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Utah State softball ends season with series win against San Diego State

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STUDENT LIFE | A Night at the Movies

New club on campus gives students the opportunity to enjoy critically acclaimed films for free.

see PAGE 3

NEWS | Cookies and Cops

Students raise concerns about race issues at event intended to improve relations between citizens and police.

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Darwin Thompson drafted in sixth round by Kansas City Chiefs

Multiple Aggies sign as undrafted free agents to also begin NFL careers



PHOTO BY Megan Nielsen

Running Back Darwin Thompson rushes for a touchdown in a 73-12 win for Utah State over Tennessee Tech on September 13, 2018. Thompson was drafted in the 6th Round of the 2019 NFL Draft by the Kansas City Chiefs following his one season at USU.

By Jason Walker
SPORTS SENIOR WRITER

While many seven-round mock drafts pegged up to four Utah State football players as potential NFL Draft picks, running back Darwin Thompson was the only former Aggies who heard his name called over the weekend.

Thompson, who accumulated 1,395 yards from scrimmage and 16 touchdowns in his lone season in Logan, had to wait until the final pick of the sixth round, 214th overall, until the Kansas City Chiefs claimed him.

After Thompson's selection, Trey Kozlol, a national scout for the Chiefs, spoke to the media about the team's newest addition to the backfield. Kozlol talked about how selecting the former Aggie was a bit of a directional change from what Kansas City has in its backfield currently.

"He's almost a change of pace from what we have, which is nice," Kozlol said. "He is a big play threat, he was always a big play threat for (Utah State) so it's a little bit different than what we had so it gives us a little bit different dimension in terms of the passing game and guys who can operate out in space."

Two main concerns pushed Thompson toward the back of the draft despite being one of the leaders in yards per carry in the NCAA and one of the better players in yards after first contact. First was his size. At 5-foot-8, 198 lbs, Thompson doesn't fit the physical profile of many NFL backs, who usually hover around six feet tall and slightly over 200 lbs.

Thompson did his best to alleviate concerns with an impres-

Other Aggies signed by NFL teams

- Dax Raymond - Chicago Bears
- Ron'quavion Tarver - Chicago Bears
- Jontrell Rocquemoore - Cleveland Browns
- Aaron Wade - Cleveland Browns
- Gaje Ferguson - Kansas City Chiefs
- Roman Andrus - Kansas City Chiefs
- Quin Ficklin - Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Aaren Vaughns - Detroit Lions

sive pro day performance in March, which helped the Chiefs notice him. Kozlol conceded that Thompson is "obviously a little undersized," but stuck up for the short back by noting that Thompson has an impressive build for one so short, calling him "a real rocked up dude." Kozlol also brought up how shifty and quick-footed Thompson is on film and how he runs with power and a low center of gravity — good qualities for an NFL running back.

The second concern surrounding the native of Oklahoma was the fact that he played just one year of Division I college ball and thus had a small body of work. Thompson spent two seasons in the junior college ranks and one at USU before going pro.

"You look at his body of work and what he was able to accomplish in (the Mountain West) on a very good football team this year was very impressive," Kozlol said. "Yea the body of work is a little bit smaller but what he did and the opportunities he was

see "Aggies in the NFL" on PAGE 6

Paulina Rivera-Soto: Completely Unapologetically Myself

By Shelby Black
STUDENT LIFE SENIOR WRITER

Photos of Frida Kahlo, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and other powerful women adorn the office wall of Paulina Rivera-Soto, newly elected USUSA student advocate vice president. For her, they are reminders of her identity and inspiration for the future. Rivera-Soto says that everything she has accomplished in her life so far has helped prepare her to be a leader in her new USUSA position.

Rivera-Soto spent several years of her childhood living in Honduras with her family. Later, they moved to Logan, Utah when her father received a position at the university.

Nereyda Soto, Paulina's mother, explained that, at first, the move back to the United States was a little difficult for the family, but that experience has made Paulina the person she is today.

"You see Paulina today and she has all kinds of friends. That is just to prove that that did not affect her and I think it made her stronger," Soto said.

As a child, Paulina says she enjoyed being outside, was very free-spir-

ited and knew she could do anything she set her mind to.

"At one point, I thought I was going to be some kind of warrior princess. Growing up, I was fortunate that my parents never limited me. The thought of not being able to do something because of gender or skin color never crossed my mind. I knew, growing up, I could be anything I wanted to," Rivera-Soto said.

Rivera-Soto attended a local STEM high school in the valley. Coming from a small graduating class, she was excited to try out the different extracurricular activities Utah State University offers. She enjoys being involved in various university organizations and was selected by the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity as last year's "Sig Ep Sweetheart." But there is one thing that she says makes Utah State extra special for her.

"My favorite thing about Utah State is the people. Our students are the beating heart of the university. Without us, there would be no Utah State. It is not about the place, but it is about people," Rivera-Soto said.

Paulina has chosen to study political science and hopes to be a

see "Rivera-Soto" PAGE 3

"We get to choose who we are"

USU commencement highlights resilience against adversity



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall

Students wait to hear their names called in the College of Engineering commencement ceremony. .

By Josh Wilkinson
NEWS SENIOR WRITER

On Thursday, May 2, Utah State University held its 132 commencement exercise. President Noelle Cockett led the commencement, which emphasized student achievements and resilience in the face of challenges.

"The accomplishments of this graduating class are both impressive and wide-ranging," Cockett said. "We congratulate you on those accomplishments."

According to Cockett, this year's graduating class includes 1095 graduate degrees and 6009 undergraduate degrees, with graduates from 47 states and 54 countries.

She said the youngest graduate is 18. The oldest graduate is 85, according to Cockett.

"I'm sure there were times when you wondered if earning a degree was worth it, particularly on those January mornings when you were walking across campus with the freezing canyon wind blowing in your face," Cockett said. "But here you are today — a graduate."

Both the commencement speaker, Eric Hipple, and the valedictorian student speaker, Abigail Erickson, spoke on challenges faced by students and methods for meeting those challenges.

"We hurt because we fought to be here," Erickson said. "Several students I spoke to shared their personal experiences with mental illness and the battles they had to endure to finish school. They are so brave and are not alone. "

Hipple — a former aggie, NFL player and current mental health advocate — shared his personal experiences with mental health. While a student at USU, Hipple experienced his first major bout of depression, but, thanks to the support at the University, Hipple was able to get through the bout.

During the transition following his NFL career, Hipple hit bottom. On the way to the airport for a business trip, Hipple felt like he "couldn't do it anymore." He handed a note to his wife that said "I love you, I'm sorry" and jumped out of the car going 75 miles per

see "USU Commencement" on PAGE 2



PHOTO BY Iain Laurence

Paulina Rivera-Soto plans to bring her with her as the newly-elected USUSA student advocate vice president.



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall
This year's graduating class includes 1095 graduate degrees and 6009 undergraduate degrees, with graduates from 47 states and 54 countries.

“USU Commencement” FROM PAGE 1

hour.

“Now when I tell that it sounds rather impulsive, but those were thoughts I had been having for a while,” Hipple said. Waking up in the hospital, Hipple was offered treatment, but he declined due to a perceived stigma around mental health treatments. It wasn’t until his son’s suicide 3 years later that Hipple finally received treatment.

“I have learned we are not defined by our past. It may shape us, but it does not define us,” Hipple said. “What defines us is what we do about it. We get to choose who we are.”

The theme of resilience struck a chord with the graduating class. For some, the theme took on a personal meaning.

Graduating senior, science ambassador and USUSA Pre-Med Club officer Chaseton Womack has met his own unique set of challenges this year.

One morning about a year ago, Womack woke up with a high-pitched ringing in one ear. Following a trip to the doctor’s office and an MRI scan, a tumor was discovered on his auditory nerve leading from the ear to his brain.

After some discussion, Womack decided to wait until the end of the semester before removing the tumor via surgery.

Shortly after taking the admissions test for medical school, or the MCAT, Womack had the tumor removed. The results of the surgery weren’t exactly what he had been hoping for.

“Basically, it ended up being a lot worse than we were expecting,” Womack said. “The hearing was lost, and then something we hadn’t foreseen at all was having that facial nerve paralyzed ... the entire right side of my face was instantly paralyzed. I couldn’t close my eye. I couldn’t move my mouth. I mean nothing. It was all gone.”

Three weeks after returning from the hospital, Womack’s wife gave birth to a son. According to Womack, the combined events “made for a very interesting and fun summer.”

While the doctors told Womack that his facial movement would come back in a year and a half, Womack still made the decision to come back to school in the fall.

“It was difficult coming back, especially since I didn’t look like I did before. I have a twin brother, so people no longer confused us,” Womack said. “It was kind of nice, but it was for a reason that I didn’t like.”

Despite these challenges, Womack said this year has been one of the best. “The University supported me 100 percent. If I didn’t have that, it would have been very difficult. I probably would have had a lot of self-esteem issues,” Womack said.

Being in leadership roles even with his impairment helped Womack empathize with others with disabilities and physical impairments. Even with this year’s challenges, Womack is grateful for the experience at USU. “Sometimes the harder road is the one that is going to teach you a lot more,” Womack said.

Womack and many others like him in the graduating class have learned how to move forward in the face of adversity, according to Erickson.

“We cannot know where we will finish next, but we know how to begin the journey. We’ve done it before, and we will do it over and over again,” Erickson said. “Find what you love. Fail, and get back up again.”

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FILE PHOTO

‘Cookies and cops’ aims to build bridges between students and police

By Naomi Ward
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Logan City Police Department and Utah State University Police Departments held an event on campus Tuesday to answer student questions and “address misconceptions about policing,” said Logan City Police Chief Gary Jensen.

Jensen responded to a question about police brutality, saying body cameras help to hold officers accountable.

“Just because it’s a national trend doesn’t mean it’s a local trend,” Jensen said. “In cases where force is used, the police force reviews body camera videos each Monday and sergeants do random video checks as well.”

“We had one incident where a body camera video showed an officer using more force than we were comfortable with,” Jensen said. “He got psychological counseling and treatment for anger management, and he has said now that he is a better husband, father, and policeman. All because of something we saw on his body cam video.”

One student asked how she could feel better about being around police as a minority.

“Sometimes I get a little scared because I’m not white,” she said.

Harris said, “We know there are a lot of students that come from backgrounds that have

had negative experiences with officers. At the university, we try to make sure that everybody has some positive experience with an officer.”

Jensen asked the student to consider his side. “Might I be afraid of you?” he asked. “There’s also potential for people to abuse the very nature of what we’re talking about here. That’s not fair. Equally, it’s not fair for you to be treated unfairly by us.

“Do we stand clean on all issues? Of course not. We have room to improve as well. We all have room to improve, and we all need to work harder to be inclusive of each other.”

Another student asked about sexual assault and how police address sexual assault cases.

“If you’re a victim, we feel your pain,” Jensen said. “But cases aren’t as simple as prosecuting because ‘she said so.’ I often cringe when people say we don’t do anything just because these may not always end in a prosecution or someone going to prison.”

Jensen mentioned the university’s Start By Believing campaign, saying, “As a person, I might start by believing. But as a police officer, I have to start in a neutral position and allow the facts and investigation to take me whichever way they take me.”

Harris mentioned resources students can access that are not necessarily available to the rest of the community, including CAPS and SAAVI.

“We know there are a lot of students that come from backgrounds that have had negative experiences with officers. At the university, we try to make sure that everybody has some positive experience with an officer.”

— Kent Harris
Utah State University Police captain

“We know it takes a lot of courage for someone to come to the police and tell us what happened to them,” Harris said. “We want to make sure they’re taken care of.”

One student asked about the difficulties of police work. Interim Chief Kent Harris said many students on campus struggle with mental health and getting them to the resources they need in a timely manner is difficult when those resources start to get overwhelmed. Jensen also discussed improvement in communication between city and campus police, saying the two departments recently started using the same system to catalog data.

Both officers said the police departments will try to do another similar event in the fall.

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PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall
Utah State University Police Captain Kent Harris addresses a crowd at an active shooter drill.

Watching acclaimed movies with the USU Film Club



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall

The USUSA Film Club was created in fall of 2018 and has been gaining members ever since. The club votes every week on what film they will view the following week.

By Alek Nelson
STUDENT LIFE COPY EDITOR

USU students interested in film now have an opportunity to watch acclaimed movies through the new USUSA Film Club. The club, which started during the Fall 2018 semester, was created by students Samuel Berry and Holden Regnier after they and their friends began watching movies together weekly.

“We were hanging out one night back in October and we started talking about our favorite films,” Regnier said. “We kind of veered from movies to films, a bit more serious. We were like, ‘We should start a film club.’”

While the club now meets in a spacious room in the Fine Arts-Visual building, Danny Boyer, a member of the club, said they started off watching movies in a basement. “There were no seats,” he said. “We had six people and the sixth person had to lay on the floor.”

After the group met for a few weeks, Samuel Berry decided to seek out an official film club on campus. When he couldn’t find one, he and Regnier decided to start a club themselves. Berry met with David Wall, a professor of film and visual studies, who agreed to be the club’s advisor.

Every week, members of the group vote on what movie to watch the following Monday. Rather than watching blockbusters, the club tends to view acclaimed, provocative films. Movies shown this semester have ranged anywhere from the

1979 war film, “Apocalypse Now,” to the latest Wes Anderson film, “Isle of Dogs.”

Brody Smith, a member of the club, said, “We try to get out of our comfort zones a little bit with the movies we watch. We try to watch things people usually haven’t seen.” Smith enjoys the variety of movie genres the club views.

Regnier says that he enjoys watching films because of the thought and symbolism directors put into their films. “I think it’s a really cool way to express your art,” he said. Regnier’s favorite movies include “Boyhood,” “Call Me by Your Name” and “Lady Bird.” Regnier hopes the club can help people who don’t know where to start when getting into important films. “I used to find it kind of intimidating to get into the important and acclaimed films,” he said. “It doesn’t have to be a hard thing to get into.”

According to Berry, the club has remained small this year, with a maximum of about 10 people per week, but he hopes to continue to grow the club next year. The club plans on hosting a booth at USU’s Day on the Quad event as well as other advertising efforts to increase club participation.

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“We try to get out of our comfort zones... We try to watch things people usually haven’t seen.”
— Brody Smith

“Rivera-Soto” FROM PAGE 1

lawyer in the future. With her new position in the USUSA, Paulina wants to help educate and advocate to students that they can receive access to free legal services on campus. She plans on accomplishing this and making sure that all students at Utah State feel safe in and outside of the classroom. Paulina also says she wants to share her passions of female empowerment and service through her position.

Those who know Paulina know that she is loyal, full of passion and a very driven person. Sam Jackson, friend and member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, explained why Paulina was the perfect fit to be student advocate VP.

“She always knows what she is talking about and is very well spoken. I think it is pretty hard to faze her. I admire her ability to work through types of conflict and resolve it in a way that is productive,” Jackson said.

Paulina said she is “completely unapologetically myself.” Through staying true to herself, Rivera-Soto is excited to help bring about positive change to campus and help everyone around her feel like they have a place at Utah State.

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@shelbsterblack



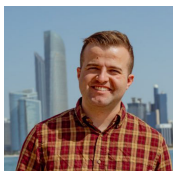
Rivera-Soto is a political science major with goals of becoming a lawyer following graduation.

TWEETS of the WEEK



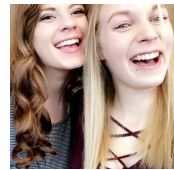
@jkaynani

At what point to I rip the bandaid off and remove Canvas and MyUSU from my bookmarks bar?



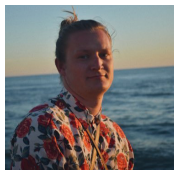
@ZGrantBess

If you’re in college and not regularly talking to your academic advisors, you’re doing it wrong. Shoutout to @chassusu for their solid advising team.



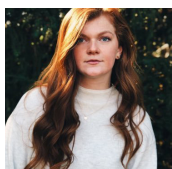
@HiImSera

How many Jonas Brothers songs at your wedding is too many? Asking for myself



@masonlkemp

Brussel sprouts slap and we have been lied to our whole lives



@tarren_jessop

Walking on campus today is like strolling through a snowstorm of butterflies and this is how I imagine the people in Disneyland commercials feel



@HeyBMoon

I would die for Noelle



PHOTO BY Iain Laurence

S

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY Megan Nielsen/ The Utah Statesman
Freshman center Neemias Queta dunks the ball against New Mexico, part of a 91-83 win in the Mountain West Conference Tournament.

Utah State center Neemias Queta gets NBA Combine invite

Boost in his draft stock could follow

By Jason Walker
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Nearly a month after declaring his candidacy for the 2019 NBA Draft, Utah State center Neemias Queta received good, but not unexpected, news in the form of an invitation to the 2019 NBA Combine in Chicago. The NBA's annual combine, which will take place May 15-19, pales in grandeur and significance to its NFL counterpart (top draft pick regularly skip the entire thing and many invites go late in the draft or not at all), but for a player in Queta's situation, any chance for exposure could skyrocket his draft stock.

It's not as if there wasn't any buzz surrounding Queta's professional prospects. Multiple outlets pegged the Portuguese big man as one of the more underrated G5 prospects. And when ESPNU broadcast Utah State's 71-55 win over New Mexico, the commentators spent a decent chunk of the game lauding Queta's NBA stock. The problem is most of that talk from national sources centered around Queta likely staying in college for another year to develop his game. Few expected him to declare

this year. As of May 8, only a handful of mock drafts have Queta on their radar. None of the mocks from Bleacher Report (first round only), NBADraft.net (1-60), ESPN (top 100 ranked), and NBA Draft Room (1-60 plus 29 "on the bubble" players) include Queta as a draft pick — and all have been updated since he declared for the draft.

Right now, the two most relevant mock drafts that include Queta are SI.com (29th overall to the Spurs) and Walter Football (34th to the 76ers). The combine will be a good place to change that. Getting in front of scouts who have never seen the 6-foot-11 man in person and allowing them to witness his athleticism and skill up close and personal could make all the difference in the world. Follow that up with good workouts for individual NBA teams and the June 20 draft could be a superb day for Neemias Queta.

🐦 @thejwalk67



PHOTO BY Megan Nielsen/ The Utah Statesman
Queta Blocks a shot against San Diego State in the Mountain West Conference title game.



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall/ The Utah Statesman
Freshman pitcher Kapri Toone takes the mound for the Utah State softball team. The Aggies won the series opener Thursday in her appearance against San Diego State.

Utah State softball wins two of three games in final home series

Aggie freshman play big part in team's success

By Dalton Renshaw
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Utah State University softball finished the season by taking two of three games from San Diego State and winning its second series since beginning Mountain West conference play.

Although the Aggies finish one win shy of 2018's total number of wins with a 17-30 record, the team ends the year with a better winning percentage than the previous campaign — all with an extraordinarily young roster.

Freshman pitcher Kapri Toone was one of the standouts of the weekend, commanding the game on the mound for the Aggies. She pitched in all three games, starting two, and gave up just four runs in 15.2 innings. Toone faced her share of struggles early in the season but finished by winning three of five games and was a key contributor to the Aggies pulling out four wins in six games to end the year.

Toone held the lead for Utah State until the fifth inning Friday afternoon, and her teammates at the plate stepped up to finish the job and grab a 4-3 win over the Aztecs. It was a scoreless contest until the fourth inning, both teams getting just a few hits off the starting pitchers but not doing any serious damage.

With the bases loaded, senior first baseman Bailee Trapp slapped a rocket through the right side of the defense, sophomore center fielder Stephanie Reed scored, and runners advanced to second and third. Next up to the plate was fellow senior, Bailey Lewis. She took advantage of runners in scoring position and smacked a sac-fly to deep leftfield which drove in freshman second baseman Kenzie Bolin.

With Utah State up 2-0 heading into the fifth, San Diego State quickly responded by putting two runs of its own on the board to tie things up. The tie wouldn't last long, though, and the next inning the two seniors got on base again and put runners in scoring position for junior third baseman Erin Kuba to knock home. Utah State would give up one run to the Aztecs in the seventh, but Toone closed out the game and her team capture the win.

Friday was an offensive explosion from Utah State, getting 11 hits in a 7-6 win. Both teams took no time putting runs on the board, and Utah State found itself with a 6-3 lead after just two innings. On the day, Lewis was exceptional at the plate. She went went three-for-three with a walk and two RBI's and drove in what would prove to be the winning run in the fourth inning, sending junior outfielder Riley Plogger home.

Plogger also had a great day offensively, and

she led the Aggies with two runs scored and two walks in her four plate appearances.

Between the two games that Utah State won, the team hit .320 — far above its season average of .275.

Hitting was a strength in the first two games but figured to be the team's biggest weakness in the final game of the series. Utah State had just three hits for the game and weren't able to capitalize on a day when Toone pitched seven innings with four strikeouts and two runs given up. The Aggies were the first to strike in the third inning with a Plogger double that sent Reed home. But the Aztecs swung the game in the sixth with a two-run homer, putting Utah State down for the remainder of the game.



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall/The Utah Statesman
Freshman shortstop Lexi Orozco gets in throwing position with her eye toward first base. Orozco finished the season as the Aggies' leading hitter in multiple categories.

The Aggies finish the season three games out of last-place in the Mountain West standings, but head coach Steve Johnson believed that his team showed a lot more than its record indicates.

"Obviously the record didn't turn out the way we wanted to, but the kids kept fighting and all the way down to end," he said. "Coming out and getting two big victories on Thursday and Friday — and even today — battled all day. Just to see the fight all the way to the end, hopefully it sends us off into the summer on a high-note."

A real positive for Utah State is the amount of production the team got throughout the season from its underclassmen. Out of all players who played at least 35 games, four of its top eight hitters were freshmen or sophomores. The most exciting of the four may be Orozco. She led the team in hits, batting average, RBI's and her 13 home runs broke a single-season Utah State record. Its pitching staff struggled throughout the season and finished second to last in ERA in the Mountain West. But all three pitchers the team used are underclassmen and have a great opportunity to improve with a full offseason under their belts heading into 2020.

🐦 @dren_sports



PHOTO BY Anna Reed / Associated Press
Teachers and education activists march from Riverfront Park to the Oregon State Capitol for a day of action Wednesday, May 8, 2019 in Salem, Ore. Tens of thousands of teachers across Oregon walked off the job Wednesday to demand more money for schools, holding signs and wearing red shirts that have become synonymous with a nationwide movement pushing lawmakers to better fund education.

PARENTS, STOP LYING TO YOUR KIDS: STAY CONSISTENT IN YOUR MESSAGE

By Daedan Olander
OPINION MANAGER

True professional contentment stems not from loving your work but from having the ability to provide for yourself and your family. So claimed one of my professors during a rousing speech on the last day of his class

Just days earlier, a different professor gave a similar lecture, but his advice was the opposite, saying that matching your major to the jobs which are currently available is a mistake. He instead advised students to study the subjects for which they have a passion.

Professors and career guidance counselors give conflicting opinions to college students regarding career choice. As a college student myself, my plea is simple: Parents, for the good of your posterity, please keep your messages consistent.

What you tell your children may not only shape the rest of their lives but could also dictate the well-being and happiness of their future families.

I understand that it is unrealistic to expect educators -- professors in particular -- to all hold the same beliefs on career paths; each has obviously found success in his or her respective field and is reasonably biased towards one ideology or the other based on his or her profession.

Parents, however, don't receive the same pass. Decide what advice is best and deliver

it consistently.

Why vacillate on such an important truth? I get it. No one wants to tell their precocious, talented children that they cannot be whatever they want in the future, but if parents believe that to be the truth, shouldn't that be the message from the beginning?

Is it any wonder that kids are entering college unsure of what to study? "According to surveys, an estimated 20 to 50 percent of students enter college as undecided, and

According to surveys, an estimated 20 to 50 percent of students enter college as undecided estimated 75 percent of students change their major at least once before graduation."

— StudyBreaks.com

an estimated 75 percent of students change their major at least once before graduation." This uncertainty contributes to longer time spent in college and with the associated increase in costs to get a degree.

Along the same lines, for years, the debate on whether to profess the existence of Santa Claus to children has raged within the parental community.

It's an innocuous lie and brings children joy for a time, but such deception usually ends in heartbreak. At its core, the issue is whether lying to your kids is ever justifiable.

If you're a parent who believes only certain professions are employable, why not

instead eliminate the much more insidious lie than Santa Claus, one that's told just as often to the same children: "You can be whatever you want." After all, it is far more expensive and time-consuming.

Whether parents are more concerned about their children's prospects in the job market or believe they can only be truly successful while doing what they love, parents must take a consistent stance. If you are frustrated with the shifting major of your children, look in the mirror to see if

the cause might be your shifting advice to them.

Either methodology is not necessarily right or wrong, but, parents, please choose one and then stick to it. To do anything else is unfair to your children. And your pocketbook.

-- Daedan Olander is a sophomore from Washington State studying print journalism and accounting. His time is dominated by studying in the library.



Letters to the editor

1

Letters should be limited to 400 words. All letters may be shortened, or rejected for reasons of good taste, redundancy or volume of similar letters.

2

Letters must be topic-oriented. They may not be directed toward any individuals. Any letter directed to a specific individual may be edited or not printed.

3

No anonymous letters will be published. Writers must sign all letters and include a phone number or email address, as well as a student identification number (none of which is published).

4

Letters representing groups — or more than one individual — must have a singular representative clearly stated, with all necessary identification information.

5

Writers must wait 21 days before submitting successive letters -- no exceptions.

6

The Statesman editors reserve the right to not print every letter to the editor. But all letters will be published online.

7

Letters can be hand-delivered or mailed to The Statesman the TSC, Room 118, or can be emailed to statesman@aggiemail.usu.edu, or click www.utahstatesman.com.



Celebrating 150 years since the Golden Spike



PHOTOS BY Chantelle McCall, Tashina Eggleston, Cimaron Neugebauer

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given I thought he made the most of."

The 23-year old Thompson will join a backfield that lost two of its top three running backs at the end of last year and the offseason. The Chiefs cut Pro Bowl RB Kareem Hunt late last season after allegations of domestic abuse came to light and KC did not re-sign veteran Spencer Ware.

That leaves Damien Williams as the top returner. Williams started the last three games of the regular season and both playoff games for Kansas City, carrying the ball 69 times for 362 yards and five TDs in that span. The Chiefs also signed former San Francisco 49ers starter Carlos Hyde this offseason. Hyde posted two 900-yard seasons on 4.2 yards per carry with the 49ers but ran for just 571 yards for the Cleveland Browns and Jacksonville Jaguars in 2018.



PHOTO BY Matt Halton

Former Utah State safety Gaje Ferguson regroups following a play in USU's 24-16 win over Wyoming on October 20, 2018. Ferguson was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs after going undrafted in the 2019 NFL Draft.

Though just one USU player was among the 254 draft selections, another eight players also found their way to NFL rosters. Tight end Dax Raymond, wide receiver Ron'quavion Tarver, defensive back Jontrell Rocquemoire, defensive back Aaron Wade, safety Gaje Ferguson, wide receiver Aaren Vaughns, center Quin Ficklin, and offensive lineman Roman

USU hires Jerry Bovee as new assistant athletic director



By Dalton Renshaw
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Weber State University Athletics Director Jerry Bovee has been named new Utah State University Assistant Vice President and Deputy Athletics Director for External Affairs at USU. Bovee will officially begin his role with the Aggies in June after spending 10 years as the Athletics Director for Weber State.

Utah State Director of Athletics John Hartwell announced the new hire this morning. "We are really excited for Jerry to join Utah State Athletics. He's an Aggie, he received his undergraduate degree from USU, and he began his athletic administration career in our department," Hartwell said. "Jerry's familiarity with and knowledge of our program are huge assets for Aggie Athletics. We've got a lot of positive momentum within USU Athletics right now and the addition of Jerry to our staff strengthens our department even more."

Bovee shared his thoughts on the new job in a press release. "I'm excited about the opportunity to come back to Utah State where this all began for me over 25 years ago," he said. "The chance to be part of Aggie Nation once again is a thrill for our family. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 12 years at Weber State and value the lifelong relationships I've made in Ogden. I look forward now to renewing friendships and being part of the amazing successes happening at Utah State."

During his time at Weber State, the Wildcats have had some of the most successful seasons in program history. Under head coach Jay Hill — who Bovee hired in 2013 — the football team won a school-record 11 games in 2017 and has made it to back-to-back FCS quarterfinals. The Wildcats won Big Sky conference titles in 2017 and 2018 and were ranked as high as third in the nation this past season.

The men's basketball team at Weber State has made it to the NCAA tournament twice over his 10 years, and has won three Big Sky titles including a school-record 30 games in 2012-13. In total, the Wildcats have captured 19 conference titles during Bovee's tenure as Athletics Director.

Bovee is not only familiar with Utah State, but a former Aggie and alumni himself. He earned his bachelor's degree in business finance from Utah State in 1992 and immediately began his career in athletic administration at USU, initially working as a sales and promotions specialist. He later was promoted to an Assistant Athletics Director for Marketing and Promotions. Bovee worked at Utah State from 1992 to 1995.

🐦 @dren_sports



PHOTO BY Megan Nielsen

Former Utah State tight end Dax Raymond scores a touchdown in a 61-19 win over New Mexico on Oct. 27, 2018. Raymond was signed by the Chicago Bears after going undrafted in the 2019 NFL Draft.

Andrus will all get a shot at NFL glory, but first, they'll go through the proving grounds and try to make the final 53-man roster on their respective squads.

While eight players were signed and nine 2018 Aggies overall made it to the league, only five teams signed a player from Utah State: the Chicago Bears (Raymond and Tarver), the Cleveland Browns (Rocquemoire and Wade) the Kansas City Chiefs (Ferguson, Andrus and Thompson), the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Ficklin), and the Detroit Lions (Vaughns).

🐦 @thejwalk67

B

BACKBURNER

Medium

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4		8			1	2	3	
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MAY 14 - MAY 20					
TUESDAY 5/14	WEDNESDAY 5/15	THURSDAY 5/16	FRIDAY 5/17	SATURDAY 5/18	MONDAY 5/20
2019 Aggie Road Trip - Boise, ID 5/14/2019 6:30pm 1400 Old Main Hill Logan, UT	Beaver Translocation Workshop 5/15/2019 9:00am 5210 Old Main Hill Logan, UT	\$100 Art Show 5/16/2019 5:00pm 755 South Main Street Logan, UT	Beaver Translocation Workshop 5/17/2019 9:00am 5210 Old Main Hill Logan, UT	Canyon Conversations Invasive Plants Walk through Logan Canyon 5/18/2019 11:00am 2696 E. Highway 89 Logan, UT	Monday Movie: The Kid Who Would Be King 5/20/2019 6:30pm Logan Library Logan, UT
Citizens Climate Lobby 5/14/2019 5:30pm 596 East 900 North, Logan Logan, UT	May The Play Be With You 5/15/2019 6:30pm 1525 N 200 W Logan, UT	Beaver Translocation Workshop 5/16/2019 9:00am 5210 Old Main Hill Logan, UT	Caregiver Appreciation Dinner 5/17/2019 5:00pm 240 North 100 East Logan, UT	Casey Jack Kristoffer-son Band at WhySound Venue 5/18/2019 8:00pm 30 Federal Ave Logan, UT	Private Ice 5/20/2019 9:00am 2825 N 200 E North Logan, UT
Learn to Skate 5/14/2019 4:30pm 2825 N 200 E North Logan, UT		iPad Class 5/16/2019 2:00pm 255 North Main Street Logan, UT	Half Step, Melancholy Club, Tastebuds 5/17/2019 8:00pm 30 Federal Ave Logan, UT	Live Music at Caffe Ibis 5/18/2019 2:00pm 52 Federal Ave Logan, UT	
		Learn to Skate 5/16/2019 4:00pm 2825 N 200 E North Logan, UT			
		Walkabout with Logan Poet Laureate 5/16/2019 5:30pm 1400 Old Main Hill Logan, UT			

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