

WILDCAT

WSU Alumni Magazine | SPRING 2018



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

BALANCING

Family|Military|Civilian|Student Life

1st Lt. Robert Ferguson had his first echocardiogram when he was just a kid, a Boy Scout in fact. Luckily, it was just to see how the machine worked. His scoutmaster was an echocardiogram technologist, and he wanted to show his Scouts how he could produce images of the heart.

It was then Ferguson fell in love with radiology. He received his bachelor's degree in radiologic sciences from WSU in 2011 and attended physician assistant (PA) school for a few semesters when he decided to join the Army National Guard. His goal was to finish his PA course work at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, but that's when life took him in a different direction.

"I married a wonderful woman with four children," Ferguson said, smiling, "and I needed to stay in Utah."

Today, Ferguson is a company commander for the 19th SFG (Special Forces Group) Group Support Battalion HHC (headquarters). He is also the radiology coordinator for Ogden Regional Medical Center and a clinical instructor for WSU radiologic sciences students. All the while, Ferguson is working toward his master's degree in radiologic sciences at WSU.

"It's difficult to juggle," he said. "You have to be able to fulfill your responsibilities in every role you have ... husband, father, my work at Ogden Regional, my obligation as a company commander for headquarters, and as a student."

Ferguson said he's always felt support, from his family, coworkers and WSU professors.

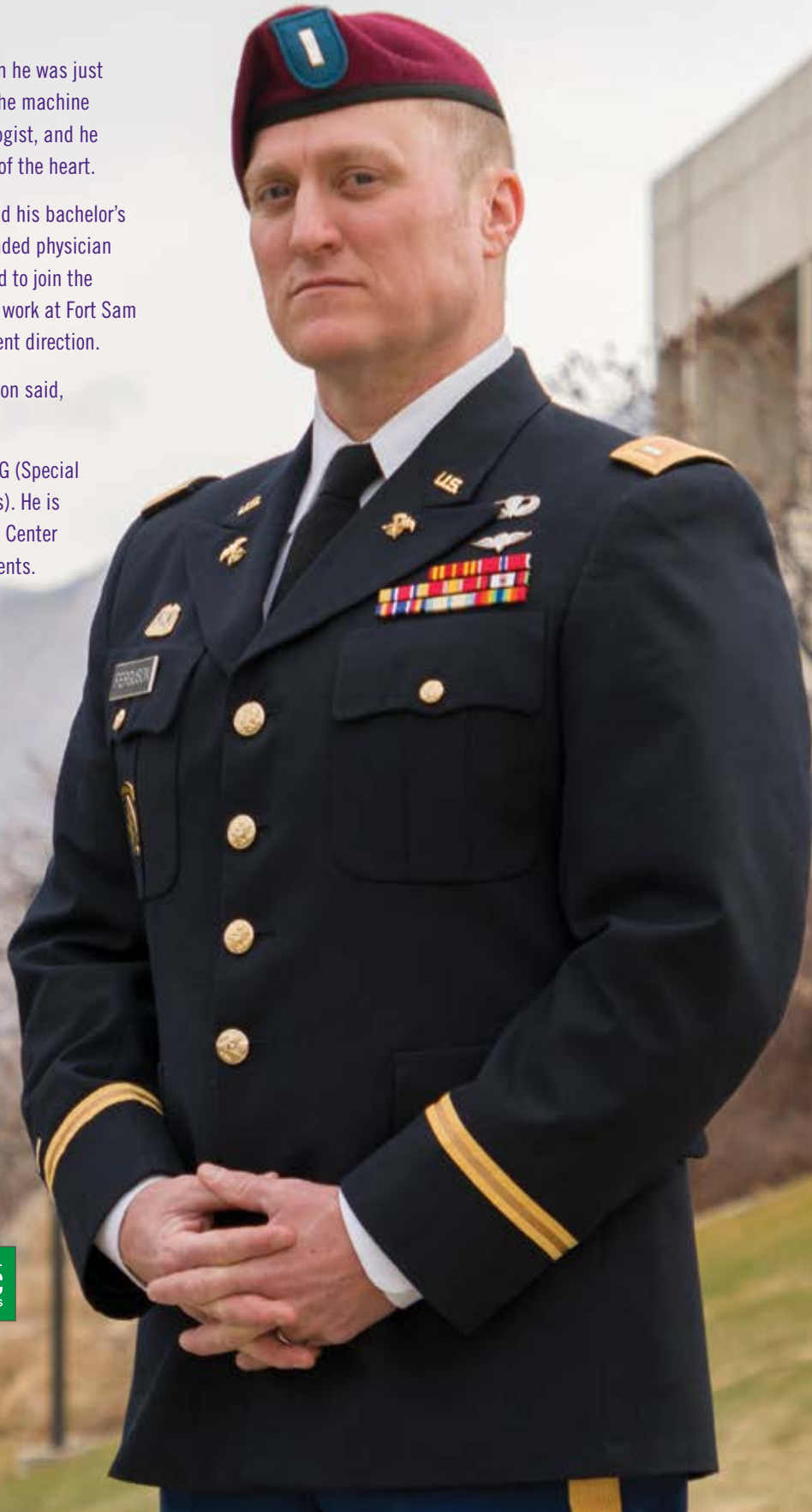
His ultimate goal is to teach.

"I've seen the impact teachers have on individuals, in shaping and directing their lives, and it would make me very happy to one day be in that role."

For more information about WSU's School of Radiologic Sciences, visit weber.edu/radsci.



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Dumke College of Health Professions



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

News for Alumni & Friends

WILDCAT

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The program provided me with the tools I need to run a healthcare business. I had access to mentors and faculty who are industry leaders. I received personalized advice about how to be a successful leader.

— **Nallely Ruiz, MHA**
Health Professions Program Director

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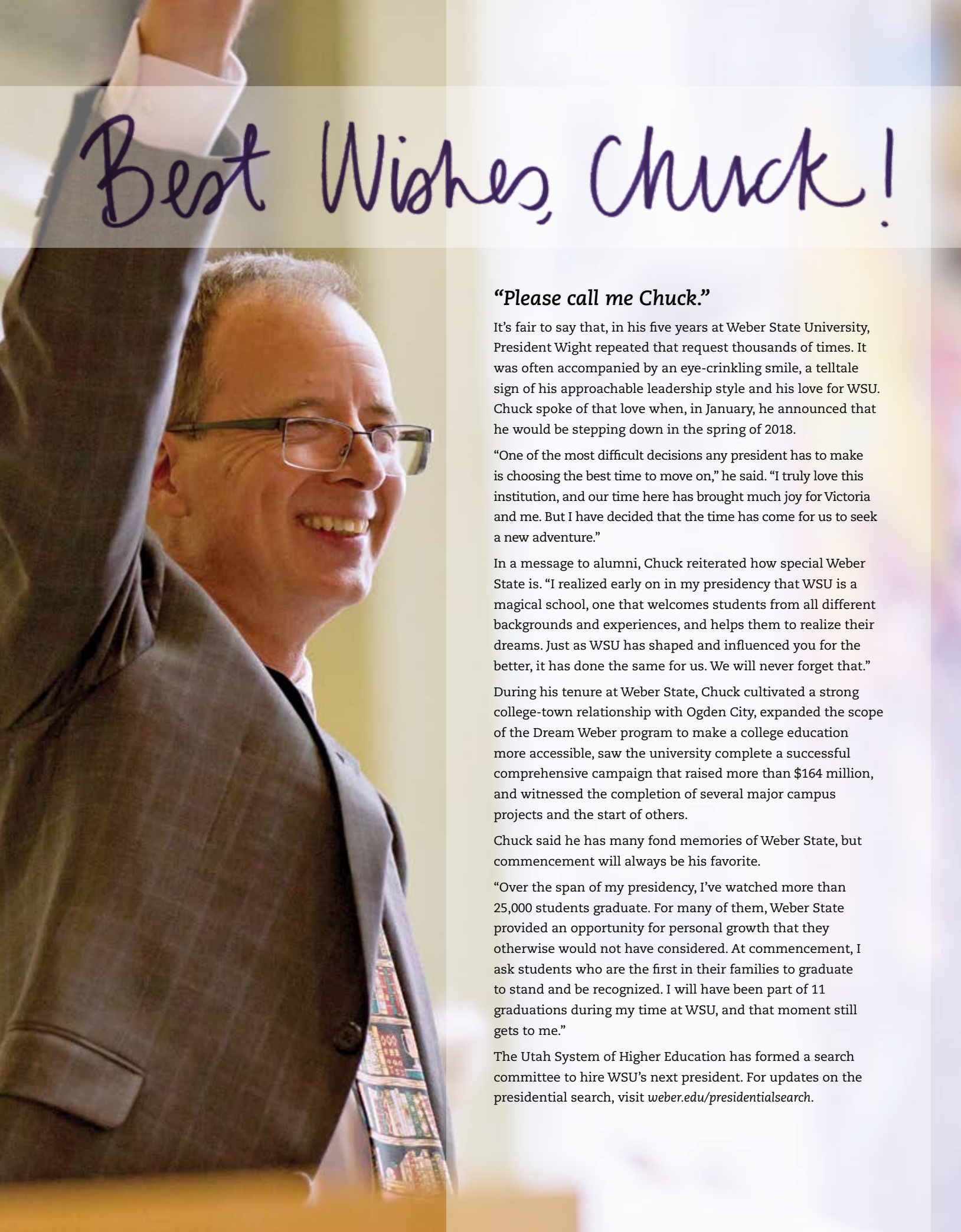
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Best Wishes, Chuck!

“Please call me Chuck.”

It’s fair to say that, in his five years at Weber State University, President Wight repeated that request thousands of times. It was often accompanied by an eye-crinkling smile, a telltale sign of his approachable leadership style and his love for WSU. Chuck spoke of that love when, in January, he announced that he would be stepping down in the spring of 2018.

“One of the most difficult decisions any president has to make is choosing the best time to move on,” he said. “I truly love this institution, and our time here has brought much joy for Victoria and me. But I have decided that the time has come for us to seek a new adventure.”

In a message to alumni, Chuck reiterated how special Weber State is. “I realized early on in my presidency that WSU is a magical school, one that welcomes students from all different backgrounds and experiences, and helps them to realize their dreams. Just as WSU has shaped and influenced you for the better, it has done the same for us. We will never forget that.”

During his tenure at Weber State, Chuck cultivated a strong college-town relationship with Ogden City, expanded the scope of the Dream Weber program to make a college education more accessible, saw the university complete a successful comprehensive campaign that raised more than \$164 million, and witnessed the completion of several major campus projects and the start of others.

Chuck said he has many fond memories of Weber State, but commencement will always be his favorite.

“Over the span of my presidency, I’ve watched more than 25,000 students graduate. For many of them, Weber State provided an opportunity for personal growth that they otherwise would not have considered. At commencement, I ask students who are the first in their families to graduate to stand and be recognized. I will have been part of 11 graduations during my time at WSU, and that moment still gets to me.”

The Utah System of Higher Education has formed a search committee to hire WSU’s next president. For updates on the presidential search, visit weber.edu/presidentialsearch.

WEBER WATCH

Allison Barlow Hess MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Good Works Documented

What started as a video project for WSU’s electronic media advisor ended up changing his life. **Drew Tyler BA ’01** and his wife, communication instructor **Stacey Cragun Tyler BS ’01, MPC ’16**, documented a group of Weber State volunteers who added two classrooms and a library to the Eduardo Mondlane Secondary School in Mozambique.

“It’s not very often you get to work on a project that has such a profound effect on your outlook on life,” Tyler said. “This

documentary has opened my eyes to the value of serving others and the joy that can come from it. It has restored my faith in humanity.”

The documentary, *Windows of Change*, premiered to an audience of 500 in the Val A. Browning Center Austad Auditorium. It has been nominated for a Utah Film Festival award. Visit weber.edu/wsumagazine to watch the powerful bonds formed between volunteers and Mozambique students.

BEST. FOOTBALL SEASON. EVER.

The 2017 highlights at a glance

11

The number of games WSU won, which set a school record

7

The number of Big Sky Conference games Weber State won, which led to the Wildcats earning a share of the Big Sky Conference championship

7

The number of games in a winning streak that started Oct. 21 and led the Wildcats to the FCS quarterfinals, where they lost a heartbreaker to top-ranked James Madison on the final play of the game

2

The number of FCS playoff wins — the most WSU has ever won in a year — including a 30-13 blowout of rival Southern Utah, who shared the Big Sky title with the Wildcats

6

The number of road victories, which set yet another school record and led to WSU being tied for the most road wins in the nation in 2017

5

Weber State's final ranking in the FCS poll, its highest finish in school history

17

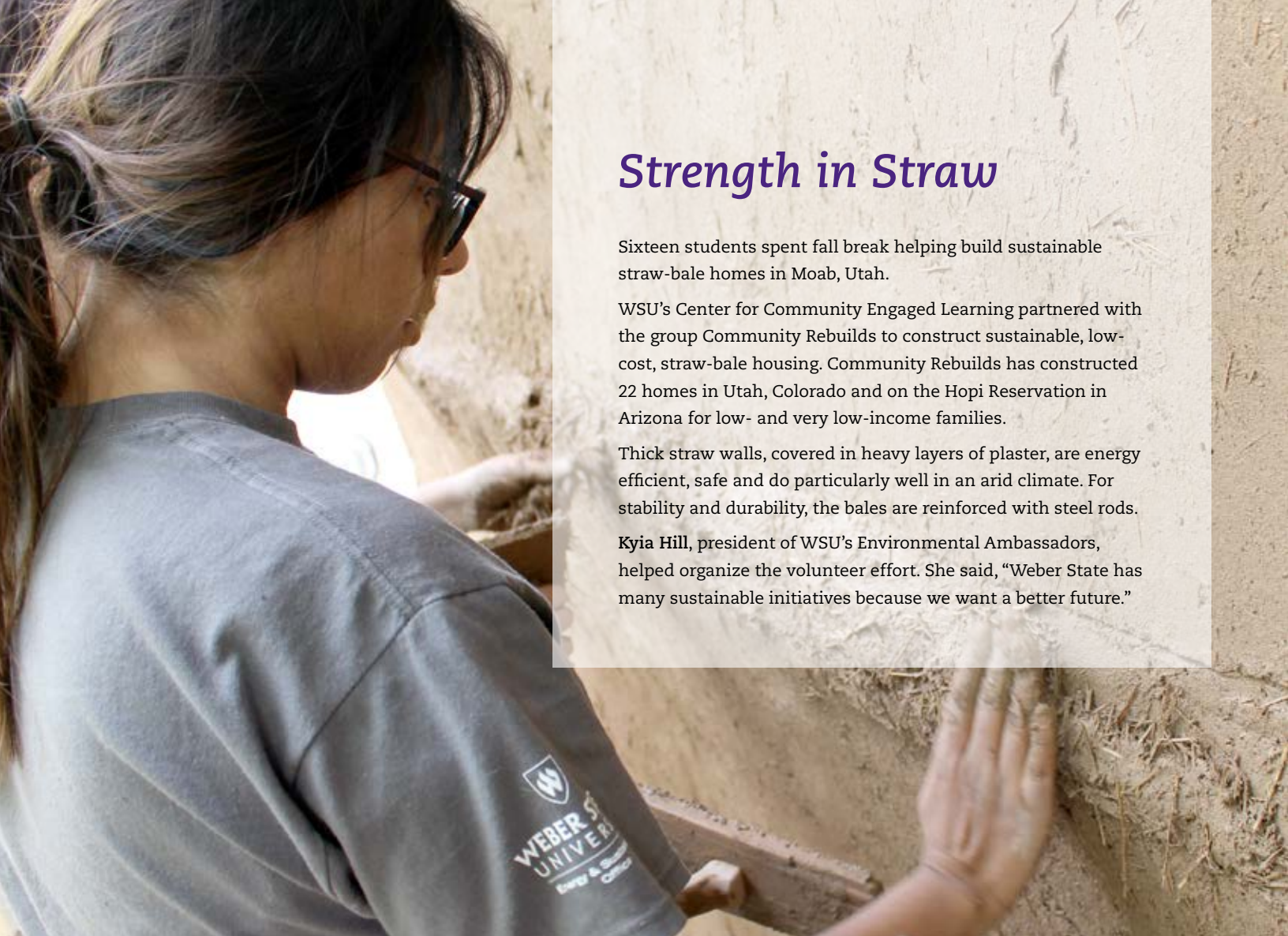
The number of Wildcats who earned All-Conference honors, including Big Sky Defensive MVP **Taron Johnson**

8

The number of Wildcats who earned All-American honors, including **Taron Johnson, Trey Tuttle, Andrew Vollert, Xequille Harry, Iosua Opet, Brady May, Rashid Shaheed** and **LeGrand Toia**

2018 Schedule

Aug. 30	at Utah
Sept. 8	at Cal Poly
Sept. 15	South Dakota
Sept. 22	Northern Colorado
Oct. 6	at Northern Arizona
Oct. 13	Eastern Washington (Homecoming)
Oct. 20	Montana State
Oct. 27	at North Dakota
Nov. 3	Sacramento State
Nov. 10	at Southern Utah
Nov. 17	at Idaho State



Strength in Straw

Sixteen students spent fall break helping build sustainable straw-bale homes in Moab, Utah.

WSU's Center for Community Engaged Learning partnered with the group Community Rebuilds to construct sustainable, low-cost, straw-bale housing. Community Rebuilds has constructed 22 homes in Utah, Colorado and on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona for low- and very low-income families.

Thick straw walls, covered in heavy layers of plaster, are energy efficient, safe and do particularly well in an arid climate. For stability and durability, the bales are reinforced with steel rods.

Kyia Hill, president of WSU's Environmental Ambassadors, helped organize the volunteer effort. She said, "Weber State has many sustainable initiatives because we want a better future."



A Home of His Own

When a homeless Gulf War veteran entered Weber State as a student, he knew it would change his life. What **Travis Parsons** didn't know was that fellow Wildcats would also help build him a home.

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Weber State's design engineering technology students designed two homes at 141 30th Street in Ogden. Various groups of WSU volunteers helped turn a dream into reality for Parsons, who moved into his new home in February.

"I just cannot believe that this is true," Parsons said. "I am getting a new house. Seems too good to be true. Sometimes dreams happen."

See a news clip of Parsons taking ownership of his new home at weber.edu/wsumagazine.

Welcome Back To Weber ...

After a national search, **Robert Hunter BS '68** was selected as the director of the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service.

Hunter stepped into the role after 17 years as president and CEO of United Way of Northern Utah. Among many responsibilities, he formerly served as Wasatch Front Regional Council of Governments chair, Weber County Commission chair and Ogden City manager.

Hunter is well-known in the Wildcat community. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Art/Visual Communication-Design from Weber State. He also has taught as an adjunct professor for 24 years in the departments of political science and communication.

Hunter has spent many years in public service, promoting collaboration among government, nonprofit and business leadership.



End Times Examined

World-ending fears — real and imagined — focused Honors Program students on the modern fascination of a post-apocalyptic world.

“The Apocalypse and After,” taught by **Scott Rogers**, English associate professor, investigated the nature of zombies and how they have changed over time.

“The zombies are a stand-in for any catastrophe,” Rogers said. “That’s the genius of zombies; they’re just a vessel you can make whatever you want. If you’ve got a culture with an anxiety, throw it in there.”

Zombies have been used to illustrate racial issues, consumerism and global annihilation through technology.

But one antidote to fear, said botany assistant professor **Bridget Hilbig**, is to find answers to critical concerns. In her course “Food and Water for a Hungry World,” Honors students discussed ways to combat world hunger.

“The current issues of population growth, urbanization and climate change threaten that access and create a fear of an apocalypse-like environment, but also a strong desire to find a solution,” Hilbig said.

Honors courses allow creative minds the space to contemplate creative solutions.

Leadership through Philanthropy

A Master of Business Administration degree usually focuses on how to earn money, but students in Weber State’s leadership course learned how to give money away — effectively and for impact.

Michael Vaughan, an economics professor in the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics, personally donated funds for three teams of MBA students to identify, select and contribute \$1,000 each to nonprofit organizations.

Groups gave money to The Inn Between, which provides end-of-life hospice care to Salt Lake’s homeless men and women. They also selected Seager Memorial Clinic in the Ogden Rescue Mission and Ogden’s YCC Family Crisis Center.

As former WSU provost and now director of Weber State’s Center for the Study of Poverty & Inequality, Vaughan wants students to learn about the responsibility of philanthropic leadership.

“One of the things people engaged in philanthropy say is, ‘It’s hard to give away money,’” Vaughan explained. “What they mean is it’s hard to make decisions about where your money is going to have the greatest impact. That’s what leaders must learn to do.”

Weber Wins Water Wars

When it comes to saving water, Weber State Wildcats are willing. The H2Oath competition, sponsored by the Utah Division of Water Resources, pitted Utah’s colleges and universities against each other to see which school could acquire the most pledges from students, faculty, alumni and fans to take a water-wise pledge.

Weber won \$5,000 with commitments from 578 people to follow commonsense guidelines for water conservation, such as avoiding watering following a rainstorm or during the hottest part of the day.

The pledge can be taken year-round at water.utah.gov/h2oath.

WEBER STATE ATHLETICS



Get ready for the 2018 fall seasons by ordering your Wildcat Football, Soccer and Volleyball season tickets now. Call 801-626-8500 or visit WeberStateSports.com



Left to Our Own Devices

How new technology has changed the way we think, and what we can do about it

Jaime Winston | Marketing & Communications

Luke Fernandez recalls sliding the large piece of sound insulation paneling in front of his dorm room door to keep out the racket from the hallway.

“Back in those days, hi-fi stereos were quite popular. When I was trying to study, they caused me a great deal of distress and annoyance,” said Fernandez, Weber State computer science professor, who was writing his

thesis on Friedrich Nietzsche and the politics of nihilism as a senior at Amherst College at the time.

His spouse, Weber State history professor **Susan Matt**, refers to Fernandez’s Billboard top 40-proof dorm room as his “chamber of solitude.”

Unfortunately for today’s students, creating their “chambers” is a bit trickier. No matter how well they block out the ruckus right outside their doors, they have smartphones, laptops, tablets and other devices that keep them connected to family, friends and the rest of the world at all times.

“Americans are much less tolerant of being alone and experiencing solitude than they once were, much less tolerant of boredom, kind of demanding constant stimulation.”

Susan Matt, history professor

"These devices are incredibly alluring, and the technology companies behind them have every business incentive to try to distract you," Fernandez said. "They make money off of harvesting your attention."

Along with distracting students from homework, the devices present a challenge in Weber State classrooms as well. "These devices can sometimes work at odds with the goals we're trying to get through in the classroom," Fernandez said. "We're also trying to channel the attention of the students."

As students begin using more technology in the classroom, the faculty is split over whether devices are degrading or enriching learning. "Just the other day, I was telling my students to pull out their phones and Google something if they didn't know it," said **Scott Rogers**, Weber State associate professor of English. "They said, 'We've been taught our whole lives not to use our phones in the classroom,' and I'm like, 'But I'm telling you, you have the whole internet in your hand. Don't ignore that.'"

The debate over technology's usefulness or invasiveness goes back much further than the iPhone's debut in 2007 — or even Fernandez's blocked-off room during the 1986–87 academic year. Matt and Fernandez researched 19th and early 20th century diaries, letters and memoirs regarding technology for a book they are writing about technology's influence on American emotions throughout history. "We also read the personal papers of everyday people to see how they were thinking about the telegraph, how they were thinking about the radio," Matt said.

A lot like Mr. Creosote, a Monty Python character who ate so much food that he exploded after adding one wafer-thin mint to his meal, Matt and Fernandez found that 19th century Americans were concerned about overloading on information. "A lot of American doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists believed the human mind was limited and could only absorb so much," Matt said. "Nineteenth century Americans thought, 'The telegraph, the telephone, the radio — it's just overwhelming us. Our brains aren't equipped to handle everything that they're bringing in.'"

We can't just leave it up to Silicon Valley to create these things. We have to participate as consumers in how they're designed.

Luke Fernandez, computer science professor

Along with researching the past, Matt and Fernandez met with 50 people from 11 states and Washington, D.C., to get their thoughts on today's technology. Interviewees ranged in age from 18 to 80 and included people from all walks of life — truckers, nurse's aides, lawyers, software engineers, entrepreneurs and Weber State students.

They found that Americans today feel differently about taking in information than their ancestors, relating more to black holes than Mr. Creosote. "We think that we can take it all in, that our brains will infinitely expand," Matt said.

The research also uncovers new insights on emotions surrounding new technology, revealing what Matt and Fernandez call "the new American self."

New America

Along with wanting as much information as possible, Matt and Fernandez say that Americans are more concerned about loneliness, boredom, anger and narcissism.

"Americans are much less tolerant of being alone and experiencing solitude than they once were, much less tolerant of boredom, kind of demanding constant stimulation," said

Matt, adding that solitude was often seen as virtuous to people in the 19th century.

As we look down at our phones to avoid boredom, they become tools for airing frustrations. "The internet gives us this way to express anger, and we don't feel the consequences of it," Matt said. "You don't need to be ashamed because no one can actually see you; you can hide behind a screen name. In some ways people have been given more license to feel anger."

The couple's research also reveals more Americans are concerned with narcissism in the digital age than they were 100 years ago. It's not surprising, given the instant gratification that comes with more likes and friends on social media.

However, not all of the findings show negative feelings surrounding technology. "One thing that came out in a lot of interviews is people have some real disconnects with their technologies, but they're also talking about ways it enhances social life and the acts of generosity that people do," Matt said.

During the 2013–14 fiscal year, 3.05 percent of donations to Weber State were processed online. The percentage of online donations has gone up each year since, reaching 8.24 percent

during the 2016–17 fiscal year. The university has processed a total of 3,359 online donations over that period of time.

"People in all locales can make a donation online. Donations can be made via smartphones. There are so many online giving platforms that can be used by nonprofits and one-time grassroots fundraising," said **Kelly Stackaruk**, senior development director for Weber State's College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST). "We are able to create custom URLs that, with one click, will take our donors to the exact account they want to support."

Additionally, if we really don't like how our devices make us feel, Fernandez reminds us that we have a say in the technologies that help form American culture. "These technologies are not just tools that we use. They're also reshaping fundamentally what we are as human beings because they can lead us in good or bad directions," he said. "We can't just leave it up to Silicon Valley to create these things. We have to participate as consumers in how they're designed."

Students studying technology in EAST have a more direct say in how technology shapes America's culture. The national Women Tech Council recently recognized WSU computer science major **Tammy Platero** at the Women Tech Awards for

Emotional vs. Artificial Intelligence

Error

"This statement is false."

That's a little hard to wrap your brain around, isn't it?

If the statement is true, then it's false. If the statement is false, then it's true. Called the "Liar's Paradox," it's one of the greatest brainteasers in history and could be your best defense in the future, should robots rise up against humanity.

"Human beings have emotional intelligence. We can ponder and even appreciate the paradox. Artificial beings lack emotions. They would attempt to solve the paradox until their systems crashed," said John S. Hinckley Fellow **Brian Rague** during the 18th Annual Hinckley Lecture, where he shared his observations on our relationships with technology.

As we rely more on technology, Rague, who also chairs the School of Computing, urges us to remember humanity, to connect emotionally with other humans. "Intelligence," he said, "is wrapped up in our emotions. Appreciate your intelligence in all its messiness."

Your Walden Zone

Henry David Thoreau left society for his retreat in the woods to write his book *Walden*. A century and a half later, William Powers, author of *Hamlet's Blackberry*, proposed creating our own “Walden zones” in the modern age for quiet contemplation — or maybe even busting out a literary masterpiece — without the digital distractions.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR GETTING IN THE ZONE:

- Delete your most-distracting phone apps at the start of a new semester or before you start a major project.
- Don't fear boredom; during these times, you just might have a creative idea.
- If you won't need your phone, leave it behind.
- Go for a hike, camping trip or vacation that is out of cellphone range. (But let others know where you will be if you go alone.)

her work in the community. Platero, who is also a program coordinator for WSU's Center for Technology Outreach, has helped introduce young girls and underrepresented students to STEM fields, organize the FIRST® LEGO® League for over 3,000 children across Utah and lead an all-girls welding camp last summer.

“People who didn't have an opportunity for education now have that through the internet,” said Platero, mentioning programs like WebEx and Coursera.

While Platero acknowledges potential worries over loneliness and narcissism, she says you'll also find something else in the digital age: empathy. “Not only do I get to see news articles from around the world, I can really listen to someone's personal experience about what's going on in their country, and it's all through the internet.”

After she graduates in 2019, Platero says she's not sure what she will do as a career, but it will involve both technology and community service.

“People who didn't have an opportunity for education now have that through the internet.”

Tammy Platero, WSU computer science student

Another student confessed that, while working on a writing assignment, “I've sent five texts to my girlfriend and received five replies in kind, and I consider myself fairly conservative in my plugged-in-ness.”

The responses weren't surprising. “We're a species that likes feedback. We want immediate feedback, and the phones give it to us,” Rogers said. “There's a reason you love the notifications on your phone — that you don't just turn them all off. There's a reason you want to read a breaking news alert or a text message or email or whatever has come through on your phone.”

Thirty-one percent of the class had families, and 60 percent worked more than 20 hours per week, making disconnecting from their devices impractical. As the class started, 60 percent agreed that modern technology was disruptive for them. However, after the professors assigned reading assignments on how the internet affects the way people think, students said they started to learn where the dangers lurked and could better avoid being distracted by technology.

Phones Away, Eyes Up

In 2012, Fernandez, Matt and Rogers co-taught the course “Are Machines Making Us Stupid?” focusing on the ways digital technology alters students' lives.

Students were asked to analyze their technology use while completing assignments.

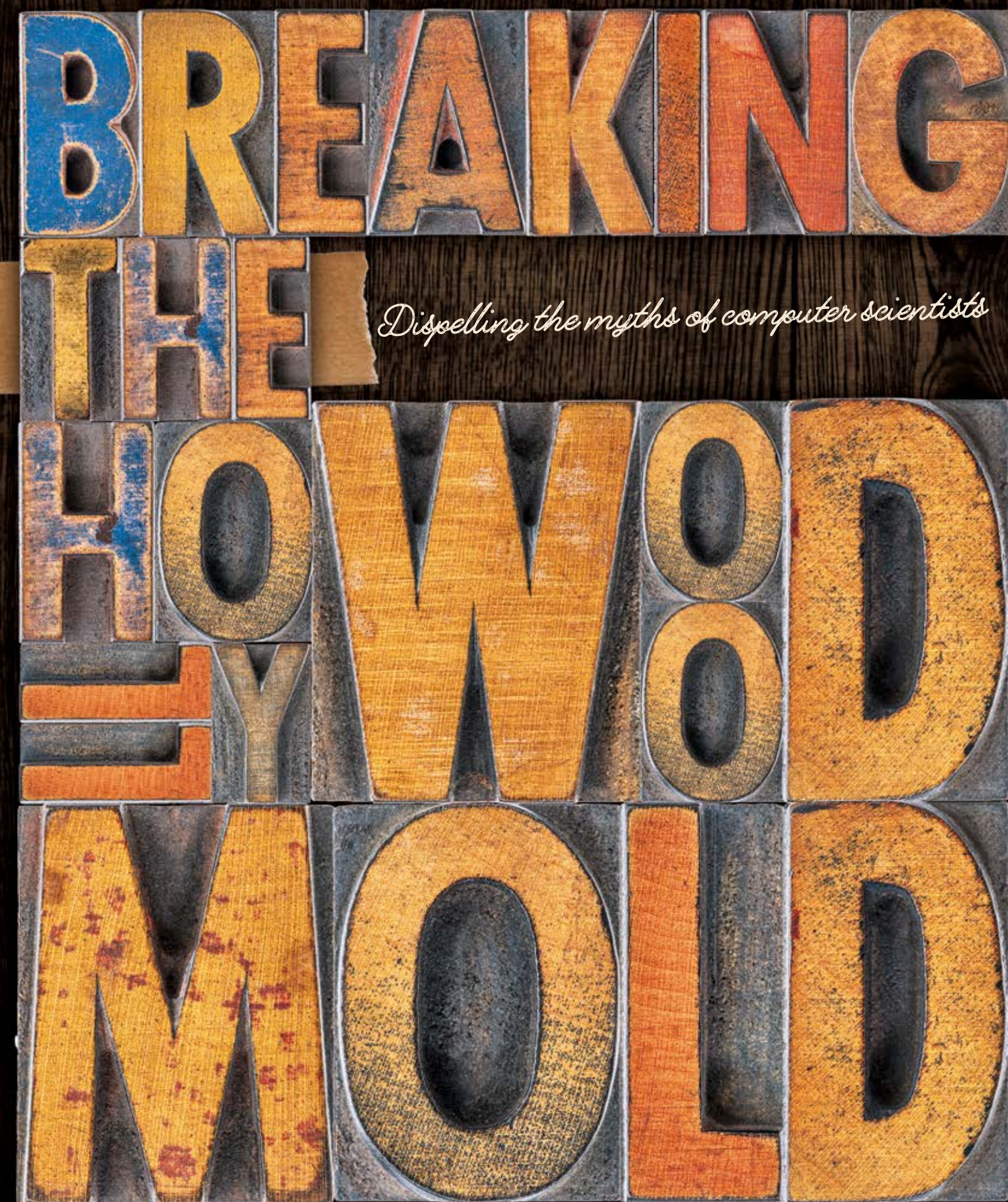
“I have been distracted by everything else I'm capable of doing on a 'screen' while writing an essay,” wrote one student, describing her experience while writing an essay for the class (her account appears in her professors' summary of the class in *EDUCAUSE Review*). “I routinely stop writing and check my email, or I am at the disposal of any other wandering thought I get while writing essays. I think I even started to shop online while I was in the middle of this essay ...”

“I recognize more how my life has been shaped by technology,” wrote one student, whose response is also in the *EDUCAUSE* article. “I like recognizing that I am being shaped by it but that I have the power to change it if I want.”

It's this sense of mindfulness Matt and Fernandez want students to have regarding their technology. “We all think of our emotions as hardwired into us, and we have no choice about the emotional patterns we display, but emotions are partially cultural, and we have a role in shaping that culture,” Matt said.

“In the end, we're not completely pessimistic.”

Fernandez and Matt have taught classes based on their findings from the 2012 course for Weber State's Honors Program and the University of Tübingen in Germany. They plan to publish their book, tentatively titled *Bored, Lonely and Stupid: How Americans Have Felt About Technology from the Telegraph to Twitter*, from Harvard University Press in the fall of 2018.



Dispelling the myths of computer scientists

Amy Renner Hendricks, Allison Hess, Karin Hurst and John Kowalewski | MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTOS BY ZAC WILLIAMS BS '01, MPC '13

A few years ago, Google's Computer Science in Media Team commissioned a study examining depictions of computer scientists in TV and films. The research focused on 10 TV series and TV movies that had tapped into Google as an advisor on computer science-related storylines. It also examined characters portraying computer scientists across the top 20 movies of 2015, 20 TV series popular with 18- to 49-year-olds from 2015 to 2016 and 20 popular TV series among 2- to 12-year-olds from the same time.

You might be able to guess what the researchers found.

According to the study, conducted by the Media, Diversity & Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California Annenberg, characters portraying computer scientists tended to be white and male across all media studied, although the series that sought Google's input were slightly more diverse. In addition, the characters studied tended to wear "hacker-type" clothing and rarely mentioned how computer science could help others.

Brian Rague, chair of Weber State University's School of Computing, says that's an unfortunate, and untrue, representation.

"Computer science influences an increasing number of our daily activities, and the design of effective computing devices and interfaces requires input and perspectives from a diverse group of computer science developers," he said.

"We are at a unique point in time in which how well our society functions in some part depends on the creative and visionary spirit of computer scientists drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds and collaborating for the common good."

As efforts are being made in Hollywood to break the computer scientist stereotype, we set out to learn more about computer scientists. We interviewed five alumni from WSU's School of Computing and found that each one has an incredibly different background, personality and job, and that each one plays a crucial role in his or her industry and community.

Meet...

KAREN WOODBURY BS '94

PRESIDENT AND CEO, WOODBURY TECHNOLOGIES



Although Karen Woodbury was enjoying a successful career as a database administrator and program manager — she had worked for several large companies, including Computer Data Systems Inc., Affiliated Computer Services and Lockheed Martin — she was "obsessed" with owning her own business.

"For three years in a row, I started a company. While the timing wasn't right for the first two, the timing converged with a great opportunity for the third," said Karen, who minored in business at WSU. "I was working for a large company at Hill Air Force Base, and a client I had worked with for many years said, 'I need to go small business on my next contract, and

I'm not sure what to do.' I made sure I was ready when the opportunity came."

Karen opened Woodbury Technologies in 2003. "I had run out of names at that point, so I went with my own," she said, laughing. The company specializes in information technology, including cyber security, systems administration software engineering and medical IT services, all for the Department of Defense.

Karen admits she's never been naturally interested in computers. "That's probably a little surprising, but I honestly use computers and the internet just like everyone else," she said. "When I was getting my degree, the personal computer was a relatively new concept, and the computer science field was just bursting. I saw opportunity. I had the faith and the confidence that I could do computer science."

She was right.

Today, Karen owns 100 percent of the stock in Woodbury Technologies, making it a registered woman-owned business through the Small Business Administration. She says computer science opportunities are there for women, just like they were for her, if not more so now. "I think it's important to make girls aware of computer science early because they'll eventually gravitate to what interests them. We have to give them that chance to get interested in computer science."

ANDREY AKHMEDOV AS '12, BS '16

COMPUTER SCIENTIST, HILL AIR FORCE BASE

Andrey Akhmedov's parents immigrated to Ogden from Russia in 1993 because they dreamed of a better life. The transition was difficult, but they made sure their three sons took advantage of every educational opportunity.

Andrey, the oldest, grew up in Utah and eventually enrolled at the Northern Utah Academy of Math, Engineering & Science (NUAMES), a charter school located at WSU Davis in Layton. By the time he completed high school, he had earned an associate's degree from Weber State and a Presidential Scholarship to finish his education. He found his professional passion while taking a computer science course through concurrent enrollment (a program that allows high school students to explore college classes and earn college credit).



Computer science is cool no matter what you design.

"I love the problem-solving aspect of computer science," Andrey said. "You can solve basically any problem with computer science. Sometimes I've had to do something manually that can be done on a computer and am reminded how computers make things super simple."

Today, Andrey works at Hill Air Force Base making flying F-16s simpler for pilots in Belgium and Portugal. His group creates training simulators, which they will supply to European Participating Air Forces and the Training System Support Center in 2019. When asked if he thinks he could fly the F-16, he laughed and said, "Well, in simulation, I've successfully flown and landed the aircraft two out of three times. So, no."

The practical experience Andrey gained at Weber State gave him the confidence to take a leadership role early in his career. He and an electrical engineer are the only two team members on the project developing the interface software.

"It's been cool to design software from scratch and see it actually working," Andrey said. "Computer science is cool no matter what you design. You can do so many things with it; there are so many computer languages you can learn and so many ways you can approach things."

For Andrey, computer science is especially "cool," because it helped fulfill his parents' American dream.

CHANDLER HOLBROOK BS '00

PARTNER SOFTWARE ENGINEERING PROGRAM MANAGER, MICROSOFT

If there's one video game title that summarizes Chandler Holbrook's unconventional journey from high school dropout to partner software engineering manager at Microsoft, it's *Super Lucky's Tale*. The analogy is obvious. Lucky, an optimistic cyberfox, encounters nerve-wracking obstacles on his quest to find inner strength and save his family. Chandler, a computer whiz kid and teenage dad from North Salt Lake, endures a gauntlet of personal challenges and professional setbacks en route to the job of his dreams.

At 16, Chandler was living with his parents and siblings in Massachusetts. While chatting with friends from Utah on a pre-internet, dial-up bulletin board system, he met 15-year-old Kimberly Banta. Determined to spend more time with her, Chandler left home and moved back to Utah. A year later, he quit high school to test video games full time. At 18, Chandler and Kimberly welcomed the first of their five children. Initially delighted with his \$21,000 salary, Chandler loved being a project manager, but always had to ask someone else to bring

his vision to life. "I was jealous that other people were able to do that more directly."

The solution was simple — Chandler needed to become a software engineer. At 19, Chandler picked up a GED and enrolled at Weber State. In just three years, he graduated with a perfect 4.0.

After graduation, Chandler maneuvered through a mind-numbing maze of jobs within the volatile gaming industry. After failing his first interview with Microsoft (he admits he was under-prepared) he got hired the second time around.

Today, Chandler works in an office on the corporation's 500-acre campus in Redmond, Washington. Reflecting on his career, Chandler recounts one of his proudest moments. It happened the night Microsoft launched Xbox One in November of 2013. He slipped away from a company party and walked back to the operation center. "I could see all those game consoles start to come online," he recalls.

"It went so well. I just sat there, alone, and thought, 'Wow, we did it.'"



MARIELA TINAJERO BS '10, MBA '12

FULL STACK DEVELOPER AND LEAD FRONT-END DEVELOPER,
NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Like many kids her age, Mariela Tinajero didn't have an exact plan for her future when she was attending Weber High School. One thing was clear, however. She enjoyed math ... English, not so much. "I didn't like to write; my punctuation was terrible," she said, laughing. So she took some Advanced Placement classes, some emergency medical training classes and some forensics classes. Nothing clicked.

When she enrolled at Weber State, she took an introductory computer science course. "I didn't have much experience with computers — I could use your basic programs, like Word, Excel and PowerPoint — but I thought, 'It doesn't hurt to try.' I'm not sure what I was expecting, but it really surprised me that I loved it."

Now in her third year at Northrup Grumman, Mariela creates the user interface for a website that helps Hill Air Force Base maintain its Air Program Information Management System (APIMS), an electronic emissions management system. As the lead front-end developer, she helps enhance how users see and interact with the site, and she facilitates workflow, as well.

Mariela leads a team of six, and interacts with many more people daily.

"The great thing about computer science is, if you want to work alone, you can find a job where you can do that," she said. "If you want to work on a team, you can find a job where you can do that. There are different positions for different types of personalities."

Today, Mariela is glad she had her chance encounter with computer science at WSU. "I really just fell into it by accident at a time when I didn't know what I was going to do with my life, but I love it now. It's great when your programming works. But when it doesn't, then it really becomes problem solving. Some people will throw their keyboards — no, I'm just kidding!" Mariela said, laughing. "It really has been fun for me."

DEVELOPER



JARED WILLDEN BA '00

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, RIZEPOINT

Jared Willden loves books. So naturally, he dreamed about becoming an English teacher when he enrolled at Weber State in 1993. Around that same time, Jared purchased his first computer — and discovered another passion. "It would be 3 a.m. and I was like, I've got to go to bed, but I was still there hacking away at 5 a.m.," he recalled.

After landing a technical support job at Iomega to help pay his way through college, Jared realized he loved "messing around with computers," so he switched majors, from teaching to computer science.

Today, Jared is a principal engineer at RizePoint, a software

When you see a line of code that does a whole lot of things in one little piece — that's beauty.

company in Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

His current role combines 20 years as an IT professional with his teacher education training from Weber State. Jared collaborates with developers located in Salt Lake City, St. George, and the Ukraine.

Dispelling Hollywood stereotypes of computer programmers being loners who work in their parents' basements, Jared says successful IT professionals benefit from open workspaces and plenty of interaction with peers.

"Water cooler conversations breed really great ideas," Jared said. "Getting to watch a group of people build something really cool and useful, that's really fun."

His current team is working with blockchain, the technology behind the cryptocurrency Bitcoin, to solve technical problems. Blockchain is essentially a digitally shared spreadsheet or ledger that fosters transparency by creating a unique record at every point in a process.

"What blockchain really does, and its true power is, that it reduces market friction," Jared said. "It allows you to do things that were previously hard, in easy ways."

Jared recently introduced a book club at RizePoint. He and his developers read work-related books, then discuss them. "I'm a huge fan of helping other developers write better code and become better individual contributors," he said.

A true bibliophile, Jared sees similarities between great prose in literature and great coding. "That elegance of simplicity carries through to computer science. When you see a line of code that does a whole lot of things in one little piece — that's beauty."

Planting Digital Roots

Program grows girls' interest in technology, computer science

Amy Renner Hendricks MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



MacKyah Tuck wriggles excitedly in her chair in a third-floor office in Weber State University's Elizabeth Hall. Four items are displayed in front of her: a felt bracelet, a light-up owl magnet, a piece of pixel art and a pair of lime-green glasses. The bracelet is her favorite. MacKyah picks it up, pushes a button on the

back, and LED lights flash on, illuminating the colorful jewels and "fuzz balls" she used to make it sparkle. She sits up on her knees and scoots closer to the edge of her chair

to demonstrate how it works. "See this gray thread? It's electronic. We had to do the order of the thread just right and make sure it wasn't showing in the front, or only a little bit in the front. Then we had to make sure the thread would connect to the right hole to make it light up," she says, flipping the bracelet over to show off the circuitry and stitchery.

MacKyah goes on to demonstrate the magnet — "We used a soldering tool and made these little Hershey kiss shapes with the solder (to join the metals on the back)," she explains — the pixel art, which is patterned after Iron Man — "He isn't my favorite superhero, though; The Flash is," she exclaims — and the glasses — "They help me see to code," she reveals. She also talks about motherboards, HTML, web design, stop-motion video and robots.

Incredibly, MacKyah is just 9 years old and in the fourth grade. She has big gray eyes, a spattering of freckles across her nose and is wearing knee-high sneakers with bright purple laces (purple for Weber State, of course) and her 2017 Girls

Mentor Jasmine

Friend

Friends

MacKyah



Go Digital shirt. Girls Go Digital is where she learned to be so technologically minded. It's her favorite summertime activity for a couple of reasons: "It helps me learn a lot of stuff about technology. It's really fun. You get to make stuff to show your parents. It gets me out of the house during the summer. You get to meet new friends from other schools," she says.

Ok, that's a lot of reasons, but it's a can't-miss program for MacKyah and for a number of other local girls, ages 8 to 18.

Girl Power

Girls Go Digital provides opportunities for girls to learn about computers, programming, technology and design. Dixie State University hosted the first Girls Go Digital camp in 2013, with six girls in attendance. By 2016, the program had expanded to six universities across Utah, with 450 participants total. The projects teach four main skills — "HACK," "CODE," "DESIGN" and "MAKE" — and are selected and designed by girls for girls. The workshops are presented by women who support girls' engagement in computer science and technology.

2017 was the second year WSU hosted a Girls Go Digital camp. MacKyah attended both years. Her dad, **Garth Tuck**, an assistant professor of computer science at Weber State (whose office MacKyah had taken over to demonstrate her projects), says parents should take advantage of the opportunity for their daughters.

"I'm involved in a lot of technology," Garth says. "I'm a computer science professor. I'm the Northern Utah director for FIRST® LEGO® League (see page 31 for more on that program). I should know how to connect my daughters — and I have five of them — to technology, but Girls Go Digital really helped me make the connection for how to get them interested. It's very tactile. They create these projects in such a way to help girls learn while being creative, making friends and having fun."

"Tell why the bracelet is special to you," he prompts MacKyah.

"Oh! I made a new friend from Salt Lake City during Girls Go Digital. We made the same bracelet, so we can remember each other," she says.

It helps me learn a lot of stuff about technology. It's really fun. You get to make stuff to show your parents. It gets me out of the house during the summer. You get to meet new friends from other schools. MacKyah, age 9

Boosting Computer Science Learning

There is an EdTekTalk in which Hadi Partovi, founder and CEO of *Code.org* (a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science, especially to women and underrepresented populations), makes a plea for computer science to be taught in every elementary, junior high and high school.

Partovi says, "When I went to school, every student learned how to dissect a frog, how electricity works, how to prove a basic theorem. This wasn't just because they wanted us to become biologists or electricians or mathematicians — not every kid goes into those careers — but it was so we could learn how the world around us works. Today, it's just as important for kids to know how an algorithm works, how the internet works. Technology is changing everything in our world."

David Ferro, dean of WSU's College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST), which hosts Girls Go Digital, agrees. He says it's critical to open up the world, especially our children, to the possibilities of what software can do. "It's just critical," he repeats. "I look around my office and think of how software was involved in most everything that's here — the manufacturing processes that made these shelves, that collated these books, that formulated the coating of this desk.

"That's why, when we do camps with girls and with all youth, I like asking them not what they want to be, but what problems do they want to solve? Then we can explain how they can solve those problems through technology."

Take MacKyah, for example. She loves animals. The website she created during Girls Go Digital was about the pangolin, an endangered mammal that looks like a "scaly anteater."

"They're really cool," she says. "They roll up in a ball when they're scared, and their scales are made of keratin, which is like our fingernails."

MacKyah wants to take care of animals like the pangolin one day, perhaps even own a zoo. She and her dad talk about how technology can help her in her role as animal caretaker, from maintaining feeding schedules to habitat temperatures.

"No matter what you go into, computer science gives you powerful tools for your mental toolkit," says Ferro. "Personally, I think that computer science and engineering degrees are great even if you never go into those fields. Our majors make great managers, lawyers, doctors and more. They're logical, creative problem solvers who can work well in teams."

In Demand

EAST offers programs like Girls Go Digital because the college wants to benefit the community, but Ferro says it's also self-serving. "Let me explain," he says. "We want to increase enrollment in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields because we have industry absolutely clamoring for people. That means we need to take the long view. Junior high is a critical time in kids' lives, especially girls. Even if

they're math- and engineering-oriented, something discouraging often happens, and they find themselves moving away from STEM and never returning.

"So, if we want to take our role seriously, if we want to serve our community, satisfy local industry needs, and allow for great opportunities and jobs that pay well, we need to get involved not only in junior high schools, but even earlier, in elementary schools."

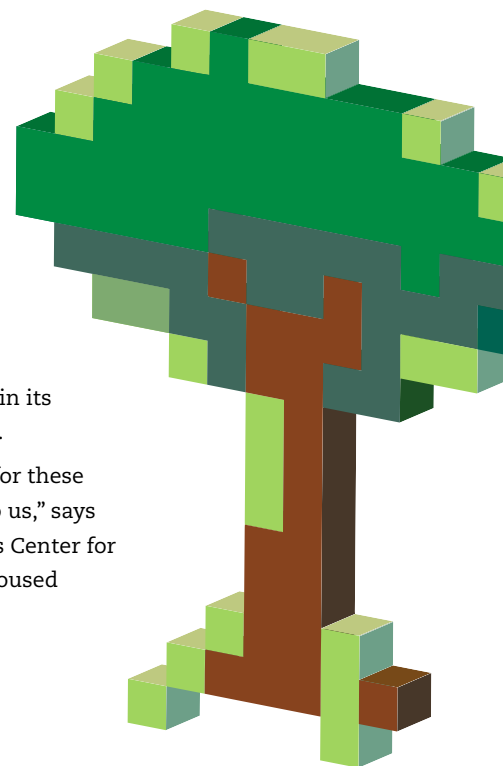
Locally, Hill Air Force Base has a robust K-12

outreach program and works to encourage participation in all STEM fields. In fact, Hill provides a grant for the university to host Girls Go Digital. Part of the grant allows EAST to give financial assistance to girls who want to attend but can't afford it. The Ogden School District also offers financial assistance for students in its schools to attend Girls Go Digital.

"Reducing the financial barriers for these girls is so incredibly important to us," says **Dana Dellinger**, director of WSU's Center for Technology Outreach, which is housed

No matter what you go into, computer science gives you powerful tools for your mental toolkit.

David Ferro, dean of EAST



in EAST. “We want to ensure every girl who wants to, has the opportunity to participate.”

According to the National Center for Women & Information Technology, women earn only 18 percent of all undergraduate computer and information sciences degrees in the U.S. The center says that “the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that by 2020 there will be more than 1.4 million computing-related job openings. At current rates, we can only fill about 30 percent of those openings with U.S. computing bachelor’s degree grads. Girls represent a valuable, mostly untapped talent pool.”

Dellinger says to increase girls’ participation in STEM, “We need to get them interested early, we need to give them strong female role models so they can see themselves as leaders in the field, and we need to strengthen their confidence and enjoyment in STEM.”

MacKyah is asked about role models, and, in her charming 9-year-old way, says this:

“One of my favorite people at Girls Go Digital was named Janna. We nicknamed her Janna Banana because she was really funny. She helped us do the Ozobots (coding robots for kids). The very first year, she was the very first teacher I had. She helped us make our own websites. She helped me learn a lot.”

Janna Banana is actually Janna Gifford, a teacher at Lava Ridge Intermediate in Santa Clara, Utah. Her love for technology goes back to the Commodore 64 computer of the 1980s.

“My older brother had one, and I’d sneak in and try to program it,” she said. “I had familiarity with interfaces and computer terminology at a very young age. Feeling like I had a place early on made all the difference to me in later years. If we can involve our girls in technology during their formative years, they’ll not feel intimidated when they enter a room full of boys at a robotics competition or code camp.”

MacKyah is already looking forward to Girls Go Digital 2018. Her advice to other girls:

“Don’t miss it! Don’t be scared. You can do it. There are nice people who will help you, and you’ll learn all kinds of new things!”



FROM ROBOTS TO RUBE GOLDBERG



Programs get kids involved in STEM

Add hydrodynamics to the list of complex subjects 9-year-old **MacKyah Tuck** can discuss, thanks to her involvement in Utah’s **FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL)**. (Read about MacKyah’s knowledge of technology in the Girls Go Digital story starting on page 26.)

FLL gives fourth- through eighth-graders opportunities to solve real-world problems. **FIRST LEGO League** teams are formed by neighborhood groups, community organizations, and local elementary and junior high schools. Volunteer coaches advise the teams.

The 2017-18 FLL challenge: Improve the way people find, transport, use or dispose of water. The challenge, which lasts at least eight weeks, has two parts: the project and the robot game. For the project, teams must identify a specific problem and design a solution. For the robot game, teams must build, test and program autonomous robots (robots that use programming rather than remote controls) using **LEGO® MINDSTORMS®** technology to solve a set of water-related missions. Teams then compete in optional tournaments, where they can move on to state, national and world championships.

Weber State hosts the FLL North State Championship, where Utah’s top teams compete for awards and a chance to go to the FLL World Festival.

In addition to **FIRST LEGO League**, WSU’s College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST) sponsors, hosts and/or partners with other organizations to bring the following STEM programs to Weber State and local communities:

FIRST® LEGO® League Jr.,
for grades K-4

FIRST® Tech Challenge, for grades 7-12

WSU Prep, for grades 6-8

Girls Go Digital, for girls in grades 3-12
(Read more about this program on page 26.)

Parent-Daughter Engineering Day, for grades 6-9

The Art & Science of Welding: Camp for Girls, for grades 10-12

The Art & Science of Technology Camp, for grades 9-12

Project Lead the Way, for grades 7-12

The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest, for middle schoolers to college students

“In each of these activities we see this idea that, through STEM, you can make a difference in the world,” says **David Ferro**, dean of EAST. “Yes, these activities are fun, but at the same time, they get kids thinking, proposing ideas, and testing and retesting those ideas. All the while we’re helping create the next generation of thinkers and problem solvers.”

For more information about WSU’s STEM Outreach programs, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.



WSU *Salutes*

WSU Salutes 2017 honorees:

Front row, left to right: Deborah Belnap, Thomas Grimm, Barbara Chrisman, LeAnn Wheeler and Francis R. Wheeler

Back row, left to right: Jessica Schreifels Miller, Colt Jarvis, Kevin J. Sullivan, Lynnda Wangsgard and Kerry W. Gibson

See next page for biographies. Photo by Robert Casey

{DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA}

Barbara Chrisman BS '76 learned to bowl at a young age and joined leagues at 11. Following an abusive first marriage, Chrisman enrolled in Weber State's medical technology program. Challenges associated with raising two young sons by herself didn't diminish her passion for bowling. In 1985, she and her second husband started selling bowling products they made. Today, their company, Storm Products Inc., is a leading manufacturer of high-performance bowling balls and accessories.

{OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA}

As a member of a tenacious team of journalists at *The Salt Lake Tribune*, **Jessica Schreifels Miller's BS '09, MPC '13** groundbreaking investigation of sexual assaults at Utah colleges landed the paper its second Pulitzer Prize. The coverage led to reforms at Brigham Young University and Utah State University. Miller and her colleagues also received the Frank A. Blethen Award for Local Accountability Reporting from the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

{DISTINGUISHED SERVICE}

Retired **Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Sullivan**, a former WSU trustee, has dedicated his life to serving his country and community. After receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Connecticut, Sullivan became a commissioned officer through the U.S. Air Force ROTC program. During his celebrated military career, Sullivan held numerous leadership roles, including directorate of Logistics and Engineering at U.S. Air Force Headquarters and commander of the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base.

{WSU PRESIDENT'S AWARD}

As co-owner and operator of a fifth-generation dairy farm, **Kerry W. Gibson** knows good yields require hard work. As an Agriculture Eisenhower Fellow, his visits to Washington, D.C., sparked his political interests. In 2004, Gibson was elected to the Utah House of Representatives, and in 2010, he won a Weber County Commission seat. Gibson has supported WSU's efforts to secure funding for building projects, expand course offerings and obtain operating budget appropriations.

{EMERITI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT}

Retaining an entrepreneurial spirit within the confines of large business is a challenge, but certainly not an insurmountable one for **Thomas Grimm BS '69**, who is a partner with RST Brands, a leading merchandise fulfillment company. Grimm previously was the executive vice president of Walmart, during which time he was recognized as a top business leader. Grimm is also a former CEO of Sam's Club, and founder and former CEO of Price Savers.

{LEWIS W. SHURLIFF AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION}

Thanks in large part to the vision of Weber County Library System (WCLS) Director **Lynnda Wangsgard BS '70**, Weber County libraries are no longer just warehouses for reading materials; they're community-gathering hubs that promote literacy in all its forms. WCLS sponsors many events and hosts a variety of offerings, including the annual Weber Reads program, which, in conjunction with WSU and the *Standard-Examiner*, makes classic titles available and appealing to readers of all ages.

{EMERITI HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

Francis R. Wheeler BS '73 and **LeAnn Wheeler BA '70** may live in Colorado, but their loyalty to the Wildcats never wavers. Fran served as Weber State's student body president and graduated magna cum laude in chemistry. He received a Juris Doctor degree and MBA from Harvard University. Currently, he practices law as a partner at Cooley LLP.

LeAnn was active in Student Affairs and was named Woman of the Year. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science at Weber State, a master's degree from George Washington University, a Juris Doctor degree at Rutgers University, and was a clerk for the Colorado Supreme Court.

The Wheelers have endowed a lecture series that brings WSU alumni and law school graduates together with pre-law students for advice and mentoring.

{STUDENT HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

As a freshman, **Deborah Belnap** participated in the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program, joined the Student Alumni Association and competed with the women's track and field team. She currently serves as the Student Alumni Association's vice president of philanthropy. Despite her extensive volunteer work with nonprofits, Belnap maintains a 3.99 GPA. After she graduates, she plans to attend physician assistant school.

Colt Jarvis has been a member of the Student Alumni Association for four years. He is a former president of the Student Ambassadors and director of WSU's American Democracy Project. Through the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service, Jarvis served internships with the U.S. House of Representatives and the Democratic National Committee. Those experiences complement his current study of business and political science.

To view biographical videos on each of the honorees, or nominate outstanding individuals for the 2018 WSU Salutes awards, visit alumni.weber.edu/wsusalutes.

A treasured tradition turns 50!



Come celebrate with us October 12-13, 2018

Alumna Wins U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

Wearing purple to represent her alma mater, **Kelsey Chugg BS '13** won the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur championship in November, making her the third Utahn to win a USGA national golf title in this century. The victory gives her an exemption to the 2018 U.S. Women's Open as well as the U.S. Women's Amateur.

Chugg, who now works for the Utah Golf Association, said the victory has opened many opportunities to play at an international level. But she'll always be appreciative of her Ogden ties and

her Weber State coaches, especially **Jeff Smith BS '81**, who passed away while still the Weber State women's head golf coach in 2016.

"During the tournament, I thought a lot about Jeff Smith. He was such an influential person, and I wished he could share in this victory," Chugg said. "Weber State is still my favorite place, and I'm proud to represent the golf program."

To hear more from Chugg, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.

Bicentennial Art Story Gets New Telling

Thanks to Storytelling Festival and WSU Alumni

Great stories stand the test of time, and Weber State's Storytelling Festival has given life to a great story — one that began in 1976.

While the nation was celebrating its bicentennial, local lawyer and philanthropist **William "Bill" Critchlow AS '50** had an idea to combine Utah artists and local history to tell little-remembered stories of the past. He commissioned 24 of Utah's best artists to capture 64 scenes of Northern Utah history.

The art was displayed for the bicentennial and then donated to Weber State. It hung in the Stewart Library for many years before going into the art archives. WSU's Storytelling Festival Board decided it was time to reintroduce audiences to the stories told on those canvases.

In 2017, with support from the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education and the Department of Visual Art & Design, 20 paintings were selected and restored. In addition, Department of History faculty wrote short essays explaining events in the paintings. WSU history alumnus and award-winning producer **Issac Goeckeritz BA '12** combined the narration and historical images to create a visual documentary for each. The process continued this year with the restoration of the next set of 20 paintings.

You can check out the happy ending by visiting the McKay Education Building, where the paintings are on public display, and see the documentaries at weber.edu/wsumagazine.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI UPDATES

'60s

A Ronald Axton BS '66 retired from Hill Air Force Base after serving as a program manager for special projects. He previously served in the U.S. Navy and spent a year in Vietnam working as a civilian for the U.S. Army. Ron and his wife, Nora, also owned a photography studio for eight years in Ogden. They have two children, five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and they live in St. George, Utah.

Robert Hunter BS '68 is the director of WSU's Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service and is past president and CEO of United Way of Northern Utah. He has been an adjunct faculty member in Weber State's political science and communication departments

for 25 years. Robert previously served as Ogden City manager and a Weber County commissioner. He is a WSU Distinguished Alumnus, recipient of the Purple Paw award, and is on the Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce Wall of Fame. He and his wife, Rula, have three children and seven grandchildren.

'70s

A Max Neves BS '70 retired in 2014 after working in medical-related fields, where he was responsible for human resources and the corporate functions of real estate, training, security, safety, and public and community relations. He has served on a government compensation committee and the Utah governor's committee on employment of people with disabilities. He

A and his wife, **Cheryl Neves BS '72**, recently returned from an LDS mission. They have five children and live in South Jordan, Utah.

Jim Beebee BS '73 graduated from the Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. He practiced in Napa, California, before moving to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he and a classmate built a small-animal practice. After six years, Jim moved back to the Bay Area to work for Diablo View Veterinary Hospital in Pleasant Hill, California. He became the sole owner of the clinic in 1999. He and his wife, Carol, have been married since 1974 and have three sons and three grandchildren.

Of the 33 years that **Sandy Coroles BS '75** spent in education, 28 were spent in

the Ogden School District, where she recently retired as superintendent. After teaching first and third grades in the Weber School District, Sandy began teaching special needs students in Ogden. She received a master's degree in psychology from Utah State University and worked as a teacher, counselor, family center coordinator and principal. Her son graduated from, and her grandson currently attends, WSU.

A Diane Wilson BS '78 is a licensed clinical social worker who recently retired after 28 years in the industry. She worked for Weber Human Services, as well as in the neonatal intensive care unit, Women's Center and pediatrics departments of McKay-Dee Hospital and Ogden Regional Medical Center. She also worked for Salt Lake County Mental

Health. Diane volunteers in education, medicine, marriage, and family and community service.

'80s

A Brent C. Rose BA '83 has been the president of Rose Electric Inc. for 25 years. He pursued a degree in electrical engineering at BYU. Brent's wife, **Elizabeth Dunford Rose AS '79, BS '81**, taught third grade at Whitesides Elementary and recently served on the Relief Society General Board for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They have four children, two grandchildren and live in Kaysville, Utah.

Michele Kersey-Smith BS '85, M.Ed. '02 recently retired from a career in the Weber School District, where she taught for 32 years. Michele serves on the Quest Academy school board in West Haven, Utah. She also tutors online students from Northridge Learning Center/Dorius Academy, an online private school in Utah. Michele and her husband, James, live in Clinton, Utah.

Kirk Thor BS '88 is executive vice president and chief human resources officer for Integer Holdings Corporation in Plano, Texas, and works with a firm that psychologically analyzes players for NFL teams. He has

held prominent positions at Flowserve Corporation, the Pentagon and Walt Disney World, and serves on Weber State's College of Social & Behavioral Sciences advisory council. An animal activist, Kirk also volunteers with SPCA of Texas and cares for critically endangered tortoises.

'90s

After receiving his Ph.D. from Columbia University, **Satoshi Watanabe BA '90** worked for the University of California, Berkeley; University of Tsukuba-Tokyo; American Institutes for Research; The World Bank; and the city of New York. He is now vice

president for university management planning and a professor of economics and education at Hiroshima University in Japan. He and his wife, Nicole, live in Hiroshima with their two children.

Kristine (Moyes) Barker BS '91 is in her 27th year as a teacher in the Weber School District, where she has taught both fifth and sixth grades. Her husband, **Casey Barker BA '92**, has been teaching seminary for the LDS church for 26 years and is currently the principal of the LDS seminary at Ben Lomond High School. They have three daughters and live in North Ogden, Utah.

How Do You Spell Opportunity?

WSU Alumni Association Scholarships
Benefits deserving students through multiple avenues, including the WSUAA Scholarship and the Cat2Cat Scholarship

Alumni Legacy Nonresident Scholarship
Allows out-of-state children and grandchildren of Weber State alumni to pay in-state tuition (a savings of \$4,000 per semester!)

To request email notification of when to apply, visit alumni.weber.edu/scholarships

A Mike Layton BS '91 is an associate broker and realtor for Keller Williams Realty Inc. and also owns and operates Mike Layton Real Estate. He is currently serving in his fourth year as a South Ogden City planning commissioner and has served on several committees for the Weber/North Davis Association of Realtors, including the education, technology and government affairs committees. Mike and his wife, Olive, live in South Ogden, Utah, and have six children and seven grandchildren.

Rajan Patel BS '91 is a doctor at Medical Options for Wellness in Foster City, California. He received his master's degree in physiology and his medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He is board certified in family medicine. Rajan is trained in, and has extensive experience with, various natural therapies. He is an active supporter of the Autism Research Institute and

the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society.

A Teresa Slade BS '92, BS '02 is a stay-at-home mother of six children. Teresa has been volunteering in the Davis School District since 1995, giving about 100 hours every year, particularly to the gifted and talented programs. She also volunteers with the Clytie Adams School of Ballet Nutcracker performance held at WSU each year. She and her husband, Doug, live in Kaysville, Utah.

A Carter Haacke BS '95 is an academic counselor at Sunset Junior High in Utah's Davis School District. He earned his master's degree from the University of Phoenix. His wife, **Cindy Haacke AS '79**, is a nurse practitioner for Intermountain Healthcare at WorkMed, which provides clinic support to communities across Northern Utah. She obtained her master's degree in nursing from the University of Utah. Carter and Cindy

have five children and live in Syracuse, Utah.

Jeffrey Lentfer BA '95 is the president of Bilikin Investment Group, a corporation that operates eight Midas automotive repair shops, as well as a car wash, throughout Alaska. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three children and live in Anchorage, Alaska.

A Mark Lenthe BS '95 is a family medicine physician at Tanner Clinic. He previously served six years as a physician in the U.S. Air Force. Mark received his Doctor of Osteopathy degree in osteopathic medicine from Touro University. His wife, **A Shannon Cragun Lenthe BS '97**, was a case manager at St. Mark's Gardens in Kaysville, Utah, and then an assistant administrator at Chateau III assisted living in Pleasant Hill, California. Mark and Shannon have three children and live in Mountain Green, Utah.

Shawna Sugimoto AS '95, BS '14 is an Americorps "Read. Graduate. Succeed." student advocate at Roy High School. She volunteers with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and NUHOPE of Utah, a Northern Utah suicide prevention task force. Shawna has two children, one granddaughter and lives in Roy, Utah.

Matthew Porter BS '96 is a district manager for Fastenal, a company that provides industrial supplies, OEM fasteners and safety products worldwide. He oversees stores throughout Utah, western Colorado and southwestern Wyoming. He lives in Morgan, Utah.

As a teacher, **Lori (Moore) Barker AS '99, BS '00** has been recognized internationally for developing a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program for elementary educators on the topic of blue whales. She is currently pursuing her Master of Education degree.

A Her husband, **Leland Barker BA '16**, is a sales associate for Link Interactive, providing home security systems nationwide. They have six children, four grandchildren and live in North Ogden, Utah.

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'00s

A David Pettijohn BS '01 is a health care administrator for Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo, Hawaii. He received his MBA from the University of Phoenix and is pursuing his Master of Education degree. David's daughter is a current student at WSU.

Brandy A. Lee AA '02, BA '06 is a communications specialist at Intermountain Healthcare and the chief creative officer for Infinity Fitness & Nutrition. She also owns her own business, Brandy Lee PhotoDesign. Brandy received her master's degree in communication and leadership from Gonzaga University. She lives in Midvale, Utah.

Jean Tonioli M.Ed. '05 is a supervisor for student

teachers in WSU's Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education and also works as a Weber State adjunct faculty member. She taught elementary school in New Mexico, Nevada and Idaho before moving to Utah. Jean served on the Utah Professional Practice Advisory Commission for six years. She retired from the Davis School District in 2015 after teaching second through fourth grades for 25 years.

A Jon Boyer BS '06 is an analysis engineer in the oil and energy industry and currently works as an automation technician for the University of Dayton Research Institute. He and his wife, Rachel, have three children and live in Centerville, Utah.

Eric Holbrook AA '06, BA '07 is a financial advisor with D.A. Davidson & Co.,

where he provides advice and solutions to clients who seek help with wealth management. He recently earned a Certified Wealth Strategist designation, which is provided to financial professionals who have demonstrated an advanced understanding of wealth management. He and his wife, **Melodie Starr Gunnell Holbrook BA '08**, live in Logan, Utah, with their two sons.


A Jason S. Nelson BA '06 is WSU's new assistant director of Alumni Relations. He was previously a manager for Weber State's Wildcat Store. Jason works with WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council, Golf Classic, and is helping to build WSU's Regional Alumni Networks. He is a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Brandon Radmall AS '07, BS '09 is president and owner of Paul Davis Restoration of

Utah, which provides disaster restoration services to all of Northern Utah for residential, commercial, industrial and remodeling needs. He and his wife, **Karley Radmall BS '08**, have four children and live in Kaysville, Utah.

Kellie Broucke AS '08 spent 10 years working in education and most recently served as a training coordinator for Frontline Education, which provides training and administrative tools to K-12 schools nationwide. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Utah. Kellie and her husband, Jeremy, recently had their first child. They live in Salt Lake City.

A Becca Gibson AS '08 is the engagement coordinator for WSU Alumni Relations. She advises the WSU Student Alumni Association Council



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and Young Alumni Council to provide engagement opportunities for current students and recent graduates. She received bachelor's degrees in English and psychology from the University of Utah.

Brady Jeppsen AS '08, BS '10 is a financial planner at Albion Financial Group, a Utah wealth management provider, and is the owner of Invex Financial, which offers home, financial planning and investment planning advice to millennials. Brady is currently pursuing his MBA. He and his wife, Emily, have two children and live in Ogden.

M. Scott Moore AAS '09, BA '09 is an assistant professor of clinical chemistry in WSU's Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences and a senior editor for ScholarRx, a digital learning platform for physicians and medical students. He received his Doctor of Osteopathy from Midwestern University. Scott's wife, **Ashley Moore BIS '09** worked as a child-life specialist at McKay-Dee Hospital, Tucson Medical Center and Banner Thunderbird Medical Center, but is now a full-time illustrator. They have three children and live in Riverdale, Utah.

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'10s

1 Cash Knight BS '14, MPC '16 is the operations director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis. He implements and oversees administrative and operational processes throughout Weber and Davis counties, while also focusing on the creation and implementation of programs for youths ages 6-18. He is currently pursuing a second master's degree, an MBA, at WSU and is serving as vice president of marketing for the WSU Young Alumni Council.

David Robles BS '14 is the community outreach manager for Utah Health and Human Rights. David recently received his Master of Arts in Community Leadership at Westminster College and is currently serving on the WSU Young Alumni Council. He and his wife, Destiny, live in South Salt Lake, Utah, with their two dogs.

A Scott Lang BA '15, MA '17 works for Strong & Hanni as a file clerk. For the past two years, he has been a moderator for WSU's National Undergraduate Literature Conference. Scott also has served as a judge in a creative writing contest hosted by the Utah Humanities Council. He is currently on WSU's Young Alumni Council. Scott and his wife, Meagan, live in Farmington, Utah.

Corbin Standley BS '15 was recently awarded the 2017 Utah Campus Compact Presidential Award for Community Engaged Alumnus for Weber State University. Standley is a doctoral student and graduate research assistant in ecological-community psychology at Michigan State University. His research focuses on equitable community change and suicide prevention. He lives in Lansing, Michigan.

Joshua Redhair BA '16 is a recycling and environmental analyst for Habitat for Humanity, an organization devoted to addressing the issues of poverty housing all over the world. He recently received his Master of Arts in International Development with Human Rights Law at the University of Kent in Etterbeek, Belgium.

Nick Drysdale BS '17 is studying for his medical degree at Duke University. He currently does clinical research for complex spinal surgeries with the neurosurgery department at Duke. Nick is a member of the American Association of Neurosurgery. He and his wife, McKenna, have one son.



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Coming Soon to Stewart Stadium

Upgrades to Elizabeth Dee Shaw Stewart Stadium will get underway in 2018, making the fan experience at Weber State football games greater, Greater, GREATER. The renovation project includes the construction of a new north gateway entrance, plaza and fan convenience facility. It also will address needs for ticketing, concessions, souvenirs, team meeting spaces and restrooms.

Funding for the project comes, in part, from a number of generous donors, including alumni and community members, and a couple who, although

they never graduated from Weber State, have been Wildcats for years.

Rory and Barbara Youngberg moved to Ogden in 1963 and eventually met **Rodney Brady**, who served as Weber State's president from 1978 to 1985.

"Rodney Brady got us involved with the school, and we've been coming to athletics games and theater productions ever since," Rory said. "You could say we've been Wildcats since then." Barbara added: "We've had a chance to see Weber State grow. We moved right

across the street from campus a few years after arriving in Ogden."

Although they have since relocated to another area of the city, Rory and Barbara remain steadfast fans of the university and a driving force for progress in the community.

The upgrades are expected to be ready for the 2019 football season, when WSU will celebrate its 100th year of collegiate football.

To read more about WSU's historic 2017 football season, flip to page 8.



Rory and Barbara Youngberg visit with Roger Trincherro BS '69 (middle). Trincherro, a former Weber State football player under Coach Sarkis "Sark" Arslanian, is also a contributor to the stadium project.