

# WILDCAT

WSU Alumni Magazine | SPRING 2019

## LUCKY NUMBER 13!

Meet WSU's New President  
Brad Mortensen





On Nov. 8, 1895, German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen made an accidental, but important, discovery in his laboratory. Knowing it was some kind of a ray, but not knowing exactly where it had come from, he called it x, for the unknown. Little did he know that, 123 years later, people all over the world would still be applauding his discovery — the x-ray — for the powerful, lifesaving information it provides.

## Celebrating World Radiology Day

On Nov. 8, 2018, Weber State University hosted 370+ radiologic sciences professionals from across the country, including WSU students and alumni, for a “World Radiology Day” conference. “This event celebrated the importance of global health concerns and international competency,” said Robert Walker, chair of WSU’s School of Radiologic Sciences. “Ultimately, the hope is to learn and provide skills that makes us all better citizens of the world.”

From 2014-2018, Weber State’s radiologic sciences program graduated the second largest group of students at Weber State, and it is consistently ranked among the top radiologic sciences programs in the nation.



For more information, visit [weber.edu/radsci](http://weber.edu/radsci).



### WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY News for Alumni & Friends

#### WILDCAT

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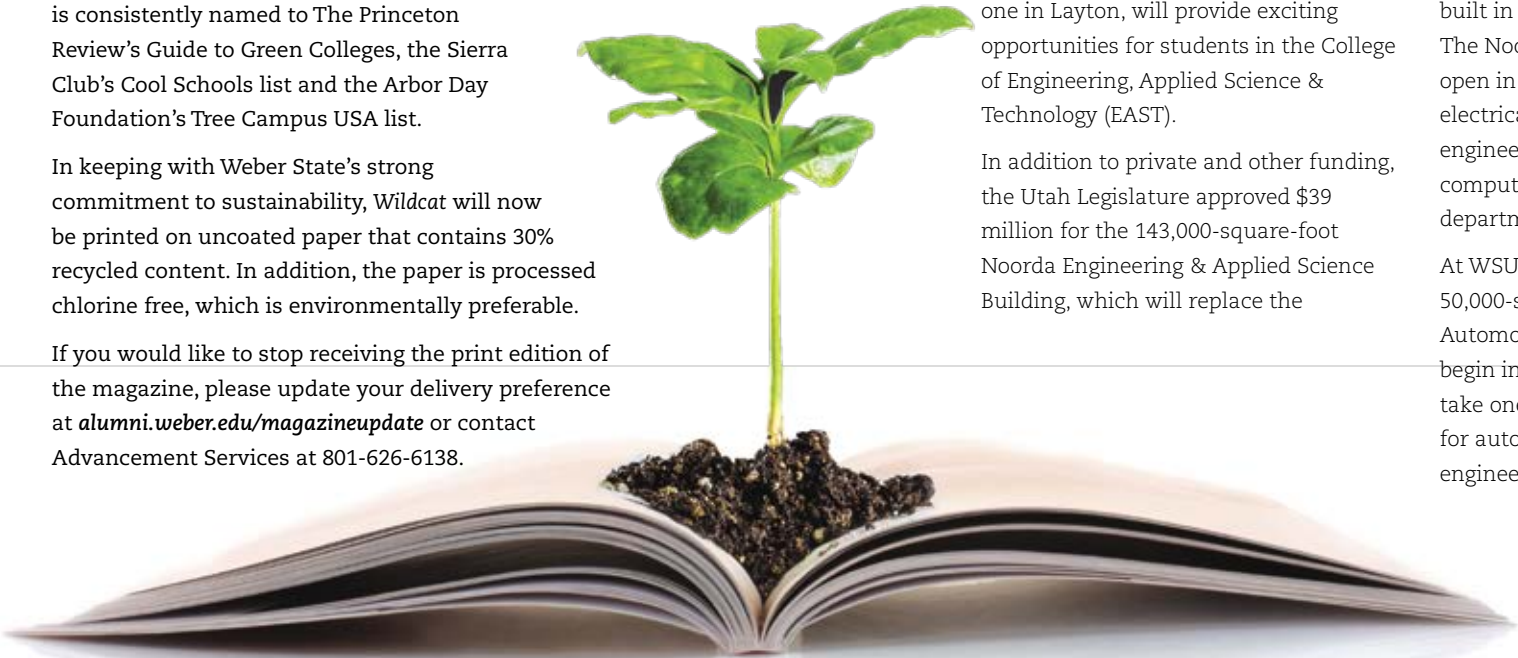
## 39 Dixon Awards

## Can I Recycle This Magazine? You can now.

Weber State is well known for its sustainability efforts. In fiscal year 2018, WSU saved \$1.9 million on its electric, natural gas and water bills, and reduced its direct carbon footprint by 46% (when compared to a 2007 baseline). The university is consistently named to The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges, the Sierra Club's Cool Schools list and the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA list.

In keeping with Weber State's strong commitment to sustainability, Wildcat will now be printed on uncoated paper that contains 30% recycled content. In addition, the paper is processed chlorine free, which is environmentally preferable.

If you would like to stop receiving the print edition of the magazine, please update your delivery preference at [alumni.weber.edu/magazineupdate](http://alumni.weber.edu/magazineupdate) or contact Advancement Services at 801-626-6138.



# WEBER WATCH

Allison Barlow Hess and Ross Rosier BS '18 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



## EAST Builds for Tomorrow

Two new buildings, one in Ogden and one in Layton, will provide exciting opportunities for students in the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST).

In addition to private and other funding, the Utah Legislature approved \$39 million for the 143,000-square-foot Noorda Engineering & Applied Science Building, which will replace the

outdated Technical Education Building, built in 1957, on the Ogden campus. The Noorda Building is expected to open in spring 2020 and will house the electrical, mechanical and systems engineering, engineering technology, computer science and professional sales departments.

At WSU Davis, construction on the 50,000-square-foot Computer & Automotive Engineering Building will begin in May 2019 and is expected to take one year. The building will be used for automotive, computer and software engineering courses.

"State-of-the-art facilities mean innovative and collaborative learning spaces for students in computer science, computer engineering and automotive technology, where we see high demand from industry," said **David Ferro**, EAST dean. "WSU leads state institutions in growth of engineering and computer science graduates, and these buildings will help match that growth."

The \$20 million project will include a new entrance to campus from State Route 193, which will relieve pressure on the existing entry and allow faster access.



# Notable Speakers Bring in *BIG* AUDIENCES, *BIG* IDEAS

## Browning Presents! *Ronan Farrow*

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ronan Farrow visited Weber State in January 2019 as part of the Browning Presents! series in the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities. Farrow's groundbreaking article in *The New Yorker* on sexual harassment and abuse in Hollywood was a catalyst for the #MeToo movement. Farrow encouraged students and the community to "stay in the fight" and stick to their principles even in the face of controversy and fear.



Photo by Jon Lewis, courtesy of Leroy Chatfield

## Civil Rights Icon Shares Important Message: **Get Involved**

Legendary labor leader and community organizer Dolores Huerta encouraged students, faculty and staff to support equality and defend civil rights.

In 1962, Huerta and César Chávez founded the United Farm Workers union. She served as vice president and was instrumental in many of the union's successes, including the strikes against California grape growers in the 1960s and '70s. In 2012, President Barack Obama awarded Huerta the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

At Weber State, Huerta encouraged students to vote and get involved in public policy. She relayed a message she told farmworkers decades ago, a message that remains relevant today: "We told [them], 'You have power.' But you can't do it yourself, you need to come together and organize. One person can't do it all by themselves."

## Black Klansman Author Talks Investigation of a Lifetime

Law enforcement veteran Ron Stallworth, author of the autobiographical *Black Klansman: Race, Hate, and the Undercover Investigation of a Lifetime*, spoke twice to packed WSU crowds.

Stallworth, the first black detective in the Colorado Springs Police Department, infiltrated the Colorado Springs chapter of the Ku Klux Klan in 1978. He interacted with Klan members over the phone while his partner, Chuck, who was white, met with Klan members in person. In doing so, Ron helped sabotage cross burnings, expose white supremacists in the military and combat domestic terrorism.

Stallworth's book inspired the award-winning major motion picture *Black Klansman*, which was written and directed by Spike Lee. The film won Best Adapted Screenplay at the 2019 Academy Awards.



Photo by Benjamin Zack

## 'Science Guy' in Ogden

Bill Nye, "The Science Guy," brought an exciting conclusion to the 2018-19 Engaged Learning Series, Matter of Fact?

It took less than 60 minutes to sell out all available tickets in the Val A. Browning Center. The university quickly moved the program to the Dee Events Center to allow more people to hear a moderated conversation with the popular author, TV personality and scientist.

Engaged Learning Series chair **Teresa Martinez BS '11, MHA '14** describes Nye as an iconic figure who connects with multiple generations. "He's relatable, entertaining, but most importantly, he talks about facts through science," Martinez said. "WSU and the Center for Community Engaged Learning are excited that a speaker of his caliber would visit the Ogden area to engage the campus and community."

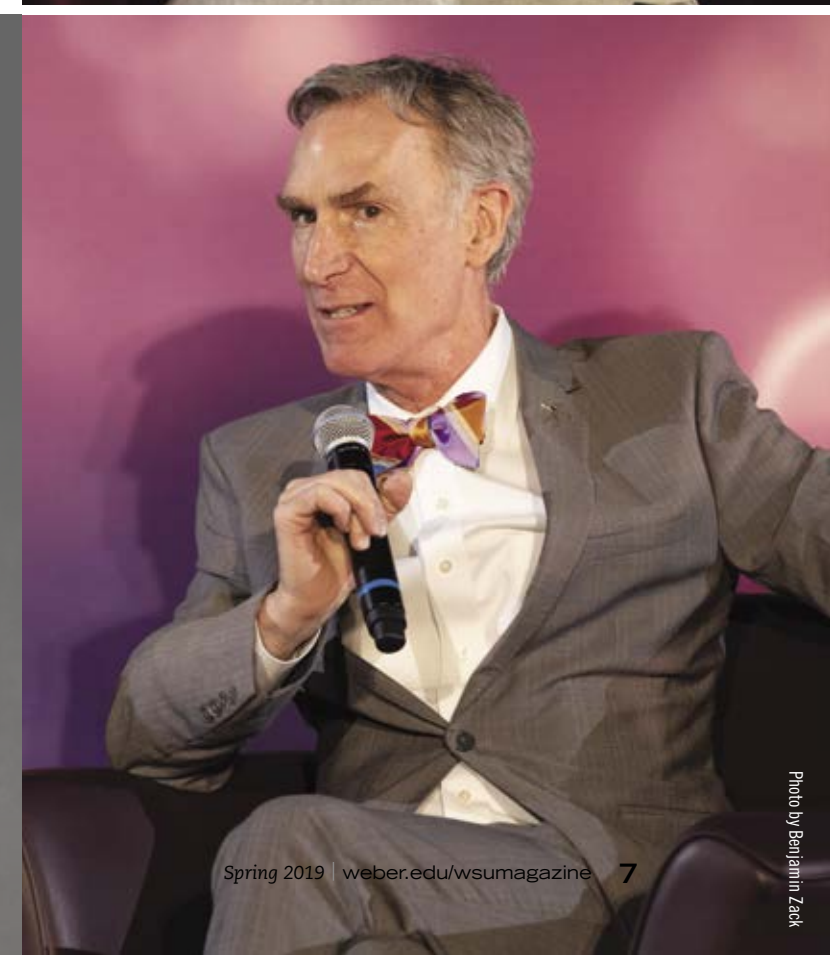


Photo by Benjamin Zack





Photo by Rachel Badali PS 13

## 2,000 Served

Since its inception in 2006, WSU's Family Literacy Program has reached 2,000 Weber County families.

The focus is to mentor and educate the parents of Head Start children. The majority of participants, 87%, come from lower-income backgrounds, and 60% identify as Latino or other ethnic minority.

"Many children in the Ogden area do not possess the literacy skills critical to later academic success," said **Paul Schvaneveldt**, Family Literacy Program director. "Thus, cycles of lower levels of educational attainment and subsequent poverty may be perpetuated across generations unless children are given opportunities to develop literacy skills at an early age, leading to a trajectory of academic accomplishment."

Read how the Family Literacy Program inspired one mom on page 15.

## Wildcats Supporting Wildcats

Research shows that students are most likely to turn to peers in times of crisis. That is the basis of the Counseling & Psychological Services Center's new mental health advocacy program called the Wildcat Support Network.

To implement the program, the counseling center received \$300,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Designed to meet an increased demand for mental health services on campus, the program creates peer support groups for students experiencing anxiety, depression and other mental health challenges. Students participate in the Wildcat Support Network by taking Psychology 2810 and a support-group facilitator course. Student-led peer support groups will be available to students in fall semester 2019.



## Running Out of Room in the Trophy Case

Weber State brought home three national titles from the 2019 NCA and NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships in Florida.

The cheer team won the Division I Coed crown for the third consecutive year — its fifth title in the last eight years. Waldo repeated as winner of the National Mascot Championship — his third title in five years. And, WSU cheer partners **Mekenzie Grabau** and **Kollin Cockrell** were named Coed Partner champions at the competition.



Photo by Rachel Lindsey Photography

## From Associate's to Doctoral Degrees

On March 29, 2019, the Utah State Board of Regents approved WSU's first doctoral program, a Doctor of Nursing Practice, which will be offered in two emphasis areas: Family Nurse Practitioner and Leadership. With this degree, Weber State will now provide education for every level of nurse, from the practical nurse to the registered nurse all the way to the doctoral-prepared nurse. Find out more in the fall 2019 edition of Wildcat.



Photo by Rachel Lindsey Photography



Photo courtesy of Wildcat Athletics



# Running Away With Accolades

Running back **Josh Davis** capped a record-breaking season with two major honors: the Jerry Rice Award as the National Freshman of the Year and the Collegiate Male Athlete honor presented at the 2019 Utah Governor’s State of Sport Awards.

Davis was the first Wildcat, and just the third player in Big Sky history, to be named National Freshman of the Year. He was selected by a panel of more than 150 writers, broadcasters, athletic communications directors and others.

In 12 games played in the 2018 season, Davis set a Wildcat freshman record with 1,362 rushing yards, adding nine touchdowns. He also had 30 receptions for 193 yards and 224 punt-return yards with one touchdown.

Davis was also the first Wildcat named Big Sky Freshman of the Year.



Photo courtesy of Wildcat Athletics



Photo by Benjamin Zack

## New Dean for Moyes College of Education

Newly appointed Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education dean **Kristin Hadley** is an experienced teacher. She spent 21 years in public education before earning her doctoral degree and accepting a position at Weber State in 2005.

Hadley served as chair of teacher education since 2013. She is committed to enhancing the collaborative work of each department in the College of Education.

“We have outward-facing, service-oriented professions that help people live better lives,” Hadley said. “That is the overarching college theme. We must work together and help our students be involved in community service.”

## Black Scholars United 50th Anniversary

Weber State University’s Black Scholars United club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019.

The organization promotes leadership, higher learning and education for black students, and fosters harmony, equality and unity through community service projects and activities.

“Black Scholars United is more than a club; it’s a community,” said **JaLisa Lee**, 2018-19 club president. “We promote unity among black students through cultural understanding, academic excellence, community involvement, student engagement and leadership.”

Also in 2019, **Shaquille Heath BS ’15**, a former Black Scholars United member, published her essay “The Other Talk” in the *New York Times* in January. She wrote about what she and her peers experience when having “the talk” with their parents — not about the birds and the bees — but about their skin color, the rules of being black in America and the challenges it creates in their lives. Read more about Heath on page 16 and find her essay online at [weber.edu/wsumagazine](http://weber.edu/wsumagazine).



## Sustainability by Design

Sustainable design is not a new idea at Weber State, but the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology is taking it up a notch.

For 18 months, students in the Building Design & Construction program will participate in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. The competition challenges college students to design and construct highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy. Weber State was selected as one of 11 teams internationally.

Students will design and build net-zero energy homes in Salt Lake City. They presented plans for the homes at the Design Challenge Weekend held at the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado, in April 2019.

An exhibit of renderings and models of the project will be presented at the final Build Challenge Event in Washington, D.C., in July 2020.



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“People always say that Weber State University is one of Utah’s best kept secrets. While I’m proud of the ‘best’ part of that sentiment, I want to make sure that Weber State is not a secret anymore. People will know who we are, what we stand for, and how we help students transform their dreams into reality.”

—New Weber State University  
President Brad Mortensen

*Telling the Weber State Story*

# LOUDLY & PROUDLY

Amy Renner Hendricks MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



## Speaking of stories, here's one for you ...

**Brad** (that's what he prefers to be called) may be Weber State University's new president, but, at home, he's king ... of dad jokes. "You know the kind," he said, laughing, "the quick quips that make your kids give each other that 'Oh no, not another one' glance." Here's his recent favorite: "My wife said she was getting really annoyed because I couldn't stop singing *I'm a Believer*. I thought she had to be joking, but 'then I saw her face.'"

He grinned and said, "I think that one's actually gotten a few eye rolls at this point. I like when my kids' friends come over because sometimes they laugh at my jokes."

Brad brings his good nature and even temperament to work, too. Ask any of his colleagues, and they'll agree. But, this is a story of a time when Brad was uncharacteristically unhappy. It was spring semester 2008, and as WSU's vice president for University Advancement and legislative liaison, he was spending most of his time at the Utah State Capitol. On this particular day, Brad watched as the Capitol Rotunda came alive with undergrads from the University of Utah and Utah State University, all eager to display their research for legislators. That wasn't what bothered him — a champion of higher education, Brad thinks students sharing what they've learned is a beautiful thing to behold, even if they are wearing Utah red or Aggie blue. But he felt there should have been some purple there, too, that Weber State's undergraduate researchers had important experiences to share, as well. But, he had been told there wasn't enough space for students from three universities.

And that bothered him.

So Brad went to the scheduling office and booked WSU's own undergraduate research day at the Capitol. Two weeks later, 30+ students assembled in the Rotunda to share their work. Brad watched happily as legislators listened to students explain their undergraduate research experiences — impressive, meaningful projects that focused on brine shrimp populations, the sleep cycles of shift workers, how to teach math through dance and more.

"He was so proud of what our students and faculty were doing," said Utah Sen. **Ann Millner**, who was president of WSU at the time. "He wanted to spotlight it. His collaborative side would have loved to share the day with the University of Utah and Utah State University, but when that couldn't happen, he

became fiercely determined to showcase Weber State students and faculty."

Ten years later, as president of WSU, Brad is even more "fiercely determined" to put Weber State in the spotlight, to share the Weber State story. But what is that exactly?



Mortensen addresses the Weber State community at the presidential announcement.

## We Are Weber. Defined.

On Jan. 3, 2019, on just his third official day as Weber State's president, Brad found himself answering an important question, "What does the statement 'We Are Weber' mean to you?"

He paused for a moment and finally said, "Dang it. I wasn't going to get emotional." But he did. Choking up, he continued. "When I say 'We Are Weber,' it means we are a community that is willing to go to any length to help our students accomplish things they've only dreamed of accomplishing." He then recounted a quick history of **Aaron Tracy** and **J. Willard Marriott**: In the early 1920s, Tracy, a Weber College faculty member (who would later become president of Weber College), helped Marriott, (who had quit high school to work on his family's farm), find odd jobs on campus so he could earn credits and get his college degree.

"Look what that relationship launched," Brad said. "Marriott would later become a worldwide leader in the hospitality business. Today, thanks to the personalized attention our students still get from faculty, our students go out and become

wildly successful. I truly believe what we do here is second to none, and, throughout my presidency, I'm going to take the time to share the Weber State story."

That's why the remainder of this article will not be about Brad, although it's his introduction to the alumni community; it will be about others (*although we do share a short account of the day Brad became president, on page 18*). "Our alumni and student stories are far more important to me," he said, smiling. In that spirit, Brad, just a few weeks into his presidency, reached out to students, alumni, faculty and staff to learn more about them through his Louder and Prouder campaign. Inspired by his enthusiasm and the wonderful responses he received, we have put a compilation of stories together, a compilation of ...

## great, Great, GREAT Successes

### 'Speak'ing of Success



Liked by Weber State

When **Brad Wilson BS '93** stepped into the House Chamber on the opening day of the 2019 legislative session — his ninth session since he was elected to Utah's House of Representatives in 2010 — he did so with a new title: speaker of the house. Wilson graduated from Weber State with a bachelor's degree in business administration/marketing. He is president and CEO of Destination Homes.

Wilson, and Utah Senate President Stuart Adams, received WSU's 2019 Crystal Crest Presidential Award. In his acceptance speech, Wilson joked, "When I attended Weber State, I was nominated for a Crystal Crest four times, but never won." He added, "It's really special to finally be taking one of these home with me tonight."

## Oh, the Places She'll Go



Liked by Weber State

**Jeni Claudio's** first interaction with Weber State had nothing to do with her own education. Instead, it had everything to do with her children's education. A single mother of five young kids, Jeni signed up for Weber State's Family Literacy Program, which provides in-home literacy and parenting support to families, most of whom participate in Head Start.

"Reading to my kids is going to help them in the future," said Jeni, who was raised by parents who couldn't read. "Having that family time with a book, or having my son on my lap and teaching him his letters is really nice. Now, all of my kids are doing great in school."

Because of her experience with the Family Literacy Program, which reached its 2,000th family early in 2019, Jeni decided to begin her own educational journey. She visited Weber State's Community Education Center in Ogden, where she received the help and encouragement she needed to enroll at the university. Today, Jeni is only a few semesters away from graduating with a degree in social work. (To hear more from Jeni on the Family Literacy Program, visit [weber.edu/wsumagazine](http://weber.edu/wsumagazine)).



## Keeping A Promise



 Liked by Weber State

**Craig Johnson BS '14** recalls what it was like to grow up poor in the frigid Midwest. “Even though my parents worked tirelessly to provide for me and my siblings, I often had to wear shoes full of holes,” he said. “The winters left me cold, wet, and with stinky feet that caused me no shortage of embarrassment. I promised myself that my children would never have to go through that.”

After graduating from high school in central Iowa, Craig moved to Utah, where most of his extended family lived. A friend directed him to WSU, where Craig enrolled and majored in manufacturing engineering. Today, he is the director of quality and improvement for All Metals Fabrication in Ogden, where he helps create and implement strategies to grow the company.

“I spent six years as a part-time student at Weber State, and I loved every minute of it,” Craig said. “My education gave me the knowledge and skills I needed to have continued success after graduation. And, because I’m frugal by nature, I never buy expensive shoes, but I have been able to keep that promise I made to myself and my children. I couldn’t have done that without WSU.”

## Published in the *New York Times*



 Liked by Weber State

**Shaquille Heath BS '15**, a communications associate for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, wrote an essay on race for the *New York Times*, in which she boldly shared a life moment, relaying a conversation her dad initiated with her at the mall food court when she was just 13:

“... he looked at me and said, ‘You’re black.’ He said it so sternly that I thought that this remark may have been the end of the talk.

“I’m sure you’ve already had encounters in life that tell you what this means,” he said, “but I want to talk to you about it.

“No fluctuation in his voice, no change of tone. His demeanor commanded my attention. I sat silently and listened.

“The first thing people see when they look at you is your skin color. People will look at your skin and all they will see is black. It doesn’t matter what you accomplish in life. If you become a doctor, a lawyer, a movie star — they will look at you, and the first thing they will see is your blackness.

“He stared at me intently. I stared back at him. I didn’t touch my pretzel.”

Shaquille’s essay, titled *The Other Talk*, was published in the *New York Times* on Jan. 19, 2019, the Saturday before Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## The Realization of a Dream



 Liked by Weber State

In February 2019, **Eladio Bobadilla BIS '13** accepted a position as assistant professor of history at the University of Kentucky. It was a dream come true for someone who, growing up, never even thought he’d go to college. When Eladio was 11, his family moved from a tiny adobe house in Mexico to Central California, where his dad found steady work picking grapes. Eladio didn’t speak a word of English and barely finished high school. He heard about Weber State while serving in the U.S. Navy and enrolled after he was honorably discharged.

Eladio graduated from WSU with a Bachelor of Integrated Studies degree in just three years. After declining offers from two Ivy League graduate schools, he accepted a fellowship to Duke University, which he completed in the spring of 2019. He will begin his new career in Kentucky in the fall of 2019.

“Along the way, people told me I’d never go to college. But at Weber State, everyone encouraged me. They knew my story and supported my dream,” Eladio said. “They didn’t just say, ‘We hope you do well.’ They said, ‘You will do well, and we will get you to where you want to be.’ They did just that.”

## A Long-Term Investment



 Liked by Weber State

In January 2019, **Trisha Nichols BS '17, MTax '18** started a new career as a tax associate at a certified public accounting office. A single mother of four, she worked hard to earn her bachelor’s degree in accounting and her Master of Taxation degree just one year later. Prior to enrolling at Weber State, where she was the recipient of a Dream Weber award (which offers free tuition and general fees to students whose household incomes are \$40,000 or less), she took on jobs in restaurants and retail stores, but it was never quite enough to support her family. For five years, she had to rely on government assistance, but she knew her future could and would be bright, with an education.

“Today, I can comfortably support my family,” Trisha said. “I am beyond grateful for my phenomenal education, for my professors and my experiences with Beta Alpha Psi (an honor society for accounting students). To everyone who helped me along the way, I would just say, ‘Thank you a million times over.’”

## Share Your Story!

“These stories make me so proud to be president of Weber State University,” Brad said. “But, I can’t be louder and prouder just by myself and make much of a difference. Let’s tell the secret! Let’s let everyone know how great, Great, GREAT Weber State really is!”

If you’d like to be part of Brad’s Louder and Prouder campaign, share your Weber State success stories on your social media accounts and include the hashtag **#weberstate**.



We just had to share this story about the day Brad became president because ...

# Oh, What a Day It Was!

On the afternoon of Dec. 6, 2018, Brad and Camille Mortensen sat in their car behind the LDS Institute on the north side of Weber State University's Ogden campus. Camille was clutching a framed drawing of a picture her and Brad's youngest son, Brooks, had drawn as a kindergartener, with a thumbs up by Weber, or "Webr" as he spelled it, and a thumbs down by BYU (read more on that story online at [weber.edu/wsumagazine](http://weber.edu/wsumagazine)). She wanted to show it during the announcement, if there was even going to be an announcement. Brad was clutching his cell phone, waiting ... waiting ... waiting.

It was 4:50 p.m. Weber State University's public presidential announcement was scheduled to begin in 55 minutes. A phone call from the Utah Board of Regents was bound to come in at any moment. Brad and Camille had spent most of the day trying to distract themselves from that phone call, going to the gym and relaxing at home — "It wasn't possible," Camille said, laughing. Around 3:30, Camille couldn't stand it any longer and decided to change into her dress clothes. "What are you doing?" Brad asked. "We haven't gotten a phone call yet." To which Camille replied, "I'm feeling optimistic, Brad — "I was really more nervous than optimistic," she noted.

At 4, they decided to head to Weber State, just in case — "It was a long, quiet drive that afternoon from our home in Pleasant View to Ogden," Camille said.

Finally, at 4:53 p.m., the phone rang. Brad answered it on speaker. "Brad, we are pleased to offer you the position of president of Weber State University," said chair of the Utah Board of Regents Harris Simmons, the voice on the other line. With that sentence, Brad and Camille went from heavyhearted — they had almost decided to head home — to elated.

After a brief conversation with Simmons, Brad called his parents, Leon and Barbara Mortensen, who he knew would be awaiting his call anxiously on their farm in Idaho. Or, that's where he thought they would be. He had no idea Camille had orchestrated them being at Weber State. "I called them and said, 'Brad will never tell you to come, because it's so uncertain, but I know he'll want you to be there if he's named president.' It was so funny to see his reaction when they said, 'That's great news, son! We're in the football stadium parking lot. We'll see you in a few minutes.'"

Brad then moved his car from the LDS Institute to the pay lot just south of Shepherd Union, where a Board of Regents representative was waiting to sneak him and Camille into the Shepherd Union Ballroom for the public announcement. There, a still-emotional Brad was met with shouts of cheer and encouragement and a standing ovation. He took the stage, thanking Camille, his four kids, his

friends, the Board of Regents, Weber State faculty, staff and students, and his parents, for whom he asked the audience to give a round of applause. "Many of you have heard me tell the story of how my dad worked in a potato processing plant, and how he always encouraged his sons to get an education because he wanted something better for us. Tonight, they took a risk and drove here from Idaho," he said, his voice breaking.

But for Leon and Barbara, it wasn't a risk at all. "We had a good feeling about it," said Leon. "We certainly had hoped for it, because we knew it was his dream," interjected Barbara. Both said, "We're so proud of him."

When asked how they felt being applauded, they humbly said, "Brad has always been there for us, and he's always been very thankful to us. It's just another one of Brad's characteristics — not forgetting those who helped him get here."

To learn more about Brad, visit [weber.edu/wsumagazine](http://weber.edu/wsumagazine).



I have certainly learned a great deal from the program. It has helped to round out areas that I didn't even understand I had a gap in.

— Darcy Siebenaller, eMHA Student

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**CA<sup>+</sup>HME**  
ACCREDITED



The transcontinental railroad is one of the greatest projects in American and Utah history. With its completion — the final spike famously being driven at Promontory Summit on May 10, 1869 — the railroad brought the country together. The May 11, 1869 edition of the *New York Times* announced: “The long-looked-for moment has arrived. The construction of the Pacific Railroad is ‘un fait accompli’ (an accomplished fact). The inhabitants of the Atlantic seaboard and the dwellers on the Pacific slopes are henceforth emphatically one people.”

The transcontinental railroad also made it easier for goods and services to flow across the U.S., in a process that, now, is called the supply chain, said **Stanley Fawcett**, director of Weber State University’s Jerry & Vickie Moyes Center for Supply Chain Excellence and endowed professor of supply chain management. “The transcontinental railroad connected a nation and brought people together to do things that were impossible before, like getting oranges to Utah from California. Today, the supply chain is a great connector, much like the transcontinental railroad was.”

Join us, as Weber State and community historians share a brief history of the transcontinental railroad in honor of its 150th anniversary and as WSU supply chain experts and alumni talk about what supply chain is exactly, how WSU is preparing the next generation of supply chain professionals, and what the future holds for the discipline.

# TRAINS *and* SUPPLY CHAIN TRAINING

Amy Renner Hendricks, Allison Barlow Hess and Jaime Winston  
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



## THE PAST

As mentioned, the transcontinental railroad connected people, goods and services. Sometimes, it did so in surprising ways. For example, the railroad helped the Knudsen family, who lived in the marshes of Brigham City, develop quite a business, according to WSU history professor **Kathryn MacKay**.

“The family would hunt ducks. Kids and women would pluck the ducks. Then they would pack them in ice to ship to Chinese restaurants in San Francisco and elsewhere,” MacKay explained. “The railroad connected little Brigham City in this amazing network, shipping something that was particular to this area to faraway places. Who would have thought?”

The transcontinental railroad changed America and northern Utah, especially Ogden.

**Brigham Young** donated 200 acres of land to the railroad companies on condition the depot be located in Ogden. The city grew in a grid that radiated out from the train station. The money started to flow as enterprising businesses developed around the needs of the train and its many passengers. (Historian **Val Holley**, author of *25th Street Confidential: Drama, Decadence, and Dissipation Along Ogden's Rowdiest Road*, explains online that some of those businesses gave Ogden its “notorious reputation.”)

“Within a year, the population of Ogden more than tripled and within a decade was a thousand times more. You just had all these people converging,” said **Sarah Singh BS '97**, WSU Special Collections curator. “You not only had the rails, and everything involved in the rails, but you also had to feed passengers, house them and give them places to shop. Ogden just expanded and grew after that.”

The trains unified schedules across the country, demanding increasingly sophisticated logistics. People and goods had to arrive at their destinations on time to meet the next train, the stagecoach, the boat or the restaurant owner, waiting for a shipment of iced duck from Brigham City to feed hungry patrons. Instead of taking six months or more and \$1,000 to cross the U.S. by stagecoach, all it took was a week and \$150.



## THE PRESENT

Today, logistics is part of a complex system known as supply chain management. A fairly new area of business — the term supply chain management came into existence in the early 1980s — it has roots in three sectors. “There’s operations (that’s the production, or the ‘what we make’), supply (that’s the sourcing, or all the buying that goes on) and logistics (that’s the moving of the products),” explained Fawcett.

**James Taylor BS '09** is vice president of LSI in Layton. He defines supply chain management as, “The management of end-to-end relationships, from the creation of the product to the final delivery.” Taylor leads his company’s largest supply chain contract — the sourcing, supply, quality and delivery of landing gears to the U.S. Air Force and the Defense Logistics Agency (the contract applies to aircraft no longer under the original equipment manufacturer’s control). He uses the contract as an example of supply chain management:

“It starts with geological mineral deposits that are mined and processed into refined materials/metals,” Taylor said, explaining that, with respect to this program, LSI is a program management organization, not a manufacturing facility. “It’s getting that metal to a forging house, and then taking that forging and getting it into a machine shop, then machining that forging into a more usable form, then taking that form and getting it to a chrome plater, who then sends it to a grinder, who then gets it back to the chrome plater, then back to a computer-automated designer, and then back to a machine shop again, and finally to the government.”

And that’s the simplified version.

“Supply chain management is really about looking at the bigger picture,” Taylor said. “How do we best manage the different players that are involved in the creation of these products? How do we better form relationships? How do we look at the process more strategically? How do we create the greatest value for the organizations we work for?”

In addition to managing the chains, Taylor has to understand the technical aspects of the parts his company is supplying. “We are held to extreme measurement tolerances,” he said. “We like to explain it by telling people to imagine taking a hair on their head and splitting it 500 times. That kind of technical

knowledge wasn’t part of my supply chain education, but my supply chain education taught me how to learn. Knowing how to learn has helped me understand those technical aspects.”

Taylor is also an adjunct professor in WSU’s supply chain management program, a program that has a reputation for not only being demanding and grueling but also for producing successful professionals who make contributions to their companies from day one.

The supply chain program features a unique curriculum that challenges the whole brain, Fawcett says. “It’s art and science. It’s right brain, which focuses on creativity and collaboration. It’s left brain, which focuses on analytics. We introduce new students to the basics, then we raise the bar with each course. We take students out of their comfort zones. Some don’t like it, until they get a job with a starting salary of \$60,000 or more,” he said, grinning.

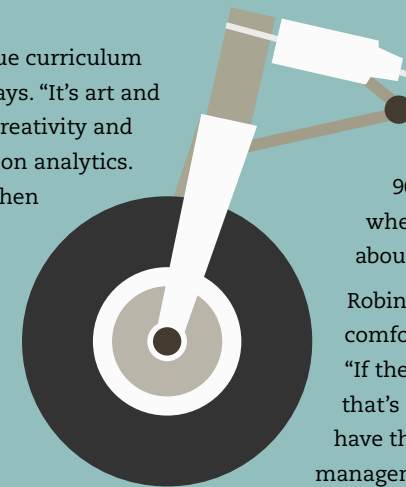
**Jordan Robinson BS '08, MBA '10** is another adjunct professor in the program. During the day, he is a program manager for the U.S. Air Force. At night, he teaches Supply Chain Management 3600, Transportation and Logistics. An alumnus of the program, he notes key differences in the curriculum from when he was a student.

“The concepts, the theories, the applications are much the same,” he said. “The biggest difference is the teaching

approach. The curriculum gets the students involved in the learning, the discussions, the concepts. It flips the class. Students do their readings and assignments before class, so when they are here we can identify any misconceptions and clarify concepts.

“As they progress in their courses, students are required to become more and more involved, through discussions, presentations and projects. By the time they get to their capstone course, the students are leading most of the class. That’s ideal because studies show that the act of teaching helps you retain 90 to 95% of the information you’re presenting; whereas, if you attend a lecture, you only retain about 5% of what’s conveyed.”

Robinson says getting students out of their comfort zones prepares them for their careers. “If the first time you’re challenged is at your job, that’s a dangerous thing. At that point, you don’t have the chance to fail. Weber State’s supply chain management program ensures that students graduate as critical thinkers. That way, if a supervisor walks in and says, ‘I need you to do this for me,’ chances are you’ll know how, but even if you don’t, you’ll know how to figure it out. Those are the students industries are clamoring for — students they don’t have to spend thousands of dollars training, students who have learned to think.”



### 1971

Weber State began offering a logistics degree — one of the first of its kind in the nation — in direct response to the needs of Hill Air Force Base.

### 2005

The John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics revised the program, again as a direct response to the needs of industry, and began offering a supply chain management (SCM) degree. At the time, Weber State was one of two universities in the state to offer the degree program.

### 2016

The drive to create a nationally recognized supply chain management program received a significant boost from the owner of Swift, a multibillion dollar transportation company, the founder of which is Weber State alumnus **Jerry C. Moyes BS '66**. His \$5 million gift created the Jerry & Vickie Moyes Center for Supply Chain Excellence, which houses the SCM program.

## A BRIEF HISTORY



## THE FUTURE

Much like the transcontinental railroad linking New York to the California Coast, WSU's supply chain management students gain the knowledge to link the present to the future, drawing connections between industry trends, global events and news, and new technology to tomorrow's business landscape.

One of those fortunetellers, **Vic Rosen**, who just graduated from Weber State in spring 2019, currently works as a supply chain management analyst for Boeing, and has his sights set on climbing the ranks at the aerospace industry giant. Once he lands his dream job, he says he'll continue scanning the business world, constantly thinking about what's ahead.

"Dr. Stan (that's what students call Fawcett) preaches scanning," said Rosen, adding that he'll examine trade publications, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Economist*, and any major events that impact job markets and all types of industries to get a clearer picture of how they will affect supply chains.

In addition, professors share their own research into the future of the industry.

Fawcett, along with **Amydee Fawcett**, assistant professor of supply chain management, and scholars from Miami University and West Virginia University, wrote a 2018 research article in the journal *Production* about emerging technologies. "To begin to explore how supply chain design will evolve, decision-makers need to identify and evaluate the game-changing role of emerging disruptive technologies," the article states.

Possible game changers mentioned include artificial intelligence, automated (self-driving) vehicles and even materials-science innovations, citing General Motors' plans to build Silverado trucks with carbon fiber, a material lighter and stronger than steel and aluminum.

**RaeLynn Smith BS '17**, global indirect purchasing process manager for Autoliv, an automotive safety supplier listed in the Fortune 500, says she's already seeing the emergence of artificial intelligence in the manufacturing industry. "A lot of people say, 'Oh, that's a decade out.' If I saw it tomorrow, I wouldn't be surprised," she said. "We're going to have machines able to predict their own failures; they'll be able to order their own parts."

Prior to climbing the ranks to her current role at Autoliv, leading a supply chain management team with members in Romania, Poland, Mexico and China, Smith says she had one of the lowest positions in the indirect purchasing sector of the company.

"I went from homework to global process manager in about 15 months," Smith said. "The program at Weber takes you probably a decade ahead, if not more, in best practices and emerging practices. It teaches you where the industry is at, and where you need to take it."

While Smith continually scans the supply chain industry to forecast what's next, she also takes time to remind herself of what she already learned. "Every book I had in Weber State's program is sitting at my desk right now," Smith said. "I reread every single one of our textbooks. In fact, I've had people in the organization come and ask me if they can borrow them, because they're like, 'How do you know this,' and I'm like, 'Let me show you.'"

Supply chain alumna **Melanie Webber BS '06**, planning supervisor for production control at Autoliv, participates in the university's supply chain management advisory board. One reason WSU graduates thrive at Autoliv, she says, is because they understand one of the company's foundational principles: lean manufacturing (minimizing waste in a manufacturing process).

"We try to eliminate as much waste as possible," Webber said. "Talking with Weber State graduates, they're some of the ones that understand that concept the best."

Like Smith, Webber sees information technology (IT) merging with manufacturing at an increasing rate, specifically when it comes to transportation; communication among manufacturers, customers and suppliers; tracking products; and maintaining inventory.

"If a supply chain student can get an IT background as well, that would be huge, because technology can do a lot to solve problems," she said.

However, Webber's main token of advice to future students is to prepare to be challenged. "Anybody who's thinking about going into it definitely should pursue that opportunity," she said, "but know that it's very challenging, not only Weber State's program, but the industry as a whole, so make sure you're ready for it."

Smith's advice to future supply chain management graduates: fill the gaps.

"You're not supposed to fit in. In fact, if you look at yourself and think, 'I'm a good fit for this company,' you're not going to climb. The gaps are begging for us," Smith said. "Find the job where you're like, 'Holy cow! What did I land myself into? This is a big hole,' because I know these supply chain students have the skill set to get out of that hole. And when you do, you will be a hero, and in 15 months, like me, you will be promoted."

## JOIN THE CLUB

As supply chain management majors prep for the future, they can network with professionals, develop skills and support their peers through two student organizations.

### Supply Chain Cats

Run by supply chain management students, Supply Chain Cats supports what's taught in the classroom by offering face time with professionals in the field. Networking opportunities often include representatives from professional organizations including:

- Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals;
- Institute for Supply Management;
- American Society for Quality; and
- APICS, the leading provider of supply chain, logistics and operations management research, publications, and education and certification programs.

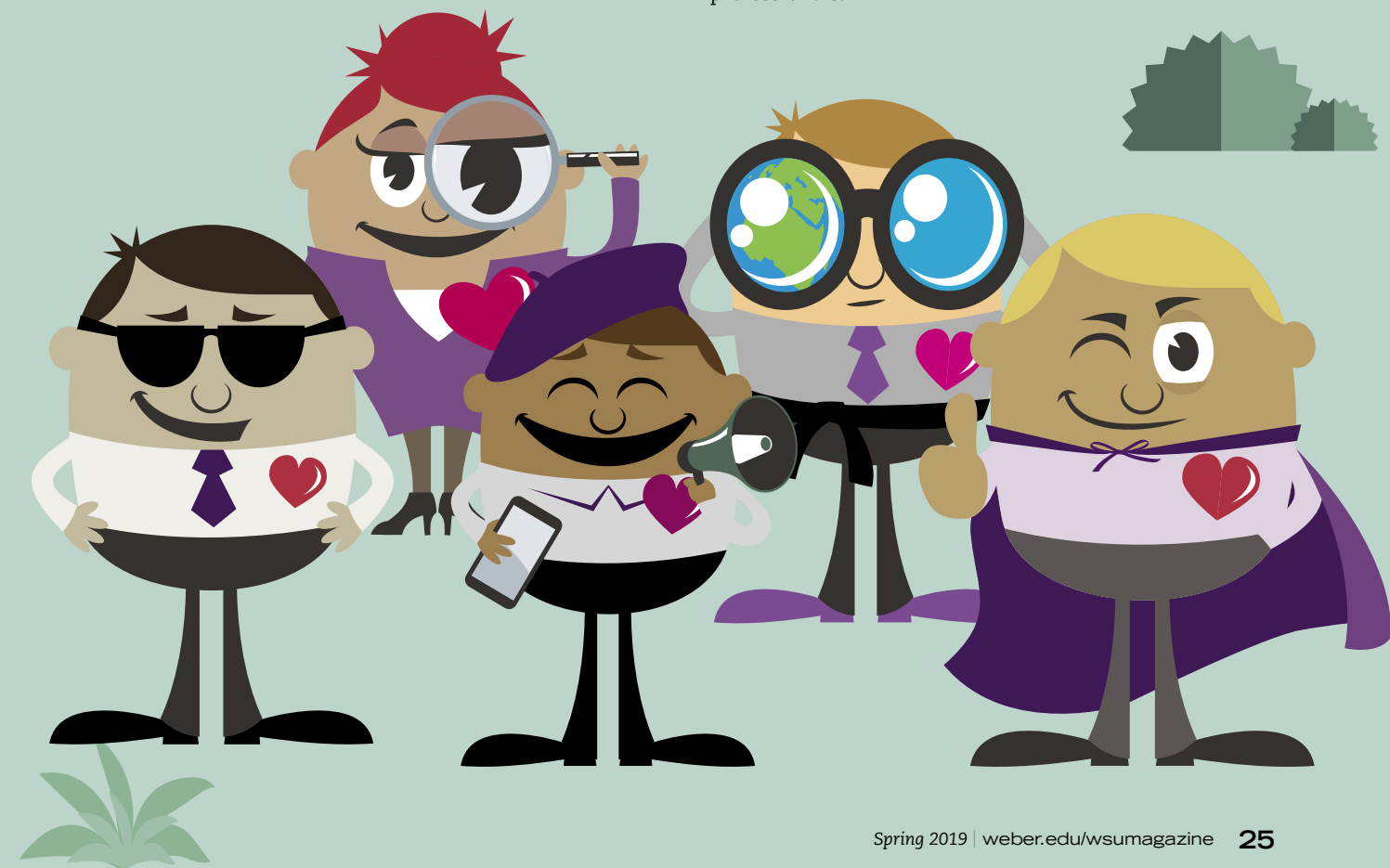
Recently, the club hosted its Supply Chain Skills Challenge, a competition that allowed supply chain students from universities around the world to showcase their knowledge and ability to think critically and present persuasively.

### Achieving Women's Excellence (AWE)

AWE helps women studying business develop skills and qualities to succeed.

**Amydee Fawcett**, assistant professor of supply chain management and faculty advisor, initially planned for the club to support women in supply chain, but opened it to all business majors to help them succeed in the business world, which is male dominated.

Run by students, the club offers charitable and educational opportunities, and is crafting a mentorship program with local professionals.





HISTORY  
SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY



# WELCOME TO *Lindquist Hall*

Amy Renner Hendricks and Jaime Winston MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Following 20 months of reconstruction, Weber State University's Social Science building reopened in January 2019 with a new look — an architectural showstopper at the Ogden campus' west entrance — and a distinguished new name — Lindquist Hall.

The massive renovation project, which included the building being stripped to its reinforced concrete frame and foundation, started with a record-breaking pledge from

Ogden businessman and longtime WSU supporter **John E. Lindquist**, president of Lindquist Mortuaries and Cemeteries. In addition, the Utah Legislature allocated \$30 million to complete the project.

On Jan. 7, 2019, eager visitors gathered to tour the new building. In commemoration of Lindquist Hall's grand opening and Weber State's 130th anniversary, University Marketing & Communications adapted the Mother Goose nursery rhyme *The House that Jack Built* to reflect that our new social science building is *The Hall that John E. Built*. At a pre-ribbon-cutting luncheon, history professor **Gene Sessions** and political science professor **Leah Murray** narrated the revamped rhyme while advancement team "thespians" acted it out. Afterward, Sessions and Murray presented Lindquist with an illustrated storybook.

The parody was such a hit, we wanted to share it with you. While the words are fun and whimsical, the moral of the tale is powerful and true: It takes a village to make dreams happen at Weber State, and we are ever so grateful for the people who make up that village.





# This is the HALL that JOHN E. Built.



This is the **dream**  
that dwells in the Hall that  
John E. built.

This is the **student**  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

These are the **professors**  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

This is the **teaching**  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

These are the **donors** with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.



“Dad (former Weber  
College student body  
officer **John A.  
Lindquist '39**) used to  
say that people have an  
obligation to give back to  
where they got their start,  
and I really believe that.”

— **John E. Lindquist**,  
president of Lindquist  
Mortuaries and Cemeteries,  
who gifted \$5 million to  
build Lindquist Hall



This is the **development team** so brave and bold  
that finds the donors with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

These are the **administrators**, their virtue extolled,  
that direct the team so brave and bold  
that finds the donors with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

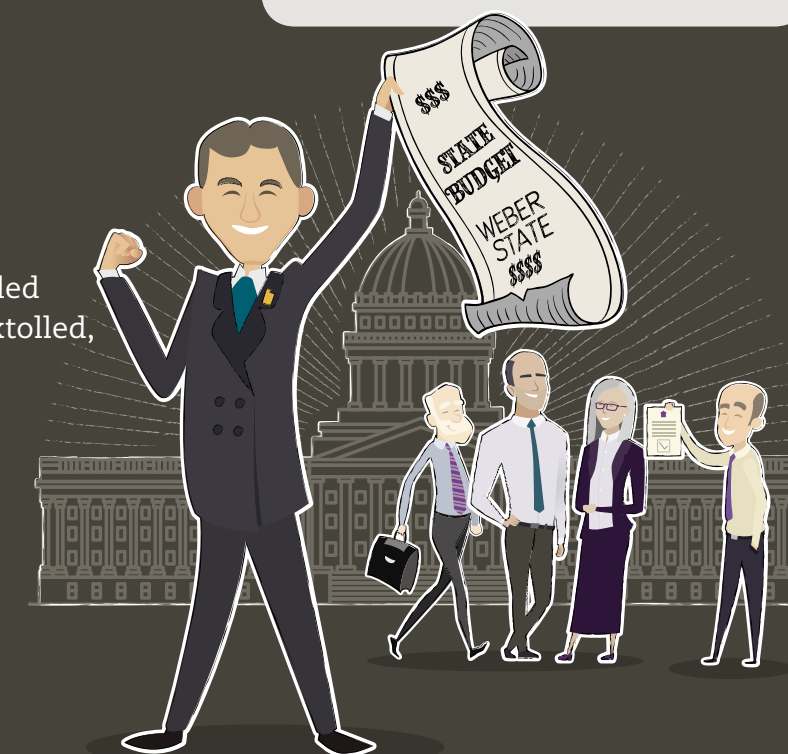
These are **state funds** with limits controlled  
that permit the administrators, their virtue extolled,  
to direct the team so brave and bold  
that finds the donors with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

These are the **leaders**, their wisdom doled,  
that distribute state funds with limits controlled  
that permit the administrators, their virtue extolled,  
to direct the team so brave and bold  
that finds the donors with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.



“It’s the building  
most easily seen and  
appreciated from  
Harrison Boulevard. It’s  
almost a front porch for  
the university. Now it  
is expansive and new and spacious,  
with broad halls and high ceilings.  
It gives people a sense of light and  
space. It’s a terrific new home for  
social sciences.”

— **Frank Harrold**, dean,  
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences





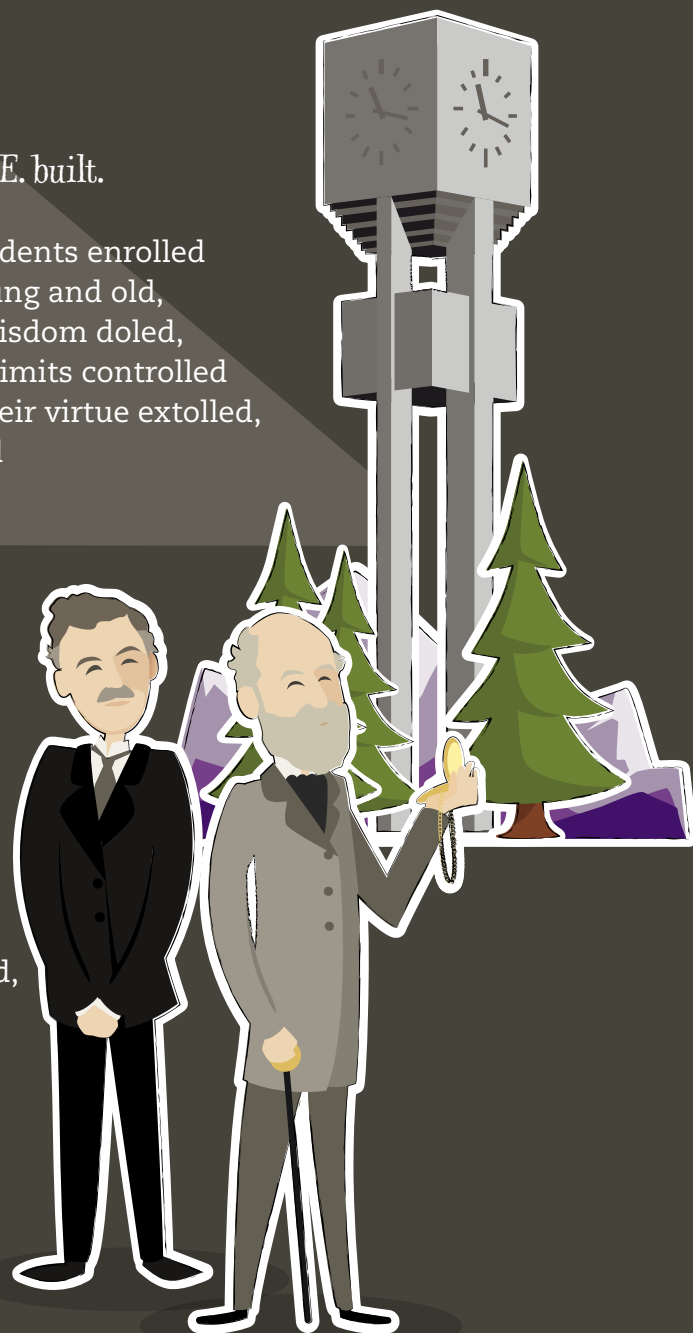


These are the **citizens**, young and old,  
that elect the leaders, their wisdom doled,  
that distribute state funds with limits controlled  
that permit the administrators, their virtue extolled,  
to direct the team so brave and bold  
that finds the donors with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

This is the **school** where students enrolled  
learn how to be citizens, young and old,  
that elect the leaders, their wisdom doled,  
that distribute state funds with limits controlled  
that permit the administrators, their virtue extolled,  
to direct the team so brave and bold

that finds the donors with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.

These are the **founders** whose vision foretold  
the birth of the school where students enrolled  
learn how to be citizens, young and old,  
that elect good leaders, their wisdom doled,  
that distribute state funds with limits controlled  
that permit the administrators, their virtue extolled,  
to direct the team so brave and bold  
that finds the donors with hearts of gold  
that support the teaching  
that drives the professors  
that engage the student  
that chases the dream  
that dwells in the Hall that John E. built.



*The Hall that John E. Built, written and illustrated by Marketing & Communications' Karin Hurst and Hillary Wallace*



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## Building by the Numbers

CLASSROOMS

**34**

LABORATORIES

**5**

STUDENT STUDY  
SPACES

**6**

OFFICES

**72**

TESTING CENTER

**1**

LEVELS

**4**

COMPUTER ROOMS

**3**

150-SEAT  
LECTURE HALL

**1**

LACTATION  
ROOM

**1**

Lindquist Hall was designed and built with the goal of earning a LEED Gold rating for energy efficiency. A massive geothermal field, consisting of 150 wells drilled 425 feet deep into the northwest part of campus, supplements the building's heating and cooling.



# CLASS NOTES

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### '50s

**Colleen Knowles AS '53** retired after teaching third and fourth grade for 29 years. Prior to her husband's passing, Colleen and **Raymond Knowles AS '53** lived across the U.S. and the world while raising their five children. They took their family to Japan for 2.5 years for Raymond's work, and then to Montgomery, Alabama, for one year when he attended the U.S. Air Command and Staff College. Raymond also worked on Hill Air Force Base as a civilian. Colleen has 17 grandchildren and lives in Ogden. She has served as president of her ward's Relief Society and as a primary teacher for many years.

**1 Marilyn Lofgreen AS '59, BS '81, MS '91** married **John Carr Lofgreen AS '56**. The couple had two children. John passed away in 2012.

Marilyn enjoyed a lifetime career in education, including six years as secretary and 13 years as a teacher at Morgan Elementary School. She also served as president of the Morgan Education Association and was a national trainer for the Outcomes Driven Developmental Model for School Improvement program. Marilyn received her administrative endorsement from Utah State University and became an instructor specialist for the teacher education department at Weber State, where she served as the administrator of the Teacher Assistant Path to Teaching (TAPT) program. After retiring, Marilyn served an 18-month mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Independence, Missouri. She co-directs the Morgan Community Choir

and is currently serving on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. Marilyn has two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

### '60s

**1 Nancy Sivulich BS '66** taught physical education and coached basketball, volleyball and softball at secondary schools in the Weber School District and in Seattle. She married **Mike Sivulich Jr. BS '64**, and they had three children. Prior to Mike's passing in 2012, the couple owned and operated two businesses, Sivulich Brokerage and Sivulich Travel, and volunteered as service missionaries at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Nancy is the secretary for WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. She has 10 grandchildren and lives in Ogden.

**Roger Ellis BS '68** retired after 25 years as a human resources manager at Campbell Scientific, where he was also a finance manager. He previously served as vice president and director of Minex Resources. Roger received his master's degree in mining geology from the University of Texas at El Paso and an MBA from Brigham Young University. He served on the Bridgerland Technical College Board of Directors and volunteered with the United Way board. He was a Boy Scouts of America leader for 35 years. He and his wife, Rosario, live in Logan. They have five children and eight grandchildren.

**Mohammad Ghandehari BS '68** worked for the University of Utah Research Park from 1975 to 1979 and as a research development chemist for Union Oil Company of California (now

Chevron Oil Corporation) from 1980 to 1999. He also worked in Iran from 1972 to 1975. Mohammad filed for more than 20 patents in his career. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Utah. Mohammad has two children, four grandchildren, and he lives in Morgan Hill, California.

**1 Lee Crittenden BS '69** is the owner of Crittenden Glass. He has served on the National Decorating Products Association board and the North Ogden City Planning Commission, and as president of the Ogden Lions Club and WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. His wife, **Pamela Wheelright Crittenden BS '70**, taught school for eight years and worked as a medical assistant prior to retiring. She has served as president of the Ogden Lady Lions Club, and is a member of the North Ogden Civic League and WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. The Crittendens have four children, three of whom are WSU graduates, and 15 grandchildren.

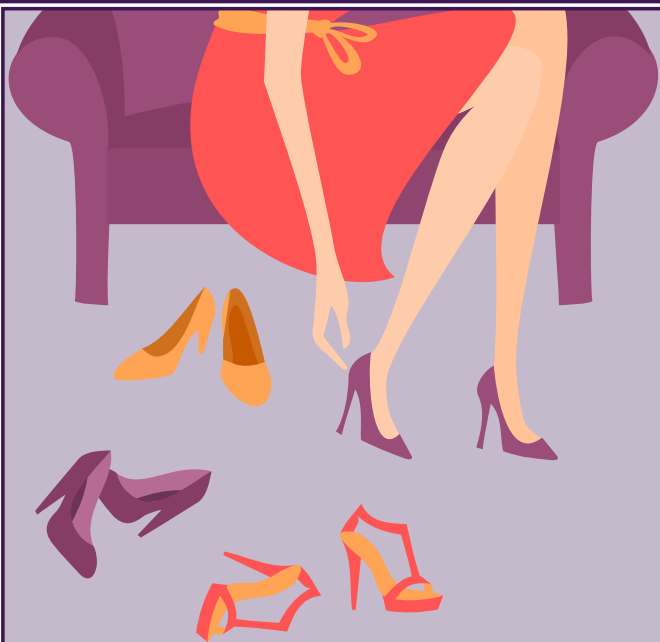
**1 Eldrie O'Bryant BS '69** retired after 17 years as the career center coordinator at Clayton Valley High School in Concord, California. She also taught general education, computer literacy, and drug and alcohol prevention programs for the Contra Costa County detention facilities in California. In addition, Eldrie has volunteered with The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints in teaching a 12-step addiction recovery program. She and her husband, MC, live in Martinez, California. They have four sons and 10 grandchildren.

**A Charlie Persinger BS '69** retired after 42 years with the Union Pacific Railroad, where he was a locomotive design engineer, machinist, foreman and senior claim representative. He also worked for Amtrak for four years as a master mechanic. Charlie is a member of and the grand historian for the Free and Accepted Masons of Utah. He and his wife, Donna Rae, serve in the Harrisville Utah Cannery for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They have two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

### '70s

An operations and project manager for ITT, **1 Steven Carter BS '70** also worked for Ernst & Young in advisory services. In addition, he worked for Intel's domestic and Asian operations, and for Ecolab. Steven is on the Ogden Concert Band and Ogden Symphony Ballet Association boards, and he is a past president of WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. His wife, **1 Lynne Draney Carter BS '70**, was a medical technologist at Dee Memorial Hospital in Ogden and worked in labs in Virginia and Oregon before retiring from McKay-Dee



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Keep your WSU Alumni Association profile current to:

- Receive campus notifications
- Acquire complimentary *Wildcat* alumni magazine subscription
- Learn about regional WSU events
- Get email invitations to WSUAA “members-only” events



Hospital in 2017. Lynne is a docent for the Utah State Capitol, president of the Weber County Master Gardeners Association, a member of WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council, and a cellist for the Morgan Valley Chamber Orchestra. The Carters have two sons and nine grandchildren.

**A Chris Rivera BS '71** retired as an associate dean at Weber State University Davis after being employed by the university for almost 40 years. He received his Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Northern Colorado. Chris is a 20-year member of Rotary International. He served as awards chair for the Boy Scouts of America Lake Bonneville Council and was a commissioner for the Davis Community Public Housing Authority. Chris serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. He is married to Christine Sperry. Together they have four children, all of whom are WSU graduates, and nine grandchildren, the oldest of whom is studying at Weber State.

**A Judith (Judy) Pugmire Mitchell BS '73** was a director of WSU's Master of Education (M.Ed.) program for 13 years and chair of the Department of Elementary Education for three years. She also served as chair and vice chair of the Faculty Senate. In addition to her WSU degree, she received a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, an M.Ed. from Utah State University, and a doctoral degree from

the University of Utah. Judy received a number of awards at Weber State, including Crystal Crest Alumna of the Year, Friend of Family Literacy, and two Hemingway faculty vitality awards. In recognition of her commitment to teacher education, Weber State awarded Judy an honorary doctorate of humanities during its spring 2019 commencement ceremony. Judy serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. She has three children and five grandchildren.

**A Retired Col. Gene “Ed” King BS '75** retired in 2006 after 30 years of service in the U.S. Army. He held four command positions and had assignments in Europe, Asia and numerous locations in the United States. Ed's last assignment was with the 20th Support Command. After his retirement, he worked as an operations integrator and senior planner at the national training center in Fort Irwin, California. He volunteers at Hill Air Force Base at the Retiree Activities Office. Ed received his master's degree in national strategic resource management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Janet, have two daughters.

**A Lynn Vellinga BS '78** is a retired licensed certified public accountant. He spent 26 years in the Utah state auditor's office and the

Department of Administrative Services. Lynn later became the assistant director of the Division of Finance, where he and his team helped Utah become one of the first states to receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting in 1984. He left Utah to start the first state accounting office in Georgia, where he served as the accounting officer. He later became the chief financial officer of the Georgia Department of Human Services and retired as the deputy commissioner. His wife, **Sandy Vellinga AS '96, BA '99**, worked at Hill Air Force Base in logistics management and was a stay-at-home mom. They have seven children and 10 grandchildren.

## '80s

**Michelle Barry BA '80** is the senior account manager for CW Title and Escrow in Seattle. She previously worked as the executive vice president for Windermere Real Estate, as director of communications for KCTS TV (PBS) and as the promotion manager for KIRO TV (CBS). Michelle volunteers for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. She and her husband, Fred Hoyt, have been married 36 years. They have two sons and one grandchild.

**Mehrdad Samie BS '83** is the design architect and vice president for Method Studio. He previously worked as a lead design architect for CRSA and owned Modern Minimal in Salt Lake City.

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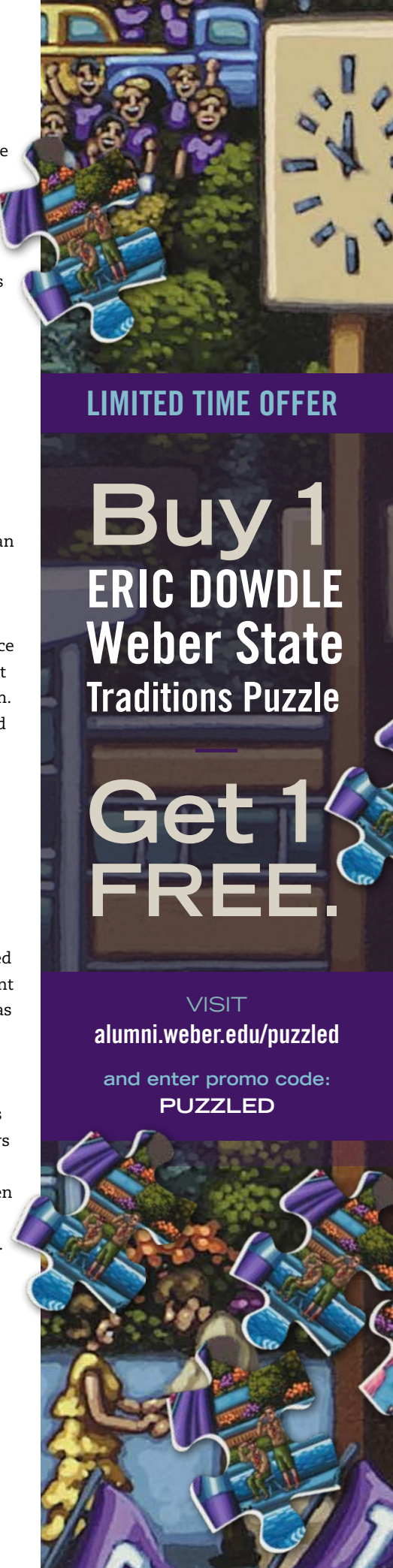
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Mehrdad has been involved in planning, programming and design projects for colleges and universities throughout Utah, and has worked on several projects for the National Park Service. He earned his master's degree in architecture from the University of Utah, and he lives in Salt Lake City.

**Teresa Puskedra BA '84** is executive director of the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society. She previously worked as a freelance writer, as an accounting supervisor for Borden/Meadow Gold Dairies, and as a materials planner and cost accountant for Volvo-GM Heavy Truck Corporation. She received her master's degree in professional communications from Westminster College. Teresa is a past president of the Egyptian Theatre Foundation, a grant writer for

the Imagine Ballet Theatre Foundation and a writer for the Weber Health Coalition "Weber Moves" program. She and her husband, David, have two children and three grandchildren.

## '90s

**Linda Pratt BA '93** is a paper artist in Littleton, Colorado. She previously taught at St. Joseph Elementary School in Ogden and was a special education teacher at H. Guy Child Elementary in Washington Terrace. For the past five years, she has volunteered at the summer and winter 1940s WWII Era Ball in Boulder, Colorado. She and her husband, Douglas, live in Littleton. They have two daughters and two grandsons, one of whom is currently attending WSU.

**Jodi Graham BS '95** is executive director of Utah Humanities. She has been involved with the organization for more than 22 years and most recently served as the assistant director and director of Utah Humanities' Center for Local Initiatives. Her husband, **Dane Graham BA '96**, is president and CEO of EndGame Consulting. He received his master's degree in adult and continuing education from the University of Wyoming.

**Mel Tingey BA '96** is O.C. Tanner's vice president of software engineering. He previously worked as the division director of software engineering for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In earlier years, Mel worked for the state of Utah as the manager of web application development. He

was a visionary, launching many online applications for Utah. Mel and his wife, Kelli, have five children.

**Jimmy DeGraffenried BS '97** is the owner and CEO of Hyve Homes, formally Lifetime Homes. Prior to becoming a general contractor, Jimmy played professional basketball in Taiwan, France, New Zealand and Sweden. He spent 18 years coaching high school basketball, during which time he took the Salem Hills' boys' basketball team to the 4A state title in 2018. He was later named the 2018 4A Coach of the Year by *The Daily Herald*. Jimmy and his wife, Heidi, live in Woodland Hills, Utah. They have six children.

**Kira Rugen BA '98** is the founder and artistic director of the professional choir Solis Camerata. She is in her 15th

season as a soprano in the Phoenix Chorale, a Grammy Award-winning ensemble. She is the director of choral activities and musical theater at Arizona Christian University. She previously served as an adjunct faculty member for Grand Canyon University and as a faculty associate for Arizona State University. As a composer, her works have been performed around the world. She received her master's degree in choral education and doctoral degree in choral conducting from Arizona State.

**Amber Malinovsky AA '99, BA '00** is the director of content strategy and communications at Weave. She received a master's degree in literature from Texas A&M University, where she served as an adjunct faculty member and assistant director of assessment. She also was adjunct faculty and director of the writing center at Blinn College. Amber and her husband, Jan, have two sons and live in Aurora, Colorado.

## '00s

**Shane Willard BS '05** is co-founder and CEO of Mindfire Technology. He serves on the YCC board in Ogden, volunteers as a coach for local basketball and football teams, and is also a mentor for the WSU Alumni Association's Leadership to Legacy program and the Outdoor Weber competition. Shane's wife, **Kelli Jo Murdock Willard AAS '02**, is

a licensed nurse and stay-at-home mom. The Willards have five children.

**Cameron Thompson BS '06** is a geology team lead for Crescent Point Energy in Denver. He previously worked for Halcon Resources Corporation in Denver and Continental Resources in Oklahoma City. Cameron received his master's degree in earth science from Simon Fraser University in 2008. He and his wife, **Jan Thompson BS '07**, live in Conifer, Colorado.

**John Wolthuis BIS '06** is the vice president of West Coast Container. He runs the day-to-day operations for the company. John and his wife, Brittney, have four boys. They live in West Linn, Oregon.

An award-winning special effects artist, **Russ Adams BS '07, MS '10** is the founder of new pop culture convention, Ogden UnCon. He is also the founder of Escape Design FX. Russ appeared on the 2014 hit Syfy series, Jim Henson's Creature Shop Challenge, and later wrote *Surviving Reality: This is Not That Show* and three books in the *A Workshop With Russ Adams* series. He is the design chair for the Ogden City Arts Advisory Council. Russ also teaches puppet creation, creature design and puppet performance, to the children of the International School of Latvia.

An Ogden native, **Brady Howe BS '08** is currently the head strength and conditioning coach/athletic trainer for



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the NBA's Phoenix Suns. He previously was the assistant athletic trainer for the Atlanta Hawks, a head athletic trainer/strength coach in the NBA G-League, and an athletic trainer/strength coach for Weber State's football and basketball teams. Brady's wife, **Emily Standage Howe AS '06**, has worked as a dental assistant for the past 13 years. The Howes live in Arizona with their daughter.

**A Matt Robertson A.PE '08** is a civil engineer for Jones and Associates, where he designs and manages public infrastructure projects for local communities. He

also acts as the designated engineer for several cities and service districts in northern Utah. Matt received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Utah. He and his wife, **Laurel Newman Robertson AS '08**, have five children and live in South Ogden.

**Kevin Smith BS '09** is the operations manager over nutritional engineering at Trace Minerals Research in West Haven. He previously worked as a supervisor for human resources firm Black Turtle Services. Kevin also owned his own company, Asset Recovery and

Collections, and served for 10 years as operations manager for Bonneville Collections. He lives in Ogden.

## '10s

An artist, **Alisha Brenchley Johnson BA '16** recently began teaching in WSU's Continuing Education program. She previously taught painting and drawing at T.H. Bell Junior High. Her husband, **Jacob Johnson AS '17**, is a facilities management professional for Goldenwest Credit Union. The Johnsons have one son and live in Washington Terrace.

**Thais Cavazotti Stewart BA '17, BS '17** is the assistant manager at Sherwin-Williams of Ogden. She is president of WSU's Young Alumni Council and is on the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Thais and her husband, **John Stewart BS '18**, live in Roy with their four cats.

**Ian Wilkinson AS '17, BS '17** is an executive account director and consultant for WEX, out of Portland, Maine. He provides financial solutions to companies within the transportation industry. He and his wife, Lacey, have two children and live in Ogden.



## Steven Nabor

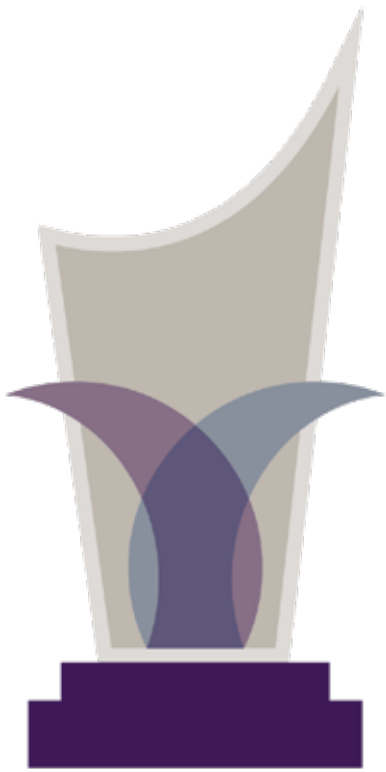
Senior Associate Vice President for Financial Services and CFO

**Steven Nabor '81** came to Weber State in 1977 as an overwhelmed, first-generation high school graduate. On his first day, he called a professor Dr. Staff because the course catalog listed classes with unassigned instructors as being taught by "staff." It's a mistake that still haunts Nabor, who eventually graduated cum laude in accounting, and shortly after, launched what would become an illustrious 35-year professional career at Weber State.

Nabor was hired as a staff auditor, but his formidable knowledge of finance and innovative approach to problem solving prompted a stream of promotions. At each new level of responsibility, from director of Internal Audit to controller to senior associate vice president for Financial Services to chief financial officer, Nabor was determined to cultivate a financial environment where teaching and learning could flourish.

Throughout his career, Nabor looked beyond existing policies to bring about changes that benefitted students. He introduced an every-other-week payroll schedule for student workers. He spearheaded an installment option for students struggling with tuition payments. During government shutdowns, Nabor helped deploy strategies to ease the burden placed on thousands of financial aid recipients.

Nabor also assisted in the design, financing and installation of Flaming W Rock, an iconic campus landmark.



# 2019 H. Aldous DIXON AWARDS

Since 1970, the WSU Alumni Association has presented the H. Aldous Dixon Award to outstanding faculty and staff. The award is given in memory of former President Dixon, who served as the school's chief administrator in 1919-20 and from 1937 to 1953.



## Julie Rich

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Associate Dean and Professor of Geography

No one can accuse the associate dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, **Julie Rich '81**, of being locked in an "ivory tower of academia."

Rich, a geography professor and Weber State alumna who graduated cum laude in 1981, earned a master's degree from the University of Utah and a Ph.D. from St. John's College, a constituent college of England's University of Oxford.

Her collaborative teaching has garnered prestigious honors, including the Crystal Crest Master Teacher, Hemingway Faculty Excellence and John A. Lindquist awards. Rich consistently earns near-perfect student-evaluation scores. Her research and presentations are internationally acclaimed; her expert opinions on everything from climate change to sustainable construction to green mapping are sought after at home and abroad.

Rich's crusade to enrich a student's "Weber State experience" through service learning underscores her longtime association with the university. The Global Community Engaged Learning program, which Rich started, has benefitted more than 200 students, alumni and faculty, and countless indigenous people in Rwanda, Mozambique, Thailand, Peru, Uganda, and soon Fiji.

Rich promotes undergraduate research. Many of her students assist her fieldwork, conduct lab experiments and present their findings at conferences. Rich helped supervise the recent renovation of the Social Science building, now named Lindquist Hall.

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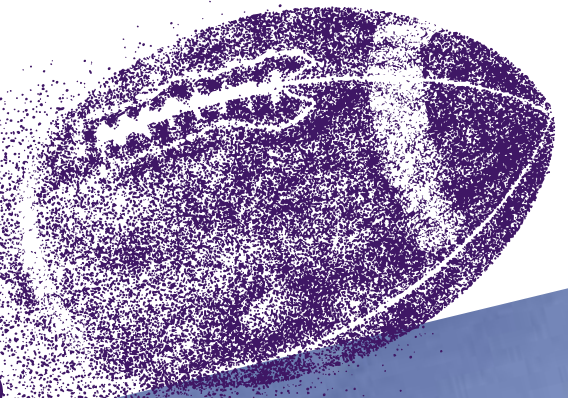
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# IT'S A BIG YEAR FOR FOOTBALL!



Not only does the 2019 season mark the return of the back-to-back Big Sky Champion Wildcats, it also marks 100 years of football at Weber State and the opening of a new athletic complex at the north end of Stewart Stadium.

The 27,000-square-foot building will serve as the main entrance to the stadium and will include the Barbara and Rory Youngberg Football Center, the Sark's Boys' Gateway, the Stromberg Strength and Conditioning Complex, the Marquardt-Kimball Plaza and the Behnken Plaza. The complex will feature facilities for the football team and for all student-athletes.

"This building is transformational to our program," said former Athletic Director Jerry Bovee MBA '10. "Over the

last 10 years, we have made great strides in improving the athletic and academic facilities for our student-athletes. This is a capstone project that will assist in the development of not only the football program but all of our 16 sports. We thank the generous community members and former student-athletes who made this possible."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 6 from 4-6 p.m. Come hear from campus and community dignitaries, take self-guided tours and purchase tickets for the football home-opener versus Cal Poly Saturday, Sept. 7.

