PRESIDENT HUDDLESTON TO RETIRE

INSIDE:
Alumni Lead Flood Efforts

page 14
20 YEARS, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Last month marked the 20-year anniversary of Dixie’s very first national championship. The 1985 Rebel men’s basketball team captured the championship by beating Kankakee, Ill., 57-55. The team’s 35-1 record remains unparalleled today. The college’s second national championship came in 2000 (women’s soccer), and three others have since followed, but the 1985 men’s basketball team will forever be remembered as “the first.” The college salutes all the players, coaches, and trainers involved in the dream season of 1985.
Huddleston to Retire

After 12 years at the helm of Dixie State College, Dr. Robert Huddleston has announced that he will move on this summer, but he isn’t moving far. His tenure was marked by Dixie milestones.

Full Circle

Successful businessman is now including other Dixie grads in his success.

Flooding in Dixie

When unprecedented flooding hit Utah’s Dixie, several Dixie alumni were there to steer Washington County through the disaster.

Jekyll & Hyde Honors

The newly dedicated Dolores Dore’ Eccles Fine Arts Center is being put to good use. The college’s theater program was one of the few handpicked to perform at a prestigious regional conference sponsored by the Kennedy Center in February.

Campus Happenings

Catch up on the latest news and events taking place at the college.

Sports Update

Dixie State athletics eyes the NCAA, while two former Dixie football players meet up in the Super Bowl.

Keeping Up With Alumni

Check up on some of your Dixie classmates, meet new alumni board members, and learn about the latest alumni activities planned for your area.
Many esteem him as a visionary. He can make a tough decision and not even flinch. He’s not afraid to corner a regent, or legislator, or even the governor, in pursuit of a new academic program or facility. He’ll ask a donor for a million dollars, and then out drive him by 100 yards on the golf course. He can step out of administrator mode and into the classroom to teach accounting. His mantra is accountability, both of self and of those he manages. He’ll even take a referee to task from time to time from his front row, center court perch in the Burns Arena.

He is Robert “Bob” Huddleston, and he has done that and more for 12 years in behalf of Dixie State College, as college president. On June 30, 2005, he will walk away from his office in the S.J. Atkin Administration Building and set his sites on something else. He made that announcement in December.

“I feel like 12 years is plenty of time, and that the college needs some fresh eyes,” Huddleston said. “I have accomplished many of the things I wanted to get done. To be quite honest, we’ve gotten so much accomplished, the job has become a little boring. It’s not as fun as it used to be. I’ve tried out a lot of my ideas, and I don’t think I have the energy to come up with a new list.”

He’s captained the college through some previously uncharted territory, and he’s got a laundry list of things to prove it. But when you ask him what his legacy will be, he shrugs it off. He has no interest in those types of things. He doesn’t need to, really. The record speaks for itself.

After first arriving in St. George from Gateway Community College in Phoenix, Huddleston said that he wanted for Dixie what Gateway had gotten – growth. “Give me six months and I’ll tell you how much,” he told St. George’s Daily Spectrum at the time. Twelve years later, enrollment at Dixie State has grown from 3,000 to nearly 9,000. Full-time enrollment has more than doubled.

“Being from a warm weather region, I used to tell people how much this area was going to grow, but I don’t think they believed me,” Huddleston said. “I think now people believe me.”

The county’s growth has mirrored that of the college. The two have grown hand-in-hand, and Huddleston has made his own personal strides to marry the two. Upon his arrival, he vitalized the Washington County Economic Development Council by hiring a full-time director with college funds. The Council continues to be headquartered on the Dixie State campus today and has resulted in over 700 county jobs, over a million square feet in new facilities, and $111 million in capital investment in Washington County.

“What was needed was someone with the ability to recognize that where the county was wasn’t...
where it needed to be,” said Washington County Economic Development Council Director Scott Hirschi. “He had the leadership to say, ‘We’re here. We need to get there. How do we get there?’”

One of the catalysts behind the county’s economic engine has been the establishment of the college as a four-year institution, a milestone in the college’s 94-year history. Once it became clear that other colleges and universities in the state weren’t going to bring their degrees to the Dixie campus, Huddleston took matters into his own hands to satisfy the community’s thirst for advanced degrees and went after them himself. But he did so at some personal and professional risk.

“The four-year issue was a tough time,” Huddleston said. “Many were opposed to us getting four-year degrees. But when it was accomplished and supported by the Legislature and the Regents agreed to let us offer the programs, it was very fulfilling.”

Fueled by overwhelming community support, Dixie College became Dixie State College in 2000 with an expanded mission to offer a limited number of four-year degrees. Two bachelor’s degrees were introduced at the college at that time. Two years later, the college added an elementary education degree, a nursing degree in 2004, and is now eyeing a fifth degree in communications and new media. The rewards have been great, and if he had to do it all again, he would.

“It’s been successful,” Huddleston said, simply. “The naysayers need to look into the success of our four year graduates. Nearly all of our elementary education grads are now in teaching positions. Our business students have good jobs and are making good salaries. Our CIT students are in demand. Our nursing program has proven itself.

“The most significant thing is that everybody talked about what a burden it would be on the state. Our costs (to run these programs) are among the lowest in the state, and we’ve done it on an austere budget.”

Though it will come under someone else’s watch, Huddleston fully expects the college to continue in its current path. He predicts it will likely add a bachelor’s program a year, possibly more if the economy improves. With the growth that’s projected in the county, he said, the college will have to become a full-fledged four-year institution.

There are certainly other memories Huddleston will take with him. He spent $80,000 on a campus wide email system, one of the first institutions in the state to do so. He acquired the former Dixie Center, turning it into a basketball arena, computer center, fitness center, and performing arts center. He was instrumental in securing funding for the Udvar-Hazy Business

College assumes full ownership of Dixie Center

Oct. 1998: Encampment Mall dedicated

1996: Udvar-Hazy Business Building dedicated

1999: Old Harmon’s building acquired and turned into North Plaza

July 2000: Dixie College becomes Dixie State College

Sept. 2000: Enrollments tops 7,000

Continued on page 6
Building and baseball and softball complex. He established the college’s Encampment Mall, a tribute to the area’s first settlers.

He was instrumental in creating the Community Education Channel, headquartered on campus. He acquired an old grocery store and LDS institute building and turned them into instructional buildings. He took the college to Hurricane and Kanab, establishing an educational outreach center in both cities. The athletic department has had unprecedented success, capturing four of its five national championships in school history during his tenure. He led the charge to finally secure funding for a new fine arts center. His swan song will likely be a new health sciences facility to be located on the campus of Dixie Regional Medical Center.

“You have good people, that’s the key,” he said. “You set up goals and objectives and you hold them accountable. High expectations are the key.”

But Huddleston’s tenure hasn’t been all smooth sailing. When he thinks back on the more challenging times, one stands out in particular.

“The hardest part was the budget cuts and laying people off,” Huddleston said. “I had never had to do that in 30 years.”

In 2001, following the 9-11 terror attacks, the State of Utah fell into a financial tailspin that resulted in a statewide revenue shortfall of nearly $400 million in 2002, followed by a near $300 million shortfall in 2003. Not unlike many other state entities, the college was hit over the head with the budget ax in a way previously unheard of, and as a result, was mandated to cut just over $1.5 million, or roughly five percent, of its total operating budget.

“When you have 80 percent of your operational budget tied up in compensation and people, there are not a lot of places you can cut,” Huddleston said. “When you get into people’s lives, it’s very difficult.”

Fourteen employees lost their jobs, and several positions were left unfilled. Four academic programs were eliminated as well. To help further cope, 20 staff members were asked to teach classes essentially for free during the 2002-03 academ-
ic school year, and Huddleston himself wasn’t exempt. He, too, took on a beginning accounting course. Chad Staheli, now a senior business administration student, was there when the college president showed up to teach class.

“When I went from Accounting 1010 to 2010, it was obvious that those from Huddleston’s class were better prepared than the others,” Staheli said.

Huddleston’s wife, Linda, helped out as well. She stepped forward to volunteer coach the women’s soccer team, a program that likely would have been cut as well had she not done so.

Just over two years and a few other creative measures later, the college has begun to recover and Huddleston feels he’s leaving it in good hands. He doesn’t think it will take long to replace him.

“This is one of the most desirable places in the country to live,” he said. “We’re in good financial shape. There’s still opportunity for a lot of growth. There’s opportunity for someone to add a lot of four-year programs. It’s got great community support. Who wouldn’t want to live in St. George and raise their family here?”

And when it comes right down to it, Huddleston doesn’t want to leave St. George either. And he won’t. He’s had some job offers, and he’ll likely have others, but after a much-deserved year off filled with some consulting work and taking some college classes of his own – at Dixie State College – he’ll once again step into the classroom on a full-time basis, where he first started his career. He’ll teach accounting in the business administration program that he brought to Dixie State College five years ago.

“I really got into the business to teach,” Huddleston said. “A lot of people look down on teaching – but that’s the most important thing. I got into administration to make enough money to support seven kids. Plus, I thought I could make a difference.”

Few could argue that he has made a difference. But don’t ask him to pump his chest or toot his horn about it, because he won’t. But then again, he doesn’t have to. The record speaks for itself.

**REGENTS NAME DIXIE STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

By Amanda Covington

In February, Utah State Board of Regents Chair Nolan E. Karras announced the appointment of a 24-member search committee that will assist the Board of Regents in selecting a new President for Dixie State College. The new president will replace Robert C. Huddleston who leaves office this summer.

Regent Jerry C. Atkin will chair the search, joined by Regents Katharine B. Garff and David J. Grant. Other committee members include DSC Board of Trustees Chair Stephen W. Wade and Trustees Shandon D. Gubler, D. Williams Ronnow, and Vicki Reese Wilson. Institutional and community representatives are also on the committee.

The Search Committee and Regents held public meetings this spring in which college faculty, staff, students and community members provided input to help define the selection criteria.

It is expected the Committee will establish a candidate pool by late spring and recommend finalists to the Board of Regents this summer. Under Regents’ policy, the names of the finalists will be released to the public prior to a series of private interviews. A new president will be selected by fall.

“The Regents take very seriously the responsibility of selecting our institutional president,” said Karras. “We are confident this committee will select highly qualified individuals for this important position.”

Institutional committee members include: David Borris, Dean, College of Business, Technology and Health; Sheila Cannon, Secretary, Business Department; Donna Dillingham-Evans, Professor and Chair of Mathematics Department; Tim Eicher, Chair, Family Studies Department; Addison Everett, Chair, Humanities Department; Jackie Freeman, President, Exempt Staff Association; Jake Hunt, Student Body President; Lena Judee, Director, Multicultural Center; Curtis Larsen, Computer Science Professor and Faculty Senate President; Stanley J. Plewe, Vice President, College Services;

Alumni and community committee members include: Kassie Christensen, Steve Caplin, Bob Lichfield, Robert W. Prince, Max H. Rose, Ron M. Wade, (Alumni Association President), Randy Wilkinson; Commissioner’s Office: Richard E. Kendell, Joyce Cottrell, David Doty.

In addition, an email account has been set up specifically to receive feedback from the college’s various constituencies: dixieres@utahsbr.edu.
DSC MOTION PICTURE STUDENTS GO SUNDANCING

Two DSC digital motion picture students recently produced a 30-second commercial that was among the five winners in the Utah Film Commission’s second annual commercial contest in December. The commercial aired during the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

“Lights, Camera, Distraction,” was produced by John Mortenson, and shot and directed by Ben Braten. Over 100 commercials geared to promote Utah as a filmmaking destination were posted for the contest. The competition also included high-end production companies throughout the state, DSC motion picture program director Eric Young said.

The duo was invited to the Sundance Film Festival as guests of the Utah Film Commission. The winning commercials represented the Commission on Park City.

Television’s “In the Can” program, which has become required viewing for many motion picture executives.

The commercial will also air in film production markets such as Los Angeles and New York City and will be posted on the Utah Film Commission website at http://film.utah.gov. The students received a cash award of $1,500 for their efforts.

The commercial was shot in the Cougar Cliffs area of St. George and depicts a supermodel getting upstaged by southern Utah’s natural beauty.

Both Braten and Mortenson plan to enroll in DSC’s proposed communications and new media bachelor’s degree, currently being considered by the Utah State Board of Regents. Digital motion picture production and broadcast would be just one component of the degree program.

DSC FINE ARTS BUILDING RECEIVES AWARDS

The new Dolores Dore’ Eccles Fine Arts Center at Dixie State College was the recipient of three awards at the annual Intermountain Contractor Best of 2004 awards ceremony held in December in Salt Lake City. The facility received awards for “Best Architectural Design,” “Best Higher Education Design,” and also received the “Best Public Project Design Silver Award.” Particularly impressive to the Intermountain Contractor judging panel was that the design of the building accommodates three different arts disciplines – theatre, music, and fine arts – but also that the design and materials used in the facility reflect the look and feel of southwestern Utah.

Intermountain Contractor received nearly 50 entries this year for construction and design projects from both Utah and Idaho. Winners were selected based on design quality and innovation, craftsmanship, contribution to the industry, solutions to unique design challenges and construction challenge and overall excellence. Size or cost of a project was not considered.

Other notable projects receiving honors included the Huntsman Cancer Hospital (Project of the Year), the Brigham Young University Athletic Complex, KUTV’s new Main Street Studios, and the renovated First Presbyterian Church in Salt Lake City.

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A Brazilian supermodel gets upstaged by southern Utah’s natural beauty. This was the theme of a commercial created by DSC students.

And the winner is: Since being dedicated in October of 2004, the new Dolores Dore’ Eccles Fine Arts Center has been the recipient of several awards, most recently from Intermountain Contractor.
DSC NURSING PROGRAM NOTCHES TOP PASSING RATE IN THE STATE -- NEW FACILITY LIKELY ON HORIZON

For the second straight year, the Dixie State College nursing program has earned the highest pass rate among all nursing programs in the state on the Registered Nurse licensure examination (RN-NCLEX), with a collective pass rate of 93.55 percent. The Utah State Board of Nursing released the 2004 scores in February. The 2003 class achieved a 96 percent pass rate.

“If there was a trophy for nurses, our students would be state champs working on a dynasty,” said Dr. David Borris, dean of business, technology and health sciences. “We’re extremely proud of these students and the faculty who have trained them.”

Twenty-nine of 31 RN graduates from DSC’s associate degree of nursing program (ADN) passed the RN-NCLEX certification exam on their first attempt in 2004, which every RN must pass in order to practice.

“We have a nursing program whose faculty and staff continually strive to provide students with the best nursing education possible,” said Carole Grady, acting director of nursing. “We could not do this without the wonderful community partnerships we have as well as the support of the college. However, the students themselves deserve the biggest round of applause for their efforts and dedication.”

This news coincides with news that the college is inching closer to being granted state funding to construct a facility dedicated entirely to the health sciences, including nursing. The proposed facility, which would be headquartered on the new Dixie Regional Medical Center campus, entered the 2005 legislative session ranked as the number one building priority in the state by the State Building Board. In February, the Legislature’s Capital Facilities Committee came to the same conclusion and recommended it as such to the House and Senate. In March, the facility received the Legislature’s blessing, and it now awaits the Governor’s stamp of approval.

The facility would house programs in nursing including registered nursing, practical nursing and nursing assistance – dental hygiene, emergency medical services, surgical technology, and phlebotomy. New degree programs in medical radiography and respiratory therapy are in the planning stages as well at the college.

In 2004, 680 students received either a degree or certificate in the health sciences. That number is anticipated to jump to 806 graduates by the end of the current school year.

PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS DEGREE MAKING HEADWAY

The college’s Board of Trustees has thrown its full support behind Dixie State’s proposed communications degree, which will now be voted on by the Utah State Board of Regents in its April meeting, which incidentally will take place on the Dixie campus. Ultimate approval is contingent on the Regents, but the Trustees voted unanimously to approve the degree in December and recommend it to Regents.

The new degree, which has formally been dubbed a communication and new media (CNM) degree, would be unique in the state in that it would be a mixture of visual technology and oral communication with three separate tracks: 1) Digital Motion Picture Production and Broadcast, 2) Business Communications (Oral and Electronic Presentation Production), and 3) Web Design, Publishing, and Online Journalism.

“The students are very excited about this new program,” said DSC student body president Jake Hunt, who serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. “It’s broader than other four-year communication programs.”

The primary job market for degree holders will be in marketing and media production, but grads could potentially end up landing in a number of different fields. Trustee Robert Moore, president and COO of Big-D Construction Corporation in Salt Lake City, echoed this sentiment.

“A degree like this is critical in today’s world. What we have to do just to obtain a job in the construction field involves all of these different aspects of communication. It’s difficult to keep up on the new technology and it’s something that’s important for all fields.”

According to dean of arts, letters, and science Dr. Don Hinton, the degree will constantly be assessed and revised as technology progresses.

“These professors have their ear to the ground,” said Trustee Ron Wade. “They are right up to speed, and I give a resounding ‘yes’.”

One-third of the proposed degree is already being taught on campus, which was a big selling point to the Trustees.

“I think it’s great that we can morph the resources we already have,” said Trustee Williams Ronnow. “This is very creative approach – we’ve identified an innovative niche.”

Pending Regent approval, the degree will be offered on campus this upcoming fall semester. ♦

2004 RN-NCLEX PASS RATES

<table>
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<th>Institution</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dixie State College -ADN</td>
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Enrollment in the college’s PN and RN programs alone has grown from 65 students in 2003-04 to 112 in 2004-05. On top of that, 27 four-year nursing students joined DSC’s newly created bachelor of science in nursing program in 2004-05, which will produce its first graduates in 2006.

Due to such high demand, the college began admitting practical nursing students twice a year for the first time this year. Currently, the college turns away three nursing applicants for every one that’s admitted.

“This facility would be a tremendous boost to our programs,” said Borris. “Our programs are growing at a phenomenal rate, while consistently maintaining the highest quality of graduates. The performance of our nursing program the past two years is just one example of that.”

Also in 2004, the college’s dental hygiene graduates achieved the top score in the nation on the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam. ♦
Dixie State’s business administration degree was one of two baccalaureate degrees first introduced at Dixie State College when it added a four-year component to its mission in 2000.

Five years later, the Udvar-Hazy School of Business at Dixie State College will begin offering a fast-track version of the same degree, with the idea that students can get their four-year degree from Dixie in three years and then go on to get their MBA. The degree track, and its accelerated format, was formally approved Jan. 21 by the college’s board of trustees.

“We’re prepared and committed to creating and abiding by a formal schedule that will allow students to finish their business degree in a timeframe of three years,” said Dr. Philip Lee, chair of the DSC business school.

Students who choose to pursue the accelerated track will attend classes year-round, including summers, taking between 15 and 18 credits each fall and spring semesters and between six and 10 credits in the summer months. Other than the accelerated pace, the fast track degree will have the exact same requirements and course load as the traditional degree.

Dixie State is currently seeking to partner with a university that will offer an MBA program on the Dixie State campus on a full-time basis. Dixie students would be able to transfer seamlessly and take their master’s level courses right on the Dixie State campus, Lee said.

“Even if students decide just to do the bachelor’s degree, the bottom line is they’ll get out of college and into the workforce sooner and save money because of it,” Lee said. “It’s a more cost-effective and efficient approach to education.”

In addition to saving students time and money, the degree track will better accommodate growth in the program by moving more students through the program at a quicker pace. It will also save the college money since it will promote better use of college facilities during the summer months.

Admittance into the accelerated program will be somewhat selective out of necessity. Due to the quicker pace, there will be no remedial courses associated with the three-year program.

The program will be available beginning fall semester 2005. For information, call the Udvar-Hazy School of Business at 435-652-7745 or visit www.dixie.edu/business.

**BUSINESS STUDENTS PLACE IN GLOBAL SIMULATION COMPETITION**

Three Dixie State College senior business students placed in the top 25 of the Capstone Challenge, an international business simulation competition, this past fall semester.

Competing against 130 other colleges and universities, Dixie State’s R.J. (Rory) Mathews and Neils Nisson earned eleventh place, the highest ranking of any Utah college or university. Another DSC team, composed solely of Kody Young, came in twenty-first place. Rankings were based according to highest cumulative profit.

The competition featured upper division or graduate students from colleges and universities from around the world, including Sung Kyun Kwan University in South Korea, Istanbul Bilgi University in Turkey, University of British Columbia (first place team) and DePaul University.

“The idea is to give students the opportunity to integrate what they have learned in their various business courses in a near-real business experience,” said business professor Dr. Bill Christensen. “The simulation is good enough that it is also used to train top business executives around the country.”

The simulation competition is used as part of the curriculum for the college’s strategic management course, the culminating course of the college’s four-year business administration degree.
The winners of the 2005 Robert N. & Peggy Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show were announced Friday, Feb. 18 at the show’s annual gala banquet at Dixie State College held for the first time in the newly dedicated Dolores Dore’ Eccles Fine Arts Center. This year’s Best of Show Purchase Prize Winner was Steve McGinty. McGinty’s “Sheep at Dusk,” an oil painting, earned him the honor, which carries a grand prize purse of $3,000.

McGinty, a Murray, Utah, native, began painting with oils at the age of 10 with his grandfather who was also an artist. When he was 12, his grandfather bought Steve his first paint set. It was this gift and the love of his grandfather that gave Steve the desire to share his talent with others.

His education in art ranges from studies at the University of Utah to travels in Russia and Paris. While in Russia, he gained a wealth of knowledge by meeting with many Russian artists and attending Russian museums and art academies. McGinty can often be found in a rural area or in someone’s garden painting PleinAire; his favorite studio is located outdoors in nature. He is a member of Oil Painters of America, and continues to display his works in shows and galleries throughout the west. His paintings can be found in collections within the United States, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia. A regular winner and participant in the Sears Invitational Art Show, McGinty’s “Milking Time” won third place in the Oils category of the 2004 show.

A.D. Shaw took first place in this year’s Oils category with his painting “A Boy’s Life.” Second place went to 2003 Purchase Prize Winner Roland Lee for “Quiet Creek – Pine Valley.”

Carl Purcell for “Evening Stroll, Ballyconneally Ireland.” And third place went to 2003 Purchase Prize Winner Roland Lee for “Queen Creek: Autumn Gold.”

In the Pastels category was Jerry Hancock for “As Far as the Eye Can See.” Second place went to Dixie State College art professor and 2000 Purchase Prize winner Del Parson for “Summer Lilacs,” with third place going to Marilee Campbell for “Winter Evening – Grand Canyon.”

In the Other Media category, the first place ribbon went to L’Deane Trueblood, the show’s inaugural Purchase Prize winner in 1988, for her bronze “Far Horizon.” Trueblood took second place last year in the same category. Jerry Anderson was awarded second place for his bronze work “Flint,” and Annette Everett took third place for her sculpture “St. Lucia.”

This year’s show features 176 works from 89 artists. Since 1988, a portion of each purchase has gone toward funding the new Dolores Dore’ Eccles Fine Arts Center, which was dedicated on campus in October 2004. The Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show was first established in 1988 by the Robert N. and Peggy Sears family with the goal to build an art gallery on campus. Over $500,000 has been raised toward this goal, which has now been met.

The Dixie College Foundation is pleased to present...

Fire & Ice
1st Annual Gala at Fire & Ice Ranch
Friday, April 8, 2005

Featuring Karl Bickel performing LIVE following dinner and auction

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ALUM’S SUCCESS MEANS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIXIE STUDENTS

By Amber M. Rich, ’94

The old adage, “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree” rings true for Dixie alumnus, Steven Caplin, whose education and career have taken him throughout the West only to come full circle to where it all started.

He and his family returned to their roots several years ago to establish Steton, a thriving local technological company, which now employs some of the best graduates from Dixie State College. The school that initially planted Caplin’s seed for success now shares a mutually beneficial relationship with the fruit of his labors. His company now provides career opportunities for current DSC alumni and, in return, the college lends “access to a pool of qualified professionals” that have helped make Steton an industry leader.

When Caplin enrolled at Dixie College in the fall of 1977 he claimed it was not unlike his days at Dixie High.

“It was a wonderful cultural and social experience. It was small and personable and offered all the courses I needed to begin my education.”

Finding a “well-balanced” education at Dixie and an even more impressive wife, Toni Brooks, also of St. George, Steve continued his studies at Southern Utah University and received his bachelor’s degree in accounting with Summa Cum Laude honors. He went on to become a CPA and later earned an MBA from the University of Texas where he focused on high technology entrepreneurship and competitive corporate strategy.

Initially, Caplin’s accomplished career path led him to the Midwest and later Texas, where he thrived in sales and business management at IBM and also worked in corporate finance for Southland Financial Corporation.

Almost 10 years ago, as a result of his background in technology and business, Caplin “predicted a real need” in mobile computing in the coming years. It was at that time he decided to strike out on his own. Combining the first three letters of his name and Toni’s, they created the name Steton in Austin, Texas, and launched a new enterprise specializing in handheld computer technology targeted at safety and quality assurance for major corporations.

Wanting to be closer to family and determining that St. George had the infrastructure to support an international business, they moved Steton home and basically restarted. Today, Steton technologies have
been implemented into the corporate fabric of major companies across the globe, including Wendy’s, Marriott International, Winn-Dixie, General Mills/Pillsbury, Triarc/Arby’s, Tyson Foods, Nestle, Darden, US Concrete, Hormel, Del Monte, Best Western International, SkyWest Airlines, Sodexho, and others.

As noted earlier, Steve has found the technology programs offered at Dixie State to be a beneficial part of his worldwide success.

“Ninety-percent of our staff was educated at Utah universities and a good number of those came directly from Dixie State,” he said. “I think Dixie’s doing an outstanding job at implementing a very practical degree. It’s very current in terms of technology and is reflective of industry trends.”

Additionally, Caplin sees a direct translation from what Dixie is doing to prepare and educate students to the work they perform once they get their degree.

“Dixie has been very responsive to the needs of the community and the industry,” Caplin added. “They hire professors with experience and they are giving students a strong core to build on.”

And after all, a good start can make all the difference.
DIXIE’S RIVERS RUN WILD

DSC Alumni lead Washington County through 100-year Flood

By Chris Taylor

◆ This page: What remains of the Green Valley neighborhood that took the brunt of the flood.

◆ Opposite page, above: Santa Clara Mayor and Dixie alumnus Denny Drake; the Santa Clara River inches closer to the Jacob Hamblin home on Santa Clara Drive.

◆ Opposite page, below: St. George Mayor Dan McArthur and St. George City Manager Gary Esplin plan their next move in the recovery phase. Both are Dixie alumni.
As Denny Drake (’73) and his wife, Donna, meandered their way through the base of Pine Valley mountains above St. George Sunday afternoon, Jan. 9, 2005, something was eerily amiss. The 18 inches of fresh snow that had accumulated that week was gone.

“Everything was running water,” Drake recalled.

As they made their way down the canyon along the tributaries to Gunlock Reservoir and eventually to their home in Santa Clara – the city Denny has served as mayor since January 2002 – the realization sunk in.

“As we continued down to Santa Clara, we knew that we were in the middle of a major flood,” Drake said. “The first thought was, what was going to be the damage and how bad?”

By 7:30 p.m. Sunday night, Santa Clara residents began sandbagging and officials began closing roads. By 2 a.m., evacuations were underway. By sunup, homes were flooded. But by Monday night, the waters began to recede, and Drake thought that they might be out of the woods. Overnight, however, the river rose beyond Monday’s levels and was now cutting into the banks and underneath homes at the rate of about 10-feet per hour, Drake said. By Tuesday at about noon, the first of what would later be several homes in the area was undercut and completely sucked into the river.

“There was a great deal of sadness that was felt by all at this time as we watched these homes leave (down the river) and know the people that were involved,” Drake said. “It was a tremendous burden to think that they had lost everything they owned.”

“The sounds that you heard during the flooding stages as the huge cottonwoods would fall into the river (were incredible). The trees would disintegrate within minutes after entering the

Continued on page 20
DSC Theater Wins Regional Honors

by Mark Petersen & Chris Taylor

Dixie State College’s fall production of Jekyll and Hyde was performed locally in the new Eccles Fine Arts Center, but many outside St. George and even the state took note as regional honors began piling up.

The entire cast of the production was selected to perform at the regional conference of the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), held Feb. 7-13 in Phoenix, Ariz., a feat DSC theater director Varlo Davenport equates in athletic terms to landing a berth in the regional playoffs with a shot at the national finals.

The festival is designed to showcase the finest productions the region has to offer. An invitation to perform normally requires a formal application process, but when the regional chair saw the show, all formalities were tossed aside.

“At intermission he leaned over to me and said, ‘I would really like to see this production in the festival in Phoenix,’” Davenport said. “At the end of the show, when he finally stopped clapping, he said, ‘So, we need to get you to Phoenix.’ It was almost like, ‘You’re going to Phoenix by acclamation because this is the best thing I have seen in this region.’”

The Dixie State production was one of seven college and university productions selected to take part in the festival in the region, which includes California, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona, and was the only two-year theater program invited to perform.

“This was a tremendous honor for us, especially to get it the way we did where they came in and said, ‘Go. You’re coming,’” Davenport said. “To be selected one of seven from among the dozens and dozens of participating universities, including graduate programs, was a huge credit to our program at Dixie.”

In addition, three members of the cast – Skyler Scott (as Henry Jekyll/Edward Hyde), Katelyn Johnson (as Emma Carew), and Allie Eddington (as Nellie/Ensemble) – were nominated to audition for the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship at the same festival.

“We’re so proud of the Jekyll and Hyde cast and of these young actors who were nominated for the Irene Ryan Scholarship,” said Dr. Robert Huddleston, DSC president. “It speaks to the quality of our theater program.”

The prospect of taking the elaborate show on the road and away from the friendly and technologically sophisticated confines of the Mainstage Theater of the

The girls from the Red Rat Pub sing “Bring on the Men”

Ryan Norton portrays Dr. Henry Jekyll
new Eccles Fine Art Center was nothing short of a logistical nightmare. When asked about the facility in which they would be performing in Phoenix, Davenport jokingly stated, "Going down to Phoenix and seeing what they have, there's everyone else, and then there's us," referencing the new building.

Lighting was an integral part of the production in the Eccles Center, and provisions had to be made to replicate that as much as possible. The set had to be reinforced to make the road trip. And Davenport and his program were reliant on the good graces of a donor to make the trip work from a financial standpoint. Once finally there, however, the group showed it belonged, with or without its state-of-the-art facility.

While in Phoenix, all seven of the participating shows were adjudicated. The DSC cast was invited to perform three separate times, which it did over a 24-hour period, and the production received numerous accolades, both from judges and from the theatre students who gave the show an uproarious standing ovation. To top it all off, Scott received the coveted honor of "Best Actor" of the entire Festivention.

"It was one of the most exciting days of my life," said Davenport. "Skyler and Ryan Norton were both superb as Jekyll and Hyde and the entire cast performed at the top of their level. I'm thrilled with Skyler's Best Actor award. Theater students from all over the West praised our show and I was even asked by an interested student about our graduate theater program at Dixie, which of course we don't even have!"

Davenport said there is still the potential for the show to be invited to the national festival at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., all expenses paid. The national festival will feature a handful of the nation's best productions. The regional judging will be complete in a few weeks to see who is selected by the Kennedy Center and the KCACTF national committee.

Started in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center's founding chairman, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide, which has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. The KCACTF has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where theater departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents.
Dixie State College’s athletic department could soon make a move from the junior college ranks to the NCAA. The college’s Board of Trustees has unanimously granted approval for the college to explore the possibility of its athletic programs competing at the NCAA Division II level.

Currently, Dixie State competes as part of the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association (NJCAA). However, as the college continues to transition to a four-year institution, DSC’s administration feels strongly that the mission of the athletic department needs to evolve with it.

“We are an accredited four-year state college,” said DSC President Dr. Robert Huddleston, “and it’s important that our athletic department reflect where we want to take this institution in the future. The goal of obtaining a more academic-oriented student to participate in DSC’s intercollegiate athletic program is a very important aspect of our college mission.”

Dixie is currently exploring admissions possibilities with two conferences: the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) and the California College Athletic Association (CCAA).

The college already meets much of the criteria required by the NCAA in many respects. NCAA sources have indicated that DSC Athletics would currently fall into the top 15 percent of Division II institutions when taking into consideration facilities, scholarship funding, and student enrollment.

DSC’s current enrollment of over 8,000 students would put the college in the top 10 percent of Division II institutions. Seating capacity, the availability of facilities, and the age of current facilities also make Dixie a potential candidate, according to Huddleston.

In order to make the jump, the college will most likely have to add an additional two bachelor’s degrees to its menu of course offerings in order to recruit students who are capable of the academic and athletic requirements of the NCAA. The college offers four baccalaureate degrees and is currently seeking to add a fifth in communications.

Any additional funding for success at the Division II level is an attainable goal, Huddleston said. As per NCAA Division II requirements, a total of 10 sports must be offered at an institution. The college’s proposal of the addition of women’s golf and women’s tennis would help Dixie meet that criteria, in addition to helping the college maintain Title IX compliance. Currently, the college offers eight athletic programs.

In addition, the college would have to add some extra positions to its athletics staff to become eligible, including a senior women’s administrator, a faculty athletic advisor, compliance officer, and coaches for the additional programs. Though minimal, the college will also have to come up with some additional travel funding. Altogether, the college will have to add a projected $78,000 a year to its athletic budget in order to make this transition from a financial standpoint. The college has proposed a slight increase in student fees to help cover these additional costs.

The college hopes to begin play as an NCAA institution as soon as August 2006. If admittance is eventually granted by one of the two conferences mentioned, or another conference, any move will require the stamp of approval of the college’s Board of Trustees.

“This is by no means a done deal,” said Huddleston. “There’s a chance neither of the conferences will accept us, but we really feel strongly about needing to make this move as an institution at this time.”

Athletic director Dexter Irvin anticipates hearing back from one of the conferences sometime in April. In addition to more closely aligning its athletic department with the mission of the institution, another upside of this potential move is that there are student-athletes at Dixie right now who want the opportunity of playing out their four-year intercollegiate athletic eligibility at Dixie, Huddleston said. In all likelihood, the move would also be conducive to attracting more local talent.

“As the college continues to transition to a four-year institution, DSC’s administration feels strongly that the mission of the athletic department needs to evolve with it.”
SUPER REBELS

How many colleges and universities in the nation can claim that they had two former players play in the Super Bowl on opposing teams? Dixie State College can.


Dillon, who played running back while at Dixie in 1995, rushed for 75 yards on 18 carries – including one for 25 yards – and one touchdown in the Super Bowl. He also caught three passes for 31 yards. Incidentally, the Patriots went on to win 24-21, giving Dillon his first Super Bowl ring. Dillon finished the season with 1,635 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns.

Mahe, who primarily played receiver at Dixie in 2000, saw limited action in the Super Bowl, getting in on several special teams plays. During the 2004 season with the Eagles, Mahe rushed for 91 yards on 23 carries, had 123 yards receiving, 19 punt returns for 109 yards, and three kickoff returns for 44 yards.

DSC SOLICITS INPUT ON MASCOT

Dixie State College is looking for a mascot and is soliciting input from all groups, including alumni, in the process. In February, the college launched a web site (www.dixie.edu/mascot.html) where people could log on and offer their suggestions.

All ideas submitted on the web site were whittled down to approximately 10 to 15 mascot concepts. A formal vote was held in March to narrow it down even further. Renderings of three to five concepts will be voted on in April. By the end of the process, these renderings, ranked by popularity, will be presented to Dixie State’s College Council, which will also vote. The college’s Board of Trustees will ultimately approve or disapprove the council’s recommendation. It is hoped that a mascot will be in place by August, prior to fall semester.

In November, a committee was formed to devise this process for mascot selection. The committee is made up primarily of students, but also includes representatives from the alumni, athletic booster club, and faculty and staff.

The Dixie State College mascot has been missing in action for several years. In 1999 approximately, the college abandoned the Confederate rebel as its mascot. A modern day rebel resembling Indiana Jones was launched in 2001, but was short-lived. This past summer, the college’s booster club approached DSC administration expressing a desire to develop a mascot that will add to the atmosphere of athletic events.

The college will continue to be named Dixie State College. It will also retain its Rebel nickname. Final voting will take place in April. For voting information, log on to www.dixie.edu/mascot.html.

FOOTBALL FINISHES 4TH

For the first time in its history, the 2004 Dixie Rotary Bowl was played on an artificial, synthetic turf surface at Hansen Stadium. There was nothing artificial, however, about the performance of Dixie State freshman running back JT Diederichs. The Rebels used Diederichs’ 187 yards on the ground and a solid defensive performance to knock off the No. 4 ranked Raiders of Grand Rapids Community College (Mich.) 27-20 and capture the schools thirteenth Dixie Rotary Bowl championship in 18 tries. The Rebels finished the season ranked the No. 4 team in the nation with a record of 10-2.

TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

By the soccer team’s own standards, it was a sub par year. By nearly anyone else’s it was one for the record books. Katie O’Connell’s shot over the goalkeeper’s outstretched arm in the game’s 29th minute was the only goal in a 1-0 Rebels’ victory in the consolation round of the NJCAA Division I Women’s Soccer Championship Tournament in Phoenix in November 2004. With the victory, the third-seeded Rebels (19-3-1) received the fifth-place spot in the eight-team tourney one year after winning the national championship.

VOLLEYBALL FINISHES 18TH

The Dixie State volleyball team fell just short in the Scenic West Athletic Conference Region 18 championship match versus Salt Lake Community College. The Rebels finished the season ranked 18th in the nation with a 24-10 overall record. Head coach Jeff Parker, in his third season, was named SWAC Coach of the Year.

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water, and only stumps would be carried down along with limbs. We watched as cars were falling into the river and churning and going down the river. We watched as homes just completely deteriorated as they hit the water, it was raging and flowing so rapidly.

With the help of volunteer helicopter pilot Jeremy Johnson, the City began blasting with dynamite in hopes to divert the river away from homes, roadways, and power and sewer lines. Santa Clara came out of the ordeal losing four homes, but that ultimately paled in comparison to what happened downstream in St. George.

Gary Esplin (‘72) has worked for the City of St. George since May of 1975, most of it as city manager. During that time, he has never been too far away from home that he couldn’t return in the event of a local emergency. That is, until the week the Santa Clara and Virgin Rivers not only flooded his city, but swallowed up trees, roads, bridges, golf courses, and ultimately dozens of homes in the process. Esplin happened to be on a cruise liner at the time in the middle of the ocean when the flood struck, but happened to get a glimpse of the destruction on CNN.

“We saw a report of one of the homes in Santa Clara falling into the river,” Esplin said. “My friend said, ‘That’s the house I just built!’ We knew then the river was in a flood state.”

Esplin was able to get a hold of St. George City police chief Marlon Stratton who filled him in on a few details, but there was no way for him to get off the ship and he had no choice but to wait – his body in Jamaica, his mind on St. George.

“My wife developed a kidney stone in Jamaica – that was Tuesday, the day the flood was really bad,” Esplin said. “We actually discussed with the ship’s crew the possibility of flying to Miami and catching a flight home, but were unable to do so. It was the most frustrating time of my career that I could not be there to help.”

Nearly a continent away, Esplin’s tag-team partner, St. George Mayor Dan McArthur (‘69), was thrust even further into the control seat in Esplin’s absence. He has served in an elected office in St. George for 22 years and has seen a lot of flooding, including the Quail Creek Dam failure in 1989, but nothing like this.

“This is the largest flood and greatest devastation I’ve seen in my lifetime,” McArthur said. “I’ve read about the floods in 1862, and I consider this one to be the only flood that really is on the same par as that one, particularly with the damage we’ve seen in our community.”

Similar to Santa Clara, flooding in the Green Valley and Bloomington sectors of St. George began in earnest early Monday morning and threatened and forced evacuation of several homes in Green Valley along the Santa Clara River and Bloomington along the Virgin. And just like in Santa Clara, the following Tuesday brought with it a whole series of new problems when the river began carving out a new course, in some cases several hundred yards from the original river-bed and into neighborhoods in Green Valley.

McArthur was in Green Valley helping families evacuate and witnessed the destruction first-hand.

“We were in the Creekside neighborhood where they lost several homes, and they had just wheeled a woman out of her home in a wheelchair,” McArthur recalled. “They weren’t able to get anything else out of her home – the police and firemen couldn’t let anyone back in her home because the back of it had been eaten away by the river. We were standing there, when all of a sudden we heard a crack and saw the garage kind of tilt. Four seconds later, that home was completely gone…foundations, footings, everything was gone. It just wasn’t there. No property, nothing left.”

Lonnie Clove (‘87) happens to be the bishop of the LDS ward that encompasses the Green Valley area that became ground zero of the flooding. After sandbagging efforts all day long on Monday along yards buttled up against the river, the waters began to recede later that night and Clove thought his neighbors would be all right. On his lunch hour the next day, however, Clove received a panicked phone call from one of the families saying they were in trouble. In about a twelve-hour span, Clove’s ward, with the help of neighbors and community members, mobilized to unload and evacuate 36 homes.

At one point, Clove left that neighborhood where they lost several homes, and they had just wheeled a woman out of her home in a wheelchair,” McArthur recalled. “They weren’t able to get anything else out of her home – the police and firemen couldn’t let anyone back in her home because the back of it had been eaten away by the river. We were standing there, when all of a sudden we heard a crack and saw the garage kind of tilt. Four seconds later, that home was completely gone…foundations, footings, everything was gone. It just wasn’t there. No property, nothing left.”

“We were standing there kind of tilt. Four seconds into the glass everything was gone.
we had just moved all of the belongings (of the home we lost) into one of those other garages. We had to move all of the stuff out of the garage into another garage and all of the stuff out of that house into another garage, and we just started that process. It just became a nightmare.”

Gail Bunker, St. George City Councilwoman, who doubles as the college’s cultural affairs coordinator, stood in the rain from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. helping vacate homes in the Riverwood subdivision of Green Valley.

“We stood there and watched three of the houses go down – it’s just horrifying – just like a nightmare, but I was so glad I was there,” she said. “When I started to help, I stood outside the homes and the people were strangers. But then as I would go into their homes, and see their things, and smell their homes, and try to wrap their possessions to protect them as I frantically packed them, it all became very real, and before long these people felt like my closest friends.”

The river completely consumed 14 homes, and eight others to varying degrees, in Green Valley alone and did so at a maddening pace. At its peak, the river, which normally runs approximately five cubic feet per second, was running nearly 7,000 cubic feet per second. One Green Valley homeowner, whose home sat approximately 300 feet from the river and seemingly out of danger late Tuesday afternoon, approached McArthur and asked if he thought her home would be all right. He said he thought it would be, but advised her against staying in it that night. Two hours later, he came back only to watch her home fall victim to the river as well.

“That’s how fast that river moved back and forth,” McArthur said. “It was phenomenal.”

The waters have since receded, but the nightmare and destruction lingers, particularly for those who lost their homes. Upon visiting the area in the aftermath of the flood, U.S. Senator Bob Bennett described it as unlike anything he had ever seen before in his life. And it may not be over yet. Many are worried that more flooding could be on the way this spring as the snow pack melts.

“I know we’ve lost infrastruc-

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ture, we’ve lost bridges, sewer lines, power lines, entire holes of golf, but those things will all come back over time,” McArthur said. “Maybe we won’t be able to afford them immediately...but our big concern out of all this is that these people don’t even have their property. Their homes are gone – there’s nothing there, it’s a river. Whether they’ll put banks back, I don’t know what’s going to happen. But our big concern is how these people that have mortgage payments and other things are going to be able to take care of a payment on property they don’t have.”

Amid all of the destruction, the one common denominator that has emerged out of this crisis up and down the banks of both rivers has been the spirit of volunteerism that has enveloped Utah’s Dixie from Day 1 and throughout every phase of the flood.

“The flood itself, in many ways, for me, was a positive in the fact that we saw the town and city rally around these folks who were in danger and spent countless hours doing numerous jobs that would not have been done otherwise,” Drake said.

“It has been amazing,” Clove said of the volunteer effort.

“Tuesday night was just chaos because so many people wanted to come and help. I felt bad, I started sending people home and telling them that’s the best help they could give us because they were so anxious to help. I’ve had so many generous people offering all kinds of stuff. FEMA and the Red Cross both have said to me, ‘We’ve never seen a community like this before.’”

One such volunteer effort has recently compiled these stories and many others and published them in the book and DVD combination “Portraits of Loss, Stories of Hope,” (see sidebar on next page) created entirely by volunteers and authored by Dixie alum Lyman Hafen (‘77).

All proceeds will directly benefit the flood victims and many of those who lost their homes.

Though Esplin was absent during the flood, he is now St. George’s primary contact in the recovery stage and is working extensively with the various state and federal agencies to try and pick up the pieces. When he did make it back into town, the St. George born native couldn’t have imagined the destruction that greeted him. What wasn’t hard to believe, however, was how the Dixie community had rallied together:

“That’s just the nature of what this community has been like since it started,” Esplin said. “That’s what makes St. George what it is. People step forward. They don’t ask – they just do. I was not at all surprised by what had happened with the volunteer effort because that’s just normal. In other places I know it’s not, but here, that’s what people do.”

Left: Dixie alum Lonnie Clove helps direct flood relief efforts. Clove serves as LDS bishop of the ward that oversees the Green Valley neighborhoods hardest hit by the flood.

Right: One Green Valley homeowner manages to maintain a sense of humor in the face of the destruction.
Author Lyman Hafen is just one of many alumni involved in the production of the book "Portraits of Loss – Stories of Hope," whose goal was to raise $350,000 for the flood victims. Less than a week after the flooding, Lon Henderson, who came up with the idea of the book, contacted Hafen to ask him if he would author the book. "I was kind of resistant to the idea because, to me, it is a story that is beyond words," said Hafen, who’s published eight books.

A local committee overseeing the book’s production was formed, and Hafen consented, and together they embarked on a mission impossible: producing a 140-page book from scratch to printing in 30 days. "For two weeks I just literally ate, drank, and slept this thing, and everybody else did too," Hafen said. "All of these things were going on simultaneously, and lo and behold, we sent the digital files to Paragon Press two weeks later, and they were totally dumbfounded."

The committee went on to meet its self-imposed deadline of Feb. 17, the eve of the Parade of Homes, where the book was officially put on sale to the public. Ten thousand books were produced, and in a matter of eight days, close to 9,000 books were sold at a minimum of a $35 donation. "People were very commonly paying $50, $100, or more. We had some really neat contributions of $1,000 and even $5,000," Hafen said. "We know we met our goal of $350,000. We don’t yet know how much above that was raised."

The project was done completely on a volunteer basis from interviewing and transcription to photo editing and design work. Four local banks and Soltis Investment Advisors funded the $50,000 in hard costs needed for the book. The only kickback anyone received, including the author, was the satisfaction of a job well done. "Everybody keeps saying it’s my book, but it really isn’t," Hafen said. "It was done by the community. People ask me to sign it, and I’m very reluctant. If I sign it, I’m representing 50 other people who really worked their hearts out to produce it."

At the time of publication, a limited number of books were still available for purchase at the Village Bank, State Bank of Southern Utah, Far West Bank and Sun First Bank in St. George, as well as The Spectrum. People can also continue to make donations by calling 435-652-1602.
Alumni Updates

◆ **RYAN ROBISON, ’97, and JOSIE ALLEN ROBISON, ’01**
Ryan graduated from Dixie College in 1997 and then continued his education at BYU, where he received his degree in business management in 2000. In May 2002, Ryan married Josie Allen and they moved to Oregon to complete Ryan’s schooling. Ryan received his Doctor of Optometry degree from Pacific University College of Optometry in May 2004. Ryan and Josie returned to St. George for Ryan to begin work at Dixie Eyecare. Ryan is happy to have the opportunity to bring his family back “home” and settle in the Dixie sun. Ryan and Josie are the proud parents of one-year-old Pierson. 

◆ **JASON HUNTER, ’99,** has joined the St. George law firm of Snow, Jensen & Reece as an Associate attorney. Jason is licensed to practice law in Utah and California and focuses his practice in areas of estate planning, business law, and tax planning. Jason was most recently employed by KPMG in Los Angeles, California, one of the “big four” international accounting firms. Jason received his Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga University School of Law in May 2003; his B.A. (Summa Cum Laude) in Accounting from Southern Utah University in May 2000; and his A.A. (Summa Cum Laude) from Dixie State College.

Jason was born in Ogden, Utah, however, his family moved to the St. George area when he was eleven. Jason, his wife, Tiffany, and their two young children love the St. George area and are excited to have returned home. When he has a spare minute outside his practice, Jason enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, playing basketball, and driving classic sports cars.

◆ **BETTY BLACKBURN BARNUM, ’68,** who is currently the principal of Red Mountain Elementary School in St. George, loved her years at Dixie College. While attending Dixie, she was the AWS President for the 1967-68 school year. After transferring to BYU, she received her teaching certificate and taught school in the Salt Lake Area. Betty married Barry Barnum who had also attended Dixie College. After he graduated with an Engineering degree from the U of U, they moved several times in the western states finally settling their six children into schools in Springville, Utah. Betty returned to BYU and received her master’s degree and administrative certificate. She served as Springville Middle School vice-principal until 1997 when she was selected to be an administrator in the Washington County School District. Both Betty and Barry were delighted to have an opportunity to return to their Dixie “roots.” Betty has served as Principal of Red Mountain Elementary for the past seven years—and loves it! Barry works for the City of St. George as the Director of Water Services. Betty recently earned a Reading Endorsement and a Gifted and Talented Endorsement, believing strongly in continued learning and stretching. She also serves as the editor of the state’s elementary principals association’s publications.

◆ **MONT HUMPHRIES,** has been promoted to River Road Office Manager of The Village Bank in St. George. Humphries is a life long resident of southern Utah. Humphries has 23 years of experience in the financial industry. He attended Dixie State College and graduated from Georgia State University CUNA Management School.

◆ **DONALD F. KRAACK,’31,** Donald, age 91, wrote the following sketch of his life: I was raised in St. George by my maternal grandparents, namely Franklin G. Miles and Helen Frances “Nelli” Moss Miles. In 1932, in the “depth of the Great Depression,” I couldn’t attend my second year of college. I had to get a job. Grandfather had passed away, the cattle were sold and the farmland was leased out. At age 20 I joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.), which was half military and half forestry. After an honorable discharge, I became an employee of the H.J. Heinz Co. for 30 years with branches in Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. I earned awards from my company. Ruth Simonsen and I married in 1937. Ruth was a beautician and was employed at Letta Snow’s Beauty Salon. We were married for over 50 years when she passed away in 1988. My hobbies upon retirement were fishing, antique bottle digging and collecting, and also writing for various magazines and newspa-
pers, including the old and wonderful Washington County News. My early close friends were Allen Jarvis, Calvert Whitehead, Frank Bringhamurst, Fergus Wallis, Walter Pace, Lewis and Myron Gerber and my very admirable uncle in law, George Seegmiller, the most prominent farmer and rancher in Washington County at that time. They are now all deceased.

In my 1931 yearbook, I was the only high school graduate of boys wearing a hat—shaved head! Incidently, my name was misspelled in the yearbook. Also, my name ‘Kraack’ rhymes with ‘brake.’

My most beloved teacher, professor and authoress was Juanita Leavitt Pulsipher Brooks.

I often wonder how many of my 1931 Dixie classmates are still around today—and who?

**PAM BIRKELAND PAULSEN, ’78,** was hired by Delta Airlines as a flight attendant in 1990 and has been flying around the world ever since. After graduating from Dixie with an associate degree in aero technology, she married and began raising three daughters. Later, Pam said she was inspired to follow her dream to become a flight attendant because of her great teacher at Dixie, Sharon Robinson. She has loved seeing so many different places and meeting so many different kinds of people around the world. “My experience at Dixie State College was such a wonderful time in my life,” said Pam. “I will never forget Dixie!” Her second daughter is following in her mother’s footsteps and is attending Dixie State College this year.

**LYNETTE KAYE CHANDLER ’74,** was recently named “Outstanding Teacher Educator in Illinois” by the Teacher Education Division of the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children. A resident of Sugar Grove, Illinois, Lynette is currently a Professor of Special Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Northern Illinois University. She previously taught at Southern Illinois University and was a research associate at Vanderbuilt/Peabody University in Nashville, Tennessee.

After graduation from Dixie State, Lynette earned a B.A. from Utah State University, an M.A. from Western Michigan University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Lynette has authored a number of textbooks, articles and chapters in her field and has presented workshops in both the U.S. and Canada. She is currently president-elect of the International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children. Lynette is married to Dr. Roger Lubeck.

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**BRAG About Alumni Friends & Family!** You know the good stuff! Don’t keep it to yourself! Send us news about careers, post-graduate pursuits, awards, promotions, community activities, deaths, births, and more. To have “news” published in the next available Dixie State Magazine, send this coupon to Alumni Update, Dixie State College, 225 South 700 East, St. George, UT 84770. Enclose a photograph if you have one or mail this coupon to Alumni Update, Dixie State College, 225 South 700 East, St. George, UT 84770.
Dear Alumni:

The year 2005 will be another year of significant change for Dixie State College and it also marks an exciting anniversary, which I will mention below.

The exciting news—this year we should receive approval on new educational programs from the Board of Regents (strengthening our educational base) and the new health science building was just approved by the State Legislature. Dixie State College is certainly on the map and is becoming a growing educational force with each passing year.

This year we will experience a change of leadership with the departure of President Robert Huddleston, who has been at the helm for over a decade. On behalf of the alumni, I would like to publicly say “thank you” to him for his commitment to the college and wish him the best of luck in his future educational pursuits on and off campus. We will make sure to fill his shoes with red sand before he leaves the office on his last day, if he hasn’t done it already himself.

This March marks the 20-year anniversary of the first national championship in Dixie State College athletics history—the 1985 men’s basketball team.

What an impact that game in Hutchinson, Kan., had on little old Dixie College 20 years ago. Although I personally did not witness this great athletic event, I certainly heard about it across the globe, where I was at the time. I was also fortunate to have a brother who played on that very team, which has brought great reflection within our own family through the years. That team set a mark of excellence that has now become synonymous with DSC. We have since had additional athletic teams accomplish the same feat of being the best in the country! Those players of 1985 have gone into the community and accomplished great things in their careers, which are positively impacting the community, state and nation. They are doctors, accountants, financial planners, and educators. Thanks for the great memories, class of ’85!

We’ll never forget the great students and people of Dixie’s past and we look forward to making more great memories in the future.

— Ron Wade, Alumni President

D-WEEK 2005 “Can’t Resist the Red”

MONDAY, APRIL 4
Noon D-Week Kickoff
Gardner Plaza

TUESDAY, APRIL 5
7 p.m. D-Queen Pageant
Eccles Fine Arts
7:30 p.m. CCS: San Francisco Saxophone Quartet
Cox Auditorium, $12, $9

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
6:30 p.m. D-Week Service Project
Meet at Gardner Plaza

THURSDAY, APRIL 7
8 p.m. Entertainment Dixie
Gardner Plaza

ALL WEEK: DSC Art Showcase, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Eccles Gallery, free

NORTHERN UTAH CHAPTER AUTUMN ALUMNI BASH

On the evening of November 13, 2004, the Northern Utah Chapter of the Alumni Association gathered at the historic This Is The Place State Park in Salt Lake City for their Autumn Alumni Bash! About 70 people enjoyed a catered dutch oven dinner in Smoot Hall. We spent the evening visiting, eating and, of course, having a wonderful time.

In addition to the good food and fine company, there were many door prizes, funny (and some not-so-funny) jokes, and a wide variety of items up for bid in our silent auction. We raised almost $1,000 for a scholarship fund established to help students from northern Utah attend Dixie. Among the bid items were: Jazz tickets, books, movie gift packs, hand-crafted items, and even a week-end get-away to St. George!

Thanks to everyone who attended, and a very special thank you to those who donated the terrific auction items. The evening was truly a smashing success. Spread the word—the Bash of ‘05 will be even better!

Watch for information on the Spring Barbecue in May. See you there!

CONTACTS FOR ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP INFO

Send us your address or email as well as those of classmates

Las Vegas Area:
Dr. Bob Nisson
(702) 361-8513

Northern Utah
Area:
John Blake (801) 253-8848

Dr. Rick Neilson
(702) 454-2629

blake8818@msn.com

or contact Kalynn Larson at (435) 652-7535 or larson@dixie.edu
Dixie State Bookstore takes pride in supporting the "Dixie Spirit." We welcome all alumni to shop for clothing, memorabilia and more. Ask about our discount for Dixie State Alumni.
D-WEEK 2005
April 4 - 9
“Can’t Resist the Red”

10 events
6 men
4 women
1 mud pit

THE GREAT RACE!
Friday, April 8, 6 p.m.

Are you GREAT enough?

Call Donna at 435-652-7513 to enter your team