

# Vantage POINT

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## 50 years . . . and counting

by Chris Taylor

This fall marks Dr. Ron Garner's 50th anniversary teaching music full-time at Dixie State College. If you're thinking 'that's gotta be some kind of record,' you're right. Nobody has ever had a tenure of the sort in the history of the institution. With 40 years under his own belt at Dixie, Nolan Ashman may give him a run for his money. For now, however, Ron currently stands alone as the longest tenured professor in the entire Utah System of Higher Education, quite possibly the nation.

"Ron, by far, has the longest tenure," said DSC historian Dan Watson. "B. Glen Smith held the record at 40 years until Ron surpassed him."

Dr. Garner has watched over half of the institution's life unfold before his very eyes and has now worked under seven Dixie presidents. Ron first arrived on the Dixie campus in the fall of 1955, well before the current campus was even a thought in anybody's mind.

"When I got here, (the current) campus was not developed at all," Garner said. "We would come out here to hunt jack rabbits. This was just on the edge of town and it was not developed whatsoever."

Twenty-nine full-time faculty members and administrators and five part-time faculty worked at the old downtown campus at that time, which was made up of five buildings. One



1955



1975



2005

of those early faculty members was the legendary Juanita Brooks.

"The thing that was impressive to me as soon as I walked into this door in 1955 was the faculty," Garner said. "It was not just a fly by night faculty by any means. When I came down here, I thought I was God's gift to the school and the community. I had been the assistant director of bands at the U of U. I took the job because I thought this would be a good stopping off place to California — I never did make it to California, incidentally. It was really a humbling experience for me to come down here and to be associated with this magnificent faculty."

A mere 200 college students and about 200 high school junior and seniors attended Dixie in those days, all of whom attended under one roof.

"Dixie College really was a four-year school. We had our high school Flyers with us and

we had our college Rebels, but we didn't make the separation at all," Garner said. "My band, which was made up of both high school and college students, would play at the high school football games on Friday and at the college games on Saturday. It was delightful though. I look back on those years with fond memories."

Many things have changed over the years, many haven't. One thing that's been constant is Dr. Ron Garner and his dedication to Dixie. If he somehow thought the anniversary could come and go without anyone noticing, he was wrong. In fact, during Homecoming activities

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on Saturday, Oct. 15, he'll be inducted into DSC's Hall of Fame, something the ever-humble Dr. Garner can't even fathom. Up until now, the hallowed hall has been reserved strictly for retired employees and distinguished alumni. President Caldwell recently determined that if ever

there were an exception to the rule, it's Ron Garner. But induction into the hall of fame won't necessarily signify that the end is near for Dr. Garner on the Dixie campus. Far from it.

"In my tenure here at Dixie, I've had it all. I almost become emotional about it. I really love to teach," Dr. Garner said. "I haven't ever reached that point yet where I've said 'Oh gee, I can't do this anymore.' When you've got a job that you just so thoroughly enjoy, why give it up? My health has been excellent, and so I just keep looking forward to it. We've got some unfinished business to do in this department. I know the day will come that I will have to leave, but that will be a sad day in my life. Right now, I really have no plans for retirement. I'm sure the time will probably come when they'll probably change the locks on all my doors. Maybe that will be the clue that it's time to move on. Everybody has been so generous with me in so many ways, and I still enjoy being in the classroom, and so I'll continue to do that as long as I'm allowed to do it and I feel I'm making some kind of contribution."

# President's Message



The Dixie spirit is alive and well. It is spreading through the campus as folks don their red attire on Fridays. It is spreading

through the community – everywhere I go people express their love and commitment to Dixie State College. Most importantly, it is exhibited daily by the extraordinary faculty and staff who serve our students so well. As we look ahead through the next five to 10 years, we can expect unprecedented growth as we add new programs, more students, more faculty and staff, and new alliances. We must continue to work together to keep this special Dixie spirit alive despite the

growing pains that we will experience.

We are fortunate to have Ron Garner still serving on the faculty. It is amazing that Ron has been here through half of the presidents and more than half of the history of the college. We are also fortunate to have three former presidents still living in the area, and I am grateful for their help and advice as I undertake this new assignment. Every day, I am impressed with the dedication of the Dixie State College family.

As I look ahead to the next several years, we will be pressed to add 10 to 15 new bachelor's degrees to meet the needs of the community and fill the full measure of our revised mission statement. We will need to challenge ourselves to be strong partners with the Washington and Kane County schools in preparing students to attend college and in doing a better job of serving the ethnic minority communities. We must work to improve the partnerships across the entire Utah System of Higher Education so that

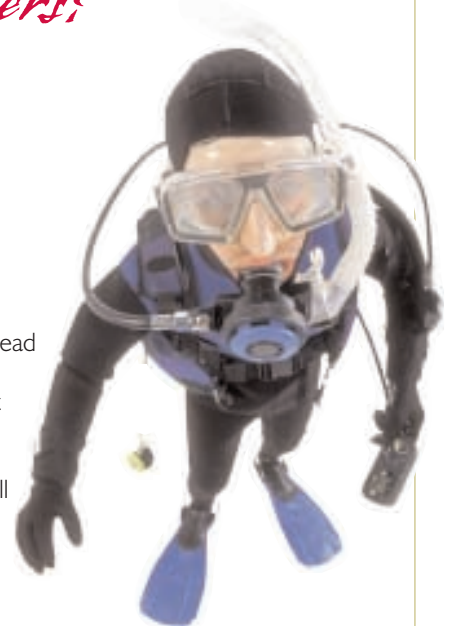
students have greater educational opportunity and less politics and bureaucracy. We must also do our part to develop the local economy to create high-paying jobs and challenging careers.

Along the way, we must also provide and maintain quality facilities and grounds, provide extraordinary and supportive students services, state-of-the-art technology services, and all of the auxiliary services that add so much to the college experience and financial viability of the institution. Of course, the community also expects us to provide the full range of sports, arts, and music opportunities. These activities also give us opportunities to retain and develop our students. In everything we do, we must never lose sight of our commitment to students, our commitment to excellence and our commitment to integrity. If we do this, the Dixie spirit will be alive and well as we finish our journey through our first century and begin our second. Thanks for all that you do in behalf of Dixie State College.

— Lee Caldwell, President

## Do you know your co-workers?

1. Wrote and sang a song for his wedding reception.
  2. Is fluent in sign language.
  3. Loves playing softball and lives in an adobe house.
  4. Stood on the Great Wall of China and visited the Taj Mahal.
  5. Has a strong dislike of Cedar City (won't even buy gas there).
  6. Takes weekend 4-wheeler excursions.
  7. Runs a horse stud service.
  8. Is a football-watching fanatic.
  9. Was on a college track team—javelin, sprint, & relay events.
  10. Taught a Sunday School class to six convicted murderers.
  11. Played quarterback on his high school football team.
  12. Was secretary to Mike Leavitt before Leavitt was Governor.
  13. Used to spend a lot of time underwater (scuba diving).
  14. Won Miss Congeniality and 2nd attendant beauty pageant crowns.
  15. Lived in Iran.
  16. Has worked as a clothing model.
  17. Was a cheerleader at Kanab High (probably still fits in the outfit).
  18. Wears a tiara when singing in public.
- a. Susan Garner
  - b. Frank Lojko
  - c. Donna Stafford
  - d. Loya Garrett
  - e. Tim Eicher
  - f. Susan Taysom
  - g. Kathy Bailey
  - h. Martha Talman
  - i. Dave Roos
  - j. George Whitehead
  - k. Darl Biniaz
  - l. Addison Everett
  - m. Pam Montralro
  - n. Ed Reber
  - o. Jonathan Morrell
  - p. Phil Alletto
  - q. Susan Ertel
  - r. Karl Hutchings



How much do you know about your co-workers at Dixie State College? If you match up the following little-known facts with the right college employees, you could be a winner! Be the first to email [ctaylor@dixie.edu](mailto:ctaylor@dixie.edu) (by Friday, Sept. 30 at noon) with the most correct matches, and you'll win **two** free meals at Café Rio in St. George.

# 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 the public relations office: [smith\\_j@dixie.edu](mailto:smith_j@dixie.edu)

## TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING

Diane Albertini was selected to receive an award for teaching excellence in technology delivered instruction. This is the second year the Utah System of Higher Education Exemplary Faculty Use of Technology Award has been awarded. The award is sponsored by the Utah Electronic College Consortium (UEC).



Diane's efforts were recognized during a luncheon with Commissioner Richard E. Kendell at the Board of Regents Building in Salt Lake City, on May 20, who said "We appreciate all you do to advance the use of technology in instruction within our system of higher education."

## FIRST CEC INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST IS "SPECTACULAR"

What started as a request to Dixie's Community Education Channel (CEC) to broadcast the signal of the LDS Youth Spectacular to overflow areas in the Cox Auditorium, turned into the station's first international broadcast, with the signal being sent out to Canada, the United States and South America.

"This was a huge accomplishment for a small school, since KBYU broadcast the other Spectaculars taking place around the state," said Stan Everett, CEC director. "We have come a long way in a relatively short time. Nine years ago we didn't even exist, and now we have done a live international broadcast. I couldn't be more proud of the staff, students, and Dixie State College."



Ben Tanner in the CEC-TV control room

Following the broadcast at the Burns Arena, CEC went on the road to SUU's Centrum and repeated the broadcast all over again, this time to the stake centers and overflow areas. "I don't think a lot of people understand the behind the scenes work," continued Stan,

"because if we do our job correctly, we don't bring any attention to ourselves. This can be a hard concept for students who would like to be recognized for their work." Those involved in the successful broadcasts were Cory Clyde (technical director), Ben Tanner (engineering), Michael Durrant (jib camera operator), and Don Woods (electronic graphics). Stan clarified that the LDS Church rented the truck, but all crew members were member volunteers who donated endless hours to the broadcast.

## CEC CHIEF INDUCTED INTO SILVER CIRCLE

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter, announced last spring that Community Education Channel executive director Stan Everett was selected by his peers to be inducted into the National Television

Academy's Silver Circle. The Silver Circle Award recognizes and honors individuals within the television industry who have made significant contributions, have had an impact on the television industry in their markets, and who have served in the industry for at least 25 years.

Everett was the only educator and the only Utahn to be inducted this year. He joins other Utah broadcasters Dick Nourse, and Mark Eubank of KSL-TV and Ken Verdoia of KUED-TV as members of the Silver Circle. The Community Education Channel is headquartered on the 3rd floor of the Student Services Center.

KCEC-TV covers an average of 63 college and high school sporting events each year. Programming also includes college events and forums, concerts, and community events and meetings.



Stan Everett  
Director of CEC-TV

## GOLD MEDAL FOR V.P. & TEAM

Vice President of Student Services Phil Alletto, along with a group of St. George businessmen, put together a winning basketball team and brought home the gold medal at the 20th Annual Summer Games in Cedar City this past summer.

The team was made up of former high school and college all-star basketball players who now reside in St. George (Phil played high school basketball in New York, and college football at Washington and Lee University in Virginia).

The St. George team went undefeated during Summer Games competition, and bettered their northern rival, Cedar City, by 18 points in the final gold medal game.



Front row: Bob Edwards, Mike Welch, Willie Billings, Phil Alletto.  
Back row: Timo Saarelainen, Larry Kane, Randy Simkins, Robert Eames.

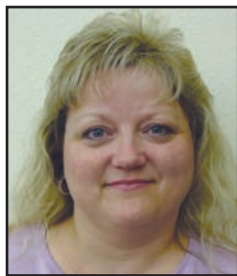
# New Faces on Campus

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



**SHERRY FLOERCHINGER**  
*Director, Medical Radiography*

Says it's exciting to start this new program . . . was a radiography program director at a small North Carolina college . . . is of Swedish descent and travels there every 10 years for a family reunion . . . loves hiking, camping, her husband, two cats, one dog, two grown children and one grandchild.



**BRENDA SABEY**  
*Director, Elementary Education*

Lived in Payson, Utah, and was an assistant professor at BYU . . . chose DSC to be a part of the unique and rapidly growing teacher prep program with a very good reputation. . . loves to read and has at least one book with her at all times. . . loves to travel, especially on cruises . . . grew up in Alberta, Canada.



**ROBERTA COLE**  
*Financial Aid Advisor*

How appropriate that her favorite color is Dixie State red. . . she has 11 years previous experience in financial aid . . . hobby is art—her medium is pastels . . . she creates mainly portraits—particularly of Native Americans from the 1800s to 1900s . . . is mother of four children.



**DAVID JONES** - *Biology Instructor*

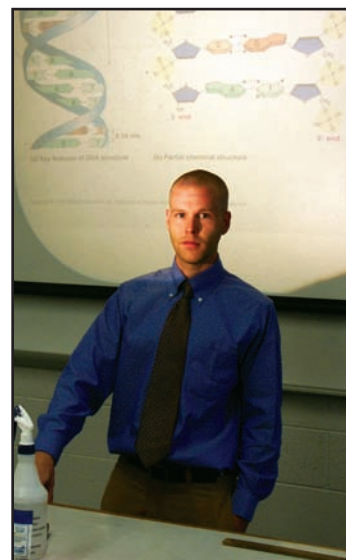
David and his wife, Anne, who relocated from Ohio this summer, have been busy exploring the wonders of southern Utah together with their two young children ever since they got here "with the hopes that (they) will develop an appreciation of nature and not the Nature Channel." When he's not teaching, David is a trained research scientist. He was a research associate in the department of molecular genetics at Ohio State University (class of 1999). His research as a graduate student at Vanderbilt University and professional scientist focused on the "mechanisms of transcriptional regulation during animal development." He says that's a fancy way of describing how genes are turned on and off at the right time and place during the development of an animal from a single cell to the countless cells of a fully-formed animal.



Unbelievably, David's wife "discovered" St. George by choosing it at random off of a map. Her investigations revealed that the town had a college and was looking for a biology instructor. David chose to come to Dixie because of its expansion of four-year degrees and need of core curricula in molecular biology. He is emphatic when he says that the biological sciences are in the midst of the greatest scientific revolution of all time.

"The field of biology has changed from being the soft, step-son of the natural sciences to becoming the central confluence of all high-technical aspects of physics, chemistry, computer-science, etc.," he said. "Starting today, students will require an understanding of life's molecular microcosmos as a part of their general education." David is excited to be part of a science department that recognizes that need and is committed to developing the curricula to spark the minds of the next generation of research scientists and physicians. He says he is humbled that DSC chose him to be a part of this crucial period in the college's evolution.

Personally, David is not only about science. He loves to lay on the couch and read world history and political science. "When my wife's not around I indulge myself and my kids in the worlds of martial arts movies and international soccer.



**ALENA OGDEN**  
*Administrative Secretary, School Relations*

While a student at Dixie, she helped in the athletic department for two years with stats, etc. . . earned an associate degree at Dixie and a bachelor's at SUU in CIT. . . likes to travel with her husband. . . they've gone twice to Japan. . . was raised in Enterprise.



**MIRIAM DAVIS**  
*Purchasing Specialist*

Moved to St. George from Torrence, California . . . misses the ocean and the breeze. . . she and her husband are the parents of five children and are new grandparents. . . she likes to read and writes short stories for fun. . . loves the St. George sunset (it almost compensates for the ocean sunset that she gave up).



**WADE VEST**  
*Advisor, Upward Bound*

Was raised in Spanish Fork, Utah . . . earned his bachelor's degree from BYU in Dec. in exercise science . . . loves to play sports and played 2nd base on the BYU baseball team . . . loves to golf . . . you may remember his brother, Scott, who worked for Dixie before being lured to SkyWest.