Unwavering Dedication
TO STUDENT SUCCESS

With decades of experience in all medical imaging areas, School of Radiologic Sciences faculty know what it takes to succeed in clinical settings, and how to move up the career ladder.

We’re passionate about passing our knowledge on to you. Whether you’re starting your education or returning to earn your Master of Science (MSRS) for innovation and improvement, to join our radiologist assistant (RA) program, or for invasive cardiology opportunities, you have a home at Weber.

We put teaching first. We forge strong connections. At Weber, we know how to challenge you, and we care enough to do it.

The professors are amazing and really care about the students’ success. It is a well-organized program created to help students reach their full potential.

— Taylor W., MSRS graduate
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Home of an American Master
Maynard Dixon masterfully captured landscapes and cultures of the American West throughout the early 20th century. Considered by many to be the region’s premiere artist, Dixon surrounded himself with the natural beauty found in much of his work by moving to Mt. Carmel in southern Utah in 1939. WSU alumni Susan and Paul Bingham BA ’67 preserve Dixon’s Utah property through the nonprofit Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts, named for the symbol found on many of Dixon’s early paintings. The Binghams offer tours of Dixon’s home and studio, and host regional artists. Guests may also visit Dixon’s gravesite, and see high-quality reproductions of his work.

“My artwork was inspired by the beautiful and colorful aesthetic of Ballet Folklórico.”
— Antonio Moya, BFA ’12 Artist/Designer

“IT’s a living history museum,” said Paul, adding that Dixon came to the picturesque property to “find his peace.” In 1997, Paul and Susan bought and restored the Mt. Carmel property, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information, visit thunderbirdfoundation.com.
On-stage Sensations
Gov. Honors WSU Alumni Performers

Commanding on stage, humble in person, grateful for every opportunity and generously giving back to the community are characteristics that led two Weber State alumni to receive the 2021 Governor’s Mansion Artist Award.

Gov. Spencer Cox honored Ta’u Pupu’a, a football star turned opera singer, and Alicia Washington, a 2010 musical theatre graduate, who, along with her sister, Camille, founded Good Company Theatre in Ogden.

Pupu’a is a world-renowned operatic tenor whose unconventional path included a contract with the NFL. He grew up in Utah after his family moved to Salt Lake City from the Kingdom of Tonga when he was a child. A football scholarship paved Pupu’a’s way as a Wildcat standout in the ‘90s, where he also planned to earn his bachelor of music degree.

His education was interrupted when the Cleveland Browns drafted him in 1995 as a defensive tackle. However, an unexpected injury early in his career pushed him to follow his other passion: opera.

Pupu’a moved to New York where he met his mentor, Kiri Te Kanawa, who helped him get an audition at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music. He attended on a full scholarship and graduated in 2011. Pupu’a now performs around the world.

As the 2021 Weber State commencement speaker, he told graduates, “Wildcats, our greatest capacity to change the world is our capacity to change our own minds about the world.”

The powerhouse sister duo of Alicia and Camille Washington co-direct Good Company Theatre in downtown Ogden. It is the only independent theater in the Mountain West created, owned and operated by Black women.

Work at a small production company is often immense, but also immensely satisfying. Even during a worldwide pandemic, Alicia and Camille created innovative ways to enhance the Ogden art scene, such as “The Window Seat Sessions.” Each weekend for four weeks, one or two performers presented 20-minute sets, three times a night, just inside the studio’s floor-to-ceiling windows. Good Company set up five seats on the sidewalk outside the building, where five audience members per performance got a front-row seat in front of each windowpane.

Alicia also serves on the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities Advisory Board. She co-created Ogden’s Town Hall Conversations on Race and volunteers with The Inclusion Center, Humanities Advisory Board. She co-created Ogden’s Town Hall Conversations on Race and volunteers with The Inclusion Center, Humanities Advisory Board.

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WSU Commits to Equity Diversity and Inclusion
A new Weber State division is working to improve the university’s diversity efforts

In January 2022, WSU President Brad Mortensen announced the creation of the division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with Adrienne Andrews, former university assistant vice president for diversity and chief diversity officer, serving as vice president.

The division advances the goal of “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion,” outlined in the university’s latest strategic plan, Weber State Amplified, which affirms the university’s commitment to become an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution by increasing the percentage of students who identify as Hispanic or Latinx descent to 15% by 2025.

Programs, centers and offices formerly housed in Student Affairs and the President’s Office help make up the new division, including the following:
• Center for Diversity & Unity
• Office of Diversity — Chief Diversity Officer
• LGBT Resource Center
• Center for Multicultural Excellence
• Diversity & Inclusive Programs

Along with aligning programs that support students, the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion division provides a central point of leadership for equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives related to faculty, staff, curriculum, human resources and community.

Today, WSU has almost 50 academic departments that cover a broad range of disciplines, with many of the original 12 serving as a foundation for current areas.

WEBER COLLEGE ORIGINAL DEPARTMENTS
1. Department of English
2. Department of History
3. Department of Mathematics
4. Department of Social Science
5. Department of Economics
6. Department of Arts
7. Department of Science
8. Department of Music
9. Department of Psychology
10. Department of Education
11. Department of Modern Languages
12. Department of Curriculum and Instruction

100 YEARS OF WSU DEPARTMENTS
Weber State is celebrating 100 years of departments, with 2022 marking the centennial anniversary of the school changing its name to Weber College.

In 1922, the name change coincided with becoming a junior college, and 12 academic departments were created. While many disciplines had already been conducting classes prior to the change, the event signified the formal organization of courses into designated departments.

Throughout the years, departments have evolved and changed as needed.

Did you graduate from any of these departments during the Weber College years? Share your memories with us at magazine@weber.edu.
2021 was a year of growth for Weber State’s Alumni Association (WSUAA)

New programs and initiatives encouraged community engagement, helped students connect with mentors and created a lasting legacy of shared stories.

WSU Alumni Board of Directors member and founder of Nurture the Creative Mind, a creative arts program for Ogden children, Amir Jackson, launched the Make Ogden Purple campaign with WSUAA to promote a college town culture in Ogden. The initiative encouraged the community to demonstrate Wildcat pride by finding creative ways to incorporate purple into their businesses, homes and activities.

“Weber State is so meaningful to Ogden, to the railroad, the mountains and the historic downtown district,” Jackson said. “It was and is important to me that the university become as culturally significant to every community member as the winter snow. A strong college culture benefits WSU, but also encourages culturally significant to every community member as the winter snow.

The campaign launched on Oct. 1, 2021, coinciding with Weber State’s Homecoming Week celebrations, boosting community engagement in the festivities. The grassroots efforts included the Purple Paw Parade, where guests dressed their pets in WSU apparel for a stroll around Ogden on Oct. 16.

Continuing its outreach efforts, WSUAA launched the Mentoring Alumni Program & Scholarship program (MAPS), a new resource to help WSU students find mentors in the community. The new initiatives is designed to help students achieve their academic goals. The program received 39 student applicants for its first year. As the program grows more alumni mentors and students will be added.

In the fall 2021 semester, five students were selected and matched with mentors who had shared interests and academic backgrounds. Each student received a $2,000 CAT grant to help them reach graduation. They’re encouraged to meet with their mentors regularly to ask questions and discuss their educational progress.

WSUAA also undertook the Alumni Oral History Project in 2021, collecting thousands of personal stories from alumni all across the country. The submissions, which include everything from fond memories of campus life to touching tributes for beloved faculty and staff, will be made into a commemorative printed oral history and alumni directory. The book was completed in spring 2022.

WSUAA plans to continue building connections with alumni and the community in 2022.

“It is our goal to provide ways for our community to engage with the university,” said Nancy Collinwood BS ’94, Alumni Relations executive director. “By offering a variety of programs and experiences, the entire Weber State family can get involved and stay connected.”

WSU Hosts Sexual Assault Awareness Month

One in six women and one in 25 men experience rape or attempted rape during their lifetime in Utah, according to the Utah Department of Health, and nearly one in three women will experience some form of sexual violence during their lives. Sexual assault is the only violent crime where Utah’s rate is above the national average.

Throughout the month of April, Weber State will host a variety of events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month to help bring attention to the topic, provide prevention education and support those who have been affected by sexual assault.

Events include Take Back the Night on April 1, Start by Believing Day on April 6 and Denim Day on April 27, as well as Safe@Weber workshops and a Sister Circle event.

WSU Women’s Center director Paige Davies said Take Back the Night, part of a global movement to raise sexual assault awareness, is usually the most well-attended event. The event will highlight the experiences of survivors with a rally and a march through downtown Ogden.

“It can be empowering and healing for survivors to just yell and be around other people speaking out,” she said. Start by Believing Day is a nationwide event signed into law by the Utah Legislature, focuses on believing survivors of sexual violence. WSU will host a social media campaign, posting photos of faculty and staff with signs saying they have committed to believing survivors.

Davies said there can be a lot of shame and guilt surrounding sexual violence. “But just having someone say, ‘I believe you,’ can go so far in someone else’s healing,” she said.

Denim Day, a global movement to support survivors, is a reference to the day the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction in 1998, citing the victim’s tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her remove, thereby implying consent.

“We use that as a way to talk about that it doesn’t matter where you were or what you were doing, there still is no excuse for sexual assault,” Davies said.

Safe@Weber workshops held throughout the month will teach attendees about healthy relationships, consent and communicating boundaries. The Sister Circle: Self Care Affair will be an opportunity for attendees to share resources and talk about self care for sexual assault survivors as well as in other aspects of life, like finals week.

The Weber State Police Department, Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office and a variety of other campus and community partners collaborate on Sexual Assault Awareness Month events as well.

Those looking for resources can contact the Weber State Women’s Center or visit weber.edu/safeatweber.
A Profound Interest in What Makes You Sick

Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences chair Matthew Nicholaou’s interest in infections can quickly lead to a fascinating, insightful, “wait, let me find a notebook” discussion.

When asked how antiretroviral therapy can help an HIV-positive woman give birth to a child without the infection, he explained that “It essentially makes people at risk—almost immune to the disease because the drugs are present in such a quantity that the virus can’t ever really establish that chronic infection.”

While all infection and immunology-related topics are on the table, HIV/AIDS is an important topic for Nicholaou, who was 12 when he lost his father to the virus.

“That was during the heart of the AIDS epidemic,” he said. “It was a difficult time in our country, but, for me, there was a silver lining. It gave me my drive in life.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in medical technology, he worked at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for four years in clinical microbiology before attending graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh where he earned his doctoral degree in public health.

There, he studied the side effects of HIV infection and how highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) impacts metabolism, lipid levels and other health factors.

At Weber State, he teaches students about clinical microbiology and molecular diagnostics, immunology, bio-statistics and laboratory research to diagnose illnesses.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, his vast knowledge of infections made him a key member of Weber State’s COVID-19 Task Force. While the Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing led a team of volunteers to administer COVID-19 tests on campus, Nicholaou led the team interpreting the results.

“We did over 17,000 tests,” he said.

Alongside health sciences professor Jim Hutchins and microbiology professor Daniel Clark, Nicholaou taught a course on the immunology of COVID-19, primarily for non-science majors, in spring 2021. The professors explained how the immune system works, how the virus spreads, and why particular public health measures are in place.

In his medical laboratory sciences classes, Nicholaou creates opportunities for students to conduct their own research and present their findings at symposiums. He also trains students in using the latest medical laboratory technology, including the CRISPR gene editing tool, which can be used to target and kill harmful microbial infections.

Recognizing his dedication to students and the community, the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions named Nicholaou the Dumke Endowed Chair for 2021. With the recognition, his department will receive $30,000 over three years. Nicholaou plans to use the funds to update lab instrumentation and reach more students in rural communities through distance education, including those in Utah, New Hampshire and Arkansas.

In fall 2022, the department will launch a post-baccalaureate certificate that will allow students with below college-level placement, to finish their composition and math courses, allowing students, who enter the university as first-generation, low-income and BIPOC students, the program is helping close achievement gaps and improving equity in higher education.

“Getting to that milestone in the first year gives them a much higher likelihood of continuing to graduation,” said Amy Huntington, program director.
Volleyball

27

Consecutive matches the women’s volleyball team won at home in Swenson Gymnasium, the longest streak in the nation.

13-3

Final score of the fifth-set Big Sky Championship match won by Northern Colorado, to end the Wildcats’ home winning streak, and 2021 championship dreams.

54

The number of games defensive tackle Jared Schieck BS ’19, MBA ’21 played for the Wildcats, eclipsing the previous team record of 54 set by Jonah Williams BS ’19.

6-5

The football teams’ final record in 2021, including 5–3 vs. Big Sky opponents, clinching a school record seventh straight winning season.

59

Final score of the women’s soccer loss to Montana in the Big Sky Championship game.

MVP

Sophomore outside hitter Dani Nay was named Big Sky Conference MVP for the 2021 season and named to the all-conference first team. Teammates Rylin Adams, Ashlyn Power and Sam Schieck were also named to the all-conference first team.

Soccer

Number of games Jay Hill has won to become Weber State’s winningest football coach in program history. The milestone came in a 38–7 win over Cal Poly this fall, surpassing Dave Arslanian’s previous mark. Hill finished the 2021 season with a lifetime record of 58–36.

Track & Field

8-0

The men’s basketball team started the season 8–0 for only the second time in school history. The 1985–86 squad opened 10–0.

80

Weber State’s husband and wife duo Christian and Summer Allen both earned All-America honors at the NCAA Cross Country Championships held in Tallahassee, Florida, in November, giving Christian his second All-America honor as a Wildcat and Summer her second All-America honor in 2021. She was seventh at the NCAA Championships in March 2021, the highest finish in Weber State history.

Football

10

Number of wins men’s basketball has had in the Dee Events Center since it opened in 1977. The Wildcats reached the milestone Dec. 11, 2021, with a 82–36 win over Maine-Fort Kent.

BASKETBALL

Weber’s softball, the preseason favorite to win the Big Sky again in 2022, aims to earn another conference title this spring. Find tickets at weberstatesports.com.
Ballet Folklórico is a home, & its members like family.

Heritage & Belonging

By Jessica Kokesh

Ballet Folklórico Performer
Michelle Munoz Zeballos
The setting November sun streamed through the windows of the upper floor of The Monarch, backlighting the members of Weber State University’s Ballet Folklórico as they got finishing touches on their traditional attire and makeup for the night’s performance. Leticia Mata, her face painted white and dotted with multicolor jewels in the traditional Catrina design, stood patiently as another dancer adjusted her floral hair piece while others smoothed their layers of skirts and shawls. Hundreds had gathered for Ogden’s Día de Los Muertos celebration, filing into rows of white chairs to watch the dancers and musical performances from Mexican artists for the night. Just before Ballet Folklórico’s performance began, advisor Mónica Rodríguez Mesa gathered the dancers in a circle and declared, “We’re going to be great!” And they were.

Since 2014, Ballet Folklórico has been a place where Hispanic, Latino and Latinx students students can find themselves at Weber State. The ballet, which performs multiple times per year on campus, in the Ogden community and in Salt Lake City, aims to help students develop leadership skills through mentorship, academic excellence and retaining a strong cultural identity.

“I feel like it’s a place where you feel more close to home,” said Mata, a senior applying for the nursing program at Weber State. “It helps us connect more to what our culture is and who we are and where we come from. I really love the people and what we do.”

Mata has been a part of the ballet for 13 years, initially joining when it was an initiative at the junior high level, and is now a leader of the group at WSU. Mata was born in Mexico and remembers watching folk dances there during local holidays and festivals before her family immigrated to Ogden.

“I was never able to perform, so having the opportunity to do it here and teach others is great, because I can connect back to my country and where I was born and my early childhood,” she said.

WSU Ballet Folklórico meets twice a week to practice at the Shepherd Union Wildcat Theater throughout the school year and in the summer months. It started as a student group at Mount Ogden Junior High School, and students in that original group later brought it to Ogden High School, and then on to Weber State. Irimelva Najera Reyes, who has taught Mexican folklore dancing to the Ogden community for 20 years, instructs the WSUBF in aspects of dance while Rodríguez Mesa serves as staff coordinator and advisor. The ballet has been financially supported for the last five years by the Alan E. and Jeanne N. Hall Endowment for Community Outreach and the Center for Multicultural Excellence.

The ballet primarily focuses on Mexican dance, but they’ve also performed numbers from other Latin American countries.

“There’s the belonging — the need of discovering your heritage, to connect with your roots, especially for those Hispanic, Latino or Latinx students that are born in America — that have somehow been removed from their culture because of political and socioeconomic factors,” Rodríguez Mesa said. “When they come, they discover that there is more to it than a dance.”

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And they were.

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Leticia Mata, 2021–2022 BALLET FOLKLÓRICO BALLET LEADER
Students’ curiosity is often sparked by the ballet’s public performances. Guadalupe García, a senior graphic design major at WSU and ballet leader, was drawn to the ballet after seeing them perform while she was in high school.

“I was like ‘Oh, that’s so pretty. I didn’t know they had that at Weber,’” García said. “So, I made it my mission to find out where they were and where they practiced. Thanks to that, I got to know Mónica and everyone else. I see them more as family and friends, and the organization as a safe space.”

Aside from dancing, WSUBF’s primary goal is to serve as a space to help members develop their academic and professional skills. Many of the dancers are first-generation students, so it also serves as a way to network and learn the ins and outs of going to college, like asking advice about classes or financial support through scholarships.

“It’s really hard, your first semester as a first-generation student, because you don’t know what you’re doing,” García said. “You’re just kind of floating around, trying to pass your classes, so once I found the ballet, I really found a place where I can be myself.”

Both García and Mata said they’ve learned how to work as a team, developed communication skills, and improved their self-confidence as leaders in the ballet.

“I was a pretty shy, quiet person before the ballet,” said Mata, who gained the confidence to speak her mind, joke with friends and encourage others to throw off the fear to perform. “There’s so many skills that we learn… things we’re going to be using long term in our careers and just in our daily life.”

Rodríguez Mesa’s voice caught and she became teary when she discussed seeing the success of WSUBF students over the years, especially those students who were battling depression or experiencing personal struggles.

“To see that persistence year after year, in accomplishing a degree that they thought was impossible for them and their families… and then they say to you, ‘I never realized I had a brilliant future in front of me,’” she said. “They absolutely empower themselves.”

WSUBF is always open to new members and no prior dancing experience is required. Non-WSU members are also welcome to join the ballet.

For more information, visit weber.edu/multicultural/wsuballetnew.html.

Andrés Rodríguez Peralta; Laura Calvillo; Ashley Andersen; Fernando Martinez; Leticia Mata; Graciela Duenaz; Guadalupe Garcia; Michelle Nuñez Zeballos; Maria Jose Mantilla; former WSU assistant vice president for student affairs, Enrique Romo — Leticia Mata

“Not to Miss!”
Experience Ballet Folklórico live this spring.
• WSU International Banquet, Saturday, April 9, 2022
• Living Traditions Festival, Salt Lake City, Saturday, May 21, 2022
Visit the WSU Ballet Folklórico page at weber.edu/multicultural for more information.
Weber State prepares many alumni for careers that definitely require a shower at the end of the day, from remodeling homes to treating sewage water to rolling in mud with preschoolers.

Those making a mess with their careers are driven by passion for their work as they improve the world around them, even if they get their hands dirty.
THE JOB:

Demi Parker recalls getting wrapped up in the stories her elementary school teacher Lynette Grow BS ‘75 read to the class, changing her voice to fit each character. Nearly 20 years later, Parker was working her shift at Rooster’s Brewing in Ogden, when Grow came in for a meal. Despite years gone by and changes in Parker’s height and appearance, Grow remembered her student fondly.

“The fact she remembered my name and the year I was in her class, I was like ‘Wow, that is incredible,’” Parker said. Inspired by Grow and a recent stint as a kids’ ski instructor at Snowbasin, Parker decided to change her life and pursue a degree in education.

While attending WSU, she taught at Mountain Kids Preschool, which is directed by a friend she met while working at Rooster’s. When that friend decided to close her school, they both moved on to SimpleLife, a nature- and play-based preschool run by teacher Jenny Rogers. Along with playing outdoors, kids plant and harvest produce from the school’s garden, feed the school’s chickens and collect eggs.

WHAT MAKES IT DIRTY:

Like most 3- to 5-year-olds, those attending SimpleLife need to be trained not to share their germs. “We’re big on teaching the children proper hand washing, nose blowing, coughing, sneezing, etcetera,” Parker said. While novices in personal hygiene, the children are given other avenues to get dirty, the most popular of which is “the mud kitchen.”

“It’s like a play kitchen, but with mud,” Parker said. “We allow the children to mix dirt and water, and they put it in pots, then they can add rocks and leaves and make their creations.” The mud kitchen is also stocked with spoons, potato mashers and other tools for creating imaginary gourmet meals from mud. One of SimpleLife’s philosophies is that teachers should participate in activities, too, so it’s not uncommon for Parker to join in the muddy fun.

“I’m not afraid to get my hands dirty,” she said. Last year was especially muddy during the school’s summer camp. “Miss Jenny had just removed her grass to put in new sod, so we said ‘Let’s take advantage of all this dirt.’ We turned the sprinklers on and let it get muddy, and we all jumped in the mud and played together, totally covering our bodies in mud.”

Kids can also get messy in the school’s attached art studio, which includes ceramics and a kiln. Of course, the school also teaches kids to clean up after the fun of making the mess.

WHY SHE LOVES IT:

“I’ve taught so many children, and I’ve made so many meaningful relationships,” Parker said. “It’s amazing to see them grow.”

THE JOB:

As a fine arts major, Cady Poorman studied many art forms, from sculpture to printmaking, and learned the importance of making art with meaning, not just something that “looked cool,” from mentors like associate professor Joshua Winegar.

“I also learned a lot about myself,” she said. “I consider my time studying art at Weber State some of the best and most-meaningful years of my life.”

While WSU felt like home, it took Poorman some time to find her place in the job market after graduation. Working in jobs ranging from waitressing to graphic design, she eventually realized there isn’t just one place for her.

Today, she is a portrait photographer, Airbnb host, home interior designer, home seller, and she works in her husband Robbie Hogge’s residential remodel business, Black and Tan Homes, along with their business partner Tyson Goodson. As of 2022, they had flipped five homes and worked on many other remodel jobs for clients.

DEMI PARKER

MUD PIE CHEF AND TODDLER WRANGLER
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education, 2019

CASY POORMAN

PAINT, GROUT AND METAL SHAVINGS ARRANGER
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography, 2014
WHAT MAKES IT DIRTY:

Poorman is frequently covered in paint or tile mud. “Or sometimes grout, which is a weird one,” she said. “It will come off of your skin when you wash it, but not your fingernails, so I’ll just have weird, unhealthy-gray-looking nails for a few days.”

At times, the messes can also be hazardous. “I’ve gotten way more random substances in my eyes than I would like to admit, including a metal shaving that got stuck in my eye and immediately started to rust into my eye,” Poorman said. “That was a fun doctor visit.”

Her dirtiest moment, though, came while updating the home she shares with her husband. Taking showers in the couple’s geodesic dome home led to a flooded basement. Soon, the couple realized it was a septic tank problem.

“So we had to get the septic tank pumped and emptied out,” she said. “When they pulled the lid off, it was solid black sludge to the brim. We then had to completely re-dig the drainage field. It was a very big learning experience.”

She shares her messy moments, as well as before and after photographs of homes, on Instagram.

“People are just stoked to see a construction company that’s flipping homes actually care a lot about the final product and put a lot of thought and effort into making a home look and feel beautiful, unique and timeless,” she said. "When they pull the lid off, it was solid black sludge to the brim. We then had to completely re-dig the drainage field. It was a very big learning experience.”

She shares her messy moments, as well as before and after photographs of homes, on Instagram.

WHY SHE LOVES IT:

Designing the finishes of a home remodel is like one big art project. Poorman enjoys picking colors, combining textures and creating a certain feeling in the home. Additionally, she enjoys preserving a piece of history. “I find it really sad when beautiful, original handwork gets removed, painted over or just not cared for in the way it deserves,” she said. “Old homes tell a story of the past, and it’s important that we, as a residential remodel business, do our part in preserving that rich history.”

THE JOB:

With her BS, Sandy Pagano went to work in archeology, taking on positions as an archeological technician at Utah State University and the Center for Environmental Archeology, and for 17 years as field director at Ogden archeology business Sagebrush Consultants. Now with her MBA, she works as a project archaeologist and field supervisor for Commonwealth Heritage Group, which conducts surveys and excavations before construction projects as well as for agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and Utah Department of Wildlife Resources.

Sites are defined as localities that include artifacts over 50 years old and are protected through regulations laid out in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Sites might be 15-mile hike, hauling archaeological equipment with her crew along the way. On remote projects, the crew often camps overnight.

Usually jobs do not require an excavation, but they are required if a site will be damaged or destroyed by a proposed project.

Her most recent excavation was at a golf course near Jordanelle Reservoir, where her team found projectile points (arrowheads) and grinding stones (used for processing foods such as pine nuts and corn) that were likely utilized by the Fremont people around A.D. 1200.

“I really get to see this state in a way that most people wouldn’t,” she said. "When they pull the lid off, it was solid black sludge to the brim. We then had to completely re-dig the drainage field. It was a very big learning experience.”

Her dirtiest dig took place under Interstate 15 in South Salt Lake, before road improvements to prepare for the influx of visitors during the 2002 Winter Olympics. “They found a historic dump while constructing the freeway, and we ended up working overnight out there using backhoes and just swinging up the grossest mud,” she said. “That was a really good soupy mess.”

She also loves the mix of being outside, hiking, camping, surveying and excavating, and completing reports in her air-conditioned office.

In 2009, Odd Fellows Hall in Salt Lake City, built in 1891, was relocated to make way for the city’s new federal courthouse. Historic artifacts from Pagano and her team’s excavation of the site are now displayed in the Moss Courthouse in Salt Lake City.

WHY SHE LOVES IT:

Pagano loves making discoveries. “People don’t have any idea what’s in their backyard,” she said.

She also loves the mix of being outside, hiking, camping, surveying and excavating, and completing reports in her air-conditioned office.

In 2009, Odd Fellows Hall in Salt Lake City, built in 1891, was relocated to make way for the city’s new federal courthouse. Historic artifacts from Pagano and her team’s excavation of the site are now displayed in the Moss Courthouse in Salt Lake City.
Richard and Jennifer Mickelsen

**THE JOB:**
Jennifer and Richard Mickelsen know what you flush. 

They met at WSU while working in the lab with chemistry professor Edward Walker BA ’76. After graduation, they worked in the nutraceutical and pharmaceutical industries. They have several patents from their research. They opened RJ Analytical, using their expertise to test the potency and purity of products for businesses using natural products, such as supplement companies.

Then, in 2000, Richard started a second career in wastewater while Jen cared for their four children.

First, he worked for the Central Weber Sewer Improvement District and also advised Plain City’s wastewater treatment plant. He later ran the treatment labs for Brigham City and then Provo. Now, he serves as district general manager for Timpanogos Special Service District, which treats about 20 million gallons of wastewater per day for northern Utah County.

The district removes more than 98% of pollutants from the wastewater, which flows into Utah Lake.

“You flush the toilet, and all that stuff just goes away,” Richard said. “People don’t even think about it.”

Along with pollutants, which Richard refers to as “soluble sugars,” “floatables,” and “poop,” the district removes nutrients that otherwise allow algae to grow. Jennifer spent most of her career at RJ Analytical, but also took a position at the Brigham City Wastewater Treatment Facility. Her facility also tests drinking water, and Jennifer serves as the city’s industrial pretreatment coordinator, ensuring local industries follow EPA guidelines to prevent wastewater pollution. Like Richard, she’s also concerned about algal blooms, not produced from wastewater, but from mountain streams flowing into Mantua Reservoir.

WHAT MAKES IT DIRTY:

Along with the expected excrement, Jennifer has seen odd things come to her facility in the wastewater, like old T-shirts and blankets. Richard recently saw an entire push broom come through the water to his facility.

Through the treatment process, many of these solids are removed. “And it doesn’t always smell great,” Jennifer said.

Oils and grease people put down their drains are often much grosser than the solids. However, one solid — disinfectant wipes flushed by a local convenience store that clogged a sewer line — sticks out in Jennifer’s mind.

“They were a foot wide by 14 inches long. They don’t dissolve at all,” she said.

When she pulled a manhole cover to remove them, she recalls “big clogs of these wipes with everything you can imagine backing up behind them.”

WHY THEY LOVE IT:

“It’s very rewarding that we’re actually doing something to clean the environment,” Richard said. “Everybody talks about doing something. We actually are doing something about it every day.”

Jennifer echoed Richard’s sentiment and added that their jobs allow them to continually learn, and pass on their knowledge. In addition, lab science has become a family tradition.

Their son, Richard, a 2020 WSU chemistry graduate, runs RJ Analytical’s lab, where his sister, Maile, a current WSU student taking chemistry courses, also works. Another daughter graduated from BYU in molecular biology. However, Jennifer said that their other son, who is currently serving a religious mission in Africa, may buck the trend and study business when he returns.

“I have certainly learned a great deal from the program. It has helped to round out areas that I didn’t even understand I had a gap in.”
— Darcy Siebenaller, eMHA graduate

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LEGACY DONORS

"My grandpa loved education, but my grandmother loved the people." — Richard Davidson

The Davidsons donated about $1.4 million to WSU over the course of 27 years. Earnings on these donations have gone toward Weber State Athletics, the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology, the College of Science, the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities, and the Jerry & Vickie Myers College of Education.

Greg Larsen '83, another one of the couple’s grandchildren who is a Weber State alum and cousin to Richard, said WSU was always a part of his life thanks to his grandparents. He said Tom and Nancy would go out of their way to get to know student athletes, who were usually transplants to the area, like themselves.

“You throw yourself at it,” Larsen said. “If you say you’re a part of something, you’re a part of it. Those are the lessons I learned from them.”

Larsen said he and his family learned a lot about the importance of being involved and helping others from his grandparents.

“When he was a fan, he was a fan,” he said of his grandfather. “When he was engaged, he was engaged. He was all in.”

Richard said his grandparents always made it a point to attend plays and athletic events at Weber State and were passionate about supporting those students. “They were very thoughtful in their giving,” he said. “The things they supported had to have value and purpose.”

LEGACY DONORS

Even though they were transplants to the area, Tom and Nancy Davidson supported Weber State University as if they were lifelong fans. The couple married in 1951 and moved to the Ogden area in the 1970s. Tom spent a decade in the Air Force and progressed through several marketing and engineering positions in the private sector before retiring and becoming involved in the community alongside Nancy.

Richard Davidson, one of the couple’s grandchildren, said they were both drawn to the university as a pillar of the community, with Tom eventually serving on the Utah State Board of Education, the WSU Board of Trustees and WSU Athletic Board. Both earned honorary Doctorate of Humanities degrees at WSU, Tom in 1998 and Nancy in 2010. “My grandpa loved education, but my grandmother loved the people,” he said.

Tom passed away in 2013, and Nancy in 2015. However, their support for Weber State continues, since they are among the many donors who have committed to the longterm success of Weber State by establishing an endowed scholarship.

WSU supporters and donors Barbara and Norman Tanner, Leon and Frances Staciekus and Dean and Jane Morris are also among those who have set up these scholarship endowments. The endowments consist of invested, donated funds, with some of the interest earnings accrued on those investments used to fund scholarships.

CLASS NOTES

HAL “HOLIDAY” SCHNEIDER AS ’75 was born in the Bronx, New York. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1957, which brought him to Utah. Hal is a professional entertainer, known as Hal Holiday, and the founder of the band Three Aces and a Joker. He has written multiple songs, two of which have been inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame, and been featured in professional film productions. He is the recipient of the 2016 Ogden City Mayor’s Awards in the Arts: Lifetime Contribution Award. He currently volunteers his time performing at the Washington Terrace Senior Activities Center. He married his wife, Sharon, in 1960. They have eight children, 33 grandchildren, and 31 great grandchildren.

Annette Thurber Bryner BS ’76 spent 14 years supporting students as a Title I teacher’s aide at Ellis Elementary in Logan, Utah. She used her talents as a music minor and violin player to support the orchestra program at Woodruff Elementary and Ellis Elementary. Annette has played violin for the last 44 years in the Cache Chamber Orchestra, which has grown into the Cache Symphony Orchestra. She co-founded a support group for Cache Valley community members who have been diagnosed with celiac disease. She and her four siblings are all graduates of Weber State. Annette and her husband, Brent Bryner, live in Logan. They have seven children and 15 grandchildren.

Brent Aguirre BS ’77 retired from Hill Air Force Base, where he supervised the Air Force Engineering Technical Services Team at the 729th Air Control Squadron. Prior to attending Weber State, he served four years as active duty military in the U.S. Navy. During that time, he was stationed in Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan and Virginia. He is a Vietnam veteran and a life member of Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He has one son, one granddaughter and lives in South Ogden.

MICHELLE TANNER ADN ‘80, BSN ‘10 is a flight nurse for Intermountain Life Flight on the newborn team. She is the founder and co-director of Ogden Friends of Acoustic Music (OFOM), a non-profit music organization whose mission is to bring live music to Ogden and provide free music education opportunities for youth. Since 2009, OFOM has hosted an annual three-day music festival at Fort Buenaventura in Ogden. Michelle is a volunteer DJ at KRCL 90.9 FM community radio, hosting The Night Train. She has a passion for science and arts, and loves the balance of both in her life.

NANCY BLAIR BS ’87 retired after 29 years as a school teacher at Polk Elementary in Ogden, where she taught second grade and created and taught a first-through-sixth-grade enrichment program. After retiring, she went on to serve on the Ogden School Board of Education where she is currently on the policy and law, student achievement and land trust committees. She is also currently serving on the Ogden-Weber Technical College Board of Trustees. She is active in church and civic organizations. With her husband, Robert, she owns a family business in Ogden. They have four children and 12 grandchildren, and live in Ogden.

LEADING EDGE DEVELOPMENTS

To learn more about how you can help WSU students achieve their goals through an endowed or other gift, visit give.weber.edu.
Gary Gerfen BS ‘87 retired in 2016 after a successful 30-year career in the aerospace industry. While attending Weber, Gary worked on cruise missile engines for Williams International and missiles at Morton Thiokol locally. After graduating, he moved to Arizona to continue his career at Honeywell International. Some of his project areas included commercial jet engines, and the next generation of satellites for Honeywell Space Systems. In 1995, he earned an MBA in technology management from the University of Phoenix, and later a master certificate in project management from the University of Villanova. He spent 20 years with The Boeing Company, where he worked on commercial and military programs. For 18 years, Gary owned and operated Awesome Alaska Adventures, now known as Great Land Lodge, a full service fishing lodge hosting both saltwater and freshwater expeditions. He and his wife, Amy, live in Northwest Montana.

Sandra Davies BIS ‘89 is the granddaughter of former WSU president Henry Aldous Dixon. After graduating, she began working at Hill Air Force Base through a U.S. Air Force Outstanding Scholar appointment. She has served as the executive director of the American Heart Association in Weber County, and as public relations director for the American Red Cross. She later started her own business, Creative Visions Training Resources. Sandra was an adjunct professor for WSU’s professional sales program, and trained Hill Air Force Base personnel through a leadership certification program. For 20 years, she served on the board of directors for Weber County Pathways, now known as Trails Foundation of Northern Utah, which protects local trails and green spaces. She was a member of the WSU Alumni Association board of directors from 2003–2004. She has four children, 14 grandchildren and lives in Ogden.

Mike Fine BS ’89 is a founder and a senior test manager at Centercide, a beta testing software and services company. Fine is actively engaged in speaking about beta testing as a concept, as well as teaching courses and authoring several articles on the topic. He is a LinkedIn Learning author, whose online courses have been widely viewed throughout the world. Fine is also the author of three books and a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha national fraternity. His wife, Tricia Fine BA ’94, recently celebrated over 20 years at Autoliv as a senior project manager. They have two daughters and live in Ogden.

Bart Blair BA ’97 is an Ogden City Council member, who has recently been re-elected to his fourth term. During his past 12 years as a council member, he has also served on the Ogden/Weber Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Weber Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ogden High Booster Club. He worked with WSU on the College Town Initiative, which received the national Abanathy Award in 2015. Bart runs Blair’s Service Center, which is a family owned Ogden business of 70 years. He has three daughters and lives in Ogden.

Patricia Shaw MED ‘97 retired after a 30-year career teaching health information and health administration at Weber State. She earned her bachelor’s degree in health information administration through the College of St. Scholastica. She later earned a Doctorate of Education with an emphasis in education technology and learning from Northcentral University. She and her husband, Tim, moved to southern Utah, where she volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps for the Southwest Utah Public Health Department COVID-19 vaccine clinics. She continues to teach as an adjunct instructor for the Department of Health Administrative Services at WSU.

Gary Cox BS ’03 is the lead designer at 1440, a technology company based in Park City, Utah. He oversees all aspects involving graphics, user interface and user experience. Daryn is an accomplished graphics artist and working freelance designer of corporate branding, web design and marketing materials. He has volunteered as a transcriber of historical documents for Zooniverse.org, an online public research site. He and his wife, Heather, have two daughters and two cats and live in Layton, Utah.

Michelle Emerson Watts BS ’04 is part of the Homeworks Property Lab team, where she manages the office and financial accounts. She provides additional support to the brokerage with her photography skills. Michelle worked as a staff photographer and is currently in WSU’s dental hygiene program as a third-generation Wildcat.

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Brett Georgen BS ’06 works as a manufacturing engineer II for the Single Use Technologies Division at Thermo Fisher Scientific, known as the “world leader in serving science,” in Logan, Utah. The automated machinery he has been designing and building has allowed their customers to manufacture vaccines for the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2016, he was the recipient of his employer’s coveted 4-T Award for Innovation regarding the work he did as a member of the Integrated Solutions Team.

Karen Batenas BS ’11, MPC ’14, BS ’18 began working for WSU at the Dee Events Center after moving to Utah from Santa Barbara, California, in 1996. She retired in 2021, after 25 years at WSU. For the last 14 years, she worked in WSU Alumni Relations as the accounting specialist, helping with budgets, scholarships and house management. She is currently pursuing an M Ed with an emphasis in family life studies. She has volunteered with WSU women at Your Community Connection, a family crisis center that serves the Ogden community. Karen and her late husband, Gary Batenas, have three children, who are all graduates of WSU. She has two grandchildren and lives in Washington Terrace, Utah. Venezuela Castagnoli BFA ’12 is the executive director of Ogden Contemporary Arts, a non-profit art organization. Since March 2020, she has worked to rebound, raise funds and assist in the overall design of the space, with the goal of making art accessible to all within the community. In her role at OCA, she also redesigned the Platforms outdoor exhibition space into a sculpture park, which now houses permanent installations. She created O-Town Arts, a contemporary art collective based in Ogden. Venessa’s artwork has been shown in the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art and the Finch Lane Gallery, as well as several statewide exhibitions.

Brandon Guernsey BA ’12 has worked as a deputy prosecutor for Grant County, Washington, for the past four years. After graduating from Weber State, he attended the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. He is a member of the Federalist Society, the Washington State Bar Association and the Idaho State Bar. Brandon volunteers as a hockey coach with the Moses Lake Youth Hockey Association. His wife, Jacqlin Guernsey BS ’11, MA ’12, is the creator and manager of the online platform Coaching with Jacqlin Guernsey. She is an emotional health coach, focused on supporting mothers by teaching ways to care for their emotional well-being so that they can best support others in their lives. They have four sons and live in the state of Washington. Elizabeth Hill AS ’12, BS ’13, MBA ’17 is an administrative specialist for the Department of Construction & Building Science at WSU. She teaches as an adjunct instructor for the Parsons Construction Management program. Liz serves on the executive board of the WSU Chapter of Utah Women in Higher Education Network. She is passionate about advocating for women and underserved populations, both on campus and in her community. She and her husband, Michael, live in Ogden.

Charles Bowker BA ’17 is an IT audit associate for Tanner LLC, where he provides IT assurance with system and operations control auditing for major companies across the U.S. and internationally. Previously, Charles worked as an administrative specialist with the Utah Jazz at Vivint Smart Home Arena. He is serving his fourth year on the WSU Young Alumni Council, and currently serves as a mentor in the Ogden and Huntsville marathons on several occasions. He and his wife, Courteney, have one son and one dog.

Eden Buxton BFA ’15 is the marketing and fundraising coordinator for Ogden Contemporary Arts, a non-profit art organization. After studying photography at WSU, she earned an MFA in film and media from the University of Utah. She is a longtime promoter of the arts in Ogden. Eden organized and co-curated the Moments Art Festival in 2017. Through Giving Tuesday, she has worked with local businesses to provide funding to bring local, national and international artists to the Ogden community. She and her wife, Devi, have three dogs and live in Ogden.

Danielle Collier AS ’16, BS ’18 is a development director for the Moyes College of Education and Academic Affairs at WSU. She is a recipient of WSU’s Presidential Award for Community Engaged Alumni. Prior to her work at WSU, she worked for Ogden Downtown Alliance. She has served abroad in the United States Peace Corps in North Macedonia as well with the WSU Global Community Engaged Learning program in Mozambique. Collier serves as the vice president of communication on the WSU Young Alumni Council. She is a member of the Ogden Junior League, Rotary Club of Ogden, Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce and Ogden-Weber Chamber Women in Business. She is a student in the Master of Professional Communication program at WSU.

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WSU Leadership to Legacy Mentorship program. He and his wife, Esther Bowker, live in Salt Lake City.

Jadrian Clark BS ’17 is known as one of the top quarterbacks in Weber State history. After graduating, he moved to Northern Germany to play professional football in the European League of Football. He has completed five successful seasons with the Hamburg Sea Devils. He is the founder and coach of QX Apex, which helps youth advance their skills in hopes of being able to play professional football. He has traveled to over 25 countries. Jadrian credits much of his success to the mentorship he received from his coaches and professors while attending WSU.

Sebastian Lawson AAS ’17, BS ’19 is an orthopedic foot and ankle sales representative for Paragon 28 in Tacoma, Washington. Previously, he worked as a medical lab scientist for Tanner Clinic in Layton, Utah. He served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kenya. As a student, Sebastian served on the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and as student alumni president from 2018-2019. His wife, Shelley Lawson BS ’15, received her degree in social work from Weber State. She went on to complete her master’s degree through Our Lady of the Lake University online in 2017. She previously worked as a social worker for Weber Human Services and Ogden Youth Futures. Shelley was on the Spirit Squad for the duration of her time at WSU, serving as captain for her last two years. Sebastian and Shelley have two daughters and live in Maple Valley, Washington.

Thomas “Tom” Bowker BS ’18 is a software engineer for Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Air Force. Tom is serving in his second term on the WSU Young Alumni Council, and currently serves as a mentor in the WSU Leadership to Legacy Mentorship program. Tom has served in various callings for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including in his ward as president of the Elders Quorum and president of the Sunday School. He is currently serving in his ward as a Young Men’s counselor. He married former Miss Layton, Julynette Martinez BS ’16, in March 2021. While serving as Miss Layton, Julynette created the Pursue STEM Scholarship, which supports low-income female high school graduates who have interest in pursuing careers in STEM. Julynette teaches science at West Point Junior High in West Point, Utah. She has served for five years as an advisor for the WSU Snowboarding Club. Austin is the manager of Crossroads Skatepark & Shop. In his role, he oversees the purchasing of all snow and skate products, as well as the operations of the indoor skatepark. He is a longtime member and past president of the WSU Snowboarding Club. Austin is highly involved in supporting community skateboarding and snowboarding events. They have one dog and live in Ogden.

Abby Monroe BS ’19 is the alumni coordinator for WSU Alumni Relations. In her role, she advises the WSU Young Alumni Council and works closely with WSU Regional Alumni Networks. Previously, Abby worked for five years as the event services manager for the GOAL Foundation, where she planned and implemented community events and initiatives. Abby serves on the Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Executive Board as the networking coordinator, and is serving as the events director for the Junior League of Ogden. She and her husband, Ryan, have three children and live in Ogden.

'20s

Alexandra Smith MA ‘21 is a Spanish, English and Latinas in Action advisor within the Weber School District. Prior to attending Weber State, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Southern Utah University. She is the winner of the 2021 California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence and a top five winner in the 2022 Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence, both of which are national awards. She is a member of the Utah Education Association and the Weber Education Association. Her husband, Matthew Smith, is currently pursuing a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at WSU. He is an academic advisor and internship coordinator with WSU’s Department of Exercise & Nutrition Sciences.

Established in August 2010, the WSU Alumni Association has awarded 228 scholarships, totaling $424,044. Every year, the WSU Alumni Association awards an average of 19 scholarships to students in need.

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HELP SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE WSUAA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND.
WSU Salutes 2021 Honorees:
Photo by Robert Casey
Front row, left to right: Annabelle Harris, Nathan Hole
Middle row, left to right: Mike Beasley, Barbara Hughes, Jeff Stephens, Judy Jeppson Hurst, Brittany Paige Benko
Back row, left to right: Bill Hughes, Craig M. Trewet, Pete Sands, Winslow Hurst
Weber State University Honored 11 Outstanding Individuals for Their Contributions to the Campus and Community at the 52nd Annual WSU Salutes Ceremony in October 2021.

**Excerpts from Weber State University's Press Release:**

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

William and Barbara Hughes
William "Bill" and Barbara aren’t native Utahans — they arrived here separately in the early 1960s and married in 1994 but, after developing friendships with many Weber State professors and administrators, the couple "adopted" the university as their own. The Hugheses are long-time supporters of the Bonneville Chapter Music Festival and generously provide scholarships within the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities and the Department of Social Work & Gerontology. They also included Weber State in their estate planning. Barbara was raised in Pittsburgh and originally worked as a dental hygienist. After relocating to Utah, she earned a master's degree in social work and now maintains a part-time counseling practice. She also conducts pet therapy at Ogden Regional Medical Center and SLC International Airport. Bill was raised in Nebraska and attended college on an academic scholarship. He graduated from medical school in Omaha and completed an OB-GYN residency in San Diego before establishing a practice in Layton. The couple raises puppies for Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit organization that serves people with disabilities.

Lewis W. Shurtleff Award for Contributions to Education

Jeff Stephens BS '84, MED '98
Jeff earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Weber State before completing his doctorate in curriculum and instruction at Utah State University in 1994. He began his career teaching language arts at Wah Bipocjunior High School in Farr West, Utah, later serving as principal at South Ogden Junior High and curator director for the Weber School District. In 2011, he was named Weber School District's superintendent. Jeff, a highly respected leader in local, state and national professional organizations, has received numerous honors for his skills and professional insights, including being named 2021 Empire Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators and the Consortium for School Networking. Jeff is active in his community. He recently served as a trustee for Ogden Regional Medical Center.

**Outstanding Young Alumni**

Pete Sands
At Weber State, Pete's family mentors encouraged him to explore a variety of interests, and he left the university in 2008 with the confidence to spend years on the road, performing original musical compositions across the American West. In 2017, he was commissioned to write music for and appear in the TV drama, Yellowstone. Soon after accepting a position as communications director for the nonprofit Utah Navajo Health System (UNHS), Pete became alarmed by the growing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Navajo Nation. With the support of UNHS leaders and community partners, he established a relief effort that delivered food, water, firewood, hand sanitizer and other supplies to an estimated 4,000 households a week. He also orchestrated transmitting COVID-19 test sites. In 2020, Time magazine honored Pete as a healthcare guardian.

**Distinguished Alumni**

Brittany Page Benito BS '97
Brittany serves as Huntsman Corporation's senior vice president of environmental, health and safety and manufacturing excellence. She was the first in her family to attend college and graduated from WSU summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in zoology. Three years later, she received a master's degree in biology from the University of Nebraska. Prior to joining Huntsman in August 2000, Brittany was vice president of health, safety, environment and regulatory at Southwestern Energy. Before that, she served in a variety of environment, safety, and health-related roles with increasing responsibility at several companies, including Anadarko Petroleum, Chesapeake Energy and BP. In 2018, Brittany's name was included in Houston Woman Magazine's list of 50 Most Influential Women.

**Distinguished Alumni**

Craig M. Trewet BS '90
Craig graduated from Weber State with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology and earned an MBA from Seattle University. He also completed executive programs at Columbia University and the University of Washington.

Currently, he is senior director of the Boeing Production System for Boeing's Commercial Airplanes Delivery Operations organization. Additionally, he is vice president of the Boeing Leadership Network, and has been a member since accepting his first management position in 1995. Previously, Craig led fabrication for the New Mid-market Airplane office, helping to develop and transform the Enterprise Production System. Craig has led two fabrication manufacturing business units — Boeing Salt Lake and the Electrical Systems Responsibility Center. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for Bloodworks Northwest, an independent, nonprofit organization that harnesses donors gifts to provide a lifesaving blood supply to hospitals in the Pacific Northwest. He also serves as chair of the President's National Advisory Council for Weber State, which advises WSU's president in support of the institution's core-themes of learning, access and community.

**Emeriti Alumni Lifetime Achievement**

Mike Beasley BS '71
Mike, who retired as Rocket Software chairman, was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, but moved to Utah in 1964 when his father was offered a job in Ogden. Mike graduated from Weber State with a bachelor's degree in data processing and was hired at IBM. After a series of promotions, he initiated the formation of Icinq Software, an independent business unit of IBM Software, and later received an IBM Executive Leadership Award. He earned an MBA from Massachusetts Institute of Technology's prestigious Sloan School of Management, and in 2000, was named Most Prominent African American in High Technology by Black Press Online. Mike served a lengthy term as board chair of the California chapter of MESA USA, a nonprofit organization that advocates access to high-quality STEM education and training for underrepresented students. In 2015, he collaborated with a team of WSU software engineering students to develop a mobile app that helped Santa Clara County document its homeless population. He has also used funds that assist WSU computer science students by pairing incoming freshmen or sophomores with a Beasley Scholar student mentor.

“"The WSU Salutes program is a wonderful way to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of these distinguished members of our Weber State family."

— Nancy Collinwood, Alumni Relations executive director
As a microbiology graduate of WSU, I chose a career path in food safety and quality. I've spent a lot of time in 'smellier' factories where garlic and onions were being processed; I can say with certainty that the unfortunate people next to me on airplanes did not enjoy my savory smells after those trips.

— Elisa Wright BS '13, corporate FSQA director, Planterra Foods

OUR BELL TOWER

In our fall 2021 issue, Karin Hurst wrote about her father, Weber State’s first full-time executive director of Alumni Relations and College Development, Dean W. Hurst, who helped secure funding for the Stewart Bell Tower. The iconic structure recently turned 50 years old. The story received a great deal of praise, including the following letter.

I enjoyed thoroughly the article, "The Bells of Weber State." Karin captured the story so well. What a remarkable and interesting story of the bell tower. I very much enjoyed walking by it and the water features during my time at WSU as a student and an instructor. Please share my gratitude with Dean Hurst for making this incredible landmark happen.

I always take time to enjoy and read the WSU Alumni magazine but wanted to highlight this great article with my appreciation.

Thank you,
Gayle Speechly

Visit weber.edu/wildcatmagazine and click on Fall 2021 under Past Issues to read the story. If you have a Stewart Bell Tower memory to share, send it to us at magazine@weber.edu.

GETTING SOCIAL

One of my earliest certifications, EMT at WSU (in 1993). I remember doing ride along in Ogden, Davis County and SLC... and hospital pracs at McKay Dee. I also remember my lecturer, Jeanlee Carver. [WSU] is a brilliant university, with incredible faculty, that I will always remember attending. Who had any idea this is where I would end up after all those years? I don't miss shoveling snow though. Go Wildcats!

— Eddie Callachan, chief flight paramedic, critical care transport, UAE Ministry of Defense

I worked F-16 pneumdraulics for 3 years after graduating. Nothing like smelling like jet fuel each day. The work was rough, but it was a foot in the door to a better career.

— Allen Emlet AS ‘09, BS ‘16, software configuration management specialist, Hill Air Force Base

MAKING THE CLIMB

On Oct. 4, 1922, over 350 Weber College students and faculty climbed the rough hills of Ogden with college president Aaron Tracy and planted a Weber flag on top of Mount Ogden. Almost every year since then, students and community members have continued the tradition. In our fall 2022 issue, we will celebrate the 100th year of WSU’s Mount Ogden Hike. Send us your memories and photos of the Mount Ogden Hike for Wildcat Inbox to magazine@weber.edu.

Visit weber.edu/outdoor for information on this year’s hike.
Please read this from a place of kindness, humility, empathy and compassion.

As trauma-focused therapists in WSU’s Counseling & Psychological Services Center, we provide a safe space for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) to process racial trauma from both their personal and societal experiences of discrimination.

Racial trauma is more than isolated incidents that only impact BIPOC alumni. It is a communal failing that plagues every aspect of our society. Racial trauma is defined as the cumulative effects of the intergenerational and interpersonal indignities of racism that are deeply entrenched and persist throughout all facets of our society. The impact is disproportionate on the mental, emotional and physical health of BIPOC.

Rather than jumping to conclusions regarding the existence of racial trauma, let’s take the time to have a courageous conversation with others regarding their personal accounts of racial trauma.

What if we allowed ourselves to listen to their truths? Maybe there is a genuine connection on the other side of our discomfort and lack of understanding.

A courageous conversation and authentic connection are the first steps toward healing.

Healing from racial trauma is an internal process. Caring for ourselves and for one another helps us reconnect, feel alive in our bodies, refuel and persist, increase resiliency, improve overall health and well-being, and affirm to ourselves and to one another that we are matters deeply.

Healing from racial trauma enables us to honor our grief, remember our strengths, and create space for self-care.

Healing from racial trauma is a process that helps us remember who we are, start an uprising within ourselves to reject the forces that say, “You are not worthy”; and re-author our story to one that says, “I am deeply worthy of love and belonging.”

If you’ve experienced racial trauma, visit this article at weber.edu/wsumagazine for a link to Boston College’s Racial Trauma Toolkit.

For more information on WSU’s Counseling & Psychological Services Center, visit weber.edu/counselingcenter.

DEAR WILDCAT ALUMNI:

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DOWN
1. WSU location in Roy, Utah
2. WSU program that allows students to finish composition and math requirements in one year (answer in this issue).
7. Bachelor of _____
8. Weber’s first president
9. Air Force ROTC students may earn an ____ studies minor.
10. WSU is ranked No. 2 in the nation for ____.
12. George S. ____ Lecture Hall in Elizabeth Hall
14. WSU puts ____ first.

ACROSS
4. _____ Center for the Performing Arts
5. Housing on campus
8. Business master’s degree
11. The heart of the Ogden campus
13. ____ Planetarium
14. ____ Science Center
15. Wildcat radio station
16. Interdisciplinary academic program focusing on the work of science in human activity

Share a memory of a program or place highlighted in the puzzle at magazine@weber.edu, and visit weber.edu/wsumagazine for links to share your favorite articles in this issue.