

VANTAGE POINT

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Dixie State College
Faculty and Staff
Newsletter

DIXIE STATE TRUSTEES APPROVE NEW ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

BY MARK PETERSEN

The Dixie State College Board of Trustees approved a proposal to offer a bachelor of science degree in elementary education at their recent meeting on the college campus. The degree includes certification for a teaching license for grades 1-8, with a Utah State English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement. The proposal will go before the Utah State Board of Regents later this summer for final approval.

Pending approval by the regents, applicants will be admitted by March for the new four-year program beginning the following fall semester 2002. The first graduates will receive their diplomas in 2004.

Dr. Michael F. Killeen, Director of the University Center and Elementary Education at Dixie State, wrote the proposal in collaboration with personnel from the Washington County School District. In July of 2000, Killeen formed a "conceptual" committee of school district employees and Dixie State faculty and staff who met monthly to discuss the qualities of

both effective teachers and an elementary education program.

"We collaborated on a program that would meet regional and local needs," said Dr. Killeen. "We are developing a partnership now between the school district and the college that will make many things possible in the training of effective teachers. In other words, student teachers from the college will have numerous quality experiences with local mentor teachers, and the college curriculum will be closely aligned with developing classroom skills."

Joining Dr. Killeen in the newly developed program will be Dr. Douglas C. Godwin, who taught most recently at

"We are developing a partnership now between the school district and the college that will make many things possible in the training of effective teachers."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Learning Colleges



According to George Boggs, the President of the American Association of Community Colleges, many U.S. and Canadian community colleges are involved in or planning transformations to more learning

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LAYOUT

Joan Smith

centered institutions. Terry O'Bannion from the League of Innovation tells us that "in a nutshell, the purpose of the Learning Revolution is to place learning first in every policy, program and practice by overhauling the traditional architecture of education." Boggs talks about learning paradigms and basic tenets.

Four tenets of the learning paradigm are:

- the mission is student learning rather than instruction
- institutions accept responsibility for student learning, not just access
- supporting and promoting student learning is everyone's job
- institutions are evaluated based upon student learning outcomes

If we as an institution embrace these tenets, the following will result:

- we will accept responsibility for student learning
- structural changes will occur that will enhance student learning
- planning and decision-making will be based upon consequences to student learning
- evaluation of programs will be based upon student learning

Tony Angelo tells us that "assessment is the systematic collection, analysis, interpretation and use of information to improve teaching and learning." The Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges is very direct on the importance of educational assessment. They "stress outcomes assessment as an essential part of the ongoing institutional self-study and accreditation process, to underline the necessity for each institution

to formulate a plan which provides for a series of outcomes measures that are internally consistent and in accord with its mission and structure, and, finally, to provide some examples of a variety of successful plans for assessing educational outcomes."

As I mentioned in the All Faculty and Staff Meeting, Joe Peterson reports that progress on accreditation is proceeding well. Most faculty and staff have contributed to this effort. While we are making good progress, Joe tells me that in one aspect of accreditation we are behind schedule. Accreditation requires that every program undergo assessment. The results of these assessments should feed into our institutional planning, and we should be able to show that we've improved our programs because of our assessments. The Accreditation Steering Committee has asked that academic assessment instruments be designed for each program. These were to have been completed by the end of February; however, most programs have not yet responded to this assignment. I want to add my voice to Joe's, asking that faculty members step up their efforts and complete this assignment as soon as possible. This absolutely has to be completed by the end of the summer term.

Across the nation, accreditation evaluators are finding fault with institutions that fail to conduct assessments. In our region, more than eighty percent of the colleges evaluated in the past two years have had some kind of warning because their academic assessment did not meet accreditation standards. I do not want Dixie State College to be among the institutions whose efforts are less than satisfactory. Please complete the assigned task.

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ELEMENTARY EDUCATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Texas A&M University and who has expertise in early childhood education and ESL. Dr. Godwin will assist Dr. Killeen in building the elementary education program at Dixie State. Plans include the addition of two full-time doctoral level faculty positions, as well as adjunct faculty members, over the next couple of years.

"We are advising freshmen who are interested in our program to

pursue the associate of arts degree because it has a second language component," said Killeen. "We've chosen this route because it will give our students an affinity for second language acquisition; students can experience first hand what it is like to learn a new language."

In addition to the partnership with the school district, Southern Utah University has been supportive of the propos-

al. Dr. Max Rose, academic vice president at Dixie State, said, "One of the sidelights of this proposal, which adds to its positive nature, is our cooperation with Southern Utah University. We have met several times with the administration of both DSC and SUU and have forged some alliances that will benefit all of Southwestern Utah. SUU's teacher education leaders have been helpful

in our progress."

Killeen also expressed satisfaction with the support he has received for the elementary education degree proposal. "We're pleased with the encouragement we've had from SUU education faculty.

Additionally, we look forward to our growing partnership with the school district to form the finest elementary education program possible," Killeen said.



FISH WINNERS!

The coveted Fish! trophy, "Lippemomba," made its latest stop at the Browning Library and is in the hands of staff who exemplify the Fish! philosophy. Recently, during National Library Week, the Library's great customer service attitude was evident as all fines were forgiven. When a student asked, "Why?" the reply was "to make friends."

It is definitely working!

REBEL AWARD WINNERS

Honors Given to Curt Walker and Seth Lott

For the second time in his six years at Dixie State College, **DR. CURT WALKER** received the “Outstanding Teacher” Award at the annual Rebel Awards Ceremony in April.

The yearly honoree is determined by nominations from the studentbody as a whole, and selected by the graduating class. The criteria reads “one who has motivated students in a particular discipline with professional skill as demonstrated by the highest instructional qualities recognized in higher education.”

Curt’s popularity with his students stems from his innovative teaching style. For instance, he uses the electric guitar with an amp in his physiology course to illustrate how the human ear works like feedback in the amp. He demonstrates that just like feedback, the ear operates by causing internal vibrations at the same frequency and relative intensity as sounds in the external environment.

In addition to teaching, Curt is involved in a variety of activities and commitments. This year he served as the faculty association president, as chair of the Faculty Excellence

Committee, and as a member of the benefits committee. He was also the “Doug and Elaine Alder Faculty Honor Lecturer” in October where he presented his research on the brain in a program entitled, “Brain Research: The Truth About Teaching and Learning.” As a paid book reviewer for several publishers, Curt has also conducted extensive research in “functions of the brain,” and has participated in a “test anxiety” seminar to assist students.

Curt admits to growing up as an Air Force brat. He lived in Pennsylvania, Bolivia, Alabama, Panama and Tennessee before finally settling in Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin where he earned his B.S. in biochemistry and then headed for the University of Idaho where he received a Ph.D. in Zoology.

At Idaho he became an expert on the play behavior and brain development of mice as he watched videos of young



Curt

mice behavior for hour after tedious hour. He also conducted behavioral research on cats with spinal cord injuries at the University of Florida Medical School in an effort to improve body function after spinal injury.

It was at Florida where a friend introduced Curt to his wife, Janet, who is currently Dixie’s Student Support Services Tutor Coordinator.

Each payday, **SETH LOTT** becomes the most important man on campus. As payroll manager, he has never been late getting out the checks (even though some employees remember their checks being processed once on some rather strange paper).

And while his qualities of organization and commitment are why



Seth

he is in his job, it is his people skills which have endeared him to so many fellow employees across campus. His pleasant personality and great work ethic are the reasons he received the 2001 Distinguished Service Staff Award at the Rebel Awards ceremony in April.

“Seth is always in a good mood. Always!” says Jackie Freeman, director of purchasing. “In six years of working with Seth, I’ve never ever seen him in a bad mood. He truly goes the extra mile in customer service. He absolutely does that every time!”

And what about his eating habits? “Well, that’s another story,” Jackie laughs. “Seth eats almost non-stop, which is pretty funny because he is so thin. He never says no to food. He has a sweet tooth, but

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loves food, period.”

Jackie adds that Seth is kind and always concerned about how the other person will feel. “He is very polite,” she says. “It is impossible to get in a fight or argument with Seth.”

His supervisor, Scott Talbot, agrees with all of the above. He goes so far as to say: “Seth is one of the most people oriented, service oriented individuals the college has seen. He is probably the only staff member ever to

invite the president of the college to a family home evening and have the president come. Seth has just established that kind of rapport.”

Scott is anxious to explain that Seth is dedicated, more than in the usual sense. “Many people have not seen Seth working at 2:00 a.m. trying to get a payroll done on time for the employees of the campus,” he says. “Usually that has been the result of computer problems or other problems. I’ve seen him

working late on a number of occasions.”

Seth has been willing to get involved at Dixie in areas beyond his specified job description. He has served as the Staff Association President, on the staff social committee for many years, and on many other committees including the honors and awards committee and the staffing committee.

“I do like my job,” Seth smiles. “I like the environment of working close to the students—their

energy and the hustle-bustle of campus. And, the people I work with are terrific.”

Gardening and small engine repair are some of Seth’s off-duty specialties. Besides keeping his own “stuff” running, he constantly fixes lawn mowers, tillers, chain saws, etc. around the neighborhood. “I enjoy getting my hands dirty - it’s relaxing to me,” he says. “Relaxing is not the word I’d use to describe my job at the college, but I do like to come to work.”

RETIREMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

only used their very best pilots as instructors. I confer with him on programs and changes. He has been a great help to me. He will be missed.”

Jeri, Lowell’s wife of 33 years, is thrilled that he’ll now be using his talents closer to home. “He can absolutely do anything!” she said. “As a master gardener, he keeps us and the neighbors supplied with vegetables year-round. He is an avid reader, loves to go fly fishing, is a great dutch-oven chef, keeps current on political events and is active in his church.

“Lowell spends most of his time helping family, friends and neighbors fix anything—from computers to cars to plumbing—anything that needs fixing or building. He is always helping people quietly.”

Associate Professor of Physics, Dr. **DANIEL MILES**, retired after teaching nineteen years at Dixie State College. Dan has long had ties to Dixie. A native of St. George, Dan attended in 1954-55 and again from 1957-59 where at 6’3” he was an All-Conference center on the Rebel basketball team. He is even on the record books for scoring 50 points in a tournament.

After graduation from Dixie, Dan continued his studies at the University of Utah under nationally

renowned scientist, Dr. Henry Eyring. In fact, Dan was one of the few students to beat Dr. Eyring in the 100-yard dash (a ritual to which Eyring would challenge his students).

Dan received his bachelor of science degree in physics from the U of U in 1960. After teaching at Dixie for three years, he returned to the U to earn his Ph.D in physical chemistry and he also conducted post doctorate studies at the University of Chicago. He then taught at Westminster College for 17 years, before returning to teach at Dixie for 16 more years.

“Dixie is a special school to me,” said Dan. “It has been a part of my life since I was a little kid attending all the basketball and football games with my Dad. I’ve always been a great fan.”

Moreover, Dan has strong family traditions at Dixie. “Ten brothers and sisters graduated from Dixie; my father was valedictorian of the college in 1929 and I was valedictorian in 1955. Also, my brother, Melvin, and most recently my daughter, Michelle, were valedictorians.”

Even though Dan humbly labels himself as the “weakest link” in the science department, he says it has been an honor to have been part of their team. “The science department at Dixie has had an excellent group of people, starting with Dr. Barnum,” said Dan. “He set high standards, and those high standards have been maintained and carried forward.”

NEW FACES/NEW PLACES

BY SUSAN TAYSOM



Dana Kelvington
ETS ADVISOR

DANA KELVINGTON

Dixie State College's newest Educational Talent Search (ETS) Advisor, Dana Kelvington, spends most of her time working with Dixie High School students. She also teaches as an adjunct communications instructor on campus.

Dana earned a bachelor degree in communications and has a secondary teachers certificate. Before returning to school to finish her education, Dana worked as a PBX switchboard

operator, and later as the technology department secretary on the Dixie State College campus.

Originally from Salt Lake City, Dana, moved to St. George twelve years ago from Las Vegas, Nevada with her husband Terry and four children, Matt, Kelly, Andy and Kim.

Dana enjoys the friendly environment and academic climate of this area.



Ryan Cheever
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
SCHOOL RELATIONS

RYAN CHEEVER

Ryan Cheever is the new assistant director of School Relations. He will be working closely with Ed Rogers, director of School Relations, as they hit the recruiting trail making presentations to area and state high school students about continuing their education at Dixie State College. Ryan will also be updating the School Relations web page and advising the 27 ambassadors at the college.

"I love my new job. It's wonderful and suits me perfectly," smiles Ryan. "I'm excited to work with the ambassadors and Ed Rogers. I've worked before in higher education and enjoy it."

Ryan graduated with a bachelors of science degree in Corporate Communications from Utah State University. He was the Resident Director of Housing at USU overseeing some 350 students. He also employed nine resident assistants.

Recently, Ryan bought a home in Santa Clara where he is busy with his wife, Karen, keeping up the yard and becoming established. He enjoys playing golf and meeting new people.

"We're so glad to be here in the warm weather, especially since we came from Logan, said Ryan. "We've always loved this area and had hoped to live here someday."



Paul Whitlatch
CUSTODIAN

PAUL WHITLATCH

As the lead custodian and p.m. supervisor, Paul Whitlatch is responsible for a big part of Dixie's campus. He makes sure the Udvar-Hazy Business Building, Gymnasium, Graff Fine Arts building and the Hansen Stadium are clean and ready for each day. As he supervises the p.m. custodians, he deals with problems that may arise during the evening hours on campus.

Paul and his family moved to St. George from Sandy,

Utah where Paul was born and raised. He graduated from Utah Technical College where he studied accounting and management. He worked at American Building Maintenance for thirteen years before moving south. He has been a local resident for over three years and loves the desert, red dirt and friendly people.

In his spare time Paul enjoys drag racing, swimming, and motorcycles. He is looking forward to retiring from Dixie State and traveling with his wife, Sarita, on their Harley Davidson.

Paul and Sarita are the parents of three daughters, Celeste, Mickenzie, and Melissa. They are also kept busy by their "wiener" dog, Stretch.

CHRIS ALVERSON

Custodian, Chris Alverson, enjoys the quiet evening hours in which she works to keep the Hansen Stadium, Graff Fine Arts Building, and the Udvar-Hazy Business Building clean and ready for the next day.

Chris was born and raised in Mesa, Arizona but has also lived in Idaho and Washington. She came to St. George about 16 months ago from Pleasant Grove, Utah, where she worked for Olsen-Beal Associates part time while attending Utah Valley Community College. Her long range goal is to receive a college degree.

Chris fills her free time with reading, music, old movies and crocheting. She also likes ice cream and frozen yogurt. The people of southern Utah and her friends at Dixie are what she likes most about living here.

Chris is the mother of one son, Tim, and grandma to three grandchildren.

NEW FACES/NEW PLACES



Eileen Rathke
WELLNESS CENTER
SUPPORT SPECIALIST

EILEEN RATHKE

The Wellness Center at Dixie is pleased to have Eileen Rathke as Support Specialist to Barbara Johnson. The job keeps her busy and in touch with community and campus health issues. Eileen will also be working with the campus Reach Club.

Eileen moved to Hurricane from Mesa, Arizona over a year ago to care for her aging parents and enjoy the beauty of southern Utah. With her children grown, she is enjoying her days as a grandmother.

Whenever possible, Eileen spends time sewing, creating scrapbooks, reading, gardening and making crafts. She also enjoys eating good salads and ice cream. Her goals are to continue working at Dixie and to finish school. Eileen says she is working on the "ten-year" education program, with two already completed.

"It came to pass, not it came to stay" is her favorite quote.



Greg Montgomery
GROUNDSMAN

GREG MONTGOMERY

Greg Montgomery, Dixie State College's new groundsman, has joined the crew of landscaping experts that plant, cut, trim and maintain the beautiful campus. His duties also include maintaining various tools and equipment.

"I really like the friendly staff and great working conditions," Greg said. "I want to retire from here."

Before moving to St. George, Greg lived in Visalia, California, where he was born and raised. After graduation from high school and auto technical school in Arizona, Greg worked as a motorcycle technician for Yamaha and Honda. He has also worked as a lawn and garden technician.

His hobbies center around motorcycles as he enjoys racing and restoration. He also likes Mexican food and a good barbecue.

Greg has lived in southern Utah for seven years and has one daughter, Rebecca.



Christina Von Euw
ASSISTANT CASHIER

CHRISTINA VON EUW

Christina Von Euw's position as assistant cashier at Dixie State College gives her opportunity to greet students each day.

"I like working with students and also with the friendly, helpful people at Dixie," she said, "Being on such a pretty campus is a great bonus."

Born and raised in southern California, Christina moved to St. George six years ago with her family. She and her

husband, John, are the parents of a son, Michael, and a daughter, Erica.

Christina likes Italian food, "The Wizard of Oz," and spending time with her family and pets Tootsie, a ferret; Biff and Tiff, two cats; and Sharky, a bird.

"People have such busy lives, we need to stop and enjoy what makes us happy," Christina reflects. "I collect old jewelry and I like to watercolor. Once I was even a contestant on the TV game show, The Price Is Right, where I won the final "show-case!"



Jean Miller
FINANCIAL AID
ASSISTANT

JEAN MILLER

Jean Miller traded the freezing, sub-zero temperatures of Alaska for the desert heat of St. George when she moved to Dixie a year ago. Not long after, she was hired as an assistant in Dixie's Financial Aid Department.

Originally from Pocatello, Idaho, Jean graduated from LDS Business College and then moved to Alaska after her marriage. She lived in Alaska for several years, and most recently worked for the school district's psychology department in Anchorage.

Jean enjoys singing, sewing, crafts and eating fresh halibut. Going on long drives to explore different places and taking continuing education classes also fill her free time. She is the mother of four grown children and grandmother of five grandchildren.

After retiring, Jean plans to travel with her husband, but right now she is enjoying the warm weather of Dixie and the friendly people she has met since moving to St. George. Jean says she hopes to get better acquainted with the people at Dixie State and make St. George her permanent home.

RETIREMENT SPOTLIGHT

So Long, Farewell

BY JOAN SMITH

Dr. JANICE KLEIN retired in December after working 22 years at Dixie State College in the English department and in developmental programs. When hired in 1978 as an Associate Professor of English, she gave up a full-tenured professorship at South Dakota State University to come to Dixie.

“The reason I came was because Dixie was a community college,” explains Janice. “I knew I could do more good at a community college where I would be a teacher—not a researcher or even a writer, but a teacher.”

In 1982, Janice became the director of the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) and instituted Dixie’s first remedial program. The EOC later became the Academic Support Center, and as the director, Janice taught success skills and supervised the teaching of remedial English, math and reading. “At our peak we were serving about 400 students per quarter,” she says proudly.

In 1987 Janice was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to consult at the College of the Bahamas

in Nassau. She helped build and fine-tune a remedial program which was patterned after Dixie’s. She also created a writing center for the college, and wrote government grants for sorely needed equipment such as computers, and air conditioning.

After her sabbatical, Janice returned to Dixie and began a ten-year stint as Professor of English composition and literature.

“The best thing about my time at Dixie was seeing change and growth in students,” says Janice. “When they really want to succeed in serious developmental programs, wonderful things happen.”

During retirement, Janice plans to travel, visit relatives and friends, and keep up her many affiliations. Currently, she is President of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for the second time. She was instrumental in bringing this organization to the St. George area in 1982 and was its first president. She is also a member of the Democratic Women of St. George and the League of Women Voters.



LOWELL HANSEN, who retired in May, has experienced change in his 28 plus years at Dixie State College. When he was hired in January of ‘73 as an instructor in the aero technology department, Lowell reported to work at the old science building on Main Street. He subsequently watched the program change and grow as it moved to Industrial Park and on to the present-day campus.

Over the years Lowell taught flight instruction, aero technology, airframe and powerplant maintenance, auto technology and technical math.

“Lowell has been especially invaluable to the aeronautics program,” said Dan Smith, Dixie’s pilot training instructor. “When I arrived in 1989, he was in charge of airframe and powerplant for Dixie’s aircraft mechanic program. He had also been in charge of the flight training program, where, in an airforce-donated plane, he taught

pilot training, flew administrators to meetings and jetted Dixie’s geology students over the national parks grand circle area. He even built hangars at the St. George airport which are in use today.”

Lowell also served as an examiner for the FAA Airframe and Powerplant certificate which qualifies students for hire in the airline industry. His training prepared students for good airline industry jobs across the country. In a nutshell, Lowell brought his students from start to finish in training and certification toward employment. Each student logged over 3,000 hours of training at Dixie, with all the teaching and testing handled by Lowell.

“I’ve looked to him as a mentor,” said Smith. “Because of his experience in the air force as a pilot and a jet pilot instructor, he is truly one of the elite—the airforce

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