

WILDCAT

WSU Alumni Magazine | FALL 2023

THREADING the FUTURE

Catherine Zublin's legacy of fostering
potential and opening minds





THE FUTURE OF RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES

Tanya Nolan MED '11, Weber State's new School of Radiologic Sciences chair, said the school will continue preparing students with in-demand skills while looking to the future.

She brings extensive radiography and sonography field experience, along with 23 years of teaching in higher education, to the role. Thanks to Nolan and other faculty, the school has a global reputation for value and meeting industry needs.

Students build on what they learn in the associate's degree program to complete bachelor's and master's degrees, while earning certifications along the way. The school serves 600+ students in Utah and across the country. No matter where they are in their careers, they discover opportunities at WSU to progress in their specialties.

So, how are Nolan and the radiologic sciences faculty planning to build on this success?

- **More opportunities for students to study and work internationally**
- **More training in technologies set to transform the field**
- **More outreach to rural and underserved communities, so students can complete their education and build careers close to home**
- **And more certifications, including the new cardiology technician (EKG) certificate**

While gaining essential skills, radiologic sciences students gain a sense of belonging. Faculty travel across the country to meet and guide outreach students, while also providing one-on-one connections with every imaging student on campus.

"We're on the shoulders of greatness," Nolan said. "It gives us the opportunity to think about our field and our profession in a new way."

"We want our students to be advanced with skill sets that no other university can offer."

— Tanya Nolan, EdD, RT (R) (ARRT), RDMS



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Dumke College of Health Professions

— MASTER OF SCIENCE —

**RADIOLOGIC
SCIENCES**

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THREADING the FUTURE

Catherine Zublin's legacy of fostering potential and opening minds



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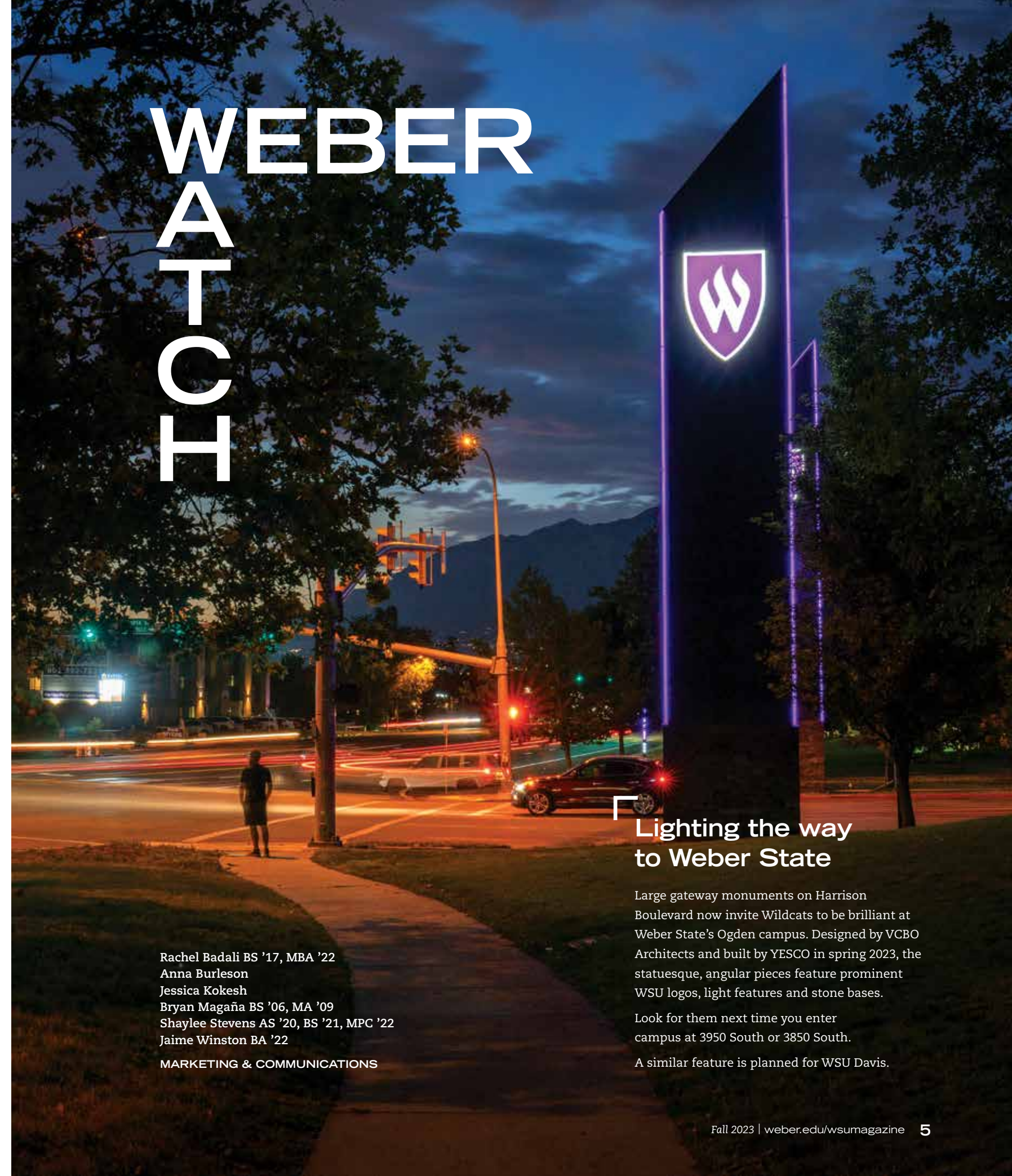
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Charles “Chick” Hislop fostered success in sports and life.

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Wildcat Inbox

Staying in touch with alumni and friends



WEBER ATCH

Lighting the way to Weber State

Large gateway monuments on Harrison Boulevard now invite Wildcats to be brilliant at Weber State's Ogden campus. Designed by VCBO Architects and built by YESCO in spring 2023, the statuesque, angular pieces feature prominent WSU logos, light features and stone bases.

Look for them next time you enter campus at 3950 South or 3850 South.

A similar feature is planned for WSU Davis.

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MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Fulbright Scholar takes geoscience teaching, research to Poland

Marek Matyjasik, chair of Weber State’s Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, is heading to Warsaw, Poland, after receiving his second Fulbright U.S. Scholar award.

The Fulbright program places awardees in more than 135 countries to teach, conduct research and complete projects. Next spring, Matyjasik will teach courses on water chemistry and water resources at the University of Warsaw, where he also served upon receiving his last award in 2020.

In addition, he will examine how things like remote learning and rapidly advancing artificial intelligence have changed teaching and learning in the country. He’s confident he can apply what

he learns to teaching WSU students complex concepts. Most importantly, he said it will help him motivate and prepare the next generation of scientists to tackle and solve some of the planet’s most critical issues.

Matyjasik’s last Fulbright opportunity in Poland was cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though he was able to meet all his goals by working remotely, he felt there was more to accomplish and was inspired to apply again.

“International collaboration is extremely important,” Matyjasik said. “We need to compare thinking to make sure we’re making progress in important areas of education and science.”

ABOVE: Fulbright Scholar Marek Matyjasik, who will soon visit Warsaw, Poland, to conduct research and teach about water chemistry and water resources

RIGHT: Abigail Trejo, a recent WSU graduate with a special connection to the university’s construction and building sciences department

WSU grad thrived in program that built her family a home

When **Abigail Trejo** decided to study in Weber State University’s Department of Construction and Building Sciences, she didn’t realize she already had a special connection to it.

In 2019, Trejo and her family were recipients of a home from Habitat for Humanity of Weber and Davis Counties — a home that students and faculty from Weber State’s construction program helped build.

“I didn’t know that they were working on it,” she said. “I didn’t know that I was going into a program that does similar projects, so it’s pretty cool.”

As a first-generation student, Trejo wasn’t always sure if college was the right choice for her. In April, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in building design and construction. She also earned two associate’s degrees during her time at Weber State.



“Weber was just my stepping stone. I didn’t know if I was going to stay here or not, or if I was going to find what I was looking for,” she said, “but, fortunately, I did.”

Though it took time to settle on a major, building design turned out to be right for her. As a child, she loved drawing up floor plans for houses.

“My family comes from a very poor background. We started off with a trailer home and I remember drawing the footprint of our home and drawing everyone’s room,” she said. “I’ve always been a very visual learner.”

She enjoyed the hands-on aspect of building design and watching projects come to life outside the classroom. As part of her senior project, she worked on a redesign of the Youth Futures shelter in Ogden and created a 3D rendering of the building.

During her time at Weber, Trejo also discovered how much she enjoys remodeling projects, taking old floor plans and coming up with fresh uses for the space.

“I like to make it as simple as possible, creating a blank canvas so that the owner can project their ideas onto what I’m trying to achieve,” she said. “It’s working together to make one piece.”

“Weber was just my stepping stone. I didn’t know if I was going to stay here or not, or if I was going to find what I was looking for, but, fortunately, I did.”

— ABIGAIL TREJO

Weber State
pulls off a coaching
double-double

WSU has two new head coaches to
lead student-athletes to victory.

Jenteal Jackson became head coach of the women’s basketball program in April 2023. A Utah native who served as head coach at Westminster College from 2021–2023, Jackson is excited to be a Wildcat.

“I really believe this is a place where we can win, and I have big goals to win conference titles,” Jackson said. “I think there is a lot of room for success here and a lot of room for growth. There are a lot of great coaches and people that have come before me and done great things, and we are definitely going to try to take this team as high as we can.”

Jackson plans to tap into Utah and surrounding areas for recruiting. “I know there is a lot of talent in the state that we can keep here,” she said.

And she offers a good reason to see a game this season.

“We will definitely try to push the ball and play good fundamental team basketball that will be fun to watch,” she said. “We can’t wait to get going.”

The women’s basketball team opens the Big Sky portion of its season at the University of Montana on Dec. 29, 2023.

Mickey Mental, new head coach of Weber State’s football team, joined the Wildcats in 2022 as the offensive coordinator and helped lead the team to a 10-win season.

Mental said he hopes to continue adding to the strong legacy prior Head Coach **Jay Hill** and others have created at WSU.

“Weber State has been built into a perennial national program, and we are excited to get to work and compete for championships,” Mental said. “We want to be a tough, hard-nosed, blue-collar team with a great work ethic. I love coaching football. I love the group we have for this season and can’t wait to get to work with these young men.”

The Wildcats finished 6-5 during Mental’s inaugural season, including a 31-29 upset of No. 4-ranked University of Idaho in their final home game of the season.



ABOVE: New head coach for WSU football, Mickey Mental, wants to continue the strong legacy his predecessors created.

BELOW: Jenteal Jackson, new head coach for women’s basketball, is focusing on fundamentals as a path to victory.

Dedicated *Wildcats* basketball fans
receive Purple Paw Award

Weber State’s Alumni Association honored **Lois Richins AS ’60, MS ’82** and her husband, **Keith**, with a 2023 Purple Paw Award for their dedication to the community and WSU Athletics.

The Emeriti Alumni Council presents the award each year to recognize contributions current and former Wildcats make to the university.

“Receiving the Purple Paw Award is an honor,” Lois said. “My husband and I have enjoyed thousands of hours of sporting events over the past 60 years, including basketball, football, volleyball and softball games, so we sincerely appreciate the recognition from WSU.”

Lois, who graduated from Weber State with her associate’s and master’s degrees, and Keith began buying season tickets for WSU men’s basketball in 1975. While many fans support the team through good and bad seasons, few rival the Richins’ commitment.

When basketball season arrives, the Richins plan their weeks around the team schedule, making sure they can attend every home game. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed. Before their Purple Paw Award, in 1993, Lois received a Wildcat Club Super Fan Award. She can be found decked in Wildcat attire at every game, as well as the day after if the Wildcats win, and has vast knowledge of team lineups, stats and all things WSU sports.



Her support of WSU extends beyond the court as well. Lois serves as a student teaching advisor and shares her Weber State roots in her community. With Keith’s help, she continually looks for opportunities to positively impact others while championing Weber State.

“We feel Weber State does not always receive the recognition and attention it deserves,” Lois said. “The quality of education, the people and the community can’t be matched.”

Lois and Keith Richins, recipients of the 2023 Purple Paw Award for their contributions to the WSU community

Still wild about Damian

Our favorite trailblazing Wildcat, **Damian Lillard BS ’15**, is on the move in the NBA.

Damian has embarked on his first season with the Milwaukee Bucks. Whether he’s in Oakland, Ogden, Oregon or Ol’ Milwaukee, Dame will always be No. 1 in our hearts.



Please join us when Damian and his Milwaukee Bucks return to Utah on Feb. 4, 2024, to take on the Jazz at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City.

To register, visit alumni.weber.edu/wildaboutdamian24 or scan the QR code.





The
College
Tour ▶

Lights, camera, *Wildcats!*

Weber State students star in a new episode of the streaming series *The College Tour*, which filmed on campus and around Ogden during graduation week, April 24–28.

Now in its ninth season, *The College Tour* highlights colleges and universities across the country, giving audiences an overview of each campus through the eyes of students.

A production crew followed nine WSU students and one alum from various fields of study, learning why they chose Weber and how the university supports their ambitions in aerospace, medicine, teaching and more.

“I’ve never really been in front of the camera, so this was a whole new experience,” said **Cameron Dunn**, a junior studying emergency medicine who co-stars in the episode.

Dunn, who also works for Weber’s Outdoor Program, said WSU has given him quality education and a sense of belonging — things he wanted to come across in the episode.

“The community here is amazing,” he said. “Students, professors and admin, they’re spectacular, and they all just want you to do well. It’s hard to find that kind of tight-knit group anywhere else.”

The College Tour is produced and hosted by Alex Boylan, best known for winning season two of CBS’s *Amazing Race* and as an Emmy-nominated producer.

The 30-minute episode dedicated to WSU is currently available on *The College Tour* website and on Amazon Prime Video.

Alex Boylan, host of *The College Tour*, introduces viewers to Weber State’s campus and students.



Diversity Conference marks 25th anniversary

Exploring neurodiverse stories

Weber State hosted the 25th Annual Diversity Conference, Sept. 28–29, celebrating a legacy of education and open dialogue on topics related to diversity and inclusion.

The conference’s theme, Celebrate Neurodiversity, invited attendees to explore how inclusive, neurodiverse spaces benefit everyone.

“Differences in learning and behaviors strengthen our communities,” said **Adrienne Andrews**, former vice president for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. “Diversity of thought, which includes neurodiversity, helps us make better decisions and foster a more inclusive environment for all.”

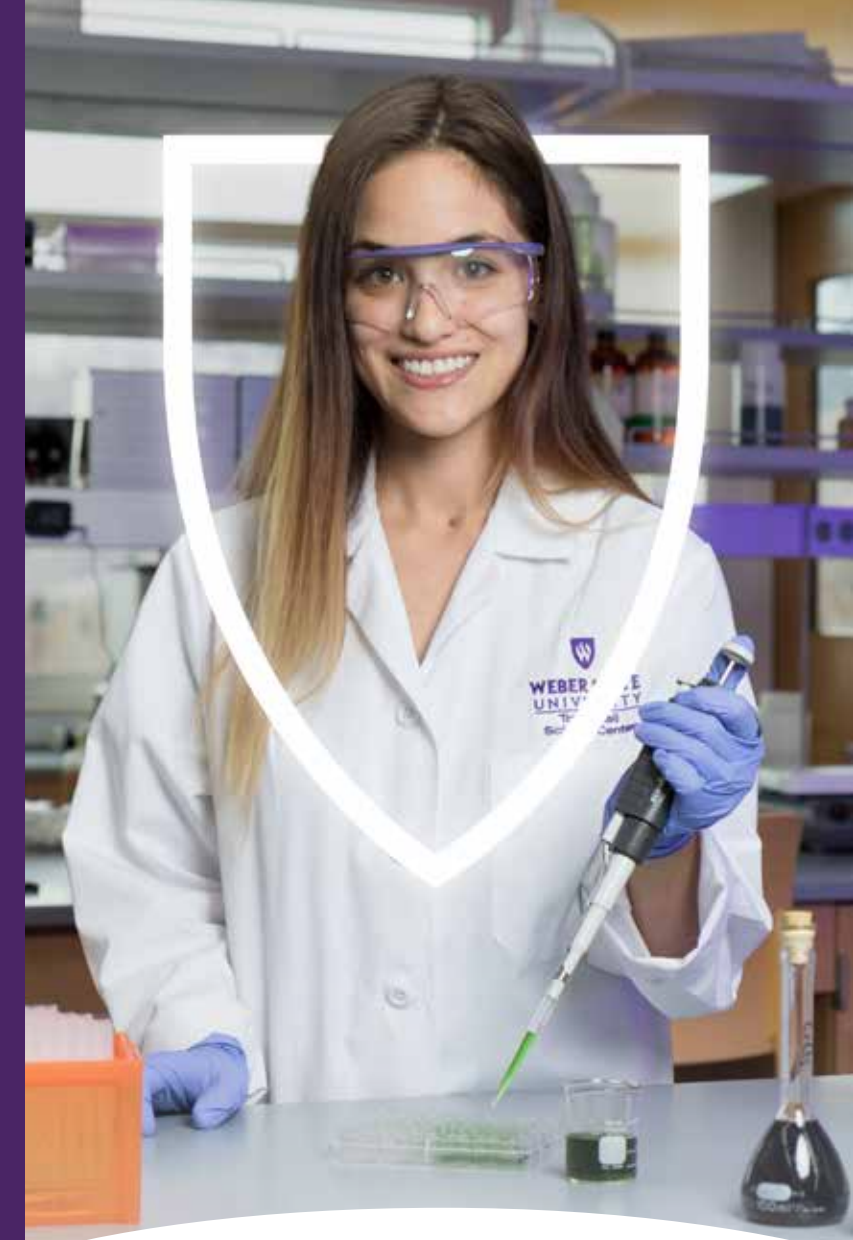
Tim Howard, a former Manchester United Premier League and Major League Soccer player, was interviewed for the keynote address. Howard discussed his experiences with Tourette Syndrome and obsessive compulsive disorder, as well as his work helping other neurodiverse people navigate their daily experiences. Other sessions explored a variety of topics related to neurodiversity, challenging attendees to examine their own perspectives.

The conference strives to educate people on the importance of engaging in discourse and advocacy in their communities. It offers a unique platform for attendees to engage in workshops and presentations that encourage them to examine the issues from all sides and perspectives. Past conferences have explored such topics as diversity in music, the challenges of immigration and the importance of diversity in education.



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THREADING the FUTURE

Catherine Zublin's legacy of fostering
potential and opening minds

By Jaime Winston



A Heartfelt Goodbye

Bittersweet feelings flooded the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery last May as guests honored a professor, who, above all, has met students' needs.

The evening marked the opening of Catherine Zublin: A Legacy of Costume Design Stitched Together, an exhibit featuring costumes designed by the WSU legend.

Beforehand, friends, family, fellow faculty and students gathered to say goodbye to **Catherine Zublin** as she prepared to retire from Weber State University after 37 years.

"I was blown away by the response and things people said," recalled Zublin, who officially retired from the university July 1. "It was a very good way to go out."

The exhibit included wardrobes from 15 productions that Zublin designed for Weber State's theatre program, ranging from the classy 19th-century suits and dresses for *Sunday in the Park with George* to one costume from a dystopian future, featuring earth tones, wire and a plastic coat, for *Where Words Once Were*.

Zublin described her work as "where art and craft meet research and scholarship."



Left: Catherine Zublin's close attention to detail is seen in this dress she designed for Weber State's production of *Of Myth & Mud*.

A Look Back

Did you take a class from Zublin?
Share a memory at magazine@weber.edu.

Sean Bishop BA '12, MA '22 and his husband, **Taylor Knuth BA '14**, introduced the Catherine Zublin Endowment, which she later dubbed the “Zublin Award,” at the reception. The endowment helps theatre students overcome financial burdens; potential recipients can be nominated by faculty or other students, or nominate themselves.

To donate to the Catherine Zublin Endowment (Zublin Award), visit give.weber.edu/zublin.

“With Catherine retiring this year, maybe this is the universe saying we need to do something bigger for someone who did so much for us,” Knuth said.

Zublin surprised the first recipient, **Abrielle Hambleton**, at the reception.

"I didn't know they'd be giving it out this year," Hambleton said.

She received \$1,000 from the endowment at an auspicious time. Her father recently passed away, leaving her family without his income.

"It's not a lot of help, but it's a little help," Zublin said.

Hambleton, a musical theatre major, plans to move to New York City following graduation with hopes of one day appearing in a Broadway show.

As she had for many others, Zublin not only supported Hambleton's dreams but made sure her needs were met so she could succeed.

Coming to Weber State

Growing up in New York, Zublin said she had always been “a maker.”

Before beginning her design work, though, she entered the State University of New York at Oneonta as a political science major, and was deeply involved in politics, even campaigning for a senator during his run for president.

Then Watergate happened. A political scandal led to the president's resignation in the early 1970s.

"I got really disillusioned," Zublin said.

Along with political science requirements, Zublin took a creative course she called her “sanity class” every semester. She eventually made it a theatre class, and, after transferring to the University of Colorado, a stagecraft class. In Colorado, she changed her course of study to mass communication and theatre and dived into design work.

She met her husband, former WSU adjunct instructor **Edward Spangler**, while working in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's props department, an area of theatre she never wanted to work in again. They have been married for 45 years.

"So, I can't really fault props too much," she joked.

She later became a stitcher for the festival and has worked on costumes ever since.

Zublin's connection with her students was influenced by her University of Colorado costume design professor, David Bussy. "I absolutely, positively have drawings that I did for David in this room right now," she said during an interview in her office.

Bussy allowed Zublin to take the lead on designing for *The Balcony* by Jean Genet before she graduated and went on to a Master of Fine Arts degree at Indiana University.

She then taught at Sam Houston State University in Texas and worked as a freelance designer. When a friend first approached her about a teaching position at Weber State College in Ogden, she responded, “Where the hell is Ogden?”

She took a chance on the small institution
at the base of the Wasatch Range.

"I've had really excellent colleagues and the most open-minded students on campus," she said.

"We have done some amazing work together."

Meeting Students Where They Are

Zublin's WSU career has been marked by the personal care she shows students.

Years before the Zublin Award, she started a food pantry in WSU's costume shop after learning two students were homeless. It has become a fixture in the department, allowing students to concentrate more on their studies than their next meal.

As Zublin prepared for retirement, she donated design and art books, and one-of-a-kind items to a sale supporting the student organization Associated Artists of the Theatre.

“Catherine was my first professor; she was teaching freshman seminar,” said Knuth, who worked with Zublin on shows like *Romeo and Juliet* and *Sleepy Hollow* while in WSU’s theatre arts program. “She gave me the tools to succeed.”

Zublin encouraged Knuth to go into arts administration, recognizing his leadership qualities. He now holds a master's degree in the field.

"Catherine really takes the role of mentor very seriously," Knuth said.

He recalls joining Zublin at the Treehouse Museum, a nonprofit children's museum, to make costumes for a production about South Indian customs and culture. Zublin often brought students to volunteer at the museum, and is a member of the board of trustees.

“Any other person than Catherine would order some sarees on Amazon and throw it on the kids,” Knuth said. “Those kids now have costumes that are made by hand.”



Above/Below: Costume elements from a dystopian future that Catherine Zublin designed for the play *Where Words Once Were*



Right: A costume Catherine Zublin designed for William Shakespeare's tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*

Many of Zublin's costumes were displayed in Catherine Zublin: A Legacy of Costume Design Stitched Together at the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery in spring 2023.

Below: Samples of fabric Zublin used to design the costumes for *Romeo and Juliet*



Bishop, who worked with Zublin on costumes during his five years in the theatre arts program, said her teaching was unconventional for Utah.

“Catherine really takes the role of mentor very seriously.”

Taylor Knuth

“She’s very upfront with you, she can be blunt and kind of intimidating at first, but it becomes endearing the more you get to know her,” Bishop said. “She really cares about teaching the right way to do things, especially with research, and making sure you know what you’re talking about when you go into a production.”

One of Zublin’s most memorable WSU productions was *Pirated Penzance*, later renamed

Pirated!, a play by WSU professor emeritus **Jim Christian** about a 1930s film crew making a *Pirates of Penzance* movie set a century earlier.

“I never laughed so hard at a first dress rehearsal in my life,” she said.

As actors performed in 1830s costumes, the lead actress’s hoop petticoat flew up accidentally when she was dipped for a stage kiss to laughter from crew. After the performance, the actress asked Zublin for bloomers to wear under the petticoat, but, much to the student’s surprise, Zublin told her a black garter belt better fit the style of the play since other actors ended up appearing in their 1930s underpinnings.

The play was selected to be performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Zublin also fondly recalls *Wit* by Margaret Edson, a one-act play she worked on for Weber State about a woman coming to terms with her cancer diagnosis.

Twenty-six years ago, Zublin battled her own cancer.

While promoting the show, she took part in a campaign encouraging others to be screened. “I don’t dwell on it a lot, but the reason I said ‘yes’ is knowledge is power,” Zublin said. “You can’t fix yourself if you don’t know what is wrong.”

She plans to continue designing on a freelance basis while retired.

She’s already slated to design *Dungeons & Dragons*-style costumes for a play called *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen for Mesa Community College in Arizona.

In addition to a number of WSU awards, including being named Crystal Crest Master Teacher in 2010, Zublin’s contributions have been celebrated externally.

In 2018, she won the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s





Reproduction work for children's show *Yo Gabba Gabba!* that Jennifer McGrew worked on with WSU students

“Great teachers are teaching students things that they don’t realize.”

Jennifer McGrew

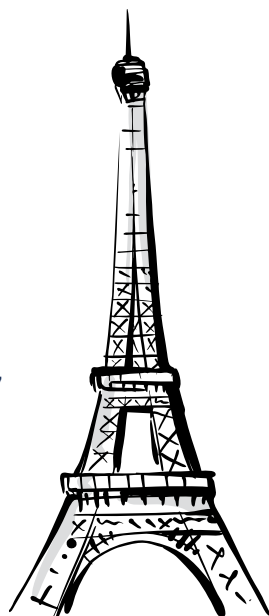
Serving Students Until the End

Zublin had one last adventure with her students before she retired in July 2023. For the fifth time, she led students on a summer study abroad trip to London and Bath, England; and Paris, France.

Students visited the Salisbury Cathedral, where an original copy of the Magna Carta is housed, numerous museums and a Parisian flea market, all while learning about theatre design.

In classic Zublin fashion, she made sure her students' needs were met by providing a packing list, and a pouch with bamboo flatware and a cloth napkin.

Students could use the napkin to cover a park bench, or to wipe their face after getting takeout. Either way, they would pay less attention to messes and more to learning.



Region Eight gold medallion, the highest honor the organization provided at the time.

“Catherine’s best quality as a professor and mentor is her fierce belief in her students,” **Jessica Sume BA ’19, BIS ’19** told *The Signpost* student newspaper following the award. “She is always in our corner... She makes me feel like I can conquer the world.”

Lessons Passed Down

Jennifer McGrew BS ’92 loves a challenge, and she’s taken on many.

She runs a costume studio, McGrew Studios, along with Black Beacon Media, which develops historically researched World War II content. Her resume includes costumes and wardrobes for Showtime, Neiman Marcus, AMC and many others, along with teaching as an adjunct English professor for WSU for 10 years.

Last year, she served as the university’s dance costume designer.

“I don’t much care for working on the same kind of thing over and over again,” McGrew said. She credits Zublin for leading her to discover many paths.

“I came back to school after years of dropping in and out, and I had only six credits left to graduate, but financial aid said I had to be enrolled full time. I looked through the course catalog and I said, ‘Wow, costume history, that looks fascinating,’” she said.

After her first day of class, she approached Zublin, nearly crying. “I was dumbfounded,” McGrew said. “And I went, ‘You mean people actually do this for a living?’”

The student and teacher later worked in WSU’s costume shop together.

Now, McGrew guides others as Zublin once guided her.

She recently hired and worked with four Weber State students to build reproductions of *Yo Gabba Gabba!* characters for AppleTV’s relaunch of the beloved children’s show.

Additionally, McGrew Studios has hosted over 70 student interns since 2010.

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— Marcus Garong, MHA student



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Cheese

with a Side of Experiential Learning

*WSU STUDENTS RESEARCH MYSTERIOUS
BACTERIA IMPACTING THE CHEESE INDUSTRY*

**BY ANNA
BURLESON**



PROFESSOR MICHELE CULUMBER STANDS IN A TRACY HALL LAB SURROUNDED BY WSU STUDENTS IN WHITE LAB COATS WRITING WHAT SEEM LIKE BASIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WHITE BOARD: "1. SWAB, 2. POUR, 3. LABEL."

The small group of students quickly gets to work examining samples in test tubes.

You wouldn't know by watching them, but students in Culumber's microbiology undergraduate research team are studying something universally beloved, delicious and great with crackers: cheese.

Earlier in the day, most of the group had been at local company Beehive Cheese collecting samples for study to find out what's causing cheese to release carbon dioxide, puffing up grocery store packaging industry-wide and making it difficult to sell.

While unsightly, thankfully, the taste is unaffected.

In 2015, then WSU microbiology professor **Craig Oberg BS '79** discovered the bacteria *Paucilactobacillus wasatchensis*, the cause of the puffing. *Paucilactobacillus* is Latin for a genus of lactic acid bacteria, and *wasatchensis* describes its discovery in northern Utah, at the base of the Wasatch Range. Oberg wasn't even looking for it, and noticed it purely by chance.

"Most great discoveries aren't 'Eureka!' they're like, 'That's a weird thing; let's look at it,'" he said.

Culumber has studied microorganisms in groundwater that degrade gasoline, Hawaiian soils, peat bogs, the Great Salt Lake and even tardigrades, more commonly known as water bears.

►► CONTINUES ON PAGE 24



TOP LEFT:
A student researcher studies samples to learn more about what causes *Paucilactobacillus wasatchensis*.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
A Beehive Cheese employee goes to work in one of the work stations Weber State students swabbed for testing.



CHEESE DAYS AHEAD

Weber State students and faculty collect samples at Beehive Cheese in Uintah. They are studying, *Paucilactobacillus wasatchensis*, bacteria impacting the cheese industry.

Intrigued by a new topic, she partnered with Oberg right after his discovery.

“He’s like, ‘I isolated this little bacterium, and I need help figuring out what it is,’” Culumber recalled. “So, we sequenced its genetic material, and it didn’t match up with anything known. It was a new organism, and we just went from there.”

Culumber has been working with students for about eight years since the discovery to figure out how the bacteria make cheese packaging so unappealing and how to stop it.

It’s a slow, methodical process of elimination with many variables.

Students collect samples from wire cutters, vats, drains and even the cardboard boxes where workers get their sanitary gloves, anything that has to do with the cheese-making process.

Culumber’s running theory is that normally this bacterium would eat five-carbon sugar molecules, but the molecules are not common in cheese, so the bacteria break down six-carbon sugars and release carbon dioxide.

But that’s just a theory.

Culumber said this particular kind of research makes it easy to find students who want to participate because food is very approachable. They also gain experience in every aspect of the project, from planning and research to presenting results.

“Our goal is to provide the students with the opportunity to learn some skills and see if they want to pursue this industry for their careers,” she said.

Brooklyn Matthews, a WSU junior, works with Culumber and plans to graduate in spring 2024. She originally thought she might want to work with animals but has transitioned to studying what she calls “tiny animals,” aka microbiology.

She enjoys researching cheese but also has an interest in epidemiology.

“It’s cool how things spoil, how they infect things and how they spread,” she said as she looked at a test tube containing a small amount of cheese in liquid.

To study every step of the cheese-making process, Culumber also partners with the BUILD Dairy program, which connects students and faculty at universities like

Weber State and Utah State University with the dairy industry and farmers for mutually beneficial research.

“If it’s coming in with the raw milk, maybe there’s a way to alter the pasteurization process,” she said. “If it’s coming in from some other contaminant or it’s just in the plant already, then maybe they have to do some different cleaning techniques. Maybe there’s an additive they could use to control it.”

The ongoing research on *Paucilactobacillus wasatchensis* has received global attention. Oberg, WSU professor emeritus, presented findings from WSU research on the bacteria at the 14th International Symposium on Lactic Acid Bacteria in the Netherlands in August 2023.

“It has been an unbelievable feather in Weber State’s cap,” Oberg said.

“It’s cool how things spoil, how they infect things and how they spread.”

— BROOKLYN MATTHEWS

Britton Welsh MBA ’16, the president of Beehive Cheese, said the company is proud to partner with Weber State to try and solve this problem.

“It’s not harmful to people; it’s just a little unsightly,” he said.

While Beehive’s cheese is safe to eat up to 80 degrees, Welsh said packaging will start to puff if it gets hotter than 50 degrees for a few hours. This hasn’t

impacted profits to speak of so far, but they have to put in extra effort to stay on top of the problem and keep the cheese cool.

“IT’S REALLY ANNOYING,” WELSH SAID. “IT’S NOT BAD PER SE, BUT IT ADDS A LOT OF VARIABLES TO OUR LIVES.”

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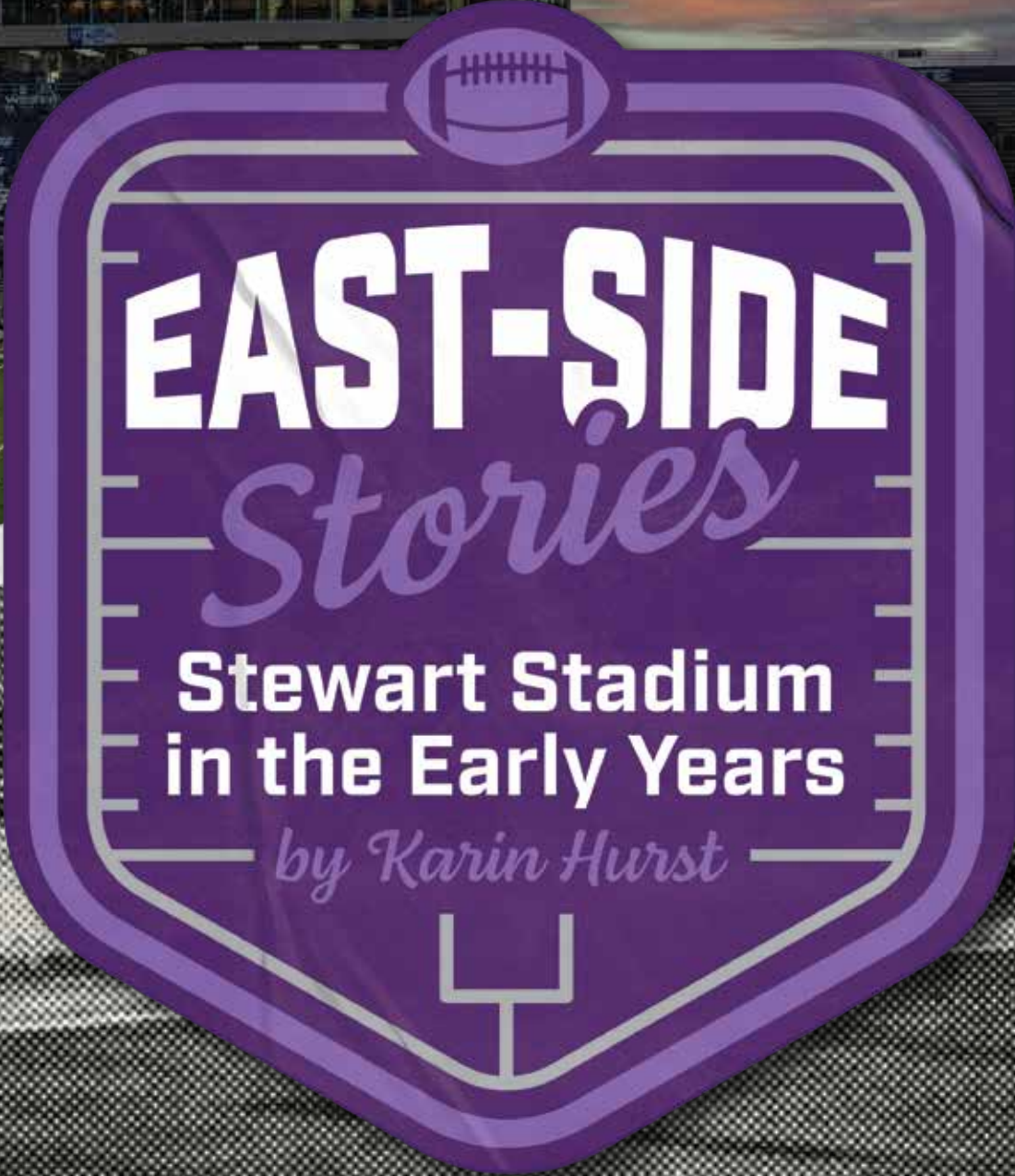
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The view from Stewart Stadium's updated east stands during the 2023 Homecoming football game compared to the stadium pictured in the stadium dedication program on Sept. 18, 1953



EAST-SIDE
Stories
Stewart Stadium
in the Early Years
by Karin Hurst



The WSU Marching Band watches from Stewart Stadium's east stands during the 2023 Homecoming football game against University of California, Davis.

Wildcat family, friends and football fans received a double jolt of purple pride the evening of Sept. 23, 2023. Not only did Weber State kick off Big Sky Conference play with a top-10 national FCS showdown against longtime rival Montana State, but the university also celebrated the opening of the recently renovated Stewart Stadium.

In construction that began in January 2023, the east-side stands were demolished, rebuilt and split into two levels with a walkway and concession concourse. Previously updated in 2011, the playing field now features variegated strips of green turf, an enhanced Wildcat logo and vibrant purple end zones.

The new east-side seating updates one of the oldest structures on the Ogden campus. While the changes are worth cheering about, seeing such a dramatic transformation can trigger a bittersweet feeling.

Nostalgia is sweet because it momentarily allows us to relive good times, but it's also bitter because we

realize those times will never return. Many early psychological theorists considered nostalgia a bad thing, but modern research shows nostalgic reminiscence can strengthen our sense of personal continuity and remind us we have a store of powerful memories that are deeply intertwined with our identity.

With a respectful nod to campus improvements, let us reflect on a time before Stewart Stadium, when the area it occupies was nothing more than a rugged stretch of undeveloped land in the foothills overlooking Ogden City with the Great Salt Lake shimmering in the distance.

GROWING PAINS

At the end of World War II, Weber struggled to contain its burgeoning student population at a constrictive downtown Ogden campus. With their minds set on expansion, administrators looked to the hills ... literally. On July 19, 1947, a deed transferring 175 acres of J.M. Mills' property located east of Harrison Boulevard, between 37th and 40th Street, was made out to Weber College. To fill a gap between the boulevard and Mills' land boundaries, Weber purchased additional property from Merlin Edvalson later that fall.

A building committee chaired by **Wallace D. "Wally" Baddley**, superintendent of buildings and grounds, met to discuss building priorities. **President H. Aldous Dixon** lobbied for an administration building, a heating plant, 80,000-square-foot of classroom space, a library and a stadium. (Prior to having its own stadium, the Wildcat football squad played at Lorin Farr Park, Ogden Stadium and Affleck Park.) As the funding picture became clearer, Dixon had to choose between a library and a stadium, and he chose the latter.

In December 1948, architects **Lawrence Olpin**, **Fred L. Markham** and **Arthur Grix** formalized plans for the upper campus with construction commencing in the fall of 1949.

In contrast to today's building sites, where boundaries are cordoned off and visitors are off limits, student labor was heavily recruited.



ABOVE: Students help install a sprinkling system at the new Weber College campus. Photo courtesy of the *Signpost*, May 5, 1950

BOTTOM LEFT: Weber College's student newspaper, the *Signpost*, announces a new campus on Jan. 13, 1950.

FORGING THE FUTURE

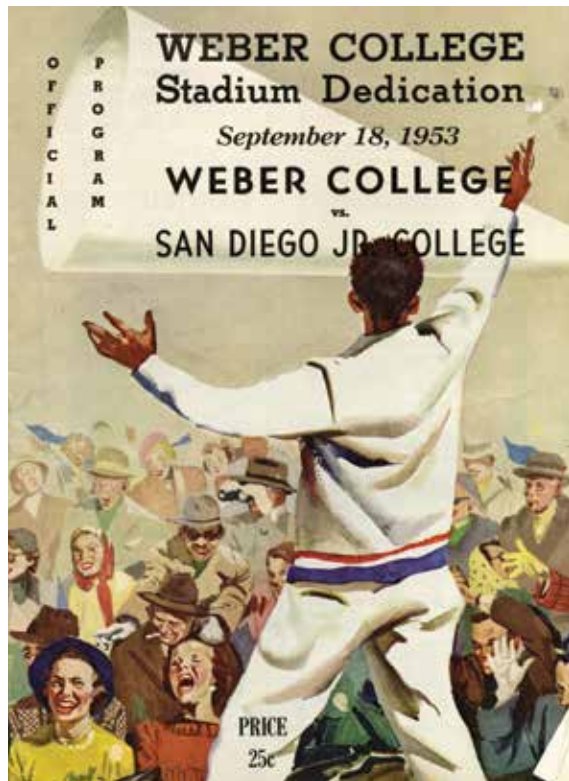
A bold headline in the Jan. 13, 1950, edition of the *Signpost* student newspaper declared, "STUDENTS! NEW CAMPUS NOW 'IN YOUR HANDS.'" The issue featured a story about how advanced diesel students used college equipment to contour the shape of the stadium, which saved the school nearly \$10,000. The article encouraged more students to get involved.

"There are many things which YOU can do ... There are forms to be made and cement to be poured, as well as landscaping to be done," the newspaper stated.

In the newspaper's May 5 edition, a large photo of students installing a sprinkling and drainage system demonstrated how Wildcats were "willing to work for what they want."

During the 1950–51 academic year, Weber students contributed more than 1,000 hours of labor toward stadium and upper campus construction.





ABOVE: Cover for the program to Weber's football stadium dedication on Sept. 18, 1953

BOTTOM LEFT: A view of the stadium seating from *The Acorn* yearbook in 1955

BOTTOM RIGHT: A group of students who helped prepare for the stadium's official dedication in 1953; photo courtesy of the *Signpost*, Oct. 27, 1954

SHIFTING GEARS

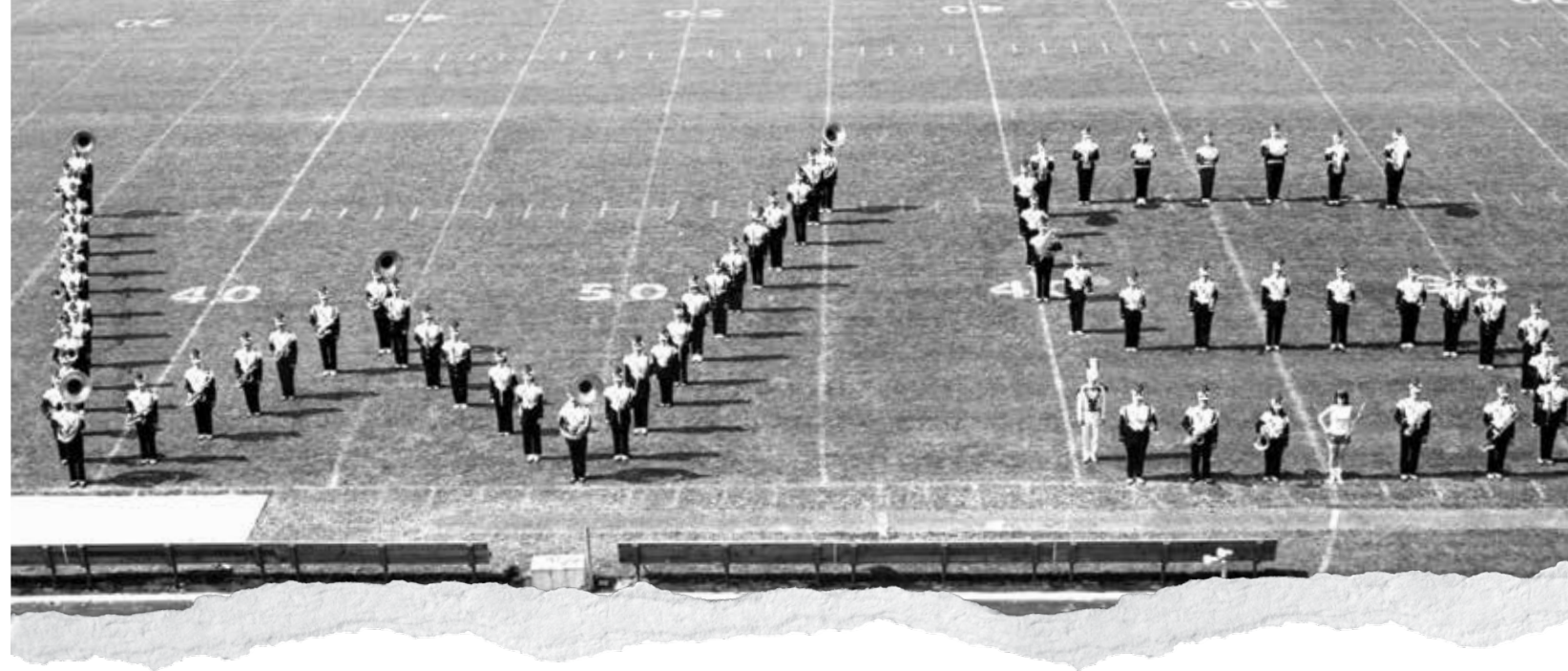
On Aug. 8, 1953, H. Aldous Dixon left his Weber College presidency to accept a new role as president of Utah State Agricultural College in Logan. Ogden residents had come to rely on Dixon's strong leadership and support of Weber attaining four-year status. But less than a month later, another strong administrator assumed the mantle of leadership and would remain at Weber's helm for 19 years, the longest term of any Weber College president.

William P. Miller's first official presidential act was to preside over the dedication of the school's new football stadium on Sept. 18, 1953. The four upper-campus classroom buildings were not dedicated until the following year on Oct. 27. He and Student Body President **John M. Elzey** cut a purple and white streamer attached to a wire stretched between goal posts. Former President Dixon offered a dedicatory prayer after which coach **Milt Mecham's** Wildcats played San Diego Junior College in a hard-fought contest in their 1953 season opener. An estimated 2,300 fans turned out to watch, with the *Signpost* boasting in its Oct. 13 issue, "The stadium is one of

the best of its kind in the country, with turf to equal that of Rose Bowl specifications and lighting identical to Yankee Stadium in New York."

In the stadium's early years, football games had minimal seating; only about 3,700 seats were available on the hillside east of the field. Permanent bleachers were added later, with west stands and a new press box built in 1966.

The following year, a little known slice of school history played a pivotal role in the growth and transformation of not just the stadium, but the entire university.



The Weber State College Marching Band taking the field in a photo from a 1965 band scrapbook

In January 1967, the college hired alum and advertising agency executive **Dean W. Hurst** to serve as the school's first full-time director of the alumni association. He was also charged with leading Weber's newly authorized development office. The first philanthropic gift Hurst received for the school was a \$1,700 grant from the Elveretta Littlefield Wattis Foundation.

"One of the first things I wanted to do was to have some means of attracting possible donors to the school; a place where we could entertain legislators, community leaders, prospective donors and others who might have an interest in the school," Hurst said.

He noticed the old press box on the east side of the stadium and assumed it was no longer in use. He pitched an idea to transform the space into a VIP box and received a green light from President Miller and Business Vice President **James R. Foulger**.

However, Hurst recalls when he went to the building and grounds office and asked superintendent Baddley for a key, Baddley stated, "Dean, you can't have it! That's where I store my fertilizer!" Stunned, Hurst replied, "Well, Wally, if I find a different place for the fertilizer, would you consider giving me the key?" Baddley stood his ground with a resounding "No."

With development officers being tenacious by nature, Hurst didn't give up. He found a place to

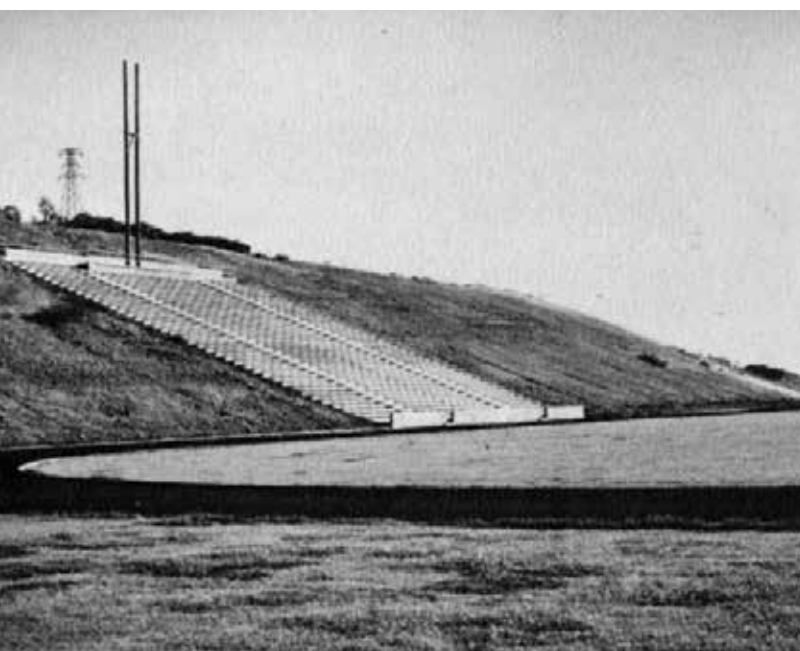
store the fertilizer on the south end of the west bleachers and returned to the superintendent's office with the good news. Baddley still refused to budge. It was only after Hurst appealed to Dean of Faculty **Robert A. Clarke** that the standoff concluded with the key in Hurst's hand.

FROM STORAGE SHACK TO PRESIDENT'S BOX

Hurst immediately arranged for the college building and grounds crew to paint the interior of the box white. The eastern walls were adorned with photos of NFL football stars, like the Cleveland Browns' Jim Brown. Then, Hurst and an assistant built a riser for a second row of chairs facing the large plate glass window and installed self-adhesive carpet.

He reached out to *Ogden Standard-Examiner* owner **A.L. "Abe" Glasmann**, whose family also owned the defunct Paramount Theatre, which had been called the Alhambra when it opened on Kiesel Avenue in 1915. Glasmann donated 24 theatre chairs, and a college upholstery class reupholstered the chairs in purple fabric. "In all, there was room for 24 guests, a table for snacks and a coat rack," Hurst said.

Near the entryway, Hurst hung a small donor plaque memorializing **Elveretta Littlefield Wattis** as the fledgling development fund's first "official" donor.





The recently renovated Stewart Stadium with stands split into two levels with the addition of a walkway and concession concourse on the east (left) side

Nowadays, with the stadium awash with donor placards denoting key structures and spaces — everything from the Barbara and Rory Youngberg Football Center to Sark’s Boys Gateway to the Larry & Annette Marquardt-Kimball Plaza — it’s hard to imagine a donor sign on campus being a novelty.

“More than anything else, the plaque was just something to recognize donors and let them know how much we appreciate them,” Hurst said. “Before that, there had been very little done at Weber to recognize individuals who had made charitable gifts to the school.”

Hurst’s small, but sincere, investment in donor stewardship reaped dividends. Among the first guests invited inside the newly christened President’s Box was educator and business developer **Layton P. Ott**, who later donated substantial shares of stock to purchase equipment for the school’s planetarium.

Also on hand for the debut of the President’s Box were avid football fans **Donnell** and **Elizabeth Stewart**, who became major contributors to Weber. In fact, on June 11, 1997, Wildcat Stadium was

renamed Elizabeth Dee Shaw Stewart Stadium. The fertilizer-storage shack turned President’s Box on the east side of the stadium remained in use throughout the presidencies of **William Miller**, **Joseph Bishop**, **Rodney Brady**, **Stephen Nadauld** and **Paul Thompson**, until a 38,000-square-foot Sky Suites & Press Box complex opened on the west side in 2001. The complex features 26 suites, including one used by President **Brad Mortensen**, along with offices, meeting spaces and study areas for athletes.

Shortly before the 2023 football season, 96-year-old Hurst, curious about the east-side renovation, visited the stadium and surveyed the eastern hillside stripped of its metal benches and former VIP box. More so than a nostalgic longing for what once was, Hurst said he felt humbled and grateful for a fulfilling career made successful by the generosity of others.

“While I was instrumental in securing more than \$50 million in gifts to Weber by the time I retired,” Hurst reminisced, “it all began with that small \$1,700 grant from the Elveretta Littlefield Wattis Foundation.”

Charles Bowker
VISITS THE DUCKS AT
ADA LINDQUIST PLAZA

Claudia Eliason
EATS PURPLE
PANCAKES

Caden DeYoung
BECOMES A
“TRUE WILDCAT”

Rob Higginson
TAKES A HIKE

Great! Great! Great!



The Tradition Keepers

**2023-24 WSU Alumni Association Leaders
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Rob Higginson
BS '80

Board of Directors President

My favorite family tradition is...
Lake Powell and Sunday afternoon dinners.

My guilty pleasure is...
spaghetti noodles covered with butter and salt.

I'm involved in WSUAA because...
I love being involved with alumni and university leaders.

Most people don't know that I...
am afraid of singing in public.

My favorite season is...
summer.

My favorite spot at WSU is...
the steps of the Miller Administration Building;
that is where I first met my wife.



Claudia Ellason

Emeriti Alumni Council President

My favorite family tradition is...
gathering for family dinners — especially holidays.
There are 39 of us now that our six children have
married and multiplied, so the gatherings aren't
as frequent as they used to be.

My guilty pleasure is...
most definitely chocolate.

I'm involved in WSUAA because...
I love WSU and giving back to the university that
gave so much to me and five of our children.

Most people don't know that I...
dipped chocolates with my husband and gave them to
family and neighbors at Christmas for many years.

My favorite season is...
spring, because it is so invigorating after Utah's long,
cold winters. I love listening to birds sing, watching
the mountains turn green, seeing plants and flowers
come to life and getting outside.

My favorite spot at WSU is...
the McKay Education Building. After earning my
doctorate, I was hired by the education department and
spent the next 16 years with inspiring colleagues who
collaborated with me on different projects. I also felt
fortunate to interact with remarkable students.



Charles Bowker
BA '18

New Alumni Council President

My favorite family tradition is...
I have several: Christmas pajamas and breakfasts,
the Ogden Greek Festival and annual trips to the
mountains the first week in October.

My guilty pleasure is...
baking and writing when I can.

I'm involved in WSUAA because...
I love what WSU gave to me as a student and alum,
and I hope to help others get the most out of their
educational experiences.

Most people don't know that I...
have a weird animal magnetism; most animals seem
to find me strangely approachable.

My favorite season is...
fall. Temps are perfect, colors are breathtaking
and activities are exciting.

My favorite spot at WSU is...
the Swenson Pool. I started taking swim
classes there to unwind during my heavier semesters,
so being there is calming and centering.



Wildcats



Caden DeYoung

Student Alumni Council President

My favorite family tradition is...
celebrating the Fourth of July in Huntsville, Utah,
with kickball, sand volleyball and fireworks!

My guilty pleasure is...
watching the cartoon *Bluey* with my nephews.

I'm involved in WSUAA because...
I love being a student at Weber State and want other
students to enjoy it as much as I do. It's a great
opportunity to be able to give back to the university
that is helping me achieve my academic goals.

Most people don't know that I...
am a pretty big nerd! I'm extroverted and love
playing sports, but I'm also majoring in
microbiology and love learning about
bacteria, viruses and diseases.

My favorite season is...
fall. You'll find me attending football
games, hiking or anywhere outside
enjoying the nice weather and
the changing leaves.

My favorite spot at WSU is...
Stewart Stadium. I love watching football
while enjoying the view of the beautiful
Wasatch Mountains and Ogden.



What's Rob holding?
Cracking a 56-year-old case



WSU Alumni Association President **Rob Higginson** is holding what is believed to be the oxidized steel finial from the 20-foot-tall flagpole Weber students, faculty, alumni and administrators erected on Mount Ogden Peak during the inaugural Mount Ogden Hike in 1922.

Forty-five years after the first hike, the U.S. Forest Service dismantled the pole and hurled sections of it over the cliffs. Until the fall of 2023, few knew of any other remnant of the original structure than a 24-inch chunk of base recovered by Weber State staff in 1970.

Now, an exciting new chapter of the story has been added by Ogden native and WSU alum **James Crookston AS '94**. Around 1970, Crookston's father, Ogden dentist **Lynn Crookston**, hiked below the peak with several of James' older siblings when they discovered a weathered steel sphere about six inches in diameter. Recognizing its historic value, the family decided to carry it home. The arduous task fell to James' sister, **Miriam**, who accidentally dropped it and stood by helplessly as the heavy ball rolled a long way down a rugged western slope.

Years later, Dr. Crookston returned to find the relic with youth from his church. The hikers employed a systematic grid pattern method of searching and rediscovered the sphere.

For nearly 50 years, Dr. Crookston and his wife, **Melva**, displayed the Weber College flagpole finial, with other antiques, in their living room.

Since 2019, James Crookston has curated the heirloom, and he graciously lent it to WSU for this year's alumni leaders' photo shoot.



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CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI UPDATES

'70s

Sherry Ellis Ferrin BS '71

has contributed to many art installations and murals along the Wasatch Front, including artwork at the Rail Event Center in Salt Lake City, Ogden River Parkway, Ogden Union Station, WSU Downtown and many other locations. For over 20 years, she has designed and painted backdrops for Imagine Ballet Theatre in Ogden. She was named the 2011 Honorary Mayor of Christmas Village and received the 2014 Mayor's Award in the Arts for visual arts, a 2016 Enlightened 50, or E-50, recognition from the Community Foundation of Utah and the 2016 Best Community Artist award by Nurture the Creative Mind. Previously, Sherry taught

for 20 years in Ogden and Weber school districts as a kindergarten teacher. She also owned and operated Sherry Ferrin Photography for seven years. Sherry has served on numerous boards and councils, including the Ogden City Arts Advisory Committee and Ogden Christmas Village Advisory Committee. She met her husband of 54 years, Tres Ferrin, at Weber State. They have four children, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Jerold Burns BA '72

was a seminary teacher and administrator for 40 years with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. While attending Weber State, he studied zoology and served in student

government as the executive vice president. After graduation, he began his career at Ogden High School as a seminary teacher. Jerold earned a master's degree in educational psychology from Brigham Young University in 1976. His career took him to many locations, including Montana, Minnesota and Georgia. He worked for the University of Minnesota, where he earned a doctorate in educational administration in 1996. He later served as a mission president for his church in Brazil from 2004 to 2007. Returning to Utah, he taught at the Weber Institute until his retirement in 2009. Jerold serves on the WSU Alumni Association Emeriti Alumni Council. He and his wife, Karen Williams, live in Pleasant View, Utah.

They have four children and nine grandchildren.

Bill Gibson BA '76

served in the Utah State Office of Education for 25 years. During that time, he held various roles, including coordinator for rehabilitation and field services for the blind, rehabilitation counselor and director of the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Before working for the State of Utah, Bill worked six years for Weber State Disability Services in cooperative education placements, which allow students to work in their field of study before graduation. Bill earned a certificate of rehabilitation administration in 1988 from the University of Oklahoma. Retired since 2015, he is the



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current president of the Ogden Association of the Blind, which hosts an annual Weber State day, helping the organization better engage with the community and Weber State. He lives on a ranch with his wife, Sandra, where they raise cattle. They have seven children.

'80s

Linda Lambert AS '80 is a nurse practitioner at the University of Utah and Primary Children's Hospital Heart Center in Salt Lake City. She completed her Master of Science in nursing, family nurse practitioner (MS-APRN) from Westminster College in 2000, and a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Phoenix in 1996. She is a nurse researcher and a longtime volunteer for the American Heart Association. Linda has authored or co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed research papers on pediatric cardiovascular health. She's also the administrative

director of research at Primary Children's Hospital Heart Center, where she manages the research of dozens of fellows and faculty members. She is the 2023 recipient of the American Heart Association National Healthcare Volunteer of the Year Award for her outstanding contributions to improving cardiovascular care and delivery.

Russell Murray BS '82 has been a Hill Air Force Base contractor for the past 28 years. He is a full-stack Java developer, writing software that supports the Air Force's material processing system, which provides an efficient way for Air Force mechanics to order and track the status of materials for a variety of aircrafts and commodities. He has created several interfaces that automate ways for systems to communicate with remote part suppliers. Russell is the first in his family to earn a college degree and is a proud parent of four

college graduates, three of whom have earned advanced degrees.

Brenda Barentsen Armstrong AS '84, BS '99 is an associate professor and the chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene at Utah Tech University. She joined Utah Tech in 2013 as an assistant professor of dental hygiene. In 2010, she earned a master's degree in dental hygiene from the University of Minnesota. She then moved to Virginia to become an assistant professor and clinic coordinator for Thomas Nelson Community College (now Virginia Peninsula Community College). She is the 2023–2024 president of Utah Dental Hygienists' Association and has received many awards, including the 2022 Utah Dental Hygienists' Association Educator of the Year, 2022 Dixie State University (Utah Tech) Board of Trustees Excellence in Education and the 2020 American Dental Hygienists' Association Educator of the

Year awards. She lives in Ivins, Utah.

Darren Parry BS '87 is the former chairman of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. He has served on the tribal council for 20 years. He is a storyteller, teacher, university lecturer and author. In 2018, he published *The Bear River Massacre: A Shoshone History*, which was selected in 2022 as the Brigham Young University Department of History's book of the year. He has served on the National Advisory Council at Weber State since 2021. Darren strives to promote a deeper understanding of the rich traditions, knowledge and ways in which indigenous communities have long been stewards of the land and a more sustainable future.

'90s

Debbie Perry BS '92 is the co-owner and chief financial officer of Salt Lake Running Company, named a top

10 running specialty store in America by Formula4 Media. She started the company with her husband 28 years ago. She is the 2018 Nike Just Do It Award recipient for an outstanding female executive in the running industry. She has coached endurance athletes of all levels and ages since 1992. She is a multiple-time All-American, multiple world championship qualifier, and former no. 1 triathlete in the United States in the 35-39 age group. Debbie is a former PTA volunteer and is an ongoing volunteer for her church. She is a mother of five children. Her husband, **Guy Perry BA '95**, is the founder and CEO of Salt Lake Running Company. He is a former Independent Running Retailers Association (now Running Industry Association) board member and a 2010 *Utah Business* "40 Under 40" honoree. Guy has volunteered in church leadership capacities for the last 30 years. He assisted his wife in coaching runners at Bonneville High School

from 2010 to 2017 and currently volunteers on their community council. He has also raced at an elite level in various endurance events over the years, including the pro division at the XTERRA triathlon U.S. championships held at Snowbasin Resort, Utah.

Shaun Cutler BA '93 has spent the last 30 years building successful partnerships in the technology and financial industries. He has held senior global leadership positions with companies like Symantec (now Gen Digital Inc.), Veritas and Visa. Shaun currently leads international partnerships for Paysafe, a multinational online payments company. He and his wife, Susie, have four teenage daughters heavily involved in dance and theatre. His motto is "Front row, every show."

Rob Trebilcock BS '93 has worked in public relations and communications for 15 years. He is currently

in charge of public affairs and media relations for Cox Communications, covering Nebraska and Iowa. Previously, he was over corporate social responsibility for Bank of the West (now acquired by BMO), covering multiple states, and public affairs for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska. After graduating from Weber State, Rob worked in operations for 10 years with Convergys, now part of Concentrix. He oversaw operations in Canada, Omaha and Utah, along with a call center in India. Rob serves on multiple boards and is currently the board president of the Nebraska Sports Council. He is a part owner of jazz club The Jewell in Omaha. He has two children.

David Spangenthal BA '95 is a musical theatre professional who has performed in multiple New York City Broadway musicals. Some of his credentials include *Cats*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. He recently

oversaw the directing and choreography and performed the role of Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* at Diamond Head Theatre in Honolulu, Hawaii. He earned a Master of Arts in theatre studies from Montclair State University in New Jersey. David and his husband own Timothy John's Salon in Manhattan, New York, which recently celebrated its 23rd anniversary. The salon has been recognized among *Salon Today* Top 200 honorees three years in a row. He is also a consultant for Summit Salon Business Center, where he helps salons grow all aspects of their business. He lives in New Jersey with his husband, daughter and son.

Lisa Jensen BS '96 is the alumni coordinator for WSU Alumni Relations. Before her role at Weber, she worked as a community health educator at Davis County Health Department. She also taught as a substitute teacher in Davis County from 2017 to 2020 and spent over 20 years as a stay-at-home mother.

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As a WSU student, she was a writer for *The Signpost* student newspaper. In 1996, Lisa was awarded Public Relations Graduate of the Year by the WSU Department of Communication and also earned the distinction of magna cum laude. After graduation, she worked as a sales and marketing professional for Iomega Corporation. Her husband, **Grif Jensen BS '98**, is the director of technology services for Salt Lake City Corporation's public safety division, which includes 911 dispatch and police and fire departments. He has worked for Salt Lake City Information Management Services for 23 years, beginning as a network administrator. They live in Syracuse, Utah, and have three children.

Cody Strong BA '97 became commander of the Utah National Guard 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist) and Utah counterdrug coordinator in Draper, Utah, in 2022. He received a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2020 and a Master of Public Administration from Brigham Young University in 2022. He is also a 2022 Seminar XXI Fellow from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Col. Strong served tours overseas in Kosovo, Iraq and Germany and commanded Bravo Company, 3-85th Mountain Infantry Regiment, Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort

Drum, New York, and the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist) in Salt Lake City. He also served in a variety of staff positions in the Utah National Guard, U.S. European Command and National Guard Bureau. He and his wife, Heidi, have three children.

'00s

Paul Draper BS '02 is a magician and mentalist. He owns and operates Mental Mysteries and has performed in Las Vegas and at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. He has appeared on major television networks, including History, Discovery, A&E, HBO, HGTV and Hallmark. In 2004, he received his master's degree in communication from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Paul is on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for the Magic Castle in Hollywood, California, the EDI Council for the Magic Circle in London, England, and the board of directors for the Inclusion Center in Salt Lake City. As an applied anthropologist, Paul has taught anthropology-focused magic, intercultural philosophy and research methodology courses as an adjunct professor at Soka University of America, while concurrently teaching virtual creativity courses for Thomas Jefferson University. Paul has served as an instructor at UNLV and as a guest lecturer at University of Southern

California; University of California, Los Angeles; Tulane University and Yale University.

Jared Price BA '03 is the director of sales for the Young Automotive Group, which includes 30 dealerships in Utah and Idaho, and serves on the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Young Caring for Our Young Foundation Board of Directors. He is a member of the Davis Chamber of Commerce. His wife of 25 years, **Tanya Price AS '01**, has been involved with Utah Share, a support service for those who have experienced pregnancy or infant loss, for 18 years. She is an actress and has been in many commercials and movies, including the Nollywood film *Christmas in Miami*. She has strong connections in the Nigerian community and was recently honored as a Niger Delta Girl Child Ambassador for The Delta Girls Youth Child Program in Nigeria. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Young Caring for Our Young Foundation. They have three sons, whom Jared has coached in baseball, flag football, track, basketball and soccer.

Jeff Hall BS '05 is a senior quality assurance engineer with BD, a medical equipment manufacturer, overseeing quality systems and investigating production

deviations throughout the production processes. He writes standard operating procedures, manages internal audits and trains operators and technicians to ensure safe products. In 2011, Jeff earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He has also earned a Six Sigma Green Belt certification from the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah, with an emphasis on the DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control) model. He has two sons and lives in Ogden.

Tawny Choi AS '08, BA '11 is an academic transition advisor with Weber State's Student Success Center, where she provides support, connections and resources

to transfer and returning students, as well as those searching for a major or adjusting to higher education. After spending 10 years teaching English abroad in Taiwan and Hong Kong, she returned to Utah in 2022. Tawny is a Special Olympics coach at WSU. While attending WSU, she served as both traditional student senator and diversity and unity vice president.

'10s


Cassity Roberts BS '10 had worked for Davis Hospital (now Holy Cross Hospital - Davis) for 15 years before starting her own business, NovaQuilts LLC. Her husband, **Trevor Roberts BS '12** is a process engineer for Barnes Aerospace. They love being

part of the Ogden community and volunteer with the American Youth Soccer Organization. In addition, Cassity is on the PTA board of their children's school.

Jason Loveless BS '11 is a neurological physical therapist with the McKay-Dee Stewart Rehab Neurological Specialty Clinic where he has practiced since 2018. After graduating from WSU, he moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to pursue a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from the University of New Mexico, which he completed in 2014. He then moved to Los Angeles and worked as a physical therapist at Physical Therapy Solutions and then at the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center. After four years in California, Jason and his wife, Holly, moved back to Utah to raise their family. Living in North Ogden, they have two sons and two daughters.


Shaquille Heath AS '13, BA '15 is a writer and essayist whose writing explores the intricacies of identity, particularly Black identity. She writes for *Juxtapoz* magazine, a contemporary art publication, and has also been featured in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and others. By day, she manages public relations for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, including the de Young and Legion of Honor museums, both located in San Francisco, California.

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Lori Belnap Pehrson BS '87, retired aerospace leader and WSU National Advisory Committee member, with her mentee, 2022 computer science graduate Dallin Welch

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Ariel Olson AS '13, BS '15, ME '19 is the assistant director for WSU's First Year Experience program, which helps incoming students make a successful transition into the university community. While attending Weber, she was a mentor in the FYE Peer Mentor Program for seven semesters and is now the coordinator for that part of the FYE program. Ariel served as the engagement coordinator for the WSU chapter of Utah Women and Higher Education Board of Directors. She is a current member and past president of the WSU Cat Club, which volunteers at cat sanctuaries and shelters and cares for cats living on campus.

Sarah Bateman Story BS '14 is an operations administrator and digital learning specialist for WSU's Department of Online & Continuing Education, where she supervises the setup team of nontraditional courses, which include online classes, community education, independent study and teacher training courses. She also oversees the Department of Online & Continuing Education payroll team. She and her husband, Keith, live in West Haven, Utah.

Crystalee Beck BA '14 is the founder and CEO of Comma Copywriters, a copywriting agency that serves tech and real estate companies. In

2022, Comma Copywriters passed the million-dollar revenue mark and was listed No. 24 on the "Fast 50" list by *Utah Business* magazine. Crystalee also runs The Mama Ladder, a community for mothers building businesses. She shares what she has learned about building businesses on her YouTube channel. Her husband, **Ryan Beck BS '13**, is the director of land acquisition and development at Woodside Homes. They are the proud parents of four young children.

Gary P. Duran AS '14, BS '16, MED '23 is a research assistant for the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center and a Ph.D. student in the urban educational policy program at the Rossier School of Education at USC. He presented his latest research findings at the Association for the Study of Higher Education's 2023 General Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Gary served as the government relations liaison with WSU President Brad Mortensen during the 2023 General Session of the Utah State Legislature.

Jasmine Pittman BS '17 began as a consultant for the National Cancer Institute director's office, where she crafted messaging on behalf of the director. She also streamlined internal processes to boost organizational efficiency.

Jasmine was recognized with the NCI Director's Award of Merit for Internal Communications and Employee Engagement Excellence Group in March 2023. Now, she combines her expertise and passion for creating captivating narratives in the fashion industry as a member of the Vogue Club, attending events and documenting her experiences on social media. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Mercedes Ziegler BA '17 is the Safe@Weber violence prevention coordinator with the WSU Women's Center, where she provides legally required violence prevention education on campus and teaches about healthy relationships, consent, bystander intervention, gender socialization and more. She has been involved in anti-violence work since she was a student employee at the Women's Center in 2016, and worked in nonprofit victim advocacy prior to rejoining the Women's Center in 2022. She will be receiving her Master of Professional Communication in December 2023. Mercedes has served on the WSU chapter of the Utah Women in Higher Education Network Board of Directors as the marketing coordinator and is currently the president-elect.

Carlee Johnson Madsen MPC '18 is the delivery development coordinator at the Arbinger Institute,

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where she oversees a team of facilitators who train businesses worldwide on "turning outward," a method that improves interpersonal relations within an organization. Before this role, she was a communication and conflict lecturer at Utah State University. She is also a conflict consultant with Canfield Conflict & Collaboration Consulting. Carlee earned an integrated studies bachelor's degree from Utah Valley University in leadership and psychology and certifications from The Center for Dispute Resolution, Canfield Consulting and The Daring Way program. She helped create the Heravi Peace Institute, a peace initiative at Utah State University, where she provides training for students to receive conflict management and peace-building certificates,

and mentors students in becoming peer mediators on campus.

'20s

Zachary Twitchell BS '20 is a second-year student in the doctor of osteopathic medicine program at Des Moines University, where he also served as a teaching assistant in clinical medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine. He was selected in spring 2023 by DMU's College of Osteopathic Medicine for the Clinical Medicine Award, which recognizes students' high academic performance.

Cassidy Miller BA '21 is the alumni marketing coordinator for WSU's Department of Alumni Relations. Before her role at WSU, she was a sales associate and the marketing director for Aaron's Jewelry in

Roy, Utah. Cassidy graduated summa cum laude from Weber State. As a student, she was the historian for the Presidential Leadership Fellows, where she represented the university at events and provided photo documentation. She volunteers for Weber School District as a teacher's assistant. Her husband, **Nathan Miller BS '22**, is a merchant service account representative for IC Solutions, a credit card processing company based in West Haven, Utah. He is an entrepreneur and videographer, owning and operating 801Studios, a video production company. He has produced videos for WSU alumni events and commercials for X-Treme Trailers, a Utah-based company. Nathan and Cassidy live in North Ogden.



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Charles “Chick” Hislop

fostered success in sports and life

By Corbin Talley, WSU Men’s Track & Field / Cross Country head coach

Running at Weber State for **Chick Hislop** was truly one of the most impactful experiences of my life, not just because I was able to learn from a legendary coach, but because of the culture and environment that he created within our track and field and cross country programs.

When I received word that Coach passed away on Feb. 22, 2023, at age 86, other than sadness for Coach and his family, I felt gratitude for the lessons he taught me and the time I was able to spend with him — particularly in the past few years in my role as coach here at Weber State.

Prior to becoming the longest-tenured coach in any sport in Big Sky Conference history, mentoring Wildcats from 1969–2006, Coach Hislop spent a decade as track and field coach at Ben Lomond High School. He also ran track as a student at the high school, graduating in 1955, and spent two years on the Weber Junior College track team, where he became a Junior College All-American in the two-mile run and finished fifth in the national championships. He graduated from Weber in 1957 and transferred to Utah State. As a coach, he helped students find their own success.



He coached 26 WSU athletes to All-American honors in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. Two of his runners, **Farley Gerber** and **Charles Clinger**, won NCAA individual championships. And five of his runners broke four minutes in the mile. He also led the Wildcats to nine Big Sky Conference titles. In 1973, Hislop became head wrestling coach, a position he held for five years.

While Coach left a legacy of championships, victories, impressive marks on the track, and All-Americans, the real impact was in the creation and development of character.

“COACH HISLOP WAS A MASTER AT GETTING THE BEST EFFORTS OUT OF US.”

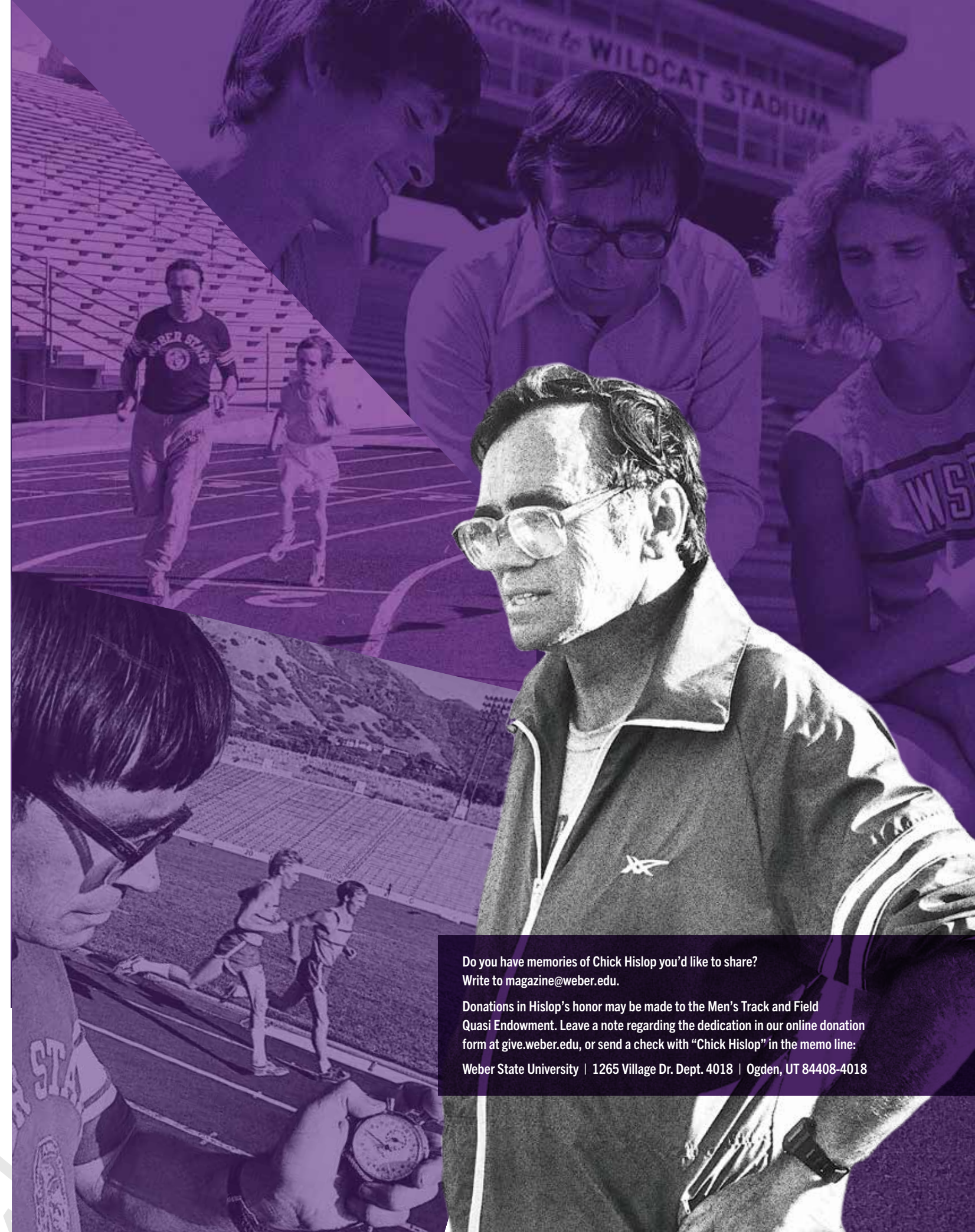
We worked incredibly hard in practice, and we laid it on the line in races. We competed with heart, passion and grit, because he taught us to run through a wall for our teammates, and we wanted to show him how tough we were — we wanted him to be proud of us. He taught us to trust. He taught us to work. He taught us to dig deeper than we thought possible. Weber State distance running was synonymous with teamwork, intelligent racing and tenacious performances.

He demanded a lot from each of us, but he also had a way of making sure we knew we were important to him on and off the track. Some of my fondest memories with Coach were at our summer cross country camps. We would sit around the fire listening to Coach talk about legendary past teams and runners, he would school us in the game of hearts (his favorite card game), and we would get him laughing over the silliest of jokes and stories. What I remember most about the camps, and even the daily routine with Coach, was the amount of hard work he would get us to do. The miles, the hills, the repeats, the tempo runs, all of it in order to make us hardened, fit distance runners.

Now that I am back at Weber State as a coach, I still want to make him proud.

Although he encouraged me to be patient in this role, these are not easy shoes to fill.

I am grateful for the regular interactions I was able to have with Coach over the past six years. He loved hearing about how my athletes were doing — their latest races, workouts and development. He loved talking about the potential high school recruits. And he loved imparting wisdom and coaching advice right to the end. I am already greatly missing his guidance. When we have outstanding performances, I find myself wanting to call and share them with Coach. When I am discouraged and need help figuring out a problem, he is still the first person I wish I could reach out to. He has remained my coach for the past 28 years, and the personal influence he has had on me will last my entire career.



Do you have memories of Chick Hislop you’d like to share?
Write to magazine@weber.edu.

Donations in Hislop’s honor may be made to the Men’s Track and Field Quasi Endowment. Leave a note regarding the dedication in our online donation form at give.weber.edu, or send a check with “Chick Hislop” in the memo line:
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Wildcat Inbox

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI & FRIENDS

HERE'S TO THE COACH!



Track and field and cross country coach Charles “Chick” Hislop helped shape many minds and futures. Sadly, Chick passed away on Feb. 22, 2023, at the age of 86. In addition to this issue’s memorial to Chick by Corbin Talley, men’s track and field and cross country coach (page 44), we received the following letter from another of the coach’s mentees.



Dear editor,

In the fall of 1969, I met Weber State’s new track coach, **Charles Hislop**. I was in his new office with a couple of other track guys and Coach Hislop asked us to introduce ourselves to each other. We did, and that was the beginning of a 54-year relationship with Chick as well as [his wife] Dianne. Fall training began soon after and with that was the introduction of purple long underwear. As Chick advised us, they would keep our legs warm during early morning runs. They did, and we were all relieved it was early morning so there would be no gossip about the cross country boys wearing purple tights. As always, Chick was ahead of his time and our outfits would be considered stylish today.

Coach Hislop was very clear and concise regarding his workouts, but he was never overbearing, nor demanding. At the end of the day, what he said made sense and you knew he was right. I was very proud to have earned a letter, but more appreciative of his respect. He was always interested in more than track, wanting to know about your studies, your family and what you wanted to pursue in life.

I returned to Wyoming in 1972 after graduation and we saw each other every year or so. Dianne’s Christmas card list included my wife, Dana, and me, and cards always included a personal note.

Law school took Dana and me to Sacramento, and I sat with Chick at a national college track meet in 1984. We enjoyed the meet and talked like we saw each other every day. He watched every event closely and made observations about individuals that escaped my vision. I know now that sense to observe was a gift that supported his ability to lead many team members to national prominence.

After law school, we returned to Wyoming and I practiced law in Cody. Not long after, I was helping Chick recruit a middle distance runner. He always kept a close eye on Wyoming kids, and I was pleased to still be a part of the program.

In 2006, I was appointed Wyoming State District Court Judge and Chick spoke at the robing ceremony, along with two U.S. senators, Al Simpson and Craig Thomas. During my remarks, I spoke of his admonishment during our practice where I mocked his suggestion of 20 220s all in under 30 seconds. He said, “Young man, you whip a mule and it balks; you whip a thoroughbred, and it responds.” I said, “Yes, sir!” and ran the 220s. After the robing ceremony, he said “Did I really say that? That’s really good!”

Later on, I spoke at Chick’s retirement, and he spoke at mine in 2017. I arranged for him to speak at Cody High School, and, as always, he was very engaging, introducing his SPAM formula* to those in attendance.

I loved Chick and Dianne, and I always felt their love in return. And I know I was one of many who experienced the same. He loved commitment and I think he appreciated his continued recognition but was motivated by a much deeper principle — “Do Your Best.” Thanks, Coach.

Sincerely,
Steven R. Cranfill

***Super Positive Attitude Mentally:**
Hislop’s recommended approach to sports and life

INSTA-RESPONSES

“Weber. Smart smart smart”

@yacovbush in response to our article about the new Noorda Engineering, Applied Science & Technology Building

“What wonderful progression the WSU School of Nursing has made. Many thanks to the Dee family for making it happen. There are so many possibilities and opportunities in this field.”

@myrthpriet in response to our feature story about the Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing continuing to meet industry needs after 70 years

“Build the statue”

@weberstateweekly in response to our article about former football coach Jay Hill’s top 10 memorable wins

“Would love to meet up with some fellow Wildcats here in Nashville”

@ogdengent in response to our post about WSU’s 12 regional alumni networks

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