First Generation

My great-grandfather Arthur Evans graduated from Parowan High School in 1936 and attended Southern Utah University, then called Branch Agricultural College, from fall 1936 to 1938. He was part of the debate team and traveled to Redlands, California, for a speech competition, where he placed seventh out of 50 contestants. He also painted the college's barns over the summer.

My great-grandmother, Hazel Dawn Daly, graduated from Garfield High School, now Panguitch High, and attended BAC for a year, starting in the fall of 1939. She was a sorority member and in the operetta. My great-grandparents met at a dance in Parowan, and after a few years of dating, they were married in 1941.

Grandpa Arthur got pneumonia in 1944 after completely quitting smoking. Penicillin was flown in from New York, and he was the first person in Southern Utah to receive it. He was considered one of the largest cattle ranchers in Southern Utah, with ranges from the Arizona border to Idaho and over 1,300 head of cattle. On paper, he was worth $3 million.

They raised eight children in Iron County and contributed much to the community. Many people knew my Grandpa Art, and they only have good things to say.

Second Generation

My grandfather, Layne LeFevre, attended SUU, then called Southern Utah State College, after graduating from Bryce Valley High School in 1976. He returned to SUSC after serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in upstate New York and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in industrial arts education in 1983.

He met my grandmother April Evans a 1979 graduate of Parowan High School and fellow SUSC student, cheerleader and Thunderette, at a dance on New Year’s Eve. They both walked in the graduation procession in 1983, my grandpa with a bachelor’s and my grandma with a secretary certificate, just weeks before they were married.

My grandpa was hired by the Garfield County School District in 1984 and taught shop and agricultural sciences for 36 years. He also ran a successful Future Farmers of America program and taught two Sterling Scholar regional winners and several regional runners-up winners in the trades and technology category. He also started his own woodworking business and continued our family’s legacy of running a cattle ranch.

My grandma loved her time at SUSC and used her education to serve as the secretary for the seminary program in Tropic for years. She also coached the award-winning Bryce Valley High School drill team and taught clogging and elementary physical education classes. Despite her expansive community involvement, her main focus was raising their five children, including my mother Leslie. She is currently finishing up her second term as a Garfield County School Board

member and has served on the Utah School Board Association's Board of Directors and Joint Legislative Committee for seven years, representing Iron, Beaver, Kane and Garfield Counties.

Embracing the beauty of living in the valley of Bryce Canyon National Park, they enjoy working in the park — my grandpa as the operations manager for the shuttle and my grandma as a shuttle driver and owner of her own private tour company, Canyon Fever Guides. They continue their legacy with soon-to-be 17 grandchildren, whom they hope will attend SUU.

Third Generation

My mother, Leslie Porter, graduated from Bryce Valley High School in 2002 and from SUU in 2007. Before being an officially admitted SUU student, Leslie partook in many campus experiences. She enjoyed visiting SUU for the Utah Shakespeare Festival, with her high school English class, state basketball games in the event center, and multiple leadership camps, such as the Governor's Honors Academy. SUU was her school of choice, especially since she was going into Elementary Education and knew they had the best program in the state. My mom began her schooling at SUU in August of 2002 on a full-tuition scholarship from the Governor's Honors Academy.

My father, Josh Porter, graduated from Taylorsville High School in 1999 and served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 2000 to 2002 in Milan, Italy. He attended the University of Utah until 2005, when he transferred to SUU to marry my mom. During his time at the U, he worked as a middle-school substitute teacher.

My parents met at church when my father was visiting his grandpa's hometown of Escalante, Utah, and my mother was speaking during the service. They began emailing, and my mom invited him to an institute dance at SUU, which he attended.

He moved into my mother's grandparents' basement in Parowan over the summer and got a job at the SUU paint shop. They were married in August 2005. They both graduated in May of 2007, my mom with her elementary education degree and my dad with a degree in business marketing, just a few weeks before I was born.

They moved to Taylorsville, Utah, where my dad worked as a project manager for many different hotels, including the Red Lion in downtown Salt Lake City. After spending a year at home with me, my mom became a second-grade teacher at Taylorsville Elementary. My family lived in the Salt Lake Valley for 10 years until my mom took a job at Kanab Elementary, at which point we moved back to Southern Utah. They now have five kids, three dogs, two cats and a bunch of chickens. My dad is still in the business realm, working remotely as a project manager, and my mom is teaching first grade at Kanab Elementary. Both of my parents are grateful for the time spent at SUU and that I get to attend the school they loved.

Fourth Generation

My name is Lainey Porter, and I am a reporter for SUU News. I am a junior at SUU, majoring in communication with a media studies emphasis and a minor in history. I am hoping to work in public relations for the Bureau of Land Management upon graduation.