

Shelly (Anderson) Neilson, a native of Logan, Utah, graduated from Utah State in 2000 with a Business degree in Management and Human Resources. Shelly developed a deep connection with Utah State University from a young age, attending Aggie basketball and football games with her family and loved going to her dad's office at the Engineering Department. This early exposure ignited her passion for the university. During her time as a USU student, Neilson actively engaged in numerous campus activities. She relished giving campus tours as an ambassador, presenting at leadership workshops, reaching out to high schools students and promoting the "True Aggie" spirit with her classmates. Shelly also enjoyed dedicating her time to volunteering at the Val R. Christensen Service Center. Additionally, she served as the Homecoming Chair, A-Day chair and actively participated in the Student Alumni Association. Her sophomore year at Utah State she was elected and served her junior year as the second female student body president at Utah State. Shelly also had the opportunity her senior year to participate in an exchange program in Australia through the business department.

Even after her student years, Neilson continued to be a dedicated and engaged alumna. While working in Washington, D.C. as an event planner she contributed to alumni events, organized and attended USU open houses in her region, and when she moved to Springville, UT she assumed the role of the Utah County alumni chapter president. In 2002, she married Reid Neilson, and they have 5 children: Johnny, Kate, Ally, Whitney & James. They are growing up with the same love for Utah State University. In 2019, Shelly and her husband Reid undertook a significant church calling by serving as mission presidents for the Washington, D.C. North Mission with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Shelly continued her recruiting and sharing her love for Utah State with all the missionaries they served with. She has served as PTA President at her kids school, loves volunteering in her community, hosting events to raise money for the refugee community & other families in need. And is always recruiting, promoting and finding ways to strengthen the USU community.