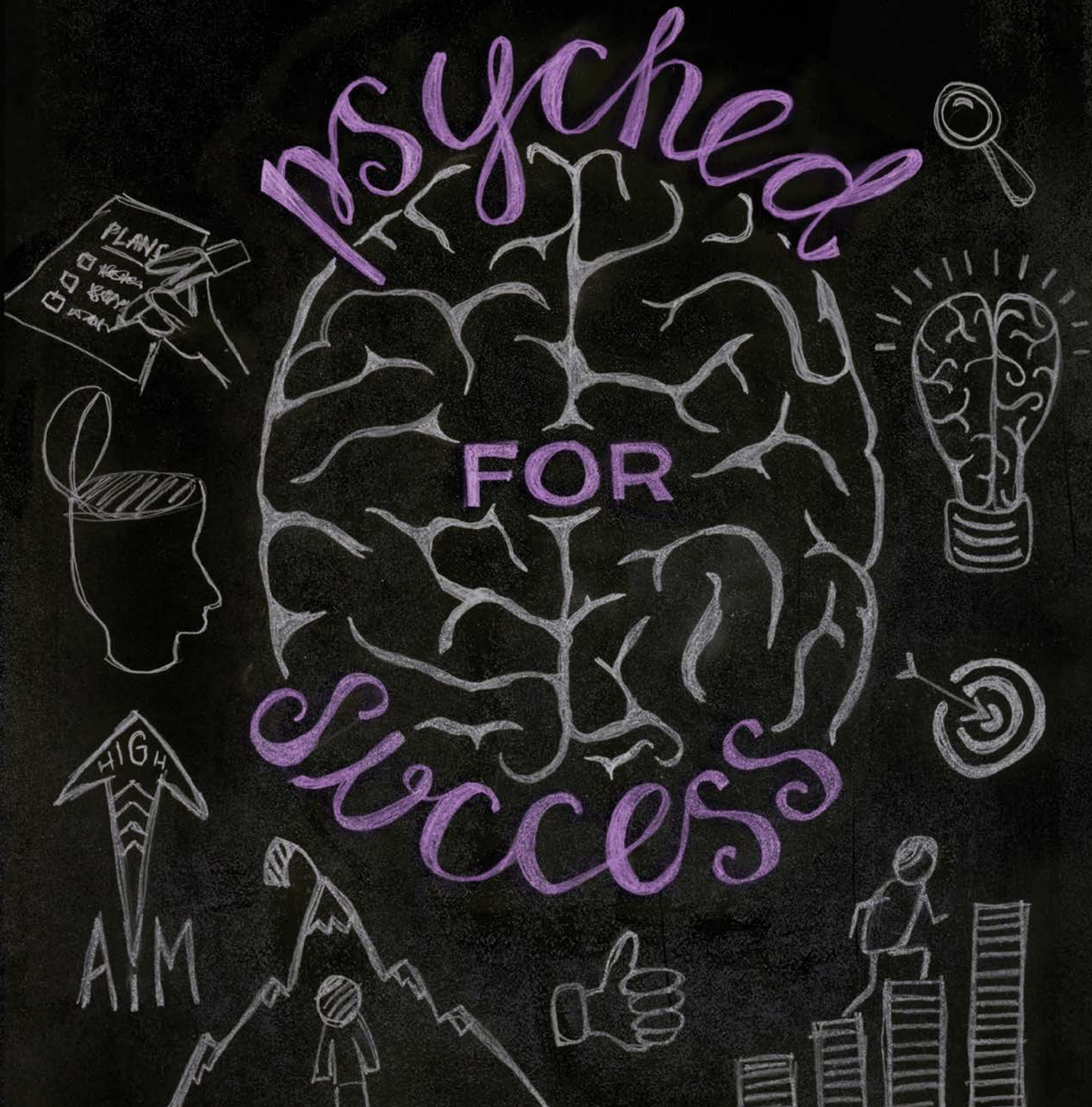


WILDCAT

WSU Alumni Magazine | SPRING 2016





Tanya Nolan, BS '04, M.Ed. '11
assistant radiologic sciences professor
Frankie Ruiz
radiologic sciences department

THE SCIENCE OF 3-D MEDICAL IMAGING

It wasn't long ago that 3-D printing was the stuff of science fiction. Today it is revolutionizing medicine, especially the field of reconstruction imaging, and students in WSU's radiologic sciences and dental hygiene departments are learning the technology firsthand.

Using special software, students can create computerized 3-D images from CT and MRI scans of, for example, a jawbone (seen in the picture). Those images

can then be uploaded and printed three-dimensionally to give students a model to hold and study.

"This is an incredible learning opportunity," said Tanya Nolan, assistant radiologic sciences professor. "Health-care providers will be using 3-D printing more and more to plan for reconstructive surgeries, among other procedures. Our students need to be prepared to utilize the technology, and now they will be."

The purchase of the 3-D printer was made possible through the generous support of the Dr. Ezekiel R. and Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation.

weber.edu/radsci



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

News for Alumni & Friends

WILDCAT

Vol. 21, No. 1, Spring 2016

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Allison Barlow Hess, Matt Gerrish BS '10, MPC '15 and Rachel Badali MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Helping Hands

Two students concocted a sweet idea to ease homelessness in Ogden.

As visual design majors and entrepreneurship minors, **Isaac Farley BFA '15** and **Nestor Robles BFA '15** combined their business acumen and creativity to start O-Town Kitchen.

The business employs homeless parents from Ogden's Your Community Connection (YCC) shelter. In the YCC kitchen, they create unique jams and jellies from donated food, with flavors such as tomatillo and lime and root beer.

Participants learn to cook, package and market. They also gain valuable interpersonal skills from sales that will help them transition into more sustainable jobs.

"The most rewarding part is working with moms who are in tough situations," said Farley, whose own family was homeless for a time. "I'm doing everything I can to help families who suffer under the same economic challenges that my family did."

Engaging Recognition

Weber State was among five colleges and universities chosen from nearly 100 nominations to receive a 2015 Higher Education Civic Engagement Award presented by The Washington Center and the New York Life Foundation.

The distinction is acknowledgement of WSU's leadership and innovation in civic engagement as well as its dedication to teaching students through community-engaged learning.

HIGHER EDUCATION
**CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT
AWARD**

New Graduate Degrees

The Utah State Board of Regents approved three new master's degree programs at Weber State: a Master of Science in Computer Engineering, a Master of Science in Nursing-Nurse Practitioner, and a Master of Science in Respiratory Therapy.

The first group of computer engineering students started in fall 2015. Nurse practitioner and respiratory care students will start in fall 2016.

Weber State now offers 14 graduate programs.



Note Worthy

Students in the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities impressed judges around the nation with their talent.

WSU piano student **Ling-Yu Lee** made history when she won first place at the Music Teachers National Association (Utah) Steinway Young Artist Piano Competition in November. For the third consecutive year, Lee took first place in the most competitive collegiate piano program in the state.

For her role as Vivian Bearing in the play *Wit*, theatre student **Shawnee Johnson** received the 2015 Distinguished Achievement in Acting Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Graphic design student **Kiersten Garner** was among the top five winners of the Society of Publication Designers' 2015 national student design competition.

Competing against professional weekly newspapers and other student publications, *The Signpost* won 10 first-place awards and was named a General Excellence winner at the 2015 Utah Press Association's winter convention.

After winning an invitational tournament in November 2015, WSU Debate achieved its first top 10 national ranking from the Cross Examination Debate Association, a professional organization that promotes and oversees intercollegiate policy topic debate competitions.



Thanks for the DIGITAL Memories!

For years, students at Ben Lomond and Ogden High schools filled scrapbooks with keepsakes, such as award certificates, ticket stubs, newspaper clippings and even an invitation to the White House.

Shelved in the high schools' libraries, the books were exposed to heat and light — conditions that contributed to torn bindings and crumbling pages. Books that were checked out often were returned damaged.

WSU Archives & Digital Collections associate curator **Jamie Weeks BS '03** applied for a \$51,000 grant from the Utah Library Services and Technology Act to digitize 40 years of those scrapbooked memories.

Beginning June 2016, the scrapbooks will be available online at WSU's Stewart Library Digital Collections, the Mountain West Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America.



Haircuts for the Homeless

A YouTube video of a New York hairstylist giving free haircuts to the homeless inspired **Mandie Barnes BS '14**, an Ogden hairstylist, to do the same. She recruited some of the best stylists from Lehi, Utah, to Ogden, to offer their services at the Ogden Rescue Mission Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015.

"I feel like a haircut can go a long way for someone," Barnes said. "A haircut gives people an extra boost of confidence maybe to find a job, or just feel good about themselves for the holidays. Hopefully they'll just feel better walking out the door than they did walking in."

One gentleman said it did just that. "I feel human again. Thank you so much," he told his stylist.

Visit weber.edu/wsumagazine to watch a video of the Ogden Rescue Mission event.



Update Status



Add Photos/Video



Create Photo Album



What's **REALLY** on your mind?



Friends ▾

Post

Facebook asks for status updates and new photos every time users log in. According to a study by students in the psychology department, personality traits affect how these features are used.

Students worked with assistant psychology professor **Shannon McGillivray** to survey personality traits and Facebook habits of 194 participants.

Interestingly, individuals who are generally more open to new ideas were more likely to unfriend someone as the result of a controversial post.

"That was one of the more counterintuitive discoveries we made," McGillivray said. "It might make sense because perhaps you are slightly more liberal if you score highly on the openness dimension, which means you could take offense to people whose posts are very controversial or derogatory to certain groups."

Second Chances

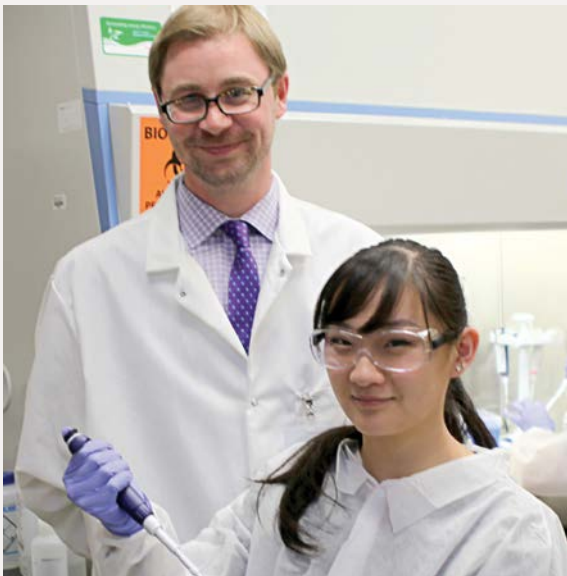
A new literacy program provides tutoring to Ogden City Drug Court participants. The goal is to help them complete their high school equivalency tests (GED) and prepare for post-secondary education at WSU or a Utah College of Applied Technology institution.

Second District Court Judge Mark DeCaria suggested to WSU that many drug court offenders have literacy challenges, making it difficult for them to find meaningful work.

Mike Vaughan, director of WSU's Center for the Study of Poverty and Economic Inequality, approached **Gina Shelley**, an assistant professor of teacher education, to come up with ideas.

Shelley developed curriculum for Project LIFE (Literacy Instruction to Further Education) and recruited WSU education majors to tutor drug court participants. They meet once a week to work on reading, writing, computer literacy and math.

The program is now in its second semester. One participant has already enrolled at Weber State, four at Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College, and three are preparing to take the GED.



High Schooler's Genome Ingenious

At 17 years old, **Karissa Wang**, a senior at Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering & Science (NUAMES), has designed a way to combat drug-resistant bacteria. Her research earned her a spot in the semifinals of the national Intel Science Talent Search.

Wang developed her research under the mentorship of **Matthew Nicholaou**, an assistant medical laboratory sciences professor at WSU. Their work focused on a new gene-editing tool called CRISPRs, or clustered regulatory interspaced short palindromic repeats, which are bacterial immune systems that can be used to edit a genome.

Wang was one of 300 students in the country — the only one from Utah — who made it to the semifinals from a pool of 1,750 entrants. As a semifinalist, she received a \$1,000 award with an additional \$1,000 going to NUAMES.

HOOPS COACHES CELEBRATE MILESTONE SEASONS

Time flies when you're having fun. And for four of Weber's basketball coaches, the years have done exactly that.

Men's head coach **Randy Rahe** and associate head coach **Eric Duft** are in their 10th season, while women's head coach **Bethann Ord** and assistant coach **Devan Newman** are in their fifth.

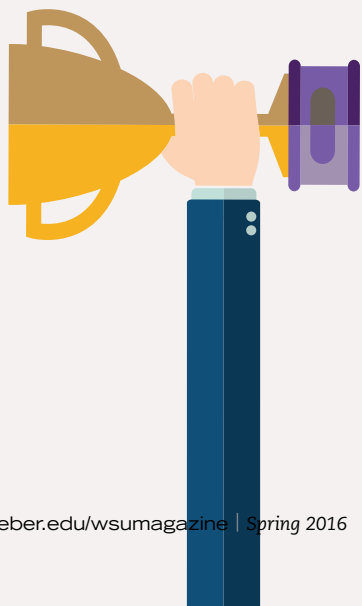
Rahe and Duft have made a significant mark on the men's program, which was reeling from two consecutive losing seasons when they took the reins in 2006. Nine years, five Big Sky Conference titles and seven postseason tournament appearances* later, the Wildcats are perennial contenders for the top spot in the conference.

"It's been terrific," said Rahe, who has won Big Sky Coach of the Year honors a league-record four times. "It's gone by very fast, but I've been blessed to have a great staff and wonderful players every year. Weber State and the community are part of our family now."

In every season since Ord and Newman joined Weber in 2011, the Wildcats have won more games than they did the previous year.

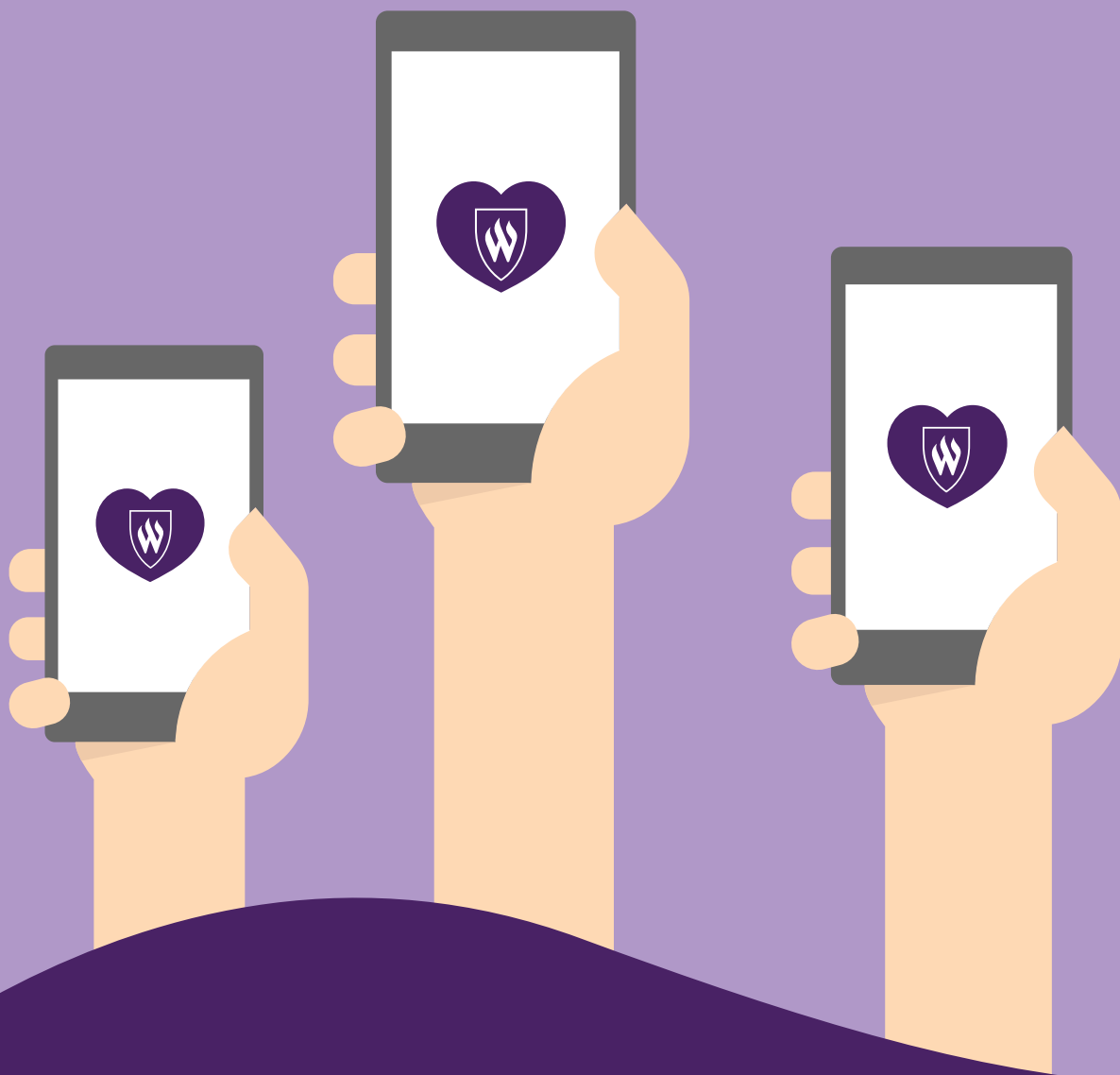
"It's been amazing," Ord said. "The community here, and the people in it, both on campus and off campus have been so wonderful. You feel part of something so special."

**at time of print*



Students who earn an MBA in the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics are enrolled in a program that has made Princeton Review's annual
"Best Business Schools"
ranking for
nine consecutive years.

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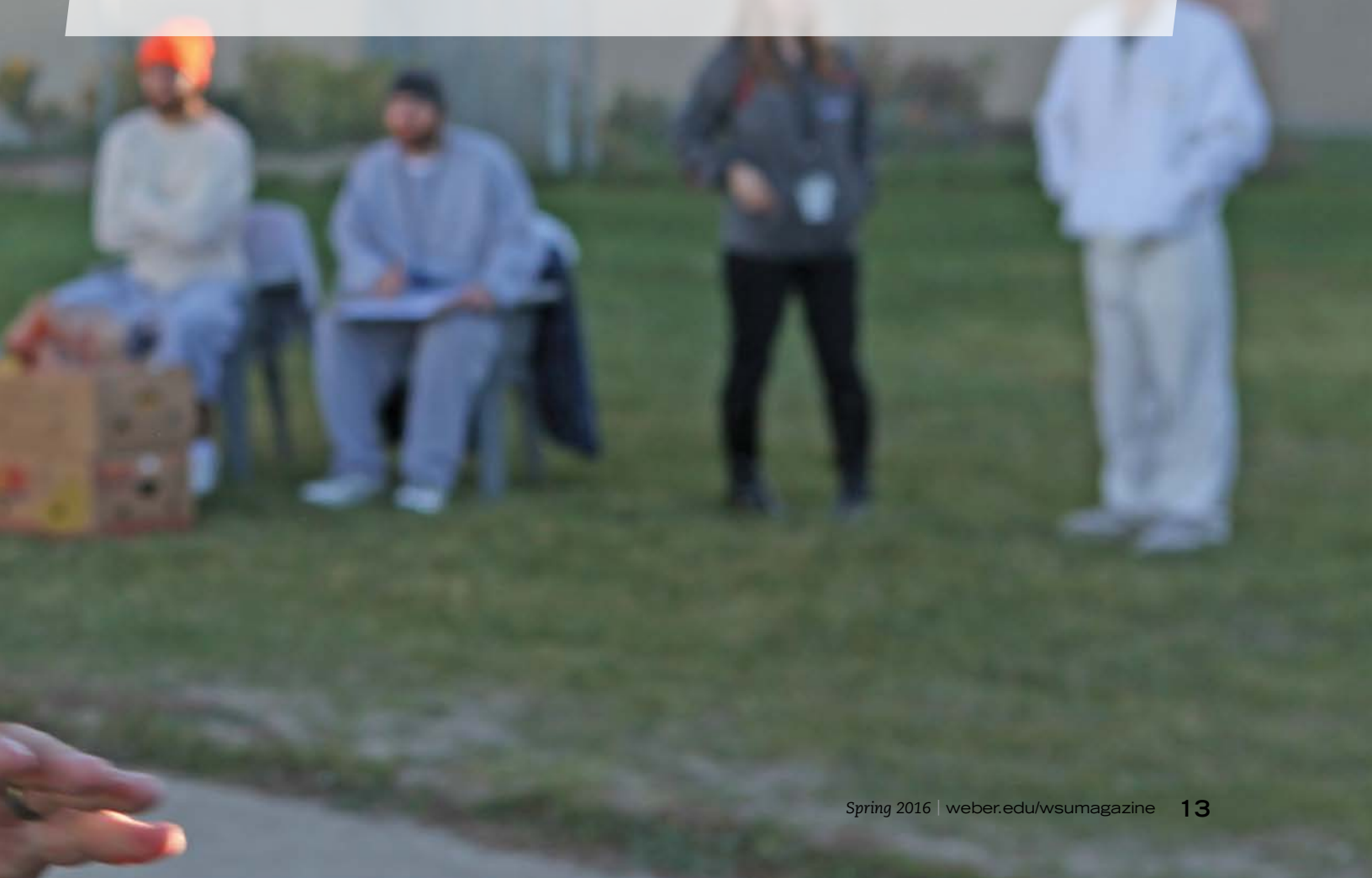
Running to Get Back on Track

WSU coach helps prison inmates train for, stage marathon, half-marathon and 10K

Matt Gerrish BS '10, MPC '15 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

On a chilly October morning, 40 Utah State Prison inmates filed into the facility yard. Wearing tattered Reebok Classics and prison-issued shorts, the group gathered at the starting line of a thin dirt track where their coach — dressed in a Weber State Track & Field shirt and jacket, with a “Volunteer” ID clipped on his chest — stood waiting.

“There will be two commands: ‘Runners, take your mark,’ and then I’ll say ‘go,’” he announced, before sending them on their way, some to run a 10K, some a half-marathon, and some a full marathon.



As the hours ticked by, WSU assistant track and field coach **Isaac Wood** stood trackside, watching, encouraging and reflecting on how much these runners had improved since he first met them six months ago.

Last March, as outdoor track and field season was in full swing, Wood was going through his normal morning routine in his office at Stewart Stadium. He was sifting through his junk mail when he spotted a letter addressed “Attention Running Coach.” At first glance, it was a familiar sight. Wood regularly receives letters from parents and coaches of prospective high-school recruits looking for scholarship opportunities.

“Somehow the letter ended up in my box, and not in the head coach’s box,” Wood said. “But I’m also the recruiting coordinator, so I opened it, and it was a letter from an inmate at the Utah State Prison who described his love for running and how it has changed his life while serving time.”

The inmate, Jason Penney, claimed to have lost more than 80 pounds since picking up running. Now he needed help.

After convincing prison administrators to allow a running event inside the fences of the Wasatch Facility yard, Penney organized a handful of races, including marathons, half-marathons and 10K runs, throughout 2013. With participation increasing at each race, Penney was looking for a volunteer to help coach and mentor a small group of runners for another event in October 2015.

“The men taking up the challenge of distance running do not fit the stereotypical profile of a convicted felon,” wrote Penney. “We have all chosen running as our avenue to recovery. It has inspired each of us to elevate our lives.”

Wood, who has coached at WSU since 2014, was touched by Penney’s passionate inquiry. He saw a chance to help motivated individuals who were in need.

After getting the green light from WSU’s head coaches and from Utah State Prison authorities, Wood began organizing biweekly clinics in which he provided coaching expertise and personalized training schedules for more than 40 inmates.

“The marathons they previously had were pretty unorganized, and Jason was looking for some guidance and training for a

pretty solid group of guys that were running together,” Wood said. “Each time I went down there, I did a 30-minute clinic in a portable classroom before we’d move outside to train for an hour.”

Before the clinics began, Wood wasn’t sure what to expect. His first trip inside the barbed-wire fence was intimidating.

“Not too many people get to walk into a room full of convicted felons with just a guard next to you,” Wood said. “Who wouldn’t be scared? I arrived late because of bad traffic, and I had to use the restroom. There are no public restrooms in a prison, so a guard escorted me into the gym, where 80 inmates froze, turned and trained their eyes on me all at once. That was definitely startling.”

Despite Wood’s initial impression, the inmates couldn’t have been happier to have him there. Running on a small track right in front of the facility housing to the tune of heckling bystanders was challenging. Having an expert volunteer on hand to show them the ropes provided the confidence boost they needed.

“There have been many times in previous years when I’m out there all by myself, day after day, going around in little circles,” Penney said. “During the summer there was a lot of enthusiasm for the sport with more people coming out and giving it a shot, people that had previously been nervous about trying it without a mentor.”

The increased participation is positive, Penney said. “There’s definitely a mental health benefit to this. Depression and anxiety in this place are pretty common. Being able to set a goal and work toward it provides a different blueprint for how to live.”

As the runners trickled across the makeshift finish line, they all had satisfied smiles when they received congratulatory high-fives from their coach.

Wood recognizes that he, too, has benefited from this experience. He would like to continue the clinics in future years if his schedule permits. In addition to coaching, Wood



Photos by Matt Gerrish BS '10, MPC '15

Not too many people get to walk into a room full of convicted felons with just a guard next to you. Who wouldn't be scared?

— WSU assistant track and field coach Isaac Wood



is also working toward an MBA in WSU's John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics.

"I was expecting a lot of rough-looking characters, and people not really wanting to

talk to me, and people trying to be real tough," Wood said. "I couldn't believe what it was like. The inmates are so humble and so thankful that I'm even there. I'm kind of a nobody, and the fact that these guys think I'm something, while I feel like I'm getting a great experience myself, is really touching."

Visit weber.edu/wsumagazine to watch an interview with Wood.

*How
many
laps?*

Race	Miles	Prison Laps
10K	6.2	26
Half	13.1	55
Full	26.2	110

WEBER STATE FOOTBALL



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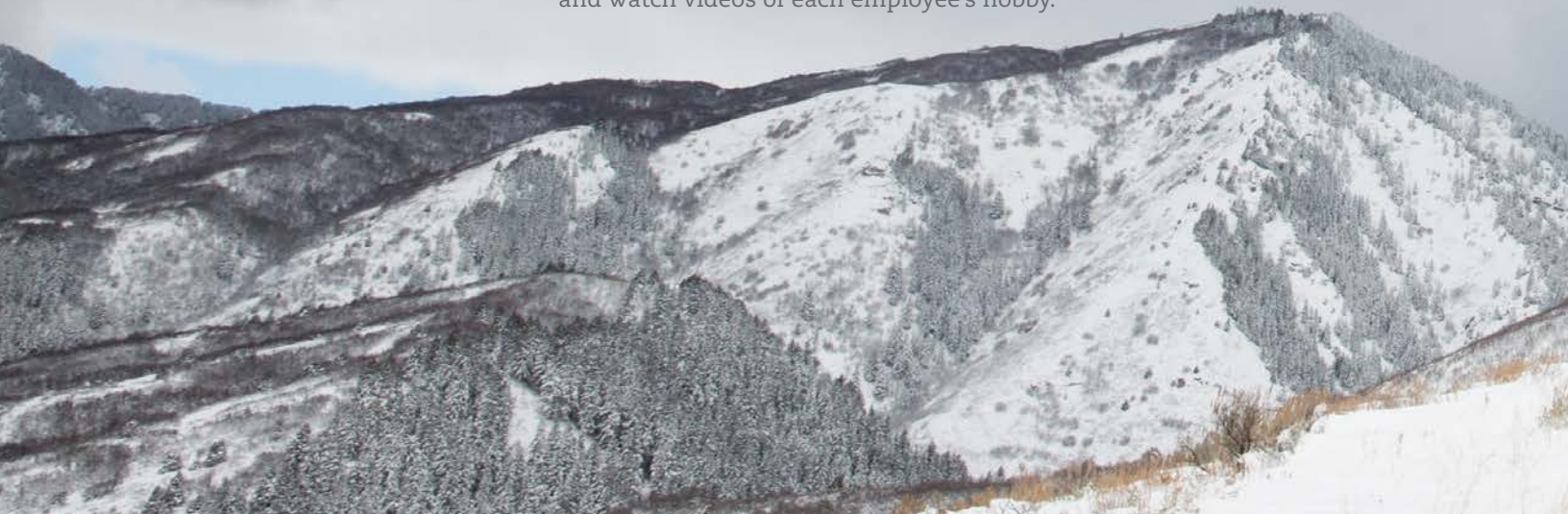
TALENT SHOW

We see them as professors, department chairs, directors and media experts, but for the talented employees of Weber State University, it doesn't end there. Outside the classroom, they are artists, athletes, musicians, woodworkers and more. Here's a look into the little-known pastimes of nine WSU faculty and staff.

Jaime Winston and Amy Hendricks MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTOS BY D'Arcy Benincosa | VIDEOGRAPHY BY Matt Gerrish BS'10, MPC '15, Amy Hajdas and D'Arcy Benincosa

Visit weber.edu/wsumagazine to see more photos and watch videos of each employee's hobby.



A person wearing a red jacket and a backpack is hiking up a snowy mountain slope. The person is using a trekking pole. The background shows a vast, hazy mountain range under a grey sky.

THE RESCUER

John Sohl, physics professor

John has volunteered for Weber County Search and Rescue for 26 years and still recalls the emotion of his first rescue.

Terrified as night fell, a young boy who disappeared from home into Taylor Canyon hid in a small cave. Luckily, John heard him crying. Shortly after, the boy was safe in his mother's arms. "That hooked me," John says.

Today, John is on call 24/7, leading teams to rescue or retrieve those who are lost or trapped in Weber County's wilderness areas. He participates in 10 to 15 rescues per year and is occasionally called in to help in neighboring counties.

John says volunteers are always needed but have to be highly skilled in outdoor activities. "You're going to push your capabilities to the limits."

A woman with glasses and a grey blazer is focused on a large, colorful stained glass design laid out on a table. She is wearing two beaded bracelets on her left wrist. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or studio environment.

THE STAINED-GLASS MAKER

Stephanie Bossenberger AS '78, BS '81,
*professor and chair of the Department of
Dental Hygiene*

Sun shines through Stephanie's stained-glass flaming W logo hanging on a large window in the Marriott Allied Health building, bringing a brilliant purple hue into Dean Yasmen Simonian's conference room.

The W is one of Stephanie's many stained-glass works, which she began creating after taking classes on the art 20 years ago. Her designs also include snowflakes and patterns she created to fit her home's front door.

She cuts and grinds her glass, before applying copper foil and soldering pieces together, in a workshop she set up in her garage.

"I was always interested in stained glass," says Stephanie, who also spends time capturing photos of others' stained-glass artwork. "It's something I feel like I can grow older with."

THE WOODWORKER

Kirk Hagen BS '77, professor and chair of the Department of Engineering

Kirk learned woodworking from his father, Darius, who inherited his carpentry skills from his father as well. Since the late 1970s, Kirk has built on this legacy with his own detailed and intricate furniture pieces.

Kirk's work includes tables, hutches and the grandfather clock in his living room. "That was my summer project," he says.

His workshop reveals hand tools and power tools, a workbench he built and the door he installed that once led to former Weber State President William P. Miller's office. "It's nice to have a piece of Weber State history in my house," he says.

While Kirk doesn't sell his furniture, it's still very valuable to him. "It gives me a sense of accomplishment when something's done," he says.



THE MARATHONER

David Malone, *professor and chair of the School of Accounting & Taxation*

It's a snowy morning at Pineview Reservoir, and David inhales the crisp, fresh air. The scenery is breathtaking and is one of the reasons he runs. "That field is sometimes filled with sandhill cranes," he points out, "and there's a dog down this way that usually greets me."

David ran his first marathon in 2003 and has since run races in 45 of the 50 United States (with only Maine, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island and Nebraska to go) and on four of seven continents, including North America, South America, Europe and Antarctica.

"Running, for me, is about the goal," he says. "There's something about crossing that finish line, and crossing beautiful locations off my list."





THE SHEPHERD

Bob King BS '84, *former media architect for WSU's Creative Academic Technology Solutions (CATS)*

Bob and his wife, Jenny, became experts in raising sheep more than 30 years ago, caring for a herd just outside of Ogden that had previously reached over 100 head.

The couple met while working at Weber State, Bob in instructional development and Jenny in film and equipment. Currently, they care for about 65 sheep on 10 acres they lease and 10 acres they own. Sheep are sheared for wool; lambs are raised for meat.

Retired after 40-plus years at WSU, Bob admits his high-tech job was the "extreme opposite" of raising sheep. While he does use electric-powered shears, Bob also uses old-fashioned scissor-type shears for public demonstrations at local events.

"The sheep are just like family," Bob says. "You get to know them and their characteristics."



THE SAXOPHONISTS

Robert “Bob” Fudge,
*associate professor and philosophy
program director*

Jennifer Turley, *professor and
chair of the Department of Athletic
Training & Nutrition*

Craig Bergeson BA '91, *Spanish
professor and chair of the Department of
Foreign Languages*

When asked for the name of their trio, Jennifer laughs and says, “Well, officially, it’s the WSU Faculty Saxophone Trio, but we should really be called the WSU Non-Music Faculty Trio because none of us teach in the music department.”

The trio formed a little over a year ago after Bob discovered that Jennifer and Craig were saxophonists. “I remember calling and asking if they wanted to get together and practice,” he says. The answer was an enthusiastic yes. The trio made its professional debut in November 2015, playing *The Star-Spangled Banner* before a Weber State women’s basketball game.

Despite their busy faculty schedules, they carve out time for music. “It’s a wonderful outlet. We love it, so we make time for it,” Jennifer says. Craig adds, “It’s like exercise in a way. It’s hard to find time to do it, but you know it’s good for you, so you just do.”

A woman with long brown hair, smiling, wearing a white halter top and a grass skirt. She has a large lei made of pink and yellow flowers around her neck and a single flower in her hair. The background is a lush green outdoor setting.

THE HULA DANCER

Tara Peris-Caputo BS '08, interim director of Student Involvement and Leadership

A storyteller, Tara uses the ancient Hawaiian art of hula to weave beautiful tales of nature, mythology, love, children, religion, celebrations and history. "It's an art that expresses Hawaiian culture," she says. "Every detail of a hula dancer's movement — the placement of her feet, the angle of her hands — is part of telling a story and telling it accurately."

Tara was born and raised in Hawaii. She left the Aloha State 13 years ago to attend Weber State.

While Weber brought her to the mainland, hula competitions took Tara all over the world. "If it weren't for hula competitions, I never would have gone to Japan or Tahiti or across the U.S. It challenged me constantly. Just like every craft, I wanted to do my best, so I practiced, refined and grew."

ROAD GAME

*Couple drives 2,100 miles to cheer
on the Wildcats*

Amy Hendricks, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Over a landline phone at their home in Etters, Pennsylvania, **Bob BS '69** and **Nancy Day** spiritedly talked about Weber State basketball — he on one handset, she on another ...

"I've always loved watching the Wildcats play," he said. "As a student, I got to watch (the now-legendary) **Willie Sojourner**. He was amazing. I remember an announcer asked him, on national TV, 'What makes you so good?' He hesitated and looked at his hands and said, 'I've got big hands,'" Bob recalled, laughing.

Now Nancy, she's not a "sports person" per se, but even she revels in Weber State hoops. "I get into it. I scream. I yell," she said. "I loved **Damian Lillard BS '15**. That's not to say he's the only one I've enjoyed watching, but he was just pure joy to follow."

That joy is what makes them, every year, pack up their car and drive 2,100 miles to Ogden — a five-day excursion if the weather cooperates — to watch the Wildcats' longest stretch of conference home games. It's also what has compelled them to drive to games in Wisconsin, Ohio, North Carolina and South Carolina. "Generally speaking, if the Wildcats come anywhere east of the Mississippi River, we're going to see them," said Bob, who is retired from a successful career in federal service.

While the Days support Weber State from the stands, the couple backs the university financially as well.

"I graduated almost 47 years ago with a bachelor's degree in political science. That degree opened doors for me," Bob said. Nancy chimed in: "To this day he still quotes his economics professor, **Kiyotoshi Iwamoto**." There was also **H. Aldous Dixon's** history class and **Alten Davis'** political science class. "Dixon was such an entertaining speaker," Bob said. "I often-times found that I had stopped taking notes because I was just raptly listening. And Alten Davis, I had such a rapport with him."

Bob says his reasons for giving are simple.

"I do it because Weber State gave so much to me. I'd also like to make sure students who really want a college education get that opportunity. My folks weren't of great means. I earned every penny it cost to go to school," he said. "I wasn't an outstanding high school student. We so often reward the extremely talented. I want to make sure that kids who have C or C+ averages who want to have the college experience, get it."

And maybe a chance to hit a few games, as well.

Thank you, Bob and Nancy.

PHOTO BY ZAC WILLIAMS BS '01, MPC '13



Making *Dreams* Come True

Totals through Dec. 31, 2015

Dream | 125
The Campaign for
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scholarships

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knowledge

Enhancing
campus

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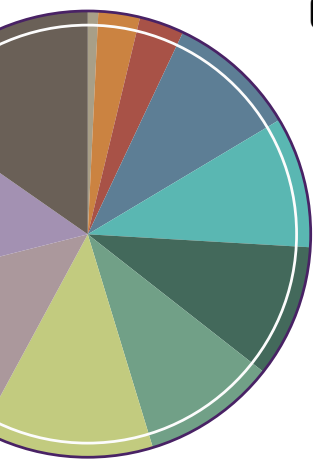
1,987

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13,697

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Campaign Progress by Major Units* Gifts and Pledges

Alumni	\$701,900
Library	\$2,789,800
Social & Behavioral Sciences	\$3,007,900
Student Affairs	\$8,738,000
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Education	\$8,945,000
Health Professions	\$9,005,100
Science	\$11,681,100
Athletics	\$12,217,600
Business & Economics	\$12,646,300
Arts & Humanities	\$14,192,000

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One student's extraordinary journey

Karin Hurst | MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

The victims' bodies are preserved with powdered lye and appear as they did when the killers attacked. Scores of chalk-white corpses in grotesque repose on slatted benches. Some are still clothed, mouths gaped in terror, rosary beads entangled in twisted, bony fingers. Row after row of hacked limbs and bashed skulls. A sickening, silent testament of Rwanda's grisly, 100-day Tutsi genocide.



Photo by Fanny Schertzer

Weber State University senior **Joshua Redhair** will never forget the shocking images on display at the Murambi Genocide Memorial Centre in the Nyamagabe district of southern Rwanda. He toured the site during a 27-day study-abroad program in the summer of 2015, and says once was enough. “At this memorial, you experience the horror in a way that a film or a book can never prepare you for,” says Redhair. “You see a mom holding a baby and a little kid’s shoe covered in blood. And you see how these people died. You see their faces and the machete marks and bullet holes in their skulls.”

Twenty-two years ago, before it housed the haunting vestiges of pathological hatred, the Murambi Genocide Memorial Centre was the half-built campus of a technical school perched atop a verdant slope. During Rwanda’s April rains of 1994, throngs of doomed ethnic Tutsis fled their homes and sought refuge inside the structure, hoping to escape the organized carnage that was erupting throughout the “land of a thousand hills.” Of the 50,000 to 65,000 people who entered the school, only a few emerged alive.

Rwanda is a tiny, mountainous, African nation landlocked by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi. Original inhabitants were a Pygmy people who now comprise only 1 percent of the population. Over time, two other peoples emerged — the Hutu and Tutsi. They spoke the same language, ate the same foods, practiced the same religion, shared cultural characteristics and intermarried. “There was no blood difference,” Redhair explains. “The division was occupational.” Most Rwandan kings hailed from the same

elite Tutsi clan, and a caste system elevated Tutsi status. But it also allowed for social mobility, and in most instances, ordinary Hutu and Tutsi citizens accepted their positions in life and enjoyed a mutually beneficial exchange of labor.

Rwanda’s social harmony was shattered after World War I, when a League of Nations mandate placed Rwanda and its southern neighbor, Burundi, under Belgian administration.

PRELUDE TO VIOLENCE

The most divisive legacy of Belgian colonialism in Rwanda and Burundi was an obsession with ethnic classification. Under the misguided notion that Tutsis were racially superior to Hutus, Belgian administrators introduced a national ethnic identification policy. In 1935, people who owned 10 or more cows were registered as *Batutsi*; those with fewer were

registered as *Bahutu*. “Think of the yellow armbands Jews were forced to wear in Nazi Germany,” says Redhair, who blames the ID cards for driving a racial wedge between Tutsis and Hutus.

In the 1950s, when Rwanda’s independence seemed inevitable, Belgian authorities switched gears. They introduced pro-Hutu socio-economic reforms and

changed the electoral process to secret ballot, which gave a huge political advantage to the majority Hutu population. The Tutsi monarch was ousted in 1961, and a year later, Rwanda was declared a republic with a representative government dominated by Hutus. What followed were decades of hostility, government corruption, ethnic purging and civil war.

It’s hard to imagine why Redhair had any desire to study there. He points out “No amount of reading or study compares with being in the streets where a genocide actually happened, and speaking face to face with survivors and perpetrators.”

THE KILLING FRENZY BEGINS

Against this volatile backdrop, a plane carrying Rwanda's Hutu president was shot down over the Rwandan capital of Kigali on April 6, 1994. There were no survivors. Although it was never determined who fired the deadly missile, within hours of the crash, the Presidential Guard, along with members of the Rwandan armed forces and militant groups, like the *Interahamwe*, had set into motion the systematic slaughter of Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Hell reigned in Rwanda for the next 100 days with a controversial lack of international intervention.

Armed with government-issued AK-47s and other weapons, the *Interahamwe* established roadblocks and implemented kill lists. Radio stations aired incendiary messages calling for the extermination of "Tutsi cockroaches." Civilians

were handed machetes and told to kill their neighbors or be killed. Hundreds of AIDS patients were released from hospitals and formed into rape squads. Hutu extremists targeted Tutsi men and women for sexual mutilation.

By the time Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels, mostly sons of Tutsi refugees who had fled earlier ethnic purges, stormed Kigali in early July and drove the genocidal Hutu regime into exile, as many as 1 million lives had been taken.

ACCOUNTABILITY, FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

Given Rwanda's notorious history, it's hard to imagine why Redhair had any desire to study there, let alone entertain the possibility of living there permanently one day. "But most of us who went are interested in genocide and careers in international politics," he points out. "And no amount of reading or study compares with being in the streets where a genocide actually happened, and speaking face to face with survivors and perpetrators."

Redhair, who graduates in the spring of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in political science, says when he learned that his professor and mentor, **Stephanie Wolfe**, escorts a group of students to Rwanda every summer to participate in a program called the Peace-Building Institute (PBI), his wanderlust (he had lived in four states and attended 12 different schools by the time he graduated from high school) and spirit of adventure (he had

never traveled outside the U.S.) kicked in. "My mouth started watering," he recalls. "I just knew I needed to go there."

Redhair's infectious enthusiasm during his time in Rwanda caught the attention of the executive director of Never Again Rwanda (NAR), a national organization that teaches people from different backgrounds how to work together toward a sustainable peace. Redhair was offered a summer internship with NAR, which he will complete this year. He will then head to Brussels, Belgium to begin a graduate

program at The University of Kent's Brussels School of International Studies in the fall.

Redhair's passion for Rwanda is not grounded in the country's infamous past, but rather, its potential for a peaceful and prosperous future. The country has maintained political stability for more than two decades and is making

remarkable economic strides, but emotional wounds still run deep within Rwandan society. Orphans, whose parents were butchered, are mired in poverty. Rape victims are raising children conceived in violence, and the ostracized children of Hutu *génocidaires* are paying for the sins of their fathers. Recovery will take time. "It's what happens after a genocide that's most important," says Redhair.

In the wake of Hutu atrocities, there was an urgent need to hold instigators accountable. The United Nations Security Council established the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in 1995 to prosecute genocide masterminds, but the legal process was prolonged and pricey. Confronted with a bankrupt economy, bulging prisons and the knowledge that hundreds of thousands of perpetrators needed to be brought to justice, the Rwandan government sidestepped legal formalities and implemented a swifter system of citizen-based justice known as the *Gacaca* court system. Trusted, community-appointed judges presided over open trials and frequently dispensed shorter prison terms to defendants who admitted their crimes, expressed remorse and sought forgiveness from their victims' families. Public discussions and confessions shed light on previously obscure details of the genocide and brought a sense of closure to people who learned more about their murdered relatives' final moments.

Redhair maintains that *Gacaca* justice ushered in a level of community healing that seems almost too good to be true. He describes an unforgettable encounter at a voluntary

There was a lady who announced, 'That man killed my husband and my children.' She talked about how she came to forgive him, how he now helps her work in her fields and brings her dinner.





reconciliation village. “What that means is the government brought genocide survivors and people who committed the genocide together to live in the same neighborhood,” Redhair explains. “There was a lady who stood up during a meeting, pointed to a man sitting a couple of rows behind her and announced, ‘That man killed my husband and my children.’ She talked about how she came to forgive him, how he now helps her work in her fields and brings her dinner.” It was a pivotal moment that sealed Redhair’s commitment to guiding former enemies into a peaceful coexistence.

IF YOU GIVE A STUDENT AN OPPORTUNITY

Redhair “cried like a baby” when he had to leave Rwanda. His experiences there broadened his sense of service, added a real-world dimension to his university education and altered his career path. He no longer wants to be

president of the United States (although in fourth grade, he memorized all of America’s past chief executives “just for fun”). He’s now determined to work internationally for a nongovernment, peace-building organization because he learned, firsthand, that one person really can make a difference at the grassroots level of a developing nation.

Wherever Redhair’s next journey takes him, he’ll bring along an enduring gratitude for the university that opened the doors of opportunity, and the study-abroad scholarship that helped make it possible for him to walk through. “College is not what I thought college was going to be ... in a good way,” Redhair grins. “My family always says, ‘There’s not another college that would have been as good to you.’”

Sources: pbs.org/video/2365248019; genocidememorials.org/harvard.edu/murambi.html; rwandanstories.org; neveragainrwanda.org; bachersblog.com/marumbi-genocide-memorial; rwandaembassy.org; theguardian.com/world/rwanda

Each semester, dozens of Weber State students have to say no to study-abroad opportunities because they can’t afford them. Having more scholarships available could change that situation. When generous donors open their hearts and their pocketbooks, a student’s dream can take flight.

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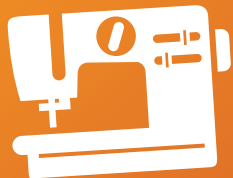
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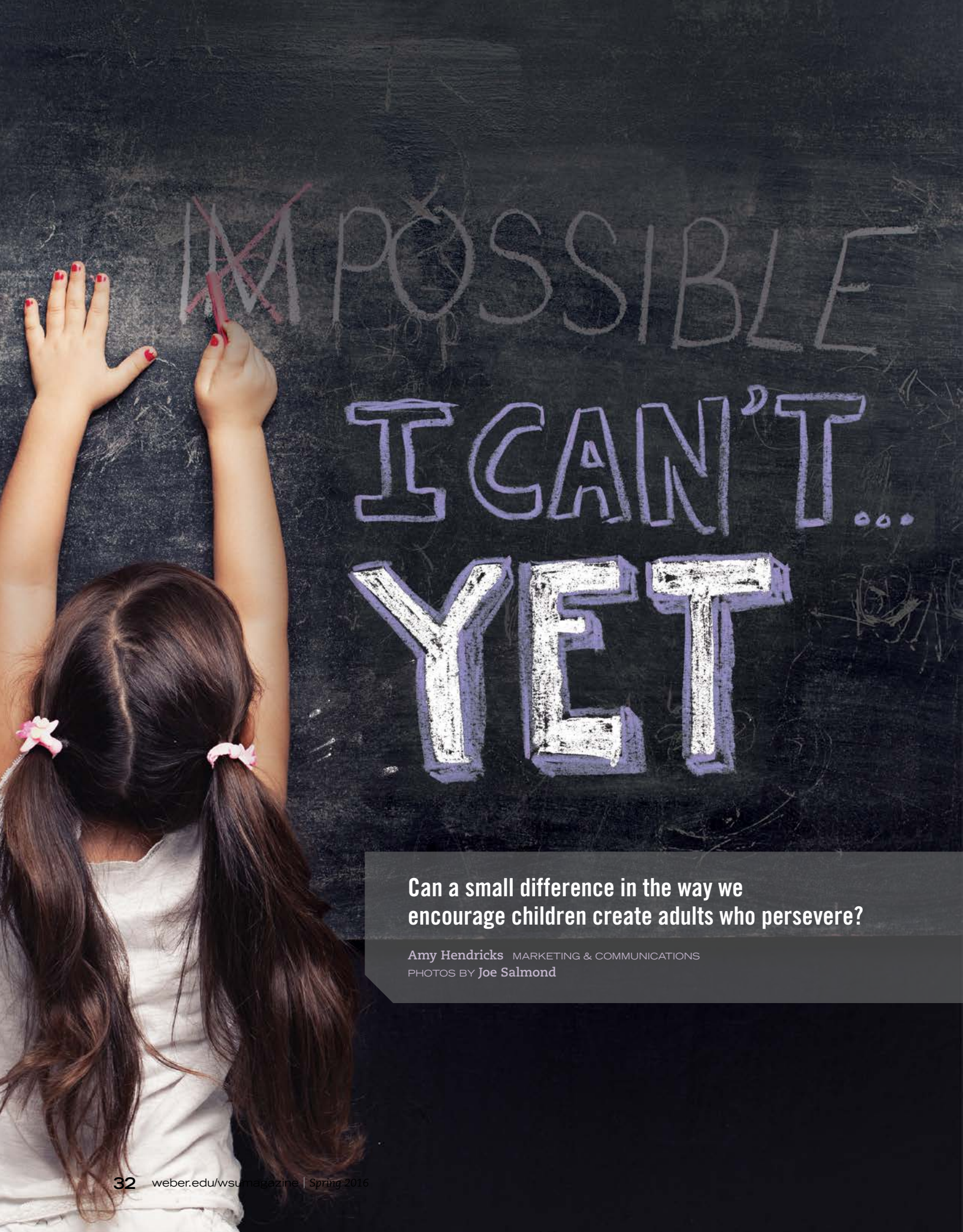
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Can a small difference in the way we
encourage children create adults who persevere?

Amy Hendricks MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
PHOTOS BY Joe Salmond

Jonathan Taylor's junior year at Weber State University was absolutely disastrous — in his opinion, at least.

"I made two whole C's," he says, sipping hot coffee in the Social Science building on a windy October Wednesday. He and his classmates chuckle. The six of them — it's a small psychology practicum — are sitting in a circle in Room 378. They're friends. You can tell by the good-natured banter. **David Stewart**, sitting across from Jonathan, jokes, "I would have thought, 'Great, those are two classes I don't have to take over.'" And they all laugh again.

But when Jonathan says, "I seriously ended up going to the counselor because of those two C's," they nod in understanding. They've been studying mindsets, and they know that behavior is typical of someone with a fixed mindset.

Psychologist Carol Dweck, a Stanford University professor and pioneering researcher in the field of motivation, explains what that is in her book *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*: "In a fixed mindset, students believe their basic abilities, their intelligence, their talents, are fixed traits. They have a certain amount and that's that."

In other words, they're born smart or they aren't. If they aren't, they believe no amount of hard work or effort will make them smarter. People with fixed mindsets often make remarks like "I'll never be able to do this" or "I don't have the genes for this" or worse, "I'm just too dumb. I quit."

"That type of mindset is damning," Jonathan says.

Dweck agrees. "Believing that your qualities are carved in stone creates an urgency to prove yourself over and over," she writes. "Every situation calls for

a confirmation of intelligence, personality, or character. Every situation is evaluated: Will I succeed or fail? Will I look smart or dumb? Will I be accepted or rejected? Will I feel like a winner or a loser?"

Fortunately, through the help of a counselor, Jonathan re-evaluated his way of thinking. "I knew I needed to become more open to what I now know to be a growth mindset."

According to Dweck, people with growth mindsets believe abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. "Brains and talent are just the starting point," she writes.

In other words, the more they practice, the more they learn and the smarter they get.

Dweck's years of research show that students who have growth mindsets exhibit greater motivation in school, earn better grades and score higher on tests.

But how can teachers and parents encourage growth mindsets? Praise effort, not talent, at an early age.



THE POWER OF YET

Weber State psychology instructors and practicum coordinators **Melinda Russell-Stamp** and **María Parrilla de Kokal** call children "active little scientists."

"If you go with what [developmental psychologist] Jean Piaget thought about cognitive development, kids have this incredible curiosity," Parrilla de Kokal says. "Biology plays a role, and the environment plays a role, but the fact remains that they're exploring."

While people with fixed mindsets believe they are born with a certain level of intelligence, Parrilla de Kokal says she believes environment plays more of a role in how children develop mindset.

"For example, when a child is struggling with math, we as parents say, 'It's because you just aren't a math person, and you get that from me, it's in your genes,' we're telling the child that their intelligence is fixed, that it can't be grown, that they'll never be able to do math," she says.

"What if we instead said, 'You can't do that math problem, yet.' Emphasis on the yet. We're then telling them

Fixed Mindsets:

- Avoid challenges
- Fear failure
- Give up easily
- Ignore constructive feedback
- Feel threatened by the success of others

Growth Mindsets:

- Embrace challenges
- View mistakes as part of the learning process
- See effort as the key to mastery
- Learn from criticism
- Feel inspired by the success of others

—Traits defined by Carol Dweck

that, through hard work and practice, they will be able to do it.”

“Yet” is a word Dweck stresses in her research. In a video lecture hosted by Stanford, she reported on a case study that was performed on 10-year-olds. After being given problems that were too difficult to solve, some reacted positively, others catastrophically, even saying they would go so far as to cheat the next time to make sure they looked smart.

“[For those who reacted negatively], their core intelligence had been tested and devastated. Instead of the power of yet, they were gripped by the tyranny of now,” Dweck says.

During the study, the children’s brains were also monitored. The brains of the children who had more of a growth mindset were “on fire,” Dweck says. “They were processing the error deeply, learning and correcting their errors. The brains of the children with more of a fixed mindset showed no learning. So the questions become, ‘How are we raising our children? Are we raising them for now or yet? Are they focused on the next ‘A’ or are they focused on dreaming big and what they can become?’”

Russell-Stamp, a former school psychologist, heard Dweck present at a conference. “In my previous job, I did a

lot of IQ testing. Professor Dweck talked about how, after IQ tests, they’d tell students that their brains could change and grow if they worked hard. I thought that was incredible. She talked about the results and the benefits, and that stuck with me. I think it also stuck because I grew up with a fixed mindset. ‘I can’t’ becomes so ingrained. I thought it would be wonderful to expose children to a growth mindset at a much younger age. Plus, children love to learn about the brain. It’s a big mystery, after all.”

That’s why the Weber State psychology practicum students have been volunteering at local schools and youth organizations — to teach children that intelligence can be developed through hard work, practice and even through mistakes and failures.

IN THE CLASSROOM

It’s a Monday afternoon in October at Washington Terrace Elementary School. Jonathan and David, along with classmates **Etta Chavez** and **Ashley Allan**, file into **Tina Allen’s BS ’03** third-grade class, their arms laden with games and activities. “Why do you have a shoe in your pocket?” a boy asks David. “I have too many shoes and not enough feet,” he answers, grinning. “You’ll see in a little while,” he adds.

Russell-Stamp and Parrilla de Kokal are there, too. They remind the

children about the worksheet they went over the week before titled “You Can Grow Your Intelligence.”

“Remember last time we talked about the brain and how it can grow if we exercise it, just like a muscle?” Russell-Stamp asks. The kids remember. Allen has reminders all over her classroom — on bulletin boards and posters. “Well, today we’ll show you how.”

Allen splits the class into two groups — one forms a circle with Etta and Ashley, the other with David and Jonathan. Every child is given a notecard with a different question, and they take turns interviewing each other and recording their answers. It goes like this:

What’s your favorite movie? Spiderman.

How many brothers and sisters do you have? Three.

What’s your favorite food? Pizza.

After everyone has had a turn, they mix up the cards and hand them back out. “Now, you ask your question,” Jonathan tells the first student, “and your neighbor will respond with the answer on the back of his card.”

How many brothers and sisters do you have? Spiderman.

What’s your favorite movie? Pizza.

What’s your favorite food? Three.

Hilarity ensues.

A DIFFERENT WAY TO PRAISE

Consistently praising a child’s intelligence — saying “You’re so smart!” for example — can actually make them anxious and ill equipped to handle mistakes, Dweck says. Here are some different ways to praise your child. The dialogue sounds strange, but give it a shot. The key is to be specific. See if it changes your children’s attitude about the challenges they face.

Instead of

- Good job!
- You got an A!
- You’re so smart!
- You’re a great artist.
- Math just comes naturally to you.
- You’re a great athlete.

Try this

- I like the way you kept trying, even when it was hard.
- All of that practice and extra effort really paid off.
- You’ve worked hard in school. Look where it got you!
- I like the way you incorporated color and how beautiful your lines are.
- Now that you’ve worked hard to understand that concept, let’s try something more challenging.
- All that extra time practicing free throws really worked, didn’t it? You really helped your team.

"Now, just because we don't always have the right answers doesn't mean we're not smart," Jonathan says after the children stop giggling. "It's OK to have a wrong answer sometimes."

"Can we do that again?" one student asks.

But the next task waits.

It's a video clip of the animated movie *Big Hero 6*, the one where Tadashi, an inventor, is desperately trying to get Baymax, the health-care robot he created, to work. He fails over and over — 84 times, to be exact — before Baymax functions properly.

"What can we learn from Tadashi?" Ashley asks. "That making mistakes is OK. It's how we learn. And that we should never give up," she says.

Which finally brings us to the shoe in David's back pocket. He and Ashley both take turns tying the shoe — Ashley the normal way, David in two swift flicks of his finger. "Are you Houdini?" one student asks, wowed. "No," David laughs. "Ashley ties shoes one way. I tie shoes another way. One way is a little faster, but neither is wrong. We just tie shoes differently, and that's OK."

A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Allen has been more than happy with the results.

"When one of your students cries because it's the last day of growth mindset training with Weber State, you know they've enjoyed it," Allen says. It's now December, and there's only four days left until the kids go on their holiday break. They should be happy, but one little boy obviously was not.

"The Weber State students generate a lot of excitement for my kids. They're at that age when they think college kids are just so cool," Allen says, laughing. "But more importantly, the Weber State students truly do get them excited about working hard."

Allen has partnered with Weber State for 10+ years on various educational projects. In 2014, however, instructors Parrilla de Kokal and Russell-Stamp shared Dweck's growth mindset research with her. That's when they decided to take the partnership in a new direction.

"I knew a little about the mindset theory, just from being in an educational setting, and I've been doing some mindset activities in my classroom for many years," Allen says. "But when we met to discuss it and plan ways to incorporate it into my classroom more, I was really excited because it fits my own beliefs so well. I believe how well you do in class depends on how you feel about yourself, and that can affect your entire life."

Parrilla de Kokal and Russell-Stamp hope to gather data and analyze how the growth mindset theory has affected Allen's class. Dweck has seen positive results in schools where growth mindsets are encouraged.

"One teacher took her Harlem kindergarten class, many of whom could not hold a pencil correctly, to the 95th percentile," Dweck reports. "Another teacher went back to her Native American reservation in the state of Washington and transformed the elementary school in terms of a growth mindset. It had always been at the bottom of the district, at the bottom of the state. Within a year-and-a-half, the kindergarteners and first graders were at the top of the district at reading and reading readiness. That district contained affluent sections of Seattle, so the reservation kids outdid the Microsoft kids."

"They did it because learning a growth mindset transformed the meaning



of effort and difficulty. It used to mean they were dumb, now it meant they had a chance to get smarter."

Allen has seen improvements in her students, too.

"I have one little girl who was going to resource, and she had no idea she could get out of resource until she saw another child do it," she says. "I told her she could if she worked hard. She put in so much effort after that. She had a goal, and she realized she could do it with effort."

But what about children who aren't struggling academically?

"We talk a lot about the mindset of children who are behind, but fixed mindsets can happen to children who are already successful in school. They can have an 'I'm better than everybody' mentality. That, to me, is just as bad," Allen says.

"When those children reach a point where they do start to struggle — and we all struggle at some point — it's devastating for them. My brother was a perfect example. He always did really well in school, and it wasn't until he got into Calculus 2 in college that he started to struggle. He felt like a failure. He couldn't bend. That's why I believe it's so important to start encouraging growth mindset at an early age."

Allen believes children need to struggle to be successful.

"They need to be challenged," she says. "There always needs to be a 'next thing,' a next level that's hard for them. If they are allowed to struggle, they'll be much more well-rounded adults."

TEAM SPIRIT

An unexpected result has been that Allen's class is now much more team-oriented.

"It's more cooperative," she says. "If someone is struggling, we talk about what we can do to get all of our team to the next level. There's never just one star."

Jonathan says that's something he had hoped to see. "Sometimes kids can say things that are, for the most part, unintentionally cruel. They'll say things like, 'That student can't read' or 'He can't do that.' We can't

necessarily make kids stop, but we can add the word 'yet.' That helps the child they're talking about, but it makes the child saying it think, too."

Parrilla de Kokal had an anecdote just for that.

"What came to mind — as pathetic as it is — if you remember *Sleeping Beauty*, and this is a loose association, just stay with me," she tells her laughing psychology students. "It's the scene of baby Aurora's christening. The evil witch wasn't invited. Mad, she tells the king that Aurora will one day hit the spindle of a spinning wheel and die. They couldn't change that she did that, but the good fairies altered her spell. Instead of dying, she would sleep, then Prince Charming would come and rescue her. For our purposes, it's like that. We're the good fairies. We can't undo what is said, but we can change it so it has a positive outcome."

Parrilla de Kokal says the mindset theory does not diminish the fact that some people have a natural disposition toward something, but even those people have to put in a lot of effort. "I don't have the pipes Beyoncé does," she says, smiling. "I will never sing like she does. But I can certainly sing better than I currently do if I wanted to go through the effort of doing that. If I don't try because I'm afraid I'll be a loser, I may never know that I actually can sing."

"We want our kids to hope they can do better, to try to do better, to try new things. Beyoncé sure tried. Michael Jordan sure tried. He didn't even make his high school varsity basketball team on the first try, but his failure motivated him to work harder and get better. Steve Jobs got fired from his own company, only to be rehired later and become incredibly successful. These are great lessons for our children."



READY. SET. GO.

A Weber State University MBA put Riley Cook on the right track.

"Everything I learned in my MBA correlates perfectly with my work."

—Riley Cook BS '07, MBA '11, cost analyst at Hill Air Force Base

A solid education has helped Riley also achieve work-life balance. Today, he is married with three daughters, and still finds time to train for his next goal: competing in the Olympic Trials marathon (see more about Riley's latest running achievement on page 50).

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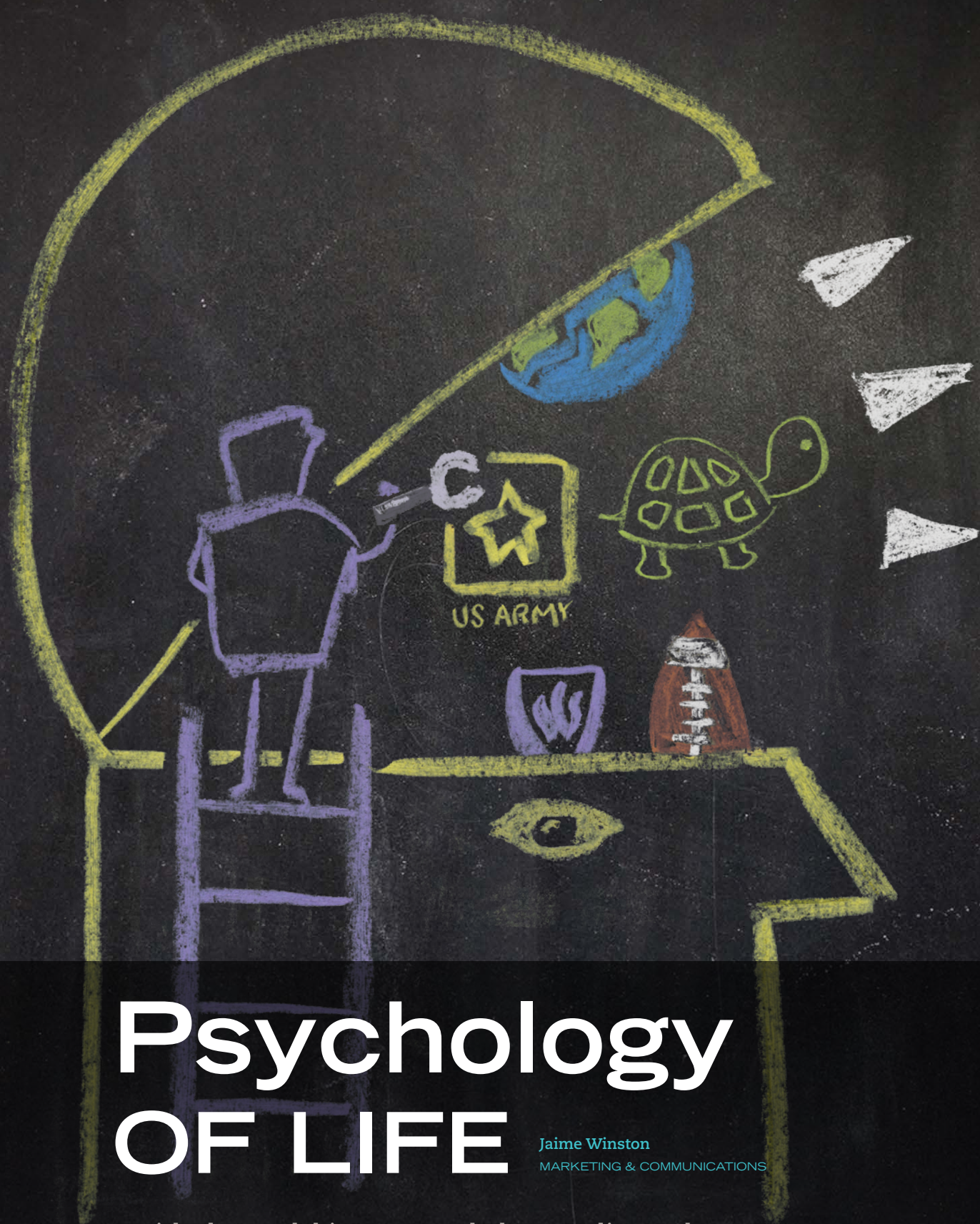
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Psychology OF LIFE

Jaime Winston
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Kirk Thor took his WSU psychology studies to the Pentagon, NFL and top of the corporate ladder.



TAKE OFFS AND LANDINGS

Sometimes it's our setbacks that allow us to discover our true paths.

Kirk Thor BS '88 graduated from Bonneville High School with scholarships in tennis, engineering and leadership. "I had my choice of Brigham Young University, Colorado State, Air

Force Academy, Weber State, University of Utah and Utah State," said Thor, listing a handful of the schools that offered him admission. But it was an easy choice for the athletic, up-and-coming undergrad: He wanted to fly.

Thor's father, Robert Kent, was a fighter pilot for 10 years and later an airline pilot for 35 years, allowing him to see the world at a young age. "Growing up, I lived in Germany, Iceland, California, Colorado, Utah, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.," Thor recalled.

But unlike the Norse god who shares his name, Thor didn't take to the skies.

After following his father's footsteps to the Air Force Academy, Thor suffered a football injury that kept him grounded. "When I hurt my knee, I lost my pilot qualifications, and I got an honorable discharge from the Air Force," Thor said. When he was ready to return to school a year later, he landed at Weber State College.

"None of the other schools would honor my scholarships," Thor said. "But Weber State did; they said, 'We still want you.' They were still willing to take a chance on me. I will always owe them for that."

Thor's Weber State education paid off. In 1988, he earned his bachelor's degree in psychology, which set him on a path toward prominent positions at Walt Disney World, the Pentagon, consulting for the NFL and his current role as vice president of talent management and organization effectiveness at Flowserve Corporation in Dallas, which manufactures pumps, valves and seals.

Much like flying planes, psychology was a part of Thor's formative years.

When he was 15 years old, Thor held a custodial job in the surgery ward at a hospital in Ogden. "I was doing that one night when somebody was admitted to the psychiatric unit who had smuggled in a knife," he said. "They called a code blue, which meant any male could go to the location and help with a problem. So, I dropped my mop, and I went up there."

After seeing Thor calm the situation by talking to the patient, a psychiatrist at the hospital asked Thor to become his assistant in the psychiatric ward.

Before starting college, Thor worked in the psychiatric wards of four hospitals in the Ogden area.

ARMY MEETS NFL

Thor's career has included stints at Walt Disney World, where he ran the organization development team, and JCPenney, where he was vice president of talent management, but the work he's asked about most often was at the Pentagon and later consulting for the NFL.

While earning his master's degree in organizational effectiveness and doctorate in industrial psychology at George Mason University, Thor spent five years working at the Pentagon, developing psychological assessments to recruit soldiers for special operations. "These groups go behind enemy lines and operate in live-fire conditions," Thor said. "You would think that they would need to be expert marksmen and have all of these military combat skills and expertise, but that was only the foundation."

Operations also called for soldiers who were collaborative, complex problem solvers and able to think clearly in life-or-death situations.

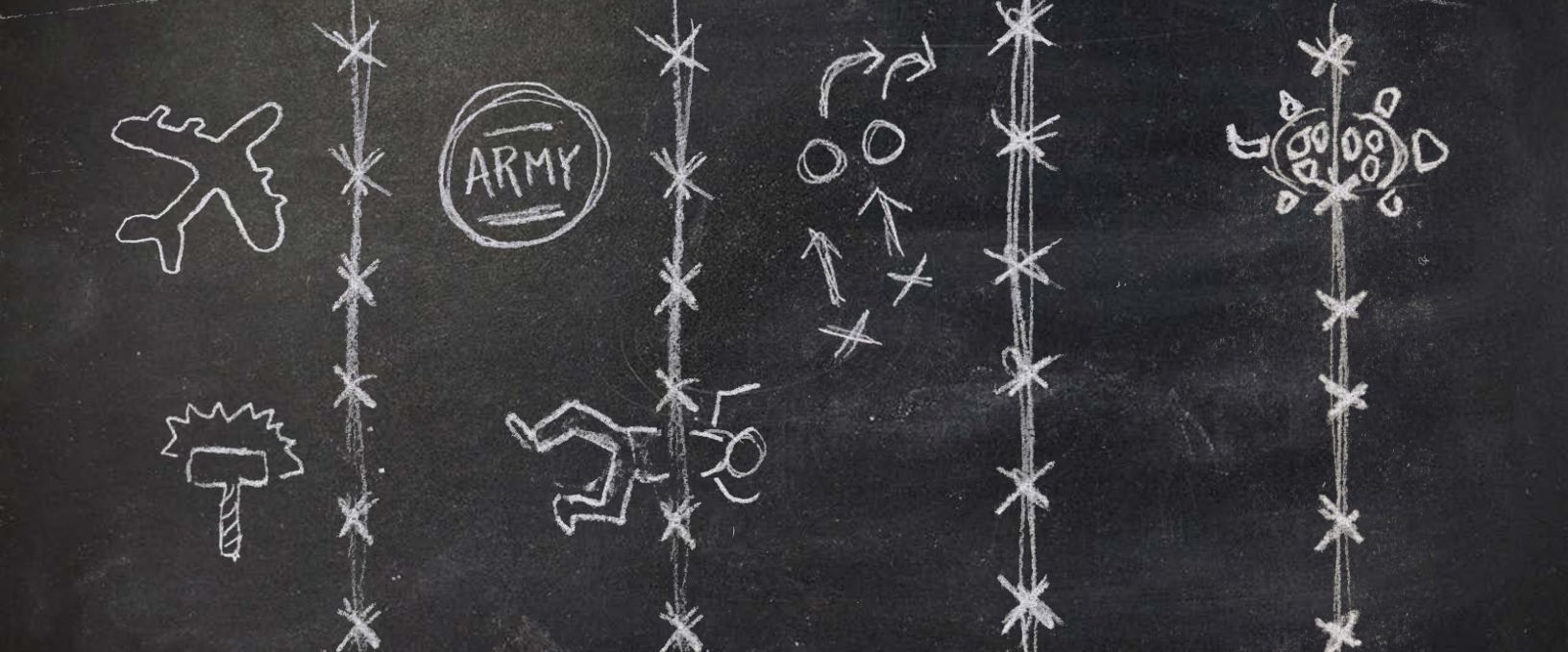
Having been through his own Air Force Academy training, Thor knew training exercises wouldn't determine if a candidate could stay focused in a fatal situation. "We had to crawl under barbed wire, and there were explosions all around us and tires flying up in the air," Thor recalled, "but we knew the country was not going to kill us. We knew we were in training at a military academy."

So, how could he measure a soldier's performance when the bullets were real?

"People who pay money to put themselves in situations where they would die unless they save themselves [are] the types of people who operate very well in live-fire situations."

- Kirk Thor

"The answer is extremely simple," Thor said. "We found that people who pay money to put themselves in situations where they would die unless they save themselves were the types of people who operated very well in those live-fire situations."



Ideal candidates included skydivers, spelunkers, ice climbers, hang gliders and other recreational risk-takers.

While working at the Pentagon, Thor and several colleagues developed the idea to consult for the NFL. Once, while waiting for data to come in on special operations candidates, they began drawing parallels between soldiers in special operations and professional athletes. "Both of them are operating in these stressful conditions with a low margin of error, where you have to operate cohesively as a team and you have to deliver results," Thor said.

In the 1990s, led by Thor's colleague Robert Kilcullen, the group approached the Washington Redskins about analyzing players. After testing every player, two were flagged for delinquency and tendency to engage in poor behaviors. "We gave them the feedback, and they told us promptly that those were two of their best players in spring camp and not to call, but they would if they needed us," Thor said.

The group left their experiments with the Redskins feeling rejected, but received a call two weeks later.

"They said one of those two people had put their star running back in the hospital because they got into a fight, and that he just lost it," said Thor. The Redskins were sold on the consulting business, and the next year, the Philadelphia Eagles asked for their services. The following year, nearly the entire NFC East division took an interest. "Before we knew it, we were attending the NFL Scouting Combine, testing the student-athletes who were invited," Thor said. "Now, 15 years later, I've gone to the combine 15 times."

The consulting business assists about 20 NFL teams, looking for players who are able to study playbooks and memorize them, are willing to listen to coaches and apply feedback, and don't feel the need to be the center of attention for every play. They combine those characteristics with measurements

of each player's physical abilities and tendency to engage in troublesome activities off the field. "Are you greedy? Do you have self-control? Can you delay gratification? Are you impulsive? What kind of temper do you have? All of these are things we have found cause people to make bad decisions off the field and get into fights," Thor said.

Thor is proud of his work with the NFL. "There's not a lot of people like us out there who have met everybody who plays in the NFL," Thor said, "and I've had the opportunity to shake just about everybody's hand."

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT

Beyond psychology, Thor spends his time riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles and fighting for animal rights.

"I raise critically endangered tortoises to try to bring back populations that are on the verge of extinction," he said. He's also on the board of directors of the SPCA of Texas, an animal rights organization that throws fundraisers to benefit animals.

But whether it's analyzing NFL players or raising tortoises, Thor stresses the importance of following a passion. "Weber State has given me a lot of skills and abilities, and I need to find ways of using them, not to just selfishly promote myself in my career, but to give back in a way that makes the world a better place," he said.

And he has a message for current psychology students: "Don't listen to people who tell you psychology is a difficult area to get into that doesn't have a bright future," Thor said. "I can't tell you how many times people told me, 'If you're that good at math, why in the world would you go into psychology? That's never going to give you a great future.'"

Working with the NFL and overseeing a team of 30 people at Flowserve, Thor continues to prove them wrong.



WSU *Salutes*



WSU Salutes 2015 honorees: left to right

Back row: Ariana Escalante BS '09; Brad Wilson BS '93; Rick Fairbanks; Ed Freestone BS '67 and Carol Freestone BS '65

Front row: Karla K. Bergeson; Karen Fairbanks; Parker Shaw; Amina Khan AS '14; Robert C. Newman BS '66

See next page for biographies.

Photo by Robert Casey



WSU *Salutes*

{DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS}

Brad Wilson BS '93, a member of Utah's House of Representatives, is the majority assistant whip and sits on nine legislative committees. He was a strong ally during Weber State's recent efforts to secure state funding for high-priority campus improvement projects. Wilson is a member of the university's National Advisory Council. He is the president and CEO of Destination Homes.

{OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA}

Ariana Escalante BS '09 has appeared as a model, spokesperson, host and vocalist in national broadcasts, including the Emmys, and has performed at Bellagio Las Vegas and The Kennedy Center. She hosts *RockStar Dreams*, an online magazine that features major and emerging artists. While at Weber, Escalante was involved with the Center for Community Engaged Learning and still volunteers at nonprofit organizations.

{DISTINGUISHED SERVICE}

Rick and Karen Fairbanks promote the development of Ogden City, Weber County and Weber State University. In 2009, the couple received the prestigious Wall of Fame Award from the Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce. Karen is a member of WSU's Board of Trustees. Rick serves on the university's National Advisory Council and investment committee, and is an advisor to the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics. The couple has generously funded scholarships and has attained membership in WSU's Lifetime President's Society.

{EMERITI ALUMNI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT}

Ogden OB-GYN **Robert C. Newman BS '66** delivered an estimated 6,000 babies during his 34-year career and was named a Weber County Doctor of the Year. He was the first Weber State student accepted to medical school after the college achieved four-year status. Newman has volunteered as an adjunct lecturer at Weber State and led 10 humanitarian excursions to Mali, Africa, to provide free surgeries and other medical services. Newman and his wife, Eleanor, served an LDS church mission to South America, where he was the Brazil-area medical adviser.

{LEWIS W. SHURTLIFF AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION}

Karla K. Bergeson, a 1983 graduate of BYU's School of Law, but an "Ogden girl" at heart, arranged to honor her mother and aunt by creating a scholarship in their names at Weber State University. She recently turned that scholarship into an endowment within the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education. Bergeson has served on WSU's National Advisory Council since 2014.

{EMERITI ALUMNI HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

Former student leaders **Ed Freestone BS '67** and **Carol Freestone BS '65** are tireless champions of their alma mater. Carol financed part of her college education by working in Weber State's art department, dean of student's office and student union, while Ed put his voice to work singing the lead in the college's first grand opera production of *Carmen*. Both Freestones have served as president of the Emeriti Alumni Council. Carol spearheaded efforts to organize a 1960s alumni reunion, and she and Ed participate in Weber State Day at the Utah Legislature.

{STUDENT HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

Sophomore **Parker Shaw** works as a WSU development specialist and is leading the push to raise \$25,000 in student donations for Tracy Hall Science Center. An Admissions Ambassador, he is also an interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients at the university's dental hygiene clinic. **Amina Khan AS '14** is the social media marketing director for the WSU Student Association and has helped plan multiple events for the organization. As a participant in the Alternative Spring Break program, she traveled to Las Vegas to tackle community service projects there.

To view biographical videos on each of the honorees, or nominate outstanding individuals for the 2016 WSU Salutes awards, visit alumni.weber.edu/wsusalutes.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

Donald G. Lochhead AS '52 retired in 1994 as Davis School District's curriculum supervisor. He previously worked as a counselor, English teacher and tennis coach, and taught English as a Second Language for the U.S. Information Agency in Tripoli, Libya. Donald was a representative for the Davis Education Association and the National Education Association. He was honored as an Educator of the Year. He and his wife, Louise, live in Bountiful, Utah, and have three children.

- ① **Roydon O. (Rod) Julander AS '53** was a longtime Weber State political science professor. He received many awards, including WSU's H. Aldous Dixon Award and Crystal Crest Professor of the Year. Rod was a Utah state senator from 1970-1974, and is a lobbyist for the National Association of Social Workers' Utah chapter. He serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. He and his wife, Paula, live in Salt Lake City. He has four children, 11

grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

At the age of 81, **Vern W. (Will) Call AS '54** was appointed principal and chief administrator of Mikuni International College in Yuzawa, Japan. Vern is married to **Mayumi Mukai Call BS '72**.

- ① **Gordon E. (Dutch) Belnap AS '56** is a former Weber State athletic director. He also coached basketball at Weber High School and Utah State University. In the 1960s, Dutch was general manager of the Ogden Dodgers under Tommy Lasorda. The Utah Sports Hall of Fame Foundation honored Dutch with the Coaches of Merit award in 2001. He now serves on the foundation's board. Dutch lives in Ogden, and has three children, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

'60s

A 37-year teacher, mostly in the Weber School

- ① District, **Frances Carr Bush AS '61**, was a building representative for the Utah Education

Association and co-president of the International Reading Association. A Girl Scout volunteer, she was selected to attend a leadership conference in Washington, D.C., and was a staff member for state and national leadership experiences. Frances and her husband, Richard, live in Ogden. They have three children and five grandchildren.

- ① **Dean T. Hughes BS '67** has written more than 100 historical novels and children's books. A retired English professor, he and his wife, **Kathleen Hurst Hughes BS '66**, live in Midway, Utah. Kathy is a retired Provo School District teacher and administrator. She continues to serve on various boards and committees. Dean and Kathy, former WSU Emeriti Alumni Homecoming Royalty, have three children and nine grandchildren.

- ① **Dewey L. Dipoma BS '68** retired as information systems manager from the Utah Office of Rehabilitation in 2003. He is a Community Emergency Response

Team (CERT) volunteer on the city and county levels, and is also a member of the Weber County Sheriff's Amateur Radio Emergency Services team, Red Cross and National Rehabilitation Association. Dewey has a Master of Public Administration degree from BYU. He and his wife, **Karen Hirst Dipoma M.Ed. '97**, live in Ogden.

A teacher, **Janet Hobbs Kappes BS '68** spent time at Hillcrest Elementary in Ogden, and at Isonville Elementary and Clearfield Elementary in Kentucky. She was an adjunct professor at Weber State and also taught at Morehead State University in Kentucky. She volunteers for Rowan County Schools and her church. Janet and her husband, Keith, live in Morehead, Kentucky, and have eight children and 16 grandchildren.

- ① **David M. (Mac) Stevenson BS '68** was an art teacher for the Weber and Ogden school districts, and a recipient of the Art Teacher of the Year award. A professional artist, Mac is a founding member of Ogden's

Gallery 25. His work can be found in private collections in 38 states. In 2009, he received the [Ogden] Mayor's Award for the Arts. Mac received a Master of Fine Arts from BYU. He and his wife, **Ann Brunetti Stevenson AS '68**, live in North Ogden, Utah, and have six children and 20 grandchildren.

'70s

A Steven Carter BS '70 worked as a corporate project manager for ITT, in management services in the Los Angeles office of Ernst & Young, and had corporate responsibilities in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Far East for Intel. As CEO of his own consulting company, he developed a food safety software program for food and beverage processors. Ecolab hired him to market this program to corporate customers throughout North America. Steven founded the WSU Alumni Band in 2001 and the Mount Ogden Brass Quintet.

A He is married to **Lynne Draney Carter BS '70**. They have two sons and nine grandchildren. Steven currently serves as president-elect/vice president of WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council.

A Thomas R. Austad BS '71 practiced podiatric medicine and surgery at the Foot and Ankle Clinic in Roy, Utah. He is past president of the Utah Podiatric Medical Association and

retired staff member of McKay-Dee Hospital, Ogden Regional Medical Center and Davis North Hospital. Tom serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. He and his wife, **Shawnee Harrop Austad BS '70**, have five sons, three daughters and 27 grandchildren.

A Richard T. (Dick) Brown BS '72 was an art and graphic design instructor in the Weber School District, and an art director/creative director for several advertising agencies in Salt Lake City. The Utah Advertising Federation honored him as the 2010 Advertising Professional of the Year. Dick also won six Obie Awards for best outdoor advertising in the U.S. He is a member of, and serves, the LDS church.

A Dick and his wife, **Lonna Brown**, have four children and seven grandchildren. They serve on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council.

A Judith (Judy) Pugmire Mitchell BS '73 was an elementary education professor at Weber State, where she earned Crystal Crest Alumna of the Year and the Friend of Family Literacy Award. Judy also directed WSU's Master of Education program and chaired the Department of Elementary Education. She is a member of the WSU Storytelling Festival executive committee and WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. She chairs the Ogden City Landmarks Commission. Judy has three children and five grandchildren.

A Dean L. Belliston BS '74 is the longtime owner and president of Belliston Jewelry. He serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. Dean and his wife, Jerri, have five children and 14 grandchildren.

A Ralph B. Johnson BS '74 is a retired English teacher, coach, principal and school board member. In 2011, the Utah Sports Hall of Fame named Ralph a Distinguished High School Coach. He owns and operates a cattle ranch in Randolph, Utah. He and his wife, Brenda, have three sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

James C. Hinckle BS '76 retired from Utah's Jordan School District as a teacher and administrator. He is now the transportation director for the Mount Vernon School District in Washington. James and his wife, Julie, live in Mount Vernon. They have two children and two grandchildren.

A MJ Quinn BA '76 published the books *Max & Lydia ... & Rob* and *Max & Lydia ... & Rob, Too*. He lives in Stamford, Connecticut.

'80s

A Ted K. Godfrey BS '81 is a self-employed attorney in Ogden. He previously served as an Ogden City public defender, Roy City prosecutor, attorney for Richards & Godfrey, P.C.,





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and temporary small-claims judge. He is a member of the Weber County Bar and Utah State Bar, bankruptcy section. After graduation, he participated in Weber State's Young Alumni Council. He and his wife, Angie, live in Ogden and have five children.

A Chris D. Nichols BS '81

is an attorney/partner for Minden Lawyers. He previously was an attorney of counsel for the Harris Law Practice in Reno, Nevada, and also worked as an attorney/

partner for Harris & Petroni in Reno. Chris is a member of the Utah State Bar, State Bar of Nevada, American Bankruptcy Institute and the Northern Nevada Bankruptcy Bar Association. He lives in Minden, Nevada, and has two children, one grandson and one granddaughter.

L Shaun S. Myers BS '82

is president of Myers Mortuaries. He is a past president of the WSU Alumni Association and Wildcat Club, as well as the Mt.

Ogden Rotary, Funeral Service Foundation and Foundation for Hospice Northern Utah. He previously served on the National Funeral Directors Association board. Shaun is president of the LDS church's Ogden Utah Stake and chair of WSU's College of Social & Behavioral Sciences' Advancement Board. He lives in Ogden with his wife, Christina.

A Michelle (Shelley) Favero Bennett BS '83 is a vocal accompanist (pianist) for Suzanne Thorup's Vocal

Studio in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. Previously, she was an elementary teacher at Peruvian Park Elementary and a literacy volunteer coordinator at Canyon View Elementary. She also volunteers for the Millie's Princess and Tyler Robinson cancer organizations. Shelley and her husband, Marc, have three children and three grandchildren.

Laurie Bonnell Stephens AS '83, BS '85 is the owner/producer of Reel Legacy Media Productions in Ogden. She serves

on the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Laurie and her husband, **Paul B. Stephens '86**, have two daughters. Paul is the audiovisual director for Webb Audio Visual in Ogden.

Khosrow Shotorbani BS '85, president and CEO of TriCore Reference Laboratories, received the 2015 G2 Intelligence Laboratory Leadership Award for Distinguished Service during the national G2 conference for the strategic medical laboratory industry. In his current position, Khosrow is at the forefront of efforts to use lab medicine to improve patient outcomes and reduce cost of delivery.

A Susan A. Speirs BS '85 is CEO of the Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants. She previously owned Susan Speirs and Associates. Susan is a member of multiple organizations, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), American Women's Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Utah Council on Financial and Economic Education. In 2011, the AICPA named Susan an "Experienced Woman to Watch." She has two children and one grandson. She and her husband, Steven, live in Kaysville, Utah.

Mark L. Balboni BIS '87 is BioMarin Pharmaceutical's senior director of Good Manufacturing Practice compliance. He is responsible for internal and external audit programs. Mark is a three-time marathon finisher

and a member of the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. He and his wife, Rachel, live in Layton, Utah.

A Craig W. Hicken AS '87, BIS '99 is a lieutenant investigator for the Salt Lake County district attorney's office. He is a retired special agent for the Utah State Bureau of Investigation. Craig and his wife, Brenda, live in Kamas, Utah, and have three children.

'90s

A Randolph A. Meyer BS '90 is a senior management analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense, where he previously worked as an accountant and auditor. During an overseas assignment in Germany, Randy helped with the Desert Storm logistics movement to Iraq. He is a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers and was president of the organization's local chapters in Germany and Barstow, California. Randy lives in Yucca Valley, California.

Richard A. Black AS '96, BS '97 is an application infrastructure manager for Zions Bancorporation, managing the database administration and middleware engineering teams. He lives in Roy, Utah.

Cheryl J. Lewis Castner L AS '97, BS '99 is president and CEO of Educational Environment Consulting. She develops curriculum for kindergarten through university-level classes.



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She is a member of many organizations, including the International Interior Design Association and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. She is a Phi Kappa Phi honor society member. After studying educational environments abroad, she now lives in Ogden. Cheryl has a son and daughter.

Michael L. Crowton BS '97 is the owner of Crowton Dental in Ogden. He received his doctorate from Virginia Commonwealth University. Mike serves on the board of directors for WSU's Alumni Association and the Ogden Breakfast Exchange, and on the dental advisory board for Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College. He is president of the Weber District Dental Organization and the Dental Research/Education Association. He and his wife, **Emily Gladwell Crowton AS '96**, have four children.

① **Clint Costley BA '98** is the director of business development for KIER Construction. He is a member of the Weber School Foundation and WSU Alumni Association boards. He and his wife, **Jamie Skeen Costley '00**, have three children and live in Plain City, Utah.

Paula S. Sands BS '98, MAcc '98 is a controller for Layer 3 Communications. She was previously a manager for Marsh & McConnell, P.C. and a senior manager for Brady, Ware & Schoenfeld. Paula is a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs Leadership Council and American Institute of Certified Public

Accountants. She is vice president for Georgia's chapter of the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts. Paula is a member of the Golf for the Kids Board of Directors. She has two children and lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Lori McCrary Brinkerhoff BS '99 is a city council member for Hooper, Utah, serving Districts 3 and 6. She is president of the Weber County Republican Women. Lori is also a mother, professional volunteer and advocate for legislative issues that pertain to public education and its funding. She and her husband, Cole, have four children and three grandchildren.

① **Justin Jensen AA '99, BS '00** is an area manager for Cogentix Medical. His professional achievements include the President's Club, Conventional Wisdom, First In Class, and Results Plus awards. Justin volunteers for the Utah Food Bank, Tour of Utah and his church. He is a member of the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Justin and his wife, **Kathi Wade Jensen BS '00**, live in Syracuse, Utah, and have four children.

Marcus Sleese BA '99 is featured in the 2015 edition of Best British Poetry. He has published eight poetry books, the most recent titled *Rides*, and his work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Marcus is an assistant English professor at Richmond American University in London. He previously was a lecturer at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro,

where he received his Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. Marcus also earned a Master of English from Western Washington University.

'00s

① **Jennie Pope Mercer BS '00** is an engineering lab technician for Moog Medical Devices Group. She previously worked for ClearOne as a quality assurance technician. Jennie and her husband, Kadin, live in Centerville, Utah.

Carl G. Merino BS '01 is chief of police for the city of Roy, Utah, where he leads a 40-member force. He previously served on the Roy force and also with the Salt Lake Police Department. Carl has SWAT experience and is an FBI-certified bomb technician. He served six years active and reserve duty with the U.S. Marine Corps and was in the Air Force Reserve for 27 years. Carl and his wife, Theresa, live in Layton, Utah, and have four children.

Justin B. Purcell AA '02 competes as an amateur and professional in Strongman and Powerlifting competitions, and has ranked in the top 30 in the U.S. since 2010. He is a franchise operator for General Nutrition Center, and he also owns Pumpology.

Bryant S. Thompson BS '02 is an assistant business administration professor for WSU's John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics. He previously was an assistant professor of leadership and

management studies at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Bryant and his wife, Teresa, have three sons and live in Pleasant View, Utah.

Christopher A. Wood BS '02, who played professional basketball in Europe for seven years, is now a motivational speaker. He wrote a book titled *One Mailbox @ a Time: Your Step by Step Guide to Success*. Chris lives in East Chicago, Indiana.

① **Joshua X. Pulido BS '04, GC '05** is a senior strategic marketing manager for Hologic. He previously was a global product manager for Bio-Rad Laboratories and a laboratory automation supervisor for Intermountain Healthcare. Josh belongs to the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and Clinical Laboratories Standards Institute. He and his wife, Tanisha, live in El Cajon, California.

Andrea Southwick Burk '05 is the owner and innkeeper of Snowberry Inn Bed & Breakfast in Eden, Utah. She previously worked for Nutraceutical in Ogden as a business analyst. A culinary artist, she also has worked as a baker, barista and caterer. Andrea has one son.

After starting as an intern in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Collegiate Training Initiative in 2005, **Tiffany I. Cheney BS '05** was soon offered a full-time position as an air traffic systems specialist. She was promoted in 2013 to her



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current position, program support specialist. Tiffany is a member of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists Union. She lives in Sunset, Utah.

G. Cory Duclos BA '06 is the director of the Keck Center for Language Study at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. He earned a master's degree in Spanish from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a doctoral degree in Spanish from Vanderbilt University.

Riley Cook BS '07, MBA '11 won the 2015 Altra Top of Utah Marathon with a time of 2 hours, 32 minutes, 9 seconds. His goal is to qualify for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials. Cook is a cost analyst at Hill Air Force Base. He and his

wife, **Amy Cook BS '09**, have three daughters.

Shelby Walford Hale BS '07 owns Shelby Hale LMT, where she is a licensed massage therapist. She and her husband, **David William Hale BS '13**, live in Plain City, Utah, and have a son and daughter. A retired NFL offensive lineman, David works for the sports medicine division of the Stryker Corporation.

Karsten R. Longhurst BA '07 is director of choral studies and assistant music educator coordinator at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, Oklahoma. He previously was an award-winning choral director at Ogden High School.

A professional tenor, Karsten has worked with artists Marie Osmond, The Rolling Stones and more. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and National Association for Music Educators. He and his wife, **Danielle Blaisdell Longhurst BA '04**, live in Alva with their four children.

While helping startup companies expand into new global markets, **Jason Stout BA '07** also co-founded the nonprofit organization No Poor Among Them. He was a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in South Africa, a partnership development director at Child Rescue Association of North America, a Kiva Fellow, and a political risk

consultant for Barclays Bank. Jason earned a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University and received several fellowships. He lives in Kyiv, Ukraine, with his family.

'10s

A Tyler J. Lathem BS '10 is a system administrator for Integrated Data Services. He lives in Ogden.

Maryam Ahmad AS '11 graduated from California State University Sacramento in May 2014 and is a first-year student at the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

Sarah Ahmad BS '11

graduated from the University of Utah School of Medicine in May 2015 and is completing her internship at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah. She will begin her neurology residency in Palo Alto, California, at Stanford University in July 2016.

Tessnim Ahmad BS '12

is a research specialist for the California Faculty Association. She chairs the Sacramento chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Jessi L. (Falkowski) Done BS '11

is the director of laboratory operations and compliance for UST Manufacturing. She previously worked for Nelson Laboratories. Jessi is a member of the American Society for Quality, American Society for Microbiology and the American Herbal Products Association. She and her husband, Timothy Done, live in Ogden with their three children.

A Colby R. Peterson

AA '11 is an associate development director for WSU's John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics. He previously worked for AmeriCorps Vista. Colby lives in Roy, Utah, with his wife, **Kristen Hall Peterson AS '10**.

After completing the Toyota Motor Sales, USA management training program, **Matthew W. Budge BA '12** was employed at Toyota's corporate office in

Torrance, California.

After six months, he was transferred to the San Francisco Bay area, where he worked with Toyota's northern California business operation until May 2015. He and his wife, **Brittney Welch Budge BA '10**, live in South Bend, Indiana, where Matthew is working on his MBA at Notre Dame. They have one son.

Adam T. Staples BS '12

is a study director III for Nelson Laboratories. He lives in Taylorsville, Utah.

Trenton J. McKean BS

'14 is the lead singer and guitarist for Utah-based band Son of Ian. He lives in Salt Lake City with his wife, Petra. They have one child.

Chase J. Burch BS '15

is camp director for Windells Camp, which offers year-round action sports programs in Mt. Hood, Oregon. He previously was a store manager for Zumiez and served as the Dumke Law & Ethics research assistant in WSU's Goddard School of Business & Economics.

Kaden Howell BS '15

works for the Utah Jazz in promotions for the Cyprus Interactive Team. He previously worked for MarketStar and Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

1 Corbin J. Standley BS

'15 is a research analyst for the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City. He serves on the NU-HOPE Suicide Prevention Task Force.

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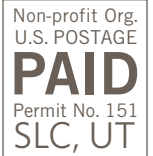
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