in civilian jobs at Hill Air Force Base.

The dozen WSU students Hill AFB places each year represent close to 50 percent of all the WRP students employed by the U.S. Air Force nationwide.

PHOTO BY ZAC WILLIAMS



Fan-Ya Lin

Jana Gardner

Tria Fata

PHOTO BY TRICIA GERARD

Derek Myler

PHOTO BY OPIE PHOTO



Tria Fata



PHOTO BY OPIE PHOTO

Score Big Wins on National Stage

The 2009-10 academic year has been noteworthy for music students in the Department of Performing Arts. Six students won their respective performance events in state and regional competitions, earning the chance to compete on a national level at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competition in Albuquerque, N.M. Another student took top honors for an original composition.

Weber State University sophomore pianist **Fan-Ya Lin** dazzled the judges and audience with her performance at MTNA. When the final notes died away in the auditorium, it was Lin's turn to be dazzled. She not only edged two doctoral piano students to win the

Steinway Young Artist Piano Competition, she also was awarded a brand new Steinway upright piano worth \$22,000, courtesy of Steinway & Sons.

Lin was one of seven finalists to compete in the national piano competition, which has been described as one of the most competitive piano events in the United States. "This is like the NCAA Championship of piano in the U.S.," said Lin's teacher, WSU music professor **Yu-Jane Yang**.

WSU sophomore **Jana Gardner**, who studies flute with **Cindy Henderson**, took second place in the national Woodwinds competition.

In addition to Lin and Gardner, **Moriah Wilhelm** competed in Senior Strings and the Tria Fata Piano Trio (**Nicholas Maughan**, piano; **Kathryn Palkki**, violin; and **Samuel Runolfson**, cello) competed in Chamber Ensemble.

In a separate competition, sophomore music student **Derek Myler** was named the 2009-10 winner of the American Choral Directors Association's Raymond W. Brock Memorial Student Composition Competition. Myler is the first student from Utah to ever win the award. His winning entry, *Psalm 100*, competed against entries from undergraduate and graduate students at colleges and universities throughout the United States.



JONATHAN MCBRIDE, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Jeff Rogers wanted to be a soccer superstar when he grew up.

After a car accident in high school kept him off the field and out of the classroom for a while, his grades and fitness slipped, along with his chance at a college scholarship.

Rogers told himself WSU's club soccer team was his next best option. "Now I would never want to play anywhere else. I love it."

Aaron Dufford just wanted to keep playing the sport he loved.

After playing junior hockey in Illinois, Montana and Ontario, Canada, and maxing out his eligibility, Dufford came to Weber State as a last chance at competitive hockey.

"WSU provided a hockey program that was competitive enough to have fun and enjoy my hockey and college experience while being close to my family," Dufford said.

These athletes are a part of extraordinary teams that have done extraordinary things — not that you'd ever know it. They mainly fly under the radar with

little recognition, quietly dominating on the national stage.

These students are fairly representative of club-sport athletes at WSU. They come from different places, at different ages and for different reasons. But they all find a way to win.

Most recently, the men's soccer team won the 2009 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association championship. Also, the hockey team finished No. 4 or better in the country four out of five seasons from 2000-2005 in the American College Hockey Association. The baseball team has won nine consecutive region championships and the 2003 National Club Baseball Association championship.

Club-sport athletes sacrifice time, money and social lives to play the sports they love. There are few incentives — no televised games, just a handful of scholarships available, a minuscule chance of going on to play professionally and a fan base that is little to none.

"Their genuine love of the game, their desire to keep competing — it's truly

from the heart for them to put in the hours and amount of time that they do," said Landon Wolfe, director of club sports at WSU.

Wolfe was hired in July 2009 to oversee club sports within Campus Recreation. It's a new position that is helping to continue the success of WSU club sports. According to many of the players, the organization of and support for the WSU club sports program is unparalleled.

"We definitely have one of the best club programs in the country," Rogers said. "We're one of the rare ones that has scholarship dollars. The school takes very good care of us in giving us as much money as they do to help us travel."

Along with baseball, hockey and men's soccer, Campus Recreation also oversees billiards, bowling, cycling, fencing, martial arts, rodeo, rugby, ski, snowboard, wheelchair basketball and wrestling clubs.

"All of the clubs are led and organized by the students," Wolfe said. "I'm here to support them and help them out."

"Their genuine love of the game, their desire to keep competing — it's truly from the heart for them to put in the hours."

They put in countless hours, without being compensated, and are the ones who really keep things together."

Having students, along with volunteer coaches, run the show does present challenges, however. Because student leaders move on after they graduate, a high turnover of leadership does a lot to quell consistency and continuity. Many WSU club teams have had their ups and downs, but the men's soccer team seems to have discovered the right formula.

Last year's national championship was the soccer team's fifth since 1992 ('92, '94, '95, '02, '09). From the inside, it's not too hard to figure out the team's key to success.

"There have been some people from the beginning that really pulled things together. From there you start to develop an environment or culture that breeds success," said former men's soccer player and coach Tim Crompton.

Crompton, who is now the head coach of the NCAA women's soccer team

at WSU, said he was surrounded by tremendous individuals such as head coach Craig Sanders and general manager Ray Jones. Together they created a culture that kept current and former players connected. Crompton is one former player who returned to coach. Now, one of Crompton's players from the 2002 championship team, Will Rader, is back as the head coach.

"Any time you're a part of something successful, it's easier to come back and want to be part of it," Crompton said. "It's not for everyone, to want to come back and coach, but obviously the coaches here now had a positive experience, and obviously mine was a positive one."

Crompton has a unique perspective looking at the difference between club-sport athletes and NCAA athletes at WSU.

"The commitment level and the atmosphere is unique in club sports," Crompton said. "They do it in the end because they really love the game — not because they're getting some-

thing, not because they're getting their school or books paid for, or any of those things."

Rogers said his typical day during the season is jam-packed. He has a heavy load of pre-med classes, works full time at a hospital, works part time as an electrician and coaches a youth soccer team. But all the sacrifice is worth it when lifting that championship trophy.

"To win that tournament is an incredible feat," Crompton said. "Physically, that's the hardest thing I have ever done — to play six full games in three days. So many things can go wrong when you play that many games. It's a big deal to win that tournament."

The men's soccer team is known nationally. After beating Texas A&M, the University of Michigan and University of Florida in last year's national tournament, this WSU team might be better known outside of Utah than on its own campus. If these club-sport athletes could accomplish one more feat, it would be better recognition on campus.

"We work very hard," Rogers said. "We definitely deserve everything that we've won. We'd like the students, faculty and everyone at Weber State to be a part of it with us."

WHAT IS A CLUB SPORT?

The main difference between WSU club teams and other WSU teams is the governing body under which the teams compete. WSU varsity teams, such as football and basketball, compete in the NCAA, which has its own set of mandates and is seen as the highest level of collegiate athletics. WSU club teams, such as men's soccer, hockey and baseball, compete in less-prominent associations with varying, often less-constricting mandates.



WSU NCAAS SPORTS

Basketball, cross country, football, golf, softball, tennis, track & field, volleyball, women's soccer

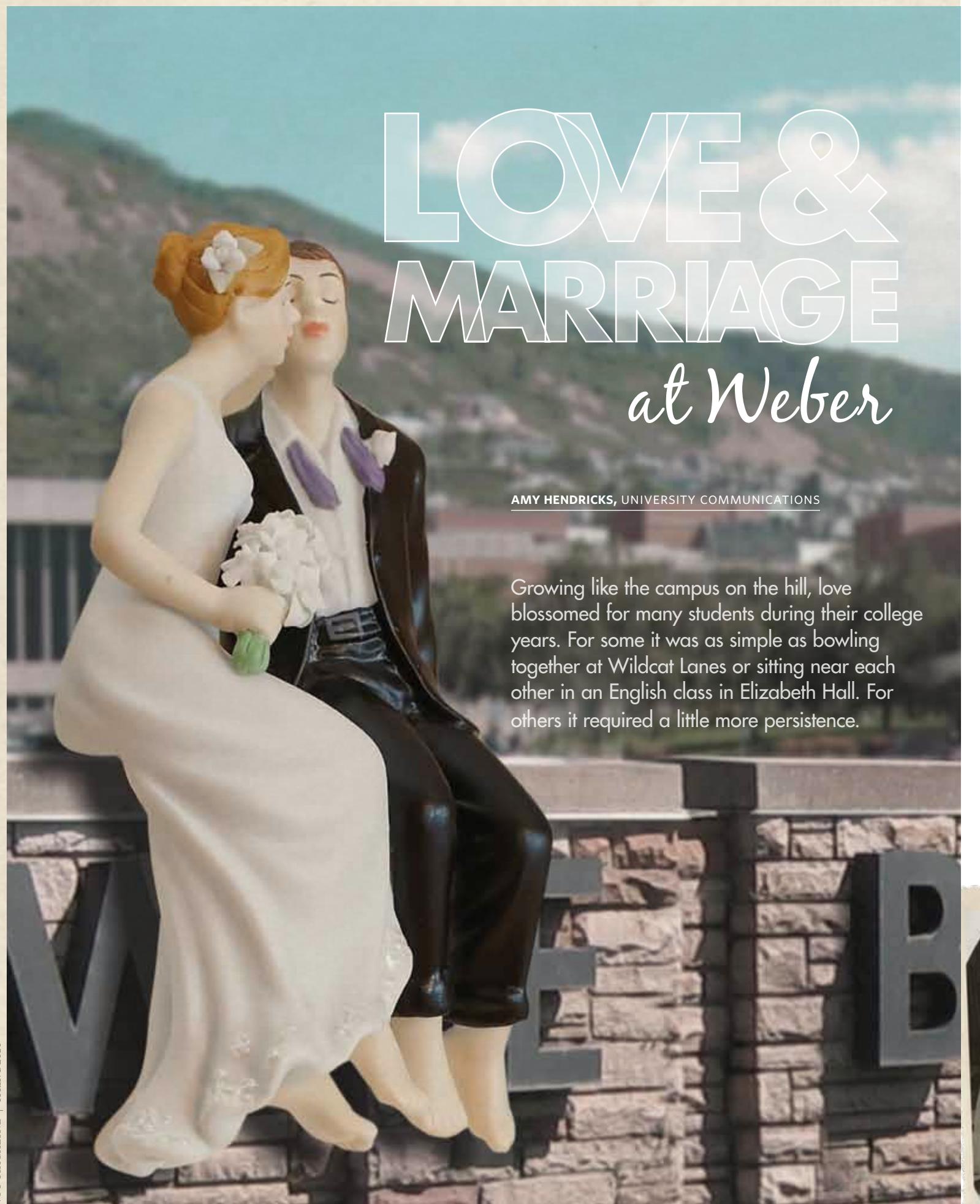
WSU CLUB SPORTS

Baseball, billiards, bowling, cycling, fencing, hockey, martial arts, men's soccer, rodeo, rugby, ski, snowboard, wheelchair basketball and wrestling

LOVE & MARRIAGE at Weber

AMY HENDRICKS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Growing like the campus on the hill, love blossomed for many students during their college years. For some it was as simple as bowling together at Wildcat Lanes or sitting near each other in an English class in Elizabeth Hall. For others it required a little more persistence.



Molly Morgan Bird was sitting in the Lindquist Alumni Center flipping through her 1954 Acorn, when she came across a photo of her and another student meticulously scrubbing the Victory Bell with a toothbrush. "Kangaroo court sentenced us to that punishment for being 'smart-offs to the sophs,'" she laughed.

Molly then opened her husband Ralph's 1948 Acorn and turned to his Excelsior photograph. "Weber was a big part of our lives," said Ralph, who attended Weber College from 1947-48 prior to serving a mission in Japan and again from 1956-58 after serving in the U.S. Army. "We really loved the social activities, especially the dances," Molly added.

And a dance was where Ralph and Molly's love story began. It was February 1954, and Ralph was going to accompany Molly to Excelsior's Sweetheart Ball, or so he thought.

"When Ralph called to ask me to the dance, I politely said no, that I already had a date. Somewhere he heard yes. When he called the day of the dance asking what time to pick me up, I had to explain I wasn't going with him," said Molly, who attended Weber College from 1953-54.

"I was a little upset," Ralph said. "I had never officially met Molly. I asked her to the ball because a mutual friend of ours had suggested it."

A few days after the dance, Molly saw Ralph at a carnival where she was manning the Otyokwa kissing booth. "I remember thinking I should've said yes," she said with a sly smile. Two years later, after Ralph returned from the Army, she got her chance.

The couple married June 8, 1956. "We were meant to be, and Weber helped bring us together," Ralph said.

GARY POLL & JILL MARLER

A 1973 sorority-fraternity exchange at Mount Ogden Park was where Gary, a member of Delta Phi Kappa, and Jill, a member of La Dianaeda, first crossed paths.



Ralph and Molly Bird then and now

"Jill was wearing casts on both feet. That was the only way I could catch her," Gary joked.

The two decided they wanted to see more of each other, but just as friends. So they created the P-M Olympics. "P for Poll and M for Marler," Jill explained. "We each made a chart of things we thought we could do better than the other. Turns out, Gary was really good at hula-hooping."

The P-M Olympics lasted several months, until January 1974 when Gary asked Jill to the Weber State-Idaho State basketball game in Pocatello, Idaho.

"He picked me up, and when we got to the bus everyone was paired off, holding hands, sitting together. He meant for it to be a date," Jill laughed. "It was our first official date, and we won the game," Gary said. "It was a good day."

In July 1975, Gary and Jill got engaged at a fraternity function in the Shepherd Union Building.

Jill graduated from Weber State in 1975, Gary in 1982. All five of their children have attended Weber State. "I think it's safe to acknowledge that we — and our family — bleed purple," laughed Jill.

JASON WHELAN & JENNY PETERSON

When Jenny signed up to be on the special events committee for Weber State's Campus Activities Board (CAB), no one called to follow up. So she called Jason, the committee chair. Her first assignment: Help with a new event he was organizing.

"Every summer students would camp out waiting to get a band that signified you could buy an A parking pass. So we had a dance in the parking lot for them," Jason said. "Jenny met me in The Pit to help get things ready. It was July 29, 1993. We were married exactly four years later."

Did you know that social clubs, akin to fraternities and sororities, existed at Weber College from the 1930s to the early 1960s? Known for their extracurricular activities, just the mention of Excelsior, Otyokwa, Phoenix, LaDianaeda and Sigma Delta Pi bring back fond memories for many alumni.



Gary & Jill Poll with their Wildcat family: left to right; top row: Brynley Poll Graham, Jodi Poll Holbrook, Jill Poll, Katherine Poll. Bottom row: Kyle Poll, Matt Holbrook, Gary Poll, Ryan Poll, Troy Poll.

ARE YOU A TRUE WILDCAT?

You might be blushing if you're familiar with the homecoming tradition, which involves the Stewart Bell Tower and a kiss at midnight.



Jason and Jenny went on one date that summer, but things didn't click right away. It wasn't until three years later that Jason and Jenny officially started dating.

"We surprised our friends by showing up together at the homecoming dance," Jenny said.

Throughout their four years at Weber State, Jason and Jenny were very involved in student activities. He was student body president from 1996-97. She served as CAB chair twice. She was

president of Lambda Delta Sigma. He was president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. In 1996, they were both nominated for the Crystal Crest Personality of the Year Award. Jenny won. She admits to letting Jason dust her trophy now and again.

Jenny graduated in 1997, Jason in 1998. "Weber State gave us opportunities to shine, to make a difference," Jason said. "We're proud to be Wildcats."

MIKE MORTENSON & KIRA SCHINDLER

Mike and Kira both admit they're not very good at bowling, but it was an excursion to Wildcat Lanes that brought the two together.

A little over a month later, they started dating, enjoying life as students and as a couple.

"It was a lot of fun to date at WSU because we could meet during breaks and eat lunch at the pond with the crazy ducks," Kira said.

Mike and Kira got married Aug. 18, 2006. They graduated three years later, Mike with a bachelor's degree in accounting, and Kira with an associate's



Jason and Jenny Whelan with their children Joshua, Jake and Jenna

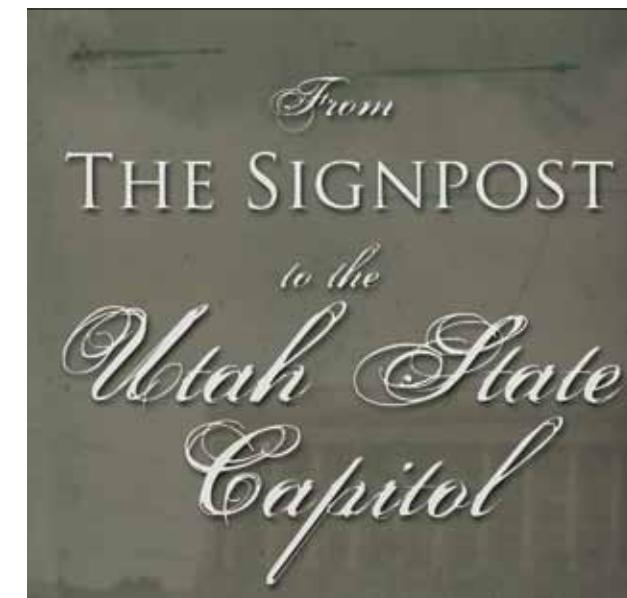
Below, left to right:
Kira and Mike Mortenson; Kierstin and Austin Raught

DID YOU MEET YOUR SPOUSE AT WEBER? *Share your story at weber.edu/wsumagazine*



Do you remember The Pit? In the 1990s, it was a large multipurpose room in the Shepherd Union Building. Situated where the art gallery is currently and extending almost over to the Wildcat Room, it had steps leading down to a large recessed floor – hence the name. Students involved in campus activities used The Pit for meetings and as a hang-out.

THE ALUMNI FILES



AMY HENDRICKS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

STROLLING THROUGH THE ROTUNDA AT THE UTAH

State Capitol, Angie Welling stops dead center and looks up. "I've walked through here a thousand times, but it wasn't until recently that I noticed there were seagulls painted on the ceiling," she laughs.

There's good reason Welling hasn't seen the flock of state birds flying across the blue-sky artwork. She's busy greeting passers-by. As communications director for Gov. Gary R. Herbert, she knows just about everybody, and just about everybody knows her.

As Welling continues into the Senate Chamber, she meets Cimaron Neugebauer, news editor for *The Signpost*. "From a former editor to a current editor, welcome to the Capitol," says Welling, who served as editor in chief of Weber State University's student newspaper from 1999-2000.

As an aside, Welling was editor in chief for The Signpost with then-features editor Lisa Roskelley, who, ironically, was her predecessor at the Capitol. Roskelley was communications director for former Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr.

After a quick walk, Welling heads back to her office in the governor's suite. "I'm surprised my cell phone has been quiet this long," she laughs. As Herbert's communications director, Welling is responsible for all media contacts.

"If someone from the media needs a statement or an interview, my job is to help determine if the governor speaks to them directly, or, depending on the topic, if someone else should. Sometimes I do the interview myself, but let's be honest, people want to hear from him. The only people who enjoy seeing me on television are my mom and grandma," Welling says with a smile.

In addition, Welling prepares the governor for news conferences, writes press releases and attends senior staff meetings to keep apprised of political issues.



There's a lesson here:
"Always work hard and strive to do a good job.
You just never know who may be watching."

"I have to be up to speed with everything going on," she explains. "Last week, for instance, I gave statements on topics from ethics reform to Haiti to the upcoming special election. So, even when I go home at night, I read the newspapers and watch the news."

Welling graduated from WSU in 2000 with a degree in communication and spent nearly eight years as a reporter for the *Deseret News*. She believes her experiences as a journalist prepared her well for her current job, and in her previous position as spokesperson for the Utah Department of Corrections.

"I can often anticipate what reporters might ask, which helps me write news releases and prepare the governor for news conferences," Welling explains. "*The Signpost* was a great training ground. I got to interview everyone, from the university president to students. It gave me the skills I need to communicate with all types of people."

Welling still isn't quite sure how she was tapped for her current job.

"I got a phone call from the lieutenant governor's office asking for a meeting to discuss a possible job. I said what any person would say: 'Yes.' There's a lesson here: Always work hard and strive to do a good job. You just never know who may be watching," Welling says.

Today, Welling's office is a far cry from her office at *The Signpost*, but she remembers the old cinder block room in the Shepherd Union Building with pride. "*The Signpost* office is what I see when I think of Weber State. I even remember the smell of pretzels from the Pretzelmaker down the hall.

"Weber State was amazing. I had great professors and great advisors at *The Signpost*. You go to Weber, you learn, you experience, you work, you graduate. And you never forget how valuable it was."

Creating Musical Theater

A day with Musical Theater Playwriting Award winner Jim Christian

PETA OWENS-LISTON, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While sitting on a Utah Theatre* Association panel recently, theatre arts professor Jim Christian scanned the audience filled with high school drama teachers. He smiled to himself as he noted each familiar face, *that one's mine, and that one, and that one...* After 22 years of serving as director of the musical theatre program in Weber State University's Department of Performing Arts, thousands of his students have gone on to teaching, writing and performing.

When these students reminisce, what they recall are Christian's high expectations and thoroughness.

"I'd repeat college just because of him," says former student and Broadway actor André Ward, who currently stars in *Rock of Ages* in New York City.

Drawing a Venn diagram on the white board the first day of class, Christian displays a priority. One circle is titled "Talented Artist," the other circle "A Good Human Being." He points to where the two circles overlap and says, "This is the type of person I work with. Remember, your best résumé is what others say about you." And then the lessons begin.

Christian's students are scattered across the United States, some dazzling audiences on Broadway stages and beyond, others instructing and encouraging students to pursue their own potentials. "If there is ever a profession completely based in paying it forward, it is education," affirms Christian.

His students know him well, earning Christian the student-nominated Rodney H. Brady Master Teacher Award at

Weber State University. He is also a recipient of the faculty-nominated Presidential Distinguished Professor award, the highest honor bestowed on faculty at WSU.

"He taught me everything I know, particularly to pay very close attention to the work and to how you present yourself — that *this is your reputation*," recalls Ward, who was recruited to WSU by Christian. "Because of Jim, I approach my work not just with talent but joyously and knowing the importance of being a good person."

Despite his professional attire, Christian chases his words like a child after a kite when talking about directing. "It's all about investigating, discovery, interpretation — it's taking materials in the script, the score, and digging. I tell my students that you need to be an archeologist and a historian and an anthropologist to really understand your character and bring the story to life. Actors are storytellers, and you can't tell a story that you don't understand."

Yet Christian did not set out to be an award-winning director, choreographer, teacher, actor, writer and producer. He had much more prudent plans.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN GRIFFIN



Act I: Steering Off of the 'Sensible' Path

Short and thin, shy and creative, academic and not built for athletics is how Christian describes himself as a kid. Growing up in Murray, Utah, his home was filled with music. His mother, a former singer in the Centennial Opera Company, taught voice lessons at home. Classical music and show tunes streamed from the record player. At six, Christian was playing the piano — a skill that still serves him well in teaching voice lessons.

Although he was president of Murray High School's Thespian Club, his plan in college was to pursue a "sensible" degree, like telecommunications. That was a fine plan until his friends pursuing theater degrees started asking him to play the piano for their auditions, sometimes pulling him in as an extra actor when needed. Before long Christian started taking a few theater classes, just for fun.

While playing piano for a friend's audition at the Lagoon Opera House, the director suggested Christian stand up and give it a try. "Go ahead, just sing something," he yelled up at 18-year-old Christian. After a moment of hesitation, Christian belted out his own version of a song from the musical *Oklahoma!* "I'm just a boy who can't say no..." It got him a role in the Lagoon productions for the next two summers.

*In this article you will see both the British and American spelling of the word theater. The American spelling is used unless the British version is part of a proper name.



Act II: A Singing Success

Christian's talents as a director and choreographer have earned both local and national recognition. In April, Christian, along with co-creator Tom Edward Clark, received the Musical Theater Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for their original production of *Sleepy Hollow*. Christian penned both the script and lyrics. Clark wrote the musical score.

The award was presented at the national festival, held in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Along with a cash prize, Christian and Clark received fellowships to attend the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference in Waterford, Conn., this summer.

In writing *Sleepy Hollow*, Christian built a back-story and then pulled the original story forward to create a musical adaptation in which the second act is all "new story."

"Creativity just oozes out of Jim in the lyrics, the dance, the staging, the story," says Clark. "He has this fantastically creative world inside his head."

Not long afterward Christian hung up his hat on telecommunications and opted for a labor of love. He earned a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Illinois State University and taught at Eastern Kentucky University and San Diego State University before coming to Weber State.

Christian is one of the busiest directors in Utah, averaging six productions a year. While serving as the artistic director for 10 years at Utah Musical Theatre (1988-1998), the audience base quadrupled and the budget tripled. He also has guest directed with the Pioneer Theatre Company, the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Utah Opera and Utah Symphony. Stints in television and film included roles in the well-known series, *Touched By an Angel*.

After playing more than 100 roles over the years, his favorite is an ongoing role lasting 25 years now — "dad," a part that intensified when he had to take on the role of "mom," too. When his daughter, Jessica, was nine, his wife, Jerrilyn, died of cancer. He recalls funneling the same energy he uses for acting into keeping life as positive as possible for his daughter while caring for his wife at home the last three months of her life. "I learned that you focus on the good and you figure out how to make things work; you don't focus on how it isn't going to work. There is always a way through."

Christian glances at his watch — a silhouette of Mickey Mouse — he has a rehearsal to get to for his latest musical production. Mickey adorns some 25 watches he owns, thanks to those who know his veneration for Disney. "E-Ticket" is scripted on his license plate and "waltzboy" is part of his e-mail address. It is the director in him — not the kid — that appreciates Disney's imagination and attention to detail.

"I'd repeat college just because of him."

Andre Ward, former student and current Broadway actor

"People look on Jim with great awe because of his ability to inspire young actors to act well beyond their initial skills — it is his attention to detail and character development," says faculty colleague Luckey Heath, who teaches History of Musical Theatre at WSU and has performed in Christian's plays.

"Musical theater is the most synthetic of all art forms," explains Christian.

"It combines every other discipline: dance, vocal and instrumental music, poetry, drama, literature, painting and sculpture and strives to unify them into one seamless whole."



CLASS NOTES ALUMNI UPDATES

40s

Farr Hurst '44 was a corporal in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. He served with the 509th Composite Group, helping modify B-29 bomb bay doors to carry atomic bombs. First stationed at Wendover Field in Utah, he was later deployed to the Pacific island of Tinian. After serving in the military, he worked for Defense Depot Ogden for 26 years.

Upon retirement, he worked as a crossing guard at Lewis School. Farr recently celebrated his 85th birthday.

After serving in the Korean War, **David A. Pledger '48** worked for Ogden's Swift & Co. until the company closed 22 years later. He then became a transport operator for Consolidated Freightways, where he worked for more than 22 years. He once was named Utah Motor Transport Association Driver of the Month and was honored for driving more than two million miles without an accident. David retired in 1993. He and his wife, Barbara, recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. They have four children, 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Kent L. Fryer '57 retired from the Converters Division of American Hospital Supply Corp., after serving 30 years in sales and management. He and his wife, Maureen, who works as an office specialist in WSU's Office of Career and Technical Education, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The two have visited Japan, China and England. They have four children and 12 grandchildren.

50s

Richard H. Keller '53 retired as a physician after 35 years of practicing radiology at Cottonwood Medical Center and Alta View Hospital.

Audrey Jones Henrie '57 taught in Coalville, Utah, five years before moving to Gunnison, Utah, where she taught second grade for 16 years. She

is a member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Audrey and her husband, Larry, have been married 50 years. They have three children, 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Linda Prawitt Boothe '58 worked for the Bon Marché Beauty Salon and the Roy High School lunch program. She and her husband of 50 years, Duane, have six children, 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Kathleen Shurtleff Peterson '58 was a teacher in the Weber County School District and a homemaker. She and her husband, Lowell, recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. They have seven children and 31 grandchildren.

Bruce G. Parry '59 spent 14 years as Utah's director of Indian Affairs and is currently chairman of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshoni Nation. He was one of 12 people included in a mural at Davis High School in Kaysville, Utah. Bruce also enjoyed a lengthy teaching career, working at Utah's Union, Davis and Clearfield high schools.

60s

Valeen Clark Wood '60 recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She lives in Ogden and has enjoyed 60 years as an active member of SEMPRE musical society. Valeen worked for Real Estate Exchange, Browning Arms and Dr. Wayne L. Pack. She retired from Goldenwest Credit Union at the age of 78.

She has two children and 12 grandchildren and is active in the Ogden Pineview Yacht Club.

Clair S. Weenig '65 attended the University of California, San Francisco. He also spent two years in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps as a lieutenant commander. Clair established a private anesthesia practice at California's John Muir Hospital, where he also founded the facility's first outpatient surgery center. He later helped launch the University of Kentucky's surgery center program. Afterward, he returned to UCSF as a clinical professor. He retired in 2005. Clair and his wife, Joan, have been married 41 years and have two children and two grandchildren.

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Genoa K. Wilhelmsen '65 was an elementary school teacher for more than 20 years. She also served as a host at the Beehive House for almost 25 years. She recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She enjoys traveling, musicals, theater, opera and helping others.

***James R. Philpott '67** worked full time at Thiokol Corporation (now ATK) while attending night school. He was an operation manager and worked with the Department of Defense. James later managed computer systems design projects. He retired in 1997. James has two daughters, one who graduated from WSU. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, fishing and volunteer work.

***Donna Miller Roberts '67** has a long tradition of supporting Weber State as the daughter of former college president William P. Miller. She received her master's degree in 1975 and taught business education at Weber State for 25 years. Donna, who served on the WSU Emeriti Alumni Council for seven years, has three children, all of whom attended Weber State. She and her husband, **Stan Roberts '50**, have 10 grandchildren and live in South Ogden.

Curtis E. Smout '67 has served on the volunteer board of directors of SummitOne Credit Union since 2007. He enjoyed a 33-year career at Weber State and Salt Lake Community College.

Benny J. Chavez '69 retired from Hill Air Force Base as a

highly ranked non-commissioned officer, spending the last 10 years of his career as the Hispanic Employment Program Manager. He serves as commander of the Combined Veterans Honor Guard, voluntarily performing military honors for veterans throughout the Top of Utah, a service he has provided for 18 years. Benny, who recently turned 80, has received numerous awards, including the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award and the President's Volunteer Service Award. He was among the first donors to help fund Weber State's Dee Events Center.

70s

LeAnna Read Willmore '71, who has taught choir for 38 years, is director of choral activities and a department chair at Utah's Herriman High School. She is past-president of the Utah Music Educators Association and the Western Division of MENC: National Association for Music Education. LeAnna is UMEA's all-state chair and MENC's choral council chair. She is the 1998 Jordan District Teacher of the Year. She has received a Huntsman Award, a KUED Golden Apple Award and the WSU Emeriti Alumni Council's Purple Paw Award. She lives in Bountiful, Utah, with her husband, Ken, and two sons.

Robert D. Jones '73 is vice president of RailAmerica's West Region. All eight railroads in his region went injury-free, and he was named the Safety Person of the Year for the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association.

After working several years in juvenile corrections, **Steven R. Cranfill '72** attended law school. In 2006, Wyoming's Gov. Dave Freudenthal ap-

pointed him to the district court in Park and Big Horn counties. Steven retained this position in the general election in 2008 and serves as district judge for the Fifth Judicial District in Cody, Wyo. Steven served in Wyoming's House of Representatives from 1975-1978. He has served on the board of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center for eight years.

After a 36-year banking career, **Edward G. Kleyn '72** retired as president of Wells Fargo Bank for Northern Utah, where he worked for the past 25 years. He served in the U.S. Army and is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Ed served as chairman of the board of directors for the McKay-Dee Hospital Board, McKay-Dee Hospital Foundation, Ogden Dinosaur Park and Museum Foundation, United Way of Northern Utah, Weber Economic Development Corporation, Ogden Industrial Development Corporation, Downtown Ogden Inc., and Mission 2009. He also served as president of the WSU Alumni Association.

Walker, Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Gary R. Herbert.

Cindy Kearn Fisher '78 works for the Utah Department of Health as a microbiologist in the enteric and infectious disease department. Before accepting the job in 2001, she worked in hospitals as a microbiologist.

Charles R. Kunkle '78 attended Weber State while on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. He received a commission as an officer in 1980. Charles retired from the Air Force in 1991 as a captain and became business manager for the Vermont Farm Bureau, a position he held until 1993, when he joined the accounting department of G.W. Plastics, an international custom injection molding company headquartered in Bethel, Vermont.

80s

***Dixie Gleave Chaston '80** received her master's degree in elementary education from Weber State and Utah State University's joint program.

Dixie taught for 31 years in the Granite and Weber school districts. She has four sons, two of whom have attended Weber State. Her hobbies include reading, traveling and gardening.

Susan Shupe McKinnon '87 lives in Nottingham, N.H., and works as a registered nurse on the medical-surgical orthopedic floor of a local hospital.

Kirk C. Wangsgard '89 is transit operation planner for

the Utah Transit Authority, a position he has held for more than 18 years. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Sunset, Utah. For 20 years, Kirk has managed a semi-annual dinner at The Road Home, which provides support and shelter to the homeless.

90s

Charles S. Harrington '91 works for the Internal Revenue Service. He lives in Farmington, Utah, and does extensive genealogy archival work. He is married to **Linda McGee Harrington '91**.

Jennifer L. McGrew '92 has been an English 2010 specialist since 2001. She frequently teaches in the performing arts and First Year Experience programs at WSU as an adjunct professor. Jennifer is also the store founder and artistic designer at McGrew Costume Studio in Salt Lake City.

Kimberly Christensen Grant '94, under her penname K.C. Grant, has written her first novel, *Abish: Daughter of God*, about a little-known character from the Book of Mormon. The book has had great success since its release, ranking in the top six books sold at Deseret Book. Kimberly also has written for several family-oriented magazines, including *Parents & Kids* and *LDS Living*. While at Weber State, she studied abroad in Mexico. Kimberly and her husband live in Kaysville, Utah, with their two children.



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After receiving her master's degree, **Sherie E. Charlesworth '95**, worked as a certified public accountant for Schmitt Griffiths Smith & Co. for more than three years and Parker Hannifin for more than a year. She has worked as a staff accountant/internal auditor for the Weber School District for the past 10 years. Sherie lives in Washington Terrace, Utah, and enjoys hiking, traveling and spending time with her family, including her two children and three granddaughters.

Gary Jensen '95 is police chief for the Logan City Police Department. He grew up in Farmington, Utah, and has worked for Centerville Police, Farmington Police and the Davis County Sheriff's Office. He served as chief of police for Vernal, Utah, for four years.

David F. Pack '96 is an adjunct professor for six institutions and a self-employed CEO/executive of four companies. He serves as outgoing chairman of the Living Planet Aquarium's board of trustees and is on the General Planning Committee and Economic Development Subcommittee for West Jordan, Utah. David received a 2009 Utah Best of State award for his work as an education volunteer. A tennis player, he was a Utah Summer Games gold medalist in 2005 and 2007. He lives in West Jordan with his wife and three children.

Jason R. Martin '97 is a regional asset protection manager for Rush Enterprises in Avondale, Ariz. He has been

awarded the globally preferred Certified Fraud Examiner credential, having demonstrated knowledge in four areas critical to the fight against fraud.

OOS

Rodney M. Washburn '00 is executive director of Mountain Ridge, an assisted living community in Ogden. He is a member of the board of directors for the Utah Assisted Living Federation of America, the professional group representing assisted living communities throughout the state, serving as

secretary of the executive committee. He and his wife, Nadine, live in Clearfield, Utah, with their four children.

Jason R. Toniloli '02 is vice president and marketing manager at Bank of Utah. He graduated from Pacific Coast Banking School, a three-year leadership and financial management education program. Jason's thesis was one of 21 from his class of 211 that will be archived at the school's permanent lending library. He currently serves as chairman of the Leadership Northern Utah Alumni Association and sits on

the board of Enable Industries. He and his wife, Nadine, live in Clearfield, Utah, with their four children.

Jeff K. Tingey '03 is the athletic director at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, where he also once served as assistant athletic director for marketing and corporate sales. Prior to taking the job at ISU, Jeff served four years as the assistant marketing director for WSU Athletics.

Malia Warburton '04 is an interior design consultant for Destination Homes in Layton, Utah. She formerly worked

as an assistant designer for Hunter Mountain Design, a residential interior designer in Park City, Utah. Malia has also done interior design work for homes in the Northern Wasatch Parade of Homes and the Salt Lake Parade of Homes. One of her entries in the Salt Lake Parade of Homes was awarded Best of Show for Interior Design in the \$500,000 to \$600,000 category.

Chris K. Jensen '05 graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree and is completing an internship at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, where he lives with his wife, Alicia, and one daughter.

Brittany Collins Davis '06 is a teacher. She lives in Ogden with her husband, Steven.

Dustin Havey '06 works at the Ogden Clinic as a pediatric physician assistant. He evaluates, performs and treats children under the supervision of a pediatrician. Dustin has been certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. He is fluent in Spanish.

Stephanie Burr Clawson '07 is a third-grade teacher in the Davis School District. She and her husband, Kyle, live in Layton, Utah.



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Can you name the predecessor of *The Signpost*?

James L. Sundquist '34 can. After reading the article about *The Signpost* in the Winter 2009 edition of *Weber State University Magazine*, the Weber College alumnus wrote a letter sharing his experiences as editor of *The Weber Herald* during the 1933-34 school year.

ONLY AT WEBER



Assistant Equipment Manager Retires After 37 Years

TRAVIS CLEMENS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

If there were a contest for who bleeds the deepest Weber State purple, Earl Bullock would be one of the title contenders.

"My blood's definitely purple," says Bullock, who recently retired as the assistant equipment manager for the WSU Athletics Department.

Bullock's career with Weber State started unexpectedly. In 1972, Bullock decided to visit athletic director Gary Crompton's office. "I went up to ask him a question and he offered me a job," Bullock explains. "I said, 'Huh? Me?' He asked me again if I wanted a job, and I said, 'Sure.'"

Bullock's duties in Wildcat Athletics included cleaning equipment and clothing every day for the university's football, basketball, volleyball and track teams, as well as assisting in the preparation for games.

Most importantly, though, were Bullock's duties at sporting events. "During

games, I'd yell and support the team," he says.

Even though he liked the job, Earl never envisioned staying with the Wildcats so long. "At first, I thought I'd just work here until something better came along," he says. "After 20 years, I thought

"His diligence and enthusiasm were contagious . . . I used Earl as an example many times in speeches to the team."

David Patten, men's basketball team captain 2006-07

I should just stay and make it a career."

During his time at WSU, Bullock witnessed a number of impressive athletic accomplishments.

His fondest memory, however, took place on a single weekend in 1976. "It was at the snake pit (Swenson Gym). On a Friday night, we played BYU in bas-

ketball, and on Saturday we played Utah and beat them both," he says. "I lost my voice that night. On Sunday morning, I could hardly talk."

Bullock experienced many such weeks with busy schedules and multiple sporting events. Every year, the overlap of the fall and winter sports would make his life hectic. "I'd be running back and forth, but I'd usually make it," he says. "October and November, I'd be running, but I'd make sure I'd be there."

That dedication was a hallmark of Bullock's efforts. "Earl stood out because of his commitment to his job and his love of the sports," says David Patten, a former WSU men's basketball player. "We could always count on Earl not only to do his job, but to be at the games cheering as loud as he could."

Patten, who Bullock says was one of his favorite players, believes Earl was a positive influence on everyone in Athletics. "If there was anyone who led by example at Weber State, it was Earl," Patten says. "His diligence and enthusiasm were contagious. In fact, Dan Henry and I used Earl as an example many times in speeches to the team, as I am sure all team captains did when looking for such a great example of those qualities."

The Wildcats and their fans formally recognized Bullock's numerous years of service in December at halftime of the men's basketball game against Southern Utah University. The standing ovation he received was the loudest of the evening.

For someone who spent so many hours doing his job over the years, Bullock says he has transitioned well to his new life. "Retirement is great," he says. "I do whatever I want to do."

Two highlights he mentions are visiting Crystal Hot Springs and seeing the movie *Avatar* twice. One aspect he never wants to retire from is cheering for the Wildcats. "They asked me what I wanted for retirement," he says. "I told them I want two tickets to the games. One for me, and one for my wife, Kathy."

PHOTO BY STANDARD-EXAMINER



Eugene G. Bozniak, professor and former chair of Weber State University's Department of Botany, and Ben Read, WSU payroll manager, are the recipients of the WSU Alumni Association's 2010 H. Aldous Dixon Awards.



BEN READ, Payroll Manager

For 27 years Ben Read has been in charge of one of the most critical processes on campus. "Payroll is the reason people come to work," he said with a smile.

As payroll manager, Read usually works under the assumption that no news is good news. When he does hear from an employee "you're either really popular or you're the worst scoundrel around," he said.

After starting at Weber State in 1981 in the accounting office, Read was named payroll manager in 1983. He has effectively transitioned his office through a number of major changes since then, including two software conversions and the implementation of direct deposit, which he considers his greatest accomplishment at WSU.

"That was a challenging implementation," he said. "You had to coordinate with the bank, sell employees on the benefits of direct deposit and ensure them of its security. It's kind of hard to get people to change when they're used to doing things a certain way."

Seeing various technological advancements while at WSU, Read has had less and less paper move through his office. He predicts the university will be completely paperless in the near future.

Looking back, Read's most gratifying experiences have come while working with good people on his staff. "I've never had a hard time coming to work," he said. "It's just been a pleasure to work with people who are dedicated to doing their jobs right so people get paid right."

Throughout his career Read and the payroll office have received numerous awards, including special recognition from *USA Today* and the Rochester Institute of Technology for WSU's automated timecard system.

	Read starts in the WSU accounting office.	1981	Read is named payroll manager.	1983	Read implements the direct deposit system for faculty and staff.	1994	WSU payroll team honored by <i>USA Today</i> for its automated timecard system.	2004	Read is awarded the WSU Presidential Outstanding Professional award.	
	1969	Bozniak begins teaching at WSU.	1970	Bozniak creates the Environment Appreciation class.	1976	Bozniak serves as a consulting hydrobiologist for the government of Kenya.	1985	Bozniak receives WSU's Presidential Distinguished Professor award.	2002	Bozniak brings back more than 4,500 digital media resources from South Africa and Namibia for WSU courses.

Named in memory of the former Weber College president, the H. Aldous Dixon Awards have been presented annually since 1970 to honor WSU faculty and staff members who have demonstrated careers of excellence and gone above and beyond the call of duty to support students. Dixon served as president of Weber College from 1919 to 1920, and again from 1937 to 1953.



GENE BOZNAK
Professor of Botany

For Gene Bozniak, a one- or two-year stint south of his homeland turned into a 41-year teaching career at WSU.

Bozniak, a native of Alberta, Canada, came to Weber State in 1969, following his PhD studies at Washington University, St. Louis. He planned to stay at the college for a year or two and then head back to Canada.

"When I found out that I was here longer than I had lived in Canada, then this became home," he said.

Bozniak served as the chair of the Department of Botany for 27 years and received a number of awards, including being named Weber State's Presidential Distinguished Professor in 1985.

Looking back, Bozniak considers one of his greatest accomplishments to be creating a class called Environment Appreciation. He started the class in 1970 with 30 students enrolled. It eventually grew to 1,000 students enrolled per year.

"It's still a challenge to get students excited about environmental issues, and it's increasingly more important," he said.

Bozniak's research outside of the classroom has taken him all over the world, including a leave in 1976 when he served as a consulting hydrobiologist for the government of Kenya.

When Bozniak first started at Weber State, there were 6,000 students enrolled. He played a big part in recruiting students into the botany department. Bozniak said being a part of the growth of WSU has been a great experience.

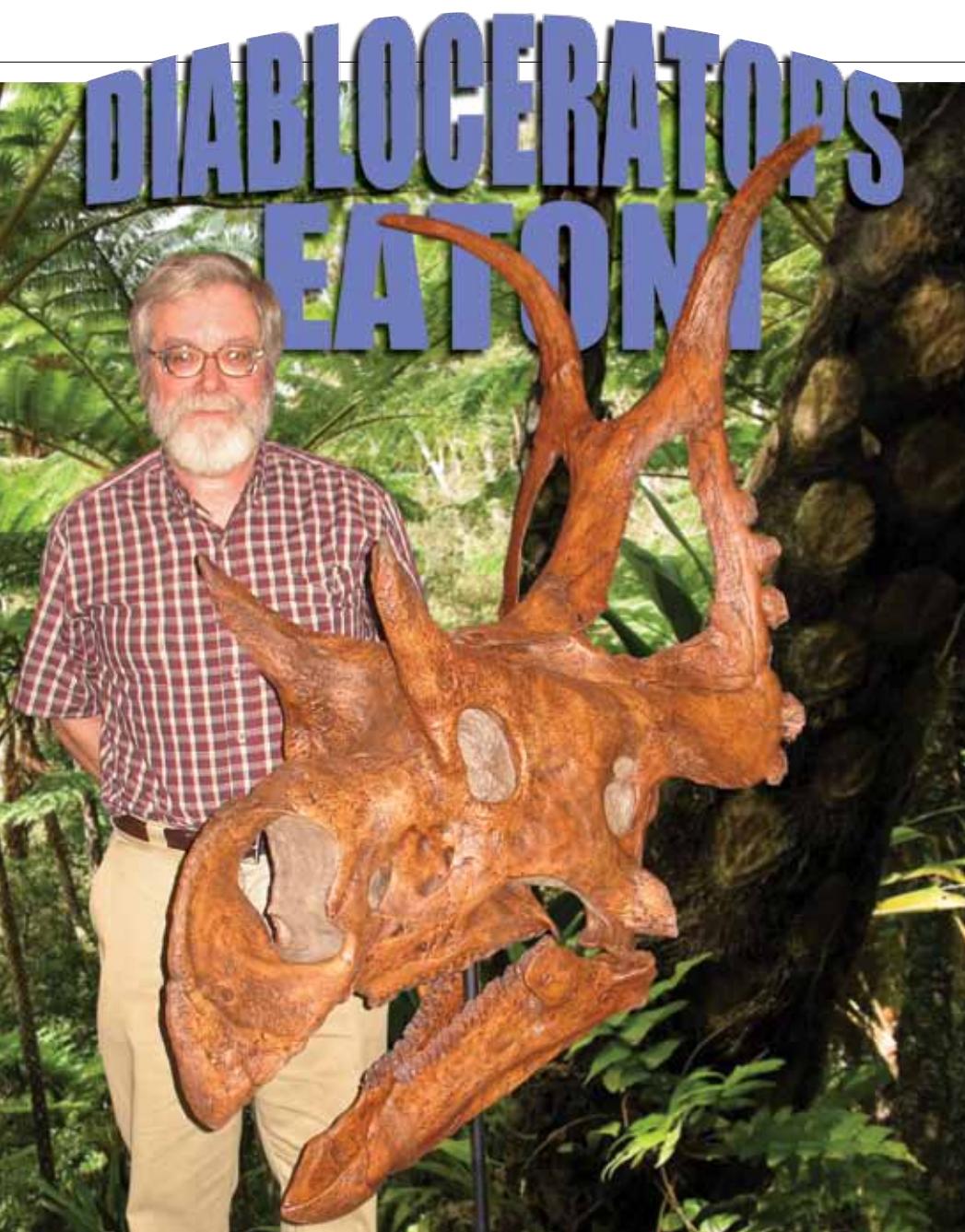


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Newly Found Dinosaur Fossil Bears WSU Professor's Name

Look out T. rex. Move aside Triceratops and Stegosaurus. A new prehistoric creature has been found, and this one's named for a Weber State University geosciences professor.

The Diabloceratops eatoni is a recently discovered fossil record named for WSU paleontologist and professor Jeffrey G. Eaton. Diabloceratops eatoni was discovered in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM), a region of the state where Eaton has conducted field research for nearly a quarter of a century. The discovery was made by Eaton's longtime collaborator and friend, James Kirkland.

Loosely translated, Diabloceratops means horned-face devil, a name inspired by the pair of long sweeping spines on the back of the head or frill of the fossil skull.

"With its spectacular horns, it is hard to not affectionately think of naming one old goat after another old goat," Kirkland joked.