

VANTAGE POINT

DIXIE STATE COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2003 • VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 4

Christmas at Dixie State College

For those who want to add a little sparkle to their Christmas celebrations, consider the plethora of campus holiday traditions lined up for the

next few weeks.

One of these events is the annual GIFT OF DIXIE. "Christmas is twice as fun if you help make someone else's good," said Donna Stafford, student activities director, "especially a child in a home where Santa doesn't come."

Faculty, staff and students are invited to help make a child's Christmas better by participating in the service project. Donna said anyone who wants to help should choose a star from the Christmas tree in the Student Government room. The star bears the name of a needy child, their age, size, and a gift they need. The giver should deliver the wrapped gift (tagged with the star) back to the student government room by Wednesday, Dec. 10 so that students can package and deliver them to the KONY Country Christmas Angel program.

The stars can be picked up individually, or many campus departments use these as gifts for their department Christmas parties instead of bringing the traditional white elephants.

"This is one of the best activities we hold each year," said Donna.

"Not only does it provide Christmas for needy chil-

dren, but it also gives students an opportunity to grow from giving."

Another Christmas tradition, a visible one to the community, is the DSC CHRISTMAS LUMINARIA LIGHTING, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 18 and Friday, Dec. 19. Those who can help should meet in front of the Admin. Bldg. at 3 p.m. Thursday afternoon. Luminaria will be placed extensively around the perimeters of the campus, making a bright showing for local passersby and guests to our community.

The DSC Women's Association and the financial aid office fold 1,500 sacks every year, and many other faculty and staff show up to place and light the candles.

"The MADRIGAL FEAST will tickle your pallet, tickle your ears and tickle your toes," said Ken Peterson, music director of this new DSC tradition which will be held Dec. 9, 10 & 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gardner Center Ballroom. It's three evenings of Medieval entertainment with jugglers, comedy routines, theatrical performances, and beautiful music by the DSC chamber singers, women's choir and guitar ensemble all dressed in period costumes.

A catered three course dinner including appetizer, Cornish game hen, and plum pudding will be served by costumed actors (jesters, wenches,

town drunks and the like) with fun surprises in store. Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance. Call 652-7800 or visit the Cox Auditorium box office for tickets and information.

Many call Christmas incomplete unless they attend a performance of HANDEL'S MESSIAH. On Dec. 6 & 7 the Southwest Symphony & Chorale and DSC Choirs will delight audiences at 7:30 p.m. in the Cox Auditorium.

For a complete list of Christmas events being held on the DSC campus. Call or email Sharon Rawlings: 652-7800, 652-7902, rawlings@dixie.edu.



Top: Can you guess the mystery shopper who is checking off her list at the annual Bookstore Christmas sale as Santa Randy looks on?

Above: Luminaria will dot the campus on the evenings of Dec. 18 and 19.

You Make Dixie A Great Place to Work



With one holiday behind us and Christmas and New Year's around the corner, I'd like to take a moment and

wish our faculty and staff a memorable holiday season. I've now spent 10 Christmases in St. George and our family has loved living here and working with all of you.

Linda also expresses her gratitude for everyone's support of the women's soccer team in winning

their second national championship. Although it has made our lives even more hectic, it has been rewarding for her to coach such quality young women and assist them in achieving a remarkable goal, which they will always remember. It is even more rewarding that these quality athletes have maintained an enviable academic record.

In addition to our national soccer success, we're looking forward to the NJCAA sanctioned national championship football game at the Dixie Rotary Bowl on Dec. 6. We wish our athletes success on and off the field.

Even with all of this excitement, I am

most looking forward to the upcoming Board of Regents meeting in Salt Lake on Dec. 11, where they will make a decision regarding a four-year nursing degree on our campus. We are most hopeful about this announcement and the positive outcome it could have in our community. With the spacious and beautiful new hospital recently dedicated on River Road, we are anxious to meet their needs for qualified nursing professionals.

Again, thank you for all you do to make Dixie a great place to live and work. May you enjoy this Christmas season with your families and loved ones.

Robert C. Huddleston
President



LEARNING HOW TO GIVE

by Mark Petersen

Students and faculty at Dixie State recently hosted a statewide Service Learning Conference in the Gardner Center on campus. Representatives from other colleges met with faculty, staff and students to discuss the benefits of service learning programs.

"It was a great opportunity to get together with colleagues who are finding success on their campuses with this program," said Phil Alletto, vice president of student services.

Joe Peterson, acting vice president of academic services, also sees great value in the program. "The purpose of service learning is to try to get students to be better citizens," he said, "to have a commitment to civic involvement, and to understand that their academic pursuits will have greater meaning if their education results in a better world."

He noted that some students often think of their educations as simply a way to get money or as a way to pay the mortgage. However, other students invest in their careers a great deal of meaning; it's their way of giving a gift for the future.

"Service learning provides meaningful service opportunities as a way to make their life's endeavors become something more than merely a way to get

money," he added.

Faculty Senate president Tim Eicher has also discovered the spark that is being ignited by service learning. "I think service learning creates opportunities that are valuable for students," he said. "As part of their education, I would like to see students involved in doing service for others. It is beneficial to those they serve as well as to themselves for their personal growth and development."

Eicher hopes that faculty might consider possibilities to integrate service learning into their curriculum where there are appropriate opportunities. He said that some of his students who have chosen service projects as part of their course options have had wonderful, often life-changing, experiences.

"One of my students this past semester volunteered to work in the nursery at Millcreek High School taking care of young babies," said Eicher. "While teen moms went to class she helped take care of their kids. She did research on infant development at the same time. If students can get academic exposure while they are involved in these kinds of service, they come to feel that what they have to offer is of value and learn how to integrate these experiences with research and writing."



If you know of something special, newsworthy, memorable or just plain nice that someone on campus has done, please pass it along to the public relations office: smith_j@dixie.edu

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! Congratulations to Coach LINDA HUDDLESTON for directing the Lady Rebel Soccer team to the NJCAA National Championship title. Dixie scored the



Linda Huddleston addresses boosters at Tuesday's Colonel's Club luncheon.

winning goal with only 22 seconds to play in regulation, giving the Rebels a 1-0 victory over the defending national champions and the national title.

George Area Chamber of Commerce Installation Banquet held in February.

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER:

JONATHAN MORRELL of Student Support Services, along with his group, *Fourte*, will be releasing his second album the first week of December. Some of the songs on



the Christmas CD include: First Noel, Coventry Carol, White Christmas, Blue Christmas, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Away in a Manager and others. It has been in the works since May. Jonathan said it was a little weird singing Christmas songs when it was 100 degrees outside. This holiday season the group has 10 singing engagements which include company and work Christmas parties and church performances. Their only public performance will be at St George's Annual First Night Celebration, Dec. 31.

AWARD WINNING CAMPUS DINING SERVICES: For the second consecutive year, MARTIN PETERSON and the DSC Campus Dining Services received a Loyal E. Horton Dining Award in 2003 after finishing second in the Catering, Special Event division at the annual National Association of Colleges and University Food Service Conference. The honor, considered one of the top culinary awards for colleges and universities, was given for the department's catering work at the St.



NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR: With the retirement of Louise Excell, DARL BINIAZ will take over as the new English Department chair in January. Darl has been teaching English, humanities and literature at Dixie State for eight years.

LOUISE EXCELL RETIRING AT END OF FALL SEMESTER



After teaching literature and English composition for 18 years at Dixie State, Louise Excel is retiring at the end of December to work in her family business in Springdale. Louise came to DSC in 1986.

"I loved to watch her teach because she did it with such clear and rigorous thinking," said Ed Reber, DSC colleague and friend. "She stimulated her students to better reasoning and more excellence in writing and in life."

While teaching at Dixie, Louise served as Faculty Senate president, associate dean of arts, letters and sciences and English department chair. "The experiences I have had working with fellow faculty and colleagues and the opportunity to teach young people have been the highlight of my career," she said.



New Faces on Campus

Have You Met?

Several faculty and staff members who were new to our campus last year haven't been highlighted in Vantage Point. We'll catch up a few at a time to help you get acquainted:



MARILYN BROCKBANK
Dental Hygiene Admin. Secretary
Was the mission secretary in Boston for baseball Hall of Famer, Dale Murphy. Has 15 grandchildren.

SUSAN GARNER
Student Support Services Advisor
Taught English 15 years at DSC. "Dixie's in my blood—if I can't live in England, St. George is the place for me!"

MALISSA KELSCH
Educational Talent Search Advisor
Loves to explore and have adventures with her three children. She also loves to garden and enjoys art.

SARAH SHURTLIFF
Financial Aid Advisor
Is excited for her first baby, due in December. Is waiting to be surprised about the gender.

STEVE JOHNSON
Campus Security
Works the night shift. Graduated from the Utah State Police Academy and will be graduating from Dixie State this semester.

COSTUMES FOR EVERY OCCASION by Chris Taylor

DSC theater is a family affair for the Davenport family. Everybody knows Varlo and the role he plays as the department's director. But his wife, Andrea, plays a significant role as well behind the scenes. She oversees the design and creation of the costumes for each play. She gets paid on an adjunct basis to do it, but more than that, it's a passion she's had for a long time.

"My grandmother was a designer and I was around her a lot growing up," Andrea said. "And I have just always really loved it. Varlo and I both love it and we work together and that's really fun. Our kids have grown up helping us."

Anybody who's seen a production, knows it's not a job for the faint of heart. Andrea put in 14-hour days or more the entire month leading up to the recent production of "The Scarlet Pimpernell." And she did it all while recovering from recent back surgery, which she underwent in August. Because it is a family affair though, her 14-year old daughter, Hannah, was able to step in in relief on occasion, and she actually cut almost everything for "The Scarlet Pimpernell."

"She's good at it—she was a really good help," Andrea said. "In fact, all of my kids have helped. They've sewn on buttons or done whatever they could."

In addition to family, she, of course, imparts her knowledge of design to DSC students. She currently works with three work study students and mentors student costume designers through the process of designing and building a show.

"It's really a great opportunity for them, because usually you don't get to design a show until you're a senior," she said. "Because it's a smaller school, you're able to get a lot of one-on-



Andrea Davenport at the sewing machine designing and making Medieval costumes for a large cast of of the upcoming Madrigal Feast, Dec. 9-11 (see pg. 1 for details).

one time."

Andrea has a bachelor's degree in fashion design with a minor in theater from Utah State University. She also studied in New York City at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). Appropriately enough, Varlo and Andrea met in a theater setting in Logan, she while designing costumes and he while acting. It doesn't bother her though that she remains behind the scenes designing costumes. It's what she loves doing. "If I wanted to be in the forefront, I'd be an actor. It's just really

