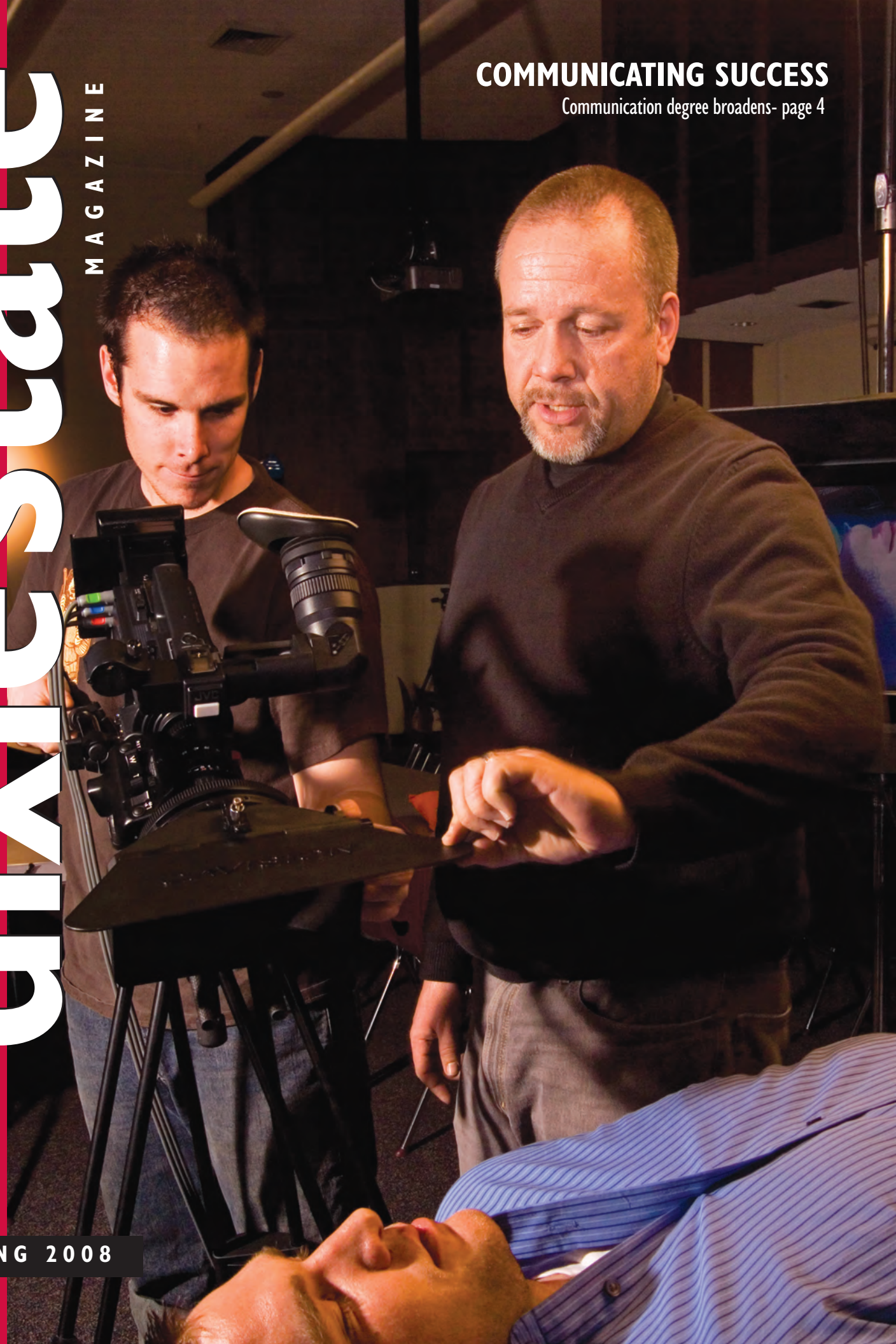






A FIVE-STAR, EXPERT-GUIDED TOUR

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TOUR PRICE: \$2999 INCLUDING AIRFARE

All-inclusive Package

Includes:

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- Two large meals daily
- Water (two bottles daily)
- All internal air and land transportation, taxes, tips, border fees & site entries
- Security escort, where needed

Not Included:

- Incidental hotel charges
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Your tour director, BYU-trained **Shelby Saberon**, worked on the Usumacinta River as an archaeologist and will delight you with his knowledge of the geography, culture, and history of the Maya area. Other archaeologist-directors include, **Dr. Kim Goldsmith** of Teotihuacan, **Alfonso Morales** at Palenque and **Dr. Tomas Barrientos** at Tikal.

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- Usumacinta River
- Tikal Ruins
- Guatemala City
- Lake Atitlan
- Antigua, Guatemala

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BY EMAIL: vickyb@infowest.com OR BY PHONE 435-674-3430.

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Cover photo: Dixie Alum and Professor, Eric Young, instructs student Bobby Bowden in depth of field and rack focus techniques during his digital film production course at Dixie State College.

Cover photo by Frank Carter

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COMMUNICATING *Success*



audacity |¹ōdās·i·tē|,
noun: the substance
found in assistant
communication
professor Eric Young
and what makes his
students stand-out
successes.

Young, a 1988 Dixie graduate himself, spent years in the production world before coming back to Dixie State College and giving even beginning students opportunities that typically aren't available at other schools until their senior year. Any student can come into his classes with talent, but the ones who have the audacity to suggest and launch projects will find success.

"The digital film program is a place where they can do that, and where they have access to experience, equipment and influence," he says. And it's not just about being able to operate a camera. "The priority in the program isn't technical; it's collaborative, working with artists and technicians to realize a communicative goal. It's the 'working with' part that's hard to come by."

His influence contributed to the recent success of two communication majors who won the Utah Film Commission's annual "Spot On" contest. Bobby Bowden, a sophomore from Sandy, and December graduate Ben Braten, from St. George, created a commercial to promote Utah as a place to shoot movies and won a \$1,500 check, a trophy, and Sundance Film Festival passes. Braten, who also won the contest in 2004, helped Bowden's idea come to fruition with one smooth day of shooting and a "nightmare" week of post-production. In fact, Braten says they worked until the last minute, and

Bowden had to drive the commercial to Salt Lake to make the deadline. The two sought advice from Young, who helped them with shooting, providing equipment and developing ideas.

Braten says one thing he has appreciated about Young is being able to "pick his brain," that he had access to a professor who was willing to take the time to lend his knowledge and expertise to students. It seems Young is creating a legacy, considering the fact his students have won this contest three of the last five years.

"Every so often the program attracts student-catalysts who are courageous, maybe even outrageous enough to act on their drive to be creative," he says.

Ironically, senior Kellie Mzik's communication breakdown with Young led her to the program and a number of scholarly achievements. She came to DSC to get an associate degree while she was trying to figure out the next step in her life. She was incorrectly told she couldn't register for classes unless she picked a major, and Mzik didn't want to be a nurse, so she picked communication. She was told to get an adviser, so Mzik started at the bottom of the alphabetical list, and Young answered his phone. Once in his office, he assumed she was there for the then-new communication and new media bachelor's degree. She assumed he knew she was there for an associate degree.

"It wasn't until after I left his office 30 minutes later that I realized I had somehow just signed on for a bachelor's program, which now, I'm very glad I did," she says. "So, I tell people that I became a communication major because of a major breakdown in communication!"

Mzik was awarded the department's Student of the Semester award in December, but don't assume her success has come easily since her first steps into Young's office.

"I've gained a lot of self-confidence at Dixie," she says. "I've had to take on challenges in this program that have been completely outside my scope of experience . . . things I might not have tried if they hadn't been 'required.' Having success at that has not only added to my academic knowledge, it's prepared me to take on whatever challenges I'll face in a professional environment."

One criticism of the department from the mouths of students is the heavy emphasis placed on scholarship. The faculty has raised the bar and forced the students to stretch, particularly in the area of research.

"We value the hands-on experience, but not at the sacrifice of legitimate scholarship," says Randal Chase, the chair of the communication department.

Mzik says the students' complaints make her laugh. "Isn't college about stretching . . . seeing how high you can reach? Isn't it supposed to be challenging?" She believes the professors set high, but

attainable goals. "And then they really knock themselves out to help you reach those goals. If you put in the effort, they'll match you every time."

With 144 majors and 125 percent growth from the summer to fall semester, DSC's communication program is storming its way to becoming one of the most popular bachelor's degrees on campus. Two-thirds of the majors are in the human communication emphasis, with the largest being the interpersonal/small group emphasis. The remaining third of students are in the emphases of film or mass media.

Chase has been successful in turning the communication and new media degree into a more traditional and flexible degree. He says the film emphasis is really what makes this communication degree unique because film is normally in the fine arts area.

"Students have wonderful choices (for classes)," he says, which he attributes to the enormous success of the degree. The classes, and the fact that tracks are flexible enough for students to mix and match classes to personalize their programs, allows transfer students to come to DSC without being penalized for lacking the right credits.

Chase plans to add new tracks to the degree, like communication and technology as well as film production management and a film composite. DSC administrators are also on board to begin a degree completion

continued, see **COMMUNICATING SUCCESS**,
page 6

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on campus.*



Photo, above left: Professor Eric Young helps Ben Braten on the set of the award-winning commercial, "Dream Utah." Above: Dixie Sun advisor, Rhiannon Bent reviews the latest issue of the weekly student newspaper with staff members.



◆ **BY RHIANNON BENT**

COMMUNICATING SUCCESS continued from page 5

program in conjunction with the communication department for working professionals who want to get a bachelor's degree. Those students will be able to finish their degrees in 18 months through night and online classes. Chase also hopes to eventually introduce more night classes to the existing program.

"Communication majors by their very nature are fun to work with," Chase says. "They enjoy interacting."

The passion of the students is also something noticed by assistant professor Adi Thelen, who joined the department in July. She's equally impressed by the number of non-traditional students balancing work and family with their education.

"Our successes are really highlighted when our students succeed and excel," she says.

THE DICK NOURSE CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA

One of the newest members of the Dixie State College communication department isn't a "who" but a "what."

The Student Media Center, currently in its second semester of operation, is a production company within the school that draws on all communication department disciplines, says Center Director Phil Tuckett, an assistant professor of communication. It's not a class, just an open environment where materials in the areas of television, radio, newspaper and film can be produced for the marketplace and online.

He says the setup opens doors for more participants through the cross-pollination of the disciplines across campus; communication students are not the only ones who stand to benefit. Because the center will eventually be fully funded, students will be paid to be involved—a better alternative for a part-time job than flipping burgers.

The reality right now is that a lot of development still needs to occur to make the center everything it's supposed to be. However, now that the center is backed by a name recognizable to Utahns, legendary KSL news anchor Dick Nourse, necessary resources are coming to fruition. His interest in higher education involvement started years ago, mostly with schools in northern Utah, but it was DSC administrators who finally crafted a

proposal and presented it to Nourse early last year.

"I was impressed," he says. "Finally someone had the guts to come forward (with a proposal)."

The contracts were signed, and the official announcement was made Nov. 28 prior to his final news broadcast. Though the media center concept is well and alive, the ideal physical facilities won't be available until the communication department moves into the Jennings building early in 2009, at which point Nourse can instill wisdom from 40-plus years in the industry.

One reason he's excited about the affiliation is that he sees the potential for quality education in southern Utah. He also has a clear vision for future journalists: responsibility.

"We need more responsible journalists and more responsible citizens," he says. "I hope we can get back on track." Nourse wants students to understand broadcasting isn't just about the



At the KSL retirement party of well-known broadcaster Dick Nourse, he and President Lee Caldwell announce the formation of a Dick Nourse Center for New Media at Dixie State College.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN COMMUNICATION AT DIXIE STATE COLLEGE

DIGITAL FILM EMPHASIS

Digital Film Production Track

HUMAN COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS

Small Group Track

Organizational Communication Track

MASS COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS

Electronic Media Journalism Track

Electronic Media Production Track

Print Journalism Track

Public Relations Track



Check out the specifics of Dixie's Communication degree at:
<http://new.dixie.edu/degree/programs/>

ego and entertainment, it's also about educating the public about the problems people face and finding resolutions to those problems. "We've gotten away from that in the name of competition."

Casie McNaughton, editor in chief of the Dixie Sun and a junior communication major, says she thinks it's important to have someone with a well-known name involved.

"He's a down-to-earth guy," she says. "He has a lot to bring to our college."

Currently, the only fully functioning element of the Student Media Center is the Dixie Sun student newspaper, with radio close behind. Details are in the finalization process for a student-run TV station and the online component of the center. Students are also already engaged in various film projects.

McNaughton sees the unity of the mediums as a benefit, especially to bring people with similar goals together. "We're going to get a lot more resources and a lot more leeway than we could if we stayed separate," she says. Those resources mean getting to a point where the newspaper is printing twice a week, increasing both advertising revenue and opportunities for student participation.

Other ideas for the center include a sports show highlighting both college and high school athletics, and a Thursday night entertainment show. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rhiannon Bent has been a full-time faculty member at Dixie State College for nearly four years, where she teaches communication courses and advises the *Dixie Sun* student newspaper. Rhiannon also does freelance writing for the *St. George Magazine*. She earned her bachelor's degree in communication at Southern Utah University and her master's degree in communication at Washington State University. She grew up in Centerville, Utah.



DSC FILMMAKERS TAKE TOP HONOR AT UTAH FILM COMMISSION COMPETITION

Two aspiring Dixie State College student filmmakers were announced as co-winners of the Utah Film Commission (UFC) "Spot On" contest at an awards luncheon held in Salt Lake City in December. The duo of Bobby Bowden, a sophomore from Murray, Utah, and Ben Braten, a senior from St.



Student filmmaker Ben Braten on location for the filming of "Dream Utah," which won top honors at the Utah Film Commission Competition and was shown at the Sundance Film Festival.

George, were one of two recipients of the award, selected from more than 100 applicants in the competition.

The contest was a commercial competition, asking why it would be ideal for filmmakers to shoot among Utah's landscape. Bowden and Braten's spot, entitled "Dream Utah," was a simple clip of a young boy looking at the southern Utah red rock scenery and imagining what his desires as a future filmmaker might be.

"The competition was announced on Labor Day and I immediately started

thinking of ideas on how to advertise Utah and why the film industry should shoot here," Bowden said. "After a few weeks of pitching ideas to my instructor, I came up with one that grabbed his attention and he gave me the green light."

The award-winning commercial was yet another success for DSC film students. Former winners, such as "One Giant Soundstage" and "Lights, Camera, Distraction," were other successful DSC student entries. DSC professor and film advisor, Eric Young, has mentored a number of DSC student award winners and has enjoyed the success his students have been able to achieve.

"For me the most interesting aspects of teaching in this program is watching students discover how intricately the communication discipline relates to film production, narrative and documentary," Young said.

Young has been teaching film at DSC for the past eight years and was key in bringing onboard the communication and new media baccalaureate degree with an emphasis on film to Dixie State College in 2005. Recently, the degree was replaced by a comprehensive communication degree this past fall semester, which includes a digital film educational track featuring digital film production, digital film production management and compositing.

Young's influence has been felt by many of his students, including Bowden, who credits his professor for a great deal of his early success.

"The most rewarding part about our commercial winning was when I called Eric after the ceremony and told him the news," Bowden said.

Prizes for the spot included a check for \$1500, a trophy, as well as passes to movies and parties with filmmakers and other high-ranking individuals during the Sundance Film Festival. In addition, the commercial will be shown at film festivals in Los Angeles and New York.

"When it came down to it, I'm just your average guy who came up with an idea, ran with it and got lucky." ♦

D-Week Traditions Remembered

2008 D-WEEK EVENTS

"D-Week Theme"

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

8 p.m. Entertainment Dixie
Gardner Center

MONDAY, APRIL 7

10 a.m. Campus D-Week Kickoff
Gardner Center Plaza

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

7 p.m. D-Queen Pageant
Cox Auditorium
\$3 students w/ID, \$6 w/o

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

3:30 p.m. Paint "D" Road
300 S. 800 E. intersection

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

6 p.m. The Great Race
Encampment Mall
7 p.m. Spirit Carnival & BBQ
Encampment Mall

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

7 a.m. Whitewash the "D"
Black Hill (alumni are invited
to join students)
Continental Breakfast
parking lot below D
following whitewashing
D-Day Student Dance
Gardner Center Ballroom



2007 Dixie State College D-Queen Royalty (l to r) Miss Dixie Spirit Heather Shipley, D-Queen Felicia Bennett, Second Attendant Amanda Sprouse, and First Attendant Amber Webb.

Combine 100 boys, three hours, a bunch of rocks, some white lime . . . and what do you get? Why, our "D" on the hillside so bold, of course!



The tradition of D-Day and D-Week originated in 1915, on February 14 to be exact. On that historic day the boys of Dixie College constructed the "D" by moving rocks into place and giving them the first coat of white lime. The girls brought a lunch, and underneath the newly painted "D" they all celebrated the very first Dixie Day. In fact, painting the "D" and having a lunch on the black hill continued every year until the 1970's.

Of course, painting the "D" has remained an integral part of D-Week, but did you know that the year-long

◆ BY SHAUNA OTTESEN, '85

tradition of lighting the "D" started as part of D-Day when huge bonfires were lit around the "D"? Another tradition that has remained is crowning the D-Queen. Additional traditions that have come and gone include a parade, formal dance, beard growing contest, fashion show, campus cleanup, taco eating contest, powder puff football, Mr. Dixie contest and a participation trophy awarded to the class with the most members attending the week's activities.

One tradition that had been forgotten, but was recently brought back is the Great Race. The Great Race had its early

beginnings when the students would gather under the "D" following the whitewashing and lunch, where programs and skits would be performed. These gradually evolved into activities and races at the park or gym. In 1968 there was an innertube race down the Virgin River, and in 1970 a tug of war and water fight were added. But, the Great Race that has gone down in the annals of Dixie State College history began in 1972 as a baton-passing relay race that included running, horseback riding, motorcycle riding, floating on innertubes and riding bicycles. The Great Race continued until the early 1990's when it became too big of a liability and the town had grown so much that the course was covered by buildings. In 2003 the Alumni Board combined with the Executive Council and the Great Race was brought back, although it had



to be altered to stay on campus. Recently as many as 17 teams have competed in the Great Race—bringing a wonderful tradition back to stay!

As Dixie State College approaches its 100th anniversary and the challenges associated with growth and change, may we pause and reflect upon the words of the D-Queen of

1939, LaBerta Woodbury, who said, "When we come to the realization of just what Dixie has meant to us, we understand how great a

contribution our founders made; how much courage, energy and sacrifice they put forth to accomplish their dreams. To them we owe a debt—a debt of gratitude, which we can repay only by living by the high standards and ideals that they set for us." ◆



D-Day traditions through the years: (above) 1961 whitewashing of the D, (left) 1920 picnic under the D, (right, top to bottom): Rebelettes at D-Day parade; swinging at the 1960 D-Day dance; innertubes, motorcycles, unicycles and horses line up for 1972 Great Race; 1962 illuminated D; 1970 D-Day Tug-of-war.



Checking in with 1985 D-Queen, Susan Horman Ray

Twenty three years after leaving the red sands of Dixie for greener pastures up north I find I have come full circle. In 1985 I left Dixie College, and moved to Logan with my husband, Marv Ray, where we lived for eight years until a job opportunity took us to "Big Sky Country" in Red Lodge, Montana. After living 2 ½ years in the deep freeze, my mind wandered back to the words of a song I had learned at the feet of Mrs. "D" in Program Bureau:

YOU CHASE THE BLUES RIGHT OUT OF THE NIGHT...DIXIE!

(I've had enough of snow blocking my door, reaching the roof line nine months of the year!)

YOU MAKE A CRAZY WORLD SEEM ALL RIGHT...DIXIE!

(I hired a state highway snow plow to help dig us out of our driveway!)

I CLOSE MY EYES AND SEE THE BLUE SKIES ABOVE YOUR TECHNICOLOR SAND.

(Let's look for housing in Santa Clara so we can be close to the colorful mountains.)

AND, WHEN I GET TO YEARNIN', MY FEET START TURNIN' BACK TO DIXIELAND.

(Our daughter "Dixie" will love seeing her name on the hill!)

NO WORDS CAN QUITE EXPLAIN ALL YOUR CHARM...DIXIE!

(Pioneer Heritage, Tabernacle, Temple, Campus, St. George Marathon and more)

YOUR SPIRIT, JUST LIKE YOUR WEATHER, IS WARM...DIXIE!

(Did you know Montana has three seasons? —last winter, this winter and next winter.)

YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS ARE PROUD TO SING EVER OF YOUR STORY AND YOUR NAME;

(Bish Putnum, thanks for tolerating our care-free attitudes, toe tapping rhythm, and for reminding us to "suck in those jelly bellies!")

RIGHT FROM THE VERY START OF YOU OUR LOVE HAS BEEN THE HEART OF YOU;

(I'm going back to blue skies, red sand and a community with that "Dixie Spirit.")

ALL PART OF DIXIE'S GLORY AND FAME.

This year makes 12 wonderful years of living in southern Utah. Did I mention I have eight brilliant children, and I WALKED the St George marathon in October (I'm hoping my time is under three days next year).

NED CARNAHAN

blue-collar philosopher,
Renaissance Man,
jack of all trades . . .

RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF LOYAL SERVICE

◆ BY AMBER RICH, '94

Ned Carnahan is a paradox of a man. He contains the nuts-and-bolts know-how to talk blue prints and back hoes; the technical savvy to refit a “smart classroom” and modernize the heating and cooling systems; the mediation skills to reassure administration, accountants, faculty, and foremen on a multi-million dollar construction project; and a resume of experience at Dixie State College that spans from security patrol to speech professor to super planner.

After more than 35 years of loyal service, Ned Carnahan will retire this summer as Executive Director of Campus Services. This far-reaching position involves everything from the day-to-day operations (heating, cooling, electrical, plumbing, grounds, custodial, vehicle fleet) to the supervision of campus planning (new construction, remodels, acquisition of existing or new properties) from “the cradle to the grave,” as Ned explained it.

“Ned is an extraordinary member of the Dixie family. He represents all that is good about the Dixie experience,” said Stan Plewe, Vice President of College Services and Ned’s administrative supervisor. “His loyalty is unusual and his commitment to doing his job without peer. He is always on call, meets every deadline, addresses every problem head-on, and puts the institution first at every turn.”

Ned, originally from Ogden, first stepped foot on Dixie’s campus as a freshman looking for a degree and took his first campus job in the heating plant as a student employee. After graduation, he was drafted for military service in the army and felt fortunate to stay stateside working as a military policeman at an Arizona base.

He then enrolled at Southern Utah State College (now SUU), and started as a full-time Dixie employee with campus security. Later,

he was hired as a faculty member of the DSC Speech and Theatre Department after completing majors of strange bed fellows — communication and industrial technology management at SUSC. During his seven year tenure, he completed his master’s degree through Utah State, helped launch the College radio station, and left a “little bit of his soul” with his fellow colleagues and students.

In 1982 he was offered the position of Physical Plant Director, which evolved into his current post. The personality and background needed to tackle the span of this position required a unique person with less-than-typical experience and education. Whether or not this was exactly what the College sought out when they hired Ned to take on the challenge, it’s what they got, and that’s what they will have to find to replace him.

“I have known Ned since I came to Dixie in ’78,” said Plewe. “He wasn’t quite legend then, but he was working on it. When Ned was with the faculty he developed the ‘Jack-of-all-Trades’ reputation. While it must have been a bit of a long shot for the administration when he was selected for the Director of the Physical Plant, Ned’s qualities turned out to be a perfect fit for a campus that would see record growth during the 80s and 90s.”

Ned’s first project at the helm during the largest growth spurt in campus history was the construction of the Hansen Stadium. The final project he will see to fruition before retirement is the 80,000 square foot, Russell C. Taylor Health Sciences Building adjacent to the DRMC River Road Hospital. In between these monumental tasks is sandwiched a lifetime of work and a generation of growth: major renovations and additions to the Library,

Science Building, Business Building, and Student Services Center, construction of the Dixie Center (now Avenna Center), Browning Auditorium, Gardner Student Center, Udvar-Hazy Business Building, Eccles Fine Arts Center, Institutional Residence (now Alumni House), and acquisition and overhaul of North Instructional Building (formerly the LDS Institute) and the North Plaza Building (formerly Harmon’s Grocery Store).

“Then you could add a million dollars worth of remodel and improvement projects every year, and the great landscape projects have made an enormous difference over the last 30 years. There was the addition of the seven acre Encampment Mall, soccer fields, and a baseball/softball complex,” said Plewe. “When we added the Institute Building it became necessary to do something with traffic and student access along 100 South. That improvement project has received amazing praise from students, faculty, staff and community.”

The coordination of multi-faceted, multi-million dollar projects involved the appeasement of every agency on campus and numerous within the community.

“That was the joy of this experience — getting to work as the liaison between two worlds,” Ned said. “I would sit down with the faculty to assess their needs, go to the administration to determine budgets and resources, and then coordinate with the architectural, construction, and physical side of it.”

He looked at his role as one of

continued, see **NED**, page 23

Right: Ned stands in the DSC Heating Plant, where he checks on the day-to-day operations of heating and cooling Dixie’s campus.



Ned’s first project was the construction of Hansen Stadium. The final project he will see to fruition before retirement is the 80,000 square foot Russell C. Taylor Health Sciences Building. In between these monumental tasks is sandwiched a lifetime of work and a generation of growth.

photo by Frank Carter

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

DSC AND U OF U MOVE FORWARD TO EXPLORE PROPOSED AFFILIATION

In an effort to streamline more programs and educational opportunities to Washington and Kane County residents, Dixie State College of Utah's Board of Trustees overwhelmingly passed a motion to petition the University of Utah to consider an extended and enhanced affiliation between the two institutions.

A formal petition letter was sent by DSC's Trustees to the U of U Board of Trustees in early October. The petition called for the new official name of Dixie State College to become the University of Utah-St. George, with the desire of referring to the St. George campus as the "Dixie Campus." At an appropriate future time, the College's current Hurricane and Kanab Centers would be recognized as Hurricane and Kanab Campuses.

The petition also outlined DSC's expectations that a formal affiliation would acknowledge and support the institution's existing and ongoing community college mission and as soon as appropriate, would result in significant expanded academic programs at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. In addition, the affiliation would immediately help with infrastructure issues critical to the success of the partnership.

That letter was unanimously accepted and approved by the U of U's Trustees, which led to the creation of a representative task force, made up of administrators from both DSC and the U of U, along with a member of the Utah State Board of Regents. The task force began discussions on details involved with the proposed affiliation, including academic mission and programs, governance, budget and funding, policies and athletics, among other topics.

In December, the task force took part in a fact-finding trip to visit three small colleges that are currently part of a larger state university system. The purpose of the trip was to gather information about the relationship each college has with its larger university system, which aspects of that relationship are most beneficial, and which

aspects are most problematic.

Those campuses, which mirror DSC's current demographic, included the University of Tennessee-Martin, Indiana University-Southeast in New Albany, Ind., and the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. In addition, the task force will visit campuses in Montana, Colorado and Texas

All three schools visited currently design their own degree programs, grant their own degrees, propose their own budgets, run their own intercollegiate athletics programs, have their own school mascots, and generally have a high degree of local control over the affairs of their campuses.

— Task force findings from visits to three institutions that mirror DSC and are part of a larger state university systems.

this spring.

The task force found that all three institutions visited in December believe that the major benefits of being part of a state university system is that it gives them enhanced stature, influence and political leverage compared with independent institutions. The luster and prestige associated with the state university name also helps them to attract a higher caliber of students. All three schools also believe that they bring value to the system by allowing it to be a positive force for higher education on a statewide level rather than a local or regional level.

Additionally, all three schools indicated the ability to maintain a separate mission, identity and accreditation from the

other system campuses is an essential element for success, noting that nearly all of the daily activities of the campus are focused on students and members of a local community that cannot be represented by a statewide system.

All three schools visited currently design their own degree programs, grant their own degrees, propose their own budgets, run their own intercollegiate athletics programs, have their own school mascots, and generally have a high degree of local control over the affairs of their campuses. They create their own campus policies, though often within guidelines created by the system. The campuses also believe that as long as they operate high quality educational programs and serve the needs of the communities well, the system will allow them a high degree of autonomy.

The culmination of the work produced by the task force would be a mutually agreed upon proposal, which would be supported by an operating agreement. Both would be submitted by the president of each institution to the Utah State Board of Regents for consideration and approval. If approved by the Regents, the proposal and operating agreement would be forwarded to the state legislature for approval and funding.

"We're certainly grateful for the incredible generosity and expertise of the University of Utah to roll up their sleeves and examine how they can help provide educational and economic development opportunities in this region," said DSC President Dr. Lee Caldwell.

Caldwell noted that a number of questions and concerns have been raised during the initial phases of this process, regarding the institution's daily operational functions, programs and changes to the institutional identity.

He, along with members of his administrative staff and DSC Trustees, stressed that Dixie State would remain locally man-

Continued, see U OF U UPDATE, page 23

APPROVAL RECEIVED TO OFFER SECONDARY EDUCATION LICENSURE AT DSC

In a continuing effort to meet the needs of the Washington County School District (WCSD), Dixie State College received approval from the Utah State Board of Regents for its secondary education teaching (SET) licensure program in three emphases: biology, English education and integrated science. Classwork for those programs will begin at the start of the 2008 fall semester.

The addition of the three programs will bolster DSC's biology and English baccalaureate programs, which were established in 2006. In addition, DSC already administers an elementary education bachelor degree program, which has many of the essential resources in place to support the SET programs.

According to Dr. Brenda Sabey, DSC associate dean for the division of education, the secondary education licensure program would serve those who already have a four-year degree in a state-approved content area and are teaching in the public schools but would still like to get their teaching degree.

"Secondary education licensure is our number-one priority for the institution because of the critical needs of the Washington County School District," said Dr. Donna Dillingham-Evans, vice president of academic services. "The addition of these emphases will expand our abilities to help meet those needs and strengthen our partnership with the district."

The addition of the SET programs will help students pursu-

ing a degree in secondary education with the desire to seek only one major teaching endorsement area, such as biology. This may be adequate if the student teaches in grades 10-12. However, students choosing a biological science emphasis would enhance their marketability if they were to complete coursework in the physical sciences to be qualified to also teach integrated science.

In addition to the more traditional biology secondary education emphasis, DSC proposed and received approval to add a dual emphasis area for secondary biology and integrated science education within the bachelor of science degree in biology. The dual emphasis, which will provide a more versatile career path for future DSC graduates, would be geared toward those students with a desire to teach at the intermediate or junior high school levels (grades 6-9).

The English SET program, which is an option within the English baccalaureate program, also plays a role assigned to DSC to meet the educational needs in southwestern Utah. Given the rapid growth of the area and the infusion of public school-age students combined with retirements projected in the WCSD, the need for public school teachers is critical and growing. The English SET program, along with the English education degree offered at Southern Utah University, aim to meet that need in Iron, Washington and Kane counties, as well as throughout Utah. ♦

CIT STUDENTS WIN BIG

DSC students prove to be "Best in State" at ACM regional competition

Imagine completing an entire semester's worth of computer programming in one afternoon. That is exactly what nine Dixie State College students accomplished at a competition in Salt Lake City last fall, with three of those students proving to be the best in the state of Utah.

The annual Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Rocky Mountain Regional competition was held at the University of Utah, one of three host sites in the region, where DSC seniors Daniel Evans, Jeff Shipley and Chad Schmalz teamed up to beat out teams from each of the participating in-state schools, including Utah, Brigham Young, Utah State, Weber State and Utah Valley State. In addition, the trio finished ahead of teams from the University of Colorado, University of Wyoming, Montana State University and Montana Tech.

Dixie State's team of Evans, Shipley and Schmalz, was the only team of the 23 competing at the Utah host-site to solve five problems in the five-hour competition, which consisted of nine total practical programming problems and sce-



DSC seniors (l to r) Chad Schmalz, Daniel Evans, and Jeff Shipley teamed up to beat out teams from the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Utah State University, Weber State University and Utah Valley University at the ACM regional computing competition.

narios. Meanwhile, DSC's other two three-person teams also enjoyed success and finished the day ranked in the top half of the competition.

DSC finished first at the U of U host-site and sixth overall in the Rocky Mountain region. In all, teams from six states and Canada competed in the regional event.

"We are thrilled to be the Utah champions," said Dr. Bart Stander, DSC professor of computer science and ACM

club team advisor. "Our program is a lot smaller compared to the likes of BYU and the University of Utah and because of that fact, I don't think anyone took us seriously. All the guys worked hard for this and I'm very proud of them."

Dixie State's four-year computer and information technology program was introduced at the College in 2000. The program consists of three emphases – computer science, information technology and visual technology. ♦

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY HELPS CHEERLEADER COACH

As part of their annual semester Campus to Community service project, Dixie State College students rallied to help a member of the Rebel family, as they raised money washing cars to help DSC cheerleader coach Donelle Forbes and husband Ryan, whose 18-month old son Teancum was seriously injured when he was struck by a vehicle backing out of a driveway last August.

The toddler spent eight days in the Primary Children Medical Center's PICU and was hospitalized for nearly a month overall. Teancum was released from the hospital in September and is currently undergoing physical, speech and occupational therapy.

DSC students provided free car washes, with all tips and other monetary donations going directly to the fund. The students also accomplished a successful pledge drive as they accepted pledges from local businesses and Washington County citizens for each car washed.

In all, the students combined to raise just over \$3,000, which was used to help the Forbes family offset the mounting medical costs incurred during Teancum's recovery.

"Campus to Community is always an exciting event for students here at Dixie State College," said 2007-08 DSC studentbody president Jennifer Shakespeare. "It's a chance for us to give back and show our thanks to this amazing community that has added a great deal to our Dixie College experience."

"We felt honored to raise funds for the Forbes family and help them with those overwhelming medical bills," Shakespeare continued. "We are appreciative of all the businesses from across the county that pledged countless donations determined by the number of cars we washed." ♦

STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STAGES BENEFIT CONCERT

Former Dixie State College student Joe Kolar, credits the prayers of family and friends for his survival after he underwent emergency surgery to remove a tumor from his brain early this year. He also credits his friends in the DSC Student Alumni Association (SAA) with helping to make a dent in the overwhelming medical bills which have piled up since the surgery and ensuing chemotherapy treatments.

The SAA held a benefit concert in the Gardner Center Ballroom which featured the bands City of Ashburn, Never-Mind, The Dave Kreitzer Band and Travis Marshall, all of whom donated their time, talents, and proceeds to benefit Joe.

Logan Whatcott, Student Alumni President, and Derek Larson, DESA Club President organized the event while City of Ashburn guitarist Jeff Watson made flyers and solicited donations for prize drawings

at the concert. St. George station KCSG-TV was on hand live to film the concert and interview Joe. All sound, security and ticketing were also all donated so every penny made went to help Joe.

The concert raised \$1,839, all of which was given to the Kolar family that night. In addition, an anonymous donor matched the funds, making the total gift \$3,678.

The expensive surgery prompted Joe's parents to sell their home and move into an apartment to help pay the medical bills, but they have still been left owing more.

"Joe and his family were so excited for the extra help," Whatcott said. "Joe has had a great attitude through this whole ordeal, and he is an inspiration to us all. It was so worth the time and effort." ♦



CALDWELL NAMED EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

Dixie State College President Dr. Lee Caldwell was named Executive of the Year by the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual awards and installation banquet held in February at the Gardner Center Ballroom.

Caldwell, who was one of seven business leaders and citizens honored by the Chamber at the ceremony, garnered the honor for his work in improving the academic landscape of not only the St. George community, but DSC's entire service area of Washington and Kane Counties.

"I never expected anything like this," President Caldwell said. "A vibrant business community is energetic and I think Dixie State College has a responsibility to be active participants in economic and business development in the community."

"I appreciate the Dixie spirit very much," he continued. "It is the idea of a welcoming community that I hope we never lose and we continue to pull people in and make them feel a part of us and provide a rich, cultural and economic environment where people can flourish and develop."

President Caldwell became DSC's 16th president on July 12, 2005. He previously had worked at six different institutions as a professor and administrator, and held executive level positions at three Fortune 500 high tech companies – Unisys, IBM, and Hewlett Packard – over an eight-year span. He also spent six years with Novell, Inc.

Previous to his appointment as president of DSC, President Caldwell served as the vice president of academics at Dixie State during the 2004-05 academic year.

Recognized internationally as an expert in networking technology, Caldwell has 21 years of experience working with the Internet, and has been a major driver behind Internet2 and next generation networks. He authored a book on the subject with Prentice Hall; the book was released in 2002. ♦



ART SHOW WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 21st-annual Robert N. and Peggy Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show were announced February 15 at the show's annual gala banquet at the Dolores Doré Eccles Fine Arts Center on the Dixie State College campus.

This year's Purchase Prize was awarded to Karl Thomas from Provo, Utah, for his oil painting "Utah Winter" (bottom right). In addition, this year's Invitational awarded a "Best in Show" prize, the first-ever in the event's history, which was presented to Chris Young from Orem, Utah, for his oil on panel painting entitled "Leaving the Handcarts" (top right).

The Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show and Sale, which has been a mainstay at Dixie State College, features 250 works from 130 renowned artists from Utah and the United States, making this year's show the largest in the event's history.

All artwork will remain on display through Saturday, March 22, in the Robert N. and Peggy Sears Art Gallery located in the Dolores Doré Eccles Fine Arts Center at College. Exhibit hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. The public is invited to view the exhibit free of charge.

Each work exhibited is for sale to the public, with a portion of the proceeds from each piece of art purchased to be allocated to help fund the Sears Art Museum Gallery in the Fine Arts Center. The Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show made its debut in that new art museum gallery in 2005, which serves as the show's permanent home. ♦

BACHELOR OF INTEGRATED STUDIES DEGREE APPROVED TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

Dixie State College received approval from the Utah State Board of Regents to offer a new integrated studies baccalaureate degree. Classwork for the new degree program will begin at the start of the 2008 fall semester in August.

The program consists of common core and select concentrations in nine disciplines, including business, communication, computer and information technology, English, biology, mathematical sciences, psychology, fine arts and Spanish.

"This one degree is actually 36 options," said DSC Vice President of Academic Services Dr. Donna Dillingham-Evans. "Students who are interested in two of the nine areas can now stay at Dixie State, take upper division courses and continue to make progress toward their degrees. Psychology and Spanish; math and biology; English and fine arts; math and business, are just a few of those possibilities."

The degree approval continues the College's progression toward fulfilling its mission to offer core, foundational and high demand educational opportunities. With the addition of the integrated studies degree, DSC will offer students 11 bachelor's degrees come registration time for the upcoming Fall 2008 semester.

"This degree is like a tree full of ripe apples ready for harvest—which apple to choose is personal taste."

— Dr. Donna Dillingham-Evans, Vice President of Academics Services

The integrated studies program is intended to provide opportunities for students to earn a bachelor's degree different from traditional, discipline-specific programs. The program is expected to serve students who have a variety of needs and interests, including those who may have started a program but wish to change direction, and those with associate degrees and/or college credits who want to complete a degree for career advancement or personal fulfillment.

"This degree is like a tree full of ripe apples ready for harvest—which apple to choose is personal taste," Dr. Dillingham-Evans added. "Whether it's a new, undecided freshmen interested in option exploration or an adult student who wants to finish a four-year degree started earlier, this degree could be the most economical answer."

"The degree is intended for any student interested in tailoring a degree to meet their unique interests by combining coursework in two different disciplines," said DSC assistant professor of English Darl Biniarz. "Students





John "Cat" Thompson



Sarkis Arslanian



Gail Cooper Smith



Nolan D. Archibald



Neil Roberts

FIVE INDUCTED TO INAUGURAL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AT DSC

Dixie State College Athletics inducted five members into its inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2007 in a ceremony held in the Gardner Center Ballroom August 31. They are:

JOHN ASHWORTH "CAT" THOMPSON (1906-1990) garnered the nickname "Cat" from his quickness in stealing the ball from opponents. He gained national recognition as a member of Dixie High School's consolation winners in the National High School Tournament in Chicago, Ill. The first game of the tournament was the first time he had ever played basketball indoors on a wood floor. After attending Dixie College in 1925-26, he went on to play at Montana State University, where he helped lead the Bobcats to a national championship in 1929. He was a four-time All-America selection at MSU and was named National College Player of the Year in 1929. After his graduation, Cat played semi-pro ball in California for a year, then coached high school basketball in Montana and Idaho. He was enshrined in the Helms Athletic Hall of Fame and named "Best Player of the First-Half Century." He was one of the first players inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

SARKIS "COACH SARK" ARSLANIAN graduated from Dixie College where he played football, basketball and track and was class president. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and a master's degree from Utah State University. He began coaching at Central Junior High in

Salt Lake City, followed by a stint at Union High in Roosevelt. In 1955, he became athletic director and head coach in football, track and baseball at Dixie College. His recruiting efforts nearly doubled the size of the student body and were a stabilizing factor for the College. He left behind a nationally ranked team at Dixie College to take over as head football coach at Weber State College in 1965, where he built the Wildcats into a nationally-ranked team. From 1973-82, he was head coach at Colorado State University. He then became a professional scout for the CFL and USFL.



The newly created Athletic Hall of Fame at Dixie State College adorns the south wall of the Burns Arena foyer.

Sark coached professional teams in Milan, Italy, and Tokyo, Japan, and introduced American football in his ancestral homeland of Armenia. After retirement, he coached high school football teams in Colorado, Idaho and at Pine View High School in St. George. Coach Sark is still noted as one of the most successful of NCAA coaches; only 13 others had better records. Honors include the Pop Warner

National Hall of Fame, Weber State Hall of Fame, Utah Sports Hall of Fame, All-American Football Foundation and Honorary Lifetime member of the Dixie Colonels Club, which he helped organize.

GAIL COOPER SMITH proudly claims to be a seventh generation Dixie-ite. Before graduating from Dixie College in 1961, she was the Women's Intramural Association President and a member of the first Women's ICAC basketball team at Dixie. That year she put in the winning foul shot to bring home the championship trophy at the BYU Invitational. After Dixie, she graduated from BYU in physical education.

There she excelled in track and field, holding the long jump record for many years. She also played on the varsity volleyball, basketball and softball teams. Before serving a mission for the LDS church in London, England, she taught at Ben Lomond High School in Ogden, Utah. Following her mission, she taught at Woodward Junior High in St. George. She was instrumental in starting the Franklin Day Planner business with her husband, Hyrum. While in Centerville, she coached basketball at Centerville Junior High School for three years, winning one regional championship. Raised in a time

when women athletes were an oddity, she was driven to improve the quality and perception of women's athletics. As a coach, she believes in teaching the fundamentals of any sport in a way that instills important life values in young hearts, as well as joy in the game. Gail is the author of a book entitled "Shadow Fall: Reflections on Nurturing Family Values," plus many short stories. In 1995 she was given an honorary

doctorate at Dixie State College. She was also a member of the Governor's Initiative on Family Today (GIFT) Board.

NOLAN D. ARCHIBALD was an All-American basketball player at Dixie College leading the Rebels to the National Junior College Basketball finals. After graduating from Dixie, he earned a bachelor's degree from Weber State College, where he led the Wildcats to their first appearance in the NCAA tournament and was named as an Academic All-American. He then went on to earn an MBA from Harvard Business School. He was invited to try out with the Chicago Bulls, but missed the final cut concluding, "they had no vision." Nolan is currently Chairman, President and CEO of the Black & Decker Corporation, a five billion dollar company with 40,000 employees doing business in more than 100 countries throughout the world. Fortune magazine named him as one of the "ten most wanted managers" in the U.S. and Business Week named him one of the six best managers in 1987 Alumnus of the Year by the American Association of Community Colleges.

NEIL ROBERTS was the head basketball coach at Dixie College from 1978 until 1985. During his tenure his teams played in six regional championship games, winning three. He led the Rebels to three appearances at the NJCAA National Championships where his teams finished third, sixth, and first—reaching the pinnacle as National Champions in 1985. It was the first national championship of any kind for Dixie College. That year he was given the NJCAA National Coach of the Year award. At the helm of the Rebels, Coach Roberts coached several successful players, including Danny Tarkanian, Craig Hammer, Averian Parrish, Steve Schreiner and current Rebel head coach Jon Judkins. Roberts graduated with a master's degree from Brigham Young University in 1969. During his playing days at BYU (1965-1967) he was a three year letterman and was named to the Look Magazine All-America team in 1967. Neil started his coaching career at Burley HS in Idaho and then moved on to coach at Payson HS for one year each. He then was named head coach at Skyline High School in Salt Lake City, where he won two state championships and was named to the 1977 McDonald All-American games coaching staff. ♦



Del Parson



Julie Bangerter Beck



Dr. Richard Whitehead

THREE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME DURING FOUNDER'S DAY

Dixie State College inducted three members into its Hall of Fame as part of homecoming activities in October. Dr. Richard G. Whitehead, Julie Bangerter Beck, and Del Parson were honored at a ceremony in the St. George Tabernacle as part of the annual Founder's Day Assembly.

The Hall of Fame honors individuals who have been distinguished in their field of study or profession; lead lives with state, national, or international impact; made significant gifts to education at Dixie State College; or proven themselves over time.

DEL PARSON was inducted in the Fine & Performing Arts category. For 31 years Parson has been painting professionally, producing art work for top national galleries; print companies; and public, religious, and private institutions. He was thrilled to be able to come to Dixie State College and considers his 19 years at Dixie a major highlight of his life. Del has received public and critical acclaim and won numerous national and regional painting awards. Millions of art prints have been made of his images. Some of his most well-known images are the more than 200 he has painted for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, especially those depicting the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Del counts among his most fulfilling accomplishment the students whom he has taught, and many have gone on to their own professional art careers. He and his wife Lynette have six children.

JULIE BANGERTER BECK was inducted in the Public & College Service category. At Dixie College, Julie B. Beck discovered the joy of participation: she was a member of Program Bureau under Roene DiFiore, marched with the Rebelettes, was in the cast of Show Boat, was involved in Student Institute programs, and served on the Executive Council under the leadership of Rudy Iverson. Following her graduation from Dixie College, she married Ramon P. Beck and completed her education at Brigham Young University. She has worked very hard serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served on the Young Women General Board and as First Counselor in the Young Women General Presidency. She currently serves as

the Relief Society General President. As part of her responsibilities, she is a member of the Church Board of Education and the Board of Trustees of four Church universities. She is on the Executive and General councils for Welfare and the Perpetual Education Fund of the Church. Her great love and passion remains her family; any time spent with them is golden.

DR. RICHARD G. WHITEHEAD was inducted in the Education category. Dr. Whitehead is a graduate of Dixie High School, Dixie College and Brigham Young University. He also graduated from Creighton University School of Dentistry in Omaha, Nebraska and completed an oral surgery internship at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, MD. He practiced dentistry and oral surgery in St. George for 26 years, but eventually left dentistry to devote his full attention to Dixie State College. As the executive director of institutional advancement, he headed efforts that raised in excess of \$30 million. He is past president of the Dixie College Foundation, the Alumni Association, co-founder and member of the Dixie College National Advisory Council and former member of the Dixie College Board of Trustees. In May of 2005 at Dixie College's commencement exercises, the Utah State Board of Regents awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. In 2007, Dr. Whitehead was appointed vice president of institutional advancement at Southern Virginia University. He, his wife Launa, and their six children are all graduates of Dixie State College. ♦

Lavoid Leavitt — a Dixie Pioneer making the most of *Sunsets*

The white minivan raced up Skyline drive with dust and gravel flying and skidded into the makeshift parking lot that overlooks the city of St. George. An older man jumped out of the vehicle, rushed over to the edge of the cliff, looking intently at the western sky and exclaimed, “Darn! I missed it!”

That was my first introduction to Lavoid Leavitt, son/grandson of Dixie’s original pioneers and a pioneer in his own right. Leavitt loves everything about southern Utah, including the breathtaking sunsets, which is what he had just barely missed on the evening that we met nearly 15 years ago.

Leavitt was born in Santa Clara when the town was little more than a handful of homes clustered together near “the old Jacob Hamblin place.” Long before Hamblin’s home became an historical landmark, it was just the house Leavitt’s cousins lived in, and a place where he has fond memories of playing. He grew up during the Great Depression when hard times and limited jobs kept his family moving frequently between Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.

“This was a tough period for us, due to the Depression,” Leavitt said. “Dad could not find work, so we moved up into the mountains above East Slope Mine, where Dad had been employed. Dad cleared off a nice flat spot under a large tree for us to live under. Mom set up a table, stove and cupboard under that tree for a kitchen.”

The Leavitt family lived there, under a tree, until the weather became too cold to stay outside.

From Gunlock to Pioche, NV, to Cottonwood, AZ, and finally St. George, Leavitt grew to know the landscape well and made a point of learning everything he could about it. He explored long-forgotten trails and discovered the best places to find natural sandstone “mar-

bles.” He retraced the footsteps of Spanish explorers and Mormon pioneers, digging through sagebrush and undergrowth to reveal the sun-baked ruts left by their wagon wheels.

After retiring from the chemical lab at the United States Naval Ammunition Depot, Leavitt parlayed his extensive knowledge of the history and geography of southern Utah into a post-retirement career at Dixie College’s Institute for Continued Learning (ICL). ICL offers educational opportunities to retirees. With ICL, Leavitt has taught classes in history and government, but his favorites were, and still are, the explorer trips he leads through the back country.

Leavitt’s ICL students see places that many long-time residents of the area have never even heard of. Places like Bundyville, Elephant Arch, and Warner Valley are frequent destinations, along with the more familiar Mt. Trumbull, the Spanish and Mormon trails, and “the old Temple trail.” A short car ride through Washington County with Leavitt was eye-opening. We stopped in front of a vacant lot in Washington City as he told me how the first pioneers camped there for the night because of the natural spring that flowed there at the time. Descending into the Hurricane Valley, Leavitt pointed out, by name, every peak, valley, and rock formation.

◆ STORY BY KELLIE MZIK, ‘08



Teaching at Dixie’s ICL was like coming full circle for Leavitt. As a teenager, determined to make a better life for himself than the hardscrabble existence of his father, he decided he needed an education and Dixie College was the place to get it.

“We were living down in Arizona at the time. I’d saved a little bit of money . . . at least I thought I’d saved some money. I hitchhiked to St. George.”

Leavitt met with the registrar and learned that, as an out-of-state student, he would be charged \$110 for tuition. “That was as bad as ten thousand!” he said. “I didn’t have that kind of money and had no way to get it. I was heartsick.”

Fortunately, a student loan was arranged, and from 1938 to 1940, Leavitt took classes, played football and other sports, and starred in several theater productions at the College. He graduated in 1940 with an associate of arts degree.

Teaching at Dixie’s ICL was like coming full circle for Leavitt. As a teenager, determined to make a better life for himself than the hardscrabble existence of his father, he decided he needed an education and Dixie College was the place to get it.

It was at Dixie College that Leavitt met the love of his life, the former Harriet Anderson. She was a high school student downstairs, while he attended college classes upstairs. “I saw her standing on those steps and thought, ‘Oh my!’” he remembers with a smile. They waited until Harriet graduated from Dixie College in 1942 before they were married.

Both continued their education at BYU, and Harriet ultimately earned a teaching degree from the University of Nevada. She taught elementary school for many years.

College students today might be surprised to learn that Lavoid Leavitt and some fellow students lived without electricity or running water, no indoor plumbing, and with only dirt floors. Dinner often consisted of lard spread on a slice of bread. During one particularly difficult term, Leavitt ate nothing but canned peaches four days a week for a month, and then walked from campus to Santa Clara to eat as much as he could at his aunt’s house. Still, he says, he was grateful for the chance to get an education, at any cost.

Leavitt marvels at the changes he’s seen both in the College and the community. DSC has one of the highest-ranked dental hygiene programs in the state of Utah, and St. George boasts more dentists per capita than most major American cities. Yet Leavitt remembers when “dental care” for his mother meant holding on to the back of a chair while the only man in Gunlock who owned an old pair of forceps pulled out 17 of her teeth, one by one, with just a quick swish of salt water between each extraction. She was in her mid-thirties at the time.

Leavitt’s love of theater was rewarded during his years at DSC when he won drama awards and was chosen to play the male lead in several college and local church productions. While he never pursued acting as a career, he remained

active in local theater productions and even had a bit part in a 1960’s film documenting the Short Creek Raid of 1953.

For many years, Leavitt proudly played the role of Santa Claus at church Christmas parties and in local plays. In December, 1995, a man in my neighborhood volunteered to play Santa and come to each house where there were children. One young mother watched with her children as he went from house to house, and she and her children eagerly awaited their turn. But their turn didn’t come. The man inadvertently missed their house, and when he was called later at home, he said it was too cold out, and he was tired and didn’t want to go to any more houses. The mother was in tears, trying to figure out what to tell her children.

I called my friend, Lavoid Leavitt, not realizing he was recovering from a bout of the flu. When he heard the story, Lavoid got up and quickly dressed in his Santa suit. Not well enough to drive, he asked his wife to bring him to this family whom he had never met, to make sure the children would not be disappointed. He sat each child on his lap, sang songs and danced with the whole family, and then knelt in prayer with them all. Leavitt still considers that “performance” one of the most important of his theatrical career.

Because of his long and varied association with Dixie College, I asked Leavitt his opinion of the proposed affiliation between the University of Utah and DSC.

“I think it will be a good thing,” he said. “Being an old timer here, and going to school here in the early days, [the name Dixie] is kind of ingrained in me, but I wouldn’t stop supporting the institution if they did drop it. It would be nice to see it used somewhere.”

Nearing 90 years old, Leavitt is starting to slow down a bit . . . but only a bit. He still leads back-country explor-

er trips. He and Harriet recently moved into the Meadows retirement community where he entertains fellow residents by singing show tunes in the dining room before dinner some evenings. Teaching religion classes both at the Meadows and in his local church still brings him joy as he shares his faith with future generations. In recent years, he has also turned his interests to the Huntsman World Senior Games.

Over the past decade, Leavitt has won 19 gold medals for cycling. His goal is to win 20.

“I have 20 great-grandchildren, and I need one for each of them,” he said. “It shouldn’t be too hard. Once you get to be my age, there aren’t so many in your category. You can win just by showing up and rolling downhill,” he joked.

If you find yourself up near the Sugarloaf some evening enjoying one of Dixie’s breathtaking sunsets, don’t be surprised if a white Ford pickup comes racing up the hill, slipping into the nearby parking lot, and an older gentleman jumps out to join you. Enjoy the view together, introduce yourself, and feel privileged to meet a true local pioneer; then let him tell you about the things he’s seen from up there through the years. You’ll never see the red hills quite the same way again. ◆

Lavoid and Harriet’s memories of their years at Dixie College are the subject of a short film being produced by students in DSC’s Communication Department.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kellie Mzik is a freelance writer and a senior at Dixie State College, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in communications.

Returning to college after a lengthy break, Kellie is looking forward to her graduation in May. Originally from Pensacola, Florida, Kellie, her husband and their three daughters enjoy southern Utah sunsets in Santa Clara.





Merv Cox

Dixie's Perpetual Gift of Smiles

Side quotes by Merv, shared by his children at his funeral.

by Chauntelle Plewe Lewis, '01

“Mervyn is a perpetual gift to Dixie State College. Not only has he endowed the school with numerous gifts, he has also endowed the community with perpetual smiles.”

—George F. Whitehead, Associate Vice President of Advancement and Cultural Arts

Dr. Mervyn K. Cox, '56, left smiles everywhere he went, and though his physical presence has left us, he will keep us smiling forever.

“This is...as good a man as I've ever known,” said Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, a member of the LDS Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, at Mervyn Cox's funeral. “He was a profound influence on me. I could speak for legions of other young men and young women who were influenced by Merv Cox.”

Those who met Merv may never forget how his smile, cheerful disposition, and wisdom influenced them. His contribution to the community reached even further. For this we pay tribute to and thank Merv, his wife Sue, and their children.

After growing up in humble conditions and making something of his life, Merv wanted to help others have success as well. He was a philanthropist for many causes, one of which was Dixie State College. When asked why he continually contributed to the College, Sue boiled it down to the fact that Merv was just kind in nature, so when he had the ability to help monetarily, he felt a need to.

“He had the affinity and emotional connection to Dixie College and he felt like he could make a difference so was willing to do it when he could,” said Sue.

Merv certainly left Dixie State College better than he found it. From his early life as a student to the end of his life as a major donor and benefactor, Merv has made countless Dixie-ites smile.

“Dr. Cox was a man of a million smiles,” beamed

George F. Whitehead, Associate Vice President of Advancement and Cultural Arts. “He placed beautiful smiles on the faces of orthodontic patients, DSC Dental Hygiene graduates and their patients, countless attendees to functions at the M. K. Cox Auditorium and to parade goers who enjoyed his collection of convertible automobiles escorting Grand Marshals and dignitaries. Dr. Cox will be deeply missed, but leaves with each of us his perpetual smile.”

The Dixie State College community is forever grateful and indebted to Merv and Sue for their never-ending help and support. To list everything Merv has done for DSC would take an entire magazine, but we'll focus on a few:

- Dixie High and Dixie College student: X-club President, baseball and tennis player, and dancer in theater productions
- Charter board member of the Dixie College Foundation and Foundation President for a term
- Main donor for the:
 - M. K. Cox Performing Arts Center
 - Mervyn and Sue Cox Dental Hygiene Clinic and Mobile Dental Hygiene Clinic
- Significant contributor to the Russell C. Taylor Health Science Center

Pleasing His Peers as a Dixie Rebel (1956)

As an outstanding student at Dixie High and Dixie College, Merv spread his contagious energy on the field, on the stage, and everywhere he went. Merv competed in both baseball and tennis, for which he received a collection of trophies. He beamed with enthusiasm on stage dancing in “Kiss Me Kate” and “Brigadoon” and as a member of the Men's Pep Club. As the X-Club president, he led a group of male students in serving the school at sporting and other events. He was even named “Most Preferred Boy.” In 1956, Merv graduated from Dixie College, but his influence on Dixie had only just begun.

Securing Students' Futures with the Dixie College Foundation (1971)

Merv and other community members formed the Dixie College Foundation in 1971 to assist Dixie College with development and scholarships. In the early years, Merv served a term as the Foundation president. During his term as president and in subsequent years, Merv helped lay the groundwork for the Graff Fine Arts Center mural and the fountain, both of which have brightened the campus as Dixie College icons. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised \$175,000 for scholarships and currently manages \$11 million in assets. Hundreds of students have caught the Dixie spirit because of Merv and many other generous community members' dedication to education.

Amusing with the Arts in the M. K. Cox Performing Arts Center (1986)

Merv was approached at a critical point in the early 1980's when the state was threatening to take over the Dixie Center project if enough money couldn't be raised. The Dixie Center was a joint project of Washington County, St. George City, Dixie College, and the Washington County School District to build an auditorium, arena, and convention center. The state had awarded them \$6 million, but the project still had to raise \$4 million in private financing for the arts auditorium.

Donors rallied to the effort with large and small donations, many of which were facilitated by the Spirit of Dixie Committee, but there still wasn't enough. The Cox's could see the importance of the community arts center because at that time there wasn't an adequate place for community events, productions, and concerts. Merv and Sue donated the “lion's share” to make it all happen. Being the humble and unpretentious person he is, Merv did not want his name on the building, but after encouragement he consented and the arts building was named the M.K.

Cox Performing Arts Center in his honor.

At its completion in 1986, the “Cox Auditorium” began to serve the community as a center for the performing and fine arts. About a decade after its completion, Dixie College bought the entire Dixie Center. Under the College, the Cox Auditorium remained the community arts hub.

“It's been invaluable,” said Gail Bunker, director of the Celebrity Concert Series. “It was really a gift to the community. It has housed the Southwest Symphony, Heritage Choir, the College music department, the Southern Utah Performing Arts Festival and St. George Musical Theater for a time. As well as community dance concerts, school district band concerts, and much more... It's given us a venue to present art that we wouldn't be able to do without this facility, and we couldn't have this facility if it hadn't been for Merv Cox and others like him.”

Bunker has seen from the beginning how this magnificent building has helped further the arts for the community and the College and bring smiles to countless patrons.

“My personal feeling is that people like Merv Cox make this community the wonderful place it is to live in because of their benevolence and generosity,” smiled Bunker.

Earning His Place in the Hall of Fame (2002)

As a major benefactor to Dixie State College, Merv was inducted into the Hall of Fame on October 12, 2002 in the area of Public and College Service. His wife Sue commented that he felt it was a great honor and a wonderful tribute to him to become a member of Dixie's Hall of Fame. Now his grin will forever be found with Dixie's finest on the wall of the Cox Performing Arts Center.

Continued, see **MERV**, page 22



“Trading with people is a great way to do business, but remember this—whenever you trade with someone, make sure that they get the better deal.”

“Excellence in communication is the key to peaceful living.”

“The secret of joy in work is contained in one word: excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it.”

“Success requires the vision to see, the faith to believe, and the courage to do.”



Mervyn Cox
Most Preferred Boy



Mervyn Cox
X-Club President



MERV, continued from page 21

Brightening Smiles in the Mervyn and Sue Cox Dental Hygiene Clinic (2002)

“The dental hygiene program would not be where it is today were it not for Merv’s generosity and caring,” said Karmen Alpanalp, DSC Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator.

When Dixie’s dental hygiene program started in 1998, they relied solely on local dentists for education and practice areas. Dental hygiene classes were taken at night and on Saturdays on the dentists’ off hours.

As the program grew, it needed its own home. Since dentistry was his field, Merv felt it would be a good way for him to help.

The Mervyn and Sue Cox Dental Hygiene Clinic on the DSC campus was largely made possible by their generous donation. Many local dentists and orthodontists also contributed, and individual operatories were named after them.

Since 2002 when the clinic was completed, numerous dental hygiene students have received training and even more grateful patients have left the clinic with brighter smiles. Merv was also a great asset on the program’s advisory council. He helped provide advice and vision on program growth, the impact of the clinic on the dental community, and how to best serve the community.

Traveling Miles for Smiles in the Mobile Dental Hygiene Clinic (2006)

The on-campus clinic served many, but could not serve all low-income families in the community. If they couldn’t come to the clinic, why not bring the clinic to them. In 2006 the Cox’s once again spread smiles by donating Skywest stock to pay for the Mobile Dental Hygiene Clinic, “A Few Miles for Bright Smiles.” Others donated as well.

“The clinic and mobile clinic have given us a great opportunity to provide so many services to the whole low-income population here,” said Alpanalp as she rattled off various locations around Washington, Iron, and Kanab Counties where they have provided or are planning to provide preventative dental services for low-income families.

Broadening the Vision with the Russell C. Taylor Health Science Center (2006)

Thanks to large contributions by numerous donors, including Merv and Sue Cox, DSC’s dental hygiene program, along with all other health science

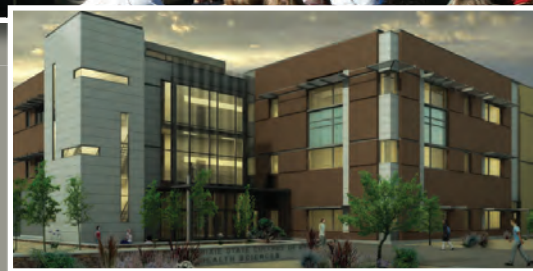
programs will have a new home. In the Fall of 2008 they will move to the new Russell C. Taylor Health Science Center next to Dixie Regional Medical Center. The dental hygiene clinic will retain its name in the new building and the number of operatories will grow from 14 to 24. The now 16-student program has the potential to grow to 26 students and brighten the smiles of many more community members.

Following Merv’s Example by Donating to the Mervyn K. Cox Endowed Scholarship

Merv’s contributions to Dixie and the community will give perpetually even after his passing. He inspired many with his passion for education. We can follow his example by donating to the scholarship fund that was set up in his name upon his passing. Sue is very grateful for this tribute and commented that Merv would think it is wonderful because he loved education immensely. To contribute, contact George F. Whitehead, 435-652-7506.

Though we don’t have Merv’s smile to brighten our day, we’ll never forget what he taught us.

“We need to do what Merv would have us do... [live] each day with a smile, a positive attitude [for] the next adventure in life, and service to other people,” counseled Karl Brooks, former St. George Mayor, to attendees of Mervyn Cox’s funeral service...and to each of us.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chauntelle Plewe Lewis, ‘01 has been enjoying her dream job at Dixie as the marketing coordinator since last July. She has loved promoting the College and the arts, being a fan of both. She is also earning a new respect for teachers as she teaches her first college class. Before joining the Dixie Staff, Chauntelle graduated from BYU in Communications: Public Relations, and served an LDS mission in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She married Tyler Lewis last November.



Ned goes over plans with principal architect, Derek Payne, on site of the nearly-completed Russell C. Taylor Health Sciences Building, his last project in his long era overseeing campus growth.

NED, continued from pg 10

opportunity and unique perspective: “How many people have been able to experience all these different types of realms and individuals? I don’t know if there is any other position on campus where you get to work with so many great people and do so many different things.”

In return, his peers and supervisors compliment the yin and yang that it has taken to manage, coordinate and satisfy the masses and still come in on target. “He has never been run over by an architect or contractor. They all know that Ned means business and will follow the rules and the plan,” said Plewe. “He’s a great budget administrator, never spends in the red, and his employees are respectful of him, and his consistently firm but fair management style.”

In summation Ned looks back on 35 years of hard work and development without a hint of weariness or nostalgia. Still charging ahead as he nears the finish line, he refuses to wane as he tackles the most complex project in size and scope of his career, the Russell C. Taylor Health Sciences Building. Blueprints the size of a folding table and as thick as a dictionary span his desk for the structure, and he shows complete resolve to see it through until the last phone is plugged in and the final desk is straightened in its row.

“The growth that took place during Huddleston’s and Caldwell’s tenures changed the flavor of the school and brought about a distinct change in the caliber and quality of the architecture and direction of the campus,” he stated. “The era is truly changing and we need to allow Dixie to go ahead and expand.”

In regards to the “Dixie Spirit” that first attracted Ned to the campus and anchored him here for the past three plus decades, he concluded: “I think the alumni, administration, and community need to keep that identity alive. It’s more than a name or a building, but something of the high caliber of faculty, staff and students that make this institution different.”

In parting he added, “If you write anything, say I had a great opportunity at Dixie. This college and the people here have been really good to me.”

The feeling is mutual. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amber Mikesell Rich has been an adjunct communications instructor at Dixie State for the past nine years. In addition to accepting freelance writing assignments from the Dixie State Public Relations office, she also writes for the St. George Magazine, Dixie Regional Medical Center, Boy Scouts of America, and others. After earning her associate degree at Dixie in 1994, Amber graduated with her bachelor’s in communication at SUU, where she was nominated as the outstanding communication student of the year in 1996. Amber and her husband, Adam, live in St. George with their four children.



DIXIE/ U OF U AFFILIATION, continued from pg 12

aged in this affiliation and that the institution’s responsiveness to local needs, including the community college mission and current program offerings, would remain unchanged. Caldwell added that the exact details of that governance structure will be incorporated in the operating agreement.

In terms of the school’s identity, Dixie State’s petition stated the desire for U of U officials to acknowledge and encourage the citizens of Dixie and Dixie State College to strive to retain all the good that is revered and honored from the original Dixie College and Utah’s Dixie heritage. In addition, such symbols including the “D” on the hill above St. George Boulevard, school and civic songs, and school chants would be preserved.

“If the affiliation takes affect and we become the University of Utah-St. George, the name ‘Dixie’ will not be in the official title of the institution, but the Dixie name and the Dixie spirit will never be taken away,” said DSC spokesperson Steve Johnson. “The St. George campus will be known as the Dixie Campus. Students will still be able to proudly say they go to Dixie.”

Johnson also notes that DSC’s Trustees knew the importance of preserving and protecting the original pioneer cotton mission heritage and the history of the institution, and took the steps necessary to retain all that is celebrated and honored in Utah’s Dixie heritage.

“The name ‘Dixie’ is very important from the standpoint of regional identity,” Caldwell said. “While many people have documented Dixie’s history, little investment has been made in documenting the traditions and values of Dixie College.”

Caldwell pointed to the era when the institution took the path of adopting the “confederate” identity, which he noted does not reflect the true ethics or heritage of the region. To that end, the petition letter called for DSC to retire the use of the “Rebels” nickname.

“As this institution grows and evolves, the idea of investment becomes critical,” Caldwell continued. “That [confederate] path has obscured and confused the true pioneer heritage of this institution. It is our hope to return this institution back to its original heritage.”

Caldwell noted that an institutional task force, made up of current students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders, has been created to work toward a new identity for both the institution and its athletic programs that is grounded in the pioneer heritage of the area and the College. ♦

MEN'S SOCCER ADDED TO DSC ATHLETIC TEAMS

Dixie State College announced last fall that its intercollegiate athletics program was given approval to add a men's soccer program, contingent upon final budget reviews that will occur in April.

With the addition of men's soccer, DSC will be the only institution in the state of Utah, along with Idaho, Nevada and Arizona, to offer NCAA intercollegiate men's soccer at any classification.

Currently, schools within the region sponsor men's soccer at a club-team competition level. This fact will help the DSC men's program attract some of the more elite players from the region.

DSC Director of Athletics Dexter Irvin says that a search for a head coach is currently on-going, noting that the position will consist of a part-time head coach with duties similar to that currently held by DSC head women's soccer coach Linda Huddleston.

The DSC men's soccer program is scheduled to begin play in the fall of 2008

DSC ATHLETES ENJOY BANNER SEMESTER IN CLASSROOM

Nineteen Dixie State College students received Exceptional Scholar-Athlete designation from the athletic department for their performance in the classroom fall semester.

Included are six students who earned 4.0 GPAs last semester. That group includes David Jennings of Bountiful (golf); Sam Ashman of Orem (football); Haley Schumers of Brigham City (softball); Amy Gleicher of Las Vegas (softball); Nicholas Orgill of Idaho Falls, Idaho (baseball) and his wife, Malinda Manning Orgill, also of Idaho Falls (cross country).

Thirteen additional Exceptional Scholar-Athletes were honored for earning a grade point averages of 3.8 or higher.

Assistant athletic director and compliance officer Maureen Eckroth said the overall GPA for the 249 student-athletes in the department was 2.73, noting that the grades are markedly improved from those turned in by DSC's student-athletes a year ago.

"Last year's grades were not so good and we weren't happy with them," Eckroth said. "To have the turnaround from last year to this year all goes back to our coaches. They understand what we expect and they understand what the college expects." ♦

with a schedule of matches made up primarily of Pacific West Conference opponents. Currently, Dixie State College is the only PacWest team that does not sponsor a men's soccer program.

"We are excited and enthused about the addition of men's soccer at Dixie State College," PacWest Commissioner Bob Hogue said. "We look forward to the competitive level that they will bring to our league and we look for success similar to that of their women's soccer program."

Irvin noted that a limited number of scholarships will be available in the early stages of the men's soccer program's development. He went on to say that DSC's athletic department and the institution are committed to creating and funding a competitive program that will be able to challenge for conference and national titles in the near future.

"It is our plan to offer a well-rounded educational experience to our student-athletes," Irvin said.

"Adding men's soccer is another component of that plan, along with the possible future additions of emerging women's sports, such as golf, lacrosse and swimming." ♦

WOMEN'S SOCCER KICKS ITS WAY TO SUCCESS IN 2007

The 2007 women's soccer team just missed making history in its first season of Pacific West Conference play as the Rebels won eight of their last nine matches to finish the season at 15-4-1 overall, including a 9-2-1 PacWest record—second place in the league standings.

The Rebels' 15 wins were the most since the program moved to NCAA Division II competition, including a victory over NCAA Division I member UVSC (2-1) and a 1-1 exhibition tie at Utah State to open the year. In addition, DSC posted its first winning season since making the jump to four-year competition two years ago.

DSC had six players earn all-Pacific West Conference honors, including two

FOOTBALL POST-SEASON HONORS

Seven DSC football players picked up post season recognition as coaches from 13 NCAA Division II independent teams selected all-Independents Collegiate Athletic Association first and second teams.

Five Rebels were voted to the first team, including sophomore tight end Judd Thompson (6-3, 205; Crystal Lake, Ill./Prairie Ridge HS; team-high 33 rec., 476 yds. 1 TD), sophomore O-lineman Ryan Delrosal (6-5, 308; Miami, Fla./Dr. Krop HS), freshman punt returner Nash Fowler (5-11, 175/Lindon, Utah/Timpanogos HS; 673 all-purpose yards; 8 rec., 111 yds, 1 TD; 14 PR, 140 yds; 26 KOR, 417 yds), D-lineman Chad Frank (6-1,

255/Albuquerque, N.M./New Mexico Highlands; 51 total tackles, 12.0 TFLs, team-high 7.0 sacks), and junior linebacker Teddy Owens (6-0, 220; Pleasant Grove, Utah/Pleasant Grove HS; team-high 78 tackles, 52 solo stops, 5.0 TFLs).

According to Jim Fischer of D2football.com, Delrosal is up for all-region honors and is considered an NFL prospect.

Next season, Dixie State joins the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, along with Central Washington, Humboldt State, Western Oregon and Western Washington. ♦



Rebel Judd Thompson, earned first team All-Independent team honors.



Mikala Wilkes, PacWest conference leading scorer.

first team selections.

Sophomore midfielder Mikala Wilkes (Cedar Hills, Utah/Lone Peak HS) garnered first team honors after co-leading the league in scoring with 37 points on a conference-high 15 goals and seven assists. She was joined on the first team by sophomore defender Jessica Nelson (Orem, Utah/ Timpanogos HS), while fellow defenders Rebecca D'occhio (Fr., Las Vegas, Nev./Centennial HS) and Carly Haycock (Fr., Bountiful,

Utah/Bountiful HS) were voted to the league's second team. In addition, senior netminder Suzanne Hunt (Lehi, Utah/ Lehi HS) and freshman forward Erika Mourtsen (Wellsville, Utah/Mountain Crest HS) picked up PacWest honorable mention recognition. ♦

Alumni Updates

"I find the Red Sands of Dixie forever on my mind."

Shauna Ottesen and Kalynn Larson contributed to these updates

◆ ALLEN B. EWELL, '02,



Dr. Allen Ewell

graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine in May 2007. He was elected to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National

Honor Society, for "scholastic attainment and professional potential" and awarded the annual Student Award of the American Academy of Periodontology, in recognition of outstanding achievement in periodontics. Dr. Ewell is practicing in the Phoenix area.

◆ ALEX BLAKE, '01, AND MARJORIE KEELE BLAKE, '01,

met at Dixie State College after Alex returned from serving an LDS mission to Paris, France. After they married, the Blakes attended Utah State University where they both received bachelor of science degrees — Alex in statistics with a minor in mathematics, and Marjorie in English with an emphasis in technical writing. Alex and Marjorie returned to St. George in 2004 where Alex began a career in commercial real estate appraisal with RCS Appraisal, Inc. He recently received his Certified General Appraiser license for Utah and Nevada. Marjorie is busy furthering her career as a professional mom to their two young children.



Alex and Marjorie Blake

◆ **BEA WULFFENSTEIN, '48,** is 79 years old and swims five days a week in the lap pool at the Denny Price Family YMCA in Enid, Oklahoma. She swims for two hours in a given exercise session, swimming as many as 85 to 90 laps at one time. She said, "the swimming does me wonders!"



Bea Wulffenstein

◆ **JOHN FACKLER, '78,** was named "Outstanding Student Adviser" for the second time, by the national Association of Student Advancement Programs (ASAP) for his work as the Director of Alumni Relations for the University of Utah Alumni Association. Co-workers and former Student Alumni Board members agree that Fackler is a valuable member of the alumni association staff. After Fackler received his associate degree from Dixie College, he earned bachelor's degrees in accounting and political science, followed by a master's degree in professional accountancy at the University of Utah. As a certified public accountant, he worked many years in that field before being lured away by the U to his present position, where he has been the director since 2000.

As such, he oversees the activities of all 14 alumni chapters, working directly with groups in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Colorado and Texas. "My Dixie experience taught me the meaning of school spirit and loyalty, which I use today with The Mighty Utah Student Section (MUSS), alumni chapters, and in every aspect of my job," said Fackler. Through his work with alumni association community service programs such as the Utah/BYU rivalry week food drive, needy Utah families benefit from thousands of dollars and large amounts of food collected each year for the Utah Food Bank. The 2007 drive raised more than \$50,000 in cash and 186,000

pounds of food. The rivalry week drive was recently awarded the CASE Circle of Excellence Gold Medal as the outstanding university community service project in the nation.

John said the most enjoyable part of his job is his role as adviser to the Student Alumni Board (SAB) and the MUSS. He considers the U's SAB to be one of the best student organizations in the nation "I can't take much credit there since I work with such dedicated students," he said, crediting the energy of the SAB as the driving force behind the many successful community service projects. Under John's direction, The MUSS has grown from a meeting of nine people in 2002 to more than 4,500 members during Utah's 2007 football season.

"In my 14 years of coaching football at the University of Utah, the most



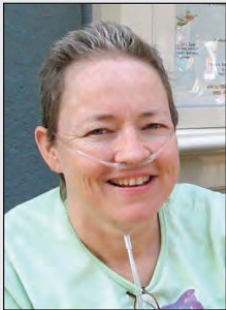
John Fackler and Family

important addition to our game-day atmosphere has, without question, been the ever increasing presence of The MUSS," said Ute Head Football Coach Kyle Whittingham. "The MUSS, one of the top ten student fan clubs in the country according to ESPN, is what Utah football is all about. The support and emotional boost they give to our team is invaluable, and this is due largely to the hard work of John Fackler. He has poured his heart and soul into the development of The MUSS and he is the main reason it has become the success it is today."

John and his wife Carol, along with their two sons, reside in the East Millcreek area of Salt Lake City.

in memoriam

◆ **JULIE MCARTHUR SCHMUTZ, '79**, passed away in her home on Oct. 17, 2007, from complications due to cancer. She was born in St. George, Utah, to Thomas P. and Fae McArthur. She was raised in St. George and received her associate degree from Dixie College.



Julie McArthur Schmutz

Julie was a certified gemologist and loved rocks and gemstones of every kind, especially collecting fine jewelry. She lived in Brazil as an exchange student during high school. She met her sweetheart in a Spanish class while attending Dixie College. Despite almost breaking off the engagement over a ping pong game, she was sealed for time and all eternity to Jeffrey D. Schmutz in September 1978 in the St. George temple.

She was a salesperson at McArthur Jewelers for 33 years. She worked at the St. George Surgical Center for a couple of years after her employment at McArthur Jewelers. She collected toy pigs, which she stored in her "pig-sty," and enjoyed playing sports. She was a voracious reader and had a unique fascination with history. She enjoyed traveling and had the opportunity to go to many countries. She encouraged all those around her to be the best that they could be. Julie had an amazing capacity to love. She had the ability to make everyone feel like they were important, and she will be remembered as "favorite Aunt Julie" by many. A simple trip to the grocery store took twice as long because she couldn't go anywhere without running into at least five people she knew and absolutely had to talk to. Julie enjoyed spending time in the outdoors hiking with her father and numerous nieces and nephews. Julie spent many summer days boating with her family. Towards the end of her life, she spent many enjoyable weeks at Lake Mead on a

houseboat. The last few months of her life, she enjoyed the company of her friends and family. She was an incredible role model and touched many lives with her love and care. She enjoyed and loved her husband, Jeffrey Daniel Schmutz, her children, Jessica (Colby) Williams, Jocee (Zorn D.) Hospodarsky, Daniel Jeffrey Schmutz, Jordanne Schmutz, Jillian Schmutz, and her grandchildren, Brejden Jeffrey Hospodarsky and Amilya Fae Hospodarsky. She is also lovingly remembered by her siblings: Margaret (Dick) Blake, Thomas (Allison) McArthur, Gwen (David) Woodbury, Harvey (Kay) McArthur, Darrel (Penny) McArthur, Rich (Meg) McArthur, Jeanie (Robin) McArthur-Young, and many nieces and nephews. All who became acquainted with her loved her.

◆ **MICHAEL SCOTT CANNON, '71**, of St. George, Utah, passed away on Nov. 18, 2007, at Intermountain Medical Center in Salt Lake City. He returned to his Heavenly Father after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was born on June 12, 1952, in St. George, to Victor Leon and Bonnie Elaine Cannon. Scott married Joni McCall, and they later divorced.



Michael Scott Cannon

Scott attended schools in St. George, graduating from Dixie High School in 1970, where he was voted MVP in basketball his senior year. He attended Dixie College, where he played basketball for two years, and then went on to Cedar City, Utah, to attend Southern Utah University.

After college, Scott was employed by Seaward Construction and traveled the United States, working on power lines. After many years of fighting alcohol and drug addiction, he was able to turn his life around. He moved back home to St. George and spent many years in service to his family and friends. He was able to help others overcome their addiction and rebuild their lives through the AA and NA programs. He received his 12-year sobriety

chip this year. Scott was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was a good man. He was an Eagle Scout and loved the outdoors. He loved John Wayne movies, basketball and hunting with his family at the family cabin in Pine Valley. When Scott was a little boy, his friends told him that if he ate worms, he would grow big. It worked: He grew to be 6 feet 9 inches. Scott is survived by his parents, Victor and Bonnie Cannon, of Santa Clara, Utah; his brothers and sister, Vicki (Doug) Alhstrom, of Tropic, Utah; Terry (Chava) Cannon, of Mesa, Ariz.; Doug (Ginny) Cannon, of Ivins, Utah; and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of Scott's life was held Nov. 24, 2007, at the St. George LDS 8th Ward Chapel in St. George. Interment was in the St. George City Cemetery. Donations can be made to the AA and NA program or to the David H. Cannon Scholarship Fund through Dixie State College.

◆ **DR. MAR W. MCGREGOR, '35** MD '39, of Howard, Colo., died March 30, at 94, of heart failure 17 days after a car accident. He was a plastic surgeon who practiced at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, Calif., during World War II. His specialties were reconstructive surgery and treating burn victims. He served for seven years as a board member and then as president of the American Board of Plastic Surgeons. From 1973-74, he was president of the California Society of Plastic Surgeons. He retired in 1978 after many years as chief surgeon at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco. His wife of 33 years, Patricia Smith, died in the accident that caused his injuries. Survivors include two sons, Robert, '64, and Bruce; one daughter, Kathy McEvoy, two stepsons, and two grandsons.

McGregor was born in Beaver, Utah, on January 31, 1913 to Dr. Donald Alpine McGregor and Bertha Pendexter Watson. McGregor earned an associate degree from Dixie College in 1933, a bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1936 and his MD from Stanford Medical School in 1939.

◆ **MONTRUE GREY LARKIN**, age 92, passed away Wednesday, September 12, 2007. She was born September 28, 1914 in Willard, Utah, to Thomas Cleveland Grey and Charlotte Jane Cole. She attended Box Elder High School in Brigham City, where she was quick to say, "By the time I graduated I had read every book in the Brigham City Library. She married Herman James Larkin on October 18, 1934 in the Salt Lake Temple. They were the parents of seven children, two of which preceeded her in death. She and her husband moved to St. George, where he founded Larkin Plumbing and Heating. Herman was killed in an airplane accident in 1948, leaving Montrue a young widow. She considers the raising of her five children her greatest accomplishment.

Montrue was an 'elect lady' in every way; renowned for her service to her community, church, Dixie College and countless individuals who have been recipients of her compassion and counsel. Her legacy to Dixie College includes her years as Bookstore Manager, Counselor, instigator of the campus Christmas lighting, and her famous furniture refinishing and personal history classes. She was always taking classes and graduated with her Associate of Arts degree from Dixie College. At the age of 69 she received her BA degree from SUSC in Cedar City. To her community she was St. George's first woman Chamber of Commerce President; spearheaded the Gazebo in Worthen Park and the St. George Historical Walking Tour; and served on numerous boards. She has been honored extensively for her community service.



Montrue Grey Larkin

To her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she was a master teacher and leader in various church auxiliaries. She was respected and loved as a Lambda Delta Sigma Sorority advisor, influencing hundreds of young women. One of her choicest labors was her service

in the St. George Temple.

Montrue loved to travel. She was a tour guide for the Continental Bus Company, leading many tours throughout the U.S. and Canada. As a tourist she visited countries throughout the world and shared her adventures in a weekly column, Travels with Montrue, in the Daily Spectrum. Montrue truly believed you were never too old to set another goal or to dream new dreams.

Montrue is survived by her children: James Grey, Barbara Shakespeare, Derrill, Dale, Katherine Neilson, 26 grandchildren and 68 great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her sons Royden and Lynn, and her husband, Herman. Donations can be made to the Montrue G. Larkin Scholarship Fund at Dixie State College.

◆ **ORA LEE MCMULLIN, '48**,

A woman of great faith, Ora Lee Gardner McMullin passed away in her home on Wednesday, August 22, 2007. She was born in St. George, Utah, on December 4, 1927, to Rex and Nettie Whitehead Gardner. At a young age, she learned from her mother the life lessons she would teach her own family and instilled in them the legacy of faith, hard work and charity toward all.

Ora Lee lived a wonderful life, cherishing her summers spent with friends and family in Pine Valley, Utah. She was a graduate of Dixie High School and Dixie College, where she reigned as Fine Arts queen. She married Clark McMullin in the St. George Temple on September 22, 1948. Together they shared a life of love and respect. They loved to golf and travel, enjoying cherished memories with wonderful friends. Ora Lee worked as an accountant for the Washington County School District for 30 years. The people she worked with always had a special place in her heart. She loved music and learned to play the piano and organ at an early age. She was a member of the Southern Utah Heritage Choir for nearly ten years.

Ora Lee lived a life of compassionate service. From crocheting afghans for grandchildren, to cooking countless meals, she served with her hands and her whole heart. Every occasion was special because of her touch. Her grandchildren smile

when they remember her legendary Easter egg hunts and memorable Christmas Eve gatherings. It was so important to her that her family be together.

Her faith was anchored in the gospel of Jesus Christ, a strong faith that she has instilled in her family. Hers was a faith of action that led her to serve others. As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she served as both ward and stake Relief Society president, ward organist, and worked in the temple and treasured the moments she spent there. A highlight of her life was serving with her husband as missionaries in the Pennsylvania/Pittsburg Mission.

As one of the great mothers in Zion, Ora Lee was a matriarch who knew her children individually and loved her family above all. She taught her children to pray and to love and respect one another as she loved and honored her husband. She created a home where love and peace were felt within its walls.

She is survived by her husband, Clark, of St. George; four children: Jane (Murray) Gubler, St. George, Utah; Paul (Roberta) McMullin, St. George, Utah; Jeff (Jill) McMullin, Gilbert, Arizona; Jon Berry (Tamra) McMullin; Darien, Connecticut.; 18 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, sisters Edna Rae (Francis) Frye, Brawley, California; Rexine (Con) Rowley, St. George, Utah; Mary Esther (Howard) Putnam, Pine Valley, Utah. She is preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Wendell.

The family has set up an Ora Lee McMullin Music Scholarship at Dixie State College in memory of this wonderful woman to help students whose major is music or are excelling in music. This scholarship will let her legacy live on for years to come.



Ora Lee Gardner McMullin

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Dear Alumni & Friends,

As the fall semester dawned at Dixie State this year, I had the opportunity to stand with our newly installed Student Alumni Board at the foot of our beloved "D" on the Black Hill. Together our eyes traversed the expanse of modern Dixie as it lay before us. As we stood there soaking in the wonder of it all, I couldn't help but imagine what Dixie must have looked like to its earliest explorers and colonizers.

My study of our history tells me that in 1849 Parley P. Pratt and a company of 50 men were among the first to explore the Virgin River Basin as part of the self-sustaining, colonization infrastructure envisioned by Brigham Young. Of Dixie, the explorers of a subsequent party reported, "Here we can raise cotton, flax, hemp, grapes, figs, sweet potatoes, fruits of almost every kind and be independent of our kind . . . friends who drove us from their midst."

By 1854, Jacob Hamblin was sent to establish the "Indian Mission" along the Santa Clara River. The very next year, Augustus Hardy planted a bottle of cotton seed here in his new home. He had received the seed from a Southerner, Nancy Anderson, of Parowan. A good crop of cotton was produced and 30 yards of cotton cloth were woven from its harvest.

In 1857, encouraged by samples of that cloth, Brigham Young sent 38 Southern families that had cotton growing experience to the Virgin River to establish the Cotton Mission. Under the direction of Samuel Adair and Robert Covington, these early pioneers named their settlement "Washington" after the first President of the U.S., George Washington. By 1858, they had diverted the Virgin River and Adair Springs and had planted 400 acres of cotton in 'virgin' land. Collectively, these pioneers possessed very little experience with irrigation and they were unaware of the effects that alkali salts had on vegetation. Consequently, only 130 acres of those planted grew to maturity. However, even with these hurdles to overcome, they still managed to harvest a crop of 70,000 pounds of ginned cotton.

Unfortunately, with their focus diverted to growing cotton, they found that they hadn't planted enough food and in 1859 they began to starve. To make matters worse, their dams washed out repeatedly and with no fences to pen them in, their stock had to be tended by a herdsman day and night to keep them from destroying their crops.

Reminiscent of their earlier home, these early pioneers soon began calling their new home and the surrounding areas Dixie. Ironically, that same year Daniel Decatur Emmett (a Yankee) and his minstrel band wrote and premiered the historic tune "Dixie" in New York City. Parenthetically, this song reportedly became one of Abraham Lincoln's favorite tunes. It also soon made its way to Utah's Dixie and helped these pioneers to retain a portion of their heritage.

The early Dixieites found strength by banding together and overcoming each obstacle they encountered, one by one. Through overcoming trials together, the "Dixie Spirit" was born among them.

Just as this "Dixie Spirit" was symbolic of those that tamed Dixie, over time this characteristic has become genetically woven into every fiber of those that have followed them and we have become, in a sense, genetically modified by the red sand that fills our own shoes.

This is that same "Dixie Spirit" that we understand to be a "can do attitude" of going forward in unity, having faith in the pursuit of a better future for all. This "Dixie Spirit" enables us to make the most of our options. It is not a stranger to self sacrifice, nor does it cause us to be inclined to recoil from any challenge, large or small.

As we continue to grow and to capitalize upon the opportunities that will come to our great Dixie school, may we ensure that we take care to preserve this "Dixie Spirit" for the benefit of future generations. Let us maintain the same "can do attitude" that our forefathers possessed. We can do this if we continue to meet all challenges by pulling together. By pulling together through our actions and contributions, we cannot help but prosper.

Just For Now,

— Mark H. Gubler, DSC Alumni President

P.S. If you have just arrived in Dixie, put a little red sand in your shoes and give yourself a little time. There is hope for you, too!

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supporting the "DIXIE SPIRIT"





Highlights of Dixie's Centennial Celebration last November

Clockwise from top left: Thomas McArthur representing the Cottam brothers in one of the historical vignettes; St. George City law enforcement enjoying a break from duty; Annie, one of Claudia's Clown's, puts the finishing 'dot' on the nose of a little girl; Dan Watson at the historical vignette featuring past College presidents; Sunset Elementary Sunset Express performs; an onlooker enjoying the afternoon; President Caldwell and Mayor Dan McArthur at the VIP reception; a little boy enjoys a sweet treat.



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