

WILDCAT

WSU Alumni Magazine | SPRING 2015

THE Val A. Browning Center
FOR THE Performing Arts
URNS 50!

Volunteering Abroad
Leading by Artistic Example
Capturing the Ebola Outbreak



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY



From POLAND to PARK CITY to WEBER

Monika Wolowiec Wrona, Polish Olympian, Radiologic Technologist and Weber State Student

Poland native **Monika Wolowiec Wrona** didn't have a coach or manager when she arrived in Turin, Italy, for the 2006 Winter Olympics. She had gained clearance to compete for Poland only the week before. Everything had happened so quickly, including her journey to become a skeleton racer — she trained for just two short years; whereas, most Olympians train their entire lives — but that was OK. "I like to go fast," she said, laughing. You have to, or racing head first down a solid sheet of ice at 80+ miles per hour would be out of the question.

Monika trained in Park City, Utah. At one point, she worked seven jobs to be able to live and practice there. "Some days I only got an hour of sleep," she said. But it

was worth it. "I was glad to compete in the Olympics. I didn't do as well as I had hoped" — she placed 15th in the women's single skeleton race — "but I was still happy to be there."

Today, nine years post-Olympics, Monika is working toward another dream — earning her Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences degree. "I like photography, and radiologic sciences is medical photography," she said. She still doesn't get much sleep — she and her husband have three young children, she splits her 50-hour workweek between Park City Hospital and the Rosenberg Cooley and Metcalf orthopedic clinic, and she maintains a 4.0 GPA.

But again, it's worth it. Monika plans to specialize in CT imaging. "Weber State offers an excellent program," she said. "I love it."

For more information on WSU's radiologic sciences program, visit weber.edu/radsci.



WILDCAT

Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 2015

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Amy Hendricks

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Shane Farver '04
Matt Gerrish '10
Amy Hendricks
Allison Barlow Hess
Karin Hurst
Marcus Jensen

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Nancy B. Collinwood '94
Ivonne Dabb '14
Margie Esquibel
John Kowalewski
Brad Mortensen
Amber Robson '05

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Hillary Wallace '98

DESIGNERS

Emily Caraballo
Amy Hajdas
Becky Jorgensen
Hillary Wallace '98

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Robert Casey
Sara Lleverino '01
Joe Salmond

SPECIAL THANKS

Telitha E. Lindquist College
of Arts & Humanities
WSU Archives

Comments and questions may be sent to *Wildcat*, Weber State University, 1265 Village Drive Dept 4025, Ogden UT 84408-4025. The editor may also be contacted by phone: 801-626-7359 or email: magazine@weber.edu.

Send address changes to Advancement Services, Weber State University, 1265 Village Drive Dept 4018, Ogden UT 84408-4018, call 801-626-6138 or email giving@weber.edu to update your records.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to Advancement Services, Weber State University, 1265 Village Drive Dept 4018, Ogden UT 84408-4018

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014-15

Alan Hall '69, chair	Nolan Karras '70
Retired Gen. Kevin Sullivan, vice chair	Andre Lortz '91
Louenda Downs '78	Scott Parson
Karen Fairbanks	Steven E. Starks '03
Joe Favero	Jeff M. Stephens '84, '87

weber.edu/wsumagazine | alumni.weber.edu



A NEW LOOK

We are excited to unveil *Wildcat's* new website. We've made it much easier to read and use from any computer or mobile device. Visit weber.edu/wsumagazine to see the new design and read online exclusives.

NEED SOME WEBER WEAR?



Stop by the new



WILDCAT STORE

at the Dee Events Center
right outside portal 8!

CONTENTS



In the Spotlight

Celebrating 50 years of the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts

19 Art Stroll

Browse through photos of the inspiring and intriguing faculty art exhibition.

40 WSU Salutes

Outstanding alumni and friends receive recognition.

28 What the World Needs Now

Student humanitarians act globally.

44 Class Notes

Wildcats share their successes and updates.

36 Inside an Ebola Clinic

Photojournalist spends nearly three weeks at ground zero for West Africa's Ebola outbreak.

WEBER WATCH

Allison Barlow Hess and Marcus Jensen | MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Five-Star Review

Sometimes news is so good, it takes a moment to process. After the results of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' accreditation evaluation report were read at a Weber State University site visit in October, audience members paused, then erupted in applause.

The accreditation team's preliminary report praised WSU in five areas. In addition, the university received no official recommendations, defined as areas for improvement, from the committee.

"As an accreditation reviewer of other universities' programs, I have never

before seen a report without a single recommendation," said WSU Provost **Michael Vaughan**.

WSU received the following commendations for exemplary performance:

 *For the people comprising the university committing to a complex mission that includes not just open access, but also the attainment of a diploma;*

 *For the offices of Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Research, in regard to their development and distribution of timely data in support of the university's mission, objectives and core themes;*

 *For providing exceptional opportunities and enhanced access through the institution's Dream Weber program and Weber State's partnership with the Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering and Science (NUAMES);*

 *For the university's fulfillment of its mission to provide public service and community-based learning through entities such as the Center for Community Engaged Learning, the Student Involvement and Leadership program, and collaborating partners; and*

 *For the degree to which curricula, faculty and staff responsibilities, and support services — such as academic, library, student and infrastructure support — are integrated across WSU's dual mission and multiple locations.*

The report and campus visit required more than 70 individuals to contribute over 1,000 hours in preparation, guided by Associate Provost **Ryan Thomas**.

"The review team's preliminary report is a great testament to Weber State's dedication to our mission," said President **Charles A. Wight**. "The remarkable achievements of this university are the result of the hard work of our faculty, staff and students. I congratulate them all for their commitment to excellence."

Virtual Cadaver

If practice makes perfect, a new 3D, virtual cadaver in WSU's health sciences lab will help students perfect their knowledge of the human anatomy.

The virtual cadaver lies embedded in a 6-foot interactive table that is much like a gigantic iPad. With just the swipe of a finger, students can "slice through" skin, bone, muscle, organs and other tissues to peer closely at anatomic details. When done, they can erase the cut and try again. The table's images come from the Visible Korean Project, which photographs and scans male and female cadavers in sections as thin as .3 millimeters. A generous gift from Gary Close BS '67 helped fund the purchase of the table.

"The table includes a database of 100 clinical cases," explained health sciences chair **Kraig Chugg BS '96**. "These are 3D renderings of CT and MRI images that allow students to apply their knowledge of anatomy and physiology to specific diseases and clinical conditions. We are very proud to have this learning tool in the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions."



Photo courtesy of the Standard-Examiner



On Key

Talent, patience and hard work ... that's what it took for WSU student **Ling-Yu Lee** to win the MTNA Southwest Division Steinway Young Artist Collegiate Piano Competition. Of the six competitors, Ling was one of only two undergraduate students. She surpassed doctoral and master's degree candidates from schools such as Arizona State University and the University of Southern California.

"To be able to win a competition, students spend hundreds of hours with non-stop lessons and practice," said **Yu-Jane Yang**, WSU's director of keyboard studies. "The MTNA competition is really a true test of endurance and patience, starting at the state level in October and continuing to the national competition in March."

Lee will represent the Southwest Division in the final round of the competition March 23 in Las Vegas. She will compete against first-place winners from the other six divisions. The grand prize is a Steinway grand piano.

Great, Great, Great Value



U.S. News & World Report has confirmed Weber State's claim of a "great education at a great price," recently ranking the university as one of the nation's top 10 "Cheapest Public Schools for In-State Students."

WSU's 2014-15 in-state tuition and fees cost \$5,184. The article observed, "At some schools, in-state tuition and fees are just a few thousand dollars, making the cost of a year of education similar to the price of a two-week vacation abroad."

U.S. News also ranked WSU No. 24 on its list of "Top Public Schools" in the category of Regional Universities West and No. 23 in the West for "Best Colleges for Veterans."



Engaging Our Community

In January, WSU received the esteemed 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The distinction is an acknowledgement of WSU's longstanding commitment to the greater Ogden community, the region, the state and the world, as well as its dedication to teaching students through community-engaged learning.

The foundation selects schools that model an "excellent alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support significant commitment to and demonstration of community engagement," according to Carnegie President Anthony Bryk.

Only 361 of the more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States earn the designation.



Attitude of Gratitude

"Thank you." It's a simple phrase that can have a great impact in the workplace. That was the topic of an international award-winning thesis by WSU alumna **Crystalee Webb Beck MPC '14** (read more about Beck in class notes on page 51).

The Corporate Communication International Conference awarded Beck best theoretical paper at its conference held in Hong Kong in June.

Her survey of 900 employees found that 28.2 percent of employees prefer verbal, one-on-one appreciation as their favorite medium of receiving gratitude. Monetary bonuses ranked second at 25 percent. Employees were also asked how frequently they like to receive praise and about potential negative effects of over-communicating or withholding praise.

"I am definitely coming away from Weber State instilled with more confidence in my abilities as a professional communicator," Beck said. "For me, the capstone experience was writing this thesis and presenting it at an international conference."



High Point in Death Valley

What started with a little curiosity has become a collaborative, multi-departmental project to help a struggling Native American tribe. On a recent trip with students to Death Valley National Park, WSU associate geography professor **Julie Rich BS '81** met leaders of the Timbisha Tribe and learned of their desire to build a cultural center.

Rich brought the project back to Weber, and with the help of the construction management, interior design and design engineering technology departments, designs have been drafted to build an energy-efficient structure. The new cultural center will be based on the Zion National Park visitor center. Construction will begin after May 2016. (Rich also led a group of students to Mozambique, Africa, in the summer of 2014 to help build a women's center. For more on that story, see page 28.)



A-maze-ing

Firefighters from around the state will have a better chance to get out of a burning building thanks to design engineering technology students. Working in conjunction with the South Davis Metro Fire Agency, students designed a state-of-the-art fire-training maze.

The maze was constructed inside railroad shipping containers at the HollyFrontier Woods Cross Refinery. It consists of multiple obstacles, including an off-kilter floor, entanglements, stairs and sliding panels.

The plans for the maze will be made available on the Internet, so firefighters across the country can build their own structures to be better prepared to fight fires and save lives.



Broadcasting Cats

Digital media students hope a larger audience will see their work now that they've launched WildcatONE-TV.

The new 24-hour channel offers free Internet television in public areas such as the Shepherd Union Building and residence halls and on personal computers and tablets with a WSU login. The content includes free blockbuster movies as well as video projects produced by Studio76, Weber State's student video-production group.

Although digital media students always have produced a plethora of entertainment and news programs, this is the first time they've had a dedicated TV channel to showcase their work.



Taking Manhattan

Dylan Allred BS '14 had just one step to graduation, and he decided to make it a mighty big one. The digital media major set his sights on a New York City internship with Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart — a wildly popular late-night satirical television program — and got it.

Allred's résumé was filled with a variety of experience on WSU's radio and television programs. He grew up around entertainment as the son of **Bill Allred BA '72**, an admired Utah radio personality and WSU alumnus.

"I sent out dozens of applications to shows all over the country," Allred said from his New York home. "I'm happy I got a job at this show in particular, because when it comes to late-night talk shows, there is none better than *The Daily Show*."

Allred completed the internship and graduated in December. He hopes to land a job in entertainment and permanently move to the Big Apple.



Civics Lesson

Community members received a crash course in city government and ways to initiate change when the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service partnered with Ogden City to offer the "Citizens Academy."

"A knowledgeable populace is critical to the strength of American democracy," said **Carol McNamara**, director of the Walker Institute. "Low electoral turnout and public apathy are symptomatic of a civic-education deficit, concerning the function of government and the needs of the community. The Walker Institute's aim is to encourage active leadership and civic participation."

The four-session course, part of the Ogden College Town initiative, discussed the inner workings of government, the election process and then ended with a mock city council, where citizens got to make decisions about the many issues cities face, including taxes, roads and utilities.

Correction

In the fall 2014 edition of *Wildcat*, two national champions were inadvertently left out of the athletics infographic on page 28. **Darol Wintle BS '69** was the national champion in the javelin event at the 1968 NCAA Division II outdoor championship. The **women's golf team** took home an NCAA Division II national title in 1982. We are proud of these Wildcats' accomplishments and sincerely apologize for the omission. To view the updated infographic, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.

Name

Projects

Address

STREET

CITY

STATE

STREET



STREET

Guests

The Ogden Standard-Examiner's national weather report was grim enough to send diehard winter worshippers scrambling for shelter. Tuesday, Feb. 23, 1965: A major storm sweeps wide areas in the West, Midwest and eastern half of the nation. Ominous phrases like "zero visibility," "arctic blast" and "hazardous driving" dominated local forecasts from Montana to New York. Residents of Ogden, Utah, on the other hand, were basking in unseasonable warmth and sunshine. With daytime temperatures creeping to a balmy 55 degrees, the heat was on as Weber State College eagerly prepared for a Hollywood-style spectacle befitting a history-making event.



The musical *My Fair Lady* demands a large stage, full orchestra, sumptuous sets and grandiose production numbers. And in 1965, for the first time in its 76-year history, Weber State College had a physical facility capable of making such an ambitious student production possible.

On that oddly mild February evening in 1965, as powerful beacon lights pierced the sky above campus, an invited audience of state and local dignitaries, wearing formal gowns and tuxedos, arrived for the premiere of *My Fair Lady* — the first of many Broadway musical productions to be staged in Weber State's magnificent new Fine Arts Center, a building now called the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts.

The sprawling, three-story Fine Arts Center was designed by Ogden architect Keith Wilcox. Principal contractors Alfred Brown Co., of Salt Lake City, completed the center

in two phases. Phase one included 12 classrooms, speech and music faculty offices, and an 1,800-seat auditorium. When construction began in 1962, there were only eight structures on the Harrison Boulevard campus: a heating plant, four classroom buildings, the Union Building (later renamed Shepherd Union), the Technical Education Building and the gym.

A BEHEMOTH BUILDING FOR A BURGEONING CAMPUS

In 1964, with recently acquired four-year status, Weber State was one of the fastest-growing colleges in Utah, but faced a serious lack of classroom space. Not everyone was pleased with the building and grounds committee's decision to erect a gym and the Fine Arts Center before a library and more classrooms. An editorial published in *The Signpost* on Jan. 17,

Date

Name

Address

1964, accused the committee of having skewed priorities: "It would seem, as an institution of higher learning, we need a library and more classrooms before the other two." President William P. Miller, however, remained a steadfast champion of the Fine Arts Center project, repeatedly stating that a senior college had an obligation to promote, develop and extend cultural opportunities for campus and community.

THE CURTAIN RISES

On Sunday, Dec. 13, 1964, the \$1.8 million Fine Arts Center was dedicated with back-to-back performances of former music professor Roland Parry's Christmas cantata, *A Child is Born*. The following day, the *Ogden Standard-Examiner* ran a front-page photo of Governor-elect Calvin L. Rampton and Mrs. Rampton chatting with President and Mrs. Miller in the foyer. The politically savvy Rampton had seized an opportunity during the dedication ceremony to tell the sizable audience that the bonding program he was putting together would include almost \$11 million for new buildings at Weber State.

The Fine Arts Center's most striking architectural feature was an exposed aggregate concrete colonnade — a long sequence of exterior arches that gave the building a clean, modern beauty. The glistening, white facade represented a culmination of dreams for a great many people over a long period of time. A central planning committee had spent more than five years touring performing arts complexes around the region, and working with architects to create a first-rate venue that would enhance Weber State's ability to educate students, and fulfill a much broader objective to serve the northern Utah community as a cultural catalyst.



PHASE TWO: TWO MORE STAGES AND A LOT MORE SPACE

An unprecedented 7,000 students were attending Weber State College when the second phase of construction was finished in 1966. The \$741,000 Little Theater (later renamed the Allred Theater in memory of longtime speech and drama professor M. Thatcher Allred) was dedicated on Feb. 3, with a preview performance of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. In addition to more classrooms and a scene shop, phase two also included the Cellar Theater (an intimate, arena-style theater that was later renamed the Monson Theater in honor of former humanities chair and debate coach Leland H. Monson) and a 10-watt, educational FM radio station on the top floor.

The completion of the Fine Arts Center symbolized Weber State's cultural coming of age and the promise of a bold new future. No longer would lack of performance space force Weber to find alternate venues off campus for college productions or significant community events. Although WSC groups were given first priority, external organizations clamored to book the exciting new venue. The Utah Symphony, whose first appearance in Ogden was a one-night-only performance at Ogden High School in 1949, had found a permanent home away from home. Ballet West opened its first complete Ogden Season at the Fine Arts Center Auditorium in fall of 1969.

A BENEVOLENT NAMESAKE

In 1977, after a decade of charitable giving to several of the college's fine arts programs, Ogden philanthropist Val A. Browning established a \$1 million trust fund at Weber State that would, in his words, "give the people of Ogden the opportunity to come in contact with the finest culture the world has to offer."

In appreciation, the WSC Institutional Council unanimously voted on April 19, 1978, to memorialize the fine arts building as the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts.

PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT NO. 1

By 1996, WSU enrollment had skyrocketed to 14,000. Once again, performing arts students, faculty and staff were frustrated by a critical shortage of space. Former music department chair Ronald L. Wooden likens his first office to a broom closet. "It was all you could do to put a half-size desk in there and stuff a piano in." Wooden also recalls that next door in the choir room, members of his choral groups were struggling to fit inside. "The tall men on the back row would

hit their heads on the ceiling tiles. The room was simply too small.” According to costume designer and theater arts professor **Catherine Zublin**, the dance program was especially shortchanged. “They were still using studio space in the gym because there were better dance floors there.”

While overcrowded conditions in the mid-1990s were indeed problematic, the Browning Center itself posed a far more sinister threat. In 1994, State Fire Marshal Lynn Borg told the *Standard-Examiner* the building was a firetrap and would have already been shut down if not for the economic loss to the university and surrounding areas. **Wooden** remembers a terrifying incident one night when smoke pots used for a theatrical production in the Austad Auditorium triggered the fire alarms. “The only exit was down a hallway that was not nearly large enough to accommodate the crowd. Ushers had to lead people up all those stairs, and elderly people literally had to crawl out of there.”

With more than 120,000 patrons attending an average of 600 events a year, the Browning Center topped the State Division of Risk Management’s list of Utah’s most dangerous public buildings. This dubious distinction prompted the 1996 Legislature to appropriate \$17.9 million toward a colossal renovation, expansion and earthquake retrofit. When the Val A. Browning Foundation kicked in an additional \$1 million, generous private donors came forward with matching funds.

The Ogden firm of Sanders Herman Architects was hired to make the Browning Center safer, bigger, energy-efficient and more accessible. Architect Robert Herman explains that between 1964 and 1996, industry standards had changed. “So, the original building had a number of things that were really no longer compliant to issues related to life safety and the ability for people with disabilities to actually move around.” Hard as they tried, Herman’s team was unable to save the center’s iconic Mo-Sai arches. “We actually did a number of studies to determine how the colonnade itself would have to be reinforced,” says Herman, who admits he took a personal interest in the project because he had grown up just east of Weber State and considered the campus his childhood playground. “The structural engineer recommended building a second colonnade behind the original to make it beefier, but when we looked at that

option, the structure lost all of the delicacy that made it very attractive.”

Instead, the architects employed the notion that a performance begins the second you enter the building to create an illusion of height and circular space, and to soften the center’s box-like structure. “The theaters all had this soft geometry. With the entrance, we were trying to communicate that there are these wonderful, curved places inside the building,” Herman says.

The downside of the extensive renovation was the Browning Center’s two-year closure that tested the endurance of the entire Department of Performing Arts. **Wooden’s** office was moved to Building 1, and he taught classes in rooms scattered across campus. “We had to bring our own equipment because many of those rooms didn’t have sound. For me it was a case of ‘have boombox — will travel,’” he says. **Zublin** transported her costume studio to Miller Administration. “Admissions had these little white

desks that sat in the cubbyholes, so we put all our sewing machines on those desks,” she recalls. “I put a washer and dryer in one of the closets and let the custodians do rags there so they’d like me.”

When the reconstruction dust finally settled in fall of 1999, the Browning Center had an exciting new look. Most important, the building met all safety codes and had gained 32,000 square-feet of instructional and performance space.

MONTAGE OF MEMORIES

Training student-musicians, actors, dancers, technicians and designers, and giving them multiple opportunities to perform for a live audience in a well-equipped facility, is at the heart of the Browning Center “experience.” And with 50 years of Browning Center productions, come 50 years of precious memories.

Former music and theater student **John Rust** is a Los Angeles-based alumnus who has worked in the theme-park industry as a creative director, show director, media producer and voiceover actor for more than 30 years. Nostalgically, he describes taking general education classes all over campus, but always returning “home” to the Fine Arts Center. “Our living room was the lobby of the Little Theater,” Rust recalls. “The staff was young and

“For me it was a case of ‘have boombox — will travel.’”
Ronald L. Wooden

Date

Name

Address

we had more than a teacher-student relationship. We had a friendship.” Rust claims that onstage at the Browning Center, he learned how to use his voice and body to pitch a concept. “Because of my experiences at Weber State, I have absolutely no fear of people or public speaking. As a member of an industry that requires lots of selling, I just click into character and sell, sell, sell.”

Ric Starnes calls his time at Weber State and the support he received from former theater professor **T. Leonard Rowley**, transformative. The Texas native joined the military out of high school and was stationed at Hill Air Force Base when, on a whim, he auditioned for Clearfield Community Theater’s production of *Oklahoma*. With his self-confidence boosted by landing the lead role of Curly, Starnes eventually found his way to the Browning Center in 1971 where Rowley was casting *Hello Dolly* and *My Three Angels* for Weber State’s Golden Spike Summer Repertory Theater. “There’s so much good that happened there,” says Starnes. “Sometimes it’s difficult to express the depth of that good. It’s a place that gave me an opportunity to do what inside I really wanted to do, but wasn’t sure I could. It was there I learned that I absolutely could do whatever it is I put my mind to.”

Robert Glasmann BS '72 is a former associate professor and choral music director at Wichita State University. More than four decades after he played a supporting role in Weber State College’s 1972 production of *Man of LaMancha*, Glasmann still marvels at set designer **David Barber’s BS '67** ingenious use of the Austad Auditorium’s maneuverable orchestra pit. “The technical people built an incredible raked stage, the front of which was rigged to the hydraulic pit, while the back of the stage was hinged. At the beginning of the musical, the pit was slowly lowered and the raked stage descended into place, revealing the set for the show. It was like a huge ramp that lowered into a dungeon.”

In fall of 2014, 871 WSU students were enrolled in one or more of the 177 different classes taught inside the Browning Center. Thinking back to his undergraduate days in the 1970s and early '80s, Starnes urges current students to savor every hour spent at the Browning Center. “At the time, we may not see the outcome of what the present can really mean to us. My wish is that the current crop of students is having the

same kind of life-changing experiences inside that building that I had, because we only pass this way once.”

CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT DECADES

Looking ahead, Browning Center administrators admit that with rapid-fire technological innovation and increasing emphasis on home entertainment, staying ahead of the performance venue curve is a huge challenge. For the university’s ongoing *Dream 125* fundraising campaign, the staff prioritized a list of upgrades needed to keep the building in immaculate condition — starting with replacing the 50-year-old seats in the Austad Auditorium and Allred Theater. “We’ve got to compete with theater seats at home,” says Browning Center director **Frank Bradshaw**. “Because people can get so much entertainment on TVs and computers with live streaming, there’s no reason for them to get up and go out. That’s a major, industry-wide challenge for theaters right now.” Event production manager **Kirstin “Fluffy” Blake** echoes Bradshaw’s concerns, but says she’s counting on people 50 years from now still being able to recognize the value of a live performing arts facility. “Nothing can ever replace live theater because it’s so interactive,” says Blake. “It’s the give and take between the audience and performers that sets the live experience apart. You don’t get that same sensation by looking at a screen, listening to a recording or even reading a book at home.”

A former professor once likened Weber State culture to a magic carafe that keeps flowing and flowing. With five decades of performing arts excellence as a foundation, the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts is uniquely poised to continue serving northern Utah as a cultural showcase. That was the idea from the very beginning. In 1964, before the Browning Center was completely finished, humanities chair **Leland H. Monson** predicted the center’s influence. He told the *Ogden Standard-Examiner*, “With the planned facilities in operation, Ogden will experience its own Cultural Renaissance, with Weber State College the motivating force.”



How right he was.

Sources: Acorn yearbook; Deseret News; Standard-Examiner; Salt Lake Tribune; The Signpost; Weber State College... A Centennial History, Richard Sadler; WSU Archives; WSU Institutional Research; Stewart Library

STATE

STATE

Date

Name

Address

for example, featured a collection of *My Fair Lady*-inspired fashions. (For \$27 you, too, could own a broad-brimmed, beribboned hat just like the one Eliza Doolittle wore to the Royal Ascot horse race!)

For Weber State's 1966 production of *The Sound of Music*, 132 local children auditioned for the show's seven von Trapp siblings. One at a time, the pint-size thespians walked onto the monstrously large main stage and "acted" themselves out of an imaginary dilemma conjured up by director T. Leonard Rowley. The lead role of Capt. von Trapp went to nontraditional student, Fine Arts Center evening custodian, and father of five, Duane Hedin AA '53. "After the show one night," Duane recalls, "I was standing onstage greeting guests when I heard a woman call out, 'Where's Gaylord?'



It was the real Maria von Trapp! She had been in the audience, and I had no idea. We had a nice chat, and I had my picture taken with her. She told me she really enjoyed our show."

The Browning Center was home to an early original Norman Rockwell oil

painting. Around 1926, the budding artist painted a portrait of Frederic Dixon, an up-and-coming concert pianist who lived in the same New York City apartment building. Dixon later moved to Utah and taught a select group of students in Ogden. After Dixon died, his longtime friend, Elmer J. Aaron, donated a Steinway concert grand piano to WSC in Dixon's name. Aaron also donated furnishings and personal memorabilia for the rosewood-paneled Frederic Dixon Memorial Lounge — a private room located on the lower floor of the Fine Arts Center. Among those items were several original works of art, including the Rockwell painting, which is now stored in the Kimball Visual Arts Center for security reasons.

The Dixon Lounge also featured a celebrity guest book. The first person to sign was longtime Utah Symphony conductor Maurice Abravanel on October 5, 1971. Between 1971 and 1996, dozens of famous guests added their signatures, including Norman Luboff, John Denver, Arthur Schlesinger

Jr., Karen and Richard Carpenter, Ralph Nader, Herb Alpert, Edgar Bergen, Charles Kuralt, John Wooden, Aaron Copland, Robert Redford, Ronald Reagan, Jane Fonda, Jacques Cousteau, Bella Abzug, "The Amazing Kreskin," Rosey Grier, Neil Armstrong, G. Gordon Liddy, Jake LaMotta, Charlton Heston, Alex Haley and Fred Rogers. Tucked into a drawer and forgotten during the Browning Center's 1997-1999 renovation, the guest book resurfaced in September of 2013, and Broadway's most decorated performer, Audra McDonald, resurrected the Browning Center's tradition of collecting celebrity autographs.

Because costume designer Buckley C. Jeppson did not think lead actor John Rust had the build of a professional baseball player, he constructed a bodysuit bulging with fake muscles for Rust to wear under his clothing during the 1976 production of *Damn Yankees*.

Try as he might, alumnus Ric Starnes can't forget the terrible night the MGM lion mauled a fellow performer during an LDS Student Association production at the Browning Center. "The dress rehearsal went fine, but during the actual performance the lion pounced on a girl standing next to me and clamped its jaws around her head," Starnes says. "The lion trainer runs onstage. I yell, 'Lower the curtain!' We get the girl downstairs, and she's bleeding like crazy. The first words out of her mouth are, 'Did I ruin the show?' It was the most incredible thing I've ever been a part of."

Shortly after WSU became an All-Steinway School in 2011, costume designer Catherine Zublin went online to see if Bernina USA had a comparable recognition for universities that use nothing but Bernina sewing machines. "I wanted to be an All-Bernina School," Zublin says slightly tongue-in-cheek. "Instead, I found a link to something called the One Million Pillowcase Challenge. So now, students in my



Guests

costume fundamentals class have the option of making pillowcases for charity. We've made about 40 so far and donated them to the Weber Morgan Children's Justice Center."

Some insiders truly believe the cavernous Browning Center is... haunted!

Former music professor **Ronald L. Wooden** laughs about the morning he caught a glimpse of the notorious "Phantom of the Fine Arts Center." Soon after Wooden was hired in 1967, the building was abuzz with rumors that a furtive intruder was living in the prop room and sleeping in the dressing rooms. "Around 6:30 one cold, winter morning, I pulled into the parking lot and saw the head custodian chasing this so-called phantom across the parking lot," Wooden chuckles.



"I don't think he ever caught him. It could have just been a homeless person looking for a warm place to stay."

Current stage operations supervisor and theater student **Austin Hull** insists he's seen the apparition of a young boy playing with stage props. "He's dressed like a little 'newsie' from the 1900s with knickers and a cap," says Hull. "He also likes to play with the drinking fountains and sinks in the basement near the dressing rooms. He's not mean, just a little mischievous."

And, yes, the Browning Center really does have a ghost light — a perpetually illuminated lamp onstage. Historical

reasons for its existence vary, but Hull and Browning Center director **Frank Bradshaw** maintain it's to keep ghosts happy, or altogether away.

To read an extended version of this story, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.



EDUCATING THE 21ST-CENTURY communication professional

The Master of Professional Communication program at Weber State University

"I could not have applied for the job I have now without being in the master's program. Having this degree has propelled me forward and given me the credentials I need to be successful in my career."

Monica Schwenk

Master of Professional Communication '13
Development Director, Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities



To hear more from Monica and others about the MPC program, visit weber.edu/mpc.



WORK LO ART

A photographic stroll through the Shaw Gallery's 2014

FACULTY EXHIBIT

Matt Gerrish '10 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



No Re-Entry, 96" x 72", acrylic on canvas, 2014, by Matthew Choberka

Nestled inside Weber State University's Kimball Visual Arts Center is the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery. A gem in the northern Utah art scene, the vibrant space serves as a center of creativity, inspiration and intrigue for faculty, staff, students and community members. Now under director Lydia Gravis, the Shaw Gallery is reaching new audiences and successfully establishing itself as a premier venue for contemporary art exhibitions.

Receiving rave reviews was the gallery's 2014 Biennial Faculty Exhibition, which showcased more than 30 artists from WSU's Department of Visual Art and Design. Andrea Silva of *SLUG Magazine* (one of Utah's longest-running independent publications) reviewed the exhibit, writing, "... I had momentarily forgotten, despite the Faculty Exhibition being my purpose for attending, that every installation, painting, printing, sculpture and image in the gallery, was the work of not just artists, but the professors teaching at Weber State. Which reminded me of how true a previous statement made by President **(Charles) Wight** was, in regards to the faculty practicing what they teach. I later justified that my forgetting wasn't the result of my failure, but the artists overwhelming success."

The following pages offer a glimpse into the faculty exhibition. To see more and to learn about upcoming events at the Shaw Gallery, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.



Edna, Meriam and Nagyeong, daguerreotype, 2013 & 2014, by Tyler Suppha-Atthasitt



Corporeal, video, 2014, by Tatiana Svrckova Larsen



FOREGROUND: (from left to right) *Flicker*, digital medium, 2014; *Rising Water Levels*, woodcut, 2014; and *Spoonbill*, digital medium, 2014, all by Susan Makov BACKGROUND: (from left to right) *Electric Pulse* and *Kill Your Television*, acrylic on canvas, 2014, by Steve Stones BFA '96

Photos courtesy of the
Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities



LEFT: *Game Pieces*, ceramic, 2014, by Stephen Wolochowicz

FOREGROUND: *Drive Through*, metal sculpture and lights, 2014, by Jason Manley

RIGHT: *Pages from Everything Half Off*, digital assembly, 2014, by Mark Bidle



'Floating Garden' Makes Top 10

Japanese artist Motoi Yamamoto's complex table salt creation that was featured at the Shaw Gallery made *designboom* magazine's list of top 10 exhibits of 2014. Photos of the unique art installation can be viewed at weber.edu/wsumagazine.



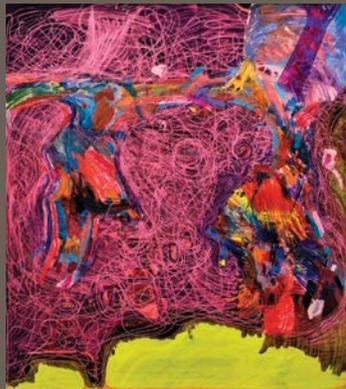
FOREGROUND: *Her Favorite Time of Day*, acrylic on canvas, 2014, by Margaret Reimschuessel BA '88



Color Shark, found styrofoam, dyed epoxy resin, 2013, by Jared Clark

NOW SHOWING
**Pure Paint for
 Now People**
 Through April 10

Untitled
 90" x 80"
 oil, ink, acrylic and
 flashe marker on canvas,
 by Joanne Greenbaum



LYDIA GRAVIS — DIRECTOR, TEACHER, COLLABORATOR

Lydia Gravis has always been a passionate educator. Prior to being named director of the Shaw Gallery in May 2014, she was an adjunct instructor at Weber State, and she managed the visual arts outreach programs for the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities. While her title and responsibilities have changed, her primary goal remains the same: to educate.



Gravis' immediate goals are to increase gallery awareness on campus and in the greater community. While many university galleries and museums charge admission to outside visitors, the Shaw Gallery is free and open to the public, something Gravis wants to maintain in the coming years.

"I want the gallery to attract art novices, experts and everyone in between," Gravis said. "We want more visitors from all backgrounds and of all ages, and we want to offer them welcoming experiences that expand their idea of what art is."

Gravis says the gallery involves Weber State students in day-to-day operations now more than ever, helping with the sustainability of its long-term future. In conjunction with WSU faculty, students are the driving force behind ensuring accessibility for everyone. As gallery attendants, they greet visitors, lead tours and answer questions about the art and artists. Students also serve as technicians during the installation and de-installation of exhibits.

In less than a year on the job, this type of collaboration has already created a sense of accomplishment that Gravis hopes to magnify.

"I appreciate the impact of art on many levels and feel fortunate that I can serve as a catalyst for bringing art to campus that will challenge people to expand their perspectives and lead to the type of quiet contemplation that art can evoke," Gravis said. "I enjoy the satisfaction of seeing an exhibition develop from start to finish, and I value the opportunity to work around artists who are constantly inspiring and challenging each other in their artistic pursuits. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful gallery space and hub for culture, ideas and experiences."



FOREGROUND: *KMB 35.9*, invisible tape, 2014,
by Kathryn Bradshaw BFA '05



FOREGROUND: *Commander GA*, cherry wood, 2014, by Jim Jacobs

GET THE **INSIDE SCOOP!** JOIN THE



PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY

**EXCLUSIVE
INFORMATION**

VIP ACCESS



TO JOIN OR LEARN MORE
about the President's Society at WSU

Kyle Braithwaite

801-626-6566 • kylebraithwaite@weber.edu

PASSWORD: "BENEFITS"

President's Society membership allows you to:

- Support colleges & programs that mean something to YOU.
- Get "insider" information not readily available to nonmembers.
- Attend special campus events and receptions with President Charles Wight. (Out-of-state members will be invited to VIP events in their area.)
- Receive *The Wight Paper*, President Wight's quarterly e-newsletter.

Automatically become a member of the WSU Alumni Association (unless you decline or have previously joined the WSUAA).

\$10,000+	PLATINUM
\$5,000	GOLD
\$2,500	SILVER
\$1,000	BRONZE



**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dream
125



WILDCATS BEYOND

Thousands of miles away, on two separate continents, two groups from Weber State University empowered communities to make positive, lasting changes.

Amy Hendricks MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



BORDERS



In Mozambique, Africa, women in the Boane district live in tiny cinderblock homes on dirt plots. They don't have much but are proud of what they do have. They keep their houses clean and their yards tidy. Most are widows — single moms with precious little mouths to feed. They walk to farms, where they work for miniscule wages. "We go out on the farm, do a little bit of work, get a little bit of money, get a little bit of food and give to them (the children). There's no other way to do it," one Boane woman said, speaking her native Portuguese. Despite their challenges, they live happily with very little — they dance, sing and tell stories. But these women also want to learn and create better lives, if not for themselves, for their children.

Across the Atlantic, gang-related graffiti splatters the walls of parks in the poverty-stricken Peruvian neighborhoods of Jorge Chávez and Simón Bolívar. Known for drug deals and other illegal activity, these areas are so notoriously dangerous that taxi cab drivers often won't go there. "We won't go over the white bridge," one said, pulling over before crossing into Jorge Chávez. Despite the threats that exist, local kids play in the parks, on rusted and broken equipment. They run barefoot through sand littered with shards of glass. They laugh, enjoy high-spirited fútbol games and return to their modest homes. Their parents want to protect them from the dangers within their communities. They want to make a statement to the drug dealers and gang members: "These parks do not belong to you. They belong to our children."

These are just glimpses into two areas of the world visited by two separate groups of WSU students, alumni, faculty and staff in 2014. They left with big plans to help these communities — plans initiated by the community members themselves. Along the way, they faced tests, and surprises. They came back humbled, with gut-wrenching, yet uplifting images etched on their hearts and one question echoing through their minds: Did we truly make a difference?

The answer: absolutely.

INTO AFRICA

"A women's center in Mozambique: This was one of those projects that you just get caught up in," said associate geography professor **Julie Rich BS '81** (read more about Rich on page 8). "An idea is presented. You start sharing that idea. It begins to snowball. And you find yourself 10,000 miles away in Africa."

Rich has been at Weber State for 27 years as both a faculty and staff member. After spending two years (2003-2005), at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, she developed an interest in community-engaged learning (learning that incorporates service, democratic engagement and/or community research). Her motto is, "You can't live life singly. You have to step out and make a difference."

Several years ago, Rich served as president of the Worldwide Organization of Women. It was then she met Charlotte and David Hamblin, founders of the nonprofit organization No Poor Among Us. "I knew they had been doing work in Mozambique, and Charlotte shared a few of their experiences with me," Rich said. "She said some of the women had approached her and expressed a desire to have a center, a place where they could find hope, where they could learn English and other skills to strengthen their families and community."

And the seed was planted.

"I thought, you know, I have all of these wonderful students, wouldn't it be great to get the power of Weber State University behind this project," Rich said. From there, she met with faculty members **Alicia Giralt**, WSU's women and gender studies director and foreign language professor; **Joanne Lawrence**, dance professor; and **Jeremy Farner BS '03**, associate professor of design engineering technology. The Hamblins and several students joined them.

"We started writing what our goals would be for a project like this," Rich said. "We wanted to build a women's center. We wanted to focus on education for the women. And, of course, we wanted our students involved in every aspect, from research and travel to interpretation and teaching. At the end, we looked at each other and said, 'Let's put together a class.'"

In spring 2014, Weber State offered a course called "Mozambique: Place, Gender and Dance." Rich thought 10 to 12 students might sign up. "We had 35. 35!" Rich said, smiling. Twenty-four of the 35 signed up to travel to Africa.

It was an eclectic class. Students learned about the geography and culture of Mozambique. They researched topics the





women had expressed interest in, including literacy, gardening, hygiene, chicken raising and first aid. They danced African dances. They designed a mural for the center and started producing a documentary (visit weber.edu/wsumagazine to watch the video).

The students also learned to fundraise. By the end of the semester, they had \$50,000 to cover building costs and additional funding for travel expenses.

That same semester, Farner and his design engineering technology students drew up building plans for the women's center. Designed at 10 meters by 20 meters, the plans were passed on to a Mozambican construction crew to build the structure. The overall plan was to have the center 90 percent completed so that, by the time students arrived in May, it would only require some finishing touches. That way, students could concentrate on the women's needs.

But something got lost in translation.

A BIG Surprise

"We've built the Taj Mahal of women's centers." That was Farner's reaction when he first saw the building in person. The construction crew had mistakenly built the structure to be 20 meters by 30 meters. "Now, that doesn't sound like a big difference, but in square footage it is. We went from 2,000 to 6,500 square feet," he explained. Assured the space would be put to good use, Farner was happy to see the center.

But then he walked inside.

There were no structural supports. The concrete footings — the bottom part of the foundation that helps distribute and support the weight of the building — were only about a half-inch wide. There was no floor. "It was just scary construction. They had already cemented the outside of the building, and there were several places we had to dig out and put footings," Farner said.

A lot of work needed to be done — and construction materials were scarce — but everyone pitched in to help. "Only two students had previous construction experience, but everyone accomplished every task I gave them, despite short shovels and small ladders, and, for a time, the lack of a cement mixer," Farner said.

The challenges were overwhelming, but the experience was life-changing for Farner. "I went with the mindset that I was going to bring them the Western way of living," he said. "I thought, 'I'm going to provide them this large center and the happiness that we have by giving them a higher quality of life,' and I came away knowing they've got some things figured out that maybe we've forgotten — that

family is the most important thing. It's not the size of your home, it's what happens in that home that matters."

The construction of the building was never intended to be one of the students' main focuses, but they had to roll with the punches. Rich said, "When we

got there and saw the state of the building, we had to stop and ask ourselves, 'How do we respond? Do we sit and weep because this wasn't the plan or do we take action?'"

They took action.

For 21 days, the students put in long, hard hours at the construction site, but also worked to teach the women, who gathered in mass to learn about basic financing, disease prevention, hygiene, and how to prepare soil for large-scale gardening (in the hopes they could sell their crops to local restaurants and hotels). "They were so grateful," said elementary education major **Ryann Thoits**. "They sang to us about how happy they were that we were there. And they were just such hard workers. When we would arrive in the morning, they were already there. These women know how to work, and they are willing to do whatever it takes to help their children."

The challenges were overwhelming, but the experience was life changing.

A Difficult Subject

“A big problem for girls in poverty-stricken areas is access to clean water,” explained Giralt. “Once they start to menstruate, they often stop going to school because they have no protection, they have no way to wash, no way to stay clean.”

Kylie Peterson, a women and gender studies major, provided the girls with a solution: a reusable feminine care pad. Prior to leaving for Africa, students sewed 160 washable pads and 80 travel bags so the girls could carry them to school discreetly. While there, Peterson hosted two feminine hygiene classes. Nearly 150 girls attended. Not a single one had ever attended a feminine hygiene or sex education class, Peterson said.

“In many countries, menstruation is just not spoken about,” she explained. “We chose this project because when you help girls manage their menstrual cycles, you help them stay in school. They won’t miss an entire week every month. They were so thankful, and I truly feel like I made a huge difference in their lives.”

What’s Next?

A lot has changed since the WSU contingent left Africa. The garden that was planted has yielded tomatoes, onions and parsley. The chicken house is up, meaning the women now will learn to raise chickens. A water well has also been drilled.

In January, **Devin Gilbert BA ’14**, who was an interpreter as well as a makeshift construction worker on the trip, went back to Mozambique. Having recently graduated from WSU with a degree in Spanish (he also speaks Portuguese), he is serving an eight-month internship through No Poor Among Us as the director of the women’s center.

Gilbert lives at the center — “It’s definitely big enough,” he joked — and teaches the women Portuguese literacy and simple budgeting skills. “We will eventually teach them English, but first we want them to know the business language of their country as well as basic math skills so they can start their own businesses (such as sewing or selling produce or chickens),” he said. “We want to make sure they are educated and can make it on their own.”

“That’s an important aspect of any humanitarian project. The change must come from the people themselves, from their own doing. Sometimes, even though their intentions are good, humanitarian organizations try to give help that isn’t in line with what the people want. In Mozambique, the women have decided what they want. We’re just helping them get there.”

INTO PERU

“Adding an international service project has been one of our goals for quite some time,” said **Mike Moon**, assistant director of WSU’s Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL). In fact, it was written into the center’s five-year strategic plan. In 2013 — with year five fast approaching — **Brody Barnes BS ’04** and his wife, **Jennifer Banach Barnes BS ’02**, contacted Weber State (read more about the Barnes in class notes on page 49). The couple wished to fund an international trip — one that would bring students to a Spanish-speaking country that had tremendous community needs. Not even 12 months later, the Peru trip was a go.

To get an idea of where to start and what to do in Peru, Moon reached out to the Peruvian consulate in Salt Lake City, Utah, **David Utrilla**, who also happens to be an alumnus of Weber State (see page 12 for more on David). “He gave us contacts at a Peruvian university that he was familiar with, Juan Mejía Baca University,” Moon said. “As it turned out, Juan Mejía Baca is interested, as Weber State is, in community engagement. They sent representatives to visit WSU’s campus, and we were really able to tie in our visions.”

In November 2013, Moon, CCEL director **Brenda Kowalewski** and **Trevor Annis AS ’09**, who, at the time, was the WSU Student Association’s (WSUSA) service vice president, traveled to Peru (read more about Annis on page 12). There, they visited the communities that Juan Mejía Baca had been surveying and observed projects the university had been stewarding. They witnessed a little boy suffer a gash while playing on broken playground equipment. They watched families rush to a water truck desperate to get enough water for the next two weeks (it wasn’t that the water in their homes was unclear, it was that they didn’t have any water in their homes).

“These communities not only were impoverished but also forgotten, at least it seemed to me,” Kowalewski said. “The people truly struggled.”

Seven months later, Moon, Kowalewski, 18 students and six alumni boarded a plane to Peru.

The People

“A huge welcoming party was waiting for us when we landed,” said elementary teaching major **Tessa Diamond**, the current WSUSA vice president of service. “They were just so thrilled to see us, and us them. They greeted us so lovingly, which I found out, is very Peruvian.”



While there, students and alumni visited local elementary schools, helped deliver water to families and worked on three main renovation projects — two parks and a daycare called Rayitas de Sol, or Little Rays of Sun. “Some stuck to one place; others went to a different work site each day,” Diamond said. “Wherever we were, we worked hard, learned from the people and learned more about ourselves.

“There’s something about going outside of your country into a place where things are completely strange. There’s a different kind of humility and learning that accompanies service in a foreign land.”

Diamond learned that a simple piece of candy could make a child’s day and that a Peruvian man named Lucho could show her what it meant to work hard and be dedicated. “He was at Simón Bolívar every day. He outworked everybody by a mile. He was so humble. When we were finished, we nominated him to christen the park and named him the park’s godfather. The look on his face — he was not expecting that kind of recognition, but we were so excited to give it. I don’t think I’ll ever forget him.”

There are resources like Lucho in every community, which is exactly what Kowalewski wanted students to see. “The community members identified what their needs were and

strategies on how to address those needs,” she said. “We just came in and provided the people power to help them implement those strategies. Today, they’ve established community neighborhood committees who are working to create safe spaces for their children. It’s a kind of governance, if you will. Those people are assets. Those people are the ones who will make sure that these projects are sustainable.”

The people were also memorable for **Chris Sonognini BS '06**. “It was fun to be in the Peruvian communities and see their reactions to us being there,” he said. “It was cool to see the children interact with our group. The kids always seemed



so happy and full of life. Some of the excitement was just the novelty of the situation. It’s not every day they get the chance to see people from America. They were all very appreciative.”

Sonognini, who is an air traffic controller in Idaho, was grateful to spend the three weeks in Peru with students and fellow alumni. While they accomplished much, he wishes he had been able to do even more. “I think so many people

are attracted to service for so many of the same reasons — to feel like we’re making a difference, to do something bigger for somebody else,” he said. “We definitely did that in Peru, but I think when you see the situations and the challenges that we were seeing, there’s always the desire to want to do even more.”

The Promise of an Education

“For every trip we take, every service project we do, I feel like my job is to give everybody the best experience possible,” Moon said. “This trip, while wonderful, felt a little different because some of our projects that we had planned fell through (due to city regulations or requirements).”

Moon — quite arguably — felt like he had failed. A post-trip reception made him see otherwise. Each person had the opportunity to reflect on the trip. Two alumni, **Josh Crawford-Bizzel BA '09, M.Ed '14** and **Lindsay Beddes BIS '06, M.Ed. '11**, surprised him with their story.

“Josh and Lindsay worked on the daycare project,” Moon explained. “Every day, youth from a nearby school would come help. Lindsay said there was one boy who had just this tremendous thirst for knowledge. As time passed, they learned he was no longer going to school because his family couldn't afford tuition.

“After the WSU group left, Lindsay and Josh stayed in Peru to travel, but they said, ‘This doesn't feel right; we've got something bigger left to do here.’ So they went in search of this young man. Miraculously, they found him and pledged to pay for his education — both high school and college, if he chose to pursue it.”

An education will make a huge difference in this boy's life, Kowalewski said.

“Prior to Josh and Lindsay's intervention he had said, ‘I'm going to learn how to set up a juice stand on the corner.’ Now that he's back in school, his intention is to become a police officer in the community. That's a big difference, not only in goals but also in the living wage and the financial stability of his family.

“That's huge. That's the ripple effect.”



A New Project, A Different Continent

A humanitarian trip to Thailand is in the works for May 2015, this time including the trio of Julie Rich, Jeremy Farner and Mike Moon. Learn how to get involved and read the interesting backstory of this trip — how a WSU alumna connected with her former WSU supervisor, **Carey Anson BS '01**, to help orphans in her native country — at weber.edu/wsumagazine. Should you wish to donate toward the students' fundraising goal of \$20,000, email mikemoon@weber.edu or call 801-626-7737.



RESPECTED INNOVATIVE AFFORDABLE

Earn your MBA at Weber State
— a program that focuses on
you and your success by:

- Offering outstanding faculty and innovative curriculum
- Accommodating your hectic schedule, meeting one evening per week with supplemental online learning
- Providing flexibility, allowing you to switch between full and part time, anytime

Choose your path.

In addition to foundation courses, WSU also offers four graduate certificates* in:

- Aerospace Management
- Contract Management
- Sustainability for Business
- Information Systems & Technologies/
Information Assurance

* Graduate certificates may be pursued as stand-alone degrees or as tracks within the MBA curriculum.

Katie Barker - MBA, Class of 2005

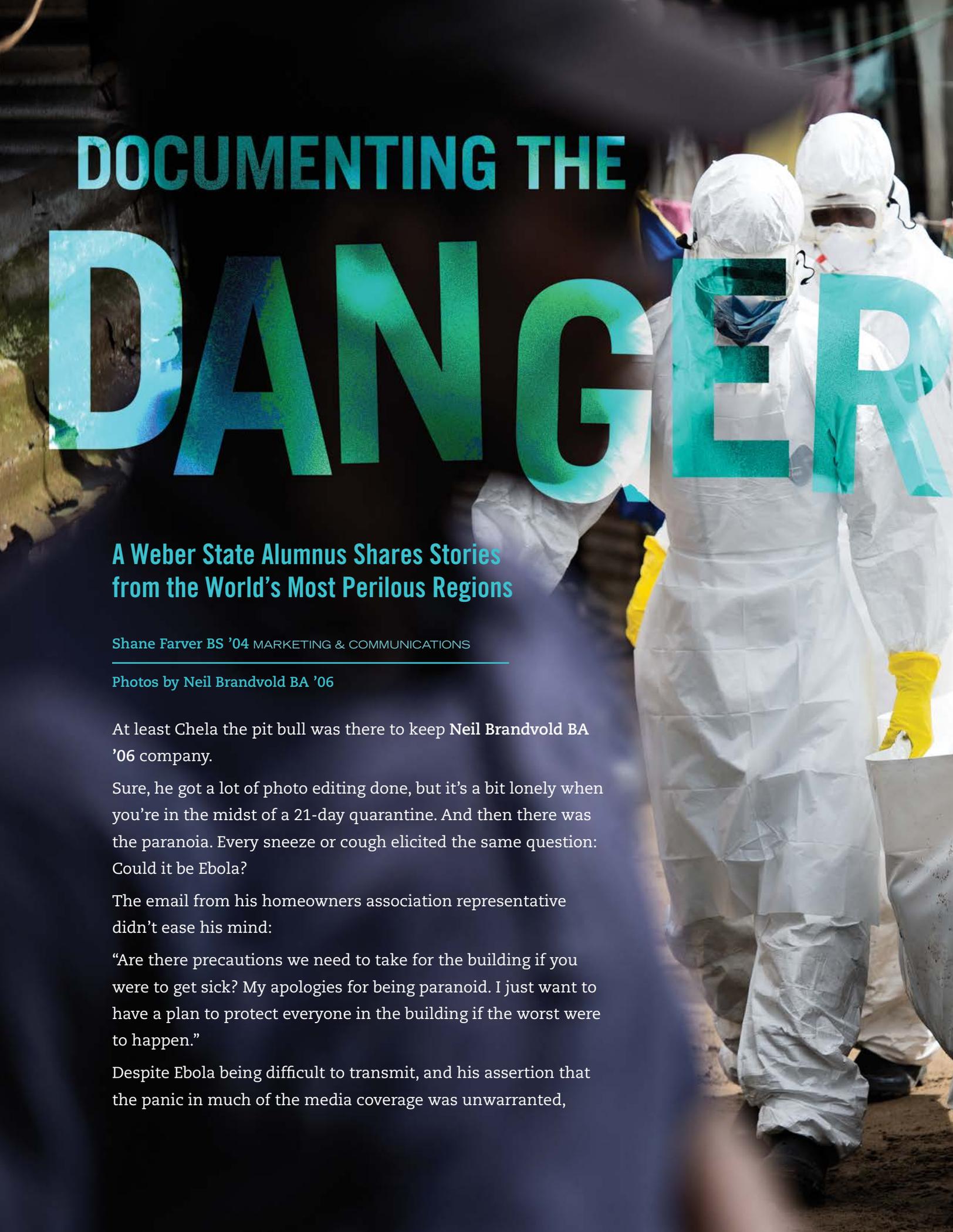
Contracting Officer and Section Chief
Precision Guided Munitions & Components Contracting, Hill Air Force Base



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Goddard School of Business & Economics



weber.edu/MBANow

A photograph of two individuals wearing full-body white protective suits, including hoods, face shields, and gloves. They are walking in an outdoor setting, possibly a field or a rural area, with some structures and flags visible in the background. The word "DANGER" is overlaid in large, bold, teal letters across the center of the image.

DOCUMENTING THE DANGER

A Weber State Alumnus Shares Stories from the World's Most Perilous Regions

Shane Farver BS '04 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Photos by Neil Brandvold BA '06

At least Chela the pit bull was there to keep Neil Brandvold BA '06 company.

Sure, he got a lot of photo editing done, but it's a bit lonely when you're in the midst of a 21-day quarantine. And then there was the paranoia. Every sneeze or cough elicited the same question: Could it be Ebola?

The email from his homeowners association representative didn't ease his mind:

"Are there precautions we need to take for the building if you were to get sick? My apologies for being paranoid. I just want to have a plan to protect everyone in the building if the worst were to happen."

Despite Ebola being difficult to transmit, and his assertion that the panic in much of the media coverage was unwarranted,



Brandvold understood the fear the disease can create. After all, he had just spent more than two weeks at ground zero for West Africa's Ebola outbreak: Sierra Leone and Liberia. Along with Guinea, those countries represented the heart of the outbreak that had killed more than 4,000 people by the time he left Africa.

It wasn't like he was merely in those countries either. He was right there, in the Ebola treatment centers, out on body-retrieval missions, pointing his bleach-cleansed camera at all the horror and devastation that surrounded him.

"There (in Sierra Leone and Liberia), it's just complete desperation and chaos," he said. "They can't build facilities quick enough, so people are just dying in the streets. People are in front of the entrance to get into the hospital, and there just aren't enough beds."

Then there's the aftermath. For instance, there was the girl, 16-year-old Miatta, who suddenly became the head of the household after Ebola killed her parents. Not only was she caring for her 1-year-old son, she was now caring for her two younger sisters and her younger brother. She was responsible for their food, clothing and shelter. No one was left to lift that burden from her.



"Just coming up with questions to ask her — what do you talk about?" Brandvold asked. "I don't know that she even understood the gravity of the situation."

It's Brandvold's job to convey the gravity of situations

across the world. Since graduating from Weber State with a political science degree, he has charged into environments that others run from: disease outbreak in West Africa; a Congolese civil war; revolution in Libya, Egypt and Honduras; Voodoo rituals in post-earthquake Haiti; snake-handling churches in the deep South. The freelance photojournalist and videographer — whose work has appeared in *National Geographic*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera — sees running toward danger as his life's calling.

"The most important thing I can do with my life is to try to put myself in situations where I can help tell the stories of

people who aren't able to tell their stories," he said.

That calling wasn't as clear when Brandvold was a student at Weber State, but it was forming. He remembers becoming enthralled with stories from across the world that he heard in his political science classes. He became co-president of the university's Amnesty International chapter. He heard from guest speakers like Carl Wilkens, the only American to stay in Rwanda and bear witness to the 1990s genocide there. He expressed his political opinions in a column for *The Signpost* and also served on a delegation for a model United Nations on campus.

Nancy Haanstad, retired WSU political science professor and former faculty advisor for WSU's Amnesty International chapter, said Brandvold's passion for helping his fellow man was apparent years ago.

"That's the sort of thing that interests Neil: the people on the bottom of the social and economic ladder," she said.

Brandvold's passion for exploration was evident during his college days as well. One Monday morning, he told Haanstad that, on a whim, he took a quick weekend trip to New York City's Central Park to see "The Gates" art installation by Christo and Jeanne-Claude. He just "had to see it," she said.

"That spirit of adventure, he's always had that," Haanstad said. "He wants to be where the action is."

A 2009 trip to Honduras as a citizen journalist documenting a coup started Brandvold on a path to the most dangerous regions in the world. Since then, he has not only documented the world's most threatening places, he advises others how to safely operate in them. In addition to his work as a photojournalist, he serves as an operations manager for FHI 360, a global, family-development-focused nonprofit. There, he provides security and safety logistics for various regions across the world.

He has prepared himself for conflict zones by taking post-



traumatic stress disorder courses and emergency medical courses, but nothing could prepare him for the invisible enemy of Ebola. It isn't as simple as running away from the sounds of gunfire, he said.

Regardless of whether the assignment is about civil war or Ebola, the fear never really goes away. "If people say they're not afraid, they are either lying or they're stupid," he said.

Danger aside, he's not done documenting. He's wrapping up a feature-length documentary on the March 23 Movement rebels he spent time with in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

And he keeps in touch with the Weber State faculty who helped form who he is today. Haanstad said he still sends his pictures to her from time to time.

Brandvold's Weber State education enabled him to turn his curiosity about the world and his sense of adventure into a career. He encourages others to do the same.

"The world is small," he said. "There are a lot of opportunities to do what you really want."



Brandvold produced and edited a video for *National Geographic* that takes people through a Doctors Without Borders Ebola clinic in West Africa. To view the video, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Weber State University's Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) curriculum offers two concentrations: **Nursing Education** and **Nursing Administration**. Both programs are designed to promote national guidelines and competencies that enable graduates to make a significant contribution to education and healthcare environments. A Post-Master's Certification is also available for those looking to expand existing nursing knowledge and advance employment opportunities.



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Dumke College of Health Professions

SCHOOL OF
NURSING

For more info: 801-626-6753 or weber.edu/MSN

An education that speaks for itself.



WSU *Salutes*



WSU Salutes 2014 honorees: left to right

Back row: Robert H. "Bob" Garff; James S. "Jim" Hinckley; Lonah G. Masinde BS '09, MED '10; Roger J. Trincherro BS '69; H. DeWayne Ashmead BS '70; Trevor Annis AS '09; George E. Hall

Front row: Troy R. Child BA '89; Katharine Garff; Eugele "Jill" Baird Ashmead BS '91; India Nielsen AS '13; David Utrilla

See next page for biographies.



{DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS}

Twenty years ago, civil unrest drove **David Utrilla** from his native Peru to the U.S. At Weber State, he perfected his English and learned how to capitalize on his entrepreneurial spirit, eventually starting the successful U.S. Translation Company. Utrilla is Utah's honorary consul to Peru (see page 32 to read how Utrilla helped with WSU's trip to Peru). He generously supports the Goddard School of Business & Economics and also serves on the school's advisory board. He is a former advisor to WSU's Richard Richards Institute for Ethics.

{DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS}

When **Troy R. Child BA '89** was in Yasmen Simonian's hematology class, she was convinced he wasn't paying attention. So every day she called on Child to answer an impossible question. He was never wrong. Child is now McKay-Dee Hospital's chief of anesthesiology. A dedicated humanitarian, he has provided free health care in West Africa. For more than seven years, Child has prepared classroom presentations for Weber State students. He also established the O. Rex Child Medical Laboratory Sciences Scholarship in honor of his father.

{OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA}

Lonah G. Masinde BS '09, MED '10 was teaching school in her native Kenya when she made the gutsy, but heart-wrenching decision to leave her 13-year-old daughter with relatives to further her education in the U.S. After earning a bachelor's degree in child and family studies, and a Master of Education, Masinde was hired by the Weber School District. Masinde dreams of returning to Kenya to help change the harsh way children with mental and physical challenges are treated there.

{DISTINGUISHED SERVICE}

Ogden business owner **George E. Hall** is not a Weber State alumnus, but you'd never know it given his devotion to the university and its Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities. Hall's vision and funding of the "Blue Bottles" installation art project at Utah Bottling Works allowed visual art students to gain real-world experience. Hall chairs the Lindquist College's advisory board, sits on the WSU Research Foundation board and belongs to the Wildcat Club. George and his wife, **Mary Hall BS '85**, frequently host dinners to support students, faculty and programs. They also established a scholarship in memory of George's mother.

{EMERITI ALUMNI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT}

Roger J. Trincherro BS '69 played for the 1966 Rose Bowl-winning UCLA Bruins before transferring to Weber State where he earned honorable mention All-American honors. Following graduation and a tour of duty in Vietnam, he developed marketing and distribution strategies for Sutter Home, his family's winery. In 1998 he helped launch Trincherro Family Estates — now the U.S.'s second largest family-owned winery. In 2012 Trincherro received the Patriot Award for holding jobs open until employees return from military service. He generously supported the construction of WSU's Marquardt Field House.

{PRESIDENT'S AWARD}

Starting with entry-level detail jobs at his grandfather's car dealership, **James S. "Jim" Hinckley** worked his way up to general manager and eventually bought the Ogden dealership in 1987. Now retired, he operates an auto body and race shop that has built two cars that set six land-speed world records at the Bonneville Salt Flats. He is a staunch advocate of higher education and chairs a Hinckley family investment committee that oversees funding for thousands of Utah college students, including two scholarship funds at Weber State.

{LEWIS W. SHURTLIFF AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION}

Auto magnate and former Utah House Speaker **Robert H. "Bob" Garff** and his wife, **Katharine**, established the Success in Education Foundation, with a vision of Utah elementary students becoming the best readers in the country, and Utah high school graduates having the nation's highest college enrollment rate. Today, almost every Utah public school has adopted the foundation's incentive programs. The foundation also offers college scholarships. Katharine is a past member of the Utah State Board of Regents and former chair of the State Board of Education. As an advisor to WSU's Richard Richards Institute for Ethics, Bob helped create an annual ethics scholarship.

{EMERITI ALUMNI HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

Smitten with his high school sweetheart, **Eugele "Jill" Baird Ashmead BS '91, H. DeWayne Ashmead BS '70** followed her to Weber State where he majored in business and she studied early childhood education. After their 1966 marriage, Jill supported DeWayne's efforts to expand his father's small pharmaceutical company into one of the world's leading manufacturers of mineral health products. Currently Albion's president and chairman of the board, DeWayne still finds time to serve on advisory groups at WSU, including the National Advisory Council. The couple established a scholarship program for single mothers at Weber State.

{STUDENT HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

India Nielsen AS '13 and **Trevor Annis AS '09** share a passion for volunteer work. Nielsen is a senior studying civil and legal advocacy. While serving as the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities student senator, Nielsen was named Senator of the Year by the WSU Student Association. She was awarded a summer internship in Washington, D.C., through the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service. Annis, a senior majoring in microbiology, hopes to attend medical school. He helped plan the Center for Community Engaged Learning's first international service trip to Peru (see page 32 for more about the trip). Annis is a former vice president of the student association's community service program.

To view biographical videos on each of the award recipients, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine. To nominate outstanding individuals for the 2015 WSU Salutes awards, visit alumni.weber.edu/ususalutesform.



**We have great things
in store for you.**



GOURMET DRINKS & PASTRIES | WEBER WEAR | WSU MERCHANDISE



NAME-BRAND TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS & ACCESSORIES | APPLE AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER

Visit our gorgeous new location in downtown Ogden!



2314 Washington Blvd., Ogden • Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

Paul Favero AS '54 has owned his own dental practice for over 50 years. Though his son and granddaughter now run the practice, Paul continues to see patients one day a week. He works and operates his large cattle ranch five days a week. Paul has served on WSU's National Advisory Council for many years. He and his wife, Jeri, live in Sacramento, California.

★ **Nelson E. Wright AS '55** practiced internal medicine

in Salt Lake City until he retired in 2007. He graduated from the University of Utah School of Medicine and received additional training at the University of Washington. He spent three years with the U.S. Air Force at Ramstein Air Base in Germany during the Berlin crisis. He began his practice in 1968 and served on the Cottonwood Hospital tumor board and cardiovascular panel. Nelson is married ★ to **Nancy Frasier Wright AS '55**. A retired secondary education teacher, she taught in the Salt Lake City, Granite and Seattle school

districts, and for the U.S. Air Force. Nancy has served as the local, state and national Medical Alliance president and as a member of the Utah State Crime Victims Reparations Board and the Domestic Violence Council. She is a PTA and church volunteer. Nelson and Nancy have one daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Utah State University, **L. George Stettler AS '56** was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps,

where he served for five years with a final rank of captain. He spent 18 years in management at Mobil Oil Corporation. George has been an insurance agent at State Farm for the past 31 years in Cathedral City, California, where he served two terms as mayor and was also president of the chamber of commerce and senior center. He is also a past president of the Palm Springs chapter of the Association of Naval Aviation and First Marine Division Association. George and his wife, Louise, have a blended family of seven children and 13 grandchildren.

After graduating from a small high school in Sanpete County, Utah, **Dean L. Allan AS '59** became an orderly at LDS Hospital. Soon thereafter, he was accepted into Weber College's two-year nursing program and was the sole male member of his class. After graduation, Dean worked in the Dee Hospital psychiatric unit before attending the University of Utah, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Dean worked at LDS Hospital until 1968, and then moved to Washington state, where he worked at Cabrini Hospital until 1972 and Group Health Cooperative until 1995. He received a master's degree in psychology in 1991 and opened a private psychotherapy practice. He



**Let's Party...
like we used to!**

**Greek Life and Social Club Reunion
Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 18-19, 2015**

Join your brothers and sisters for a reception and dinner on Friday, then cheer on the Wildcat football team Saturday.

For more information or to register, visit:
alumni.weber.edu/greekreunion

was also a telephone triage nurse. Dean retired in spring 2013. He is married to his longtime partner, Peter.

'60s

A **Bob Newman BS '66** spent 34 years as an Ogden physician and surgeon specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. After serving in the military and as an LDS missionary in Brazil, he attended Weber State and later graduated from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. Bob served his residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. While practicing in Ogden, he led surgical teams on 10 trips to Mali, Africa, to consult and treat patients. He was honored by the *Standard-Examiner* as a Weber State distinguished alumnus in the field of medicine and was a recipient of the "Heroes in the Workplace" award from the University of Utah. He served on the Utah Medical Association Board of Directors, and in 2003 was named Weber County Doctor of the Year. He and his wife, Eleanor, have two sons, four daughters and 15 grandchildren.

A **L. Winslow Hurst BS '67** worked at Weber State for 36 years, retiring in 2005. He began as assistant to the dean of students and retired as the university's registrar. His wife,

A **Judith Jeppson Hurst BS '64, MS '86**, retired from Weber State after 20 years of service, working as the director of student activities and assistant dean of students at WSU Davis. Both Winslow and Judith served on the Emeriti Alumni Council. They have six children and 24 grandchildren.

A **Robert S. (Steve) Young BA '68** retired from North Layton Junior High, where he

taught for nearly eight years. Previously, he was a county planner in Wyoming, Utah and Nebraska. Steve is a member of the American Institute of City Planners and a 17-year member of the Utah National Guard, serving as sergeant first class while working as a German linguist. He served two missions in Germany, one with his wife, **Vicki Thurston**

A **Young BS '68**. Also a teacher, Vicki retired in 2009 after 32 years in the profession, 23 of which she taught civics and geography at Central Davis Junior High. Vicki has been a recipient of the Huntsman Award and the Utah Geography Alliance Teacher of the Year award. She is also in the Davis School District Hall of Fame. Steve and Vicki have four children and seven grandchildren.

L **C. Robert Day BS '69** retired after serving 38+ years in federal service. His last position was supply systems analyst for the Department of Defense's Defense Logistics Agency. Bob received a Meritorious Civilian Service Award as well as a Distinguished Career Service Award. He has worked and lived in Spain, England, Puerto Rico and seven states. He

L and his wife, **Nancy H. Day**, live in Etters, Pennsylvania, and have three children, three grandsons and a granddaughter. They volunteer at a local elementary school and at a no-kill animal shelter.

'70s

A **Marge Haviland AS '70** retired from McKay-Dee Hospital as a registered nurse after 35 years of service in the emergency room, where she was an ER Employee of the Year. She played semi-professional softball for the

There are more than 26,000* REASONS TO JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



HERE'S ONE: "This is my senior year at Weber State, and I am so grateful for the financial help I have received from the Alumni Association. I can't put into words what a difference it has made, in my schooling and my personal life. I will be forever grateful to the people who made this possible. My only hope is that one day I will be fortunate enough to return the favor."

— Nick DeYoung, zoology major

SPONSOR A STUDENT.*
Join the Alumni Association.
alumni.weber.edu/sponsor

*One student per Alumni Association member

CLASS NOTES ALUMNI UPDATES

Utah Shamrocks for 11 years and was inducted into the Utah Softball Hall of Fame. Marge is a volunteer nurse with the Red Cross, the Medical Reserve Corps for the Weber-Morgan Health Department and the Ogden Rescue Mission's free clinic. She serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council.

A Sondra Anne Reed BS '70 retired after more than 39 years as a medical technologist for a special coagulation laboratory at the Mayo Clinic. She volunteers for Safe Haven Pet Rescue and March of Dimes. She lives in Rochester, Minnesota.

A In 2001, Gerrit W. Wolthuis AS '70, BS '71 started his own company, Wolthuis Financial Group, in South Ogden, Utah. He is involved in residential lending and insurance sales. Prior to graduating from Weber State, he worked at Walker Bank (also known as First Interstate Bank, then Wells Fargo Bank). Gerrit worked at Zions Bank from 1984 until retiring in 2000 as vice president over residential loan production in Weber County. Born and raised in Ogden, he served a mission in the Netherlands, the birth country of his father. He and his wife, Marilou, live in North Ogden, Utah, and are the parents of five sons and 10 grandchildren. Gerrit is a member of WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council.

A senior litigation shareholder with Parsons Behle & Latimer in Salt Lake City, **Francis M. Wikstrom BS '71** has been elected president of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), the premier professional organization of trial lawyers in North

America. Fran is the first Utah lawyer to serve as the ACTL president.

Thomas (Tom) L. Wilkinson BS '73 is the president and owner of Heritage Financial Services. He previously was a managing partner with MassMutual and worked as development director for the Pi Kappa Alpha national fraternity. Tom is president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors Nebraska Foundation Board, and is a member of the Superintendents Business Advisory Council, Millard Rotary and Hogan's Junior Golf Heroes/The First Tee of Omaha Board. He is also the public affairs director for the Omaha Stake of the LDS church. Tom lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife, **Catherine (Cathy) Wright Wilkinson BS '73**. A teacher, Cathy has taught in Ogden and Omaha. The Wilkinsons have four children and four grandchildren.

★ Edward D. Armstrong BS '74 is the owner of Cactus Consulting, a company in Loveland, Colorado, that specializes in project management and controls integration. He previously worked for Kodak Polychrome Graphics and Eastman Kodak Company.

L Ruby Fuller Raccasi BA '74 retired after 34 years of federal service, most of which were spent in human resources with her last position being the labor relations officer at Hill Air Force Base. Ruby has a daughter, a son (who is also a WSU graduate) and two grandchildren. She is the treasurer for the Ogden Valley Land Trust, a board member

of the Weber Association of Master Gardeners and a past president of the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Ruby is currently a member of WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council.

A Carolyn Rich-Denson BS '79 is a neonatologist for McKay-Dee Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. She graduated from the University of Utah Medical School in 1983. Prior to working in Ogden, Carolyn worked in Arizona. She has two daughters, two sons and three grandchildren.

'80s

A Toni Green Perkins BS '82, MS '92 retired after 32 years of service to the Weber School District as a resource reading and math teacher. She worked at South Ogden Junior High, Roy Junior High and Riverdale Elementary. Toni belongs to the Utah Education Association and Weber Education Association. She has one son, four stepchildren, and nine step-grandchildren. She and her husband, Brett, live in West Point, Utah.

A Joan Loffredo BS '83 is a diocesan finance officer for the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City. She previously spent three years in the brokerage industry as a financial principal and seven years in public accounting. Joan serves on various diocesan boards and committees. She lives in Salt Lake City.

Robert E. Reis BS '84 is the founder and chief operating officer of Epic Freight Solutions, which was recently recognized by *The Los Angeles Business Journal* as

a "top ten small business to work for" in the Los Angeles area. Epic Freight Solutions is a domestic and international transportation provider, specializing in expedited and managed deliveries. Robert currently lives in Redondo Beach, California.

★ Gary Stidham BS '84 is the director of administration for Questar. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Taylorsville, Utah, and have five children and six grandchildren. They are active in the United Way of Salt Lake's leadership council.

Scott B. Sessions BA '85 works for LDS Employment Resource Services and lives in Mesa, Arizona, with his wife, Julie. He is the vice president of recruitment for the Arizona Chapter of WSU's Alumni Association.

A Brian W. Motes AS '86, BS '89 is a buyer for Weber State University. His wife, **Sondra Jolovich Motes BS '89**, is an executive director at the Ogden City School District. They have two children.

A Brenda Mason Wheelwright BS '86, MS '87 is the chief deputy treasurer for Weber County. She and her husband, Paul, have two children and one grandchild. Brenda volunteers for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis.

★ Nathan J. Oliver BS '87 is a delivery manager for Experis IT, a global information technology consulting firm. He lives near Portland, Oregon, where he oversees software development for clients in Oregon, California, Utah and Idaho. Nate was formerly the vice president of IT for a specialty finance firm in Beaverton, Oregon. He is

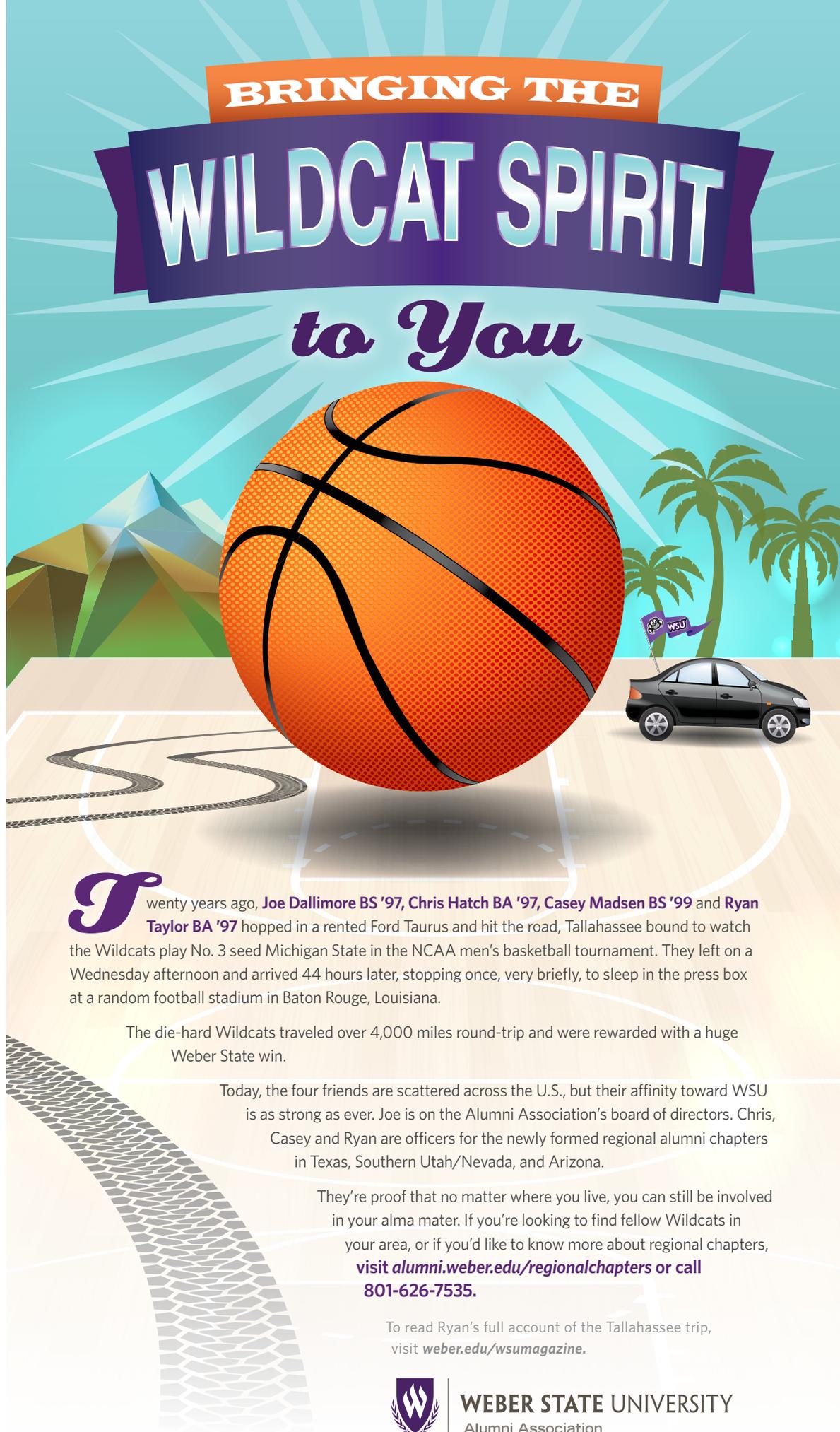
a member of the Portland chapter of the Society for Information Management and serves on the board of the Columbia County Coastal Conservation Association. Nate also serves as an officer for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the WSU Alumni Association. He and his wife, Patricia, have two daughters.

A Lois Pritchett Graviet

BS '89 works part time for consulting companies CITTA, Inc. and CITTA Brokerage Company, where she assists with legal research, graphic design and writing. She has a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren (one of whom is deceased), four great-grandchildren and a longtime boyfriend. She and her daughters provide volunteer care for feral cats, having them spayed or neutered and returned to their habitat.

'90s

Ted M. Bixby BA '90 is the owner and head of sales for FINA Collectibles, a high-end retailer of collectibles specializing in Disney and Golden Age comic books. Previously, he was the owner and head chef at the five-star Cardinal Room Restaurant and Art Gallery in the Midwest. Ted also worked for Caterpillar as a sales marketing manager responsible for generator sales in Florida. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Dunlap, Illinois, with their two children. They are members of the Bradley University Braves Scholarship Society, which supports the tuition needs of scholar-athletes. Ted is the head of the Dunlap Youth Basketball League.



Twenty years ago, **Joe Dallimore BS '97, Chris Hatch BA '97, Casey Madsen BS '99** and **Ryan Taylor BA '97** hopped in a rented Ford Taurus and hit the road, Tallahassee bound to watch the Wildcats play No. 3 seed Michigan State in the NCAA men's basketball tournament. They left on a Wednesday afternoon and arrived 44 hours later, stopping once, very briefly, to sleep in the press box at a random football stadium in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The die-hard Wildcats traveled over 4,000 miles round-trip and were rewarded with a huge Weber State win.

Today, the four friends are scattered across the U.S., but their affinity toward WSU is as strong as ever. Joe is on the Alumni Association's board of directors. Chris, Casey and Ryan are officers for the newly formed regional alumni chapters in Texas, Southern Utah/Nevada, and Arizona.

They're proof that no matter where you live, you can still be involved in your alma mater. If you're looking to find fellow Wildcats in your area, or if you'd like to know more about regional chapters, **visit alumni.weber.edu/regionalchapters or call 801-626-7535.**

To read Ryan's full account of the Tallahassee trip, visit weber.edu/wsumagazine.



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Alumni Association

CLASS NOTES ALUMNI UPDATES

Thomas C. Daniels BS '92 is a supervisory attorney and hearing office director for the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review for Orange, California. He was previously a career diplomat with the U.S. Department of State, last serving as the human resources officer for the U.S.

Embassy in Berlin, Germany. He was also a political officer in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a political liaison officer at the German-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kunduz, Afghanistan, and a consular officer in Washington, D.C., and Surabaya, Indonesia. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps. Thomas graduated with

honors from the University of Tulsa College of Law, and later worked in private practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After 9/11, he sold his practice and joined the Foreign Service. Thomas was awarded the U.S. State Department's Superior Honor Award for service in Bali and Afghanistan. He was also awarded the Meritorious Honor Award for service in Sri Lanka. Thomas is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans. He and his wife, Linda, live in Temple City, California.

legal administrative specialist at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Salt Lake City regional office. He was instrumental in raising awareness for veteran suicide with the 2014 state resolution that declared July 3 "Call Your Military Hero Day." A fly fisherman and photographer, Brian has been featured in *Kype Magazine*, an online fly-fishing magazine, and on the film photography blog *Develop & Fix*.

For the past three years, former Ogden mayor **Matthew R. Godfrey BA '95, MS '95** has been the chief executive officer of Better City, a real estate brokerage and economic development consulting company. Matthew and his wife, **Monica A. Godfrey BS '95**, have five children.

David M. Dixon BS '96 is a human resource director for Petersen Inc., a manufacturer of equipment, machinery and specialized parts. He serves on the State Workforce Investment Board, Weber Workforce Development Committee and the Northern Utah Human Resources Association. Dave and his wife, Stephanie, live in North Ogden, Utah, and have three children.

Mark D. Peterson BS '98 was recently promoted to executive director of Ernst & Young LLP's assurance practice in Salt Lake City. He joined the practice in 1998 and had been serving as a senior manager. Mark assists clients in a number of industries, including technology, home security, solar energy, manufacturing, utilities, business consulting and life sciences. He is a certified public accountant licensed to practice in Utah and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs.

A 14-year associate English professor at Brigham Young University, **Brett C. McInelly BA '92** received the institution's Alcuin Fellowship in General Education. He is the author of *Textual Warfare and the Making of Methodism*, and is a member and past president of the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Brett and his wife, Kristin, live in Spanish Fork, Utah, and have five children.

Shauna Nielsen Gibby BS '94 is a graphic designer for Deseret Book Company. She volunteers with Boys Scouts of America and her church. Shauna and her husband, John, live in Layton, Utah. They have one daughter, four sons and 13 grandchildren.

Russell L. Porter BS '94, MS '05 is a member of the South Ogden City Council, a position he's held for five years. A graduate of Bonneville High, he has dedicated 20 years to teaching and mentoring young people there and also spent 12 years as the school's varsity baseball coach. He authored the *South Ogden City History* book published in 2012.

Brian L. Schiele BA '94 was recently promoted to a lead



YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WANTS YOU

TO UPDATE YOUR PROFILE.

By filling out a quick form online, you can make sure you receive important notifications, including event invitations and regional chapter news.

VISIT alumni.weber.edu/update TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION.

A Betty H. Simons M.Ed. '98 is a WSU Career Services counselor, a position she's held for more than 16 years. She is a member of the Mountain Pacific Association of Colleges and Employers, a past officer of the Rotary Club, and past chair of the Ogden City Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Council and Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College board. She has also been a member of various WSU committees and planning groups. Betty has presented at a number of national and international conferences. She lives in Syracuse, Utah, with her husband, Jeff Simons, and has six children and 11 grandchildren.

Howard S. Stoker BS '99 was promoted from senior manager to partner of Ernst & Young LLP's assurance practice in Salt Lake City. He is a certified public accountant licensed to practice in Utah and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs. Howard serves clients ranging from development-stage companies to large multinational companies in technology, biotechnology and consumer products markets.

Corey C. Thornock BS '99 is an information systems director for Intermountain Healthcare. He completed his MBA in 2014 and belongs to the local and national chapters of the Information Technology Senior Management Forum and Help Desk Institute. He and his wife, Amy, live in Ogden with their four children.

'00s

Sheldon Cheshire BS '00, M.Ed. '10 is the coordinator of leadership programs at Weber State. He previously

was a coordinator and advisor for WSU's Education Access and Outreach program and for the Your Community Connection organization. He was also an educator for Davis and Box Elder school districts. Sheldon is the co-chair of WSU's StrengthsQuest Advisory Committee and a past president of the Ogden Area Youth Alliance. His wife, **Shauna Mann Cheshire BSN '98, BS '10**, is a registered labor and delivery nurse for McKay-Dee Hospital.

As a 14-year river restoration specialist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, **A Benjamin K. Nadolski BS '00** engages local communities and partners in efforts to restore the wildlife habitats and socio-economic opportunities that rivers provide. Ben currently serves on the board of directors for the Wildcat Club and the GOAL Foundation. He is active in numerous other community-based committees and initiatives. Ben and his wife, Jaynee, have two daughters.

Ginger Bess Simons BA '01 is an adjunct faculty voice teacher at Weber State and a professional actress. Ginger sings smooth jazz and adaptations of America's most beloved songs from the '30s, '40s, '50s and '60s. Ginger belongs to the Actor's Equity Association and is married to **Daniel T. Simons BA '00**, also a professional actor. They live in Ogden with their two children.

A Denise G. Thielholdt BS '01 is a development director for Student Affairs at Weber State. She previously worked as a development director for March of Dimes and Make-a-Wish of Utah. She and

her husband, Scott, live in Syracuse, Utah, and have three children. Denise volunteers for the Student Affairs Advancement Council and participates in various roles with Crossroads Christian Fellowship.

David L. Carter BS '02 co-founded and is CEO of ZumaVentures, a venture studio in Santa Monica, California. He has personally funded 23 companies primarily based in California and Utah. He served on the board and in an advisory role for 13 of the companies, and was the CEO and founder of three. In 2012, David was listed by *Forbes* as "one of the 12 entrepreneurs that are changing L.A. forever" for his work in co-founding AmplifyLA and serving as a strategic advisor. David lives in Malibu, California, and serves on WSU's National Advisory Council.

Melanie VanZweden Conger BS '03, MBA '13 is a fund accounting manager for UMB Fund Services, formerly JD Clark & Co. She began as a fund accountant, was promoted to senior fund accountant, then promoted to her current position. Her husband, **Nate Conger BS '09**, is a partner channel manager for MarketStar. Melanie and Nate live in Mountain Green, Utah, with their daughter.

A Brody I. Barnes BS '04 is an area sales manager for Lumenis, a global leader in the field of minimally invasive clinical solutions for the surgical, ophthalmology and aesthetic market. He previously worked for Intuitive Surgical-daVinci Robot and Covidien as a senior clinical sales representative and has been a three-time recipient of the Winners Circle award

for quota attainment. He is president of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the WSU Alumni Association and is a volunteer basketball, soccer, softball and baseball coach.

A Brody and his wife, Jennifer Banach Barnes AS '05, live in Camas, Washington, and have three children. Jen is a stay-at-home mom who does photography on the side. She is a school volunteer, and teaches and leads youth at her church (see page 32 for more on the Barnes).

Jason Murray BA '04, BS '08 is president and CEO of Providence Group, which owns and operates skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and home health and hospice agencies across several states. He previously worked as operations officer for Intermountain Healthcare in Park City, Utah. He lives in Mountain Green, Utah.

Nicole Swander Wycherley BS '04, M.Ed. '08 is a nutrition educator for Weber State. She previously worked as a health educator for McKay-Dee Hospital. Nicole and her husband, Nathan, live in Hooper, Utah, and have two children. She has qualified for the Boston Marathon, and she teaches Pilates and group fitness.

A Michael T. Meyers AS '05, BS '10, MTax '11 is a senior associate for Schmidt Westergard & Company, PLLC, a professional accounting firm in Mesa, Arizona. He and his wife, Anna, have six children.

A Lester L. Stone BS '05 became the director of the 523rd Electronic Maintenance Squadron at Hill Air Force Base in 2013. He manages 160 personnel who are engaged in providing valuable electronic

CLASS NOTES ALUMNI UPDATES

support to the nation's warfighters. A 38-year federal employee, he previously served as deputy director and chief of exchangeable production support for various squadrons at Hill. Les is also an adjunct athletic training and health and human performance instructor at WSU, and supports concurrent enrollment for athletic training at surrounding high schools. A Mountain Green Fire Protection District volunteer, he has served as fire chief since 2003 and has led 15 volunteers in providing EMS and fire services to the local Mountain Green and Morgan communities. Les has been involved in the State of Utah Emergency Medical Technician Instructor/Trainer

program since 1999. In 2008, he was named Volunteer of the Year for Red Cross of Northern Utah. He has a daughter and grandson.

Jonathan R. Volcansek BS '05 serves in the Utah National Guard. He is a freelance writer and is in the process of starting a consulting company based on reading body language. Jonathan was a military interrogator in Ninewa Province, Iraq, from 2010 to 2011 and earned both the Army Commendation and Army Achievement medals. He also ran a team of human intelligence collectors. He speaks French and Arabic fluently and instructs the U.S. military on interrogation techniques and military

leadership. Jonathan is an expert at reading body language and created a system of reading body language specific to U.S. military interrogation operations. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Eagle Mountain, Utah, with their four children.

A Ron Boyer MBA '07 is the information technology director for Summit County, Utah. He was previously employed by Fidelity Trust Company and AT&T. Ron and his wife, Suzanne, live in Coalville, Utah, and have three children.

Michael R. Richards BS '07 is an orthodontist at Farr West Orthodontics in Farr West, Utah. He attended The Ohio

State University College of Dentistry for dental school and residency. Michael and his wife, Candice, have three children.

L Sean A. Franzen AS '08, BS '11, MS '13 previously worked for Costco Wholesale and at the Weber State Bookstore. Sean serves as the vice president of service for the Theta Tau Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an accounting honor society. For the past three seasons, he has assisted his brother, **Brad A. Franzen BS '08**, with clubhouse manager duties for the Ogden Raptors. Sean's older brother, **Charlie A. Stoll**, works as a machinist for Parker Hannifin in North Ogden, Utah.



Add Weber whimsy to your walls!

Famed folk artist Eric Dowdle's oh-so-popular campus landscape captures the heart and soul of Weber's past, present and future. Get your puzzle or keepsake print for \$18.89 (in honor of the university's founding year). A number of other specialty items are also available.

Be Part Of The Art:
For an additional \$200, Dowdle will draw you and up to four others into the picture.

Proceeds help fund student scholarships.

alumni.weber.edu/dowdle

Aaron M. Halley BS '09 is a project manager for Sorensen Construction in Syracuse, Utah. He and his wife, Leah, live in Ogden and have a son and two daughters.

'10s

Christopher W. Bentley BIS '10 is a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Forest Service. He received a master's degree in public administration from Indiana University, where he worked as a service corps fellow. He completed internships at the White House and a corporate bank. Chris lives in Gresham, Oregon, where he is president of the Central City Neighborhood Association board. He also serves on the Gresham Arts

Foundation board and the City of Gresham's Natural Resource and Sustainability Committee, Redevelopment Advisory Committee, and the Mayor's Revisioning Committee.

Jace Warren AS '10 is self-employed as the CEO and founder of Freelance Programming. He and his wife, Ariel, live in Ogden.

Jason M. McOmber BS '11 is the director of DirecTV for business for DSI Systems. He previously served as vice president of sales for Groove Satellite. Jason has one son.

Lonald D. Wishom BS '12 is a legislative correspondent for U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch. Lonald lives in Washington, D.C.

Lauren Gardner BA '13 is a producer for KTBC Fox 7 in Austin, Texas. She previously worked as a producer for Fox 13 News in Salt Lake City. Lauren is a volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas and is a member of the Writers' League of Texas.

Mandee Miller Thomas BA '13 is a graphic designer for Grant Victor, a retail-style ATM service and solutions provider headquartered in Kaysville, Utah. Her husband, **Isaac Thomas BS '14**, is employed by Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Ogden. Mandee and Isaac have one son.

Taylor Ward AA '13, BS '14 qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials after running the Houston Marathon in

January. With a time of 2 hours, 38 minutes, 30 seconds, she placed 10th overall in the women's race and was one of four Americans finishing in the top 10.

Crystalee Webb Beck MPC '14 is the social community manager for MarketStar in Ogden. She previously developed training content and was a flight attendant for SkyWest Airlines. Crystalee presented her master's thesis research at an international conference in Hong Kong, where she was awarded best theoretical paper and best presentation (see page 7 for more on Crystalee's research). She and her husband, **Ryan K. Beck BS '12**, have one daughter.

EXECUTIVE MHA

Weber State University's new **Executive Master of Health Administration** degree is designed for working professionals who may not have the ability to travel to a traditional campus.

HYBRID FORMAT Each course combines the convenience of online classes with the benefit of face-to-face instruction. Classes meet just once per semester.

ACCELERATED PROGRAM The entire program is just five semesters long.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PROGRAM The flat-rate tuition fee covers everything. Your tuition, fees, books, and even your lunch during your on-campus visits are all included. Tuition is not higher for out-of-state students.

STARTS FALL 2015 - APPLY BY APRIL 1

Learn more at

WEBER.EDU/EMHA



This program prepared me for a leadership role because the faculty are industry leaders with years of real-world experience. There's only so much you can learn from a textbook. —**Jordan Clemente, MHA**



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

University Advancement

1265 Village Dr. Dept. 4025
Ogden, UT 84408-4025

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 101
SLC, UT

WEBER STATE FOOTBALL



2015 SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

801-626-8500 or visit WeberStateSports.com



Connect with us...

