

WILDCAT

WSU Alumni Magazine | FALL 2017

*Living the
Dream*



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Thankful

MARIA HERNANDEZ PADILLA

Radiologic Sciences Student and Role Model

Ordinarily soft spoken, Maria can't help but talk a little louder, and faster, when discussing radiologic sciences. "I'll earn my associate's degree next year," she says, "but I also want to get my bachelor's degree, concentrating on CT, and eventually go into nuclear medicine."

Always one to focus on her studies — "My mom never had to tell me to do my homework; I just loved doing it!" — Maria was excited to be the only student chosen from her class to participate in the radiologic sciences clinical internship at Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital, where she still works on an as-needed basis. "I've grown so much already and am grateful to be at Weber State."

Maria is the first person in her family to attend college. Her parents emigrated from Colima, Comala, Mexico, when she was an infant and moved to Utah when she was in elementary school.

Today, she takes being a role model seriously.

"I want to be an inspiration to my two younger brothers and to the millions of students like me who are trying to succeed in a tough, tough world. It doesn't always come easy, but I'm here, and I'm thankful for the opportunity. I know I've chosen a great pathway."

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



Maria is holding a hand anatomy model that was created on a 3-D printer. Radiologic sciences students now have access to seven 3-D printers and software, courtesy of the Dr. Ezekiel R. and Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation.

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

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WILDCAT

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Cover art provided by **Emily Hart Wood BFA '08**. Jump to page 20 to read more about Emily. See more of her art at emilyhartwood.com, or follow her on Instagram [@the_papermoon_studios](https://www.instagram.com/the_papermoon_studios).



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MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



1.3 Million Hours and Counting

A decade ago, Weber State established the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) to enrich lives in local communities. In those 10 years, WSU students have amassed 1,333,821 service hours, working within the three pillars of community engagement — service, democratic engagement and community research. CCEL participants have served the greater Ogden community, the state, the region, the country and the world.

Each year, the Center for Community Engaged Learning offers the Engaged Learning Series, a university-wide series of events to engage students, faculty, staff and community members in discussions of issues of public concern. In 2017-18, the series will focus on civility. Participants will discuss the definition of civility, how civility ties into ethical behavior, who decides what is civil, why civility breaks down and more. For a list of events, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.



What the World Needs Now is Literature, Sweet Literature

Thanks to two WSU professors, we can now add empathy to the ever-growing list of benefits associated with reading literature. English professor **Sally Shigley** and psychology professor **Lauren Fowler**, who also heads up WSU's Neuroscience Program, joined forces to study a possible connection between literature and empathy.

The study measured the physiological signs of empathy (facial muscle activity, heart rate, skin temperature) in its subjects as they read the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Wit*, which chronicles a woman battling stage 4 cancer. The results of the study showed that reading literature elicited empathy because readers assumed the role of the main character.

The study has been presented at several conferences, including one at Oxford



University. It has been published as a chapter in Routledge Press' book *Rethinking Empathy Through Literature*.

Today, the research continues to progress. Fowler's student, **Chase Brower**, for example, looked into the relationship between oxytocin, a neuro-hormone widely referred to as the "love hormone," and literature. His study involved testing individuals for oxytocin receptor genetics, then testing them to measure their physiological levels of empathy.

"Chase found that, with literature, instead of saying, 'Here is your empathy level based on your genetics,' you can say, 'Here is your empathy range, and literature actually can bring that level up,'" Fowler said. "It's been really fun to involve students and watch this research evolve."



National Champs x 2

Weber State claimed two national championships at the 2017 NCA and NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Wildcat cheer squad won the Division I Coed crown (its third in six years), while the Wildcat dance team won the Hip Hop Division I title.

President Serves Abroad

During spring 2017, a team of 20 volunteers, including WSU President **Charles A. Wight** and his wife, **Victoria Rasmussen**, traveled to Ghana as part of a study abroad trip.

Trip director **Lisa Trujillo**, WSU associate professor of respiratory therapy, has extensive knowledge and experience with service work in Ghana. In 2016, she helped the University of Ghana implement the country's first and only respiratory therapy degree program.

The trip was Wight's first international service trip with WSU. While in Ghana, he taught short courses on malaria prevention and represented the Rotary Club of Ogden, a trip sponsor. He also met with leaders at the University of Ghana to discuss their respiratory therapy program, which continues to receive development support from Weber State.



A lone map remains in WSU's Social Science building.



Construction Zone

Over the summer, construction crews gutted an iconic Weber State building in preparation for a massive remodel. The Social Science building will be reconstructed from the inside out. When complete, the busy building that sits grandly at the front of campus will be renamed Lindquist Hall.

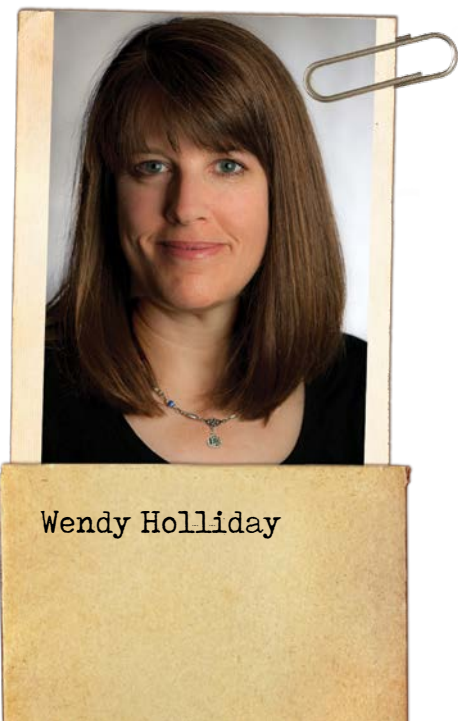
On the east side of Weber State, construction on the new Ezekiel R. Dumke Jr. and Katherine W. Dumke Center for Interprofessional Education in Health Care is underway. The building will provide collaborative space for students and faculty in various health care disciplines to study and learn together.



WSU broke ground in May for the Dumke Center for Interprofessional Education in Health Care.

New Library Dean and a Newly Renovated Library

When she was just 4 years old, **Wendy Holliday**, the new Stewart Library dean, learned to write her name in order to obtain a library card.



"My dad got to check out books because he had a library card, and I could check out only two on his card," Holliday said. "I can still remember when I successfully wrote that name on a library card and could check out a big stack of books just like him."

Holliday's love of reading and learning led to a Ph.D. in history and a master's degree in library science.

Holliday arrived at WSU just in time for the grand reopening of the Stewart Library in August.

After a 16-month renovation, the building now includes expansive windows to allow for more natural light, additional research and study spaces, a new heating and air conditioning system, and remodeled restrooms.

"I feel grateful to be arriving here at this time," Holliday said. "I am really appreciative of the thoughtfulness that went into the new library design. It's going to provide a wonderful space for students, staff and faculty to come together to learn."

Staff hope the campus community will come and check out all the resources available in the library — including a book, of course.

Track Star Returns to Coach

Corbin Talley BS '03 loves to compete, no matter what he's doing. He met his future wife, **Stefanie Hansen AS '98**, in the mid '90s when they both ran for Weber State. They also happened to be in the same psychology class.

"We got competitive with our grades," Talley remembered.



"The professor would announce the top test score. Half the time it was me, and half the time it was my wife.

"In fact, the year she graduated, she had the highest GPA for a student-athlete. A few years later, I received the same honor — with just a slightly

higher GPA — but, of course, who keeps track of those kind of numbers?" he said, laughing.

It's hard to overlook the numbers Talley has tallied. At WSU, he was part of seven Big Sky Championship track and field teams and twice competed at the NCAA Championship in cross country. He also earned Big Sky Academic honors 10 times.

Following graduation, Talley began coaching at Davis High School in Kaysville, Utah. He led the boys' and girls' teams to a combined 23 state championships and 45 region titles. Talley was named the 2016 Nike Nationals Coach of the Year.

He's excited to return to the home of the Wildcats as the head coach of the men's cross country and track and field programs.

"The No. 1 priority is to create experiences and an atmosphere for these athletes that are positive and help them work hard and work together," Talley said. "I think that combination will result, down the road, in winning."

Solar Gazing

When the sun went behind the moon during the solar eclipse on Aug. 21, physics professor **John Sohl** and his High Altitude Reconnaissance Balloon for Outreach and Research (HARBOR) team were hard at work.

Situated near Rexburg, Idaho, where the eclipse was 100 percent, the team launched balloons, loaded with cameras and equipment, to the edge of space.

They were part of a NASA-funded study to capture the event on video and measure the atmosphere, with a special focus on ozone.

WSU is working with Salt Lake County's Clark Planetarium to produce the video for global distribution to planetariums.

"I've never witnessed a total solar eclipse before; the spectacle was jaw-dropping," Sohl said. "We had arranged to have all science hardware automated during the time of totality, so we could just enjoy the eclipse. That was a good thing because it was so amazing that we wouldn't have been able to tear ourselves away from the view."

Remember R.L. Stine's Give Yourself Goosebumps books that were popular with kids in the 1990s? You know, the ones that turned young readers into main characters, the ones that allowed kids to choose their own adventures? Some of the stories had over 20 possible endings, good and bad.

"The great thing about the books was, if you didn't like the ending, you went back and started over, you jumped to page 23 instead of 32," said professional sales alumnus **Shaun McBride BA '12**. "My life has kind of been like one big choose-your-own-adventure story."

Shaun, aka Shonduras, went from skateboard shop owner, to online jewelry seller, to sales representative, to social media guru, to a marketing and advertising honoree in Forbes' list of 30 Under 30 (in other words, he skipped from page 23 to 32, went back to page 14, hopped to 35, then turned to page 60).

"All of us have a story," Shonduras said, "and we're in charge of what it looks like."

How true.

Take **Jessica Schreifels Miller BS '09, MPC '13**, for example. She moved straight through her story: bachelor's degree, journalist, master's degree, Pulitzer Prize. **Joe McGill BS '03**, however, skipped back and forth: football, NFL dream, foot injury, derailed dream, accounting major, manager to the stars in L.A. **Amanda King's '17** story sent her around the globe: Ogden, West Point, Afghanistan, Ogden.

Over the next few pages, we'll share the stories of 10 alumni. Each took a different path, at a different stage in life, but they all have two things in common: Their journeys started right here at Weber State University and today, they are ...

Living the Dream

Amy Renner Hendricks, Allison Barlow Hess, Karin Hurst and Jaime Winston

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS





Photo by Zac Williams BS '01, MPC '13



The Social Media Guru

Shaun McBride “Shonduras” BA '12
Professional Sales

Shaun McBride's parents: “Hey, there's this college up the road called Weber State. You should probably go.”

Shaun: “That's probably a good idea. Let's do it.”

Two days after Shaun returned from a life-changing mission in Honduras, he walked into class. “Guys, I literally fell in love with Weber. A lot of my friends were paying tons of money to go to other universities, but Weber was a blast,” he told a crowd of WSU students during a spring 2017 speech on campus. “I met that guy, right there,” he said, pointing to associate professor of professional sales **Tim Border**.

A natural storyteller, Shaun told the audience about his senior negotiations project. “I thought, what if I took something — a pair of headphones I won at a skateboarding contest — took great pictures of them, wrote a good description for them and used them to trade up for something else. I did that on KSL. I got a used video gaming system that didn't have a photo, made really nice photos of it and wrote an awesome

description of it. I sold it and doubled my revenue. I did the same process over and over.

“At the end of the semester, I was smiling and walking over to Tim to hand him my paper, and he was like, ‘Fun project?’ I was like, ‘Yeah, I hope I get a good grade, but if not, I just made \$600 and have a new Game Cube!’”

Turns out the project went really well. Turning to Border, Shaun laughed and said, “I'm just gonna say you gave me an ‘A’ because that's the story I want to remember. I can't remember my exact grade, but I learned a lot about life.”

Today, Shaun, aka Shonduras, has created a social media empire in the Clearfield, Utah, building he refers to as his “Spacestation.” He has amassed millions of followers on social media, where he is most popular on YouTube and Snapchat. He works with brands such as Nickelodeon, MTV, Taco Bell, Red Bull, Doritos, Xfinity and Axe to tell their stories.



Photo by Zac Williams BS '01, MPC '13



The Geologist

Jessica Castleton BS '05
Applied Environmental Geosciences

Jessica Castleton used her Weber State University education to become one of the best at helping Utah communities prepare for the worst.

"Weber prepared me the most by providing me with hands-on field education," Castleton said. "We learned how to apply what we were learning in the classroom in the field as a professional geologist would."

Now, Castleton creates maps of possible geologic hazards for communities as a hazards geologist with the Utah Geological Survey. "I also get called out for hazards response when there is an event such as a debris flow, flood, rock fall or other geologic hazard," she said. "I like helping people be prepared for disasters and understand the environment they live in."

One of her most exciting projects involved creating a map for Moab. "The project stemmed from a disaster response visit to determine why a sinkhole had formed under a home,"

she said. "Being able to do fieldwork in Moab was fun, and communicating the geologic hazards to the community has been rewarding."

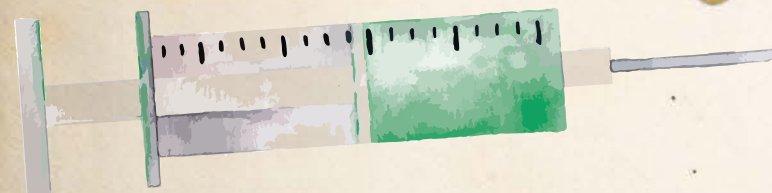
Castleton earned her master's degree in geology from the University of Utah in 2015. She has volunteered with local chapters of the Association of Women Geoscientists and the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG), and she currently serves as regional director for AEG, supporting chapters in Utah, Nevada and Arizona.

In addition, she serves on WSU's Geosciences Advisory Committee.

"I have had the opportunity to work with professionals from universities all over the world, and I can honestly say that Weber State is the best," she said. "The geologic education I received at Weber was world class."



Photo by Zac Williams BS '01, MPC '13



The Paramedic

Amanda King '17

Paramedic Program

Amanda King followed her dream when her friend could no longer live hers.

King graduated from the United States Military Academy, aka West Point, in 2006 and served eight years in the Army. While on one of her three tours of duty in Afghanistan, her close friend and fellow soldier, Jennifer Moreno, an Army nurse, was killed during a rescue mission.

"That was really a game changer for me in determining that medicine was a true passion in my life," King said. "I wanted to go on and follow in her steps with medicine since she was unfortunately not able to," King said.

King, who was handed her diploma at West Point by former President George W. Bush, decided on Weber State to pursue her dream.

"My first day at Weber State, I was greeted by a whole lot of very smiling faces and donuts and people helping me find my classes," said King, who recalls upperclassmen yelling at new students on her first day at West Point.

However, King didn't pick WSU for its friendly atmosphere.

WSU offered the quickest path for King to fulfill her dream. Now, she works for a private ambulance service as she awaits training to become a fire department paramedic.

"Weber State was definitely what I needed to make my dreams come true," she said. "Weber State embraces people like me who, at a later age, decide they want to switch career paths."



The Teacher

Ginny Shepler BIS '80, BS '86

Social Work, Psychology, Child Development and Elementary Education

Their school mascot may be a tiger, but every Wednesday, students in Ginny Shepler's classroom at Juan Bautista De Anza Elementary in San Jacinto, California, turn into Weber State Wildcats. Most wear purple and white, although there is a smattering of Damian Lillard Portland Trail Blazers T's among them.

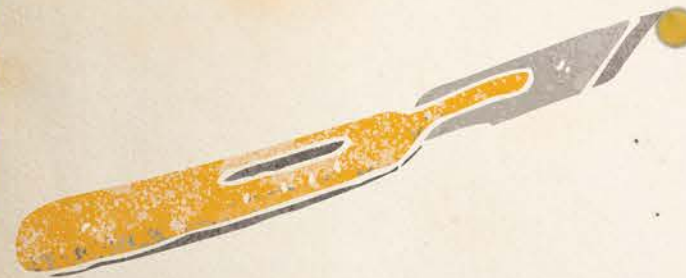
Shepler is an intervention teacher. Her students, kindergartners through fifth-graders, need extra support to be successful in English and language arts. She uses the shirts as incentives in her classroom. "All students end up having a chance to wear them multiple times throughout the year," she said.

In addition to Weber Wear, her classroom features several pieces of Weber State paraphernalia: a pompom, banner and bumper sticker hang from the wall. Approximately 85 percent of students at De Anza Elementary come from socioeconomically disadvantaged homes. Part of the school's mission is to prepare students for college.

"I want my students to know they are talented, capable and smart," Shepler said. "One time a student wrote, 'Mrs. Shepler knew we could do it even if we didn't know we could.' I also received a note once that said, 'Mrs. Shepler is the best teacher because she cherishes us.' If I can make all my students feel that way, I know I've done my job."

Originally from Michigan, Shepler turned down a partial scholarship at Michigan State University to attend Weber State with her best friend.

"I loved Weber," she said. "I really enjoyed the personal relationships we had with our professors. By the end of my freshman year, I was placed in work study jobs completely aligned with my school focus, so my work experience enhanced my learning experience. And, since my family was so far away, the people at Weber became my family."



The Surgeon

Daniel Cox BS '08

Zoology, Pre-medicine Program

When then-cabinet builder Daniel Cox enrolled at Weber State in 2004, he wasn't sure he'd enjoy science, so he decided to take his required science classes first, just to get them out of the way.

It was a good decision.

He recalled, "I wasn't a good student in high school, but during my freshman year at Weber, I took Glenn Harrington's microbiology course, and it opened my eyes.

"I remember going home and reading my textbook, not because I had to, but because I wanted to. The next day I was sanding cabinets — I loved to work with my hands — and all of a sudden I just stopped, looked at a coworker and said, 'I'm going to go to medical school.'"

Fast forward to June 20, 2017.

Cox and his wife, **Tori Edwards Cox BS '08**, had just welcomed their fourth child into the world at 2 a.m. Daniel was days

away from finishing his ENT residency at the University of Utah Hospital. He was weeks away from moving his family to Atlanta, where he would be participating in an endoscopic skull base surgery fellowship at the prestigious Emory University.

Endoscopic skull base surgery is a minimally invasive procedure that allows surgeons to remove tumors and lesions through the nose versus a large opening in the skull.

"Weber State offered so many opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten at other, larger schools," Cox said. "During my first anatomy class at medical school (at Washington University of St. Louis), the professor asked how many of us had performed dissections on human cadavers. I'm surrounded by students who had attended Harvard and Yale, and only three people raised their hands.

"I was one of them, thanks to Weber State."



Photo by Zac Williams BS '01, MPC '13

The Artist

Emily Hart Wood BFA '08

Visual Art & Design, 2-D Emphasis

Emily Hart Wood's artistic voice came from an unlikely source — Bill Murray, the iconic star of *Ghostbusters*, *Zombieland* and *Groundhog Day*.

It happened in 2010, when a Los Angeles art gallery invited Wood to participate in its group show *Mr. Bill Murray, A Tribute to the Legend*. Before producing a whimsical, whiskered, pipe-smoking Murray clutching a goldfish bowl and straddling the bow of a sailboat, Wood had separated her abstract work from her illustrative work (see the Bill Murray painting at weber.edu/wsumagazine).

"Now those two styles have come together," Wood said. "Bill was my first painting where I feel like I found my style. Oh, Bill Murray ... you sneaky little devil!"

Wood's "style" is abstract art and collage meet illustration. And while a Hollywood heavyweight may have inspired her style, Wood got her scholarly appreciation of art from Weber State.

"I would not be doing what I'm doing if I hadn't gone to school," she said. "At Weber State, I developed an

understanding and a perspective — more so than skill — that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else."

At the heart of WSU's visual art and design program is individualized teaching. "Those professors are so involved with each student," Wood said. "They were so passionate about what they were doing it was just contagious."

Wood paints at home in a light-flooded space she calls The Paper Moon Studio. She accepts commissions and exhibits her work extensively in galleries throughout Utah and California.

Wood was especially touched recently when she learned that *Wonder Rising*, a small painting purchased at a gallery in Park City, Utah, now "resides" in California with the Palm Springs Police Department, where it symbolizes fighting Internet crimes against children.

"I didn't have crimes against children in mind when I painted it," Wood said. "But now when I look at it, I see a child being rescued."



Photo by Zac Williams BS '01, MPC '13

The Journalist

Jessica Schreifels Miller BS '09, MPC '13
Communication

Jessica Schreifels Miller arrived at Weber State with a clear idea of what she wanted to study: journalism. She'd found her passion in high school, writing for TX, the teen section of the *Standard-Examiner*.

"I didn't really know how to write articles, so I would look at the stories from the 'grownup reporters,' and I just copied their style, and I called sources," she said, laughing. "Like I actually called real people for my stories, which apparently I didn't have to do, but I did."

At age 20, Miller was selected as editor-in-chief of *The Signpost*. Driven, she graduated from Weber State in just three years and earned her Master of Professional Communication degree four years later.

After receiving her bachelor's degree, Miller reported first for the *Standard-Examiner* and then as the cops reporter at *The Salt Lake Tribune*. There, she received a call that a Brigham Young University (BYU) student claimed she was punished for honor

code violations following a report of sexual assault. That story led to a yearlong, statewide investigation and to *The Tribune's* 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting.

"Other people in Utah did this story," Miller said, "but we kept pushing. I wonder if we hadn't done that, if we hadn't kept writing story after story, it would have just been dismissed as a bad week in public relations, and nothing would ever have changed."

In June 2017, BYU announced it had formally adopted an amnesty policy for victims or witnesses of sexual assault.

"Journalism makes you curious," Miller said. "You look at things, and don't just take them at face value. You think, 'What's the real story? What's really going on?' Journalism has become part of my identity: I am a woman, living in Ogden. I am a wife, and I am journalist. It really has become the core of who I am."



Photo by Dariya Dolgacheva



The Business Manager

Joe McGill BS '03

Accounting

In 1998, Joe McGill was voted Most Athletic at Bellflower High School in Los Angeles County, California. He was so set on getting to the NFL that it surprised him when a teacher asked what he was going to do if football didn't work out.

"What do you mean if football doesn't work out?" McGill recalled asking. "I was 17. I was going to the NFL," he said, laughing at the memory.

"She said, 'But you have to have a plan B,' and I told her I'd like to run my own business. She knew math came easy to me, so she asked if I had ever considered accounting. My family was all blue collar. I didn't even know what a certified public accountant was, or anything about the accounting world really.

"I had been putting marketing/advertising as my major on college applications, but from then on, I switched to accounting."

McGill committed to play football at the University of San Diego but eventually decided to play for a community college, where Weber State noticed him. He was recruited and arrived on

campus in January 2001. During his first semester, during spring practice, he injured his left knee. It derailed his football career.

But, thanks to his high school teacher, McGill had a backup plan.

"I became involved in Beta Alpha Psi, an accounting and finance fraternity," McGill said. "It was great. Professionals would come speak. We'd hear about interesting careers. During my senior year, I was elected vice president of special projects."

McGill graduated from WSU in 2003. A CPA and business manager, he owns Topline Business Management, LLC in Los Angeles. His clients work in entertainment and include actors, actresses, writers, producers and athletes. When asked who, specifically, he laughed and said, "People you'd recognize."

Today, McGill thinks of Weber State as a "blessing in disguise."

"Weber took me outside my comfort zone," he said. "I was away from home, not around my family, so I had to do a lot on my own. It allowed me to interact with professionals at an earlier age and understand the concept of networking, which was key to my success."



The Harvard Professor

Todd Rose BS '00

Psychology

Todd Rose came to Weber State in the late 1990s a high-school dropout with a 0.9 GPA. He had been labeled a class clown, a troublemaker, and, as he explained in his new book *The End of Average*, “More than one school official told my parents that they would have to temper their expectations about what I would be able to achieve in life.”

Rose, however, felt that “something wasn’t right with [that] analysis.” “I felt sure I had something to offer; it just seemed like there was a profound mismatch between who I really was and the way the world saw me,” he wrote.

At WSU, Rose forged his own path based on his strengths and weaknesses, and found success. Today, he is the director of the Mind, Brain, and Education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he leads the Laboratory for the Science of the Individual. He is also a co-founder of The Center

for Individual Opportunity, a nonprofit organization that promotes individuality in work, school and society.

Rose believes that “the average” is a mythical yardstick that hurts everyone. His mission is to dispel the myth of “the average” and help the public understand that there is a “powerful alternative”: individuality.

Rose explains in his book that there are three principles of individuality: the jaggedness principle (talent is never one-dimensional), the context principle (traits are a myth) and the pathways principle (we all walk the road less traveled).

“We no longer need to be limited by the constraints imposed on us by the Age of Average,” Rose wrote in his book. “We can break free of the averagarianism by choosing to value individuality over conformity to the system. We have a bright future before us, and it begins where the average ends.”



Photo by Matt Herp, Standard-Examiner



The NFL Coach

John Fassel BIS '99

Exercise Science, Athletic Coaching, Communication Teaching

At 43 years old, John Fassel has quite the résumé. Under work experience, he adds: special teams coordinator for the Oakland Raiders, special teams coordinator for the St. Louis Rams, interim head coach for the L.A. Rams, and special teams coordinator for the L.A. Rams. Under achievements, he adds: family man — he and his wife, Elizabeth, have two daughters, Lilah and Avery — triathlete, and even lifesaver — he and a surfer rescued a drowning man at Manhattan Beach in 2016.

Fassel was a wide receiver at Weber State in the late 1990s. He transferred to WSU from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where the football program was dropped in 1996, during Fassel's sophomore year. Dave Arslanian, who spent nine seasons as Weber State's head coach, from 1989-1997, recruited Fassel.

"John actually started out as a quarterback, and he certainly added to our depth at that position, but we already had our quarterback lineup, so we moved him to wide receiver," Arslanian said. "He was one of those athletes you just wanted to play. He was a prototype quarterback, but he quickly became a prototype wide receiver."

Today, as the special teams coordinator for the L.A. Rams, Fassel enjoys "helping young guys make the transition from being a college student-athlete to being a responsible professional," and says his three years at WSU were "three of the most memorable years of my life."

"I had GREAT teachers and GREAT coaches and GREAT friends. I am forever grateful to them, and to the cafeteria workers (I ate every meal in Promontory Tower!)," Fassel said, laughing. "I've been back a few times. It still feels a little bit like home."

I DREAMED I'd become ...

A RACE CAR
DRIVER

A ROCK STAR

A FLIGHT
ATTENDANT

AN OPERA
SINGER

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEADERS
2017-18

Photo by Zac Williams BS '01, MPC '13

Today I am ...



DANIELLE CROYLE BS '96

A Police Captain &

President, WSU Alumni Association

As a child, I dreamed I'd become ... a flight attendant. I had never flown, and wanted to travel.

I actually became ... a police officer.

My childhood hero was ... Wonder Woman. She had killer boots and awesome bulletproof bracelets.

My favorite coming-of-age movie is ... *Three O'Clock High* because it was filmed at Ogden High School when I attended there.

The celebrity I wish would have come to my sixth-grade slumber party is ... Princess Leia. I tried to replicate her cinnamon-bun hairstyle, but my hair was too blonde and fine.

My dream for WSUAA in 2017-18 is ... that we raise so much scholarship money, every student (who wants to) can attend Weber State.



INDIA NIELSEN BS '14

A Civic Advocate &

President, Young Alumni Council

As a child, I dreamed I'd become ... an opera singer because I hadn't yet realized my debilitating fear of singing in front of other people.

I actually became ... a public servant because the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service allowed me to serve five fantastic internships that

gave me work experience before I graduated.

My favorite coming-of-age movie is ... *Big Fish*. It's about finding your place in the world by surrounding yourself with people who make a meaningful impact on your life and community.

Something I got away with as a kid that I now wish I hadn't was ... wearing a white Nike one-piece sweat suit in a Gap Kids ad. The picture still haunts me.

The celebrity I wish would have come to my sixth-grade slumber party is ... Avril Lavigne because she was my musical obsession and idol when I was in sixth grade.

My dream for WSUAA in 2017-18 is ... to inspire all Wildcats — past, present, and future — to stay connected and engaged with each other and the Weber State community!



GERRIT WOLHUIS BS '71

A Banker &

President, Emeriti Alumni Council

As a child, I dreamed I'd become ... a race car driver because I loved fast cars! My first car was a 1950 Chevy with a 1953 Oldsmobile Rocket V8 engine.

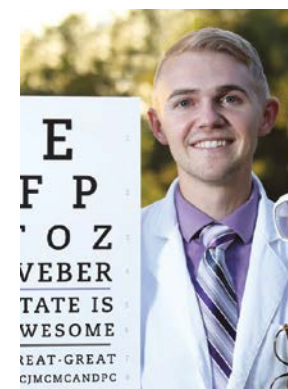
I actually became ... a banker because of my Weber State education.

My favorite coming-of-age movie is ... *The Sandlot* because those characters did what I would have done at that age.

In a junior high school game of Truth or Dare, I would ... never reveal a secret, but I would accept a challenge.

The celebrity I wish would have come to my sixth-grade slumber party is ... Roy Rogers.

My dream for WSUAA in 2017-18 is ... to see more Weber State alumni become WSUAA members and support their school!



KENDRICK GARRETT

A Microbiology Major &

President, Student Alumni Association

As a child, I dreamed I'd become ... a rock star because I loved jamming out on my bass!

I'm actually becoming ... an optometrist because eyes are so interesting, and there are so many beautiful things in the world to be seen.

My favorite coming-of-age movie is ... *Big Fat Liar*. All those pranks were just too good. (Also, I kinda had a crush on Amanda Bynes.)

In a junior high school game of Truth or Dare, I would ... always choose truth because I knew what kind of dares my friends were capable of coming up with. I once watched my best friend drink an entire 32-ounce bottle of Heinz ketchup. (I also had the privilege of hearing it all come back up a half hour later.)

Something I got away with as a kid that I now wish I hadn't was ... eating cold cereal night and day. My addiction is pretty real. A world without cereal? Unimaginable!

My dreams for WSUAA in 2017-18 are ... to see us create new friendships and opportunities with and for fellow Wildcats, and to help others see the importance of giving back.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

Warren Buss AS '57 retired from the University of Northern Colorado after 38 years of teaching plant physiology, botany, environmental studies, biology, photography and scientific writing. He received UNC's Outstanding Service Award and also the Favorite Teacher Award. He is the webmaster of the Colorado Biology Teachers Association and previously served as president and vice president of the organization. Warren lives in Greeley, Colorado, with his wife, Beverly. They have five children, 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

'70s

Michael Anderson BS '70 had a 25-year career as a special agent with the IRS criminal investigation division. In this role, he created the training and standards for computer evidence processing that are now recognized worldwide.

Upon retirement, he founded a computer forensics-based company. Upon his second retirement, Michael became a fine arts photographer. His *Yellowstone Winter Reflections* image received an International Award of Merit from the Professional Photographers of America. He is co-owner of Artistic Photo Expression LLC in West Linn, Oregon, where he lives with his wife, Lorraine.

James Elmer BS '73 retired after 18 years from ION Media TV Network as the master controller. He previously owned/operated Zazzoo Designs Co., where he produced custom embroidery for designers such as Geoffrey Beene and Calvin Klein. James was the head of the embroidery department at Eaves-Brooks Costume Company in New York, where he produced custom-embroidered costumes for various entertainment industries. He performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, on TV and in film, and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. James also worked as

a paralegal for MetLife Law Department in Manhattan. He now lives in Marriott-Slaterville, Utah.

Julee Smith BS '73 is the executive director for Ogden's YCC (Your Community Connection) Family Crisis Center. For 26 years, she has taught in WSU's Department of Child & Family Studies as an adjunct instructor, a position she started while working as a probation officer in the juvenile courts. Julee has taught classes on human development and parenting and is currently teaching a marriage class. She and her husband, Mont, live in Ogden.

After almost 20 years as a technical writer and editor at Hill Air Force Base, **Carma Allen AS '77** moved to the Bay Area, where she produced manuals and training materials for the defense industry. She later worked on product development teams and wrote user manuals for a health care laboratory equipment manufacturer. She retired in 2005 and

wrote a satirical book, *Helpful Household Hints for the Domestically Challenged*. Carma currently publishes a blog and lives in Folsom, California.

'80s

A statistician, **Donna Greenman Ruiz BS '85** worked for various contractors at Hill Air Force Base and retired in 2016 from Lockheed Martin. She has been an adjunct instructor in WSU's mathematics department for 30 years. Three of her four children attended Weber State, and three of her grandsons are enrolled at the university. Donna lives in Layton, Utah.

Scott Sessions '85 is a regional manager for Self-Reliance Services of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He previously served as associate manager for the LDS church's Employment Resource Services. Scott is a board member for the WSU Alumni Association's Arizona



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Regional Alumni Network and a mentor for Year Up. He and his wife, Julie, live in Mesa, Arizona.

James "Jim" Hull BS '88 is a principal product engineer for Micron Technology. He previously worked for Iomega as a product validation engineer. Jim and his wife, **Jody Hull AS '90, BS '92**, live in Boise, Idaho, where Jody works for Idaho Wildlife Fish and Game.

'90s

Larry Riggs BS '92 is the global director of airbag manufacturing for Autoliv, where he previously served as a technical support manager. Larry received his MBA from Utah State University. He is a mentor for the WSU Alumni Association's Leadership to Legacy mentorship program.

Matthew Weeks BA '92 is the lead family physician at the Intermountain Healthcare North Ogden Clinic. He previously served as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Matthew currently serves on WSU's Student Affairs Committee and as a mentor in the Alumni Association's Leadership to Legacy mentorship program. His wife, **Zalinda Lanette Toone Weeks AS '88, BS '90**, was recently named South Ogden City Volunteer of the Year. She volunteers with Rotary International and organizes humanitarian

trips to Mexico. Matthew and Zalinda have four sons, all of whom are students at WSU.

Shane Rasband AS '95, AS '12, BS '15 is a software engineer and records manager for Jacobs Technology. He served in the U.S. Navy and Air Force reserves for more than 24 years. Shane and his wife, Stephanie, have three children. He is a volunteer for the Lakeside Elementary Community Council and Boy Scouts of America.

Jake Shannon BS '95 is a human resources leader with Amazon Web Services in Seattle, where he lives with his wife, **Ruth Ann Shannon AA '95**, and their six children. Prior to joining Amazon, he worked in human resources and global marketing for 17 years at Merck & Co., including leading human resources efforts at the company's site in Munich, Germany.

Jenny Brown Scothern BS '96 is the executive director for the GOAL (Get Out and Live) Foundation. She also serves on the Board of Governors for Visit Ogden and the Ogden/Weber Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the Ogden Rotary Club. Her husband, **Greg Scothern BS '03**, is a project manager for Boman & Kemp Manufacturing Inc. They have two children.

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alumni.weber.edu/leadershiptolegacy

Angie Adams Bond AS '98, BS '01 was an organic chemistry lecturer at Stanford University, where she received her Master of Arts degree in organic chemistry. She also was a chemistry lab instructor for undergraduate students. Angie now works as an independent consultant for Rodan + Fields. She and her husband, Matthew, live in Portland, Oregon.

Angelina Feichko BS '98 is CEO and principal broker of Sold By An Angel Real Estate. She has received numerous awards in her 19-year career in real estate, including the Lifetime Sales Master Award from the Board of Realtors, Rookie of the Year, Outstanding Achievement Award, and she was an inductee of the Hill Air Force Base Honorary Commander Program. Angelina lives with her husband in North Salt Lake, Utah.

'00s

Shauna Pitt AS '00, BS '05 is an advisor for WSU's Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions. She serves on Weber State's Staff Advisory Committee and the Marriott Staff Development Committee. Shauna, who recently celebrated her 10-year anniversary at the university, also teaches an introduction to health care careers course.

Blynn Simmons BA '00 is an attorney who focuses on estate planning, business planning and transactions, elder law, and mediation at Sage Law Partners LLC in Farmington, Utah. She lives in South Weber, Utah, with her husband, Scott.

Megan Wolhuis Grunander BS '01, a surgeon, is the assistant director of trauma

and the intensive care unit at Ogden Clinic. She also serves on the board for Ogden Clinic and is the assistant professor of surgery at the University of Utah, where she earned her medical degree. Megan is also a member of the University of Utah School of Medicine Admissions Committee. Her husband, **Todd Grunander BS '02**, is an orthopedic surgeon and chief of surgery at McKay-Dee Hospital. They have three children.

Lucien Hardy III BS '01 is a senior account executive for Enterprise Rental Agency, where he has worked for more than 11 years. He and his daughter, Brookelyn, live in Los Angeles.

Julia Cherashore B.Mus. '02, BS '03 works in risk management for Morgan Stanley. She received her MBA in finance from New York University. Julia and her

husband, Matthew, live in Larchmont, New York. They have one daughter.

Michael Giles BS '03 is a tax and estate planning attorney at Bennett, Tueller, Johnson & Deere in Salt Lake City. He received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) and LL.M. (tax) degrees from Boston University. Michael serves on the WSU Planned Giving Committee and is a mentor for the Alumni Association's Leadership to Legacy mentorship program.

Cory Weeks AA '03, BA '06, IC '07, MA '14 is a finance accountant for Utah's Division of Finance and is the Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance coordinator for the state. He lives in Centerville, Utah, and is a Young Alumni mentor for the WSU Alumni Association's Leadership to Legacy mentorship program.

Tamara Davies BS '04 works in communications at Pluralsight in Farmington, Utah. She received her Master of Professional Communication degree from Westminster College. Her husband, **Derek Davies BS '04, MAcc '05**, is a controller for Petzl America. Tamara and Derek have one child and live in Centerville, Utah.

Joe Jatip BS '04 is a consultant and talent acquisition specialist for Dell Technologies. He previously worked as a human resources manager for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and for MarketStar Corporation. He and his wife, Tami, have four children and live in West Haven, Utah.

Raeanna Johnson AS '05, BS '08 is the employee wellness coordinator for WSU. Her husband, **Trevor Johnson BS '14**, is a process engineer at Hill Air Force Base. Raeanna and Trevor live in Hooper, Utah, with their two daughters.

Austin Green BS '06, M.Ed. '11 is an elementary school teacher for Utah's Davis School District. He previously taught in the Canyons School District. For the past seven years, Austin has served as an adjunct faculty member at Weber State, teaching in the English as a Second Language program. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Layton, Utah.

Jill Walker BS '06, MA '12 is the new alumni coordinator

for WSU's Office of Alumni Relations. Over the past 10 years, she has also worked for Weber State in the Stewart Library and as a Foundations of College Success instructor. Her husband, **Shane Walker AAS '10, BS '13**, is a software engineer for Hill Air Force Base. They have two daughters.

Jeffrey Bailey BS '07 is the director of business development for AlphaGraphics in Bountiful, Utah, where he has worked for 13 years. He is a scoutmaster and 11-year volunteer for Boy Scouts of America. Jeffrey and his wife, Ruth, have four children.

Daniel Peterson '08 is a deputy prosecuting attorney for the Ada County Prosecutor's Office in Boise, Idaho. He handles felony trial litigation for the county. His wife, **Valerie Peterson AS '06**, is a registered nurse. They live with their family in Boise, Idaho.

Erik Oberg BS '09 works in Twin Falls, Idaho, as an innovation scientist for Chobani, where he designs and develops new drinks from idea to commercialization. He received a master's degree from Utah State University in food microbiology, quality and safety. Erik lives in Kimberly, Idaho.



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'10s

Shayden Bertagnolli BA '10 is a licensed marriage and family therapist. He founded Shayden Therapy of Ogden and is currently establishing a company that will empower teenagers to college-aged individuals to conquer anxiety and thrive in relationships. Shayden has a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Auburn University. He considers his career calling to be a relationship/anxiety therapist. He and his wife, Shelly, live in Farr West, Utah, with their two sons and daughter.

Martha Camarillo Freston BA '12 is a Juris Doctor (J.D.) candidate at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She previously worked for the Utah law firm, Parr Brown Gee & Loveless, and the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. She and her husband, **Joel Freston BS '11**, live in San Francisco.

India Nielsen AS '12, BS '14 is a financial disclosure specialist for Utah's lieutenant governor. She is a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah, a volunteer at the Humane Society of Utah, and she donates time to The Road Home's literacy program.

India is president of the WSU Alumni Association's Young Alumni Council.

Chad Illum BS '15 works in the track program in outbound logistics network monitoring for General Motors, where he has held roles in stamping support, indirect purchasing and the command center. He was formerly a pricing analyst for Pro Star Logistics. He lives in Warren, Michigan, with his wife, **Sadie Martineau BA '13**, who is a stay-at-home mom to their two children, with one on the way.

Kris Sanford BS '15 is a professional speaker for student, church and

community groups. In 2014, he completed Spinal Ride, breaking the quadriplegic handcycle distance world record, pedaling 1,040 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Huntington Beach, California. During Kris' ride, he raised \$25,000 for therapy for spinal cord injury patients who can't afford treatment. He volunteers at Utah Special Olympics and the Utah Boys & Girls Clubs.

Mitch L. McBride AS '16, BS '17 is the director of marketing and development for United Way of Northern Utah. He and his wife, Jenny, live in Ogden with their three children.

Dr. T. Ramakrishna (T.R.) Reddy

Professor of Political Science & Philosophy

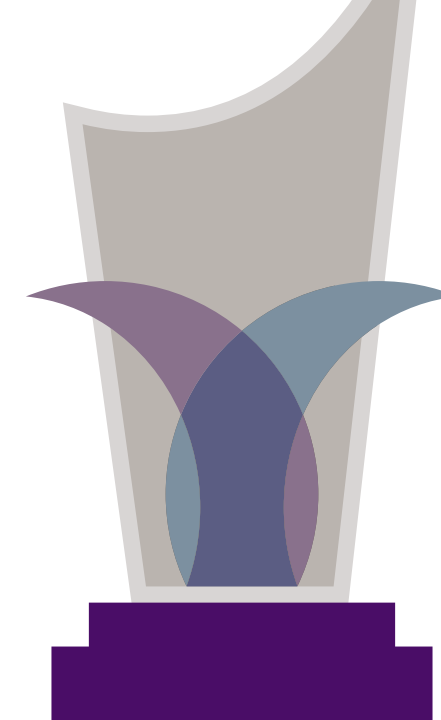
The Weber State from which T. Ramakrishna (T.R.) Reddy will retire at the end of fall semester 2017 is a far cry from the one he first encountered as a newly hired assistant professor in 1965. During a teaching career that will span 51 years, Reddy witnessed Weber State evolve from a small senior college into a nationally respected university.

By the time his desk is cleared, the India-born Reddy will have shared his unique perspective on American democracy and international politics with an estimated 30,000 students. Many of his previous students have forged illustrious careers; one became a Utah Supreme Court justice, and later, a federal judge.

Reddy, named Outstanding Social Sciences Faculty Member of 1980-81, infuses his classes with relevant assignments and topical guest presenters. In the wake of deadly attacks in the U.S. and abroad, Reddy invited India's inspector general of police to speak to his students about combating terrorism.

Reddy, who chaired the Department of Political Science & Philosophy for more than a decade, encourages his students to expand their worldviews. He was a longtime faculty advisor for WSU's Model United Nations program and was the university's Peace Corps liaison officer.

His distinguished service to Weber State students and faculty will not end with his retirement. Reddy plans to create an endowment to support a student research and writing award established in his name.



2017 H. Aldous DIXON AWARDS

Dr. Eric Amsel

Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Assessment

Eric Amsel's lengthy résumé reveals much about his innovative teaching, renowned scholarship, prolific research, numerous publications and prestigious awards. And yet, in a single line, written by the former student who nominated Amsel for the Dixon Award, we learn everything we need to know about Amsel's selfless character: "No matter when you [reach out to] him, he is always to the rescue!" That's a powerful, honest assessment of a man who knows a lot about assessment.

As associate provost for academic programs and assessment, Amsel oversees all academic degree programs at WSU. He also assumes primary responsibility for the university's regional accreditation, program review, general education oversight, and assessment of learning outcomes.

Amsel joined WSU's psychology faculty in 1996 as a champion of undergraduate research. During his long teaching tenure, he collaborated with scores of

students on research into human cognition. He and his "apprentices" explored fascinating topics such as counterfactual thinking and its impact on job satisfaction, fantasy-reality confusion, and imaginary thinking in autistic children.

His outstanding chairmanship of the psychology department and leadership of the WSU Faculty Senate earned Amsel the respect

of his Weber State colleagues. In 2007, Amsel was named a Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor, and in 2016, he was selected as one, of two, WSU associate provosts following a nationwide search.



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



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A Special Moment

It took more than 50 years for Weber State men's basketball to retire its first number in 2015. It took only five years for WSU to give **Damian Lillard BS '15** the same honor after his departure for the NBA draft in 2012.

After five NBA seasons, a Rookie of the Year award, two All-Star Game appearances, a music label and countless endorsement deals, it's easy to see why Lillard has earned the right to have his No. 1 jersey immortalized in the Dee Events Center rafters.

Weber State made it official in August, as the Wildcats hosted their second annual Alumni Classic. Lillard — who helped organize the event — was honored during halftime in front of several thousand fans and more than two dozen WSU hoops greats. He spoke fondly of his memories at Weber State, a time in which he led the Wildcats to two Big Sky titles, earned two conference MVP awards and was named to the 2012 All-America team.

Lillard returned to WSU in 2015 to fulfill his dream of graduating, collected his degree in professional sales and gave a surprise speech during commencement exercises.

Lillard is the third Wildcat to have his jersey retired in the Dee Events Center. He joins men's basketball legends **Willie Sojourner** and **Bruce Collins**.



Photo by Robert Casey