A construction for the new Dixie Regional Medical Center which will bring open-heart surgery to southern Utah advances, DRMC Cardiovascular Services is shaping new programs to benefit your health. During March and April the first Cardiovascular Education Series ever produced by DRMC continues at the Dixie State College Gardner Center.

Sessions start at 10 a.m. The March 21 session, “Exercising to prevent heart disease” will be preceded by a series of health screenings at 9 a.m. Screenings include testing for body composition, blood glucose levels, lipid profile, and C-Resistant Protein (checks infection level in the blood). Attendees should fast for 10 to 12 hours if they want to participate in the screenings. Michael LaMonte, PhD and Frank Yanowitz, MD are the presenters.

On April 18 Keshav Chander, MD and Janet Aumann, RD, CD present “Eating Right to Prevent Heart Disease.”

Although there is no charge for the screenings and lectures, to better accommodate all who attend, individuals must register in advance by calling the Community Resource Center (688-4123). Registration will be accepted until midnight, March 19.

Volunteers at the Community Resource Center serve as registrars at the center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, calls to enroll are received at any time — day or night. After the answering service message and callers can leave name, phone number and the session dates desired to attend and they will be enrolled in the specified sessions. Nonregistered individuals will not be admitted on the day of the event. For more information (or to register), call 688-4123.

“At DRMC we are fortunate to have qualified cardiovascular providers within our community,” says Kim Henrichsen, RN and Director of DRMC Cardiovascular Services. “Belonging to a larger corporation, Intermountain Health Care, is also a huge asset as we are able to utilize resources throughout the state of Utah. This has been very beneficial as we continue to develop Cardiac Services at DRMC.

“We are so fortunate to have the guidance of Dr. Donald Lappé, cardiologist and medical director for IHC’s Cardiovascular Clinical Program. His support and that of Holly Rimmensach, RN IHC Cardiovascular Clinical Programs, were invaluable as we implemented elective angioplasty in our community. Holly also helped us shape this education series.”

Several new cardiac services have been implemented over the past year as the hospital prepares to add open-heart surgery. DRMC Cardiac Rehabilitation Services became a reality last spring led by Scott Lambertsen, an exercise physiologist. A teaching plan and education classes for patients with Congestive Heart Failure began in the fall led by Marie-Wright, RN care manager (with the support of the IHC Heart Failure and transplant team).

“Last June our team, lead by Gail Schumacher RN (Specialty Recovery), and Kelly Taysom (Cardiac Cath Lab) began elective angio-plasty procedures performed by David Boorman, MD,” says Henrichsen. “These are a few examples of the exciting developments and new services we have underway in preparation for opening our open-heart surgery program. Our goal is excellence at every level — in continuing programs and new ones.”

DON’T MISS THESE FREE LECTURES AND SCREENINGS!

To register call: (435) 688-4123

...or mail this coupon to the DRMC Community Resource Center, 544 South 400 East, St. George, Utah 84770. Calls and mail must be received by March 19.

Please register me to attend the FREE DRMC Cardiovascular Education Series on the checkmarked dates: □ Mar. 21   □ April 18

NAME________________________PHONE________________________
4  It’s Baaack...

After a several-years-break in tradition, last year’s Great Race made a successful comeback. It’s once again a main event of upcoming D-Week activities, and looks to be back for good.

6  Dixie’s Secret Agent Man

Dixie alum, Derek Booth, had always longed for a career with the Secret Service. Not only is that wish fulfilled, but he is now protecting one of our nation’s famous first-daughters.

12  Debenham Family of Grads

Lila Mae Sampson Debenham was a cheerleader when she attended Dixie back in 1953; all five of her children experienced Dixie as well, and all but one met their spouses on the St. George campus.

14  More Than Football

A former football team captain at Dixie, Phil Tuckett went on to play for the San Diego Chargers and soon after began a career with NFL FILMS. But football only begins to scratch the surface into the successful life of this ’66 Dixie alum.

8  Sports Update

A national powerhouse? All eight teams at DSC broke into the national ranks this past year, some for the first time.

10  Campus Happenings

Formal accreditation of DSC four-year programs, a groundbreaking for the new Eccles Fine Arts Center, an amazing new food court on campus, and other activities are a few of Dixie’s recent success stories.

22  Keeping Up With Alumni

Check up on some of your Dixie classmates, meet new alumni board members, and check out the latest alumni activities planned for your area.

Cover photo: Phil Tuckett in Afghanistan with NFL FILMS as U.S. troops chased down Taliban (see story page 14).
ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET... GREAT RACE

Jump-starting a Dixie tradition

The Great Race is back at Dixie State College. One of the more beloved traditions at the college, the race made a comeback last year after a brief hiatus.

The event has evolved somewhat over the years. The equipment isn’t exactly the same, the course has changed, and the competitors’ shorts have lengthened considerably. The concept and spirit of the Great Race, however, are still largely the same as back in 1971, the event’s inaugural year.

Referred to as an “unusual” relay, the original course at one time took competitors to the outer reaches of St. George. Motor-cross, horseback riding, running up and down Foremaster Ridge, tubing down the Virgin River, bicycling up River Road, and long distance running back to campus made up the original race in nearly that order, said Bill Fowler, vice president of student services. Students used to pack the roof of the Student Union building with binoculars to watch the race unfold.

“It was dramatic and fun but quite dangerous,” Fowler said. “Runners would often trail in with scraped legs, arms and hands. One year a horseback rider ran over a runner on the ridge, and we had to get a rescue vehicle up there to retrieve the injured student.”

Around 1990, area growth and increased traffic forced the Great Race exclusively to campus. The course was modified to include such events as a swimming leg, running with buckets of water, and 100-yard wheelbarrow races.

A few years ago, around 1997, the Great Race vanished from campus due to safety concerns stemming from overexertion and was replaced by the Freedom 5K. Its absence was short-lived, however. In 2001, then student body president Connor Shakespeare was thumbing through some old yearbooks and stumbled across some old Great Race photos. Together with the Alumni Board, he and his student council jumped right on the idea of bringing the race back to campus.

“As a council, we felt we as students were being deprived of traditions at Dixie,” Shakespeare said. “It seemed instead of seeing traditions stay, we were losing them.”

Today’s race isn’t exactly a carbon copy of the old school version of the Great Race. In addition to the traditional running, biking, and swimming, Great Racers now have to negotiate, among other things, a slip ‘n’ slide track, a roller blade course, a mud pit, and a Dixie trivia question.

While a lot of things have changed about the race, its popularity has not. Last year’s race featured 16 teams of 10 team members. Hundreds more, including DSC’s National Advisory Council, showed up as spectators.

“As far as traditions go, I rank it number one,” said Shakespeare, whose student council team placed eleventh in last year’s race. “It was the greatest accomplishment, the greatest success and the greatest event I was apart of last year as president.”

Though only one alumni team was included in last year’s field, the team placed third overall.

“The students really appreciated...
seeing some alumni participation and this is a great way to show your Dixie Spirit,” said alumni board vice president of special events Ron Wade, a participant in the 2001, 1986, and 1984 Great Races. “It may not only have direct ties unique to Dixie, but it is Dixie—the outdoors, smelling the rock and sand (or eating it anyway, if you were in the mud pit).”

As per tradition, this year’s Great Race will take place during D-Week (April 7 – 12) on Friday, April 11. Each team must consist of six (6) male participants and four (4) female participants. All participants must be a current student, alumnus, or faculty/staff member.

“We hope to have even more participation this year,” said student body president BenJoe Markland. “Last year’s was a fantastic event. Students really loved it, and we hope to get even more positive feedback this year and hope that it will become an even bigger tradition each year.”

To enter into this year’s Great Race, call (434) 652-7517. Entry deadline is Friday, April 4. Applications can be picked up and turned in at the student body executive council offices on the second floor in the Gardner Center. The Great Race begins promptly at 6 p.m.

“The oldest of Dixie traditions that still hold great institutional value include whitewashing the ‘D’ and having the D-Day Dance and the Queen Contest, but in my span of years, the Great Race ranks high,” Fowler said. “It is fun, exciting, and open to everyone. I’m glad it is still what it is—a ‘Great Race.’”

The war of words has already begun . . .

“If I were a student at DSC today, I would be outright embarrassed that some 30 and 40-year old alumni beat 80 percent of the teams last year. All these so-called spring chickens . . . more like spring turkeys. We will do better than third this year . . . count on it. We get better with age.” —Ron Wade, ’02 alumni team member (pictured at left in last year’s race)

“He just better watch his back because we’ll be making him eat his words.” —BenJoe Markland, student body president

D-WEEK EVENTS

MONDAY, APRIL 7
6:30 p.m. Rebel Awards Ceremony & Dinner - Gardner Ballroom, $12

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
7:00 p.m. D-Queen Pageant - Cox Auditorium, $1

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
Service Project - phone 652-7513 for more info

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
6:00 p.m. The Great Race - Hansen Stadium
after race Program Bureau Reunion - Hansen Stadium

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
7:00 a.m. Whitewash the “D” with Breakfast following - no cost

Tickets for the Rebels Awards dinner may be purchased from Rose Odette in the Gardner Student Center. Call 652-7510.

¬ Photos (top to bottom): Great Race Team Winners of 1983 were (l to r) Mark Wade, Coach Greg Croshaw, Larry Moss, Barry Blake, Lindsey Merrill, Dave Webb, Rob Ward, John Blake, and Dave Wilkey.

¬ 1979 Great Race, which included a horse race, was headed up by Ron Metcalf.

¬ Kent Tingey runs in 1986 race.

¬ 1986 participant, Barry Blake, pulled an inner tube on the last leg of the race.

¬ The 1977 Great Race included a lap on a dirt bike (left).
Dixie alum, Derek Booth, is living his career dream working for the Secret Service.

It’s almost impossible to second guess what will fuel someone’s future career, but in the case of DSC alum Derek Booth (’94), it was a friend’s father who became a role model for his future. Now a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service, Booth was recently assigned to protect one of the nation’s most famous coeds, Barbara Bush, daughter of the president.

“I got into the Secret Service,” says Booth, “because growing up I had a friend whose father was a detective in Las Vegas. His stories appealed to me. Most of them were undercover stories of drug deals—buy busts, and then I just liked the romantic nature of it all.”

After earning bachelor and master degrees, Derek interviewed with the local Secret Service office in Salt Lake City and they gave him an application. He then traveled to Denver, Colorado to complete the Treasury Enforcement Exam.

“At this point, I actually moved back east to Connecticut,” says Booth. “I continued with a number of procedures—a polygraph test, a medical physical, and a background check—in New York City at the former World Trade Center. They interviewed me throughout this process; there were about five interviews in all. They offered me a job at this point.”

Elated to see his dreams begin to come true, Derek was immediately thrust into six months of training. His first assignment took him to the New York Field Office. He was to protect the president of Suriname, a country in South America, east of Venezuela.

“He came to New York City for the United Nations General Assembly,” says Booth. “The first day I showed up for work, they gave me an assignment to set up the motorcade. You have to provide the cars for him and all the agents, contact the local police, plan all routes to and from airports, hotels, the United Nations, restaurants, and all applicable emergency routes to hospital.”

Call him cool and collected, but anyone performing this kind of work for the first time has a right to be nervous. “My first assignments were a little difficult,” Booth admits.
“I got to learn New York City really quick. It just made me nervous thinking, ‘this is my first time, I don’t want my name on TV mentioning that the president of Suriname is dead.’”

But first times soon become history and with success on his heels, Booth was subsequently transferred to the New Haven Field Office. In this area he was to look out for any protectee coming into Connecticut.

“One of the most interesting experiences in this office (July 2000),” recalls Booth, “was when Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore asked Senator Joe Lieberman from Connecticut to be the candidate for vice-president. We had a 50-car motorcade from LaGuardia Airport in New York to Stamford, Connecticut for an announcement and rally in Joe Lieberman’s home town. I felt like I was watching history. We had the chance to work with the Lieberman family for the next five or six months. It was cool when we went with them to the voting booths on the day they voted.”

Booth went on to have many exciting experiences. When President Bush spoke at Yale University’s graduation, he faced the logistical challenge of getting 30,000 people secured and into a small area. He helped protect President Clinton at events when he was in office and since he has left office. He looked out for Senator Hillary Clinton while she was campaigning to become senator and later as a senator in office.

A protector of former presidents Bush and Carter, Booth has also worked with a wide variety of foreign dignitaries — presidents and prime ministers. “We took former President Clinton to the opening of the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino,” smiles Booth. “That was interesting because he walked through the gambling floors and met with actors Dan Ackroyd and Jim Belushi, who were attending a Cher Concert.”

In his work with the Secret Service, Booth also assists with investigations pertaining to counterfeit money, counterfeit credit cards, checks, bank fraud, wire fraud, and threats against current and former presidents.

“I’ve never had the excitement of being in one of the gun fights or a physical fights I’ve heard stories about,” relates Booth, “but it has been exciting, and investigations are fun. Knowing that there could be future confrontations does not frighten me. I guess this is because I am surrounded by great people, I’ve been well-trained, and we always think before we act. We try to prevent situations from becoming serious.”

In January 2003, Booth was transferred to the Presidential Detective Division. His assignments for the next 18 months will be to protect Barbara Bush, the daughter of President Bush. Barbara is now attending Yale University, and it is Derek’s responsibility to protect her 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“Socially, we try to give Barbara as much freedom as any 21-year-old girl would get,” says Booth. “But with that in mind, we’re with her when she goes to school, when she’s at parties—which are a lot, when she’s on vacation and wherever she travels. She has met a lot of interesting people along the way.”

Booth has accompanied Barbara on many temporary assignments over the last two years. Some of the activities for which he has shadowed her include attending games of the New York Mets and the Atlanta Braves, taking her shopping with her mom and sister, and backpacking.

“It’s interesting because you get to talk with the people you protect often,” says Booth. “You try to give them as much space as you can; you let them ask you the questions; but eventually, they really do get to know us. My impression of Barbara is that she is a very nice girl, trying to get through school. She loves to have a good time, but she’s in a difficult position with her dad being the president. She’s lost a lot of freedoms.”

Barbara will be graduating in May of 2004, at which time Derek may end up in Washington, D.C., with a new assignment to protect the president. “It’s a difficult, stressful assignment,” says Booth. “The cameras are on you, so you have to always be aware of what you’re doing. It’s demanding and tough.”

Continued on page 9
When the national polls were released prior to the men’s and women’s basketball seasons in October, both DSC teams were ranked nationally. The men, coming off an NJCAA National Championship, and the women, a Scenic West Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship, were ranked No. 5 and No. 14 respectively.

Each of Dixie State’s eight teams has appeared in the NJCAA national polls in 2002-03. A national powerhouse? You better believe it.

**BACK TO BACK TO BACK**

Third place isn’t bad, especially when you finished second and first the two previous seasons. The soccer team followed up its national championship in 2000, and its finish in 2001 as the national runner-up, with a No. 3 national ranking to end the 2002 season.

The Rebels are now led by first-year head coach Linda Huddleston. You may recognize the name. Her husband, Bob, also works on campus— as the college president. But think again if you think she was handed the job. She’s volunteering her services, without pay, to help take some pressure off the college’s current budget crunch. A former head coach at NAU, her credentials speak for themselves, particularly after this past season.

After coaching the Rebels to conference, region, and district championships, the Rebels came a whisker away from advancing to the championship game for the third straight year, losing 2-1 in a shootout. The team finished the season 22-4 overall, with two of those losses coming to NCAA Division I universities. As icing on the cake, Huddleston was named SWAC Coach of the Year. She’s quick to reflect any credit she’s been given as a coach, however, back to her team.

“I can’t say enough about them,” she said. “The way they came together as individuals and blended as a team—we never had any catfights, never had any problems, and they put the team first. They all get along and they work very hard and do the best they can and just play beautiful soccer.”

Four soccer players received All-American honors this season.

**SENEGAL SENSATION**

Dixie’s women’s basketball program has a new all-time leading scorer. Sophomore forward Aya Traore, from Senegal, Africa, recently became Dixie’s new all-time leading scorer.

That’s not to mention the final rankings for the softball, baseball and golf teams. Softball finished the 2002 season ranked No. 18 nationally, the team’s highest finish ever. Baseball finished the 2002 regular season ranked No. 1, only to lose a heartbreaker in the SWAC finals, and golf finished in the No. 14 slot.

That’s not to mention the final rankings for the softball, baseball and golf teams. Softball finished the 2002 season ranked No. 18 nationally, the team’s highest finish ever. Baseball finished the 2002 regular season ranked No. 1, only to lose a heartbreaker in the SWAC finals, and golf finished in the No. 14 slot.

Each of Dixie State’s eight teams has appeared in the NJCAA national polls in 2002-03. A national powerhouse? You better believe it.

**Above:** Led by first-year head coach Linda Huddleston, DSC’s soccer team placed third in the nation in 2002.

**Right:** Sophomore forward Aya Traore, from Senegal, Africa, recently became Dixie’s new all-time leading scorer.
services, including Purdue, Michigan, San Diego State, and New Mexico. “She has a myriad of options,” Irvin said.

Men’s head coach Jeff Kidder thinks there may be a few others beyond the collegiate ranks taking note of Traore’s talent also.

“If you want to watch a WNBA player; get a ticket and go watch her here,” he said.

A native of Senegal, Africa, Traore has averaged just over 21 points per game on 55 percent shooting from the field.

FOOTBALL TEAM FINISHES NO. 3

Three has definitely been company for the Rebel football team as of late. For the second consecutive year, DSC has landed in the No. 3 spot in the nation to finish the season.

The only college team in the state of Utah to be invited to a bowl game this season, the Rebels took that distinction and ran with it, beating previously No. 3 ranked Butler County Community College 31-18 in the Dixie Rotary Bowl, and capping a 10-2 season.

“That’s great for us, but it’s sad for the state,” said head coach Greg Croshaw, who is now 12-4 in Dixie Rotary Bowls. “But for us to be there, I’m thankful. There’s only one team in the state that’s bowling—I’m glad it’s us. I can’t tell you how happy that makes me feel.”

Four Rebels received NJCAA All-American honors. Jess Hacker, center; and Tyler DeBry, linebacker; were named first team All-Americans. Nick Sonntag, defensive lineman, and Jason Lee, defensive back, were named to the second team. With the exception of Sonntag, all are sophomores.

and you’re away from home a lot.”

The being away from home part is where his wife plays a strong and important role in his family.

“My family life is very unpredictable; I have to be very flexible,” he said. “My wife is excellent when it comes to that. I couldn’t do my job without her support.”

His wife is Amy Savage, also from St. George. It is her encouragement and understanding that has helped Derek be successful in his career. “She is so supportive,” he says again. Sometimes his family gets to travel with him and luckily, Amy enjoys traveling to D.C., and New York City, and living on the east coast.

“We actually got to come home to Salt Lake City for seven weeks to work at the Olympics last year,” said Booth. “Congress decided the Secret Service should protect the Olympic Games, and so we established a protection plan and gave up a lot of bodies last year. It was great being in my home state.”

Amy and their oldest son, Broderick (2 1/2), were in St. George with her family for much of the time that Derek spent in Salt Lake. Following the games, their second son, Wyatt, was born in August 2002. “Amy and I grew up together,” says Derek. “We were in the same 5th grade class, and we went to middle school and high school together.”

Derek graduated from Dixie in 1994 with an associate degree. He went to SUU and graduated in ‘96 with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and Spanish. He then earned his master’s degree at SUU as well in ’97.

“I remember when I was graduating from Dixie that Mom was quite upset,” says Derek. “I could not go to my own graduation because my wife was graduating from SUU the same evening. My mom was a trustee at Dixie at the time, and it meant a lot to her.”

“My biggest memory of Dixie is the sports,” he says. “As a kid I used to attend all the basketball games in the old gym. Later, I loved watching my little sister, Britney, play on the girls’ basketball team. I love Dixie. I love the spirit there, the great community support, and the instructors are excellent.”

Derek’s mother, Maureen Booth, and wife of St. George’s “infamous” Dr. Craig Booth, is a former chairman of the DSC Board of Trustees. She is also a proud mom. “Derek didn’t really want to leave Dixie,” writes Maureen from Phoenix, Arizona, where her husband is currently serving as mission president of the Phoenix Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “But he went for the opportunity that presented itself with the Secret Service. It is HARD to get into the Service—it took him over two years and lots and lots of interviews, tests, etc. But he stuck with it.

“The neat thing about this presidential assignment he just got was that the Service requested Derek,” she continues. “They are well aware of his hard work and his dedication. It is interesting that they notice things like that and comforting to know they care.”

Not everyone receives the opportunity to live the dreams they conjure for themselves in youth. But Derek has. He realizes his fortune and takes each day as it comes.

“I love my job,” he says with enthusiasm. “I love the challenge and the variety and the excitement of doing it. I feel like it is a good service to the people whom we protect. I feel like we’re doing something good for our country.”

“My impression of Barbara Bush is that she is a very nice girl, trying to get through school.”
Since 2000, Dixie State College has introduced three four-year degree programs: business administration, computer and information science, and elementary education.

After undergoing a full-scale accreditation evaluation in October, the college received word in January that each of those programs is now fully accredited for the first time. Dixie's accreditation at the associate level was also reaffirmed.

"We've been eating, drinking and sleeping accreditation for a long time now—it's nice to finally have it under our belt," said DSC president Dr. Robert Huddleston.

Dixie State received commendation for providing a high level of information technology for students and faculty, for its performance in providing community service, continuing education, and cultural activities to the local community, for its success in fundraising, and for the functionality and beauty of its campus.

In 2004, a single evaluator will review the college's progress in the areas in which recommendations were made, including faculty evaluation, faculty workload, mission, and communication with constituents.

"This is obviously a milestone for this institution, but it's also a real credit to the faculty, staff, and students who make up this institution," Dr. Huddleston said. "It validates what we've known for a long time. This is a quality institution with quality programs. We look forward to building on this important step in this institution's history."

STUDENTS GIVE BACK

As part of the college's Campus to Community service program, DSC students last fall, together with local high school students, collected nearly 6,000 new and used books to benefit local schools and organizations. All books were donated by the local community. The book drive was done in memory of the late Lois Wells, a local educator and literacy advocate who helped many in Washington County learn to read.

The program consists of one large service project each semester. Other Campus to Community projects have included a yard sale that raised $5,000 to help aid an eight-year-old near drowning victim. Students also helped plant trees at the newly dedicated Southern Utah Water Conservation Garden in St. George.

On Friday, Mar. 28 at 1 p.m., students will take part in The Confluence Project. Students will help remove debris and garbage in and around the canyon and the confluence area where Ash and LaVerkin Creeks join the Virgin River. The 400-acre area, an untapped resource for picnicking, hiking, bird-watching, and horseback riding, will eventually be conserved as a public park and wildlife preserve. Alumni are invited to participate. Call Donna Stafford at 652-7513 for more information.

NEW STUDENT CAFETERIA OPENS

The new Red Rock Café opened its doors for business in time for the first day of spring semester in January. The 11,000 square foot add-on to the Gardner Student Center includes a new food court, kitchen, and dining area. No state funds were used on the project.

"For a school our size in the United States, we're probably in the top 10 percent now in terms of what we're able to offer our students and guests," said director of campus dining Martin Peterson. "We've really doubled our offerings and will provide a fresher and better quality product."

A new student commons area, freed up by the old student dining area and buffet, is now in place as well. The space is furnished with several couches and armchairs, a big-screen television, chess tables, and a foosball table. A few computers will also be installed in the lounge area for student use. Also a part of the new look Gardner Center is a remodeled convenience store.

FINE ARTS CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

Ground was finally broken for the new 70,000 square foot plus Delores Dore' Eccles Fine Arts Center. The anticipated completion date for the building is January 2004.

"This process has been filled with yield signs, speed bumps, U-turns, and stop signs," said DSC president Robert Huddleston. "Fortunately, we've busted through those barriers..."
Above: Roland Lee's oil painting, "In from the Fields," was chosen “Best of Show” at the 2003 Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show. Above right: Shakespeare’s home is one of the historic sites visited by members of the DSC Humanities faculty at a NEH development seminar in England.

and accomplished the task.”

In addition to office and classroom space, the new facility will include a 500-seat performance theatre, a black box theater, a music concert hall, and several rehearsal rooms. It will also include a new art museum which, in addition to various traveling exhibits, will house the college’s annual Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show.

“This is a building that has been substantially earned by this institution,” said State Representative David Clark. “At a time when state budgets and revenues are certainly in the challenge category, I think it should indicate to this community and to the college the significant role that we place on arts and theatre and the importance and the relevance they have within our community.”

SEARS INVITATIONAL ART SHOW WINNERS

This year’s “Best of Show” winner at the Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show is St. George artist and former DSC art professor Roland Lee. Lee’s “In From the Fields,” a watercolor painting, earned him the honor.

Robert Marshall, Springville, Utah, took first place in this year’s landscape oils category with his painting “Snow Canyon III.” Second place was awarded to Kathryn Stats, Sandy, Utah, for “High Country Winter.” Kimball Warren, Mapleton, Utah, won third place for “West Rim Trail and Angels Landing.”

In the oils other category, Dixie College alumnus Mike Malm, Wellsville, Utah, won first place for his “Winter Apple Tree.” “Portrait of a Young Dancer,” by Dan Lewis, Inkom, Idaho, placed second. Placing third was Steve McGinty, Murray, Utah, for “Morning Shepherd.”

In the watercolor category, William Rushing’s “Trackers on San Rafael,” Cameron, Texas, took first place. Second place was awarded to Ian Ramsay, Murray, Utah, for “Country Lane, Jedburgh Scotland,” up a notch from his third place finish last year in the same category. And third place went to “We Could Raise Buffalo,”” by Nancy Perschon, Hurricane, Utah, a communications faculty member at the college.

Taking first place in the pastels category was Julie Rogers, Glendale, Utah, for “A New Day.” Second place went to Robert Barrett, Provo, Utah, for “Union Soldier,” with third place going to Jerry Hancock, Ogden, Utah, for “Day Dreaming.”

In the other media category, the first place ribbon went to Jerry Anderson, Leeds, Utah, for “Drums and Dreams.” Ed H’Lavka, St. George, Utah, was awarded second place for “Wren.” And L’Deane Trueblood, St. George, Utah, took third place for “Twirl.” All three works in this category are bronze pieces.

Former DSC student and art professor Wallace Lee, 2002 “Best of Show” winner, was this year’s judge. A new landmark was reached on opening night of this year’s show.

“We didn’t have the largest turnout we’ve ever had,” said DSC alumni director Kalynn Larson. “But we sold more works of art than we ever had before, so that makes it a success.”

Other landmarks lay ahead. Since the inaugural show in 1988, a portion of each purchase has gone toward funding the new Delores Dore’ Eccles Fine Arts Center, now under construction on campus. An art gallery within the new building will bear the Robert and Peggy Sears name, the show’s founders, and be home to the Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show beginning in 2004.

“This new gallery will, in part, be known as the museum that the Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show built,” Whitehead said. “The show began with a museum in mind, and it’s neat to finally see it come to fruition.”

HUMANITIES TRIP INSPIRES

“We had unique opportunities to visit magnificent historic and cultural treasures, as well as beautiful natural landscapes, all of which I’m confident inspired seminar participants to be more forceful advocates for the humanities, for the arts, and for the nobility of the human spirit which helped to create these wonders.”

English Professor Allan Payne penned these journal lines after attending the National Endowment for the Humanities seminar in Cambridge, England with 25 members of the Dixie State College faculty last May.

The trip was made possible through an NEH Challenge grant awarded to Dixie State along with private donations. The purpose of the grant is to enable Dixie faculty to interact with some of the finest teachers and scholars in the world. In the past, the money has been used to

Continued on page 21
Dixie dreams, Dixie dreams,
Dixie dreams
Live forever in our memory.
Spirit good,
brotherhood,
Dixie dreams
Hauntingly return to you
and me.

Of the memories that tenderly unfold,
In our reverie all our dreams we mold.
Of our hills and our homes,
All the things we call our own
Will ever be our Dixie dreams.

Through the years, smiles or tears, we will go
Into life and out across the way.
And to all, through the years, there will be
Happy memories of Dixie days.

Lila Mae Sampson penned the words and wrote the music to a Dixie song that appeared in the college’s literary magazine, The Southern Quill, in 1953. It captured some of her feelings about the St. George campus and the community which have stayed with her through the years.

Even though she didn’t realize it at the time, perhaps Lila Mae’s “Dixie Dreams” are best expressed through her children, all of whom graduated from Dixie and where all but one met their spouse.

“I remember Dixie and St. George because that boulevard was magic with the big red mountain in the background to the north and the bold, black hill on the west,” said Lila Mae. “The students were so loyal to each other; Dixie was to me a place of extreme loyalty.”

Perhaps loyalty is best nourished in a small environment that encourages closeness. In the early 1950s, St. George was a rural community of 4,000 where everyone knew each other.

“It was just a tiny little place when I went to Dixie,” she smiled. “I graduated from high school in Delta, Utah, but it was a little scholarship that brought me to Dixie along with the generosity of my older brother, Doyle Sampson, who lived in St. George and allowed me to live in their home.”

Lila Mae recounted pleasant memories of campus life, back in the days when the college was located downtown. One of her unforgettable experiences was standing on the Tabernacle steps with her friends, singing the songs of Dixie. “We loved our Dixie songs,” she said. “But I was most excited about going to college to learn. I recall Juanita Brooks and her literature class; I just loved that class. It opened my eyes to what I considered life.”

She went on to marry S. Arthur Debenham, who graduated from George Washington University School of Law in Washington, D.C. They became the parents of five talented children: Dave, Doug, Dan, Ann and Jim.

“We eventually moved to Alaska where Arthur had his own law firm,” said Lila Mae. “Our children were growing up and coming to the lower 48 from time to time. We decided to move to Utah and it was a difficult decision because we lost so much financially, but Arthur and I talked about it in later years, and we said if we had to do it all over again we would do it because our children met such wonderful spouses there.”

After living in Utah five years, and with their children now graduating or attending various universities, Lila Mae and Arthur returned to Alaska for another seven years. They
moved back to Utah after that to live around the children and their families.

David was the first Debenham child to attend Dixie in 1979. But the campus was much different than the one his mother remembered. Trading the pioneer vintage red sandstone blocks for a much larger, modern campus, the college had moved to the east side of town in the early 1960s to the exact spot where St. George’s first pioneer families camped upon their arrival to the area.

While Dave had actually started college at Brigham Young University in 1978, he transferred to Dixie the next year: “He led the way for the rest of us, and we couldn’t wait to follow,” said Dan, the middle child in the family. “Dave had accepted a scholarship to go to Dixie and he was having the time of his life, like everyone who attends Dixie. Dave would tell us how cute the girls from Dixie were and my mother would agree.”

Dave was introduced to his future wife, Susan Sandberg, by a cousin, both members of the Dixie drill team, the Rebelettes. They became better acquainted at the dances which were held regularly in those days at the gymnasium. It wasn’t until after graduating, when Dave met up with Susan while visiting the BYU campus where she was continuing her education, that the couple began dating in earnest.

They were married in 1980 and Dave completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Utah in business management and pre-med. He was then accepted into the U’s medical school, specializing in anesthesia. They returned to St. George in 1991, this time with their young family in tow, for a refill of Dixie’s red sands. Dr. Dave Debenham currently practices anesthesiology at the Dixie Regional Medical Center; and he also operates a pain clinic.

Doug was next in line to attend Dixie. An avid debater, he joined Dixie’s award-winning forensics squad. The year was 1982. Little did he realize

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There’s more to life than football, even when your employer is the National Football League. The thought borders on blasphemy for the millions who have made NFL football their religion, its players their gods, and John Madden their preacher. But for Dixie alumnus Phil Tuckett (’66), who currently stands just a few rungs below Commissioner Paul Tagliabue on the NFL totem pole as a vice president for NFL FILMS, life is not all football. It’s much, much more.

When Tuckett graduated from Olympus High in Salt Lake City as a three-sport letterman, football in particular was about the only thing on his mind. After thumbing his nose at partial scholarship offers from BYU and the University of Utah, and passing on both Ricks and Snow College, Tuckett and his friends drove to St. George, Utah, for what he saw as his last option to play collegiate football.

When they arrived, then head coach Sarkis Arslanian went straight to Tuckett and looked him straight in the eye, practically ignoring his other two friends who were also in search of a place to play.

“We’ve been waiting for you,” he told Tuckett. “I’ve earmarked you as the recruit that I most need to have for next year’s football team.”

That was all Tuckett needed to hear. He was sold.

“That day was the first time in my athletic career that anyone gave me the feeling that I could be anything more than just another guy playing football—that’s the way Sark made you feel,” Tuckett said. “That sort of formed the rest of my life athletically. What Dixie was about, I was about.”

The decision to come to Dixie paid immediate dividends for Tuckett and the college. During both the 1964-65 and 1965-66 seasons, Tuckett was named to the All-ICAC first team. Also in 1966, he was named Honorable Mention All-American Running Back, an honor he shared with O.J. Simpson. As captain of the Rebel football team, Tuckett was on the highway to sports nirvana and enjoying every minute of it.

“I could easily have gone the route of living in the jock environment,” he said. “We lived in what was called Termite Terrace off campus, intentionally set up as a rat hole because football players lived there and they knew we would trash it anyway. I kind of fell into that and was having a lot of fun just being a jock.”

After taking a class from former Dixie science professor Andrew Barnum, however, Tuckett, for the first time in his life really, was shaken awake academically.

“Dr. Barnum made such an impression on me the first class I took

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from him that I actually started paying attention and I got some pretty good grades," Tuckett said.

He soon married the former Judy Oxborrow in 1965, a Dixie cheerleader, becoming the lone married couple on campus. With life a little more settled, Tuckett decided on English for his major. He went on to have similar experiences to what he had had with Barnum, this time with Bob Dalton, also my wife," Tuckett said. "We decided that maybe I should aspire to more than hanging out at Termite Terrace and that getting decent grades might be more important than sleeping in every day until noon."

Tuckett still managed to turn a few heads on the football field as well, this time as a receiver. While at Weber, he shattered nearly every receiving record in the book in a two-year period. Up until this point in his life, Tuckett had never even considered the NFL as an option, but that all changed by his senior year.

"Things had changed enough by that time that I really thought I would be drafted," Tuckett said. "There’s nothing more humiliating than to be waiting for the call about which team is going to draft you and for it to never come."

Sixteen teams had expressed interest in his services, but on draft day, the call never came. He signed on with the San Diego Chargers, however, in 1968, but after battling through training camp and the exhibition season for a permanent position, he was cut just prior to the season opener. He toiled on the reserve squad nearly the entire season before finally getting his shot and being activated for the final game of the season against the Oakland Raiders.

Another intellectual giant in Tuckett’s eyes. He didn’t exactly set the world on fire with his academic prowess while at Dixie, but it set the stage for things to come from a Phil Tuckett that was slowly evolving into something more than just a jock.

Tuckett finished his English degree at Weber State College where he was reunited with Coach Arslanian, who had left Dixie a year earlier. It was there that he started turning heads for his work in the classroom. He was named NCAA Academic All-American in 1968.

"The reason I could do that was because of those two men at Dixie and Weber, he shattered nearly every receiving record in the book in a two-year period. Up until this point in his life, Tuckett had never even considered the NFL as an option, but that all changed by his senior year.

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During the week leading up to the game, Tuckett dreamed he had caused a fumble on special teams coverage and recovered it in the end zone for a touchdown. It didn’t even surprise him when during the game he found himself in a similar scenario with the ball bouncing right at him waist high and a clear path to the end zone, after the ball ricocheted off the punt returner’s shoulder pad. The ball was recovered in the end zone for a touchdown, but not by Tuckett. Just before scooping up the ball, he was hit from behind and his dream of a touchdown recovery went down with him, as did his days in the NFL.
Lately, Phil Tuckett’s job has taken on a whole new meaning. One of his most recent projects, “My Father’s Gun,” took him to lower Manhattan a mere four days prior to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. The documentary for the History Channel details three generations of New York cops in the same family. Tuckett happened to be staying at the Marriott Hotel, near what is now known as Ground Zero.

“Just being from the northeast, it hit home in a much deeper way,” Tuckett said. “My wife and I walked around in a daze for weeks afterwards. And then after that it’s just kind of a dull ache and a knot in your stomach—that you have so little control over something like that and there’s nothing you can do to help, really.”

Tuckett did do something to help, though. While very little survived the collapse of the towers, some 50,000 personal items including wallets, jewelry, credit cards, photos, and $70,000 in loose change remained intact to varying degrees. Many of those items were cleaned and reclaimed. The photographs, however, in their mangled state, seemed to be a hopeless cause. That’s when NFL FILMS and Kodak stepped in.

“I call each one of them little miracles because in that collapse there wasn’t one piece of furniture that survived, there wasn’t one computer that survived,” he said. “There was no way that you could look and say, ‘That used to be a chair’ because it was so destroyed. But there were nearly 10,000 photographs that survived.”

As a company, 145 volunteers at NFL FILMS were able to salvage 7,400 photographs. Kodak restored 2,100. Combined, nearly 10,000 scanned images were turned over to the NYPD to be posted on the Internet and reclaimed.

“I don’t maintain that this is a huge deal, but in being able to do something and have it tied in with my profession, I just felt that knot go away,” he said. “Even though it took a lot of time and was painful from the standpoint of actually touching the devastation, I made the right decision and that decision has helped me deal with it the most positive way I possibly could.”

An indication of just how painful an undertaking it really was, some chose not to participate.

“Some people recoiled in horror from it when they got the opportunity to do it,” Tuckett said. “And I can understand that. There was actually human putrescence on the photographs. I mean, you could actually smell death on those photographs,” Tuckett said reverently. “So it’s not for everybody, but I couldn’t have lived with myself if I hadn’t done it.”

In the aftermath of 9-11, Tuckett was able to go to Afghanistan to interview U.S. troops. Those spots, called “American Postcards,” ran during the first half of the NFL season during games in honor of the U.S. military.

“That probably ranked up there in my career as one of the most challenging and meaningful and enjoyable things I’ve done,” he said. “Most people wouldn’t look at a trip to Afghanistan as enjoyable, but I enjoyed my work. That was such an intense example of what I’ve been training to do my whole career – going into difficult environments and controlling the variables and making movies about it.”

Above: Hundreds of NFL FILMS employees use their expertise to help restore some 7,000 personal photographs found in the World Trade Center rubble following the Sept. 11 attacks. The photos were then posted on the Internet for reclamation.
FILMMAKER

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More so than any one play, however, his lack of speed by NFL standards ultimately cut Tuckett’s playing days short. He was let go for good just prior to the 1969 season. That single season as a Charger, however, opened the door to the rest of his life and career.

During the off-season, Tuckett had worked as a substitute teacher; a construction worker; and a sports columnist in the San Diego area. His article, How I Won My Lightning Bolts, chronicling his single season with the Chargers, appeared in Sport Magazine in August 1969 and caught the eye of then president of NFL Films Ed Sabol, who was in town working on a documentary with Charger head coach Sid Gilman a few weeks prior to Tuckett being let go.

“Sabol was so blown away by the fact that there was a football player who was published,” Tuckett said. “He got very excited. The company was just getting started at that time, and he could find writers or he could find people who were knowledgeable about football, but it was hard to find both.”

As far as he could tell, he had found that combination in Tuckett. Sabol was so impressed that he designated him at that very moment as a potential hire, despite Tuckett not knowing anything about the film industry. When Tuckett was finally let go, he tried to contact Sabol, but repeated phone calls went unanswered, and he began looking for work elsewhere.

Ironically, he returned to Dixie to be a wide receiver coach under then head coach Bill Slade. He was also set to teach English alongside both Barnum and Dalton, the very professors who had made such an impression on him as a student. He made one last call to Sabol, again to no avail, and left as his callback number a pay phone near where he was staying. Two days later, from that very pay phone, someone hollered up to Tuckett that he had a phone call. It was Sabol. That same night, Tuckett was on a red-eye flight from Las Vegas to Philadelphia and in Sabol's office the next morning at NFL FILMS' headquarters.

“When can you be here to start?” Sabol asked him. “Well,” Tuckett replied, “my wife is eight months pregnant and I’ve got this other job. “Don’t bother me with all those details,” Sabol responding, “The season starts in a week and we need you here. We’ll take care of everything, but I need you here working.”

Tuckett sent for his wife, Judy, and never even left, and he’s been there ever since. NFL Films has been in business for 38 years, and Tuckett’s been there for 34 of them. During that time, Tuckett has gone from not knowing a thing about the film industry to being an Emmy Award-winning cinematographer, editor, producer, and director.

He’s captured some of the most memorable moments in NFL history, such as “The Miracle of the Meadowlands,” and has covered 32 Super Bowls.

Some of his other work has included “Lost Treasures of NFL Films,” a critically-acclaimed series for ESPN Classic, “NFL Presents Miked Up For Monday Night,” for ABC’s Monday Night Football, “Before They Were Pros,” for TNT, and “Munich Revisited,” the ABC documentary that took a look back at the 1972 Israeli hostage tragedy. In all, he’s won 28 Emmys for his work and has been a crucial cog in establishing the up close and personal look, feel, and style of NFL FILMS filmmaking, now an NFL trademark.

Some of his most meaningful work, however, has taken place off the football field. As vice president of special projects, Tuckett is over a whole gamut of projects both in and outside of football. The company’s number one priority is the NFL, but it also sources its services.

“In my position I’m able to do lots of things besides football because, although that’s where I came from, I never wanted that to define who I was as a filmmaker,” Tuckett said. “So I’ve made films about all different subject matter, and I would say 80 percent of my time now is taken up with non-football projects.”

Some of that work has included national commercial spots for companies such as Sprint and Reebok, documentaries for TNT and the History Channel, and music videos for MTV. Tuckett has become an acclaimed producer of music videos and has worked with hundreds of bands, everyone from B.B. King to Santana to Metallica. He’s even worked with the controversial shock-rocker Marilyn Manson.

“I’ve been criticized for that, but I’m not interested in making a movie of someone that’s just like me,” Tuckett said. “I had a good time doing the Marilyn Manson piece because he’s about as far from who I am that you can possibly be and still have blood pumping through your veins. But to me that was challenging and exciting.”

It’s that diversity that fuels Tuckett at this point in his career. Each of his 28 Emmys, thus far, has been football related. He now craves an Emmy that doesn’t have anything at all to do with football. That craving could be satisfied this spring. “My Father’s Gun,” a docu-movie about three generations of
New York cops in the same family, which aired on the History Channel, has been nominated for an Emmy.

At the apex of his career, when Tuckett looks where he’s been and the road that led him where he is today, he looks back to Dixie as a major starting point.

“Sark created the confidence that I had kind of lacked up to that point—that I could be something special as an athlete,” Tuckett said. “That never left me through my brief career in the NFL. And I have to say, coming to NFL FILMS, I had that little bit of, not cockiness, but self-confidence. Sark gave that to me. The more I think about him as I get older, the more I realize how absolutely crucial that was to my development, that I had somebody like him who believed in me so much.”

In the hustle and bustle of the eastern seaboard of the U.S., few can relate to the special place Tuckett has reserved deep inside of him for Dixie College. He hasn’t cut those ties and doesn’t plan on doing so any other place. Maybe if I win an Emmy, or any other honor I could get from any other place. Maybe if I win an Oscar some day, I could put them side by side, but it wouldn’t be one above the other.

Yes, there really is more to life than football, at least for Tuckett. And Dixie will forever remain near the top of his list.

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**DEBENHAMS**

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that he would meet the love of his life doing something he loved most. He met Laura (Lollie) Lyman, who was from his mother’s hometown of Delta, during those early days of practicing for their first forensics meets.

“They wouldn’t put us in a duet act together because they saw the chemistry that was there between us,” said Lollie. “We fell in love and decided to get married; it was so fun to announce our engagement to our friends. We broke the news by performing a duet act for the forensics class and made them think this was an act we were taking to the nationals. We asked the team to critique our duet performance. It was really funny to watch their faces as they began to figure out what was going on.”

Doug graduated in 1984 and then married Lollie on June 15, shortly after commencement. He went on to graduate from medical school at the University of Nevada, Reno. They currently live in Effingham, Illinois, where he is a Radiation Oncologist.

Lollie delivered the couple’s seventh child in June 2001 and fulfilled her dream of completing her baccalaureate degree, graduating from Eastern Illinois University the following December.

But their time at Dixie would have a lasting effect on their lives together: “How we loved those days,” reflected Lollie. “This was a great time in our lives and we miss it. We used to go cliff rappelling in Zion every week. Now we have friends who save all their lives to go there for a weekend. They said on the speech team that we wouldn’t have a chance together because we were both so boisterous. But we have children who have followed right along and now we shut up!”

Recent developments in Doug’s career will bring the family back to St. George in September 2003. He has accepted a new position at Dixie Regional Medical Center’s cancer unit and they are looking forward to coming home.

All of Lila Mae’s children express a passion for Dixie, but Dan is not to be outdone. He exudes an enthusiasm that began as a young boy.

“I remember coming down to Utah from Alaska to visit relatives in Salt Lake City and Delta,” said Dan. “But every once in a while we’d come to St. George to visit Uncle Doyle, who owned the local Dairy Queen. I think my first affinity for St. George was getting free ice cream from Uncle Doyle.”

The Debenham family moved to Utah when Dan was in his junior year in high school. “My brothers and sister and I had heard for years how great Dixie was from my mother. I was offered an academic scholarship and so I moved to St. George right after graduation. I went to the employment office that June and asked for the highest paying job they had for the summer.”

The highest paying job happened to be digging trenches by hand with a pick to lay automatic sprinkling systems. It paid $7.50 an hour, which was double what anyone else was paying in the early 1980s. However, by swinging a pick throughout the hot St. George summer, by the time school started Dan was in the best shape of his life, had lost ten pounds, and had a great tan.

“It was a great way to start college,” he quipped.

Soon, however, Dan began to feel that there was something unique about his Dixie experience. It began

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DEBENHAMS
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to be for him much more than pretty girls or a fun place to go to school. It became a starting point for the rest of his life.

“The great thing about Dixie was you were able to enjoy all the positive parts of college life without getting lost,” he said. “Classes were small; there weren’t 400 kids in classes, student activities didn’t have 400 people involved. There was actually a spirit there you thought ended in high school, but you found it waiting for you at Dixie.

“I certainly didn’t think I’d be in choir or college plays,” he continued, “but at Dixie I was in both. I formed friendships with others who were also involved in these activities. There was an environment on campus that fostered unity unlike when I went on to the university. And one other important thing. The girls were as good looking at Dixie as my brother said they were. That’s where I met my wife, Mona.”

It was at Dixie where Dan received his first taste of broadcasting on campus radio station KRDC, and he graduated with an emphasis in communications. He admitted, however, that Mona and her friends thought it was corny being a DJ.

That’s where they left their association for the time being, and in spite of that fact, he remembers only the good things about his years on campus. “There were never any bad things that happened to me at Dixie,” he said. “I enjoyed all my roommates, my classes, and I loved every moment of my time there.”

Like many students who attend Dixie, Dan participated in the plentiful outdoor opportunities sitting at his doorstep. He talked about rappelling in Snow Canyon, squeezing through the narrows on the Dixie Red Hill, going on creative dates and meeting great friends with whom he still keeps in touch.

“There was a very serious part of my education as well,” he pointed out. “Dixie allowed me to understand that I would enjoy and perhaps be very good in television. The encouragement of my instructor Ned Carnahan, who also provided a lot of air time for me to be on the radio, gave me the feeling that I could succeed. My experiences there gave me the education, the hands-on training, and the encouragement all at the same time, which was invaluable to me.”

Dan graduated in 1983 and had already established a close relationship with Bill Randall, owner of the legendary Pizza Factory. Dan was waiting tables and serving as an ad manager for the St. George Magazine as well. He partnered with Bill to open some Pizza Factories in Salt Lake City, but it was Bill Randall who encouraged him to go further in television.

“That is how Mona and I hooked up in Salt Lake,” said Dan. “She lived two blocks away, and someone said I ought to ask her out. I called her up, asked her for a date and we were married within a year.”

Dan went to the U and was in the middle of his schooling and interning in broadcasting at Channel 4 when one of the news anchors there told him about a job opening in Alaska with no experience necessary, college degree preferred. He sent a tape with samples of programs he had recorded, and two months later Dan was on his way, driving to Anchorage in the middle of a snow storm in Canada, with Mona waiting behind to sell the house.

“I became the new sports anchor for KIMO-TV, Channel 13 in Anchorage, the ABC affiliate,” said Dan. “That is how I eventually got my job at ESPN a couple of years later.

In 1989 ESPN came to Anchorage to cover the World Alpine Ski Championships. Former Miss America Sharlene Wells Hawks, a Utah native, was the ESPN reporter covering the event. When she found out Dan was from Utah, she said, “You ought to replace me. I’m thinking about leaving ESPN and starting my family.” It wasn’t long after that they called him up and offered Dan a five-year contract. He ended up staying there seven years.

Dan was hired at ESPN to host a show called Scholastic Sports America, where he featured future stars. “I got to play golf with Tiger Woods when he was 16,” said Dan, “basketball with Jason Kidd, football with Peyton Manning, and I got to go skiing with Tommy Moe. I played tennis against Lindsay Davenport and Andre Agassi. The show was great for me. I also anchored Sports Center in the summer; was a reporter for Baseball Tonight, then in the fall I was a sideline reporter for college football, and in the winter I’d do play-by-play for college basketball.

“It was a whirlwind experience,” continued Dan. “In the end, when I was gone six months of the year from my wife and kids, we decided it would be better for me to be home more, and so we moved back to Utah.”

Dan accepted a position with Channel 4 in Salt Lake City, a four-year contract. “We came back and built our home and a better family life,” he said.

It was at Channel 4 where Dan met his current business partner, Tom Zdunich. He finished out the contract with Channel 4 and then joined Tom at LENZ-works Productions. They currently produce sales and marketing DVDs, original television shows, infomercials and music videos. He still freelances for ESPN and other networks as well and recently flew to Florida to start a new series for TBS.

The campus really didn’t have time to cool its heels. Dave, Doug and

◆ Dave is the first Debenham sibling to graduate from Dixie as he walks through the famous “D” on May 1, 1979. Eight other Debenham siblings and spouses would follow.
Dan had graduated in a combined period of five years. Then sister Ann came down to Dixie with her boyfriend, now husband, Shane Phillips. Shane had a baseball scholarship and Ann had a cheerleading scholarship.

The men’s basketball team won Dixie’s first ever national title that year. “We traveled to Kansas City with the team,” she said. “All the hype and the buzz associated with the national tournament was a big highlight for me, especially cheering at the championship game.”

The college experience of going to classes and learning together and participating in dances and activities are some of the things Ann remembers about Dixie. “We traveled to Kansas City with the team,” she said. “All the hype and the buzz associated with the national tournament was a big highlight for me, especially cheering at the championship game.”

Shane has been in private practice now for five years and they have a thriving dental practice in Sandy, Utah.

Finally, it was Jim’s turn to attend Dixie. The baby of the Debenham bunch, Jim, graduated from Dixie State College in 1993, attended Utah State University and eventually graduated from BYU. The only member of the family who didn’t meet his wife at Dixie, he and his wife Jenny (a niece to Lollie) reside in Orange County, California where he is currently a successful project manager for a large construction company — Regis Contractors.

Now at age 70, Lila Mae, the proud Dixie matriarch of this Debenham crew, still reflects upon her youthful days at Dixie. “The beautiful clock tower of the tabernacle was steady and dependable, along with those gorgeous, overlapping mulberry trees lining Main Street,” she said.

But more than the warm weather and the comforting environment, she remembers enduring qualities of trust, love, understanding, tolerance and support. “These things are what Dixie has meant to our family. There was just an extraordinary feeling of camaraderie and lots of laughter. I could always go to sleep at Dixie with a smile on my face.”

◆ Dan Debenham, in an ESPN interview with PGA Commissioner, Tom Finch. Dan traveled around the nation anchoring sports programs for ESPN for eight years. 

◆ Humanities faculty, (l to r) John Cartier, Louise Excell, Tim Bywater, Alicia and Joe Green, and Allan Payne listen to Professor Moseley outside Kings College in Cambridge, England.

◆ Happening on Campus (continued from page 11)

bring speakers onto Dixie’s campus, but for the first time, this grant was used to take faculty off campus to experience first-hand the things they teach about in art, literature, English, theatre, history, architecture, and humanities courses.

After the seminar, faculty had an opportunity to tour historic sites in England and France, including Abbey Cathedral, Warwick Castle, Royal Shakespeare Theater (where they attended the play “Anthony & Cleopatra”), British Museum in London, and a special behind the scenes tour of Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre. In Paris, the group took in the Louvre, the Palace of Versailles, the Musee d’Orsay Museum of Fine Arts, the Eifel Tower, and the Gothic architecture of Chartres Cathedral.

“For me, this entire seminar has been as much about teaching as it has been about learning,” said Louise Excell, English department chair. “In the last three days, my colleagues and I have been privileged to experience ‘professors’ at the top of their craft, and they are more than adequate and effective—they are inspiring.” ◆
Margaret Truman Marshall

Margaret Truman was named to the Dixie State College Alumni Board in January. Margaret graduated from Dixie High School in 1963 when it was still housed with Dixie College. That year the college moved from the old campus on main street to its current campus. Margaret was a Rebelette and also vice president in charge of assemblies and programs. She graduated from Utah State University in 1968 with a teaching degree and taught in the Murray School District for 30 years. She then retired to St. George where she is in her fourth year of teaching at Red Mountain Elementary. Margaret has four children and five grandchildren.

Mervin R. Iverson

Mervin R. Iverson was the honored guest at the dedication of the “Mervin R. Iverson Elementary School” in Las Vegas on February 20th. As a teacher and a principal in the Clark County School District, Merv was greatly loved and respected by the students and his peers. He was instrumental in the development of curriculum and programs that are the foundation for the school district today. He was inducted into the CCSD Education Excellence Hall of Fame in 1991 for his visionary style of leadership.

In the middle of his education career in Las Vegas, Merv moved to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in 1980, to assume the position of associate superintendent for the Arabian American Oil Company’s school system. He returned to Clark County in 1985 where he worked until retiring in 1995. Merv remains active in education, currently serving on the Nevada State Board of Education, the P-16 Council, and the National Commission of Governors.

He and his wife, Sherie, have reared five sons.

Darrin Williams

Darrin Williams was named as a member of the Dixie State College National Advisory Council (NAC) last year and in that capacity hopes to “make a contribution so that others may have the same memorable experiences that I enjoyed at Dixie.” After graduation from the University of Utah, Darrin began his career as a chemical engineer for Pennzoil in Texas and Louisiana. He currently manages a chemical plant for Zuckerman Energy and Conoco, south of Houston. Darrin and his wife, Sheri, have thoroughly enjoyed the South. Darrin especially enjoys the world-class bass fishing. “As with many things in life, I didn’t know how good I had it at Dixie until it was over,” he said. “Dixie offered small class sizes with personal attention from quality professors. At my first class at the “U,” I stepped into an auditorium with over 500 students!” Darrin and Sheri have two children.

Nancy E. Hauck

Nancy E. Hauck is teaching and advising students in the new DSC elementary education bachelor’s degree program. She teaches courses in elementary education, reading & children’s literature, family relationships, and human development. Nancy earned her bachelor’s degree at Southern Utah University and her M.Ed. at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Born and raised in St. George, Utah, she is the daughter of Joe Empey (’59) and the late Barbara Hirschi Watkins (’81). Nancy is married to Dr. Jason W. Hauck (’86) and they are the parents of five children.

Paul Beckmann

Paul Beckmann has been appointed district sales manager for Salt Lake City for South Carolina-based Colonial Supplemental Insurance Company. Paul now has 10 years of sales and account management experience.

Bricani Albrecht Dyer

Bricani Albrecht Dyer has been practicing dentistry with her father in St. George since 1998. Following graduation from Dixie State, where her favorite instructors were Dr. Nyberg, Mrs. Garner, Mr. Mortensen, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Payne, Mr. Slack, and Dr. Coombs, she earned a Bachelor of Medical Biology at the University of Utah. She attended the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco, California and graduated in 1998. Bricani is married to her high school sweetheart, Bryan Dyer.

Kenny Miller

Kenny Miller is the newest member of the DSC Alumni Association Board. He has a deep love for Dixie and is excited to serve our great alumni. For three years, Kenny worked in the Human
EARL WHITNEY (’85) has just finished travelling around the world as the recipient of the Society of Petroleum Engineers 2002 Distinguished Lectureship. During his lectureship he visited a dozen countries giving a presentation entitled, “The Future of Computing in Exploration, Production, and Development.” In his eight-week tour, he lectured to small groups in Canada, Hungary, Croatia, Turkey, Poland, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador, Peru, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, Newfoundland, and Venezuela.

Memorable experiences included landing sideways in a snowstorm in Halifax, Canada, where he realized the relative scale of the Titanic disaster; witnessing confusion about heroes and war criminals in Zagreb, Croatia; and meeting head hunters in Borneo.

“I particularly appreciated the chance to visit Machu Picchu and the ruins surrounding Cuzco, Peru,” said Earl. “Twenty years earlier, I missed a chance to go there while returning from Argentina. Perhaps because I had thought about it for so long, or because the people were so incredibly welcoming, I greatly enjoyed this part of my travels.” Earl also said that throughout his travels he was impressed with the warmth and generosity of the people, and the common bond of humanity he felt.

After graduation from Dixie College, Earl earned a degree in chemical engineering at the University of Utah in 1987. He received a Ph.D. in chemical and fuels engineering in 1992. After a year of postdoctoral studies at the National Institute for Resources and Environment in Tsukuba, Japan, he came to Los Alamos National Laboratory where, for several years, he has studied the movement of fluids in the earth. While at Los Alamos, he worked on many interesting projects including one that required traveling to Russia and visiting the closed (previously secret) nuclear city of Sarov, where even ordinary Russian citizens are not permitted.

“One of my fond memories of Dixie College is of the Science Department,” recalls Earl. “Max Rose was teaching mathematics, Clifford Dean, chemistry, and Fred Howes, physics in the pre-engineering curriculum. Mr. Howes had decided years before that every student deserved the chance to construct a “cheat sheet” for tests. His only requirement was that it fit on a 1”x1” piece of paper! We all crafted these in the tiniest writing, creating almost unimaginable reproductions of all the equations in the book. I think that most of us found that the value was in preparing the cheat sheet, which was really of little use during the test!”

AMY LARSON BOOTH (’95) is working as a budget analyst for the Washington County School District in St. George. After graduation from Dixie State, Amy attended Utah State University and received a bachelor’s degree in accounting atSUU in 1997. She earned her master’s degree in accounting from Southern Utah University in 1998. Amy has been a true Dixie fan practically since birth. With her mother, Kalynn Larson, now the Dixie State Alumni Director, and her in-laws, Dr. Craig Booth, a biology instructor, and Maureen Booth, past chairman of the Board of Trustees, Amy experienced firsthand the enthusiasm and excitement that exists on campus. “We used to go to the games in the old gym and you couldn’t hear the fans were yelling so loud,” she recalls. When Amy was only eight years old, her future husband, Courtney Booth (’97 AS & ’03 BA) then age 8, asked if he could take her to the movies. Amy’s father told him to call back in eight years (he did!). They have been married 6 years and have two children.

Resource Office at Dixie State College until he left to take a position at Village Bank in St. George. He obtained a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Southern Utah University. He is married to Kasi Provstgaard (’96) and they have one son.

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SCOTT AND JENNIFER SEARLE

It is said that “with six you get eggroll,” but with only four the Scott ('84) and Jennifer ('88) Searle family get 36 bottles of formula and 40 diapers per day to feed and clothe the newest members of their family, “the quads,” Brooke, Alyse, Alex, and Bryson.

Settled into life with their two children Lindsey and Trevor, the couple tried to have more children for several years. Being unsuccessful, they finally turned to the University of Utah Reproductive Medicine Department for some help. The fertility injection prior to insemination worked better than either the doctors or the Searles ever dreamed of. In January of 2002 they found out that four little babies were due the end of August. The story about the family and birth were covered by local TV stations and newspapers.

Jennifer delivered the quadruplets after carrying them for 35 weeks gestation, holding 21 lbs. of baby weight without any prior hospitalization. She actually walked into the operating room for the scheduled C-section. The babies weighed in at 6 lbs. 3 oz., 5 lbs. 12 oz., 4 lbs. 3 oz., and 4 lbs. Two girls and two boys were joyfully welcomed into the Searles home July 25, 2002. The babies, born strong and healthy, were home from the hospital within 5 days, amazing the doctors, nurses, and family. At home, the quads became the main focus of friends, family, and neighbors as the Searle Family Village began to take shape. It was clear that Jennifer and Scott would need help in the weeks and months ahead. Jennifer’s mother from St. George moved in with them, helping with the 24-hour care that continued for the first five months of the babies’ lives. The quad’s older brother and sister are also a big help.

Scott graduated from Dixie State College, received a bachelor’s from Southern Utah University and obtained a masters from University of Phoenix. He has worked for the LDS Church Educational System for 14 year, the last two in the Training Services Division as an instructional designer. He also does consulting work in the field of mobile technology.

Jennifer, also a Dixie graduate, is now a full-time mother. Her family tripled in size overnight, so life is busy and challenging. When the babies are sleeping or quiet, Jennifer finds time to do a little bookkeeping in her home for a security protection company.

The Searles live in Salt Lake City, but both grew up in Dixie calling St. George home. As for their life now, it takes $360 a month to buy the diapers for the babies and it will cost thousands for their college education, but they are taking life one day at a time and find that things and babies—with the help of their village friends and family—always seem to work out.
Governor’s Mansion Bash

BY RICK NEILSON, ALUMNI BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

October 19th found many of Dixie’s alumni in a new and exciting venue shaking hands with Mrs. Jackie Leavitt (yes the Gov’s wife and past homecoming queen at Dixie) at the Governor’s Mansion in Salt Lake City. The inaugural meeting of the Northern Utah Chapter of the Dixie College Alumni was a great success.

Mrs. Leavitt took the time to greet each guest personally and get caught up on what was happening down South. The evening also included wonderful food catered by the mansion catering staff, entertainment by Dixie alum, Shauna Ottesen and her group, Forute’, a great rendition of “American Pie” by studentbody president BenJoe Markland, door prizes, and a “rafter-ringing” version of Are You From Dixie? [Mrs. “D” would have popped a button].

John Blake was introduced as the local area chapter president, and short informational speeches were given by President Huddleston and Russ Feller.

It was a beginning to what we hope to be a continuation of Dixie Spirit and traditions in the cold and frosty North. We planted some cotton seeds there for our friends and classmates to cultivate, harvest and replant in years to come.

Las Vegas Tailgate

BY KALYNN LARSON, ALUMNI DIRECTOR

The DSC Las Vegas Alumni Chapter held a tailgate party on January 25th at the UNLV campus prior to the Dixie State vs. Southern Nevada Community College region basketball game. Chapter Vice President, Rick Neilson, did an excellent job in organizing this fun event. He along with alumnus, Dave Ford, hosted the party. There was plenty of free pizza, drinks, 70 degree weather and good conversation for all. New friendships were made and old acquaintances were renewed.

President Robert Huddleston, along with many of the Rebel Boosters stopped by to say hello.

Watch for our spring event later in the year. We would love to have a current email address for each of our Las Vegas Alumni so we can let you know when events are happening. You can email larson@dixie.edu

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  
Dr. Rick Neilson (702) 454-2629

Northern Utah Area:  
John Blake (801) 253-8848  
email: JohnGBlake@earthlink.net

or contact Kalynn Larson at (435) 652-7535; e-mail larson@dixie.edu

Photos—Top: A raucous Northern Utah Chapter gathered at the Governor’s Mansion for food, fun and great memories.

Middle: Las Vegas Chapter members tailgate before the SNCC basketball game.

Bottom (l to r) Olive Pope won a basketball signed by the national champion team.

Alumni Director, Kalynn Larson visits with John and Raneva Fish Lemon;

Shauna Ottesen croons lines from “Love The One You’re With.”
Dear Alumni,

Spring is here and it is time for D-Week. Look for and support all the activities you can. By doing so, it helps us keep the Dixie Spirit alive. When was the last time you helped paint the D? Bring your kids and grandkids to the next whitewashing of the D and teach them about the traditions of Dixie. The alumni board will be there to provide a continental breakfast afterward. The Great Race was a great success last year. This year bring the kids and support a team or build a team of your own. Traditions are what Dixie is all about. Let’s hear from you on other traditions that the alumni association and the students could work together on bringing back.

In the coming weeks, we will be mailing you a letter about the needs of Dixie State in many areas of the college. These tight budgetary times require us to dig a little deeper into our pockets to find ways we can help our alma mater. Please choose an area you would like to support, or just help with our general scholarship fund. Thanks to everyone who contributes time, energy and money to the college.

The recent chapter meetings have been a success (read about them on page 25). The community and our alumni have rallied around the golf team to provide funding to continue its existence, and the list goes on and on. So we thank all of you for your continued support of our great college. I hope that, with your help, we can keep spreading that Dixie Spirit around.

With best wishes,

Russ Feller

Alumni Association
President
Above: An artist’s rendering of the future Alumni house, planned for construction in the near future, shows the vision of Dr. Greg Prince ('67). He envisions the stone from the old campus coming to the new campus and being used on the outside of the Alumni House. Inside, period furniture, six guest suites, a large meeting room and a kitchen will be used for conferences, small reunions, guest lecturers and donors. Under Greg’s leadership, it is hoped that all alumni will embrace this idea and join him in funding this new building which will kick off the new capital campaign at Dixie State College.