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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/ottresch

Alumni Golf Classic

June 11, 2010
9th Annual Drive for Scholarships

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

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.

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

comments and questions about Weber State University Magazine may be sent to the editor at the address below or forwarded by phone: 801-626-7359, fax: 801-626-7069 or e-mail: magazine@weber.edu

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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.

Music Students 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.
WSU SPORTS

Welcome to the Club

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.

“I would never want to play anywhere else. I love it.”

Aaron Dufford

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.

“They 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 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.

“They do it in the end for 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.

“The commitment level and the atmosphere is unique in club sports,” Crompton said. “They 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 incred-ible 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 nation-ally. 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 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-constructive mandates.

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WSU NCAA 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

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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.
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. "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."
**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 opportunities to shine, to make a difference,” Jason said. “We’re proud to be Wildcats.”

**AUSTIN RAUGHT & KIERSTIN WOOD**

If you want to know just how much Austin and Kierstin bleed purple, glance through their wedding album. In December 2009, the two student-athletes — Austin is a wide receiver for the football team and Kierstin plays outside mid-field for the women’s soccer team — purpled up the Lindquist Alumni Center for their wedding reception. Purple bows adorned chairs. Purple flowers decorated tables. Purple orchids topped key lime pies, which were, of course, served with purple Lime Rickeys.

“We’re students here, athletes here, we met here, and just thought it would be fun to celebrate our marriage here,” said Kierstin. “We bled purple. Kierstin and Austin met in an English 1010 class in Elizabeth Hall. “I saw Kierstin the first day,” Austin said. “She had on Missionary Training Camp sweatpants, and I used those as an icebreaker.”

As student-athletes, Austin and Kierstin have hectic schedules, but they always find time for each other.

“We find a quiet spot in Elizabeth Hall and listen to music together, or we go on a treat run and share a candy bar in the parking lot outside Stewart Stadium.”

Those quiet moments at Weber have been some of our favorites as a couple,” Austin said.

**MIKE MORTENSON & KIRA SCHINDER**

Mike and Kira got married Aug. 18, 2006. They graduated in 1997, Jason in 1996. “Weber State gave us opportunities to shine, to make a difference,” said Kira said. “I saw Kierstin the first day,” Jenny said. “We’re students here, athletes here, we met here, and just thought it would be fun to celebrate our marriage here,” said Kierstin. “We bled purple. Kierstin and Austin met in an English 1010 class in Elizabeth Hall. “I saw Kierstin the first day,” Austin said. “She had on Missionary Training Camp sweatpants, and I used those as an icebreaker.”

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

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

**THE ALUMNI FILES**

**STROLLING THROUGH THE ROTUNDA AT THE UTAH STATE CAPITOL**

Angie Welling steps to the dead center and locks 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-skysklee water. 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 aide, Welling was editor in chief for The Signpost with then-features editor Lisa Ruskelley, who, ironically, was Welling’s predecessor at the Capitol. Ruskelley 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.

**AMY HENDRICKS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS**

“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. “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.”

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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.

“Webber 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.”

**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 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.

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*The Signpost*
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.

While sitting on a Utah Theatre* Association panel recently, theatre arts professor André Ward, who currently stars in Rock of Ages in New York City, reminisced, what they recall are Christian’s high expectations and thoroughness.

“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.

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.”

PHOTOS BY BRIAN GRIFFIN

*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.
Channel's talents as a director and choreographer have earned both national and local recognition. In April, Christian, along with co-creator Tom Edward Clark, received the Musical Theatre Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre 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."

This is not the first notable success at the Kennedy Center, either for Christian or for his colleagues in WSU’s theatre program. In 1994, Christian’s original musical, The Pirated Penzance, was chosen to be one of six shows nationwide to debut as part of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (ACFT).

In 2007, WSU’s theatre program was invited to perform Macbeth, directed by faculty colleague Tracy Callahan, in this “crème de la crème” of college theatre without competing for the opportunity. “This just doesn’t happen, but it is because of our extraordinary track record that we got invited,” points out Heath.

Two of the four WSU productions that made it to the Kennedy Center were produced by Christian — The Pirated Penzance (1994) and Musical Musicals (2008). Most directors don’t write and perform musicals because it is hard to pull off a good one. If one of the many elements involved doesn’t fit in smoothly, it stands out like a tear in tights.

“I’d repeat college just because of him.” Andrea Ward, former student and current Broadway actor
CLASS NOTES  

Alumni Updates

Genna R. 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, musical theater, opera and helping others.

“James R. Philpott ’67 worked full time at Thulek Corp. (now ATC) while attending night school. He was an operations manager and worked with the Department of Defense. James later managed computer systems design projects. He retired in 1993. 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 F. 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. Smoot ’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 skilled noncommissioned officer, spending the last 10 years of his career as the Hispanic Employment Program Manager. He serves as the commander of the Combined Veteran Honor Guard, voluntarily performing military honors for veterans throughout the state 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

LeAnn Read Willisore ’72, 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. LeAnn is UMEA’s all state choir and MENC’s choral council chair. She was 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.

After working several years in juvenile corrections, Steven E. Crandall ’72 attended law school. In 2006, Wyoming’s Gov. Dave Freudenthal appointed him to the district court in Park and Sublette 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 1977-1978. He has served on the board of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center for eight years.

After a 36-year banking career, Edward G. Klyen ’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, Ogéen Dinosaur Park and Museum Foundation, United Way of Northern Utah, Weber Economic Development Corporation, Ogéen Industrial Development Corporation, Downtown Ogéen Inc. and Mission Utah. He also served as president of the WSU Alumni Association.

Robert D. Jones ’73 is a vice president of RealAmerica’s West Region. All eight railroad circuits 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.

Joseph R. Ligori ’73 currently serves as facilities coordinator for the state of Utah, where he has worked for 32 years. He has served under Govs. Scott M. Matheson, Norman H. Bangerter, Michael O. Leavitt, Olene S. Walker, Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Gary R. Herbert.

Cindy Pearl Fisher ’77 works for the Utah Department of Health as a microbiologist in the anesthetic 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 1994 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 35 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 Colorado Springs, Colo., and serves as facilities coordinator at the facility’s floor of a local hospital. She has received a Huntsman Award and the WSU Emeriti Alumni Council’s Lifetime Member Award. She lives in Bountiful, Utah, with her husband live in Kaysville, Utah, with their two children.

SEND US YOUR UPDATES FOR CLASS NOTES.

Nonresident Scholarship

If you earned a degree from WSU and now live outside Utah, your child can attend Weber State through the Alumni Legacy Nonresident Scholarship program, which waives the nonresident portion of tuition.

To qualify, your child must:
  • Be admitted;
  • Have at least one parent who earned an associate’s degree or higher from Weber; and
  • Enroll at WSU as a first-time student to the Utah System of Higher Education.

*Lifetime WSUAA member

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. McCrew ’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 McGree 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 Keyville, Utah, with their two children.
After receiving her master’s degree, Sherie C. Charlsworth ’95, worked as a certified public accountant for Smurthwaite 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 grandchildren.

Gary Jensen ’95 is a police chief for the Logan City Police Department. He grew up in Farmington, Utah, and has worked for Orem 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 2015, 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 ’06 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 Braking 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 lives in Hooper, Utah, with his wife and family.

Jeff E. Tingley ’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 Wurburton ’04 is an interior design consultant for Destination Homes in Layton, Utah. She formerly worked for more than a year 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.

Chris K. Jensen ’05

Malia Wurburton ’04

Dustin Havey ’06

Stephanie Burr Clawson ’07

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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.
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 thought, ‘What the heck?’”

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.”

His fondest memory, however, took place on a single weekend in 1976. “It was at the snake pit (Swenson Gym).”

“October and November, I’d be running, doing my job over the weekend, 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, when 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. "He always refused to retire from being cheerful 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."

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

Bullock began teaching at WSU in 1969. He received a number of awards, including being named Weber State’s Presidential Distinguished Professor in 1985. He was also named the WSU Presidential Outstanding Professional award in 2002.

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.

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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.