

Off the Beaten Path by Joan Smith

Dr. Donna Dillingham-Evans, acting V.P. of academics, has never been afraid to take the road less traveled, and Dixie State is fortunate that that road swerved through St. George 24 years ago.

Born in Nashville and raised in nearby Waverly, Donna parted ways with the Tennessee masses early in her young life and rejected country music. "I never really cared for country music in its old sense," she said (while admitting it's much better these days). "In fact, I lived within 60 miles of the Grand Ole Opry and didn't make it there until I was 21."

And despite her 12 years of dance lessons, Donna eventually went a different direction than the other girls in the neighborhood, focusing instead on her love of math and science.

"I always loved math . . . its so predictable," said Donna in explaining the unusual career path for a girl in that era (slide rule era, that is — she used it until the advent of the calculator during her college days). "In a world that doesn't always seem rational, even to kids, math is rational. You can expect things to come out the way they should . . . every time. My parents never put a limit on me," she continued. "In fact, what I really wanted to be was an electrician, like my Dad."

That dream was derailed because of an electricians' union ban on women apprentices at the time. So Donna instead chose math and chemistry. After earning her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Austin Peay University, and serving a fellowship in Germany, Donna landed in San Diego where she met and married Keith "Doc" Evans. A few years later they loaded three young children into their 1965

Volkswagen bus and set off to Evanston, Wyo., in search of an oil industry job.

That's when an unplanned detour took them to the less-traveled roads of St George. The VW bus broke down near Southern Utah, and while waiting for repairs, they ruminated on how cold it is in Evanston, how southerners like themselves really hate snow, and how Donna (who was pregnant with their fourth child) didn't really want to spend a winter in bitter cold Wyoming. Next thing they knew, Donna got a job at Dixie College as a tutor coordinator and instructor for



the math department. "We're still here because we never made enough money to leave," she laughed.

(By the way, the old Volkswagen can still be found in their yard. Doc says he can't get rid of it since he's had it longer than he's been married to her!)

Twenty-four years later, Donna is again forging a new trail. She is the first female vice president at Dixie State College — a milestone for this institution. But her appointment had nothing to do with political correctness.

"Lee Caldwell does not see gender," she said. "He looks for the skills that he needs. It honestly

wasn't because I am a woman — he just lucked out that I happen to be one!" she chuckled.

That sentiment is emphatically echoed by President Caldwell.

"Before I was made president, I was thinking, 'Where does Dixie need to go should I get this president's job, and who can lead the college on the academic side to get us there?' I had several concerns," he said. "We needed continued focus on excellence and academic rigor. Since we relied so heavily on adjunct instructors, we needed to make a commitment to their development and nurturing. And we would need someone who could deal with a lot of complexity.

"Several things about Donna struck me," he continued. "She had run the largest academic department on campus by far — without even seeming to break into a sweat; she had proven academic administration ability, while carrying a huge teaching load; she had done a great job in her department pulling full-time and part-time faculty together; and she is probably the single most respected academic person across the Utah System of Higher Education — she had immediate credibility."

That credibility was paved with Donna's varied experiences at Dixie.

"My career has involved the growing up of the institution," Donna said. "When it was small, people served on every committee there was. That gave me a broad base of experience.

"The other day I was looking over the list of campus committees, and I realized the only aca-



demic committee I haven't served on is the faculty senate salary committee. I have received such a breadth and depth of exposure as to how institutions work that it has been, in itself, a Ph.D. program over the last 24 years."

Donna is literally "on the road again" in her new position, traveling most often to Salt Lake for meetings with the Board of Regents, chief academic officers committee, and state G.E. standing committees about student success in math. Most recently, she gained another responsibility that will add to her road mileage — she was invited to be on the Utah Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council, a prestigious appointment which will be a boon to Dixie's upcoming criminal justice bachelor degree.

Donna is very serious about helping Dixie along that route to full status as a four-year institution. Thus, she made the suggestion to hold "open conversation meetings" with the faculty about where Dixie is headed with these new degrees.

"We have so much expertise in our current faculty — we need their input," she explains. "There is a wealth of talent on our campus. If anyone has information about the new degrees, we need to be able to access that information. I want

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President's Message



Now that I am finishing my third month as president and my fifteenth month at Dixie State College, I continue to be

impressed

with the monumental efforts made by all of our faculty and staff to make this a great institution. Over the last three months, I have had the opportunity to

look at many areas of the college that I did not previously know well, and it is evident that all parts of the college have worked extremely hard to maintain high quality despite many years of budget and financial challenges. This spirit of sacrifice has also allowed Dixie State to serve increasingly large numbers of students with only modest budget increases. As we go to the legislature this year, I certainly intend to make it absolutely clear that Dixie State needs more financial help to allow us to meet the needs of our students and this great community.

I am also concerned that we take our sense of mission and teamwork to new levels. The foundation of this effort has to be deep personal and professional respect for

each member of our Dixie State College faculty and staff. It is easy to let this sense of respect and teamwork fray when the workloads are high and the resources are strained, but this is an essential part of our heritage and the foundation for our future.

There is no part of the campus and college that has not made great sacrifices, and there is no part of the college that is basking in luxury. I would hope that we would take the time, as we approach this season of Thanksgiving, to extend an extra measure of appreciation to each other and to celebrate our survival and excellence in spite of long years of struggle and financial neglect.

— Lee Caldwell, President

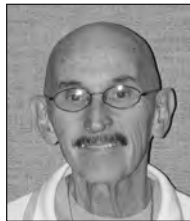
Campus Kudos

REBEL AWARDS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Math professor **GORDON RUSSELL** was honored during the recent Homecoming 2005 celebration at the Founders' Day Assembly as "2005 Teacher of the Year." The award, chosen by the students, isn't the first during Russell's 30+ years of teaching (9 at Dixie). He was a finalist for this same award in '99, '01 and '04, and was honored twice by K.S.L. radio as "Teacher of the Week."

"Students who nominated Gordon, talked about the extra mile — no, the extra miles he went to help support them when they struggled with math," said Phil Alletto. "They appreciate also, the ease with which he can explain seemingly complicated math."

Russell is known for helping the students in any way he can — one way has been by holding personal tutoring sessions each week. "I usually have 15 to 30 students each session," he says. "I enjoy tutoring the students myself. I don't want them to get confused by someone explaining it to them in a different way. I take teaching seriously and believe the students are the most important part of the experience."



REBEL AWARDS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE STAFF

JULIE STENDER, coordinator of registration and records, was honored at the Founders' Day Assembly with the "2005 Distinguished Service Staff Award."

Julie has been invaluable as the "Banner Team Leader" for implementing the student portion of the Banner System. "Without her persistence, we would never have come up Banner in time," said co-worker Kathy Bailey. "If you want to know anything about Banner Student, she's the one to ask. She has been able to multi-task and still keep a sense of humor during it all. She's a jewel!"

"Julie has played a key role and spent many hours in the migration to the Banner information system," said registrar, Dave Roos. "We are fortunate to have her expertise and commitment to excellence."



STAFF ASSOCIATION 2004-05 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The first 18 years of **SHEILA BASTIAN's** job as *Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academics* were with the same boss (Max Rose), but she has spent the last two-and-a-half years "training" three others (Joe Peterson, Lee Caldwell, Donna Dillingham-Evans). Because of Sheila's extensive knowledge of the campus and its traditions, continuity was maintained throughout these transitional periods.

Sheila has been tireless in her commitment to Dixie State, particularly to the students. She takes a special interest in each student and has developed a great love for them. Whether in academic-related instances, activities and pageants, or in everyday situations, Sheila is ready and willing to assist in any way she can. Her bulletin board is a collage of former college students' wedding invitations, baby announcements, and thank you notes. Many still think of her as a surrogate mom and drop by to visit whenever they are in town. "Sheila works long, extra hours when necessary to accomplish what needs to be done," said one co-worker of Sheila's commitment. "I have also observed her in many social settings as well, and she is wonderful — the genuine friendship she expresses to others is always reciprocated."

CLASSIFIED STAFF ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEES OF THE SEMESTER

Administrative Assistant for Technology and STIT Coordinator, **DEBBIE BEAVER**, can run from the bottom to the top of the Udvar-Hazy central staircase without even getting out of breath! That ability, to "run with many tasks" and not get "winded" comes in handy as Debbie works simultaneously for three bosses — Jill Elliss in the Dixie Business Alliance, Gary Koeven in connection with STIT, and Becky Smith in her role as the secretary of the Technology Department. Also, as coordinator of Short Term Intensive Training (STIT), she works with adjunct faculty and groups from outside the college who come to her to set up specialized training sessions.

Debbie is personable and professional with outside groups as well as with students who interact with her through the technology





GHOSTS OF HALLOWEEN PAST

In celebrating Halloween last week, we dug through the archives to retrieve a few photos of campus Halloween parties of the past. Be the first to email ctaylor@dixie.edu and identify the eight costumed employees below and you'll win **two** free meals at Cafe ' Rio courtesy of the PR department. Last month Janeene Cowley, secretary in the McDonald Building, matched the most little-known facts with the correct employees (answers are below). Congrats Janeene!



Do you know your co-workers? Answers:

1. Wrote and sang a song for his wedding reception: [Phil Alletto](#)
2. Is fluent in sign language: [Dave Roos](#)
3. Loves playing softball and lives in an adobe house: [Tim Eicher](#)
4. Stood on the Great Wall of China and visited the Taj Mahal: [Pam Montrallo](#) (Kathy Bailey also did this)
5. Has a strong dislike of Cedar City (won't even buy gas there): [George Whitehead](#)
6. Takes weekend 4-wheeler excursions: [Donna Stafford](#)
7. Runs a horse stud service: [Karl Hutchings](#)
8. Is a football-watching fanatic: [Kathy Bailey](#) (S.F. 49ers is her favorite team)
9. Was on a college track team—javelin, sprint, & relay events: [Frank Lojko](#)
10. Taught a Sunday School class to six convicted murderers: [Ed Reber](#)
11. Played quarterback on his high school football team: [Addison Everett](#)
12. Was secretary to Mike Leavitt before he was Governor: [Susan Garner](#)
13. Used to spend a lot of time underwater (scuba diving): [Martha Talman](#)
14. Won Miss Congeniality and 2nd attendant beauty pageant crowns: [Susan Ertel](#)
15. Lived in Iran: [Darl Biniatz](#)
16. Has worked as a clothing model in Japan: [Jonathan Morrell](#)
17. Was a cheerleader at Kanab High (still fits in the outfit): [Loya Garrett](#)
18. Wears a tiara when singing in public: [Susan Taysom](#) (she also wore it during her job interview at DSC)

department. Not many could juggle all the roles Debbie fills on a daily basis with such poise and precision. If she doesn't know how to do something, from a computer program to how to process a request, she opens a manual, surfs the internet, makes a phone call, or visits the particular department, and figures it out! Whatever the request, Debbie gets it done.



Who travels more miles on campus each day than **APRIL** "speedy delivery" **ASHCROFT**? Rain or shine, she whisks in and out of every building on campus each day to deliver the mail. As Dixie's *Mail/Freight Specialist*, April does her job efficiently with a smile on her face and a willingness to help. She is

quick to reply to questions and inquiries regarding mail procedures and to help even if it goes beyond her job-related duties. April's strong work ethic comes in handy as she unloads around 1,600 lbs. of freight each day. She is admired by her co-workers, who report that she is kind, always cheerful and never complains. Her kindness extends to animals also — she even takes in the stray cats that linger by the loading docks!

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anyone who wishes to be involved, to state their concerns or support, or to offer their suggestions and experience."

The first such meeting will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. in the Dunford Auditorium. Donna realizes the outcome of these conversations might be that some degrees take a completely different turn from the currently mapped plan.

When she's questioned about the latest turn in her road map — the one which led from teaching to full-time administration, Donna says, "I love my job. I absolutely love what I am doing. I have always loved new tasks and new projects. I like the challenge of this new position."

On the other hand, Donna misses the students. "When I see former students at a ball game, or on stage, or around town, I get a little nostalgic," she said. "I really miss being involved with students, but it's a hard question as to which I like best, because again, I have to say . . . I love my job!"

Whether the road doubles back to teaching or continues along its current path, Donna's journey has been fulfilling. "I've got a lot of that red sand in my shoes," she admitted. "All of our children have gone to Dixie, four have graduated, and the fifth is here now planning to graduate with a bachelor's degree in our CIT program. There have been so many great experiences. The day Lee was invited to be President he turned and asked me if I would be his acting vice president. I'll take that to the grave with me as one of the most incredible moments of my life. It has been a wonderful ride."

New Faces on Campus

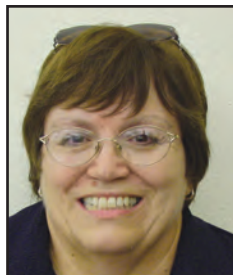
Here are a few of the new faces on campus. With so many new employees, it will take a few issues to cover everyone.



TERESA PROVOST
Preschool Coordinator
Is a homegrown product, a graduate of Dixie High and Dixie College . . . likes racquetball, softball, basketball, and snowboarding . . . worked part-time for eight years in the DSC preschool before going full-time this year . . . said "I have the best job on campus, I get to come to school to play everyday." . . . mother of six children.



CLARE BANKS
Assistant Professor, Mathematics
Was born in Taiwan . . . loves to eat . . . loves to travel . . . is a proud Eagle Scout mom . . . graduated from Southern Utah University . . . has lived in California, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, and Utah. . . says she likes Utah the best.



JAYNE MOORE
Director of Nursing
Was raised on a ranch in Mudlake, Idaho, in a "frontier county" (by definition less than six people per square mile) . . . earned degrees from Ricks College, the U of U, Texas Woman's University, and a Ph.D. from University of Wyoming . . . loves to read international suspense and murder mysteries . . . is mother of three musically gifted children.



JON JUDKINS
Basketball Coach
Was a student and a basketball player at Dixie. . . graduated from Utah State University where he played small forward on their basketball team. . . has been coaching basketball at Snow College for the past 16 years, 13 as head coach. . . met his wife, Lanette at Dixie . . . they are the parents of four children.



NANCY ALLRED
Instructor, Music & Piano Pedagogy
Is an accomplished concert pianist . . . accompanies the Southern Utah Heritage Choir and is also its assistant director. . . is multi-talented — also plays the organ and violin. . . received her doctorate of music arts from the University of Missouri-Kansas City . . . has four children.



BOB NEILSON
Instructor, Computer & Information Tech.
Commutes everyday from Cedar City . . . comes from a business background and likes to emphasize the practical side of CIT. . . owns DATAPRO, a computer consulting business . . . hobbies are computers, audio, and sculling (olympic rowing). . . likes to go rowing on the Great Salt Lake.



CHARLES CUTHBERTSON

English Instructor

Charles says he is here at Dixie because of fate and luck. His wife, Dina, was hired as the director of financial aid at SUU this spring, so he left his program at Bowling Green State



University in Ohio early to be with her here in Utah. Charles said he wanted to teach "at a small college with an emphasis on teaching and student learning, and Dixie State College turned out to be just that kind of school."

In addition to his teaching career, Charles has been involved in a variety of money-making experiences, including driving in a demolition derby, being employed in a meat-packing plant and working as a licensed forklift operator.

While attending Bowling Green State, Charles was a radio deejay for three years. He has continued that hobby here at Dixie and started a new radio show for 105.1 The Disc (Mondays from 4-6 PM). He has a music collection of over 2,000 recordings.

"Many of my friends have told me that I am a lot like the titular (only an English professor would think of this word!) character played by Gene Hackman in *The Royal Tenenbaums*," said Charles in describing himself. Coincidentally, it is one of his favorite films.

Charles is currently completing his dissertation on the relation between fan culture and extremist religious groups.

