

WILDCAT

WSU Alumni Magazine | SPRING 2020

EXPEDITION EARTH

Student researchers journey to the
Andes, Iceland and the Great Salt Lake

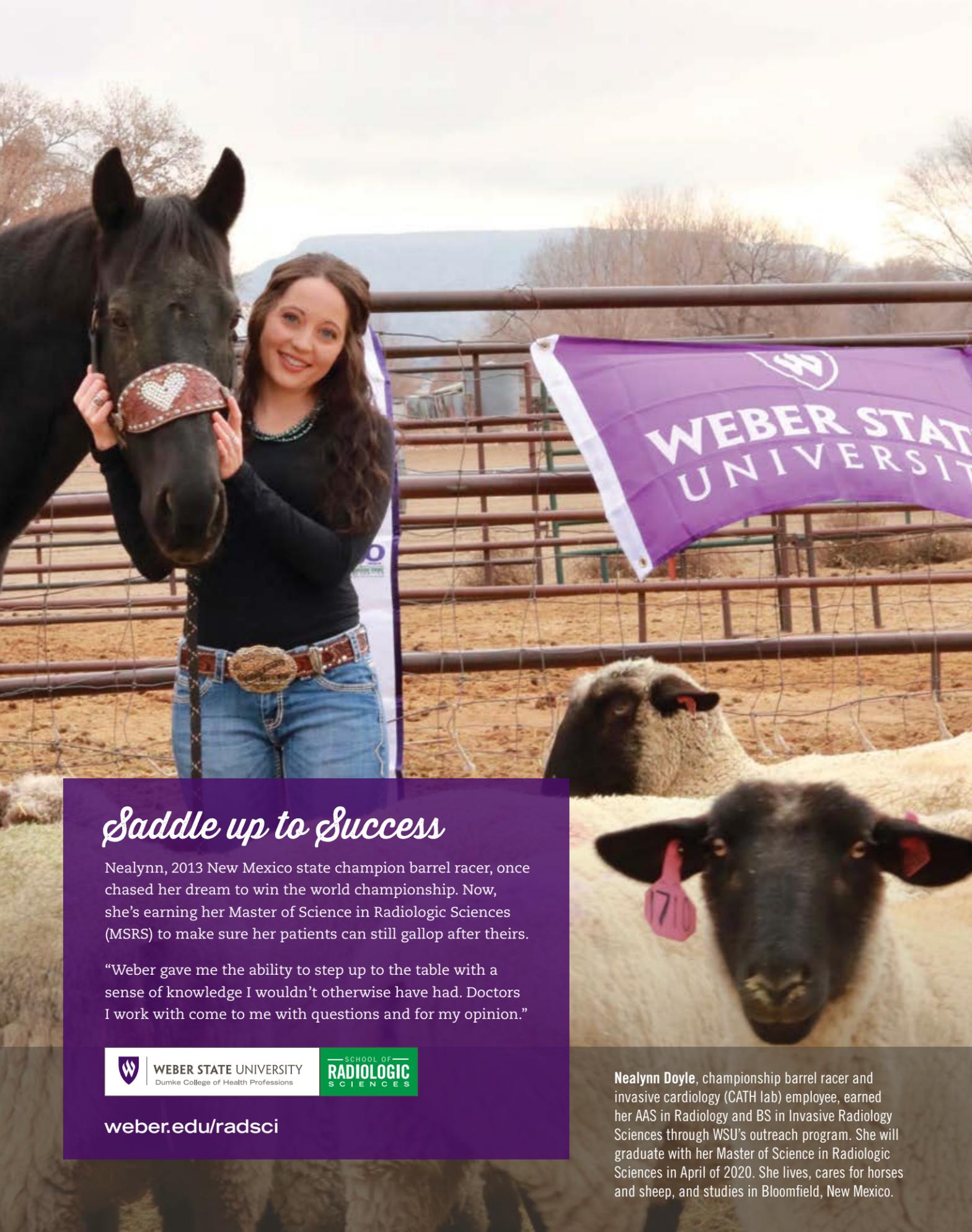
Also:

Scholarships Honor Legacies

Inside an Alum's 3D Workshop

'CATapult to Student Completion





Saddle up to Success

Nealynn, 2013 New Mexico state champion barrel racer, once chased her dream to win the world championship. Now, she's earning her Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS) to make sure her patients can still gallop after theirs.

"Weber gave me the ability to step up to the table with a sense of knowledge I wouldn't otherwise have had. Doctors I work with come to me with questions and for my opinion."



weber.edu/radsci

Nealynn Doyle, championship barrel racer and invasive cardiology (CATH lab) employee, earned her AAS in Radiology and BS in Invasive Radiology Sciences through WSU's outreach program. She will graduate with her Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences in April of 2020. She lives, cares for horses and sheep, and studies in Bloomfield, New Mexico.

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

News for Alumni & Friends

WILDCAT

Vol. 25, No. 1, Spring 2020

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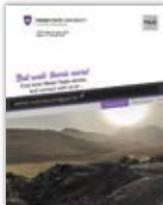
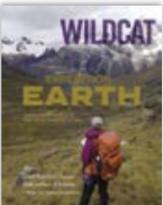
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Honoring Weber State alumni and community members who make a difference, live distinguished lives and contribute to WSU's success

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On the Cover



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A stunning vista on a student research trip to Cordillera Blanca, part of the Andes mountain range, in Peru; photo courtesy of Analeah Vaughn

Back
A diverse landscape on a student and faculty research trip to Iceland; photo courtesy of Keilee Stratton

New Leadership, New Opportunities

The inauguration of Brad L. Mortensen as 13th president of Weber State University took place on Founders Day, Jan. 7, 2020, in the Val A. Browning Center Austad Auditorium.

President Mortensen outlined his vision for the university and announced the 'CATapult Scholarship Initiative, an ambitious \$10 million fundraising effort, to help students overcome financial obstacles in their final semesters.

"Together, we know that each Weber State student is scaling ever upward on a unique climb to a pinnacle accomplishment. As we learn and unleash the creative potential of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and partners, we will catapult our students to the apex of their educational endeavors," he said.

Find out how to donate on page 21.



Snowstorms & Sonnets

Centenarian and alumna **Barbara Lindquist Tanner** wants students to fully experience WSU.

Philanthropist and community leader **Barbara Lindquist Tanner AS '35** looks back on her experiences at Weber College with a smile, regardless of how she may have felt at the time.

Daughter of Ada Theurer and Charles John Aaron Lindquist, Tanner grew up in Ogden, making Weber a clear choice.

Road trips with the debate team, in particular, stick in her mind. While the team was usually victorious, she says the Great Depression left them with only enough funding to cover gasoline on trips. Lodging was usually left to students, and, when funds were low, the team's women slept in a cheap motel room while the men roughed it in the car outside. On one such trip, in a remote area, she recalls a female teammate becoming frightened during the night and asking the men to come inside to sleep on the floor. "The next morning, the landlord saw us, the girls, and these two boys walk out," Tanner said. "I'm sure it looked kind of scandalous. I was so embarrassed."

On another trip, two teammates had to slowly walk in front of the car during a blinding snowstorm to lead the way, since the students didn't have money to stop anywhere.

While debate had its lows, it had its highs. Tanner recalls



the taste of victory after partnering with a female teammate to eliminate a young man from another university who detested the fact he lost to women. "He considered himself a great orator, and when two girls, myself and my partner, won the debate, he was so upset," Tanner explained. "He said he only lost because we were girls."

Years later, in 1938, she married Norman Tanner, whom she first met when they crossed paths in debate competition.

In class, Tanner credits debate coach/faculty member **Leland H. Monson** with fueling her passion for Shakespeare. Today, at 103 years old, Tanner's advice to current students is to take in everything, snowstorms and sonnets alike.

"It's a time in your life when you can just enjoy studying, learning, exploring, meeting new people and getting new ideas," she said. "Take advantage of every minute, every opportunity."

Tanner and her husband were instrumental in the success of the O.C. Tanner Company. Among her community contributions, she founded Utah Girls' Village, which later became Utah Youth Village, and served as chairperson for the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. At Weber State, she has generously supported the arts and scholarships for underrepresented students.

"Everybody deserves the college education," she said. "It's more than just learning academic material — it's a whole different view, I think, of the world."

Learn about Tanner's history with Weber State, her philanthropy and how the world changed in her lifetime, along with stories of other history-making women, at the Stewart Library's exhibit "Beyond Suffrage: A Century of Northern Utah Women Making History" at Ogden Union Station, March 14–May 2.

A Series of Firsts

Bret Alexander AA '17 BA '19, 2019–20 student body president, turned tribulation to inspiration

People ask why student body president Bret Alexander gets excited to go to the dentist.

"Because I never went to a dentist appointment in my life until I was 19," he explained. "In eighth grade, I realized other people had nice teeth and were wearing braces, and I was like, I want nice teeth. So, I started brushing my teeth. It wasn't something instilled in me."

For many reasons, Alexander's new habit has served him well.

"My mantra throughout my whole life has just been to smile — period," he said. "I tell people all the time, if you can smile one time in the day, you have already made yourself happier."

That simple mantra seems extraordinary for Alexander who had to navigate much of life on his own. As a child, his biological father walked out, and his young mother turned to drugs. His family bounced from place to place until, at age 16, Alexander moved out. He lived for a short time in his car, until finding a permanent home with his older cousin Jennifer and her three children.

When things were rough at home, Alexander found security and belonging in education, eventually graduating as a senior class officer from Ogden High. But with bills to pay, and no example to follow, he had no plans for college.

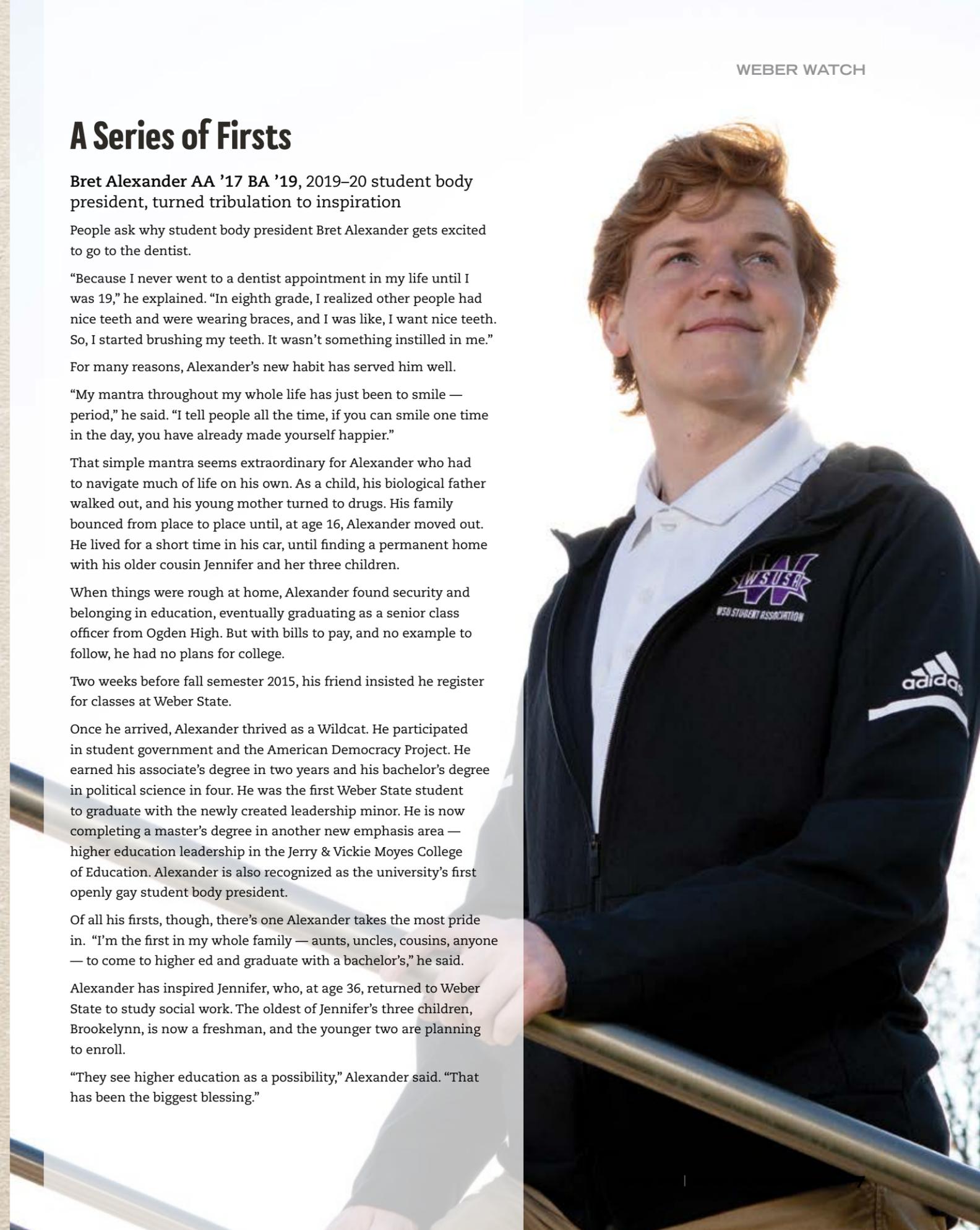
Two weeks before fall semester 2015, his friend insisted he register for classes at Weber State.

Once he arrived, Alexander thrived as a Wildcat. He participated in student government and the American Democracy Project. He earned his associate's degree in two years and his bachelor's degree in political science in four. He was the first Weber State student to graduate with the newly created leadership minor. He is now completing a master's degree in another new emphasis area — higher education leadership in the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education. Alexander is also recognized as the university's first openly gay student body president.

Of all his firsts, though, there's one Alexander takes the most pride in. "I'm the first in my whole family — aunts, uncles, cousins, anyone — to come to higher ed and graduate with a bachelor's," he said.

Alexander has inspired Jennifer, who, at age 36, returned to Weber State to study social work. The oldest of Jennifer's three children, Brookelynn, is now a freshman, and the younger two are planning to enroll.

"They see higher education as a possibility," Alexander said. "That has been the biggest blessing."



WSU PREP Engineers Success

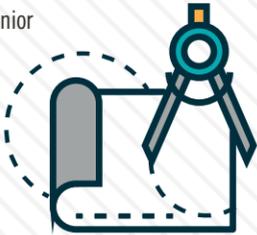
Adrienne Williams, 14, always knew she wanted to go into a STEM field, but graduating from WSU PREP has set her on a path to become an engineer.

PREP is a seven-week summer STEM boot camp for high-achieving junior high students, focusing on populations that are often underrepresented in STEM fields, including girls, minorities and first-generation college students. The program began five years ago with 72 students. By 2019, the program had grown to more than 191 students.

Williams is one of the 86 students who have graduated from PREP after completing all three years of the program. Her classes covered a wide variety of topics, like problem solving, statistics and engineering, giving her a solid base for what she would be learning in her classes at Wahlquist Jr. High in Farr West, where she is currently a ninth grader. “When I went into seventh grade, they were teaching what I had learned in PREP, and it made it easier for me to get the problems,” she said.

The program is offered through WSU’s College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology with the support of the College of Science, and is free to students through a collaboration with community partners and the Davis, Ogden and Weber school districts.

PREP was awarded WSU’s 2019 Exemplary Collaboration award for its work with various partners.



Record Enrollment

Concurrent Enrollment (CE) courses helped **Cristian Gutierrez BS '19** find the courage to continue his education beyond high school.

“CE opened my eyes and let me know I was ready for Weber State and what it had to offer,” Gutierrez said. “They weren’t easy classes. We were meticulously graded. Our papers were torn apart. But coming here and knowing I had passed classes at a college level, I felt ready.”

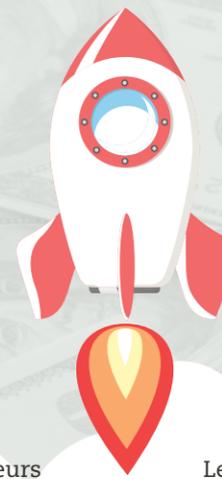
Gutierrez’s story reflects a trend. Since 2015, the number of Hispanic students at Weber State has increased 31%. The number of CE students, those taking university courses while in high school, has increased almost 46%, while the number of Hispanic CE students has jumped 56%. Weber State now has a record 29,644 students, an increase of nearly 5% from 2018.

In addition, Weber State awarded a record 5,615 certificates, associate’s, bachelor’s and graduate degrees in 2019 — 22% of those to students of Hispanic or Latinx descent.

Entrepreneurial Spirit

Weber State is set to extend its reach in Northern Utah’s entrepreneurial community, thanks to a \$718,968 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration.

As part of its regional economic development initiatives, WSU will use the money to provide personnel and space for community entrepreneurs to apply for microgrants and mentoring to develop their business ideas.



“Maybe you have a great idea, maybe you have a lousy idea, but you don’t know until you put it into action, and that’s exactly what this fund will do,” said **James Taylor**, WSU Office of Sponsored Projects director. “It will help people put ideas into action.”

Learn more about WSU’s many entrepreneurship initiatives at weber.edu/wsumagazine.



PURPLE REIGN



Sensational Season

The women’s volleyball team had a season for the ages in 2019. After finishing second in the Big Sky Conference regular season, the Wildcats reached the tournament championship game for the first time in 31 years. Their 24–8 overall record earned them an invitation to the women’s NIVC postseason tournament. Senior **Megan Gneiting** broke into the 1,000 kill club with 14 in the championship game, while **Ashlyn Power** became the school’s all-time leader in assists this season. **Dani Nay** earned Big Sky Freshman of the Year honors. All three were named First-Team All-Conference.

Historic Three-peat

Besting Idaho State 38–10 in its 2019 regular season finale, Weber State’s football team earned its third straight Big Sky championship and fourth consecutive playoff berth. This year’s seniors ended their playing careers with more victories (39–15 overall and 28–5 in the Big Sky over four seasons) and best-winning percentage of any senior class in the program’s history. The Wildcats earned the No. 3 seed in the national Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. After home wins against Kennesaw State and Montana, the Wildcats fell 30–14 to James Madison in the FCS semifinals. The team ended its season ranked third in the nation, the highest ranking to end a season in school history.

Familiar Face, New Role

Longtime head soccer coach **Tim Crompton BS '94, MEd '15** has been selected as Weber State’s new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. In his 15 seasons as coach, his teams won three Big Sky regular-season titles and three Big Sky Tournament championships. Crompton is excited to continue supporting student-athletes’ success in the classroom and in competition, and building on all that Wildcat Athletics has accomplished in recent years.

Visit weber.edu/wsumagazine to read the response to the *100 Years of WSU Football* story in our fall 2019 issue from former quarterback/defensive back, **Tom Musgrave AS '55**.

Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery Brings the Unexpected to Northern Utahns

The Weber State University Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery has undergone a complete transformation during the past five years under the leadership of **Lydia Gravis**, the gallery's current director.

Gravis has two main areas of responsibility: planning and executing five exhibitions a year and coordinating the visiting artist program. Gravis also engages with the Ogden community via educational outreach and workshops that are connected to exhibitions and artist residencies.

In the past five years, the gallery has welcomed nearly 50,000 visitors through its doors and has conducted 20 public lectures with some of the world's leading artists.

"The job of a gallery director is not only that of research, selection and implementation in terms of exhibition programming and management, but also to act as a bridge between gallery visitors and exhibitions," Gravis said. "My primary aim is to introduce impactful and engaging exhibitions that have both initial wonder, and lasting resonance with visitors of all ages. Wonder can be achieved through the sensory experience of the artwork and the design of the exhibition within a gallery space. Resonance emerges from exhibition content, historical context and supporting programs. Both elements should work in unison to intrigue visitors and leave a lasting impression."



SPRING 2020 SHAW GALLERY EVENTS

2020 Weber State Biennial Student Art & Design Exhibition JAN. 24–APRIL 3

Opening Reception and Awards:
Friday, Jan. 24, 7–9 p.m.

Guest Juror Lecture by Amy Jorgensen:
Friday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m., Lindquist Lecture Hall, room 120, Kimball Visual Arts Center

The Weber State Biennial Student Art & Design Exhibition is a juried exhibition that takes place every two years and is open to any current Weber State University students, regardless of major. Guest juror, Amy Jorgensen, selected a variety of works for display in the 2020 exhibition, which highlights the diverse creative endeavors of students.

Spring 2020 BFA Thesis Exhibition APRIL 17–MAY 1

Opening Reception:
Friday, April 17, 7–9 p.m.

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the Weber State University Department of Visual Art & Design exhibit their capstone work in a group thesis exhibition prior to graduation. This exhibition provides a valuable opportunity for students to showcase their best art and design work.

Visit weber.edu/shawgallery for more details.



**FEBRUARY 21-22
& 26-29**

**Val A. Browning Center | 7:30 p.m.
Matinee February 29 at 2 p.m.**

Passing on Decades of Theatre Experience

Tracy Callahan, professor of theatre, has devoted 25 years of her life to motivating and inspiring students through movement. Callahan has had an illustrious career, having directed more than 36 productions. She is a freelance director and actor in the Salt Lake area, where she has had the opportunity to work with Salt Lake Acting Company, Wasatch Theatre, Process Theatre, Dark Horse Theatre, Pygmalion Theatre, Hale Center Theater and Utah Repertory Theater. She is also a founding member of the Process Theatre Company.

In her role as head of the acting and directing program at Weber State University, Callahan has mentored hundreds of students. In addition, she has taken several WSU productions to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

During the spring 2020 semester, Callahan will direct *The 39 Steps*, a mix of a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel and a dash

of Monty Python. "I am thoroughly delighted to be directing *The 39 Steps* as our kick-off to the 2020 year. Having been a great fan of Hitchcock's films all of my life, I was excited to find a script that pays homage to his talents by way of high comedic action and adventure," Callahan said. "I am always looking for challenging projects for our acting students and this production will certainly do that. Four actors play more than 100 characters, complete with costume changes, dialects and rom-com. In this challenging, high-octane year of politics I think it will be a wonderful way to escape into a world of laughs and adventure."

"Tracy's extensive knowledge, boundless creativity, and commitment to her students never fails to produce outstanding works of theatre and growing experiences for our young artists. I have laughed, cried and learned from the work I have seen her produce."

— **Jenny Kokai**,
theatre program coordinator

THE **39**
STEPS

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FEBRUARY
21-22 & 26-29

MARCH 26-28

Requiem
FEBRUARY 23
MOZART'S
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EXPECT the UNEXPECTED

APRIL 11

Concerto Night

APRIL 14

Symphonic Band
SPRING CONCERT


PIPPIN



APRIL 3-4 & 8-11

APRIL 17-MAY 1

Opening Reception April 17 at 7 p.m.

SPRING 2020
BFA Thesis Exhibition

LASTING IMPRESSIONS



Like a tattoo, trips to study earth's features leave an everlasting mark on students, whether they're to volcanic terrain and icecaps across the globe, or to our own Great Salt Lake.

Jaime Winston, Marketing & Communications

As a theatre arts major and actor at the Cellar Theater, a one-time theater-in-the-round in Ogden, **Doris Van De Graaff Cobb AS '55** relished any opportunity to put on a show. Some of her most-cherished performances, though, didn't take place on stage — they were conducted on bumpy bus rides and at rugged campsites in southern Utah. Accompanied by a friend on ukulele, Cobb recalls passing time by belting out folksy tunes like *Red River Valley* and *She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain* with her classmates. On one trip, she recalls, she even learned to yodel.

The music helped set the stage for the field trips' main attractions, Zion National Park's vivid red canyon walls and Bryce Canyon National Park's majestic red, white and orange rock pillars.

Cobb joined 20-plus classmates for two trips to study the geologic formations in the parks during her first and second years at Weber. Along with singing (and yodeling) partners, the trips gave her a greater understanding of Utah's geology. "You probably heard of the cliffs falling down in Zion this year," she said. "That's caused from a lot of erosion, freezing and expanding, which causes the cracks to open up and chunks to fall off the mountain."

Professor **Walter Richard Buss**, "Uncle Walt" as Cobb and other students affectionately called him, started taking students on trips to Zion and Bryce in 1936. Thirty-five people went on the inaugural adventure. "Out of that group of 35, there were 25 or more that had never been south of Provo," Buss wrote in an

Assistant professor Elizabeth Balgord shows Carmen Longo, a recent applied environmental geosciences graduate, a feature on a map during a hike in the Ulta Valley in Peru.

Photo courtesy of Analeah Vaughn

essay published in Richard W. Sadler's 1988 book *Weber State College ...A Centennial History*.

The Zion-Bryce trips were a popular Weber tradition for 35 years. In fact, they were so popular that demand called for a second bus during the second year. Once, Buss recalled having to take two trips on successive weeks, and another time needing three busses for one trip.

An avid outdoorsman, Buss's passion for the environment and geology was contagious. "His wife told me she felt like a widow sometimes because he spent so many hours in the hills studying everything," Cobb said.

In 1946, Buss conceived a new trip idea, "College on Wheels," teaching geology from the windows of a bus, aided by a blackboard, screen and movie projector. The first trip, he wrote, lasted 39 days and included stops at 10 national parks, along with state parks and museums. The next year, Buss and other faculty formed a new "College on Wheels," covering 6,500 miles from Ogden to the Parícutin volcano in Mexico. "At the volcano, we walked along the edge of the flow and could feel the heat and, after dark, could see red hot rock," Buss wrote in Sadler's book.



ABOVE: Weber students on a geology field trip to southern Utah, May 17–21, 1961. The trip included stops at Arches National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument and Monument Valley.

RIGHT: Walter Richard Buss

Regardless of mileage or destination, Buss trips called for preparing for the unexpected. On the return trip from Dinosaur National Monument, Cobb recalled Buss adding a side trip in the Uinta Mountains, where rough terrain led to a flat tire as darkness settled in. Fortunately, Buss knew a local rancher who happened to have a spare. On a trip to Goblin Valley, Cobb said she was caught with Buss and her classmates in the worst sandstorm she ever experienced.

Whether facing storms or car trouble, Cobb said trips helped reduce the stress that came with student life. "College is pretty tough," she said, "You're out there to learn, but you can have a lot of fun, too."

A Tradition Continued

Like Cobb, geology major **Analeah Vaughn** recalls singing with her travel mates on a Weber trip, but instead of folk songs, they sang Luis Fonsi's 2017 hit *Despacito*, and instead of journeying to southern Utah, they conducted research in the Cordillera Blanca, part of the Andes, in Peru.

Along with **Elizabeth Balgord**, assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences, and graduates **Daksha Patel BS '17** and **Carmen Longo BS '18**, Vaughn mapped rock units exposed by glacial retreat and researched the causes of water contamination in the area for a month in 2018.

She started to tear up when Balgord asked her to join the research team. "It has been my lifelong dream to travel the world and do research," she said.

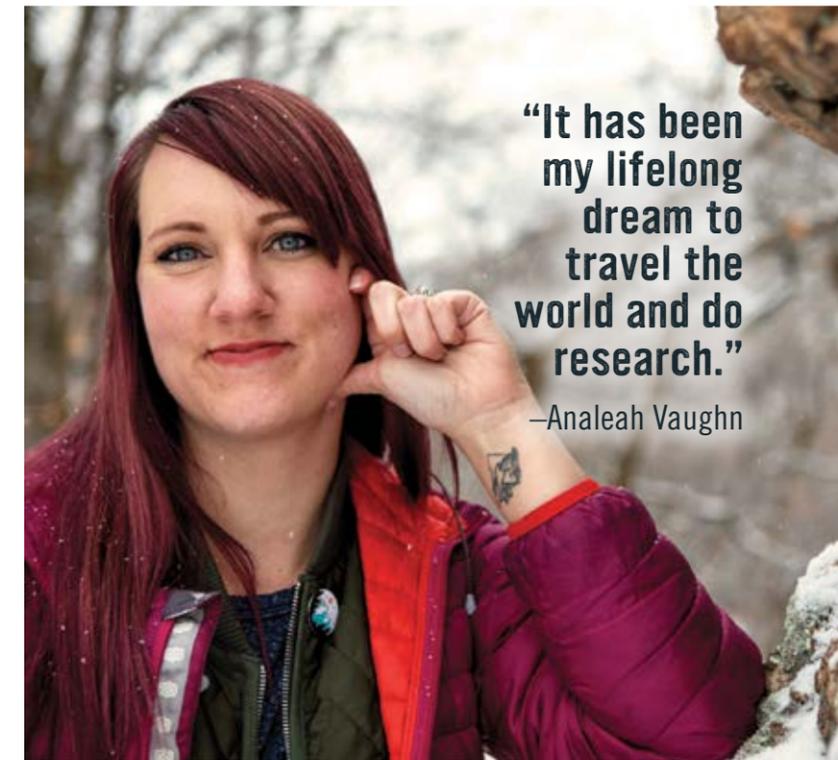
Balgord and other faculty in Weber State's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences keep alive Buss's tradition of conducting fieldwork and studying the environment with students. Along with the trip to Peru, Balgord recently led students in mapping rock units at the Silver Island Mountains in Tooele County and studying geology near Moab.

"Going out in the field is the only way for them to put a lot of the pieces together that they're learning in their classes," Balgord said.

Along with **Marek Matyjasik**, professor of earth and environmental sciences and recent Fulbright Scholar to Poland, Balgord teaches the Summer Bridge Program, an intro to earth sciences for first-year students that offers a trip to Yellowstone National Park. Students in the program learn about the volcano beneath the park, what creates geysers and how the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone got its color.

Last summer, Matyjasik and Balgord took students to study another unique environment in Iceland featuring a large icecap and volcanoes. While there, they collected rock and water samples for analysis. "We look at what chemical elements and what ions are dissolving in the water and what this can tell us about where the water is coming from," Matyjasik said.

While Iceland and Yellowstone both offered opportunities to explore unusual terrain, Matyjasik said faculty don't have to take students more than an hour away to study a truly unique environment. Along with having eight times more salt than the ocean, the Great Salt Lake is a closed basin, meaning water can only leave through evaporation. "We know all of the water that is coming in, and it's staying in the basin, so it's a more complete picture," Matyjasik said.



"It has been my lifelong dream to travel the world and do research."

—Analeah Vaughn

Carie Frantz, assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences and recipient of the 2019 Presidential Teaching Excellence Award, said her favorite place to bring students to study the lake is Ladyfinger Point, a short hike on Antelope Island's northwest side known for striking sunsets. "There's some really neat microbial rocks out there I like to show students," she said. "It's also a great vantage point to see some of the ancient shorelines from Lake Bonneville and other periods in the lake's geologic history."

In addition to the lake, Frantz said Weber State is situated near many spots for faculty and students to explore.



Always Learning

Earth science field trips didn't start with Walter Buss. About 15 years before his famous Zion-Bryce trips, *The Weber Herald*

recounted geology professor **John Lind**, who started his four-decade-long career at Weber in 1896, taking students to study sand dunes, old meanders of the Weber River and the geology of Ogden Canyon. In his book, *Weber State College ...A Centennial History*, Richard W. Sadler wrote that Lind's "fondest memories included his hikes in the mountains with his students."



Weber State students and faculty research a volcanic and icy terrain on a trip to Iceland during the summer of 2019.

Photo courtesy of Analeah Vaughn

“We have all sorts of different ecosystems in this state,” she said. “Many programs don’t have the luxury of being able to just drive two hours to see world-class outcrops and rocks.”

A Lifelong Reminder

Through her trips with earth and environmental sciences faculty, near and far, Vaughn has bonded with her classmates and now sees them as family.

Before going to Peru, she mentally prepared for her first long trip away from home, being out of cell service and dealing with less oxygen at elevations over 10,000 feet. In the end, she believes she made a difference for local villagers who rely on the glacial runoff for water.

Prior to her return trip, Vaughn had a tattoo put on her wrist as a permanent reminder of her life-changing journey and what she accomplished

The design features flowers the team saw, a mountain representing one of the last valleys they visited, a semi-colon signifying both her struggles with depression and that her journey will continue, and a wave, because, according to Vaughn, “strong women make waves.”

Visit weber.edu/magazine to find more stories on environmental field work being conducted in the College of Science, along with a video of botany student **Alexis Sullivan** recounting her research trip to Mongolia.

Our Planet, Your Future

Students will have a new avenue to explore the environment when Weber State launches its Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies in fall 2020.

The major will draw on courses and experts from each department in the College of Science to teach students to find creative solutions to complex issues related to sustainability, natural resources and ecosystem conservation. “We have a generation of students who want to be involved in problem solving,” said professor Rick Ford, who is coordinating the new major. “They are going to be the students who are interested in being broadly trained in the sciences and are interested in collaborating on interdisciplinary work.”

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that environmental sciences jobs will grow by 8% between 2018 and 2028, faster than the average for all occupations in the U.S., and the median annual salary is over \$70,000.

The new major also complements Weber State’s focus on sustainability.



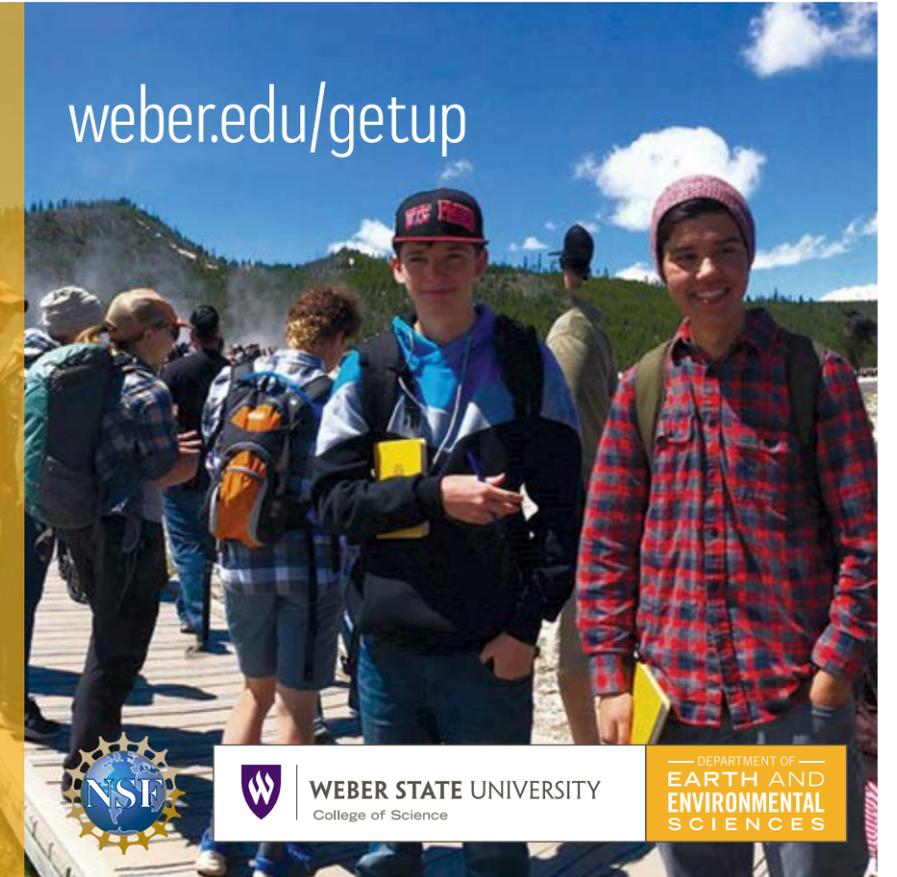
Marek Matyjasik, professor of earth and environmental sciences, and student Lilian Hart collect water samples for chemical analysis at the Great Salt Lake.

Photo courtesy of Carie Frantz

GETUP supports underrepresented students on their path to a degree. We sponsor:

- Concurrent Enrollment courses for high school students
- The Summer Bridge Program
- Community Engaged Environmental Geosciences course
- Early Research Experience at the Great Salt Lake

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DEPARTMENT OF
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Launching Student Success

First-generation US citizen/student Yandriel's scholarship catapulted him to achieve

Yandriel Sobrino-Rodriguez's decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps after high school seems a paradox, considering he once did everything possible to avoid military service. But that was when he lived in Cuba, where every 12-year-old, Cuban-born male is required to register with the military. Once registered, they can't leave the country until their stint is up.

That was a predicament for 11-year-old Yandriel, whose parents had emigrated to Utah, but had left behind three young children in the care of relatives. "They were basically forced out of the country due to my dad's political beliefs," Yandriel explained. "He was not OK with having a communist government, and actually spent about eight years in a Cuban jail."

With his 12th birthday looming, Yandriel and his younger brother received word that their parents had scraped together enough money to send for them. Yandriel arrived in Salt Lake City, unable to speak English or use a computer. "I remember going to middle school and not being able to open the lockers; it was horrible," he cringed.

After high school graduation, Yandriel served four years as a Marine Corps infantryman, and enrolled at a community college following his honorable discharge. His initial goal was to return to the military. "I wanted to go back as an officer, but in order to be an officer, you have to have a college degree," he said. So, Yandriel researched universities to continue his education. "Weber State was the one that caught my eye because they have the Veterans Upward Bound offices there," he said.

Yandriel's instincts proved right. Weber State University ranks among the nation's premier institutions for student-veterans. Of the 134 four-year public colleges reviewed by *Military Times* in 2019, WSU came in at a lofty 17. WSU's Veterans Upward Bound program assists veterans in achieving academic goals.

With a goal to earn a computer science degree, Yandriel enrolled at WSU. Since the GI Bill only covers 36 months of schooling, he delivered pizzas and did odd jobs to help cover expenses.

Then, in his senior year, something unexpected happened. "The financial people decided that I had too many credits and too many classes dropped, so I couldn't apply for any more financial aid," Yandriel recalled. "I had nowhere to turn."

Luckily, a Veterans Upward Bound mentor encouraged Yandriel to apply for the **Jack and Barbara Magdiel Emergency Student Endowment**, a scholarship designed to aid senior students in financial crisis toward graduation. Yandriel's life was forever changed by the donors' generosity. "Who knows what would have happened had I not gotten that scholarship?" he asked. "Knowing that you can continue with that last semester just makes a huge difference."

Yandriel graduated with his bachelor's degree in computer science in 2016. Today, he is a software engineer at my529, a nonprofit educational savings program run by the State of Utah. He writes software an estimated 50,000 people use daily to save and invest money. "I couldn't tell you how many times I'm working on a problem and I've used skills taught to me at Weber State to find the answer," he said.

Yandriel's degree was an inspiration to his younger siblings and a source of pride for his parents. "My brother and I are both college graduates, and we are both supporting ourselves," he beamed. Yandriel is currently working on a master's degree in data analytics at another institution, but he visits the Weber State campus regularly. "I still use Weber State's tutoring services because they still help veterans, even though they have already graduated," he said.

His family frequently recollects on their homeland. "In Cuba, education is the last thing you think of — especially in my family because they were labeled by the government," Yandriel said. "We knew that no matter what efforts we made, we were not going to get into a good career because of the way things are set up down there. I had no idea that I was going to end up in the United States. I had no idea that I was going to go to college and that I was actually going to like it so much."

Without coming to America and attending Weber State, Yandriel is convinced he would be working on a Cuban sugar cane plantation or in jail. "I am a first-generation college graduate and first-generation U.S. citizen," he proudly proclaimed. "Everywhere I go, I tell everyone that I'm a veteran and that I went to Weber State!"



HELP MORE STUDENTS FINISH AT WEBER

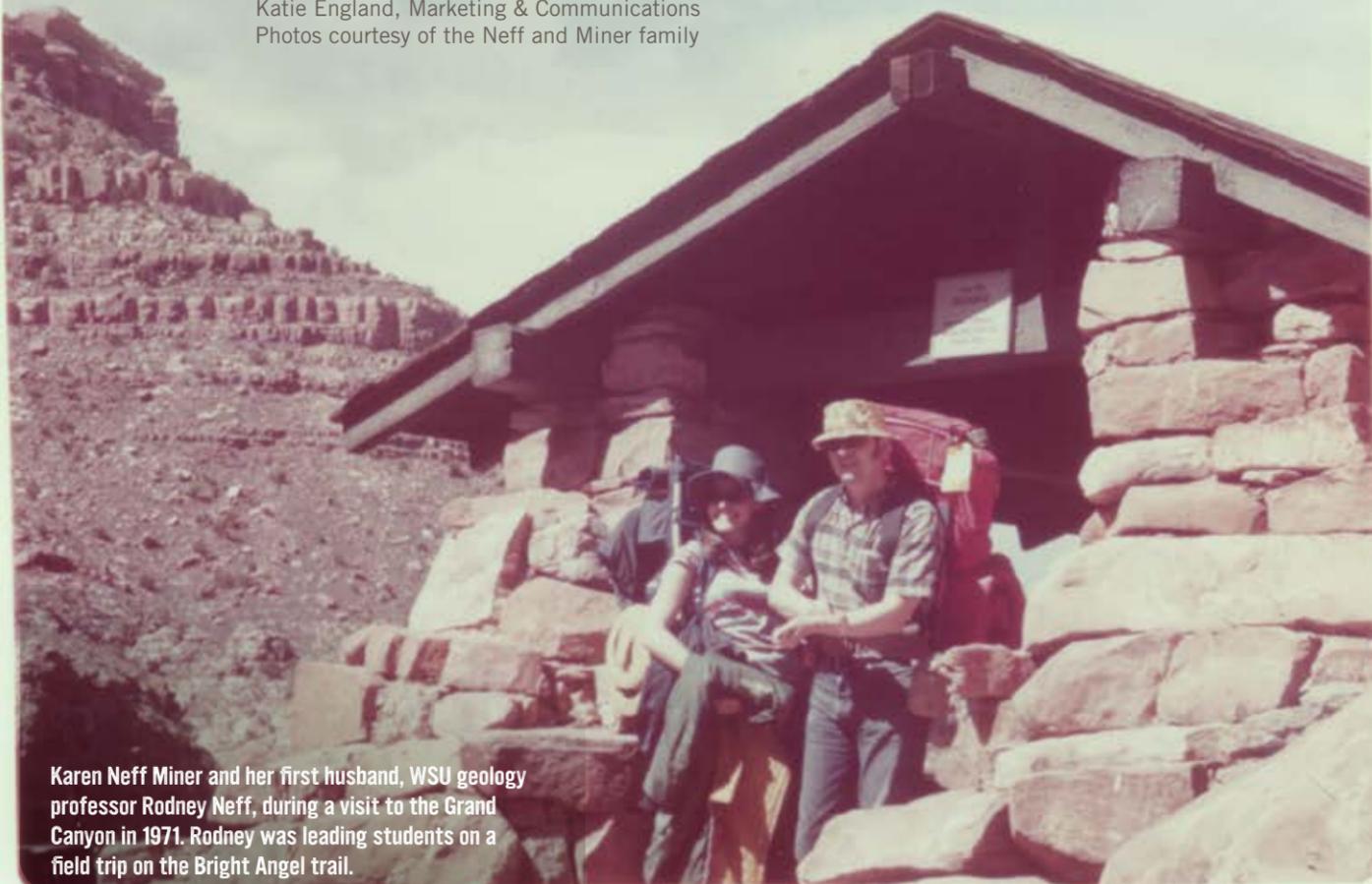
Weber State's 'CATapult Scholarship fundraising initiative seeks to increase student recruitment, retention and completion by raising \$10 million by July 1, 2021.

Your gift to the initiative can propel a Wildcat past financial obstacles that impede graduation. Visit weber.edu/CATapult, and let your generosity soar!

HONORING *Legacies*

Turning her greatest tragedies into avenues for philanthropy, a Weber State alumna establishes scholarships in memory of both her late husbands.

Katie England, Marketing & Communications
Photos courtesy of the Neff and Miner family



Karen Neff Miner and her first husband, WSU geology professor Rodney Neff, during a visit to the Grand Canyon in 1971. Rodney was leading students on a field trip on the Bright Angel trail.

Walking toward the Dee Events Center to attend yet another basketball game, **Karen P. Neff Miner BA '69** seems to know every third person on campus. Between her gregarious personality and more than 50 years of history at Weber State, she has developed a love for the campus and the people on it that borders on infectious.

From her head-to-toe Weber wear to her purple nails and eyeshadow, she exudes a love for all things WSU. “We’ve tried to hide that eyeshadow, it always turns back up,” her daughter **Elizabeth Neff-Mikolash BS '96** laughed.

And it’s not just that it’s Karen’s alma mater, or that she’s been cheering on the Wildcats from the same seats in the Dee Events Center since it opened in 1977.

Karen’s education was vital to shaping who she is today—so much so that when an unthinkable tragedy left her a widowed mother-of-three in her early 30s, she used it as an opportunity to help others achieve their dreams. As those who know her best will tell you, turning her own trials into ways to help others is as on-brand for her as her Weber State Wildcats sweatshirt.

Love and Tragedy

Upon graduating Weber High School, Karen attended Weber State with the help of a debate scholarship, graduating in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in history and English.

Karen started on her master’s degree at Utah State University after graduating from WSU, which oddly enough, is when she met, fell in love with, and married Weber State geology professor **Thomas Rodney Neff**, whom she surprisingly never met as a WSU student.

Karen received a call one night — a mutual acquaintance had given Rodney her number — and the two talked for three and a half hours. They both loved Weber State sports, the symphony and traveling. He invited her to a Weber State basketball game for their first date and that was that. The two were married six months later.

The day before Easter in 1981, a policeman knocked on Karen’s door, and her heart sank: Her husband had been killed in a car accident on the way home from a Weber State geology field trip. He had taken several students to Nevada on spring break to collect and analyze samples. It was raining during the trip back, and Neff had taken off his seatbelt. When the driver lost control of the car, Rodney was thrown from the vehicle and killed.

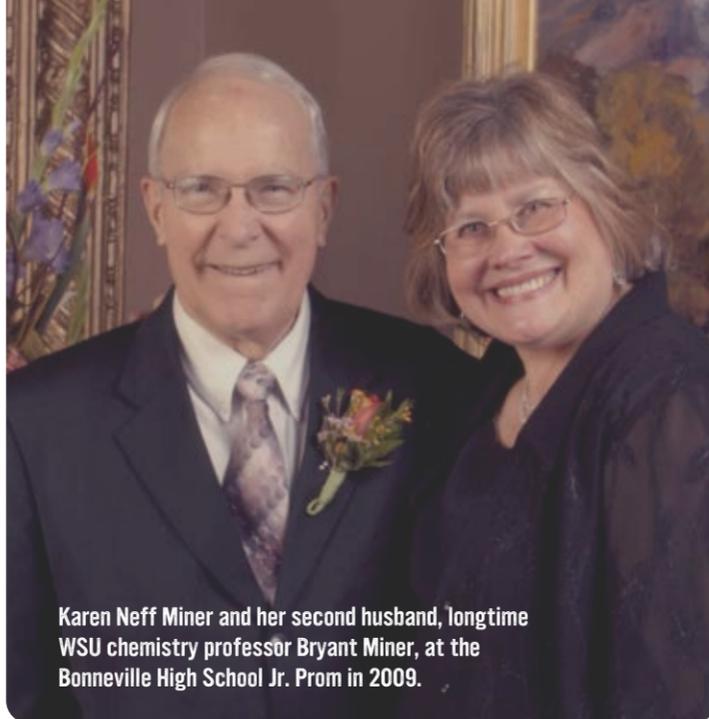


Karen Neff Miner, an avid Wildcats fan, cheers on the men’s basketball team at the Dee Events Center in Nov. 2019.



“We’ve tried to hide that [purple] eyeshadow, it always turns back up.”

10+
scholarships
awarded
thanks to
Karen



Karen Neff Miner and her second husband, longtime WSU chemistry professor Bryant Miner, at the Bonneville High School Jr. Prom in 2009.

“You leave something when someone passes... You give something that’s going to give back to people.”

Lemons and Lemonade

Karen was suddenly a single mother to three young children ranging in age from 2 to 8. The situation would have been enough to overwhelm the strongest spirits — but as her children will now tell you, their mother isn’t one to wallow in self-pity.

“If someone hands her lemons, she’s going to make lemonade,” said **Eric Neff BS ’03** who was 2 when his father was killed. He is now the director of admissions, advisement and recruitment for the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions. “She’s always someone who’s going to take something seen as tragic and do her best to make it into a positive.”

After Rodney’s death, Karen knew she needed to have a means to provide for her three children. Picking up where she left off years before, she completed her master’s degree at Utah State University while working part time as an archivist at WSU, eventually obtaining her teaching license. She taught history at Bonneville High School for 26 years, until her retirement in 2011.

Looking back, Karen says she made it through “step by step.” Education became an incredibly important part of her life, and she actively pushes for her kids, stepkids and grandchildren to attend Weber State University for their education.

“She always told us without having her education, she would not have been able to support us like she did,” said her daughter Elizabeth, who works as a school counselor.

Life and Legacy

Only a few months after her husband’s sudden passing, Karen began organizing what would be the first of several scholarships founded in memory of people she loved: the Dr. Thomas Rodney Neff Geology Memorial Scholarship.

“It’s always been my belief that you leave legacies,” Karen said. “You leave something when someone passes. A plaque on a tree, or a plaque on a building, it doesn’t do it. I mean, you give something that’s going to give back to people.”

The fact that Karen had attended Weber State on scholarship made establishing the fund even more appropriate, and she started working to get donations to make the scholarship sustainable. Former students, colleagues and family members all donated money to establish it.

“I just said, well, Rodney loved his students. And I just want somebody to be able to continue to go to Weber State because of this scholarship,” she said.

She later established the Faye Preece Memorial Scholarship Fund when her mother, a longtime WSU nursing faculty member, passed away.

Karen remarried widower **Bryant Miner** in 1987, with a total of 10 children between them. Bryant, a chemistry teacher at Weber State for 43 years, also shared with Karen a love of travel and Wildcat sports. “I liked those scientists,” Karen joked. “They’re odd, but I like them.”

The two were married for 25 years before Bryant passed away from leukemia in 2012 and she found herself once again in the process of establishing a scholarship: the Bryant A. Miner Chemistry Scholarship Endowment.

While the Miner scholarship has yet to be awarded, the Neff scholarship has been given to about 10 students since its inception, including this year’s recipient, Marshall Wayment.

Marshall, who graduated last December, majored in geology to find a career in the outdoors. With a goal to graduate debt free, the scholarship was a major help to him financially. In fact, it reduced his tuition load enough during his last semester for him to save a little money before graduation.

Being memorialized in a way that directly benefits students like Wayment is exactly how each of these men would have wanted to be remembered, said Eric, though he admitted that both Rodney and Bryant might be “weirded out” to know Karen also had two study rooms in the Tracy Hall Science Center named after each of them.

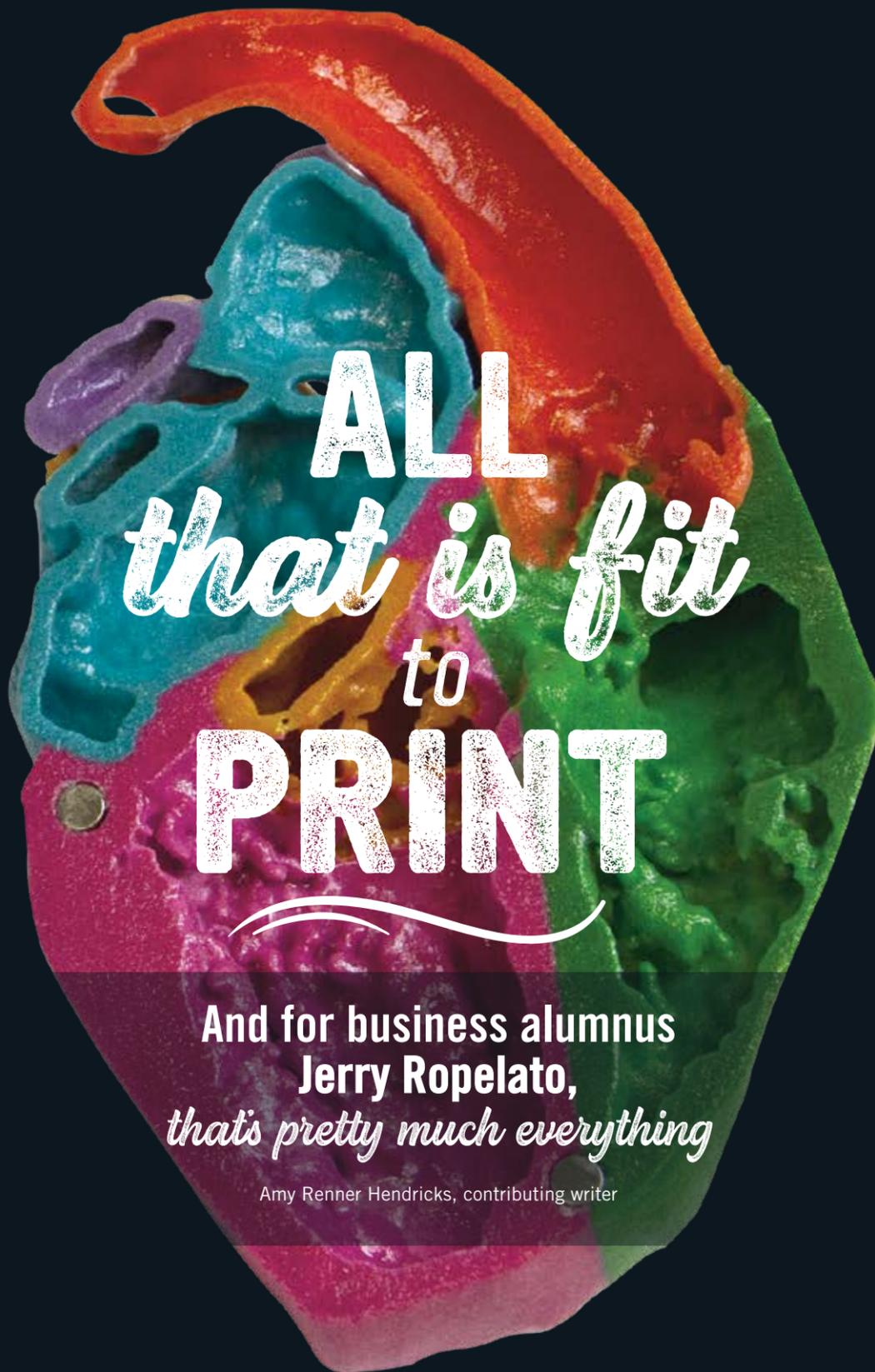
“Bryant would be really embarrassed to have his name on a wall. That wasn’t him,” Eric said. “He was a professor who just showed up to class and taught chemistry and loved his students. Same with dad. Their legacy is in the students they taught. That’s what it comes down to — that’s their legacy.”

Teacher Twilight

Elementary and secondary science and mathematics teachers are invited to attend the Teacher Twilight Series, where experts provide training on current and relevant topics for Utah educators.



weber.edu/csme/training



ALL *that is fit* to PRINT

And for business alumnus
Jerry Ropelato,
that's pretty much everything

Amy Renner Hendricks, contributing writer

Most people, when watching the Super Bowl, are cheering on their favorite team, cheating on diets with savory snacks, waiting for the half-time show, or just sticking around for the commercials, but, during Super Bowl 50 three years ago, Jerry Ropelato BS '83 didn't care if the Carolina Panthers or Denver Broncos won, was too worried to eat chips and salsa, didn't hear the band Coldplay perform, and didn't even laugh at the Doritos dogs advertisement (a national favorite). He just wanted — well, more like needed — the game to be over so he could breathe again.



You see, 33 hours earlier, Jerry's 3D printing company, WhiteClouds, shipped a custom-made brace to Panthers' linebacker Thomas Davis, who broke his arm during the NFC championship game two weeks before the Super Bowl. All Jerry could do while watching Davis play was hold his breath and say to himself, "Please don't break on national TV, please don't break on national TV."

Fortunately for Jerry, and Davis, the brace held up perfectly, and while the Panthers lost by 14, it was a win for

WhiteClouds.

"It's been a difficult industry to navigate, but it's been really fun too."

"That one project got so much press. Over 800 articles were written about it," reports Jerry from

his unassuming, but expansive, 43,000-square-foot workspace in the Business Depot Ogden industrial park, where he has a replica of Davis' brace on display.

"Can you believe how big his arm was?" Jerry asks, picking up the device, which is almost as big as a football. "It's unreal." Other items are arranged around the brace. He grabs what looks like an animal bone. It's solid, has a putty-type color and unique markings, but it's really a 3D-printed orthopedic model, another WhiteClouds project.

"A dog had broken its leg and needed surgery," Jerry explains. He points to a metal hinge fastened to the model. "This hinge needed to be bent a very specific way. Instead of doing

that while the dog was under anesthesia, the vet was able to perfect the hinge and have it ready ahead of time, by first fitting it to this 3D model, which we printed from the dog's CT scan."

From the NFL to veterinarians, WhiteClouds has served a diverse, impressive group of clients since Jerry founded the company in 2013. Many of those clients rank toward the top of the *Fortune* 500, including Disney, Walmart and Target. For almost seven years, WhiteClouds has handled projects "from inception and design to full-color 3D printed product."

Jerry is now in the middle of changing the business model — he's always looking to innovate and improve. His latest plan is to use storytelling strategies to help WhiteClouds find niche clients, like companies looking for "selfie thrones" — think replicas of the Iron Throne from HBO fantasy *Game of Thrones* and NFL-branded thrones — to bring to tradeshows and other events.

"What's really cool about this business is that you start with nothing, and then, layer by layer, you build really cool things," Jerry says, as a whooshing sound interrupts him. He heads in the direction of the noise. On the way, he passes a 5-foot 3D model of Homer Simpson, and as he turns a corner, he sees a 20-foot-tall bag of the popular snack Boom Chicka Pop towering in the back. "It's been a difficult industry to navigate, but it's been really fun, too," he says, as he eyes gigantic popcorn kernels spilling over the top of the bag. By the way, the noise he heard was an employee air-brushing a model dragon.



Jerry Ropelato explaining the fine points of his business WhiteClouds to a group of WSU management and information systems students

The Future *Right Here*

Which industries benefit from 3D-printing technology? “All of them,” answers Jerry Ropelato BS ’83, CEO of Ogden-based 3D printing company WhiteClouds. “There isn’t a single sector that doesn’t, or couldn’t, benefit from the technology.”

With 3D printers being utilized in a broad base of industries, Weber State programs are giving students first-hand experience with the technology. More than 25 printers are in use at WSU, most of them partly funded by generous donors.

Here are six creative ways Wildcats are using 3D printers:

- 1.** Manufacturing and systems engineering students use the printers to create custom parts, like rubber hoses.
- 2.** Students in the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics use the 3D printing lab in Wattis Business to create prototypes of products they’ve designed.
- 3.** Physics professor **John Sohl** and his students print hardware housing for sensors that measure pollutant gases in the air.
- 4.** Visual arts students create their final projects on 3D printers or use the printers to make “sketches” for larger, more-advanced sculptures.
- 5.** The radiologic sciences department uses the technology to help students better visualize anatomical details.
- 6.** When elementary education major **Cora Arboleya** can’t find what she needs to teach a concept for her course on teaching middle school math, she custom prints objects.

To Fail is to *Learn*

Jerry knows being an entrepreneur is risky. He has created eight businesses in his career, including the highly successful digital publishing company Purch, which had over 125 million unique web visitors each month. His first company wasn’t as prosperous. “I quit Weber State when I was a junior to start my own business ... Rope Manufacturing. It was a miserable failure,” Jerry admits. “I was young and naive, and I didn’t have enough funds to make it work.”

“We created a model of Ella’s heart from a CT scan, which doctors used to practice the surgery.”

The experience made him reflect on what he really wanted.

“I asked myself, ‘What classes

did you enjoy at Weber State?’ The answer was business and computers, so I went back to Weber and majored in business processing. (Today that would be most like the management information systems major in the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics.) That was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. You have to learn to keep moving forward. To do that, you can’t be afraid of failure.”

Beyond *Business*

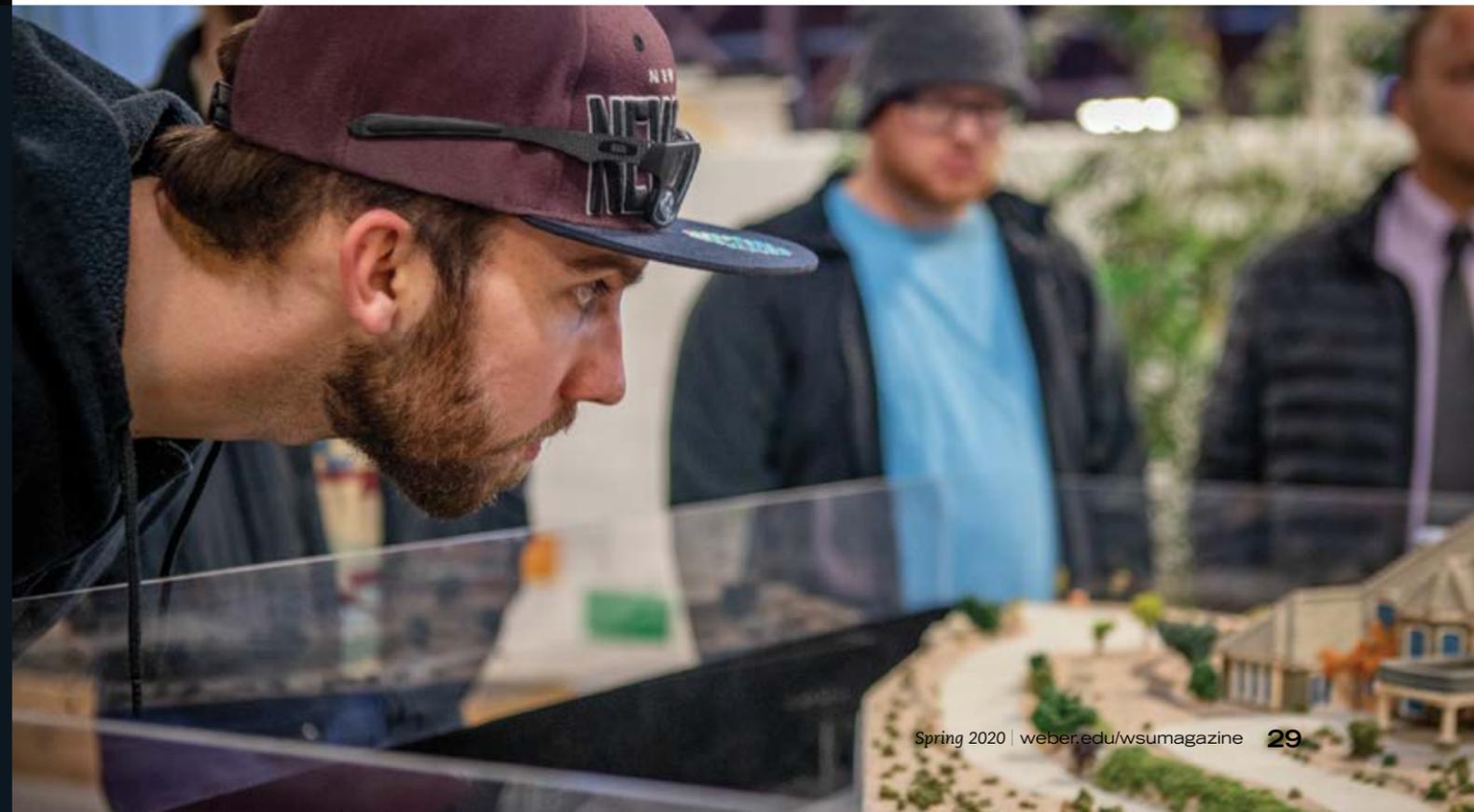
Jerry, the entrepreneur, is the guy kicking around ideas with employees and mulling over new business models. Jerry, the person, is the guy in the gym patiently coaching his grandkid’s kindergarten basketball team and whose favorite project isn’t the splashy Thomas Davis arm brace — although it brought a lot of attention to the company.

The project he values most is one that gave a little girl her life.

“Ella was born with her heart in the wrong place,” Jerry says, choking up. “It was a rare condition, and the surgeons weren’t quite sure how to fix it. We created a model of Ella’s heart from a CT scan, which doctors used to practice the surgery. About six months later, Ella’s parents brought her to our facility.”

While Jerry enjoys his work with big organizations like the NFL and Disney, he says moments like those with Ella and her parents make his work truly incredible.

“That was a fantastic day.”





WSU *Salutes*

WSU Salutes 2019 honorees:

Front row, left to right: Sean Stromberg, Jamie Lampros-Shenefelt, Dean W. Hurst, Rachel Creer, Glen L. Wade, Lori Belnap Pehrson and Keith Titus

Back row, left to right: Richard Stromberg, Jacklyn Lampros-Hunt, Kristen Hurst-Hyde, Karin Hurst, Matthew Thorpe, Nancy Boyington Wade, John B. Lund, Marlin K. Jensen and Kym Buttschardt

Not pictured: Jack D. Lampros, Damian Lillard

Photo by Robert Casey

Weber State University honored alumni and community members who have lived distinguished lives, made a difference, or have contributed to the university's success and reputation at the WSU Salutes Awards ceremony in October.

2019 Honorees

{STUDENT HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

Rachel Creer AS '19 and **Matthew "Matt" Thorpe**

Rachel and Matthew exemplify the Weber State ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

Rachel, who earned an associate's degree, summa cum laude, is an honors student studying public relations, advertising, business administration and Spanish. She has held multiple leadership roles at WSU, including Honors Aletheia Student Advisory Board vice president, Suicide Awareness Walk community outreach coordinator and First Year Experience peer mentor. Rachel speaks fluent Spanish and volunteers at a Title 1 school.

Matt has a 4.0 GPA and is working toward a degree in professional sales as well as outdoor and community recreation education. He is a member of the Honors Aletheia club and serves as the WSU Student Alumni Association's vice president of traditions. For two years, Matt organized the "Destruction Zone" student spectator section at WSU athletic events. The former student admissions ambassador helps run his family's nonprofit organization, which serves cancer patients and their families.

{EMERITI HOMECOMING ROYALTY}

Nancy Boyington Wade AA '69 and **Glen L. Wade BS '72**

As Weber State students, Glen and Nancy discovered a common interest in chemistry — and each other. Nancy joined Ta Theta Nu social club and was active in student government. After graduating, she completed a medical technology internship at McKay-Dee Hospital and was named Utah State Medical Technology Student of the Year. Glen joined Delta Phi fraternity and the U.S. Army Reserve. After earning a degree in chemistry and math, he attended Georgetown University School of Dentistry. Following Glen's dental residency at UCLA and the Veterans Hospital, the couple returned to Utah, and Glen established a practice in Roy. Throughout his 40-year dental career, Glen also ran a 300-acre farm and a 130-head cattle ranch. Proud Wildcats, the couple named a room at Tracy Hall Science Center in honor of former professors E. Park Guymon and Diane Pugmire. Glen was a valued member of the university's National Advisory Council. After many years of service to the community and university, Glen passed away in December 2019. He is survived by Nancy, their children and grandchildren, and his siblings.

{DISTINGUISHED SERVICE}

Kym Buttschardt

Kym moved to Washington, D.C., to begin her "dream job" as an auditor with Price Waterhouse after earning her accounting degree at the University of Utah, but destiny had other plans. Kym returned to Utah after her then-boyfriend and now-husband, Pete Buttschardt, opened Union Grill restaurant. Five years later, the couple opened Rooster's Brewing Co. The eatery's instant popularity gave other merchants and restaurateurs the confidence to set up shop on 25th Street, which sparked the revitalization of a historically significant business district. The Buttschardts are deeply involved in the ongoing effort to revive the Ogden Union Stockyard area. They support numerous local events, like the annual Harvest Moon celebration.

**Lewis W. Shurtliff Award for
{CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION}**
Marlin K. Jensen

A studious, first-generation college student, Marlin earned a bachelor's degree in German from Brigham Young University and later attended the University of Utah College of Law, graduating first in his class. While practicing law, Marlin still helped operate his family farm in Huntsville, Utah. He served as a General Authority Seventy in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for 24 years, and was the church's official historian and recorder from 2005 to 2012. Marlin's outstanding contributions to education include service on the Weber County Library Board of Trustees, the Weber School District Board, the Utah State Board of Education and the Utah State Board of Regents. He is especially interested in ensuring that underserved college-age students can afford to attend college and pursue any desired career. For the past three years, Marlin has chaired Weber County's Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee, a volunteer organization dedicated to helping young people break the cycle of poverty through education and opportunity.

{OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS}

Damian Lillard BS '15

Just as the four-time NBA All-Star has carved out an identity as one of the most prolific scorers in the 49-year history of the Portland Trail Blazers, so, too, has Damian carved out a permanent place in the hearts of Wildcat basketball fans.

Damian, voted 2012–13 NBA Rookie of the Year, is a Weber State legend not only for his remarkable athletic ability, but also for his loyalty and dedication to pursuing a college degree. When the NBA drafted him in 2012, Damian was six credits shy of graduation, so he returned to WSU in the offseasons to complete his coursework. He graduated in 2015, fulfilling the promise he had made to his mother years earlier. When Weber State retired Lillard's famous No. 1 jersey in 2017, Damian used the occasion to publically thank Dee Events Center staffers for unlocking the facility after hours so he could squeeze in extra practices. When he's not on the court dazzling fans with mind-boggling three-pointers or touting his alma mater on social media, Damian may be in a recording studio. He recently released his third, full-length album under his *nom de rap*, "Dame D.O.L.L.A."

{DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA}

Lori Belnap Pehrson BS '87

As a director at Northrop Grumman, a leading global security company, Lori oversees a large engineering and systems integration organization, and manages a portfolio of programs that provide support to national security objectives. Lori has always felt compelled to help others personally and professionally. She is an ardent STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) advocate who frequently speaks at conferences and schools. She has taught English and computer skills to local refugee groups and has mentored veterans who are reentering the workplace. Lori chairs her division's diversity and inclusion board, and currently serves on Weber State's Engineering Advisory Board. She is a member of the Safe Harbor Crisis Center's board of directors, and was recently appointed to the Governor's Economic Council.

{DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS}

Keith Titus BS '02

Growing up in Smithfield, Utah, Keith's passion for learning was kindled by his Grandpa Peterson, who frequently extolled the virtues of education. Today, he challenges himself and others to acquire new knowledge and consider different perspectives. Keith graduated from Weber State with a degree in professional sales; he later earned an MBA at the University of Utah. His academic background and dynamic work ethic serve him well in his role as president and CEO of MarketStar, a global outsourcing company that designs and develops sales and marketing solutions for hundreds of companies. Keith joined MarketStar after spending 11 years at Motorola Solutions in a number of leadership capacities, including head of strategy for global sales and field operations. He champions community initiatives through MarketStar Cares, his company's community outreach program. He also serves on a number of local community boards and is an avid dirt biker, fly-fisher, amateur chef and golfer.

{EMERITI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT}

John B. Lund BS '78

In 1975, John accepted a job at America First Credit Union — and never left. The former clerk is now the Riverdale, Utah-based organization's president and CEO. America First is among the nation's top 10 credit unions, with \$11.2 billion in assets and over 1 million members. Described by professional colleagues as "a person of high-integrity" and "an excellent motivator of people," John has received numerous honors and accolades, including *Utah Business* magazine's 2018 CEO of the Year: Lifetime Achievement award. Under John's leadership, America First has been lauded by *Forbes*, *Consumer Reports* and *Money* magazine. John sits on numerous boards, including the 100% For Kids Education Foundation, Utah Credit Union Association and CU Direct Corp. He's also a loyal Weber State Wildcat, a member of the Goddard School of Business & Economics Advisory Council and a Ralph Nye Lecture Series guest speaker. John generously provides personal and corporate financial support for WSU event sponsorships, scholarships and Walker Institute internships.

{WSU PRESIDENTS AWARD}

Stewart Education Foundation

Richard Stromberg BS '72, chair, **Kristen Hurst-Hyde BA '74**, co-vice chair, **Jamie Lampros-Shenefelt BS '86**, co-vice chair, **Jack D. Lampros**, emeriti chair, **Dean W. Hurst CC '48**, emeriti vice chair, **Karin Hurst AS '79**, associate, **Jacklyn Lampros-Hunt BS '81**, associate and **Sean Stromberg BS '93**, associate

Elizabeth Dee Shaw Stewart was the granddaughter of Ogden pioneer industrialist and community leader Thomas D. Dee and his wife, Annie. Honoring the Dee family's tradition of charitable giving, Elizabeth and her husband, Donnell B. Stewart, established the Stewart Education Foundation (SEF) in 1977 to support educational, cultural and life-enhancing programs, particularly in Weber County. Since its inception, SEF has administered millions of dollars in gifts and grants to numerous programs and organizations with an emphasis on Weber State, where Elizabeth and Donnell were classmates in the 1920s. The foundation has financed or endowed campus landmarks, buildings, scholarships, professional development programs, library acquisitions and many other vital projects. In addition to its support of WSU, the foundation provides crucial funding to the Ogden, Weber and Davis school district foundations, Onstage Ogden, Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum and Eccles Dinosaur Park. The foundation was a major contributor to the Ogden High School restoration project.

Actual Students:

I love that the professor spent extra time with students who were struggling.

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WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
MATH

MATH
THAT MAKES
SENSE

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

A Daniel "Dan" E. Layton

AS '50 began his education at Weber College after years of service in the U.S. Navy. At Weber, Dan won "Mr. Collegiate" and was a member of Excelsior, a social club on campus. He later earned his bachelor's degree in education at Utah State University, and taught three years of electrical math. He also worked as a substitute teacher in Davis School District for 20 years. A farmer since his youth, Dan owns Dan Layton Farms, where he harvests wheat and alfalfa, and once grew the biggest onions in Davis County. Dan also worked on the railroad for 34 years as a brakeman and conductor. He and his wife, Ann, have seven children — three served missions for The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and two attended WSU. They also have 28 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Dan and Ann live in Layton.

A David Jacobs AS '57, a

retired filmmaker, produced and directed films such as *The First Vision* (1976) and *The Mailbox* (1977). He also worked as a casting director for films such as *Johnny Lingo* (1969) and *Man's Search for Happiness* (1964). He worked at Brigham Young University for 20 years, including 17 at the BYU Motion Picture Studio and three teaching at the Church College of Hawaii, now BYU Hawaii. David also spent 14 years at Nu Skin International, producing and directing corporate videos. He traveled the world with both institutions, filming in 35 countries. He received his bachelor's and master's

degrees from BYU, and his doctorate at the University of Utah in theater and cinema directing. He lives in Orem with his wife, Gail Wade Jacobs. They have three children and seven grandchildren. As Weber students, David and his two brothers, **Dee Jacobs AS '50** and **Hugh Jacobs CC '52**, were student body officers.

'60s

L Judy Jeppson Hurst AS '62,

BS '64, MS '86 worked at Weber State for 20 years, including roles as director of Student Activities and Leadership and assistant dean of students at WSU Davis. At WSU, she received a Presidential Outstanding Professional Staff Award and a Crystal Crest Special Award.

L Her husband, **Winslow Hurst BS '67**, earned a MEd from

Colorado State University and later returned to WSU, where he served for 36 years as assistant to the dean of students, director of Admissions, director of Admissions & Registration and university registrar. He earned a PhD in educational administration from the University of Utah. Judy and Winslow served as members of WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council for 15 combined years, with Judy serving as president in 2018-19. Since their retirement, they served a religious mission in New Zealand, spent a year in Qingdao, China, teaching at the Ocean University of China, and served as full-time missionaries in the Utah Ogden Mission. They live in Layton and have seven children and 27 grandchildren.

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L Janet Johnson AS '65, BS '67 married and moved to St. Louis, Mo., after graduation, where she worked for three years at the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* as an assistant to the managing editor. She then moved to Seattle, Wash., for four years where she worked for GMAC Auto Insurance before returning to Utah, where she raised three children. Later, she worked as a dental assistant, an office manager, and then in land development for 10 years. She has spent nearly 14 years on a service mission on Temple Square, the last five as an event coordinator. She also spent one year as a service missionary at the Polynesian Cultural Center in Laie, Hawaii. Janet is

currently serving on the WSU Emeriti Alumni Council. She has 11 grandchildren.

'70s

L Jay Swenson BS '71 enjoyed a 20-year career with World Book Encyclopedia, Inc., where he served as a division manager. He managed hiring, training and selling of World Book products and won many company awards, including state champion for the State of Utah. He later worked with Encyclopedia Britannica for 10 years, and was one of the top salespeople in the company in total volumes sold for many years. He retired in 2016 and lives in Stansbury Park.

L Allen Hampton BA '72 received an MBA in corporation finance from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School in 1974, following a religious mission to Frankfurt, Germany. He worked for DuPont Chemical, and later for then-Mobil Oil in Rochester, N.Y., where he was a senior financial analyst. In 1982, he returned to the family business, Hampton's Superior Dry Cleaning, where he enjoys associating with many friends in the northern Utah community. In 2004, Hampton Cleaners received the Family Violence Prevention Award for the State of Utah for years of donated laundry service to the Weber YCC. Allen married

Sharyn Kimball in 1974. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

L Bruce Shepherd BA '77 became a founding officer for Weber Valley Bank while earning his degree. During his 35-year tenure at the bank, which merged with JP Morgan Chase, he became a senior vice president, and, in 2002, he was the top commercial loan officer in the nation. Bruce is active in community affairs and has served as a city council member, Robert Morris Associates president and Kiwanis Club president. He currently serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council. Bruce married **Sydnee Gale Shepherd AS '70**, and they have six children and 17 grandchildren. After retiring,

Sydnee and Bruce served a religious mission in New York City, and were instrumental in the Helping Hands clean-up efforts during Hurricane Sandy and Irene.

'80s

L Becky McGregor BS '81 is a software engineer for Northrop Grumman and author. She previously worked for TRW in both Ogden and California. She and her husband, Bruce McGregor, have one daughter, three sons and five grandsons. They live in Orlando, Fla. Recently, Becky published a book entitled *A Dream Called Kristy: My Story of Loss, Healing, and Dreams Fulfilled*.

A J. Todd Anderson AS '84, BS '87 is a CFP and private wealth advisor for Sagemark Consulting, a division of Lincoln Financial Advisors, and has been with the firm for over 33 years. He has been a manager and an executive at the local, regional and national levels, oversaw all operations west of Kansas City and helped execute a major corporate reorganization for Lincoln Financial. J. Todd currently serves on WSU's Outdoor Program Advancement Committee and has been instrumental in helping expand the Outdoor Program with the upcoming Outdoor Adventure & Welcome Center. J. Todd and his wife,

A Jill Anderson BA '87, also support WSU through a

WSUSA student leadership endowment and business finance scholarship. After graduation, Jill taught middle school math and algebra. They live in Salt Lake City.

A James "Jim" Starley BS '85 attended Weber from 1965–1968 on a music scholarship. He received his MD at Creighton University and completed his OB-GYN residency at the University of Utah. He returned to Weber State and received a bachelor's degree in history in 1985. He served two years as a physician in the US Air Force, practiced as an OB-GYN in Ogden for 36 years and retired in 2014.

A He married Lynne Squires Starley AA '67. They have four children, all of whom graduated from WSU. Jim currently serves as the president of WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council.

L J. Curtis Breitweiser BA '85 recently retired from Breitweiser Insurance Services. He holds a Certified Insurance Counselor designation and was a member of the board of directors of Bear River Mutual Insurance Co. for 16 years. He served nine years as state director for the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, and as president of the Ogden Independent Insurance Agents and the Utah Association of Independent Insurance Agents. He also served as president of WSU's Young Alumni Council, and

president of the Wildcat Club in 1996. He currently chairs the WSU Hall of Fame Committee. In 1989, he earned an MBA from Utah State University. Along with being a WSU football season ticket holder since 1985, he's been to every Major League baseball park in the U.S. He is married to **Caron Breitweiser IC '85**.

'90s

L Shelly Burnett BS '91 worked for Ogden School District for 22 years as a special education teacher, instructional coach, teacher specialist at the district office and in federal programs. She is currently employed at Get Away Today Vacations part-time and in home sales tracking for The Hynes Group. She and her husband, Blaine have a passion for softball and have been generous supporters of local softball programs, including WSU Women's Softball. They have helped fund new fields for Ogden, Weber, Northridge and Ben Lomond high schools. Their commitment has resulted in spaces that are highly functional for players and enjoyable for fans. Together, Shelly and Blaine spent 15 years managing the Viking Villa mobile home park in Ogden. They have two daughters, one of whom attended WSU, and two granddaughters, both of whom play softball in the area.

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L **Andrea Fletcher BS '94** is a school counselor for the US Department of Defense. She received two Master of Arts degrees from City University in Bellevue, Wash., in 1996 and 1997. She works in Sembach, Germany, and lives in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

A **Lark Woodbury BS '95, MEd '99** taught in Davis School District for 22 years, including 20 years at Layton High School where she served as social studies department chair for 10 years and taught history, government, psychology and a WSU Concurrent Enrollment course. Lark was recognized by the school district board for her work with youth in custody. Before retiring in 2018, Lark was also listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Teachers*. Her husband, **Douglas "Doug" Woodbury BS '76**, spent nearly 40 years as an engineer for UTA, where he was in charge of bus procurement. He also served as a vice chairman and chairman of the Society of Automotive Engineers, on the advisory board for the SLCC diesel mechanic program and on the Transportation Research Board, a division of the National Academy of Sciences. He retired in 2014. Lark and Doug raised five children and have 19 grandchildren.

Brett Nelson AA '96 BA '99 holds a MPH and MD from Johns Hopkins University,

along with a diploma in tropical medicine from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Brett is an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and physician with Massachusetts General Hospital. As medical director for National Geographic Expeditions, he has worked on all seven continents. Recently, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Johns Hopkins University. He lives in Charlestown, Mass.

Diane Graybeal BS '99, MBA '09 is the director of performance and analytics at MarketStar, where she has worked for over 12 years. She previously worked as the company's business intelligence manager, leading a team of report developers and advanced analysts. She received a certificate of organizational leadership from Dale Carnegie in 2017. Diane and her husband, Jerry Graybeal, live in Ogden.

'00s

Dan Harward AS '00, BA '02, MEd '10 owns Harward Yard Care, Inc., which has provided landscaping and lawn care to homes and businesses in northern Utah for over 20 years. His wife, **Nicole Guffey Harward BS '01**, studied broadcast journalism at Brigham Young University and now serves as a Young Women's leader for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Dan and

Nicole served as co-chairs of the activities committee in their church's ward for four years. They have four daughters and live in Layton.

A **Ken Richey BS '02** is a CFP with New York Life (NYL). In 2019, he served on the NYL Agents Advisory Council (AAC), a prominent group of 24 agents elected by their peers. During the council's annual meeting, he was elected to the AAC's Executive Committee. In this role, he works with senior executives of NYL to develop and implement ideas that benefit families and businesses in local areas. Ken is currently serving on the WSUAA Board of Directors.

A **Sandra Ladd Grogan BS '02, MS '04** supervises a crime scene unit in Weber County made up of WSU alumni. Before Weber, she received her associate's degree from Utah Valley State College, now UVU, in 1999. She currently serves as a mentor in WSU's Leadership to Legacy Mentorship program. Her husband, **Kevin Shawn Grogan** is a 1996 graduate of WSU's Law Enforcement Academy, and serves as an officer in Ogden City. They have five children and live in Plain City.

L **Kael Mikesell BS '04** received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Midwestern University in 2009 and is now a transfusion medicine

physician and medical director at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Maine. His wife, **Sarah Rudd Mikesell BIS '11**, cares for their three children and manages church and community responsibilities. They are particularly grateful to Weber State for helping Sarah complete her degree, even while moving across the country.

Daniel Tensmeyer BA '04 is an orthopedic surgeon for Intermountain Healthcare in Layton. He received his MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee in 2009, and completed his orthopedic residency at Western Michigan University in 2014. He then completed a

sports medicine fellowship at the Ochsner Sports Medicine Institute in New Orleans, La. Daniel and his wife, **Holly Vaughn Tensmeyer AS '05**, have three children and live in Layton.

L **Joshua Pulido BS '05, MHA '18** is a business development manager for Microbiologics, Inc. He previously worked for Hologic, Inc. as a senior manager of strategic marketing in San Diego, Calif., and for eight years at Bio-Rad Laboratories in diagnostic sales covering the west coast and marketing in the quality control division. He has also worked as a medical technologist and laboratory supervisor for

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Intermountain Healthcare. Joshua lives with his wife and dogs in the Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area.

Amada Materre BA '07 is a five-time Emmy Award-winning producer for FOX Sports. She began her sports television career at KJZZ-14 in Salt Lake City as a producer and later a reporter for the shows, Powerhouse and A-Game. Amada has directed and produced features for FOX Sports' MLB and college sports pregame shows and worked on the production of multiple sporting events, including the MLB World Series, men's and women's FIFA World Cup, and the Big Ten, Big 12 and Pac-12 Conference Football Championships. Amada and her husband, Etienne Materre, have one daughter and live in Los Angeles, Calif.

Leslie Johnstun AS '09, BS '12 is a co-owner of Integrated Tax in South Ogden, where she does tax preparation, marketing, and accounts receivable and payable. She previously worked as a mortgage loan officer for Academy Mortgage. Since 2018, Leslie has served on the WSUAA Board of Directors and is currently the board's communications co-chair. She is an active member of the Junior League of Ogden. Her husband, **Jake Johnstun BS '02**, has worked in accounting and tax preparation since 1994. He is the owner and president of Integrated Tax, director of the board for the National Association of Enrolled Agents, treasurer of the GOAL Foundation and a registered representative for Transamerica Financial

Advisors, Inc. They have one child and live in Ogden.

Zach Parry AS '09, BS '11, MHA '13 is a clinical analyst for EPIC Services at CereCore. Zach previously served as the patient access director for Lakeview Hospital in Bountiful. He has worked in various roles within MountainStar Healthcare, including as the assistant patient access director and manager of the Central Insurance Verification Unit for the HCA Mountain Division. Zach and his wife, Vanessa, have one child and live in West Jordan.

'10s

Landon Burch BIS '10 is a junior UX designer for Amazon, where he has also worked as a content designer specializing in localization. In his role, he analyzes

and designs experiences in digital spaces on the Amazon interface. Landon is also a nationally certified ASL interpreter and periodically works as a certified video relay interpreter. Previously, he worked at Weber State as a sign language interpreter for students in their courses. He lives in Seattle, Wash.

Ethan Zhou BA '11 is a vice president in Goldman Sachs' Treasury Division, where he manages capital resources. Previously, he worked in the company's London office, following the completion of his master's degree at Boston College. He is married to **April Mao BA '11**, who is a vice president in the Goldman Sachs Consumer and Investment Management Division. Currently, she manages the Trade Management Swaps confirmation team within the

company's Asset Management group. She holds a master's degree from the University of Utah. Ethan and April both serve on WSU's Young Alumni Council. They were the first WSU/Shanghai Normal University 2+2 exchange program students. They live in Salt Lake City.

Tyson Plastow MBA '14 works as a special projects audit supervisor at the Office of the Utah State Auditor. He received a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Brigham Young University, and has been a news producer for KELO-Land TV, KTVX and KSL. His wife, **Carrie Hillier Plastow AS '99** owns Carrie Plastow Photography and is the CEO for Lyddie Lou Boutique. They have one son and two daughters, and live in Layton.

Glenn Barnes BS '15 obtained his associate's degree in criminal justice from Ricks College, now BYU Idaho, in 1983 and worked for campus police at the college for two years. He later worked for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Security Department for nearly 29 years, retiring three months after receiving his degree from WSU. He enjoys attending football and basketball games at WSU with his family.

Ian Morris MHA '15, MBA '17 is a contract negotiator for the US Air Force in F-16 foreign military sales. He is the USAF Materiel Command 2016 Innovation Challenge Award winner and a Department of

Defense certified Continuous Process Improvement (CPI Office) Green Belt. He is a 2018 graduate of the USAF Squadron Officer College, and a 2019 graduate of the USAF Air Command and Staff College. He received a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in 2008, is a Life Member of American Mensa and is pursuing his DBA at Trident University.

Jonathan C. Oglesby MPC '16 is an assistant director for the Utah High School Activities Association. He also works as a sports broadcaster, providing play-by-play coverage of the Big Sky Conference for television and radio. He received his bachelor's degree from Dixie State University in 2012. He and his wife, Tara, live in Layton.

Iosua Opetas AS '17, BS '18 is an offensive lineman for the Philadelphia Eagles with a signing contract that was among the highest of undrafted free agents. At WSU, Iosua earned All-America honors, playing 50 games in four seasons and starting every game of his final three seasons on the offensive line. He twice earned first-team All-Big Sky honors. He lives in Philadelphia, Pa.



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