D-WEEK 2004

"It's a Pride Thing"

MONDAY, MARCH 29
12:00 p.m.  D-Week Kickoff
    Gardner Plaza
6:30 p.m.  Rebel Awards & Banquet
    Gardner Ballroom, $12.50

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
12:00 p.m.  Forum: "Tradition Past & Present"
    Dunford Auditorium, no cost
7:00 p.m.  D-Queen Pageant
    Cox Auditorium, $1 each

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
12:00 p.m.  Wild Card Wednesday
    Gardner Plaza, no cost
7:00 p.m.  CCS: Utah Symphony
    Cox Auditorium, $15, $12, $3

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
2:00 p.m.  D-Week Service Project
    Meet at Gardner Plaza

FRIDAY, APRIL 2
6:00 p.m.  The Great Race & Bar-B-Q
    Encampment Mall, no cost
7:30 p.m.  Outdoor Concert
    Encampment Mall, no cost
9:00 p.m.  Outdoor Movie
    Encampment Mall, no cost

SATURDAY, APRIL 3
7:00 a.m.  Whitewash the "D" & Continental Breakfast
    meet at base of the D
9:00 p.m.  D-Day Dance
    Gardner Ballroom, $12

Tickets for Rebel Awards Banquet and Utah Symphony may be purchased at the Avenna Center ticket office or call 652-7800.

Photo Above: The 2003 Great Race attracted some serious participants
A Writer With a Sense of Place

Dixie alum Lyman Hafen, ’77, talks about his journey to becoming a successful writer, magazine editor and now executive director of the Zion Natural History Association.

Larry King Live in Dixie

The king of television interviews made a stop in St. George in December to motivate Dixie Rotary Bowl participants.

Special Effects of Robert Willard

A frequent lecturer to DSC art students, Robert Willard, ’69, travels worldwide to create special effects for some of Hollywood’s most prominent films.

The Best Two Years

Former DSC theater student, Scott Anderson, ’78, a professional motivational speaker, is writer and director of the new LDS hit film, “The Best Two Years.”

Campus Happenings

Catch up on the latest events at DSC: a new 4-year nursing degree, art show winners, and even students setting a world record are part of the current campus scene.

Sports Update

The football and women’s soccer teams played for the national title this past fall. Both will play on a new surface next fall.

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.

Cover photo by Chris Taylor:
Lyman Hafen outside his office at Zion National Park.
People who spend just a few minutes with Lyman Hafen come away with a lasting impression that here is a humble individual, unassuming and always kind, and unless you ask, you may never find out about talents that are as ready to burst from him as a herd of cattle rearing to bust out of a corral. A published author of several books, a successful magazine editor, and now executive director of the Zion Natural History Association, Hafen will tell folks, “Whatever I have done all hinges on that last year I spent at Dixie.”

Kind words for an institution of higher learning, yet from them you can learn a lot about an individual and the place where he grew up.

Hafen was born in 1955 in the old Pioneer Memorial Hospital, the same site where Dixie Regional Medical Center’s 400 East Campus now stands. He grew up on 600 South, just two blocks from the St. George Temple. There, at the edge of the desert, were established enduring roots that even in times of drought would never wither.

“I grew up in the shadow of the temple,” he says with his characteristic reflective smile. “It was kind of our back yard. I grew up with a strong sense of place that came partly from my dad, Kelton Hafen, and also my grandfather, AK Hafen, who wrote the words to the Dixie College school song and taught English, German and Spanish at Dixie for 40 years. All of this instilled in me a sense of place.”

He remembers his father telling him stories about St. George, the Dixie area and Dixie College. Even though it seemed to him that he was isolated from the rest of civilization, Hafen grew up with a powerful feeling that his Dixie was the greatest place in the world.

“When I was young, it was a major thing to go to Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, but there was no greater place than this,” he says.

“You knew you could grow up and go out into that world and make your mark. I can still see myself riding my bicycle, running around the neighborhood and being in the shadow of this great white building constructed 100 years ago. I really grew up with a lot of pride.”

Hafen was only in second or third grade when the old fine arts center was being constructed on the new Dixie College campus. The red-brick gymnasium was already there, and he and his friends watched the new buildings grow out of the ground, rising up in the middle of the desert.

His 600 South neighborhood was the last one on the south end of town. Everything below that was dairy farms and fields. Prominent farmers Murray Webb, the Grovers, and Boots Cox owned most of the land in this area, and everything else below 700 South was wilderness.

“We felt like we lived at the edge of civilization,” recalls Hafen. “To the north was town and to the south were fields and dairies. We could go in either direction. We could ride to the Market Basket and get candy, or we could go in the other direction and play in the wilderness and hunt birds with our BB guns. It was an ideal situation for kids.”

It is this picture of eight or nine-year old boys bounding through alfalfa, maize and sugar cane fields that you can almost catch in Hafen’s eyes — sugar cane growing into tall stalks, almost like corn, but tougher. Young legs galloping through row after row of cane patches, getting lost, wondering if they would ever find their way out.

“We trespassed through these fields often and sometimes the farmers would get after us,” he smiles. “We would break off the stocks and suck the sugar out of them, and our hands would get sticky.”

Sometimes the boys wandered east to watch construction of the new college campus growing out of the alkali flats. Hiking toward the Black...
Ridge, they would brush their hands against the pointed, yellow-green leaves of the creosote bushes or hop over the sage brush. This was all part of their stomping grounds.

Then, as if a cloud of nostalgia settles in for a moment, Hafen’s focus seems to shift. “All of these areas are covered with homes now,” he says softly. “I remember vividly when I was a little kid that my dad told me Brigham Young had prophesied that the St. George Temple would someday sit in the center of the city. Back then it was hard to imagine our town could grow this much, but it has.”

It was also during this time in his life that Hafen was attending East Elementary, just a two-block walk from his house. He tells of the great experiences he had in that school with wonderful teachers, the kind often remembered for their love.

“I had a hard time learning how to read,” he admits. “By the time I was in third grade I was still struggling.” It was Lois Wells, Hafen’s remedial reading teacher, who came to his rescue. She would come to his class every day and take him to her special room for one-on-one tutoring — a stigmatizing ritual and yet one of the most important things to happen in Hafen’s life.

“By the time I finished third grade I was on my reading level. She is one example of the kind of teacher who played a role in helping me. I have those feelings for many people I grew up with.”

It was his fifth grade teacher who planted the writing seed in his heart. Owen Hughes would read to his class every day and take him to her special room for one-on-one tutoring — a stigmatizing ritual and yet one of the most important things to happen in Hafen’s life.

“Every afternoon he would sit down and read to us for a half hour. I had that trouble reading early on, but I was totally hooked on books and stories with Mr. Hughes.”

Hafen went on to attend the Woodward School and Dixie High. In seventh and eighth grades his whole life was focused on horses. His dad and uncles were in the tire business in St. George, but they owned a ranch in Clover Valley, Nevada that had been in the family for generations. There, he had the opportunity to ride horses and be exposed to cowboy life by age 13.

“I started to hang around rodeo friends more than those who participated in other sports,” says Hafen. “Because I hadn’t shined in more traditional sports I decided I had more abilities with horses and the rodeo. One of the avid rodeo fans, Les Bracken, and I became very good friends. Every day after school we would ride the Gunlock bus and the driver would drop us off at the corrals by the Washington County Sheriff’s posse arena where we would practice.”

The posse arena is located just north of where the old drive-in movie theater once stood. The arena is actually still there and can be seen from the west edge of Stadium 8 theaters. It was at this place where Hafen and Bracken would rope and practice riding bucking horses and bulls.

“For several years that’s all we did,” says Hafen. “Our other friends would play football, basketball and baseball, and we rodeoed competitively for Dixie High School.” Hafen went on to become the state All-Around Cowboy Champion in 1973.

Following an LDS Church mission to Argentina, Hafen returned to Dixie College. He had completed one year of college prior to his mission and was now ready to begin his second year.

“My last year at Dixie was the pivotal year of my life,” he says. “It was the year I married my high school sweetheart, Debbie Frei, and the year I decided my education was more important than rodeo. Whatever I might have done since then all hinges on that year after my mission.”

While Hafen had rodeoed at Dixie before his mission, when he came back rodeo became less important and education became his new focus.

“The thing that put education in perspective for me was the people who taught me at Dixie,” he says. He remembers Karl Brooks, then vice president of college relations, sitting with him in his office, outlining what it would take for him to graduate by spring.

“In a wonderful way Karl helped me finish my education at Dixie. He also gave me good direction on what I could do and where I could go from there. At the time, I thought I must have been important because I was receiving such special treatment. I later found out he did this for everyone.”

“I owe a lot to him,” continues Hafen. “It would have been easy for me to just go to work, but he and others at Dixie helped me to appreciate what a good education would do for me. It was at this time that I began to think more about scholarly things and less about rodeo.”

There are other Dixie stalwarts who made a difference for Hafen as well. “It’s difficult to name names because there were many who influenced me, but I owe more than I can ever repay to people like Karl Brooks, Rudy Iverson, Ed Reber, Pansy Hardy, Alan Payne, Dan Watson, Max Rose and Paul Crosby. It was all these folks, and many others like them, who were role models, mentors, and sincerely committed participants in my education.”

Continued on page 6
After graduating from Dixie, Hafen chose to attend Brigham Young University upon receiving an academic scholarship. “I could never have gotten to BYU out of high school,” he says. “I was a cowboy-slacker-C-student, yet from day-one at Dixie I was an A student and a serious scholar. I rodeoed at BYU as well, but by the time I was a senior and married, rodeo started to fade out of the picture, and I was focused on getting my degree.”

Whether it was marriage to the talented Debbie Frei (also a Dixie State graduate) or maturity, it wasn’t until his senior year at BYU that he imagined he might actually enjoy writing for a career. He majored in communications at BYU and had become interested in advertising and public relations. There, a new door opened up for him, pointing the way to his destiny.

“I signed up for Jack Nelson’s magazine writing class,” says Hafen. “The first day of class he told us the easiest way to get an A out of his class was to get a magazine article published. Until that day, the idea of writing a magazine article had not even entered my mind.”

At first, Hafen was puzzled about where to begin. The only thing he had in his resume was that his grandfather had written some history of the Dixie area. But his ingenuity led him to a fellow student at BYU who was a Quarter Horse breeder, and the only magazine Hafen was familiar with was *Western Horseman*.

“I wondered if the people at *Western Horseman* would be interested in a guy putting himself through school breeding Quarter Horses,” says Hafen. “When I made my query to see if they would respond, I was surprised because they said they were very interested.”

Hafen interviewed the horse-breeder and then—with what he calls blood, sweat and tears—he wrote his first magazine story. “I sent it in to *Western Horseman* and they sent me a check for $85,” he says. “I thought it was cool.” However, six months later when the article appeared in the magazine, while it had his name on the story, the editor of the magazine had completely re-written it.

“My first experience with writing was to not recognize the piece I had written,” Hafen grins. Nevertheless, writing that first story helped him to realize it was something he wanted to do. He expresses appreciation for a teacher who sat down with him often to hone his writing skills.

“Jack Nelson worked with me on the writing of a couple of other pieces,” reflects Hafen. “He worked with me at the end of the semester on a story about a new breed of cattle on the Arizona Strip. I still remember the twinkle in his eyes as he looked up at me. He said, ‘Lyman, I think you could be a writer. I think you need to stick with this.’ Again, here was a teacher who really made a difference. He could just as easily have said, ‘This is a piece of junk.’ Instead, he encouraged me, and I’ve been writing ever since that day in 1979.”

After graduation from BYU, Hafen moved to Idaho Falls and went to work for Harris Publishing. “For four years I did my apprenticeship in writing,” he laughs.

At Harris, Hafen worked on many agricultural publications. Every day he would interview a potato grower, a sugar beet grower, or some other farmer. He would go to their homes or farms, then he’d come back and write the story.

“This was how I paid my dues to learn how to gather information and
write a story that might be of interest to the reader,” relates Hafen with a more serious tone in his voice. “I look at those four years as a baptism by fire. While in Idaho Falls I decided that magazine publishing looked like a really great thing.”

And yet, when Lyman and Debbie would come home with their little family for Christmas and to visit parents, they started to long for home. “We needed to thaw out,” says Hafen. “We almost froze to death in Idaho Falls. We loved the place and the people, but we could not handle the cold, the ice and the snow. So I started thinking about how I could come back to St. George.”

It was a dialog Hafen began with Wally Brazzeal, a local businessman who had an advertising business in St. George, that started to move Hafen’s hopes from dream to reality. He had learned the publishing business by now and wanted to start a magazine in St. George.

“Wally agreed we could do a magazine together, with him connected to the business and publishing end of things, and with me on the editorial side,” explains Hafen. “Green Valley was taking off at this time, and we put together a business plan. In the spring of 1983 Debbie and I moved back to St. George. We were coming from what was really a good, stable job, to a very risky situation.

“It was an outlandish thing to do,” adds Hafen, “but we wanted to come back home and we knew we would make it work.”

And make it work they did. Hafen and Brazzeal brought artist Roland Lee on board as a graphic designer. Among the three of them, St. George Magazine was born in 1983. “I now had a ready-made medium for my writing,” quips Hafen. “For 20 years I had it made because I had my own magazine to put my writing in. Three of the books I have written are compilations from pieces I wrote for the magazine.”

To his credit, Hafen has now published eight books, countless articles and features, and has freelanced for other publications as well. Following the memorable 1986 World Series—when local St. George boy Bruce Hurst, a former Dixie State student, was very nearly named MVP but then his team, the Boston Red Sox, actually ended up losing the series—Hurst became the subject of Hafen’s first book, Flood Street to Fenway.

His other books include a novel for young readers, Over the Joshua Slope and a memoir, Roping the the Wind. His tale of hope, In the Midst of Winter, was hailed by Richard Crag Croft as “a gem of a novel.” His writing, both fiction and nonfiction, has been recognized on seven occasions by awards from the Utah Arts Council.

Five years ago, after St. George Magazine had gone through an evolution of ownership, Hafen decided to sell his partnership in the magazine and take a position as executive director of the Zion National History Association (ZNHA). His writing abilities, which had given him success so far in his career, would be crucial to his success in his new job at one of the nation’s most beloved national parks.

ZNHA, a non-profit organization that works in partnership with Zion National Park, is a private entity governed by a board of directors. Its focus is to aid the park in its mission to educate and provide good interpretive materials for the public. It is in this realm that Hafen flourishes. He loves the park and he loves to write.

“My first impressions of the park were as a little boy, being completely dumbfounded by the massive nature of the cliffs and the awesome magnificence of the park,” he says. “I’ve always had a reverence in my heart for this place. I’ve always been astounded by it. What has changed for me now is that I look out my office window at the West Temple of Zion and realize that what I get to look at every time I look up from my computer screen is what people from all over the world come to see.”

It is this beauty that ZNHA strives to capture in publications and informational booklets. The association acts as a publisher and also a retailer. It operates book stores in Zion National Park, Kolob Canyon, Pipe Spring National Monument and Cedar Breaks National Monument. The association also wholesales the items published to retailers across the country.

“We distribute good information about the parks,” explains Hafen. “In the process we make money. We pay our staff and expenses and all the rest goes back to parks. We perform a really important information service for the park and, at the same time, we make money to give back to the park. Rangers use these funds to do a better job informing the public.”

Additionally, the association

Continued on page 11
Center (DRMC) completed construction on a second 400,000 square foot hospital a stone’s throw from the DSC campus.

“We’re very excited about the opportunity to have this degree in our community,” said Vicki Reese Wilson, DRMC assistant administrator for human resources. “We think this level of education has been needed and will be valued by our nursing staff. They will now be able to pursue additional education right here in St. George. In the past, nurses who were interested in pursuing a bachelor’s level degree haven’t had many options.”

Overall, DRMC employs 400 registered nurses, many of which hold a two-year degree from Dixie, Weber or other schools, Wilson said. But in order to prepare for administrative opportunities or a specialized area it is desirable for these individuals to have a bachelor’s degree, she added.

DRMC hired 91 nurses this year alone, and Wilson doesn’t foresee that rate slowing any.

“Our growth continues to be phenomenal,” Wilson said. “We’ll continue to hire 80 to 100 nurses per year, and many of these will come out of Dixie’s nursing programs.”

Also planned for the rapidly growing health sciences division at DSC is a training facility dedicated entirely to the health sciences.

DRMC MAKES DONATION TO DSC NURSING

As part of its ongoing support of Dixie State College, DRMC donated another $25,000 to the college’s nursing program in October. The donation was made as part of a commitment by Intermountain Health Care (IHC) and DRMC to provide a $100,000 donation to the college over a four-year period of time, said DRMC official Vicki Reese Wilson.

The purpose of the financial assistance, Wilson said, is to help increase the number of RN graduates and provide support to continue to strengthen nursing education. The hospital made a $50,000 donation to the same cause in November 2002.

Donations from DRMC are currently helping offset the cost of increasing enrollment in the college’s RN and PN programs. DSC is seeking to admit entering nursing classes in both areas twice a year, which will in turn increase the college’s production of nurses and reduce student waiting time for entry into the program, said DSC Dean of Business, Technology, and Health Science Dr. David Borris.

FOUR YEAR NURSING DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVED

In December, Dixie State College received approval from the Utah State Board of Regents to go forward with a baccalaureate degree of nursing (BSN). Beginning fall semester 2004, approximately 25 nursing students, as mandated by the Regents, will begin coursework in the program.

Currently, the college’s recently accredited nursing program offers an associate degree in nursing (ADN). The college also offers practical nurse (PN) certificates and graduates 120 certified nurse assistants (CNA) each semester. The baccalaureate degree will be an ADN career ladder program in a two plus two format, as opposed to students beginning in a baccalaureate program.

“We’re excited to be able to offer this program, not just for our sake and our students’ sakes, but for the community’s sake,” said DSC president Dr. Robert Huddleston. “The local economy in particular has demanded that we offer this degree. With the enormous, new hospital in St. George and the tremendous nursing shortage, this decision by the Regents will go a long way to meet a significant need.”

In November, local IHC subsidiary Dixie Regional Medical Center will bring unprecedented opportunities to the DSC nursing program.
STUDENTS RUN FOR FACULTY COMPENSATION

University and college students throughout the state of Utah put on their running shoes and hit the pavement recently in the name of higher education faculty and staff compensation.

“Going the extra mile for higher education” passed through nearly every college campus in the state in February. The relay began at the state’s two border schools – Dixie State College in the south and Utah State University in the north – and met at the State Capitol Building during the 2004 legislative session. The DSC leg began on the Arizona strip, made its way through campus, and snaked northward to SUU.

“It’s been a couple of years now that neither faculty nor staff

have had much of a raise, if any whatsoever, and schools statewide are starting to feel the effects,” said DSC student body president Jake Denning. “People start leaving for greener pastures, and that ultimately effects the students as well, so we want to do everything in our power to keep Utah’s talented professors in Utah.”

Eventually, student groups from all institutions met up and ran the final leg together through the streets of Salt Lake to the Capitol where a final rally was held.

NEW CULTURAL AFFAIRS POSITION CREATED

To help prepare the way for the new Delores Dore’ Eccles Fine Arts Center, which will be completed in April, the college has created a new executive director of cultural affairs position. Effective July 1, 2004, Mark L. Petersen, currently serving as director of public relations at the college, will assume the new position.

Petersen will have responsibility over scheduling and overseeing all of the operations in the building, marketing and coordinating the arts on campus and in the community, bringing in a variety of new art programming for the building, and assisting in the raising of appreciation and awareness of campus fine arts programs locally, including the public school system.

In order to streamline all campus arts organizations under one umbrella, positions relating to the Celebrity Concert Series, the Southwest Symphony, the new Art Gallery and the O.C. Tanner Amphitheatre will report to the executive director of cultural affairs.

Petersen has worked as the college’s director of public relations and publications for the past 17 years. He brings to his new position not only a strong knowledge of the campus and community and marketing and administrative abilities, but a strong background in arts administration as well. He served for six years as marketing director for the arts at Weber State University and ticket office manager and built the largest theatre subscriber audience in WSU’s history.

In 2002-03, Petersen served as president of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) and has received eight national awards and 26 regional awards in his 15 years as a member of that organization. He has also served on the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Southern Utah Advertising Federation, and the St. George Arts Commission. He holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and theater arts from Weber State. He has played leading roles in college and community theater productions for over 20 years and is a vocal soloist for numerous community programs.

The new executive director position will be funded primarily through an internal administrative reorganization, necessitated by current state and college budget circumstances. Replacing Petersen as director of public relations will be Chris Taylor, who has served as assistant director of public relations at the college since 2001. The assistant director position, for the time being, has been eliminated.

Taylor will also take on the role as college spokesperson. He holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from Brigham Young University with emphases in public relations and broadcast journalism. He is currently working toward a master’s of public administration degree through Utah State University, which he will complete in 2005.

During his time at Dixie, Taylor has also taught two communications courses – including serving as co-adviser to the Dixie Sun student newspaper, which he has done the past two years alongside Petersen. He has served on the Dixie Rotary Bowl committee as sports information director each of the past three years. He was a Rebel Awards finalist in his first year at the college, was awarded Employee of the Semester honors in 2002 and, in 2003, was awarded three regional awards by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. Prior to coming to St. George in 2001, he worked at ProModel Corporation in Orem, Utah, and has work experience as an intern at KSL-TV in Salt Lake City.
AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

The winners of the 2004 Robert N. & Peggy Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show were announced in February. This year’s Best of Show Purchase Prize Winner is Julie Rogers, a part-time professor at the college. Rogers’ “In the Potter’s Hands,” a pastel painting, earned her the honor (see back cover).

Robert Marshall took first place in this year’s Landscape Oils Category with his painting “Snow Canyon III.” Second place was awarded to Alexander Selytin for “The Feather.” Steve McGinty won third place for “Milking Time.”

In the Watercolor category, Ian Ramsay’s “Farm Near Hyrum, Utah” took first place, up a notch from his second place finish last year in the same category. Second place was awarded to Carl Purcell for “Spirit of Anasazi.” Third place went to “The Desert Shall Blossom as a Rose,” by George Kehew.

Taking first place in the Pastels category was Dixie State art professor and 2000 Purchase Prize Winner Del Parson for “Country Kitchen.” For the second consecutive year, second place went to Robert Barrett, this year for “Camille III,” with third place going to Arlene Braithwaite for “Morning Light in Spring Creek Canyon.”

X-CLUB YARD SALE BENEFITS LOCAL MILITARY FAMILIES DURING HOLIDAYS

The X-Club has made a comeback at Dixie State College and has picked up where the club left off, serving the community and preserving Dixie traditions.

In November, the X-Club held a yard sale on campus, which raised over $3,000 for families of local military personnel currently serving in Iraq. Approximately 30 St. George area families have had loved ones serving in Iraq as part of the St. George based 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, Bravo Company, Detachment 1.

“We knew there were some families who had fallen on difficult financial times, or who were in need of a little extra cash to help with the bills, especially during the holidays,” said X-Club president Connor Shakespeare. “We just wanted to make sure that their needs were taken care of while their loved one is out serving our country.”

The X-Club has also been actively engaged in other small service projects throughout the year. It was one of three clubs to take part in the relay for faculty compensation and has been instrumental in bringing the Great Race and Sand Blast back to campus. The club also hosts regular bonfires.

“Our focus is bringing back traditions that were lost and making sure traditions that are here stay,” Shakespeare said. “It seems as though traditions aren’t being focused on as much as other areas, and they really help, not only with alumni relations, but with student retention.”

Future X-Club projects include fundraising for an outdoor student study pavilion on campus, which will take place in April. The X-Club plans to get in contact with all former X-Club members later this year via a newsletter. If you were in the X-Club and are interested in getting on the mailing list, call Connor Shakespeare at (435) 229-4949.

NEW VP OF STUDENT SERVICES ON BOARD

At the beginning of the 2003-04 year, the college named Philip J. Alletto to the position of vice president of student services to replace the retiring Bill Fowler.

Having worked at four different institutions in three different states, including one year at Dixie State College in 1986, Alletto brings to the position 17 years of experience in nearly every student function in higher education. For the past seven years he served as vice president of student development and enrollment planning at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah.

He has also served in various student services capacities at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford in Pennsylvania and Utica College of Syracuse University in New York. In addition to his experience in higher education administration, Alletto has also taught several college courses throughout his career, including Business Management and Spanish. He holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s degree in adult education, both from Brigham Young University.

He will soon complete a doctorate degree in educational leadership and policy from the University of Utah.
DSC RAISES HUNGER AWARENESS BY SETTING WORLD RECORD

Students, faculty, and staff at Dixie State College of Utah teamed up in November to assemble and serve up what is believed to be the world's largest sandwich wrap in an attempt to help raise hunger awareness. The official measurement of the sandwich came in at 311 feet 7 inches long. The college has submitted photos and official statements and now awaits confirmation from London-based Guinness, though there is no current record in that category.

“The people at Guinness told us there was no current record, so to go for it,” said Martin Peterson, director of DSC Campus Dining Services, who oversaw the sandwich's creation. “We kind of came up with the category on our own.”

The attempted world record was done in conjunction with “Hunger Awareness Day,” a segment of the college’s annual “Awareness Week” hosted by the DSUN student service club. Each toothpick lining the sandwich contained a hunger awareness fact. Approximately 900 students, faculty and staff members turned out to help eat the sandwich. Local homeless persons were also invited.

“This was a great event for campus and the community,” Peterson said. “We had a lot of help making the sandwich and a lot of help eating it. Much of the sandwich was leftover, and none of it was wasted.”

The remaining sandwich was served to the homeless along with soup and bread bowls that same night at a local park in St. George.

“The neat thing for us is we didn’t just do it for the sake of setting a world record or getting our names in a book,” said Donna Stafford, director of student activities. “The statistics on hunger are pretty grim, and any bit of awareness you can raise can go a long way. That’s just as important as any world record.”

According to state statistics, 3.1 percent of all households in Utah are considered food insecure with hunger; 8.8 percent of all households in Utah are food insecure. Statistics also indicate that one in every five children in Utah goes to bed hungry. According to the Utah Food Bank, Utah’s average annual salary is only $20,185, yet the state ranks first in the nation in number of dependents to feed (3.67 people per household according to the 2000 Census).

For the record, it took 720 toothpicks lining the sandwich to serve up what is believed to be the world’s largest sandwich wrap in an attempt to help raise hunger awareness.

DSC GOES DOOR TO DOOR FOR LEVELLED LIBRARY READING PROGRAM

In conjunction with the college’s Campus to Community service program, DSC students and employees were out in force in November collecting donations for the Washington County School District literacy program. All the proceeds will go toward the goal of having a leveled reading library available for every child grades K-7 in the district.

In October, the college hosted a benefit concert featuring pianist Jon Schmidt, which raised approximately $4,000 toward the same cause. In December, several college clubs sponsored a Christmas concert for the same purpose.

On March 26, Campus to Community will hit the city of Santa Clara in an effort to help clean up the Santa Clara Arboretum. The project gets underway at 2:00 p.m.

LYMAN HAFEN (continued from pg. 7)

funds the Junior Ranger program at the park, printing of the park guide (which is handed out to every visitor that comes to the park), and various research projects done through the park. The association recently formed the Zion Canyon Field Institute, a mini university that produces workshops, seminars and other educational programs for the public to learn more about the area. During the height of the season Hafen, as executive director, is responsible for about 20 employees.

“Every day in Zion you will meet someone who is from far across the world,” he says. “I've come to a better understanding of not taking this place for granted. There is something really special about it, and it is one of the many attractions that makes this area a wonderful place to live.”

Lyman and Debbie are the parents of six children ranging in age from seven to 24. Their oldest, Tyler, is attending graduate school at Indiana University. Their second son, Ryan, was valedictorian of DSC in 2002 and is attending Utah State University. Currently their son Matt and daughter Julie are students at Dixie State where they are enjoying what Hafen refers to as “the same kind of excellent instruction (from some of the same professors), personal attention and Dixie Spirit” their dad appreciated nearly 30 years ago.

“When I think of it now I'm amazed at the quality of instruction and the personal treatment and encouragement I received at Dixie State College,” muses Hafen, looking back on a literal shelf of memories — events that have steered his life and given him a sense of satisfaction.

But it is the day he retired from rodeo and began to write that seems to be one of the benchmarks in his memory collection, he concludes with an expression of awareness. "I write because I can't not write."
En route to interviews with the likes of Oprah Winfrey and First Lady Laura Bush, Larry King, the king of broadcast interviewing, visited St. George, Utah, in December for the first time in his life.

King, who also happens to be the step-father of Dixie State College quarterback, Danny Southwick, was asked to be the keynote speaker at the annual Dixie Rotary Bowl Banquet. He appeared before a sold-out Dixie Center crowd prior to the national championship game between Dixie State College and Butler County Community College, Kansas.

“What the hell am I doing here?” were the well-traveled King’s first words to the audience.

King has been in the broadcasting business for 46 years and is known the world over. He is best known as the host of the popular “Larry King Live” show on CNN, which has been the station’s highest-rated program and recently celebrated its 18th anniversary last June.

Born Lawrence Harvey Ziegler on Nov. 19, 1933, King grew up in Brooklyn, New York. His father died when he was just nine and-a-half years old. King went on to graduate from high school and at
the age of 22, with the encouragement of some family, went to Miami to get a job on the radio. Ever since he can remember, he has always wanted to be on the radio.

"On May 1, 1957, I went on the air for the first time. They changed my name from Larry Ziegler to Larry King and I legally changed my name that next year," said King during a press conference at the Dixie Center.

No stranger to the football scene, King broadcast Miami Dolphin games at one point in his career as a color commentator. He even helped call the Dolphins’ undefeated season of 1972. But doing sports exclusively became monotonous to him.

"I liked to interview people. There is more variety with interviewing people; I like politics, entertainment, sports, and with my job I get to meet all sorts of people in those categories," said King.

His desire for interviewing people has allowed him to conduct over 40,000 interviews. But pinpointing one interview as his favorite or most influential is a difficult task.

"I can’t say there’s just one; there have been so many interviews," King said. "I’ve interviewed Martin Luther King, he was a great man. I’ve done Sinatra and Ali as well," said King via a telephone interview.

A few things have changed since his first day on the air in 1957, both professionally and personally. King never thought that he would make it as big as he has now.

"I just wanted to be on the radio and television and interview people. I never imagined that I would make it so far."
Most boys grow up dreaming about the chance to blow things up. For DSC alumnus Robert Willard ('69), the excitement over explosions has faded into a love for the more simple things.

“My favorite thing is to make small, mechanical, cute gags,” said Willard. “If I never did another explosion in my life, it would be okay. I’ve blown enough stuff up in my life. I don’t need to blow up any more.”

Robert Willard is a special effects coordinator in Hollywood. He has more than 25 commercials and 40 movies worth of experience, including with the cult favorites “Popeye,” and “Super Mario Brothers.” He has served as a judge for the technical awards for the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences. The Academy has nominated him twice for an award in special effects.

“(Robert Willard) has worked in Hollywood over 25 years,” said DSC Art Professor Glen Blakley. “He has been involved in lots of major movies and, fortunately, some of the big blockbusters. Some people may work on a lot of movies, but they are lucky if they get one anywhere close to the size of what he has worked on.”

Willard’s original plans did not include special effects, and he began his post-high school education at Dixie College.

“I got into the motion picture business by accident,” said Willard. “But even at that, I’ve had to utilize all of the education, and all of the knowledge and the ability to think that I’ve learned. You have to learn how to think no matter what your pursuit is. You still have to get that process in your mind.”

Over the past 10 years, Willard has come to DSC to give demonstrations for art and film students. In keeping with tradition, he returned to campus in January to give his presentation to DSC students.

“Many people don’t look at us as artists,” said Willard. “But we do.”

Willard startled the students with his demonstrations, which included Break-Away, a substance used in place of glass so as not to cut people when they break through it. Lifting a bottle that he had made, he quickly dropped it on the table in front of him, causing it to shatter into thousands of pieces.

He also showed those attending how they create bullet holes with small explosives, and the difference between small and large sparks.

However, Willard also mentioned the less visual aspects of special effects, such as steam, rain, snow and ice.

“When we think of special effects, we think of explosions,” Willard said. “But there are a lot of other elements. There are places where steam is coming out of a grate, there is smoke coming out of little places, there are atmosphere things going on that adds to the texture and the look of the film that would diminish the film if they were not there.”

He said that special effect artists use every artistic and mechanical aspect available. Willard also noted that Hollywood is a difficult business to get started in. Special effects technicians don’t have classes to attend or degrees to pursue.

“Every once in a while there is an effects class given in Hollywood by our union,” said Willard. “The last class was 13 years ago and I was the instructor.”

Willard graduated from Dixie College in 1969 before continuing his education at the University of Utah. He graduated with a degree in psychology and began, but never completed, his graduate work in behavioral management.

After completing his education, hard times hit when he lost his job. When a few attempts to earn money failed, his brother-in-law, Allen Hall, called to offer him a job in Hollywood to help with his current special effects project.
Willard and his family moved back to southern Utah more than 15 years ago. His wife and all five of his children attended Dixie, and his wife and three children have graduated from DSC.

"My job is essentially being an inventor in the motion picture business," said Willard. "You(30,92),(967,980) wouldn’t think that psychology would have helped that out at all, but, in fact, it did. Those years of education have helped that process of being able to be task-oriented and getting to the conclusion of a goal."

Willard’s most recent projects include the recent release “The Last Samurai,” and an AOL 9.0 commercial that aired on television for a few weeks last November. After his presentation at DSC, he was headed back to Hollywood to interview for upcoming projects. 

Top: Bob Willard set up the explosion and special effects in this spectacular car/train crash in the movie, “Southern Nights.”

Above: Bob (above left) has rigged and suspended an actress for a film shot in Romania, the musical comedy, “Vacuums.” The film starred kip Pardue and Rose McGowen.

Below: Bob gives demonstrations to DSC art and film students, something he has done for the past ten years.
In a well-known scene from the blockbuster "Titanic," Jack, the lead character in the film, climbs up on the stern of the ship, overlooking the rushing ocean water below, and loudly and exuberantly proclaims that he is "king of the world."

With the same exuberant resolve, the Dixie State College soccer team again proclaimed that it is king – or in this case, queen – of the junior college soccer world by beating Rhode Island 1-0 at the NJCAA tournament in November.

The DSC women’s soccer team has been there and done that before – it won the national championship in 2000 – and it may well do it again. But it is how they did it and who they did it with that is every bit a part of the story.

For all intents and purposes, the championship game was headed for overtime. For 89 minutes and 38 seconds, the Rebels and Rhode Island Community College played to a scoreless stalemate, and the NJCAA was no closer to crowning a national champion than when the game first began. The Rebels went into the game a confident bunch, having beaten the same Rhode Island team 5-0 earlier in October, and ultimately controlled the game, but struggled to get the ball into the net.

“When you dominate like that, the other team starts sitting in front of the goal and it makes it really crowded,” said head coach Linda Huddleston. “So it’s kind of hard to score that way, and that was happening in our game.”

With less than a minute remaining in regulation, however, Megan
Goodrich corralled a pass from the foot of Julee Russell. Goodrich fired on goal, and the ball sailed past the goalie and into the net with a mere 22 seconds on the clock. By soccer standards, it doesn’t come any closer to beating the buzzer than that.

And though the goal was a little long in coming, head coach Linda Huddleston never doubted her team. She knew it was only a matter of time, and she was right.

“When we actually scored, it was a relief because we deserved to win it, I thought, and that finalized it. It was a feeling of, “Finally – whew – we did it,”” Huddleston said.

“I always felt like they would do it, and it just showed a lot of composure on Megan’s part to stay calm and place that ball in the net. We knew that we could hold them for another 22 seconds, so that clinched it.”

It’s a feeling the DSC soccer program has grown somewhat accustomed to. It’s just one more chapter in a run that began in 2000 under head coach Rob Dahl, the first time the Rebels won the national championship. For an encore, the team finished the 2001 season as the national runner-up under head coach Shauna Haney. Off the field, however, things haven’t been such a perpetual bed of roses.

Many may not know it, but it was after the 2001 season that the program found itself at a teetering point and in danger of extinction, not because of a lack of performance, but because of a lack of funding. Following the 2001 season, Haney resigned as the team’s coach for family reasons. Her resignation just happened to coincide with the state budget hitting rock bottom, leading to statewide budget cuts.

“Since there was no soccer coach, the obvious thing would have been to cut soccer because then you don’t have to lay anybody off, even though the program is so strong.” Coach Huddleston said. “That was the thinking, that since that wouldn’t hurt anybody job wise, that’s the logical thing to do.”

If that sounds like a college president talking, you’re close. Coach Huddleston also happens to be the wife of college president Dr. Robert Huddleston. After some deliberation, the two determined, along with athletic director Dexter Irvin, that rather than cut the program, Linda would try her hand at coaching – for free.

“We talked about it and I said, ‘Okay, I’ll try not to screw them up too much, but I’ll do it,” Coach Huddleston said.

Since taking over the team in 2002, the program hasn’t skipped a beat. In 2002, the Rebels lost in the semi-final round, just missing a berth in the championship match. The team went on to finish third in the nation that year.

In addition to the national championship this season, Huddleston received NJCAA and National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Adidas Coach of the Year honors, as well as SWAC Coach of the Year for the second straight year. Defender Nicole Anderson, a sophomore, was also named Player of the Year. And the team is at a point now that it can hold its own against, and even beat, some Division I universities. None of the team’s recent success comes as a surprise to President Huddleston. Nor does the fact that it’s happening with his wife at the helm.

“She wins at everything she does,” he said. “I’ve coached my boys’ sports all the way through and she’s coached our girls as well as some of our boys in soccer, and she wins at everything. It frustrates me because I know I know more about sports than she does, and she still wins.”

The combination of a championship caliber program with a coach that works for free would most likely have any athletic director across the country salivating. Not so fast though – she wouldn’t do it for just anyone. She does it for the love of the game and for a love of her players. But she also does it out of a love of Dixie. In a way, she’s a throwback to Dixie’s early days.

“Look at the history of Dixie,” Coach Huddleston said. “Before the Depression there was no money to pay the teachers and they did it for free as well. It’s not like it’s never been done before. It’s a labor of love. But I’m not hungry and I’m not in any financial need, so it’s not nearly as big a sacrifice as what they did. They really sacrificed.”

Looking ahead to next season, the Rebels look to be the odds on favorite. Ten freshman players from last year’s team will return as sophomores next year; eight of the 10 were starters this year. And Huddleston plans to again be back with the team, again as a volunteer.

At this point, that same arrangement may continue indefinitely. That is, unless she doesn’t do well, says President Huddleston with a chuckle. Either way, she’ll never get paid to coach, at least, in his words, as long as he remains president. In other words, negotiating a raise won’t be in the cards anytime soon. But for her, it doesn’t have to be.

“Hey, I get a lot of it. I get to associate with some great kids and that makes it worth it,” Coach Huddleston said. “I’ll do it for a while. I’m having a lot of fun.”

Above: Volunteer head coach Linda Huddleston (L) and Nicole Anderson (R). The duo won Coach and Player of the Year honors in ’03.
**Football Team Comes Up Just Short of National Title**

In a roller coaster of a season, both on and off the field, the DSC football team overcame the improbable and they, too, played for the national championship.

After a late season stumble against New Mexico Military, losing by a field goal and blemishing their perfect record, the Rebels needed just about every scenario in the book to play out in their favor to even get a berth in the national championship game, and that's exactly what happened. Three teams were ranked ahead of the No. 5 Rebels going into the final week of the season. All three lost, and DSC leapfrogged back to the No. 2 spot for a date with No. 1 Butler County Community College (Kan.) in the Dixie Rotary Bowl.

“**You, or I, or Superman could have been back there and there wasn’t a whole lot of time to get that ball off.**”

Butler County Community College (Kan.) in the Dixie Rotary Bowl. The Rebels were solid on defense versus the Grizzlies, holding them to a paltry 14 points, but Butler’s defense was even more solid. DSC’s potent offensive attack was grounded, and the Rebels went on to lose 14-10.

“You, or I, or Superman could have been back there and there wasn’t a whole lot of time to get that ball off,” head coach Greg Croshaw said of his quarterback.

Truth be told, the team limped into the game a war torn bunch, not only physically, but emotionally. In addition to injuries landing key players such as All-American linebacker Tyler DeBry on the bench, one player lost his hand in a boating accident during the course of the season and another lost two family members in a car accident en route to St. George to see him play. Following the game, the Rebel coach put the game of football into context.

“I think the sun will come up,” Croshaw said of the loss. “I told the guys that all they can do is play for the 60 minutes on that clock as hard as you can play and if that’s good enough you’ll win it. If not, you had the opportunity, you got yourself in that position. If this is the toughest thing our guys have to face in their life, then they’re going to have a darn nice life.”

And so continues the Rebels’ elusive quest for a national championship, a quest that’s taken them to the verge of a title on several occasions. Dixie State lost to the same Butler program in the 1999 national championship game. Over Croshaw’s 20-plus year career, the Rebels have finished second nationally twice and third 10 times now.

“There have been some awful good teams that have come through here,” Croshaw said. “There’s only one guy that can be the national champion. Would I like to win it? Absolutely, but reality is that may not happen. I thought our guys played as hard as they could play, so I’m not going to pout or feel bad or anything else.”

But he’s not going to throw in the towel either. The Rebels will retool for next season and, if history is any indication, be back in the hunt for their first ever national title. °

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**DSC Goes Synthetic**

In what seems like a no brainer of a move given the desert climate of St. George, Dixie State College began construction in January on a new synthetic turf field in Hansen Stadium, home to the college’s football and soccer teams and the annual Dixie Rotary Bowl.

When all operation and maintenance costs are taken into consideration on the current grass field at Hansen Stadium, among them being water for the field, the college currently forks out approximately $100,000 each year to maintain the field.

“It’s very difficult to grow and maintain grass here,” said DSC athletic director Dexter Irvin. “And the very time of year we need it to play football and soccer is the very time the grass is the most stressed. It’s gone through the hot summer, at which point it’s difficult, if not impossible, to keep it up.

“It’s more fiscally and ethically responsible to have this type of a field than anything else we’ve done athletically for a long time. It’s the right thing to do. It’s just that initial hit of what it costs you to put it in that you have to swallow.”

The price tag for the new field will be $651,000. Funding will come from two sources: private donations and revenue from a rental property the college owns. The field will be under warranty for eight years, but the college expects to get a lot more mileage out of it than that.

“Given the cost, it’s got about a six- and-a-half year payback, and we think the surface could last as long as 16 years,” said Huddleston. “There are fields like this out there that have been in operation past the warranty, but there haven’t been any out long enough to see how long they really will last.”

In addition to water savings, there are several other expenses, included in the $100,000 currently required, that will disappear once the new field is completed sometime in May. Among them are costs to paint and line the field, which range between $3,000 and $4,000 each year; equipment depreciation expenses, and the cost to overseed, fertilize, and otherwise maintain the field, including manpower. There will be some maintenance and upkeep required for the new field, but not to...
the tune of the $100,000 currently required. There are also several purely athletic advantages to a synthetic turf field, Irvin said.

“ Injury rates are down on a field like this, as compared to a grass field,” Irvin said. “ Players don’t have any holes to deal with, no sprinklers to step on, the footing is more consistent. And any rug burn or turf toe problems are no worse than on a grass field.”

Irvin also pointed out that the field will benefit the entire community, not just the college, and that the college is currently exploring potential partnerships with several county and city entities.

In the past, the field has only been used between 13 and 18 times per year; due primarily to the challenge of growing grass and keeping it in game condition. If needed, the new field, Huddleston said, could be used daily.

The company that will be contracted with for the project is Turf Technologies based in California. One of the main differences between traditional artificial turf and the new synthetic turf is the absorbency of the synthetic surface, Irvin said. Twenty-seven pounds of rubber per square yard will rest under two-and-a-half inches of synthetic grass fiber on the new field. Also included will be a drainage system under the field.

“The old Astroturf was like playing on carpet on top of asphalt with no padding,” Irvin said. “It was like playing football on a church gym floor is what it amounted to.”

A big selling point for Dixie State on the turf ultimately selected was that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, very similar to St. George in terms of climate, installed the same playing surface in its football stadium this past season, and is enjoying it, Irvin said.

“It’s not just the cost of the water;” Irvin said. “It’s whether or not, when we have other technologies, should we continue to use water this way? If with water is the only way to do it, then that’s all you can do. Right now, you can’t afford to put a golf course in this stuff. But for athletic fields, in my opinion, we shouldn’t be looking at anything other than synthetic fields from now on.”

**HIS INFLUENCE EXTENDS FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER**

Memories of Coach Walt Brooks

At one point in time, perhaps half the kids in St. George played for Walt Brooks, one of the most successful coaches in Utah history. His quiet passing on Jan. 18, 2004, was noted by hundreds of former students and athletes whose lives were better because of him.

“I think the impact Coach Brooks had on kids goes very far,” said Sark Arslanian, a former student of Brooks who went on to coach at Dixie College as well as university and professional football. “I think his influence extends from one generation to another.”

Brooks graduated from Dixie College and Brigham Young University, where he started in football and track. While at BYU he was nicknamed Tarzan. His coaching career began at Hurricane High School in 1936, where he coached baseball for three undefeated seasons, and six-man football until 1945. He was then asked by President Glenn E. Snow to coach at Dixie High School and Dixie College. Walt’s combined coaching record in high school football was 320-36-4. His football teams won six state championships in six-man football and five championships in eleven-man football. During the 1957-1958 school year, Walt coached the Dixie Flyers to state championships in both football and basketball.

“A study was conducted in Utah, which found Coach Brooks to be the winningest coach ever in the state—I mean ever,” said Arslanian. “Walt coached hundreds, probably thousands of kids during his career. I went on to coach numerous players who had played for Walt in high school. Not one of them ever said anything negative about him.”

Brooks’ coaching and teaching career of 41 years was spent entirely in the Washington County School system. Since his career winning percentage was over 90-percent, he was named Coach of the Year seven times by fellow coaches and sports writers. The new Dixie High School football stadium was named the Walt Brooks Stadium in his honor. He carried the Olympic Torch in 2002.

Walt received the Dixie State College Distinguished Service Award in 1991, was inducted into the Utah High School Activities Association’s Circle of Fire in 1992, and also inducted into the DSC Hall of Fame in 2000. He participated in the Huntsman World Senior Games for many years winning medals — mostly golds — even three months prior to his death.

He married Irene Cox in 1939 in the St. George Temple and had eight children, which included two sets of twin girls. Following his retirement he and Irene served four Spanish speaking missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Irene preceded him in death.

Brooks leaves behind a lasting legacy of service and conviction. “He had a lot of influence on me personally,” said Arslanian. “He had more influence on me in coaching and in my coaching philosophy than any other coach and mentor I’ve ever been associated with. I’ve rubbed shoulders with the best, including Bear Bryant and other coaching greats; but, Walt had a better philosophy than any other coach I’ve ever met. He taught me a lot about coaching, but more important, he taught me a lot about life.”

Arslanian commented that Coach Brooks style was always that of a gentleman. “He never swore,” he said. He rarely yelled or raised his voice. What he would do is look you right in the eye and you knew exactly where he stood. Kids simply wanted to perform for him. He is the greatest coach and positive influence on young people that I have ever known.”

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Dixie State University
DSC alumnus makes his “Best Two Years” better than ever

BY MEGAN TRUMAN, ’04

“The Best Two Years” opened in theaters in Utah and Idaho on Feb. 20, 2004, and writer/director/producer Scott Anderson couldn’t have been more excited.
"The word of mouth that we're getting is just unbelievable and that's the exciting part," Anderson said after a premier at Stadium Eight Theaters in St. George on Feb. 16.

Anderson, who now resides in Bloomington, attended Dixie State College in 1975 and was involved in theater and played football for one year. "The coach jokes that I had to quit football early due to illness of fatigue; he got sick and tired of me," joked Anderson about his experience. "My true love was the theater anyway."

Theater was one thing Anderson did not get "sick and tired" of. In 1975, Anderson was awarded the Best Actor Award for Utah. But shortly after he started college, Anderson left to serve an LDS mission in Holland. He returned to Dixie in 1978 and later went on to the University of Utah pursuing playwriting and film.

In 1982, Anderson wrote a play entitled "The Best Two Years of My Life" to recount his mission experiences. The play was originally performed in 1982 at Dixie High School and experienced some success throughout the state, running for almost 100 performances.

"We wanted to make it into a movie back then, but didn't have the money," Anderson recalled. "So 20 some odd years later, we decided to take it back to Holland and film it over there and here."

Filmed in Holland and Alpine, Utah, "The Best Two Years" features an up-and-coming cast of comedic geniuses.

"I personally believe this is the LDS themed movie audiences have been looking for," said David Nibley, who plays Elder Johnson. Disillusioned by events back home, Elder Rogers has only a couple months left in his mission and is determined to ride it out with as little effort as possible.

The movie begins with Elder Rogers and his two roommates, Elder Johnson (David Nibley) and Elder Van Pelt (Cameron Hopkin) picking up his new companion, Elder Calhoun (Kirby Heyborne) at the train station. The movie is a comical look at the experiences encountered when the four men deal with annoying differences and life in the mission field.

"The film is very similar to the play," said Michael Flynn, the movie's producer and long-time friend of Anderson. Flynn, who has a cameo in the film as the mission president, acted in the original production and pushed Anderson to adapt the play to the big screen. "I think it actually works better as a film than it did as a play and it worked very, very well as a play," Flynn said. "It was actually funnier on stage, but it lacked the heart the film has so I like the film better."

Anderson feels that the final product can be partially attributed to the four main characters.

"Auditions were held in Utah and L.A. and we quickly found the right guys and it turned out that all of the main characters were working actors and returned missionaries," said Anderson, who believes that their mission experiences added to their characters.

"If you see the film, you'll see just how lucky we were."

The chemistry seemed to work for everyone, cast and audience members alike.

"The movie was awesome," said Scott Griffin, a DSC alumnus who played football with Anderson for Dixie. "I saw the play 15 years ago and it was really good, but the movie is definitely better than the play. The scenery and everything they added to it is awesome. It is very entertaining."

But just how does "The Best Two

Continued on page 25
“I find the Red Sands of Dixie forever on my mind”

Alumni Updates ◆ BY JOAN SMITH & SUSAN TAYSOM

◆ BERT WINTERTON, ’54, a new 2004 inductee into the Dixie’s Golden Generation, has been chosen as chairman of the reunion committee for homecoming week. He is excited about the prospect of pulling all his classmates together and enjoying the festivities and spirit of the week at Dixie. “Being a 1954 graduate of Dixie thrills me. It took a few months to get used to the dry desert after coming from the cold north,” reflects Winterton. “But the spirit of Dixie fast became a part of my life and created a love for this school and area that is timeless for me.”

Following his graduation from Dixie, Winterton earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Utah State University in zoology and plant genetics. He taught biology and genetics to over 20,000 students at Weber State University in over 30 years, receiving the “Master Teacher of the Year” award twice. In 2002, he received an honorary doctorate of humanities degree from WSU.

Winterton and his wife, Elizabeth Ann, are the parents of six children, 22 grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

◆ DR. KEITH REICHMANN, ’57, is retired and doing some long awaited travel after teaching pharmacy for 36 years. Before graduating from Dixie he was busy in the X-club, school plays, German club, working in the chemistry lab, being the water-boy for the football team and playing baseball. “Walt Brooks was a great teacher and my science classes gave me an added advantage when I continued my education,” said Reichmann. He graduated from the University of Utah with both a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy and later a doctorate in physical pharmacy. He taught for 30 years at Southwest Oklahoma State University and is a registered pharmacist in Utah, Colorado and Oklahoma. He is married to the former Lu Deason and they are the parents of three children and six grandchildren.

◆ SAM SAMPSON, ’69, is serving as a new member of the Dixie State College alumni board. He attended Dixie on a basketball scholarship and was on the ’65-66 team that won the conference and regional championships, and then went on to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. “I am looking forward to serving on the board and giving back some of what I have enjoyed through the years, Sampson noted.

“The college has always been a big part of my life, my parents met there, two of my children graduated from there and I was an assistant basketball coach for three years. I have always felt apart of it and want to continue that legacy and help in any way possible.”

Sam is a partner in the Coldwell Banker real estate franchise in St. George with an office of over 100 agents. He has been the president of the local Real Estate Association and was the president of the Utah Association of Realtors. He is the father of four children and 12 grandchildren.

◆ MIKE KEZERIAN, ’75, is currently working for UPS as an international sales manager who covers four states. He graduated from Dixie State College in 1975, from Brigham Young University in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in business management and from Utah State University in 1984 with a master’s degree in business administration.

Kezerian’s years at Dixie were full of great experiences where lifelong friends were made and learning was supported by great teachers with small classes. He played football for Coach Bunnell and enjoyed his uncle, Karl Brooks, then the vice president of Dixie State, who took care of him and his friends from Georgetown apartments with frequent home-cooked dinners. “I had the greatest roommates at Dixie and we were all grateful for wonderful academic experiences where learning was mixed with so much fun,” states Mike. “I’m proud to support Dixie State College and marvel at its great achievements.”

◆ LOUANN CROSBY SMITH, ’77, LouAnn Crosby Smith isn’t afraid of the cold, or so it seems, as she finds her way to work each day in Soldotna, Alaska, where she works as an experienced dental technician. She graduated from Dixie in 1977 then moved north to Provo to continue her studies. She is the mother of four children.

◆ DR. JEFFREY G. ROGERS, ’78, is one of Washington County’s leading obstetricians and gynecologists. He joined the practice of Southern Utah Women’s Health Center as a partner in July 1988. Dr. Rogers graduated as valedictorian from Dixie State College in 1978, was given the “Outstanding Science Student” award and was a member of the local Real Estate Association and was the president of the Utah Association of Realtors. He is the father of four children and 12 grandchildren.
of Phi Theta Kappa. He completed his doctor of medicine from the University of Utah School of Medicine in 1984 and internship and residency from the University of Utah Affiliate Hospitals in 1988. A noted public speaker, Rogers has received many awards for his expertise in the medical field and has published several publications. Rogers and his wife, Mitzie, have six children and one grandchild.

**MICHAEL J. STOKER, ’82**, President of Stoker Architecture, Inc. recently celebrated his company’s 10 year anniversary in Park City, Utah. Founded in 1993, the firm was honored this past month as one of the 2003 Utah’s 100 fastest growing companies in the state. Placing 29th out of 11,000 submissions, Stoker Architecture’s gross revenues increased by 844 percent from 1998 to 2002. Stoker received his associate of science degree from Dixie State in 1982. He then completed his higher education at the University of Utah, obtaining a bachelor’s degree in urban planning in 1987 and his master’s of architecture in 1991.

**JAY M. DAY (’83)** is a new member of the DSC Alumni Board, serving as vice president of special events. Day attended Dixie State in 1983 when President Alton Wade served as president. During that time he played football for the Rebels and helped them win the ICAC championship. He graduated from Brigham Young University-Hawaii with a bachelor’s of international business management degree in 1990, again while Alton Wade was serving as president.

Currently, Jay travels internationally with his job at O’Neill, Inc., a wetsuit and apparel company based out of Santa Cruz, California. He is the country manager of Japan but resides in Santa Clara, Utah. He married the former Julie Hunter and they are the parents of four children.

**CHRIS SCHOEBINGER, ’85**, knows his books. Sheri Dew, Deseret Book’s president and CEO, recently offered him a position in the publishing division as the product director. Schoebinger graduated from Dixie State in 1985. “A most memorable moment at Dixie was performing in the shows and choirs,” he said, “particularly Program Bureau with Mrs. DiFiore and Counterpoint with Mr. Putnam. I did an impression of Stevie Wonder that will haunt me forever.”

He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1991. While in school he took a part-time job with Deseret Book. “Apparently, it was a really good idea to take that part-time job because Deseret Book kept giving me promotions,” he reflects. “I have been with the company for 16 years.”

Schoebinger eventually became a member of the executive council as director of marketing and is now busy acquiring new manuscripts, developing new authors and artists, and taking new product ideas from conception to consumer. He and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of four children and currently live in Lehi, Utah.

**DAN MATHESON, ’87**, had his first exposure to Dixie State College during a recruiting presentation at Taylorsville High School by Bill Fowler. The presentation was impressive enough that he registered for classes sight unseen and forever fell in love with the area and the people. His beginnings at DSC led him into a 16-year career in broadcasting and video production. He is currently the general manager and part-owner of KCSG Television, which broadcasts southern Utah’s only television news cast. After graduating from Dixie, Matheson earned a bachelor’s degree from Southern Utah University in communications with an emphasis in broadcasting and public relations.

He began his career as a photojournalist at KYMA-ABC Yuma, Arizona, KGUN-ABC Tucson, Arizona and KUTV (then CBS) Salt Lake City where he was awarded first place for his spot news coverage in ’92 by the Society of Professional Journalists. While there, he made an unusual transition from the news department into broadcast sales and helped develop the St. George and Cedar City television market with KUTV-Southern Utah.

Matheson and his wife of 16 years, Darlene Arnold, met at Dixie and are the parents of four children.

**Continued on page 24**
**TIFFANY M. LAJOICE, ’96**, a certified public accountant, is currently a manager at Hafen Buckner Everett & Graff, PC. She is currently the vice-president of the Color Country Chapter of Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants and president-elect of the St. George local chapter of Business and Professional Women.

LaJoice graduated from Dixie State College cum laude and from Southern Utah University, magna cum laude. She received a master’s of accounting, high distinction graduate, degree.

**JOHN T. JONES, ’98**, serves as branch manager of The Village Bank in St. George, Utah. First hired by the bank in 1997, John’s various positions have included teller, internet specialist, loan processor and loan officer. He was moved into his current position in 2003. Jones graduated from Dixie State then Utah State University where he received dual bachelor degrees in finance and economics. Jones keeps busy volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America and being a member of the St. George Breakfast Exchange Club. He and his wife, Jessica, reside in Green Valley and have one daughter.

**TRENT STAHELI, ’02**, was elected to his first term as city councilman for Washington City in the November 2003 elections. He gained experience in leadership during the 2001-2002 school year at Dixie State College where he served as vice president of academics. Staheli teaches computer technologies at Pine View High School and is attending Dixie State to complete his bachelor degree in the visual technologies program. He married Andi Butler from Diamond Valley in December 2003 and they reside in Washington, the city his ancestors settled over 150 years ago.

**JEANNE MACPHERSON, ’97**

“Flying makes her heart grow fonder,” would be an appropriate statement for Jeanne MacPherson (’97) who recently won the Freedom of Flight award. It is the highest honor bestowed by her peers in the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). “Aviation is a huge passion,” reflected Je anne, “I love working with people and especially the ‘young eagles’ with all the dreams and possibilities of flight.” She is the young eagles flight leader and has flown over 2,900 students. She also takes aviation to schools across Montana and educates children while they experience their first flight.

The Montana Aeronautics Division, Department of Transportation currently employs Jeanne where she serves as bureau chief of safety and education. She is a pilot, flight instructor, and air search coordinator. She also oversees instructional clinics and workshops.

Finding her dream and eventually living it began when Jeanne was 12 year old. She saw the Blue Angels perform in the air and decided then that one day she wanted to fly. After growing up in Bozeman, Montana, Jeanne married, raised three children, coached a ski team and rode her bike on a woman’s racing team. After several years and several jobs, she made her way to St. George and Dixie College. She graduated number one in her class as a Professional Flight honor student with a 4.0 GPA. “Dan Smith of the aviation department was a great help to me,” said Jeanne. “Dixie College was a big door opened academically and professionally.”

In 2000 MacPherson earned an Aviation Accident Investigation certificate and is currently attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Great Falls, MT. where she will graduate this spring with a bachelor’s degree in Professional Aeronautics.

Jeanne encourages “young eagles” to fly high as she instructs them in aeronautics before they experience their first flight.
everybody, as his job is so broad with politicians, athletes and entertainers. With my husband, you meet everybody,” said Mrs. King.

One of the most favorite people Mrs. King has ever met is Gordon B. Hinckley, the prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“He’s amazing. He’s kind, loving, warm, and funny. I was nervous for me and Larry the first time we met with him. But President Hinckley was as sweet as can be with Larry,” said Mrs. King.

King has interviewed President Hinckley three times. In fact, the Kings have even spent time with the Hinckley family. “We’ve been to dinner together with President Hinckley and his wife. One Christmas Eve we had the opportunity to eat dinner with his family at their condo,” said Mrs. King.

When asked about Utah’s predominant faith, King had only positive things to say. His interviews with President Hinckley stand out in his mind.

“I like Gordon B. Hinckley very much,” King said. “He is bright, forthright, funny, and extremely healthy for his age. I’m amazed at his mental and physical capabilities for his age. I like him a great deal.”

A self-proclaimed Jewish Agnostic, King doesn’t view the religious differences within his family as a problem.

“Our kids are going to be raised Mormon. I just don’t want religion forced into them. If they want to go on missions one day, then that is great. (Missions) have got to be an extraordinary event in your life,” said King at the press conference.

“At times I envy the LDS people and President Hinckley; I wish I could believe in an after life. I wish I could have their optimism.”

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BEST TWO YEARS
(continued from pg. 21)

Years” differ from all the other “Mormon niche” comedies?

“In relation to “God’s Army,” these are two totally different films,” said KC Clyde. “The only thing the two have in common is they are both about Mormon missionaries. Ours is a more farcical look at it (missions). It’s a comedy, but at the same time, it’s got heart. I think people will be pleasantly surprised with it.”

After the Monday night sneak preview, audience members stood in line for over an hour to get autographs from cast members, Anderson and Flynn.

“It was a lot of fun,” commented Kirby Heyborne on the production of the film. “It was great working with Scott. He’s an amazing guy. He is passionate about this film and that passion gave us energy. When things would go wrong, Scott would always march us forward. He made it fantastic.”

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LARRY KING LIVE IN ST. GEORGE
(continued from pg. 13)

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NAME

YEAR(S) OF GRADUATION OR ATTENDANCE

UPDATE INFO

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Dear Alumni,

In 1981 I was a sophomore at Brighton High School in Salt Lake City when my father announced to our family that we were moving to this little town in southern Utah called St. George, where he was to be the next president of this little town college called Dixie. Understandably, this was not the kind of news a 16 year-old boy looks forward to receiving. However, I saddled up my horse (car), and with my family, headed to St. George. What I quickly discovered was there are few places on earth like St. George and Dixie College, now called Dixie State College.

After 17 years of being an alumnus, it is my privilege to serve this year as the alumni president. In doing so, I hope to build upon the legacy established by so many before me in maintaining and building upon the Dixie Spirit.

Each year the college is changing, expanding and improving, and we encourage alumni everywhere to take a moment and see how they can participate this year to make this college even better. Let me suggest a few ways:

1. The college is trying to fund a new ALUMNI House, which will be a wonderful gathering place for everyone, including dignitaries, visitors and alumni. It will include guest suites wherein all of you can stay while visiting the area. This new building is essential in helping increase the college’s vibrant and progressive image.

2. We lost a great alumnus this year, Mr. Walt Brooks (local legend) and a scholarship endowment has been established in his name. Anyone can contribute to the endowment, and the money will be used for student scholarships. Scholarships provide a wonderful opportunity for future students and many of us were the recipients of such contributions...so let’s remember the generosity of others in our lives and do likewise. Keep the RED SAND between your toes.

Ron Wade, Alumni President
The winner for this year’s Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show is a pastel by Julie Rogers, “In the Potter’s Hands.”