

# VANTAGE POINT

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Dixie State College  
Faculty and Staff  
Newsletter



*"Snowfall in Snow Canyon" by Wallace Lee was given the Purchase Prize Award in the 2002 Sears Invitational Art Show.*

## DSC HURRICANE CENTER GROWING BY LEAPS & BOUNDS *in more ways than one*

BY CHRIS TAYLOR

On Jan. 7, 2002, the first day of spring semester, Dixie State College opened its doors to a brand new building on the Hurricane satellite campus -- the Jonna P. and Boyd C. Stout Building. Construction on the 4,500 sq. foot-plus building officially got underway during a public groundbreaking ceremony in late August 2001.

That the building was completed in just over four months, on budget and on time, is only the half of it. Construction on the building was completely financed through private donations.

"It's a little unusual that people have so much love for their community they'll step forward and be that generous," said Stan Plewe, DSC vice president of college services.

DSC first began offering courses in the Hurricane area in 1995. At that time, all classes were housed at Hurricane High -- the college continues to borrow classroom space at the high school today.

As demand for classes grew, however, so did the need for a building the college could call its own. That need was met in Sept. 2000 upon the dedication of the 6,005 sq. foot Walter C. Lichfield Building, which also came largely as a result of donations from people within the community.

Before construction on Phase I of the Alan Joseph Stout Hurricane Center

was even completed, Jonna Stout met with DSC administrators and proposed that a second building be built as well.

This generosity couldn't have come at a better time. The expansion comes when the east county is itself expanding, an area the Hurricane Center is specifically geared towards serving. Hurricane alone has experienced a 110 percent growth increase over the past ten years, growing from 3,915 in 1990 to a population of 8,250 in 2000.

"This addition to the Hurricane Center, however, is good news not only to the residents of Hurricane, but to all of Washington County," Plewe said. In addition to Hurricane-- LaVerkin, Toquerville, Springdale, Virgin and Rockville are the main cities the DSC Hurricane Center is geared towards serving.

"The east county area is one of the fastest growing areas in southern Utah," Plewe said. "It's an important function of a community college to reach out to the community, and the Hurricane Center allows us to provide our services to these particular communities."

And then there are the students themselves. When DSC first began offering classes in Hurricane during Fall Semester 1995, 34 students total were enrolled in two courses. Enrollment for the following two fall semesters dipped a little and averaged 25 students. Fall enrollment grew to 85 and 90 in 1998 and 1999

CONTINUED, SEE HURRICANE PAGE 3

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DIXIE  
ARTISTS  
SHINE

4

POLLY  
WANT A  
NUMBER??

6

NEW FACES  
ON CAMPUS

7

CAMPUS  
KUDOS

8



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**D**ixie State College, as well as all other colleges and universities in Utah and the nation, is going through difficult budget times. To be sure, this is by far the most difficult period of my career. We sent a news release to the

local media carefully outlining the cuts we are in the process of making at Dixie, and the information was printed incorrectly. Therefore, I thought I would communicate the facts to our faculty and staff to provide a better understanding of these current events.

Dixie State College is in the process of implementing a state mandated budget cut which will eliminate \$600,000 from the current 2001-2002 operational budget.

All state agencies, including Dixie, were informed late in the fiscal year that budget cuts must be retroactive to July 1, 2001. These are not one-time cuts, but on-going reductions in the operational budget. Approximately 86-percent of the college's operational budget is tied up in compensation. This predicament makes it difficult to cut budgets without affecting people and programs.

I want to be clear on the fact that we are making a concerted effort not to cut academic programs. We want to keep all of our classes open to students and make student access our number one priority. We do not plan to turn away any students.

Even with this understanding, four full-time faculty positions are not being filled at present until we have a better indication of what might

occur with the 2002-2003 budget. If state revenue projections do not improve, there might be another substantive cut for next year.

The major cuts will occur in the following areas: administration, student services, continuing education, facilities and grounds, and intercollegiate athletics.

These cuts will not be easy. People on campus and in the community may second guess what is being eliminated or cut back. I accept and understand these frustrations. I have been in the higher education business for 27 years, and these are the hardest decisions that I have ever been asked to make.

One of the cuts we announced earlier, the elimination of the men's intercollegiate golf team, is being rescinded contingent upon a group of athletic boosters raising the funds by July 2002 to keep the program.

The \$25,000 price tag for the golf team may not seem to be much, but it is equal to the annual salary of an employee. I felt we couldn't justify any further reductions in personnel.

In spite of the difficulties, Dixie State College has always had strong campus and community support. I am convinced we will weather these tough times and come out a stronger institution. Thanks to each of you for the support you give this great institution.

## VANTAGE POINT NEWSLETTER

is published for Faculty and Staff of Dixie State College. News items are welcome —simply e-mail them to:  
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# VANTAGE POINT NEWSLETTE R

## HURRICANE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

respectively, then jumping to 242 in 2000. Nearly 500 students were enrolled in over 30 courses this past fall semester at the Hurricane Center.

Adjunct communications instructor, Nancy Perschon, teaches courses in Hurricane and St. George. Being a resident of Hurricane, she enjoys the convenience of being able to teach close to home, particularly night classes. Ditto for her area students.

"In addition to the typical student, I am teaching single mothers. I'm teaching fathers who work all day. I'm teaching young people who are struggling with different issues," Perschon said. "The Hurricane Center is a real star on the forehead in this part of the county. It's amazing."

Previously, the



*The new Jonna P. and Boyd C. Stout Building adds 4,000 square feet and four classrooms to the Hurricane Center.*

6,005 sq. foot center has consisted of two large 60-seat classrooms and a computer lab. The new building, which has essentially been built onto the existing building, consists of an additional 4,600 sq. feet, mainly of classroom space. In all, four new

classrooms have been added to the center.

Before it's all said and done, an atrium-like area complete with a garden and benches will be added. The new building will be dedicated on Wednesday, Mar. 13, 11:00 am.

The center sits on eight acres of partially developed land, which was also privately donated. Currently, there are no plans for another building, but if recent history is any indication, it won't be long before the next one is in the planning stages.

## NEW FACES AT DIXIE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



**Keith Kelsch**  
ADMISSIONS ADVISOR  
AND RECRUITER

### KEITH KELSCH

When the Olympic torch wound its way through St. George enroute to the winter games, one of Dixie College's newest employees was a proud bearer of the flame. Keith Kelsch, new admissions advisor and recruiter, was nominated by his wife and several of his former students at Tuacahn High.

Keith taught language arts and forensics at Tuacahn before switching to his new position at Dixie. He loves promoting Dixie State College and working with Ed Rogers, which he says is "the best aspect of my job."

In addition to his full-time job, Keith

teaches English on campus as an adjunct, serves on the academic decathlon board, volunteers as a sterling scholar judge, hosts a local radio show, and is writing two books!

Keith was born in Utah, but schooled in California, where he attended Moorpark College to major in theater arts. He earned bachelor and master degrees in English from Cal State Northridge and his MATW (Masters of Arts in Teaching Writing) at Humbolt University.

Keith and his wife, Malissa, are the parents of two sons and one daughter.

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

## DSC Faculty Strut their Stuff in the Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show

BY CHRIS TAYLOR

The annual Robert & Peggy Sears Dixie Invitational Art Show is currently on display in Dixie State College's Cox Auditorium. The show is recognized as one of the best in the state and has been a community and campus favorite for 15 years now. A handful of faculty, both full-time and adjunct, are regularly invited to enter their artwork in the show, which features paintings and sculptures from some of the top artists in the state and region.

One of the primary goals of the show over the years has been to raise money for a new fine arts complex at DSC, and each piece exhibited is for sale to the public.

The idea to use the art show as a fundraiser toward this end originated with Bob Sears, a long-time art enthusiast and collector who served on the college's national advisory council. His wife, Peggy, has also played a significant role in the art show since its inception, and her support of the show continues today. Upon his death, the Sears family determined they would give part of Bob and Peggy's art collection to Dixie State College to be exhibited in the eventual new art gallery, which could be constructed in the next two years, depending on the results of the

current legislative session.

That this show is by invitation speaks to the talent and credentials of those in the show. Among the Dixie State names and faces participating in this year's show are:



*"Mary Kept These Things in Her Heart"*  
by Del Parson

### DEL PARSON

No art show, particularly the Sears Dixie Invitational, is complete without the work of renowned artist, Del Parson. Winner of the 2000 Invitational Best of Show Purchase Prize, Del is a mainstay in the exhibit and has taken part every year

since the show's inaugural year.

His patented

religious and spiritual themes are recognized throughout the state, country, and in many parts of the world. Since 1975, Del has completed more than 200 illustrations and paintings for the LDS Church.

Del has been awarded the first place ribbon in the oils category for "Mary Kept These Things in Her Heart." The other painting Del has on exhibit this year is called "North Creek," also an oil painting.

Del has painted professionally for 26 years and is currently an associate professor of art at Dixie State.

### GARY ORCHARD

Gary teaches at the college as an adjunct art instructor. He has participated in the Sears Dixie Invitational for four years now and is a big advocate of the show in general.

"The Sears show, to me, is the ultimate of shows during the year in the Southwest area," Gary said. "It's always an honor to be in this show."

Gary has entered two landscapes in this year's show: "Winter at Red Rock Crossing" and "The Farm." Both are oil paintings.

"Southwest landscapes have always fascinated me," Gary said. "Red Rock Crossing in Arizona is probably one of the most photographed and painted areas in the country. As a painter, you look for those scenes that inspire you, and when you see one you say, 'Hey, that's the one.'"

Besides landscapes, Gary enjoys producing abstract art.

### DENNIS MARTINEZ

In addition to serving on the show's organizing committee for six years hanging the show, Dennis has entered his artwork in the Invitational on three separate occasions. He has



*"Forsaken"* by Dennis Martinez

# VANTAGE POINT NEWSLETTER

submitted one work this year called "Forsaken," a large-scale acrylic portrait study of a man's figure with his hands covering his eyes. It's one of the largest paintings in the show. Dennis said the painting was, among other things, inspired from Terrabaggio's "Conversion of St. Paul."

"I painted it this last fall about a week after the terrorist attacks in September," Dennis said. "To me, this painting is a play toward mortality, spirituality and reflection."

Dennis has been an associate professor of art at Dixie State for seven years.

## NANCY PERSCHON

This year marks Nancy's first year in the show. Two of her paintings are on exhibit, the first of which, an abstract watercolor piece, is entitled "Quid Pro Quo." The piece represents how people weave the patterns of their lives. Written on the painting's mat is: "We are the weavers. We are the web. We are the woven. We are the thread." Nancy feels strongly about the statement this particular painting makes.

"This piece is about connections, it's about networking. This community is a bevy of wonderful artists. We all support each other and are supportive of each other," Nancy said. "I personally think this show is THE artistic event in this community. It's an enormous honor to be a part of it - I don't take it lightly at all."

"Chasing Daylight," also a watercolor painting, is her second entry this year.

Nancy has also served on the show's organizing committee. In addition, she has worked in

the public relations and publications office on campus and is currently an adjunct professor of communication. She teaches at both the St. George and Hurricane campuses and currently lives in Hurricane.

## MELANIE 'MEL' SCOTT

Mel specializes in watercolor painting and teaches watercolor at the college as an adjunct instructor. She has taught at Dixie State for over five years. This year marks Mel's fourth year in the invitational.

She is showing two pieces this year, both watercolors. One of the two, "Music of the Spheres," was rendered on Yupo, a plastic-like alternative to regular watercolor paper and a unique and relatively new medium. While watercolors typically sink into regular paper, using Yupo is like painting on glass, Mel says. This has translated into some really fluid and vibrant colors.

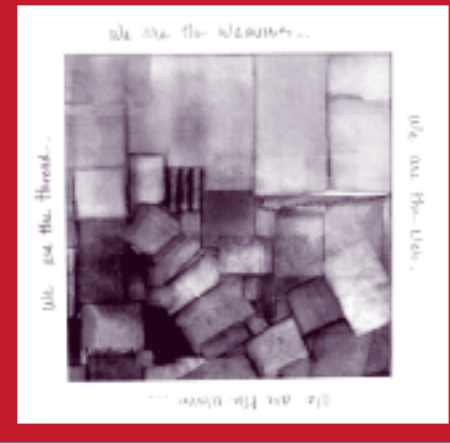
Mel's other painting, also a watercolor, is called "Hen and Chicks."

"I've always been very impressed with this show," Mel said. "The quality of the artwork has been great. It's sort of a nice little feather in the cap to have them invite you."

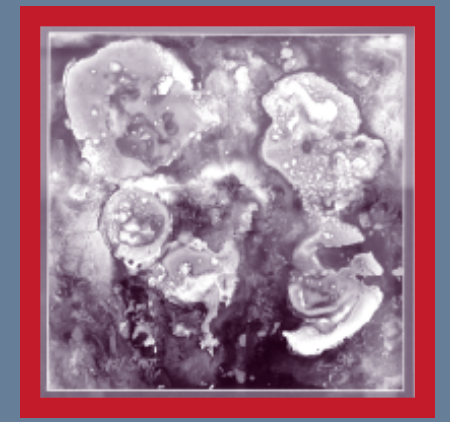
Originally from Indiana, Mel has lived in St. George for over 30 years. She came to then Dixie College on a scholarship, and is a Dixie graduate.

"It's always rewarding when I sell something because it allows me to give something back to the college," Mel said. "I couldn't have gone where I am if it hadn't been for Dixie."

CONTINUED, SEE ART SHOW PAGE 8



"Quid Pro Quo" by Nancy Perschon



"Music of the Spheres" by Mel Scott



"Red Rock Crossing" by Gary Orchard

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## POLLY WANT A NUMBER???

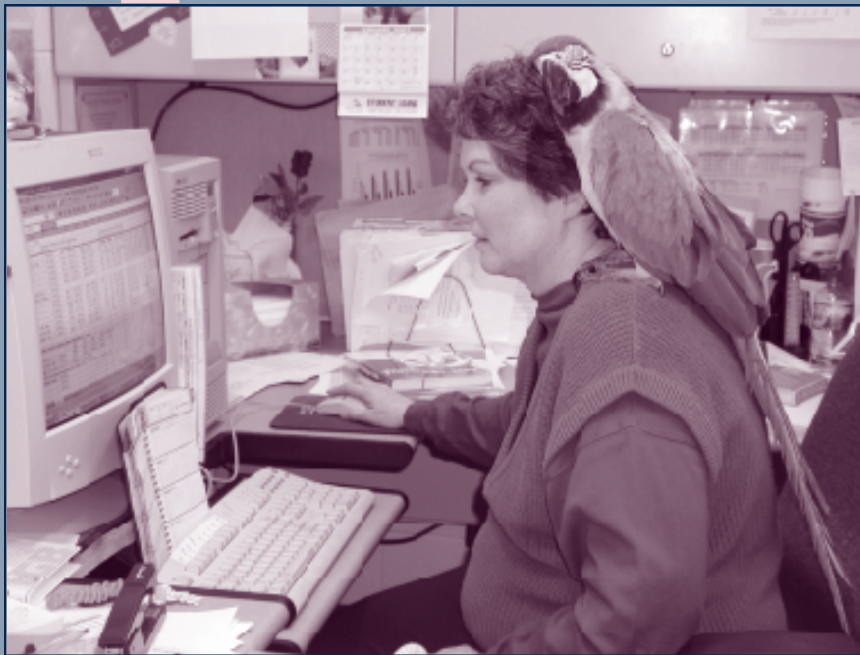
Kathy Bailey loves animals. Along with three Persian cats, Kathy mothers six parrots—four large Macaws, an Amazon and an African Grey.

“The other morning when I took the birds their breakfast I got a kiss from Tiny, our Greenwing Macaw,” remembers Kathy. “When I said ‘bye-bye,’ Missy the African Grey replied, ‘Get out of here!’”

That phrase is one Kathy will never hear on the job at Dixie State College. As the only institutional research specialist on campus, Kathy’s services are in high demand. Whether it’s the president needing enrollment figures for a critical report, a math professor needing to track student progress or the athletic department checking the eligibility of its athletes, Kathy gets requests from nearly every office on campus.

“In a nutshell, I crunch numbers,” she explains. “I’m very involved in data mining, surveys, and enrollment reporting to state and federal governments.”

Kathy also describes herself as “the Label Queen.” She generates mailing label lists for many departments on campus, a carry-over from her days in the registrar’s office where she began at Dixie in 1990. At that time, Kathy was responsible for getting the old voice registration system up and running. But when the “student-right-to-know” and “campus secu-



*Mickey Mouse, Kathy’s blue and gold Macaw, crunches nuts on her shoulder as she crunches numbers for departments throughout campus*

rity act” came about, a new department of institutional studies was created, and Kathy made the switch.

“I love my job. There is never a dull moment in institutional research,” she says. “Each day presents new challenges and rewards. I enjoy helping people obtain the information they need to do their jobs more effectively.”

Until her new boss, Frank Lojko, was hired last year, Kathy was basically working solo from a “hole” in the North Administration basement. “Frank is a great boss. I’ve enjoyed every minute of working with him,” she says. “And, I’m thrilled to be upstairs out of the dungeon! I finally have windows!”

“Kathy is a very dedicated employee,” Frank boasts. “You won’t find a more dependable and

capable person, who is also so pleasant to work with.”

At the end of the day, Kathy returns home to her pets who count on her to take care of their needs—something she and Tom, her husband of 20 years, love to do.

“Some of these birds can live to be 80 years old,” she says. “We get very attached. They are like our children. Our oldest is about 10 years, but his behavior is like that of a two-year-old . . . the only difference is they never grow out of it!”

Between the birds and cats demanding their fair share of attention at home, Kathy drops into bed exhausted each night where visions of numbers dance in her head.

# NEW FACES AT DIXIE

BY NATALIE COOPER



Martha Talman  
INSTRUCTION AND  
OUTREACH LIBRARIAN

## MARTHA TALMAN

After working on BYU's huge campus, Martha Talman is relieved to be surrounded by the cozy atmosphere of Dixie State College. "I love being on a small campus without too much bureaucracy. It is such a relief," she says. As Dixie's new instruction and outreach librarian, Martha is thrilled with a job which allows her to be surrounded by something else she truly loves—books!

"I couldn't tell you what my favorite book is or even what genre I like the best," she explains. "All I know is—I'm a permiscuous reader!" If forced to choose one favorite book, she says Websters Dictionary would be her choice, because every other book is made from it.

Originally from New York, Martha came to Utah for undergraduate studies at Utah State University. She is currently working on an MLS through Emporia State in Kansas.

In her sparetime, Martha enjoys painting, collecting folk art and, obviously—reading. Martha plans to continue to grow and find new ways to teach, and says, "I always want to be one of the learning, not learned."

## DON STECK

As Director of Elderhostel and Resident Living, Don Steck is responsible for overseeing the young and the "not so young" on Dixie's campus. Don directs the Elderhostel programs which serve over 1700 retirees each year, and he also manages 300 students in the residence halls on campus.

Don moved to St. George six years ago in search of a warm climate and a friendly, small town environment for raising his four children. He and his wife, Linda, have three boys and one girl between the ages eight and fourteen.

Originally from Salt Lake City, Don graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in marketing. He later earned his Master's of International Management from Thunderbird, an international school in Glendale, Arizona. His minor in Japanese has been put to good use as an interpreter in the National Guard linguistics unit and during his eleven years at St. George International, an area travel business.

In his spare time, Don enjoys watching and playing sports. His favorites are basketball and football.



Shelly Olsen  
SCHOOL RELATIONS  
SECRETARY

## SHELLY OLSEN

"I'm wild, crazy, and always ready for adventure!" says Shelly Olsen, Dixie's new school relations secretary. She has found St. George to be an ideal location for those adventures. As certified rappelling instructors, both Shelly and her husband, Jim, enjoy camping, hiking and rappelling. These adventurous leanings also draw her to mystery and suspense novels and intense movies.

Originally from Provo Utah, Shelly attended Utah Valley State College, where she developed a love for sign language. She later worked as UVSC's assistant director of admissions. Three years ago Shelly moved to St. George, and she began working at Dixie State College in August. In addition to her secretarial duties, she enjoys the opportunity to work with the student ambassadors in recruiting new students.

In the future Shelly hopes to further her education and continue to "work on growing up." Her personal motto: "It's your attitude, not your aptitude, that determines your altitude."



Eric Grob  
JR. ACCOUNTANT

## ERIC GROB

Dixie's small town atmosphere, beautiful scenery and sunny weather make Eric Grob proud to call southern Utah home.

Eric works in the financial office as a junior accountant for Dixie State, where he reconciles the college's bank statement, sends out 1099's, and helps with the adjunct payroll. He would like to earn a master's degree in accounting and

eventually become a certified public accountant.

Before coming to work at DSC, Eric attended SUU in Cedar City and then worked as an auditor general in Mesa, Arizona.

But Eric is not all work and no play. In his spare time he enjoys playing tennis, bike riding, being in the great outdoors, playing the saxophone and learning to play the piano. He is also crazy about Italian food, especially lasagna, pizza and linguini. His favorite movie is *Remember the Titans*. His motto for now: "Roll with the punches."

# CAMPUS KUDOS

If you know of something special, newsworthy, memorable or just plain nice that someone on campus has done, please pass it along to: [petersen@dixie.edu](mailto:petersen@dixie.edu).

❖ Professor of Theatre Arts, **BRENT HANSON**, was honored at the Utah Theatre Association Convention which was hosted by Dixie State College in January. Brent was presented the "Theatre Association Service Award" for his many years of service to college theatre in Utah. Brent has been a member of that organization's board of directors and has also served a term as president.

❖ Kudos to **JONATHAN MORRELL**, who has a penchant for writing successful grants. His most recent Student Support Services grant was funded by the U.S. Department of Education for the next four years (2001 - 2005). Funding for this year is \$273,649 with the total grant amount more than \$1 million. Jonathan was also the assistant grant writer for the College of Eastern Utah's new Student Support Services proposal that was recently funded.

This past fall, he wrote the Snow College Educational Talent Search grant and assisted Ross Taylor with Dixie's ETS

proposal. With the awarding of the two SSS grants, he has written nine successful TRIO grants that have funded Dixie's Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search and Student Support Services for more than \$12 million and is waiting for approval on the ETS proposals.

In addition to his grant writing expertise, Jonathan is a sought-after speaker. This year he presented at National First-Year Experience Conferences in Cincinnati, Ohio and Costa Mesa, California and has been published in their newsletter. He also presented at the Regional ASPIRE Conference and

Utah Advisor's Conference.

❖ Congratulations to **BOB HUDDLESTON**, who was named "Executive of the Year" by the St. George Area 2002 Chamber of Commerce in January. The nomination begins, "Robert Huddleston has been the driving force behind the positive growth in Washington County's educational landscape perhaps more than any other person in this generation."

Among other things, Huddleston was recognized for the effort he invested toward Dixie becoming a four-year institution.

## ART SHOW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

### STACY SCHIMBECK

Stacy grew up in Washington County and was a student at Dixie State College. As a result, he saw both the inaugural and second annual Sears Dixie Invitational.

"It was neat to see the work of all the art educators and wonderful artists that I had come to know," Stacy said. "To be hanging with these people in the show today gives me a real sense of validation as an artist -- it's wonderful. It's nice to be counted a peer with people that I've always had respect for."

This is Stacy's third year in the show. He is primarily an oil painter and specializes in impres-

sionistic western scenes. "Damn Chickens," an oil painting, was done in honor of his grandmother who passed away this year.

"When I was a child she had some chicken coops and I'd go over and play in them," Stacy said. "She had a speech impediment and would yell, 'Tracy, get out of the damn chickens.'"

Stacy's second painting, also an oil, is entitled "Cow Path - Early Spring," which contrasts the death of winter and the rebirth of spring, a juxtaposition he has always enjoyed.

Stacy has taught at Dixie off and on for four years. He teaches introduction to art, figure drawing, and watercolor.



"Damn Chickens" by Stacy Schimbeck