

Report of the Chair

December 2007

- **University of Utah:**

University of Utah junior **Louie Sakoda** made two major All-America teams recently, receiving second-team honors as punter by SportsIllustrated.com and as a place-kicker by Phil Steele Publications. Sakoda was also voted the Mountain West Conference Special Teams Player of the Year for the second straight year to lead Utah's 2007 all-conference contingent. Sakoda is the only first-team All-America punter in school history. Sakoda has made five All-America teams to date, including first-team recognition as a punter by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) and CBSsports.com, and as a kicker by Rivals.com.

- **Utah State University:**

Utah State University Undergraduate Research Fellow **Arthur Mahoney** was one of eight finalists for the Computing Research Association's national Outstanding Undergraduate Award for 2008. A computer science major, Mahoney researches methods to improve network communications in military and commercial robotic applications that safely extend the reach of humans in dangerous environments. The recipient of a Willard L. Eccles Undergraduate Fellowship, Mahoney is a 2007 Goldwater Scholar and a 2006 Governor's Scholar.

- **Weber State University:**

Weber State University student **Ian Ewell**, who is graduating this December, is already making a name for himself. Ewell, who is earning a Bachelor of Integrated Study degree (with emphases in telecommunications and business education, communication, and sales and service technology) recently composed the soundtrack to a new video game being sold in Europe and the U.S. Ewell is starting his own business and has received several offers to compose additional video game soundtracks.

- **Southern Utah University and College of Eastern Utah:**

President Bush recently nominated **Tracy Ralph Justesen**, of Utah, to be assistant secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education. Justesen currently serves as deputy director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Education. Prior to this, he served as an attorney-advisor in the Disability Rights Section at the Department of Justice. Earlier in his career, he served as an associate director in the Domestic Policy Council at the White House. Justesen received his associate's degree from the College of Eastern Utah in 1987, his bachelor's degree from Southern Utah University and his master's degree from Utah State University. He received his JD from Drake University and his LLM from George Washington University.

Student Success



- **Snow College:**

Adriana Frutos came to Snow College with a very unique background. She is a married mother who lives in Manti, but is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico. She started in Snow's ESL program and is now excelling in her English 1010 class and writing four-page papers every two weeks. She gets up every morning at 4 a.m. to study and write, and has been using a tutor to help her with the sentence structure and vocabulary. Her goal is to go to nursing school.

- **Dixie State College:**

Dixie State College of Utah paid tribute to the highest number of recipients — 30 students — in the history of the Student of the Semester award. They were honored Thursday at an awards luncheon held in the Gardner Center Ballroom. Individual departments on campus made the selections based on academic and extracurricular achievement of the students.

- **Utah Valley State College:**

Danor Gerald, a Dallas, Texas native, came to Utah Valley State College for the digital media program. Previously, he acted in a number of films including Disney's "High School Musical 2." About his current studies he says, "The program was everything I wanted for it to be. It [is] hands-on and progressive." He feels it has provided him with the education and confidence that he needs to reach his dreams. Gerald recently opened his own production company where he is producer and director, dealing with both the business and artistic sides of film development. Eventually, he would like to start something similar to Robert Redford's Sundance to help other aspiring artists.

- **Salt Lake Community College:**

Salt Lake Community College's Women's Volleyball team attained a national #1 ranking for the first time in the program's history. The Lady Bruins finished the year with a 46-2 record. The team went undefeated in Conference play, and suffered losses only to national champion of the year, Western Nebraska. SLCC successfully defended its Region 18 title and qualified for the NJCAA national championships for the fourth time in Coach Shay Golding's five years. The Bruins' third-place finish at nationals was also the best in school history. Coach Golding was recognized for the second time with the AVCA Two-Year Colleges West Region Coach of the Year award.

- **Utah College of Applied Technology:**

Brad Johnson attended UCAT's Mountainland Applied Technology College (MATC) in 2003. He completed the Nursing Assisting program and found work at hospitals and rest homes in Orem. In 2007, Brad completed MATC's Emergency Medical Technician program and worked on local ambulance teams. Brad then enlisted with the Army and served in Iraq. While there, he ran a clinic on the army base and helped to save many injured and dying children and soldiers. He recently finished a master's degree in health administration and is currently working as a clinical administrator in Sandy. Brad is a single dad to 5-year-old son, Christian, and one day aspires to be a physician's assistant or medical doctor.

