

Restoring Japantown

U alums are leading efforts to rebuild a historic street into a cultural destination honoring the past. p. 22

Water-Wise Landscapes

Red Butte Garden experts show how to create attractive grounds that conserve precious water. p. 34

Play Ball

One night each year, U fans are invited to the big leagues for Utah Night at the Rockies. p. 44



A Delicate Balance

Visitors are flocking to Utah in record numbers. How do we support tourism while preserving areas of natural beauty?



Outside

Advanced Recovery

Gazing across the Salt Lake Valley from the vantage point of one of the U's newest buildings, you'd be forgiven for thinking you're in a five-star hotel. But the Craig H. Neilsen Rehabilitation Hospital at University of Utah Health doesn't cater to tourists. Instead, it's one of the most advanced care centers in the nation for patients recovering from and adjusting to life-altering injuries and conditions.

"This incredible facility is helping us reimagine rehabilitative care," says Jeffrey Rosenbluth, the Craig H. Neilsen Presidential Endowed

Chair for Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. "Faculty, students, and staff are pushing the boundaries of recovery and quality of life after even the most severe injuries and disease processes."

From an outdoor therapy terrace to a bio-engineering lab working to improve robotic and prosthetic technologies, the 172,000-square-foot, 75-bed hospital is helping thousands of patients regain quality of life. And it was made possible thanks to a \$47.5 million gift from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, created by alum Neilsen MBA'64 JD'67.





PHOTO BY AARON SHAW, ENDEAVOUR ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

U University of Utah Magazine

SUMMER 2022
Volume 31, No. 2

The right plan, plants, and a little passion can bring color and interest to a water-wise garden. Check out Red Butte Garden's picks for drought-tolerant trees, flowers, shrubs, grasses, and more. p. 34



ILLUSTRATION BY VICTOR JUHASZ

FEATURES

22

Restoring Historic Japantown Salt Lake City's Japantown was once a bustling neighborhood spanning several city blocks, with businesses, schools, and social spots. But urban renewal and cultural erasure diminished it to one stretch of a single street. Now, U alumni and community members have saved this meaningful area from near extinction—and they have big plans for its revitalization.

28

A Delicate Balance National parks and other public lands boost economies and encourage a love of the outdoors. But soaring crowd numbers have locals asking how much is too much. Researchers and instructors at the U are helping guide the way toward sustainable tourism, which aims to strike a balance between enjoying nature and preserving it.

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Dig In Can you have a yard that's both wonderful and water-wise? Absolutely, say experts at the U's Red Butte Garden. And with Utah's booming population and long-term drought, conserving water is more crucial than ever. Learn how you can act by planting a climate-appropriate garden without sacrificing beauty.



ON THE COVER

The number of visitors to Arches National Park and other public lands has skyrocketed in recent years, prompting a search for sustainable tourism. Here, artist Emiliano Ponzi depicts crowds at Utah's iconic Delicate Arch.

WEB EXTRAS

More available at magazine.utah.edu

From the first Black judge in Utah, who turned down an NBA offer to study law at the U, to the Pueblo Indian public health expert who has spent his life supporting Native American wellness, the Founders Day Distinguished Alumni Award recipients have remarkable stories to tell. Watch their videos at magazine.utah.edu/founders22.



Understanding nutritional inequality is what drives Priya Fielding-Singh. Her new book explores the complex ways income level affects diet and how we can remove barriers to healthy eating habits for people in poverty. What drives you? Share a cause you're passionate about at love.utah.edu.



See life at the U through student eyes on *The College Tour*, a television series that spotlights a different university in each episode. Follow U students as they take viewers around campus and answer "Why Utah?" Watch on Amazon Prime Video or at thecolletour.com.

DEPARTMENTS

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Love, Scholar

“Finance helped me to find a role in power structures where I could make a positive change. That’s something I hope to take with me and represent Utah at Oxford.”

Sabah Sial BS '22, Finance
Rhodes Scholar

In 2021, Sabah Sial became the first recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship from the University of Utah in 20 years. She credits her accomplishment to the support of family, faculty, and people like you. Learn how a scholarship at the U led to Oxford and support other remarkable students like Sabah at

love.utah.edu/sabah



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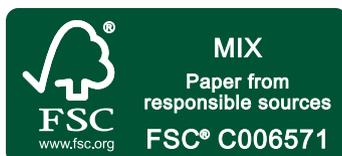
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ERIC HANSON

Re-Imagine U: Building on Our Vision



Since I was selected as president of the University of Utah nearly a year ago, I've been asking myself, how can I build upon our powerful call to "Imagine U"? In other words, how can I "Re-Imagine U"? I picture a future so inspiring, innovative, and impactful that it unifies people behind a common, aspirational ideal—such as our vision to become a top 10 public university with unsurpassed societal impact. To achieve this, we must all use our imagination to *inspire, innovate, and impact*.

I want to re-imagine how we inspire our students by revolutionizing their experience. Let's capitalize on what differentiates the U from other schools in the state—our research. Beginning their first year, I want students to work in labs, address societal problems, study abroad, and more. I expect prospective students to feel so much FOMO (fear of missing out) that they stand in line to come here. If we suc-

ceed, I'm confident we'll grow our student body to **40,000** in 10 years.

Second, I want to re-imagine how we innovate. We need to do more research and get it to market faster. I want the U to secure **\$1 billion** of research funding annually. To do this, we plan to forge new partnerships, create innovation districts, and accelerate commercialization efforts.

Third, I want the U's impact to be felt deeper in the community we serve by making a difference in the lives of all **3.3 million** Utahns. One example of this is the new U community hub underway in West Valley City that will include a hospital and clinics, classrooms, childcare facilities, and more (see p. 8).

The pages of this issue of *Utah Magazine* are filled with even more examples of how we are re-imagining the U by inspiring a new generation of students, finding newer and faster ways to innovate, and improving the lives of all Utahns.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR RANDALL HBA'90

Meet Our New President

Many of our readers offered a warm welcome to President Taylor Randall HBA'90 after reading the profile on him last issue ["The Time is Now," Winter 2022].

So impressed with President Randall. I've known him since his days at Wharton and knew he would be amazing. He truly wants the best for his students and faculty.

SUSAN KOELLIKER BS'91
SALT LAKE CITY

I enjoyed this biosketch immensely. President Randall's paradigm, "being able to invest in working for others," is worth emulating.

NEAL OSTLER BS'76, FRISCO, TX

Way to go, president! I was so excited to see him promoted to president. I knew him when I was a student at the business school. He was always a great support to me. He once lent me \$5 to buy a Coke, and I never paid him back. I still owe you, Randall!

BOBBY MILLER



International Experience

A photo of the 600-year-old Bukchon Hanok Village ["Going Global," Winter 2022] not far from the U Asia Campus in Incheon, South Korea, brought out memories and some wanderlust.

Being a proud U alum and someone living here in beautiful South Korea, we have visited this campus, and it is impressive. What an opportunity for students to live abroad in this amazing country with so much to do and see. There is something for every interest. South Korea is a fun mix of both modern and historical. The Korean people are respectful, honorable, fun, and kind, and we feel very safe here. Attending school at the U Asia Campus is a fantastic opportunity, and I recommend checking it out.

CLINTON K. BARNES BS'94, SOUTH KOREA AND SALT LAKE CITY

Animating the Invisible

After our highlight of molecular biologist Janet Iwasa ["Visualizing Tiny Worlds," Winter 2022], the more curious among our readers dove into her work, watched examples of her astounding animation, and shared their appreciation for learning a little bit more about the building blocks of our world.

This was truly incredible! Adds a totally new level of understanding to cell biology. It's mind-boggling to see the coordination of all these molecular machines. I am really happy I found this. Thanks for your work.

TOM RIIS, SALT LAKE CITY



SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

When lifelong football fan Welles Farrimond, 9 (left), was given a choice to go trick-or-treating or go to the U game against UCLA on Halloween 2021, there was no hesitation. He donned his homemade Swoop costume and cheered the team on as the Utes beat the Bruins 44-24. "He really is the biggest Utah Football fan," says mom Keira. "He even signs his homework as 'Baby Swoop.'"



 **We want to hear from you!**

Join the discussion at [magazine.utah.edu](mailto:magazine@utah.edu) or email us at magazine@utah.edu. Comments may be edited for length and clarity.

STREAM THE ENTIRE SEASON NOW

ROOTS RACE & CULTURE



Roots, Race & Culture invites audiences into bold and honest conversations about race, identity, and culture, from the perspectives and shared experiences of Utah's Black and POC communities. Hosts and producers Lonzo Liggins and Danor Gerald cut through the fluff, tackling tough topics with humor, insight, and empathy.

pbsutah.org/roots



FROM THE
UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH



Lung Cancer Screening



Lynette Phillips, a former smoker, and her doctor, Chakravarthy Reddy, MD, discuss the results of her lung cancer screening.

If you are a current or former smoker over age 50, talk to your provider about lung cancer screening.

huntsmancancer.org/lungscreening

News from the U



A new 587,000-square-foot complex will create thousands of jobs and expand access to high-quality care in the West Valley area.

Expanding Vision

A new health care and education facility will serve the West Valley area

The U is expanding west. With an expected opening date of 2027, a new \$400 million, 587,000-square-foot health care and training facility is planned near the intersection of 5600 West and 3700 South in West Valley City.

It will help improve access to health care, create thousands of jobs, and include numerous career training and certificate opportunities. “Through meaningful community engagement, we are envisioning new ways for the U to partner with and support people and communities in the West Valley area,” says U president Taylor Randall HBA’90. “This is an incredible opportunity for us to work together to eliminate inequities and quality of life disparities that exist in our community.”

Although the groundbreaking isn’t slated until 2024, the work began years ago. Representatives from University of Utah Health have been meeting with community members and leaders from the area to learn from their expertise and gain insight into community needs, desires, and opportunities. “This health and community center will be the first of its kind in the valley and

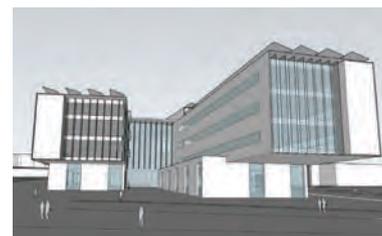
possibly in the state,” says U of U Health CEO Michael Good.

The population of the west side of the valley experiences greater health disparities than the state overall. For example, there is a 38 percent greater occurrence of stroke and there are 44 percent more diabetes cases. The new 428,000-square-foot inpatient hospital with 187 inpatient beds, 22 ER beds, and 25 operating rooms along with the 159,000-square-foot ambulatory building will help to begin to address some of these disparities.

“Before, during, and long after breaking ground on this facility, we have worked and will continue to work alongside West Valley area community members and our partner organizations to ensure that this center feels like it is theirs,” says Randall.

The new facility will join other community partnerships and clinics in the area—including a joint project with Salt Lake Community College in Herriman and health centers in South Jordan and West Valley City.

NEWS ROUNDUP



The College of Engineering has received a \$15 million lead gift from benefactors John (BS’56) and Marcia Price to build a new home for computing. The Prices’ contribution toward the new 209,000-square-foot, six-story building will support future growth for the School of Computing. The U produces 46 percent of the state system’s BS, MS, and doctoral computer science and computer engineering graduates.



President Taylor Randall

HBA’90 announced a new award honoring faculty who translate academic work for the general public. The Presidential Societal Impact Scholar Awards recognizes those who share and translate their scholarship and research in ways that can transform society. Each scholar will become a permanent member of the Society of Presidential Societal Impact Scholars and receive a one-time, \$10,000 cash award and communication support to promote their public-facing works.



This past March 22, the U held its first Day of Collective Action, inviting students, staff, faculty, and other community members to identify ways to address racism, bias, and discrimination—specifically as experienced by members of the Black community. More than two dozen events, discussions, and gatherings were held in what is designed to become an annual occurrence.



Disparity at Dinner Tables

When it comes to fixing the nutritional inequality that exists in America, building more grocery stores isn't the answer, says Priya Fielding-Singh, assistant professor in the U's Department of Family and Consumer Studies. While many families know that eating healthy food is a good idea, grappling with the emotional impacts of living in poverty—and facing the pressure of a powerful food and beverage industry—has a far more powerful impact on diet than proximity to produce, Fielding-Singh says. Her new book, *How the Other Half Eats*, examines some of the deeper causes of nutritional inequality.

How does income influence what people eat?

Living in affluence or poverty influences people's diets not just by impacting the food they can afford, but also by shaping how they think and feel about food. In my research, I saw that moms across income levels care deeply about their kids' diets. But they also face a lot of pressure from kids to buy unhealthy foods. For lower-income moms who can't afford to say yes to many of their kids' requests, junk food becomes a symbolic antidote, a more affordable way to give something to children that signifies care to them and bestows dignity unto moms.

What can be done to address the problem?

We need social policies that elevate families out of poverty so that a bag of Doritos is no longer such a symbolically potent symbol of love. Banning the food industry from marketing within schools, putting restrictions on when food and beverage ads can air on TV, and making it illegal for food and beverage companies to target low-income kids and children of color would be a start.

Why do we need to be concerned about children's nutrition?

We tend to think about diet as the result of personal choice, but it's not. How families and kids eat is shaped by broader structural forces. We live in a society where some children are in a position to develop healthy eating habits and others are not; that matters because the food we eat has cascading effects on our life chances.

Love, 



Web Extra

Understanding nutritional inequality moves Fielding-Singh. Share a cause close to your heart at love.utah.edu.

Autism in Utah

The developmental disorder is far more prevalent than previously reported, a study finds



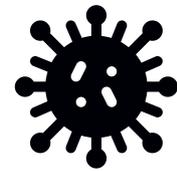
Identification of autism among 8-year-old Utah children has risen by nearly 30 percent in less than a decade, according to a study of 11 communities nationwide—including Salt Lake City and surrounding counties. The research was led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Estimated autism prevalence among 8-year-olds in the state rose from 1 in 58 children in 2012, when the last survey was conducted here, to about 1 in 46 in 2018, as reported in the current study.

Researchers attribute much of the increase to greater awareness of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), better diagnostic tools used to detect it, and improved access to medical care.

“Utah’s autism prevalence is significantly higher now than when we last measured it,” says study co-author Deborah Bilder, a professor of child and adolescent psychiatry and pediatrics at the U’s Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI). The CDC considers eight years old the optimal age to determine the prevalence of ASD in communities. By that age, Bilder explains, children are most likely to exhibit recognizable symptoms of the disorder.

“I believe Utah legislation passed over the last decade has had a substantial positive impact on children’s access to autism diagnostic and treatment services,” Bilder says. “This is particularly true for those children in the lower and middle household income range.”

In Utah and several other sites nationwide, the percentage of Hispanic children with ASD was lower compared to white or Black children. This finding suggests that disparities in getting an ASD diagnosis, based on ethnicity, could be a problem, says Amanda Bakian, a co-author of the study and associate professor of psychiatry at HMHI.



COVID-19 Linked to Serious Health Complications During Pregnancy

Pregnant individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2 are about 40 percent more likely to develop serious complications or die during pregnancy than those who aren’t infected with the virus, according to a nationwide study led by a University of Utah Health obstetrician.

The researchers concluded that the severity of COVID-19 symptoms is a key indicator of a heightened risk of pregnancy complications. This was particularly evident among the most severely ill people, who were three times more likely to develop pregnancy complications than those who tested negative or who were less affected by the disease.

“We already knew that pregnant people are at higher risk for the complications of COVID-19 itself,” says maternal-fetal medicine specialist Torri D. Metz MS’12, who led the multi-center effort. “Our research is among the first to find that infection with SARS-CoV-2 can elevate the risk of serious consequences related to the progression of common pregnancy complications such as developing high blood pressure, having postpartum bleeding, or acquiring an infection other than SARS. This is why we need to make sure pregnant individuals are vaccinated.”

The researchers analyzed electronic medical records of 14,104 pregnant people treated at 17 medical centers nationwide. About 2,350 of these people tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 during pregnancy or within six weeks of delivery. More than 13 percent of those who tested positive developed pregnancy complications during the study compared to 9 percent of those who tested negative. Complications were more prevalent with moderate to severe COVID-19, and premature birth was more likely in infected individuals. And all five of the study’s maternal deaths occurred in the SARS-CoV-2 positive group.

PICTURE

A collection of statues in Washington, D.C., recently featured a 3D-printed figure of U chemistry professor Janis Louie. Her *doppelgänger*—shown here along with Louie and her family—stood proud with 119 other statues of women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in and around the National Mall last March. The exhibit placed Louie among the largest collection of statues of women ever assembled, according to the Smithsonian Institution, and celebrated participants in the IF/THEN Ambassador program “designed to activate a culture shift among young girls to open their eyes to STEM careers.”



Lights, Campus— Action!

What makes the U such a great place to go to school? From opportunities to serve to a myriad of academic choices, our students will tell you there are many reasons. Be a fly on the wall as you watch a student work with ancient bones, peek into what it's like to major in musical theater, or imagine yourself cheering loudly in *The MUSS* on the University of Utah episode of *The College Tour* television series. Available now on the series app, Amazon Prime, or thecolletour.com.



When it comes to tradition, the University of Utah does it like no one else.

CONNOR MAMAUX-PARTRIDGE
Senior majoring in our actor training program

The U has shown me the skills to be a good designer, but it has also challenged me to think critically about ways to strengthen resiliency with my Indigenous community to create lasting impacts for generations to come.

KASSIE JOHN
Senior majoring in multidisciplinary design and ethnic studies



The one piece of advice I give to each new student is to get involved.

MILES GAGE
Sophomore majoring in business administration

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE U, I AM FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH MY COMMITMENT TO A MORE JUST FUTURE.

MUSKAN WALIA
Sophomore majoring in math and philosophy



50-Plus? Time for More Learning Fun

Ever wanted to take a class on bird-watching? What about learning more about Internet security? Or why not discover how to digitize your memories? For anyone age 50 or better, these are just some of the options offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the U. For the annual fee of \$40, anyone age 50 and above can access the institute's 70+ classes that are offered online and in Salt Lake City, as well as other lectures and special activities.

Another program allows folks 62 or older (and veterans of any age) who are residents of Utah to audit many regular U classes for only \$25 per semester. It's just the ticket for seniors who want to keep current in fields they know or learn something new. Find out more about both programs at magazine.utah.edu/continue.



Number

New Crisis Care Center

Huntsman Mental Health Institute breaks ground on a new facility in South Salt Lake

The first building on the future site of the Huntsman Mental Health Institute Campus of Hope is expected to open in 2024. The new Kem and Carolyn Gardner Mental Health Crisis Care Center (MHCCC) will be located on 3300 South between 900 and 1000 West in South Salt Lake.

“Utah has the highest prevalence of mental illness in the country, impacting every family at some point,” says Kem Gardner. “Our family, like so many, has not known where to go or what treatment options are available when some of our loved ones have struggled.”

The Gardners donated \$5 million toward the project and expansion of the Huntsman Mental Health Institute’s mental health crisis services. The gift—along with other private donations and state and county funds—nearly covers the \$47 million cost of the 78,000-square-foot building. An additional \$3 million will need to be raised from private donors to complete the project.

“We have to do something different and find better ways to treat youth and adults,” notes Kem Gardner.

The building will incorporate community services, training, and crisis care, including:

- A 30-bed receiving center and 24-bed acute care unit
- A medication-assisted treatment clinic for individuals with opiate use disorders
- Intensive outpatient treatment for adults needing support for substance use disorders
- Day treatment for adults who need more help than traditional outpatient care

In partnership with dozens of community stakeholders, an entire building floor will be dedicated to supporting services. These include:

- A free law clinic to remove legal barriers that disrupt many families with a mental health crisis
- Primary care and dental care clinics
- Intensive case management
- Connections to existing community programs for housing, health care, and employment



The new 78,000-square-foot Kem and Carolyn Gardner Mental Health Crisis Care Center will provide inpatient and outpatient treatment, among other services.

New Program Comes to Students Where They Are for Support in Times of Crisis

Mental health crises don’t follow bankers’ hours. To help students enrolled in on-campus housing access mental health resources outside the 9 to 5, the U created the Mental Health First Responders (MH1) program in partnership with Huntsman Mental Health Institute. It’s a mobile service staffed by master’s level mental health counselors who provide student-centered after-hours crisis response and prevention.

Critical funding for the MH1 pilot program was generously donated by the Huntsman Family Foundation. The MH1 pilot program has been operational for a year and is thriving. We sat down with MH1 program supervisor Torrence Wimbish MS’06 PhD’09 to learn more.

How is MH1 different from other crisis care services?

What sets the MH1 program apart is our team’s ability to be mobile. We have the necessary permissions to enter the campus residence halls to meet students where they are and provide personalized care. This is unique because usually an individual experiencing a crisis goes to a hospital or care center. Another unique and intentional feature is our non-traditional hours of operation.

What do you define as a “crisis?”

The individual defines what a crisis is. A crisis is anything that exceeds the student’s own ability to manage their emotions and cope with a situation. If a U student has

feelings of being overwhelmed, can’t figure out what to do, can’t manage their emotions, or has thoughts of suicide, those are all times to call MH1 for support. Prevention is important.

Have you seen many students taking advantage of these services?

Yes. We call interactions with students “outreaches.” In the spring semester of 2021, we completed 27 outreaches. By fall 2021, we completed an additional 42 outreaches. These numbers are fantastic considering we had just started marketing the program to our residential community. That campaign will continue in the fall 2022 semester to increase awareness of these supportive services.

Major Alex Horn, USAF C-17 Pilot

Doctoral Student, School
of Biological Sciences

I joined the Air Force as an 18-year-old cadet. I came to the U as part of a program that would allow me to later return to the Air Force Academy to teach.

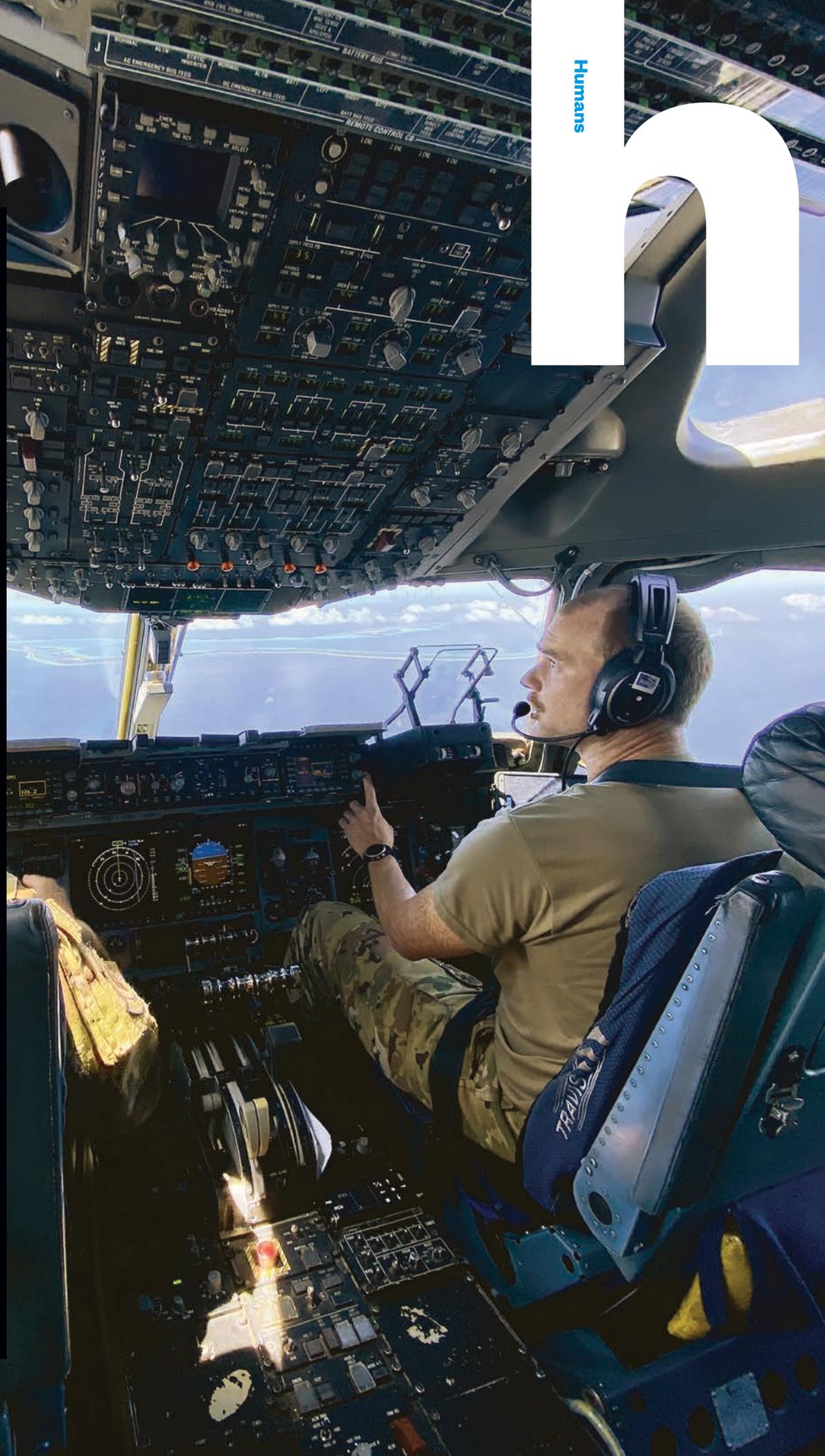
In my doctoral studies, I wanted to understand the relationships between our evolved propensity to form intense fraternal bonds in the face of stress and our abilities to maintain health and performance amidst difficult circumstances.

I was home when I saw the first few hours of the evacuation of Afghanistan on the news. My only thought was that I needed to get over there as fast as possible to help. I was one of the last of eight C-17 crews to deploy from Travis Air Force Base, California.

After landing in Qatar, we were immediately alerted to fly a floor-load of refugees to Germany. It was a seven-hour flight, and the aircraft was full of Afghan evacuees, including many children. I was amazed at their patience and positive attitudes despite the horrible circumstances. A few days later, my crew and I evacuated some of the last military personnel from Kabul, Afghanistan, on the final day of Operation Allies Refuge.

My studies helped me contextualize the experience. The famed “fight or flight” stress response is good for running away from predators in the jungle but not helpful for keeping your crew safe in combat. My research shows there’s another stress response that helps us bond and maintain our composure during extreme stress and threat; this response has yet to be fully characterized.

This operation included some of the most challenging missions of my career, and I couldn’t have done it without the bond with my team. I am humbled to have participated in the largest noncombatant evacuation in history and excited to further that experience by applying my lessons learned to science.



Study in Mice Shows How Genes from Each Parent May Shape Child Behavior

Parenting is not the only way moms and dads impact the behavior of their offspring—genes matter, too. And although most of our genes are inherited in pairs with one copy from each parent, moms and dads exert their genetic influence in different ways. According to new research led by scientists at University of Utah Health, each parent has their own impact on hormones and other chemical messengers that control mood and behavior.

“We’re really intrigued that there is this untapped area of biology that controls our decisions,” says Christopher Gregg, principal investigator and associate professor of neurobiology. Gaining a clearer picture of the genetic factors that shape behavior is a crucial step toward developing better diagnoses and treatments for psychiatric disorders, he says.

Gregg’s research team found that certain groups of cells in the brains of mice rely exclusively on the mother’s copy of a gene that is needed to produce essential chemical messengers in the brain called neurotransmitters. In those cells, the father’s copy of the gene remains switched off. However, in a different organ, the adrenal gland, certain cells favor the father’s copy of the same gene. There, the gene is involved in producing the stress hormone adrenaline.

After identifying this unexpected switch in parental control of a single gene, Gregg’s team went on to demonstrate that it had consequences for behavior. They found that each parent’s gene affected sons and daughters differently: certain decisions in sons were controlled by their mother’s gene, whereas fathers had control over some decision-making in daughters.

Evolutionarily speaking, this form of genetic regulation may reflect different parental priorities, says Gregg. “Not everybody has the same sort of interests, outcomes, and selective effects,” he explains. “Daughters need to rear offspring. Sons often disperse and will go to new environments.” Consequently, it may be in parents’ interest to influence behavior differently in their sons and daughters.

This finding is a first step toward understanding how a parent’s genes may affect more behaviors and health conditions in people, from mental illnesses and addiction to cancer and Alzheimer’s disease, Gregg notes.



Salt Lake’s West High School was one of two recent sites included in an ongoing series of air quality studies.

Shared Air

U scientists continue to study the reach and impact of pollution

A study of indoor air quality at two Salt Lake City high schools found that although filtration diminishes how much outdoor pollution makes it inside, indoor air still reflects trends in outdoor quality. The results are part of a series of studies to better understand the factors impacting indoor air quality, says study lead author Daniel Mendoza.

U scientists have placed air sensors on a van, on light rail trains, on electric buses, and even on Google Street View cars. Now Mendoza, a research assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, and co-author Tabitha Benney, associate professor in the Department of Political Science, are taking those studies indoors.

The team installed two research-grade air quality sensors indoors and outdoors at West and East high schools. The sensors reported hourly readings between February and April 2018—during the end of the winter inversion season and the beginning of spring weather that can include dust storms.

Changes in outdoor air quality showed up indoors, but with a lag time of 35 to 70 minutes, depending on the type of air pollution event.

So, a peak in airborne particulate matter outside, like the morning rush hour, for example, showed up as a peak in indoor particulate matter around an hour later. During the inversion, indoor particulate matter levels didn’t reach unhealthy levels and were similar indoors at both schools, even though outdoor air pollution was slightly higher at West High. That’s probably due to the building’s air filters, Mendoza says.

“This is something that can now be actionable,” says Mendoza. “Now we are beginning to understand how long it takes for some types of pollution to percolate inside.”

There were a few notable events recorded by the sensors. One indoor sensor detected burning microwave popcorn. Another was a two-day inversion event in March when emissions were trapped in the Salt Lake Valley. During those times, the air pollution spikes from rush hour traffic were particularly clear.

Currently, the researchers are working to understand the effects of cars idling outside of schools during drop-off and pickup times. It’s part of a growing line of research on air quality in and around schools and the impacts that air can have on education.



Loud and Proud

The MUSS named ESPN Student Section of the Year

Twenty-one years ago, the Mighty Utah Student Section (The MUSS) didn't exist. Today, it's the top student section in college football, according to ESPN. In collaboration with Taco Bell, the worldwide leader in sports named The MUSS its 2021 Live Más Student Section of the Year.

After a year with no fans, The MUSS brought the noise in 2021, helping power Utah Football to its first Pac-12 Championship in school history and a trip to the Rose Bowl. With the recent Rice-Eccles Stadium expansion, the roar from the southeast corner was even mightier as 7,000 members made their voices heard.

"The football team, the coaches, everyone's feeding off The MUSS," says U football coach Kyle Whittingham. "They're like the batteries that make everything go."

However, Utah Athletics didn't always have that battery pack. As Whittingham recalls, sections 14-16 at Rice-Eccles

Stadium in the pre-MUSS days consisted of two students, an elderly gentleman, and his dog. But in the two decades since its inception, The MUSS has implemented such ear-bending, defense-bolstering measures as the 3rd Down Jump.

"What I would say to The MUSS is how grateful we are to them," says U Athletics Director Mark Harlan. "It's absolutely real when I say they have made a big difference in why we are as good as we are."

It's only fitting that The MUSS' rise to No. 1 coincides with Utah Football's ascension atop the Pac-12 Conference. The passion and drive of the students and staff—on the field, in the stands, and behind the scenes—provides a support system to excel. To quote the university's fight song—from which "muss" is derived: "Our students are the finest and each one's a shining star; our yell, you'll hear it ringing through the mountains near and far!"

ANDREW THOMPSON LANDERGHINI

SPORTS BRIEFS



Free safety Eric Weddle ex'06 came out of retirement to rejoin the Los Angeles Rams and win his first Super Bowl title. Despite a torn pectoral in the first quarter, he made five tackles as the Rams beat the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20.



Nearly 40 athletes with U ties competed in the 2022 Winter Olympics, 31 with Team USA. In freestyle skiing, Ashley Caldwell MRD'20 and student Alex Hall won gold, while Megan Nick BS'19 took home bronze. Student speed skaters Ethan Cepuran and Casey Dawson both also earned bronze medals. And skier Fayik Abdi BS'20 made history as the first Saudi Arabian athlete ever to participate in a Winter Games.

For the third year in a row, the Utah Ski Team claimed the NCAA Championship, their 14th NCAA title and 15th overall national championship in team history. The 2022 team boasts 21 members named to the U.S. Collegiate Ski Coaches Association All-Academic Team, as well as the National Women's Nordic Skier of the Year and national Nordic and alpine coaches.



The Utah Women's Basketball team made it to the Pac-12 Tournament for the first time ever and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2011, ending the season with 21 wins. Utah was the highest-scoring team in the Pac-12, with an average 75.9 points per game.



Following a second-straight NCAA Regional win, with Jaedyn Rucker taking the national vault title, the Utah Red Rocks again placed third in the NCAA National Championship. The team's 2021-22 season included a second-straight Pac-12 Championship and third-straight Pac-12 Regular Season Championship.

Stats



Triumphant Legacy

You might say skiing is in Novie McCabe's blood—and so is the U. Both the Olympian's parents attended—and mom Laura is herself a two-time Olympic skier. "The coaches here support us pursuing other racing opportunities, and they knew it was a goal of mine to make the Olympics," says McCabe. In the 2022 Beijing Games, she was part of the U.S. women's 4x5km relay team that

finished sixth, and she placed 18th in the women's 30km freestyle where all four Americans finished in the top 20, including Utah teammate Sophia Laukli. Then, fresh off competition on the world stage, they helped the U ski team win its third straight NCAA Championship. McCabe was also named the NCAA National Women's Nordic Skier of the Year.

NAME

Novie McCabe

HOMETOWN

Winthrop, WA

YEAR IN SCHOOL

Sophomore

MAJOR

Political science

MOST-LOVED CLASS

Game Theory

NATIONAL IMPRINT

Four-time NCAA First Team All-American

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

5K classic individual national champion & second place 15K freestyle

WORLDWIDE COMPETITION

Seventh-place finish in the 10K freestyle in Italy at the 2021-22 Tour de Ski

TOP-TIER COMPANY

One of four U skiers on the U.S. Cross Country D team—along with Luke Jager, Noel Keeffe, and Sophia Laukli

A FAVORITE FLICK

Despicable Me, which she watched with the U.S. Ski Team in Beijing

GO-TO TREAT

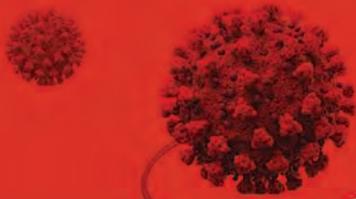
Her mom's gluten-free German chocolate cake

A Helping Hand

For many potential students, the challenge of finding a way to pay for college feels insurmountable. But scholarships and other student aid is often more accessible than some may think, says Anthony Jones, the U's executive director of scholarships and financial aid. In fact, more than 85 percent of U students receive some form of financial support including scholarships, grants, and loans. "Before you decide the U is out of your financial reach, I'd say give us a chance," says Jones. "There is a path available for everyone interested in expanding their horizons—and we're here to help."

PANDEMIC AID

The U disbursed more than \$5 million to students in emergency funds from institutional, donor, and federal sources to assist with pandemic-related costs and disruptions.



Web Extra

To learn more about how to support student scholarship funds, visit magazine.utah.edu/scholarships



TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS FOR U STUDENTS

Academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21

\$104.7M

provided in institutional and donor support

\$122.2M

from state and federal funding

DONOR-DRIVEN EFFORTS

A significant portion of scholarship funding comes from our generous donors. In the last three years:

22,000+

donors have contributed to scholarships

\$60.7M

was raised for undergraduate and graduate annual scholarships

Common Goals

A formal agreement advances the partnership of the U and a U.S. Department of Energy lab

After years of collaborations—as well as multiple landmark discoveries—the U and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) have signed an agreement to further their work advancing the nation’s energy and security technology, among other efforts.

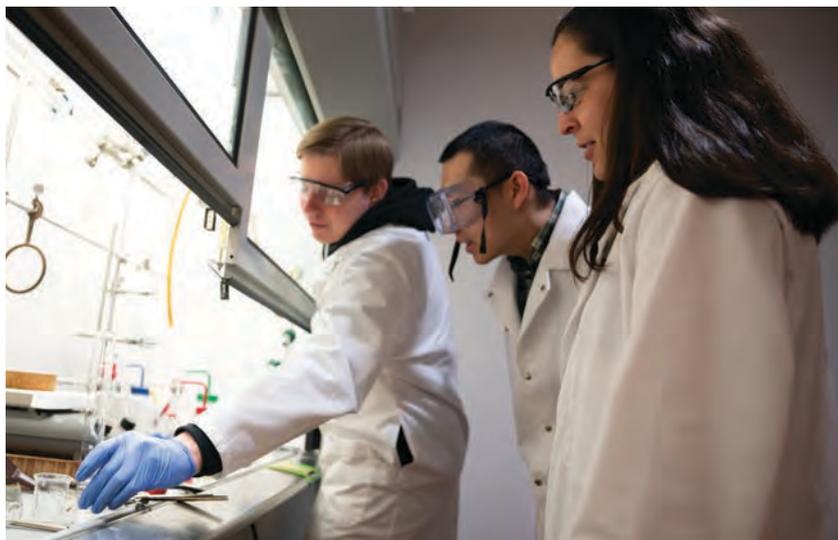
The newly signed Strategic Understanding for Premier Education and Research, or SUPER agreement, allows the organizations to explore deeper research partnerships and expand opportunities for students and faculty. The five-year agreement solidifies what had been

individual peer-to-peer agreements between laboratory researchers and university faculty members.

“The work of Idaho National Laboratory is critical to our country’s continued success, and our university stands ready to support that work,” says U President Taylor Randall HBA’90. “This type of collaboration with government and industry partners is made possible through continued investment in research facilities on our campus, and we are grateful for the continued support of state leaders who share this vision.”

INL is one of 17 facilities operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, and it’s tasked with addressing everything from climate change to discovering the origins of our universe. The lab near Idaho Falls is also the nation’s center for nuclear energy research and development.

The news was unveiled at a Utah Capitol press event that included elected officials as well as leaders from the U and INL. College of Engineering Dean Richard Brown says U researchers are working with INL scientists on several efforts, including a system to create priority wireless access for first responder agencies during emergencies; an underground field laboratory for geothermal research; the development of low-cost production for a nuclear isotope that could lead to advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer; and advanced battery technology.



A new five-year agreement between the U and Idaho National Laboratories means work such as advancing security and energy technology will continue.

New Multidisciplinary Living-Learning Center Coming to Central Campus

Nearly 800 more students will soon be able to call the U home. A new 755-bed multidisciplinary living-learning building in the middle of campus will provide housing for students along with being the headquarters of two co-located centers—the Sorenson Impact Center and the Center for Business, Health, and Prosperity. Dubbed the Impact and Prosperity Epicenter, the project has received gifts of \$10 million each from donors Jim Sorenson BS’75 and Bob (BA’76) and Lynette Gay, as well as approval for nearly \$120 million in bonding authority from Utah lawmakers in 2021 and 2022.

Developing additional student housing is essential to making the U a destination campus, says President Taylor Randall

HBA’90. “Demand for on-campus housing is growing, but we want to ensure our students have more than just a place to live,” says Randall. “We want to create a living-learning community where students can engage with the transformational work of these centers, gain valuable experience, and use that experience to change the world around them. The Epicenter incorporates all elements of our vision to inspire, innovate, and impact.”

It will provide housing—in individual room and apartment configurations—for an international population of students participating in the centers’ programs. Residents will range from undergraduate students to graduate students to leaders of NGOs who will

come to the building for training. Located near the Eccles Student Life Center, this housing and educational concept was developed based on the Lassonde Studios—the U’s highly successful living-learning facility with an entrepreneurial focus.

A rendering of the planned Impact and Prosperity Epicenter.



Profound Beauty

The UMFA acquires works by an influential Japanese American artist



Chiura Obata, *Topaz War Relocation Center by Moonlight*, 1943, watercolor

Thirty-five works by Chiura Obata, one of the most significant Japanese American artists of the 20th century, are now in the permanent collection of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts at the U—thanks to a generous gift from the Obata estate.

In 1942, while he was a professor of art at the University of California, Obata and his family were unjustly incarcerated with thousands of other Americans of Japanese ancestry at the Topaz Relocation Center in Delta, Utah. He

continued to produce creative work throughout his eight months in the desert and even administered an art school.

“We are thrilled that art lovers will have the opportunity to appreciate and study these works by our grandfather,” says Kimi Hill of the Obata family. “Because many of these artworks were created in Utah, we hope people will be inspired to learn the history of wartime incarceration and go visit the actual camp site in Delta as well as the Topaz Museum.”

The gift to the UMFA collection consists of drawings and watercolors Obata created from 1934 to 1943, including many he made to record his incarceration at Topaz.

“The solace that Obata found in the beauty of the Utah desert landscape was profound. We appreciate UMFA for wanting to share his vision with the people of Utah,” adds Hill.

PICTURE

Although the U fell to the Ohio State Buckeyes 48-45 in the 2022 Rose Bowl, the experience and impact overall was still very much a win. An estimated 16.6 million people tuned in, making it the second-most-viewed non-semifinal New Year’s Six bowl game of the College Football Playoff era. U alumni also partnered with the Los Angeles Food Bank to donate and assemble nearly 3,000 boxes of food. Here, the marching band made its way through Pasadena in the Rose Parade for nearly 700,000 onlookers.



BY THE NUMBERS

INNOVATION
POWERED BY



Heads up, Silicon Valley—the U is a burgeoning center for getting businesses off the ground. In only the past five years, more than \$1.4 billion has been raised by U start-ups, and there have been 787 patents secured by U inventors. Here are some other staggering figures from just FY2021 about innovation management at the U.



340 inventors engaged

252 invention disclosures



126 patents issued

14 start-up companies

\$884 million total investments in U start-ups



Some of our classrooms were
designed millions of years ago.

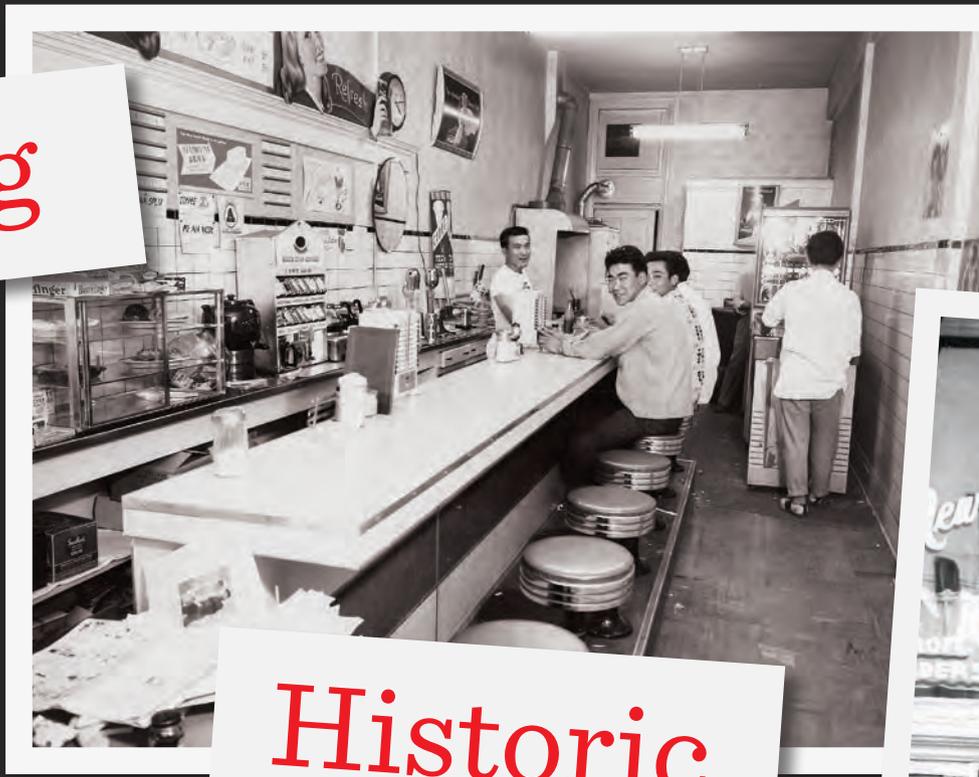
Step one: imagine. Step two: do.
It's how remarkable things happen every day at
the University of Utah.



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

utah.edu

Restoring



Historic



Clockwise from top left: The Japanese Church of Christ 100 South location, 1923; the Aloha Fountain Snack Bar, 1947; the New Kimpa Café, circa 1940; the owners and employee of the Aloha Fountain Snack Bar; koto class held in Japantown; New Kimpa Café, Sunrise Fish Market, and Dawn Noodle House; World War II veterans at the O.K. Café, where they would play Hawaiian music.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, J. WILLARD MARRIOTT LIBRARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

**Revitalization
of Salt Lake
City's Japantown
Street provides
new opportunities
for the future
while honoring and
remembering
the past.** By Lisa Potter

THERE'S A STREET IN downtown Salt Lake City serving as an urban archive with generations of stories written in brick and concrete. Near the Salt Palace Convention Center and the Vivint Arena, it stretches from Second to Third West on 100 South, bookended by the Japanese Church of Christ and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple—the remnants of a once-thriving Japantown chronicling the Japanese American community's 100+-year fight to save the celebrated space and preserve their history.

The latest struggle to safeguard this community space began in 2018, when a development dubbed the West Quarter project was proposed and included frontage on the southwest portion of what had come to be named Japantown Street. The massive multi-use high-rise buildings are designed to host commercial and residential spaces, and they had reserved their trash, recycling, and loading docks for Japantown Street—relegating a portion of the block to a back alley. With involvement from the State, Salt Lake County, and the city, the project also included millions in public funding for a large parking structure.

“For Japanese Americans in Utah, it was painful history repeating itself,” says Jani Iwamoto BS’82, Utah state senator and former Salt Lake County Council member. Iwamoto was a founding member of the Japanese Community Preservation Committee in the early 2000s and has advocated for Japantown since. A coalition of public, private, and community stakeholders—including Iwamoto and other U alums you’ll hear from here—collaborated to improve the West Quarter project and

Japantown



made plans to revitalize and strengthen Japantown, looking for ways to honor the history of the neighborhood while transforming it into a pedestrian-friendly hub for festivals, celebrations, and Japanese-centered businesses.

Okage Sama De: 'I Am Who I Am Because of You'

Japanese immigrants came to Utah primarily as railroad, agricultural, and mine workers in the late 1800s. In 1902, former railroad worker Edward Daigoro Hashimoto launched the E.D. Hashimoto Company near 100 South as a labor agency and to provide Japanese food, clothing,

“It took staying power and determination to keep even a remnant of Japantown.”

and other items and services that many Japanese residents sought. In less than a decade, more than 2,000 people of Japanese heritage had moved to the area. By 1925, the Japanese Church of Christ and the Buddhist temple were built where they still stand today. Dance studios, two newspapers, a Japanese language school, and other stores, restaurants, and gathering spaces sprawled across several blocks in what became known as Japantown.

The community changed drastically during and after World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in 1942, relocating more than 120,000 West Coast Japanese Americans to internment camps, including to the Topaz War Relocation Center near Delta, Utah. Anti-Japanese sentiment and harassment rose dramatically, only increasing after many of those displaced from the West Coast relocated to Utah's community. In the mid-1960s, two core blocks of Japantown were razed to build what would become the Salt Palace arena, and many business owners had to either close shop or move to other parts of the

city. This was part of an urban renewal wave that gutted neighborhoods across the country—largely targeting communities of color.

“I’ve heard about Japantown from my parents and their friends my whole life. Everybody went there—it was thriving—but the Salt Lake arena decimated it,” says Iwamoto. “I’m happy that we can move forward, but it’s really important that we honor the past and the people that came before us who made Japantown.”

Iwamoto recalls attending a funeral for a friend of the family in Japantown and seeing the evidence of encroachment and disregard. “Semitrucks were in the middle of the road, and crates were scattered blocking everything,” she notes. “It’s not that our community is against development, but we were never part of the discussion, and it always impacts us negatively.”

In subsequent years the community continued to advocate for their space. The Salt Palace expansion in 1996 and the early 2000s spurred Iwamoto, Third District Court Judge Raymond Uno BS’55 JD’58 MSW’63, and others to form the Japanese Community Preservation Committee (JCPC). They led a coalition to mitigate negative impacts—including building gates to hide loading docks, and a Japanese garden as a safety buffer for increased semitruck traffic—and got this section of First South officially named “Japantown Street.” However, the expansion made its mark.

As Iwamoto and others envision the future of this important community space, they are guided by the Japanese saying *Okage sama de*, or “I am who I am because of you.” This fundamental tenet has steered efforts to create a space of remembrance and respect that thrives over time and is a place of inclusion.

More Seats at the Table

When the JCPC first heard about plans for the West Quarter development, they took their concerns to the Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City (RDA), a municipal organization that bolsters investment in projects aimed to address the unique needs of Salt Lake City’s diverse neighborhoods. The RDA funded and managed an in-depth facilitation process to figure out what could be done to mitigate the impacts of the project and enhance Japantown Street.

Corinne Piazza MCMP’16, project manager at the RDA, was a key figure in managing the facilitation process with

the project stakeholders, including the West Quarter developers, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, and the Japanese American community.

“The practice of urban renewal in the ’60s was a dark time in our history,” says Piazza. “For this project, it was so important to create a seat at the table for traditionally excluded voices.”

After five months, all parties committed to what’s known as good neighbor agreements, adjusting plans to improve the project design and respect the cultural activities and history of the street. In addition, the RDA put forth \$100,000 and initiated a Japantown visioning process in partnership with the Japanese American community to address a range of priorities, implementation, maintenance cost estimates, and best practices for future management, and signed on Salt Lake City-based GSBS Architects as the design consultant.

For Valerie Nagasawa BS’90 BS’91 MAR’93, a principal at GSBS Architects who worked on the redesign, the project was more than a job. Her husband’s family owned the Sunrise Fish Market, a community staple of Japantown that was demolished to make way for the Salt Palace.

“Most Utahns are so disconnected from this history. The street wasn’t even named Japantown Street until 2007,” says Nagasawa. “It took staying power and determination to keep even a remnant of the street, the churches, and festivals.”

In partnership with the RDA, GSBS planned a 15-month community engagement process by organizing events and holding regular meetings with the Japantown Steering Committee, made up of Iwamoto, Judge Uno, and former director of planning and development for Salt Lake County Rolan Yoshinaga. The steering committee represented a larger committee of nearly 30 Japanese American community members who helped develop a set of guiding principles for GSBS to follow in articulating a design concept for the street.

“It was a turning point when a community member shared the phrase *Okage sama de*,” says Nagasawa. “It was a way to celebrate what the pioneers of Japantown did to build a community. But they didn’t just want a historical exhibit—they were thinking about the younger generations.”

The community and GSBS were inspired by the smells, colors, textures, and other aspects of Japanese design and celebration. The street will feature art and placemaking

elements such as cherry trees, origami sculptures, interpretive signage, and pavement markings that reflect traditional Japanese patterns. The street will be optimized to accommodate seasonal festivals and events and enrich the pedestrian experience. And GSBS Architects did extensive research on other successful Japantowns in Denver, San Jose, and San Francisco to understand how they're funded and managed.

As the Japantown Steering Committee presents the plan to the wider community, the revitalization will be done in stages, rather than waiting to raise all the public and private funds for the project.

Greater Than a Throughway

Community-based design means considering not just the needs of today, but what will best serve future generations, says U College of Architecture + Planning Dean Keith Diaz Moore. "Our college is

the first in the nation to espouse an 'ethic of care' that emphasizes the responsibility to learn and respect the health and culture of our communities, sustainability standards, and innovation. It's so gratifying to see our graduates take positive action in the community," notes Moore.

Some of the project's challenges include accounting for historic churches and other existing buildings, all with the back end of the Salt Palace abutting one end of the street, says Salt Lake County Council member Darin Mano BA'08 BS'08. Since 2013, he's been the emcee for the Nihon Matsuri Japan Festival, one of Japantown's largest celebrations, and he has a unique perspective as an architect who grew up in the local Japanese American community.

The community, architects, and other partners are up for the challenge. "There are some streets you drive through, and there are some that are a destination in themselves," notes Mano. "Japantown Street should be a destination."

For Iwamoto, the Japantown revitalization project is just one way of honoring Japanese Americans in Utah. At this year's legislative session, Iwamoto sponsored a bill that made Feb. 19 an official Day of Remembrance on the anniversary of Executive Order 9066, an egregious violation of civil rights for the tens of thousands of Japanese Americans who were forced into internment camps.

"Looking at the rise in anti-Asian hate, thinking about the discrimination that my parents went through, it's just so important that we remember the past—even when it's not comfortable," remarks Iwamoto. "Unfortunately, history does repeat itself—and that's why we keep these stories alive. Hopefully we can rebuild Japantown, and it can be something for our entire state to celebrate and remember." **U**

Lisa Potter is a research communications specialist for University Marketing & Communications.

The revitalized Japantown Street will be a pedestrian-friendly hub with iconic Japanese art, patterns, and landscaping.



Love, Researchers

Within weeks of the start of the pandemic, University of Utah Health began working together with scientists across campus to understand COVID-19 and its long-lasting effects and create tests, treatments, and interventions to promote recovery. As the pandemic continues, so does our commitment. We love making a difference in the lives that we touch.

Learn more at coronavirus.utah.edu/research



Support COVID-19 research by visiting give-to-uofuhealth.org/covid-19-research



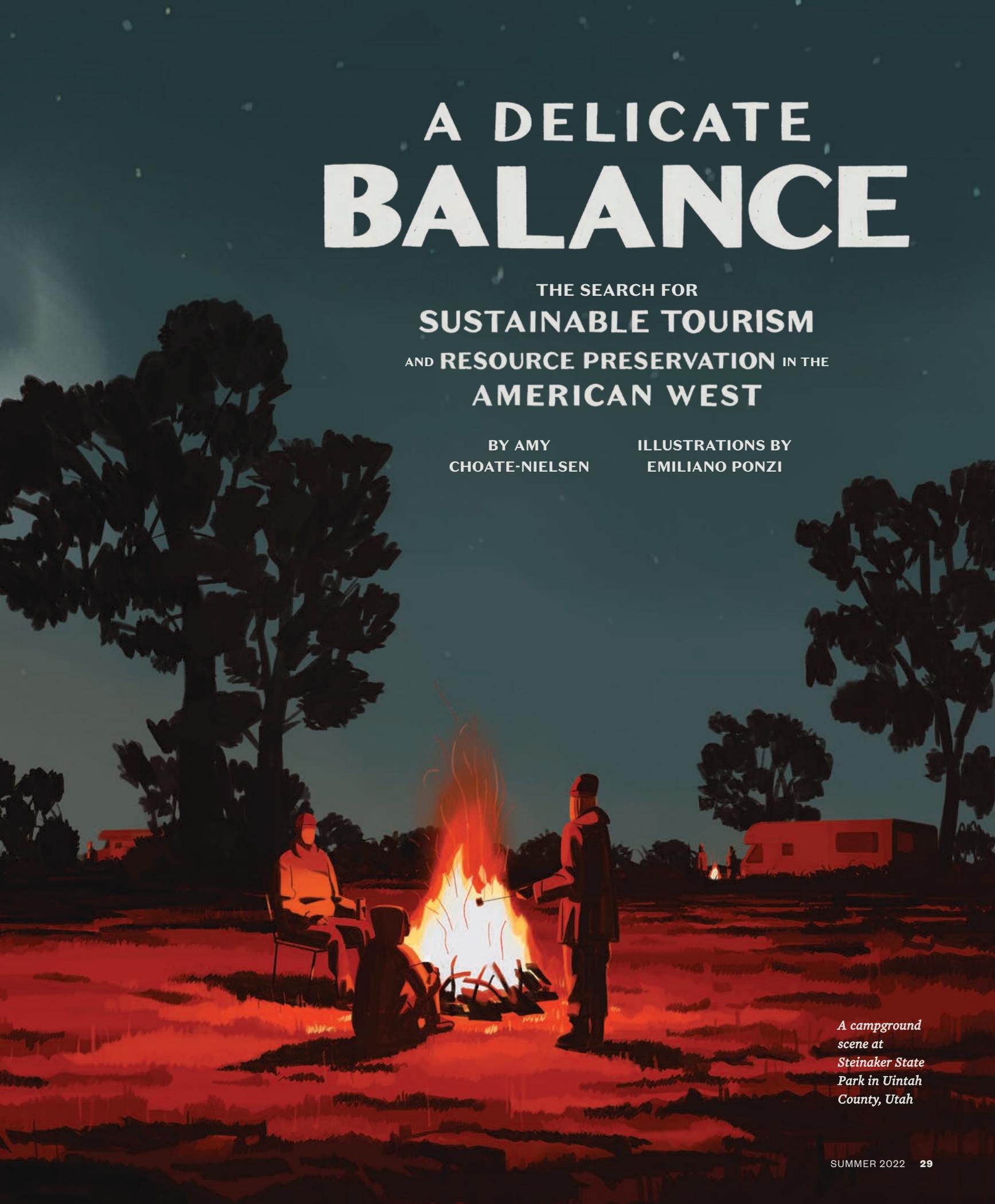


A DELICATE BALANCE

THE SEARCH FOR
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
AND RESOURCE PRESERVATION IN THE
AMERICAN WEST

BY AMY
CHOATE-NIELSEN

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
EMILIANO PONZI



*A campground
scene at
Steinaker State
Park in Uintah
County, Utah*

S

omewhere between scrambling down a rocky drop-off on the side of the highway to a hidden slot canyon and taking a break under an enchanted grotto of mossy ferns, Ella Bagley stops and smiles. Beams, actually.

“I thought I would be so stressed this whole time, just thinking about how I need to get back and study, but it hasn’t been like that at all,” she says. “I haven’t worried about my test once. I just feel so in the moment.”

That’s the kind of feeling that made Bagley, a nursing student at the U, sign

Even as some national parks closed and travel ceased during COVID lockdowns in 2020, 15 national parks still set visitation records, and the numbers just keep climbing. In Utah alone, Arches National Park skyrocketed to a record high of 1.8 million visitors in 2021, Canyonlands National Park saw a record high of 911,594, and Capitol Reef jumped from 981,038 in 2020 to 1.4 million visitors in 2021. The influx is something of a blessing and a curse, depending on the day. Tourism dollars boost local economies near natural resource areas, but the popularity of some places hints of a love so strong it can strangle a local community. As this phenomenon ripples across the West, researchers and instructors at the U are helping guide the way toward sustainable tourism, a term used to describe a symbiotic approach to saving humans and nature.

It starts with education. The students on this U-Explore journey near Hanksville, Utah, are a good example of what that can look like. Two weeks ago, they gathered for the first time in a classroom for a pre-trip meeting where several of them sheepishly raised their hands when asked, “Who’s never been backpacking before?” And now, they are bustling around trying to keep their tents from blowing away, without a word of complaint.

“Nature doesn’t care if you’re a doctor. It’s no respecter of persons, and there are high consequences if you don’t take care of yourself in the backcountry,” instructor April Ollivier MS’03 tells them. “I love that when I’m out here, it’s a matter of focusing on the basics, like, do I have adequate nutrition? Am I drinking enough water?” She pauses just as a huge gust of wind blows sand in all directions and three students run to grab their shelters. “And did I stake down my tent?”

LOVING THE LAND

The students haven’t seen another person outside of their group for at least a day. That was the point of venturing this far into the desert—the search for privacy. Still, they are willing to accept visitors, should they appear.

“I think public lands are for the public,” says Maquira Brock, a junior majoring in parks, recreation, and tourism. “We come out here so we don’t see people, but they have every right to be here as well.”

As Brock speaks, most of the class is sitting on the sand, perched next to a

clear, bubbling river, just listening. Already they are becoming friends.

Sharing outdoor experiences is an essential piece of sustainable tourism. Not only do visitors spend money when they are traveling—national park visitors in Utah spent an estimated \$1,133 per travel party per stay in 2019, with an estimated statewide annual spend of more than \$434 million outside of the parks, according to the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the U—but they also develop a love and appreciation for the land that lends itself toward preservation.

“I think we need people in our parks,” says Kelly Bricker, adjunct professor and former chair of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism in the College of Health. “We need people to appreciate these places because the political will of keeping them—and establishing even more in the future—has to rely on the American people who value them in the first place. Without their support we won’t have these places in the future. This is one of the many benefits of getting people outside.”

Bricker volunteers for the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), which was established in 2008 to provide baseline criteria for understanding sustainable tourism and how to pursue it. The GSTC endorses 41 criteria for management of destinations and provides a road map to help communities become better stewards of the places we inhabit.

Vicki Varela, managing director of the Utah Office of Tourism, embraced the idea of attracting visitors to Utah’s natural wonders when the office launched the wildly successful “Mighty Five” campaign in 2013. In the first year, 346,000 additional visits to the Beehive State were inspired by the campaign. After that, until 2015, the campaign was credited with bringing an annual average of about 500,000 additional visitors. As numbers continued to grow, the office changed strategies.

“By 2017 we recognized that we were taking both credit and responsibility for the circumstances that had been created by this successful campaign,” Varela notes. Over time, the office has pivoted to the “Forever Mighty” campaign that encourages responsible travel, including doing more immersive, distributed and off-season travel, and always showing respect for fragile environments. It asks visitors to tread lightly and leave no trace, support the local economy, and respect the community.

Still, in places like Park City, where tourism/business chamber head Jennifer



AMY CHOATE-NIELSEN

A group of students bonded while backpacking as part of a U-Explore class.

up for this U-Explore course at a spot just outside of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the first place. Sure, she’d get two credits toward graduation, but more importantly, for 48 hours she would be able to escape into the wilderness with 12 soon-to-be friends.

The beguiling lure of the great outdoors has grown in its power to bring people into its realm, drawing more visitors to remote regions with astounding landscapes and limited infrastructure.

Wesselhoff is implementing a sustainability plan, the question begs to be asked: How much is too much? Wesselhoff created the first sustainable tourism plan in Sedona, Arizona, before relocating to Utah in 2020.

“The community started asking—and these questions are being asked in Southern Utah and Park City and all over the country—are we loving our community to death?” says Wesselhoff, president and CEO of the Park City Chamber of Commerce—Convention & Visitors Bureau. “What can we do to balance quality of the economy and quality of life for our residents, and protect our environment?”

A BLESSING AND A CURSE

A few hours into the students’ hike on the first day, the red canyon walls narrow and deepen to a pool with hip-deep green water. One by one, the group slides into the drink, wedging their feet between the rocks where there’s no ground to stand on. It is a monumental moment for those who have never traversed such terrain, and it gives them a sense of empowerment.

“It’s fun to push your limits and surprise yourself with what you can do,” one student says. “I know it’s cliché to say, but nature is healing.”

The allure of a beautiful scene, coupled with the fact that one can’t help but feel special when immersed in something so spectacular, is part of the reason that visitation in Utah has exploded. In 2020, the state had 5.2



AMY CHOATE-NIELSEN

2.2 percent of travel, Colorado had 3.3 percent, and Arizona had 3.9. But as millions flock to visit Utah’s natural wonders, the impact felt by the surrounding areas can be painful.

“What we are seeing in these communities, like Moab, Utah, and Jackson, Wyoming, and Sandpoint, Idaho, is not just a degradation of the resource, but of the communities supporting those areas,” says Danya Rumore, director of the U’s Environmental Dispute Resolution

supports it? If we degrade the natural resource or the infrastructure, we have a problem.”

Amenity migrants—a term used to describe those who purchase homes based on their proximity to recreational opportunities—are part of population growth patterns that can stress housing availability and tax local resources beyond the impact of tourists. Utah’s population increased 17.6 percent from 2010 to 2020, the highest in the country,

U students got off the beaten path to explore sandstone slot canyons near Lake Powell.

EVEN DURING COVID LOCKDOWNS, 15 NATIONAL PARKS SET VISITATION RECORDS.

visitors per resident, more than Colorado or Arizona. Travel to Utah that year accounted for 1.9 percent of total domestic travel within the U.S., an increase in market share from 2019. By comparison, Nevada accounted for

Program and co-founder of the Gateway and Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative. “When we think about sustainable tourism, we have to think about, what is the impact of tourism on not just the resource but the infrastructure that

even as births in the state have decreased and deaths have increased. With a lack of affordable housing, employees in the tourism industry are increasingly living out of their cars and camping illegally, and businesses struggle to stay open



because they can't hire employees who don't exist because they have nowhere to live.

Park City, for one, also faces other day-to-day problems like traffic congestion, conflicts on trails, and overflow parking at trailheads in neighborhoods.

In Moab, the city adopted a water conservation plan in response to data that shows its annual water consumption

incorporating in her tourism strategy. The Utah Office of Tourism website features information on everything from how to poop in the outdoors to how to support local vendors, with a call for visitors to be responsible. Her hope is that communities find ways to work together for their long-term survival. Helper, for example, is a gateway community that's molding itself into a family

priorities. The members of the chamber of commerce told her that caring for the environment and their small town character was top of the list.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to help influence visitor behavior when they are in our community—to be better trail users, to recycle, to use transit, and to be in better alignment with our values as a community," says Wesselhoff.

THE POPULARITY OF SOME PLACES CAN STRANGLE A LOCAL COMMUNITY.

might already equal the recharge rate of its aquifer. It also built a new wastewater facility to handle the millions of gallons of bodily waste left by visitors every day, even though there are only a little more than 5,000 residents in the town.

"The more reflective conversations we have with locals are along the lines of, 'We just ended up here. We didn't plan to be in this place,' " says Varela. "The grouchier conversations are, 'Why are you sending people here? I want my community back.' "

STEPPING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

On the last night of the trip, the students are laughing and talking underneath a brilliant half-moon and the light of a million stars. They already took turns teaching each other about the wilderness preservation system, leave no trace principles, hypothermia, flash floods, and what to do if you get bitten by a snake—all part of getting credit for the class—but now they're just busting a gut over their favorite movies like they've been friends for years.

"That's what we want this course to be like," says instructor Jenny Hawke, as she gestures at the group. "We want them to enjoy this experience, and we want them to take ownership of it and feel protective of the land."

The base knowledge these students have gained is something akin to the new messaging Varela has started

of artists and miners who formed a non-profit organization to tell each other's stories.

"That gives a sense of what is possible when people sit down and start to think and imagine together," Varela says.

One of the most important things a community can do is think about their collective vision and work to preserve the most valued parts of their identity before the crowds come, says Rumore. Gateway communities can't prevent or predict when or if they'll be the next hot spot, but they can have a contingency plan, she says. The GNAR Initiative is working on understanding tourism and development trajectories in gateway communities to help inform communities' local policy decisions.

"People have a lot more in common than they think they do, but we aren't having the right conversations," says Rumore. "In Bears Ears it's, 'Make it a monument, don't make it a monument.' Whereas it could be, 'What do we love about this area? What are all of the possible things we can do to protect the things that make it special?'"

Almost as soon as Wesselhoff arrived in Park City, she started taking a benchmark of what sustainable initiatives the city had and how the policies were being implemented. She started coordinating with various entities involved in managing the land, waste, transit, and trails. Using the criteria established by the GSTC as a guide, Wesselhoff asked locals, businesses, and visitors about their

She noted that over the years, Park City and Summit County have made strides toward a sustainable future, including working toward North America's most ambitious climate goals, investing in electric bus fleets, a free transit system, and a bike share program, among other things. As she looks to the future, Wesselhoff is using the four pillars of the GSTC—sustainable management, socioeconomic impacts, cultural impacts, and environmental impacts—to develop the state's first sustainable tourism plan of its kind.

While finding the delicate balance between protecting nature and enjoying its benefits is likely to be a continuing challenge, Bricker says she is optimistic for the future. For the backpacking students who at the end of their trip lamented not knowing the wonders of this part of their world before, and for all those who have ventured outside, discovered the treasures of nature perhaps for the first time, and cannot wait to return, Bricker is encouraged that we're in good hands.

"I'm hopeful that these next generations behind us are going to be that much more aware, that much more concerned, and that much more proactive than we are today," says Bricker. "That is what gives me a lot of hope." **U**

Amy Choate-Nielsen is the outgoing associate editor for Utah Magazine and the new communications manager for the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

*(At left)
A lineup of vehicles
outside Zion National
Park in Washington
County, Utah*





Meandering the pathways of Red Butte Garden's Water Conservation Garden (depicted here) provides inspiration for plants that thrive in arid conditions and showcase the beauty found in our region.

Dig In

By Seth Bracken

Illustrations by
Victor Juhasz

Creative sustainable landscaping is possible with the right plan, plants, and passion—and the U's Red Butte Garden can help with all three.

THE TERM WATER-WISE landscaping often evokes images of spartan yards with gray boulders and uninviting views. But strolling through the Red Butte Water Conservation Garden on the U's campus, the lush foliage, verdant bushes, and blooming flowers challenge that assumption. "Planting for our climate doesn't mean we have to make our yards a depressing landscape of rocks," says Derrek Hanson BS'99 MPA'07, Red Butte Garden's new executive director. "Whatever type of plant you like, there are water-wise alternatives."

As Utah enters another summer likely to be plagued by drought, there are opportunities to make a difference by changing how we view our water resources and how we use them wisely to create beautiful, locally adapted landscapes, says Guy Banner, a horticulturalist at Red Butte Garden and a water-wise gardening expert. Approximately 65 percent of Utah's annual culinary water consumption is applied to landscapes, according to Utah State University's Center for Water Efficient Landscaping. Much of Utah, and the west, is high elevation desert—and that's not going to change. "Our population is growing, and our water supply is not," Hanson says. "We owe it to our community to figure out a way to balance the lack of water with our landscapes."

And while thousands of people wander the paths of Red Butte Garden each year, we want to bring some of their gardens—and water-wise wisdom—to you. Here are just a few techniques, plants, and classes to help you get started putting in roots for a more sustainable future.

Techniques You Should Know

Gravel and Rock Gardening

Placing a deep layer of gravel over the ground helps prevent weeds, insulate soil and roots from hot and cold temperatures, retain moisture, and protect from erosion. It also improves drainage and reduces the risk of root rot.

With rock gardening, the crevices between stones, the shady and sunny sides of boulders, and other sheltered spaces can act as thermal banks and help modify temperature extremes so a variety of plants can thrive. Try building mounds of half-buried stones of varying sizes and prepare well-draining soil to create microclimates in your landscape.

Hydrozoning

Grouping plants with similar water needs is known as hydrozoning. There are four irrigation zones to consider once your plantings have gone through an establishment period of regular watering. Focus on watering deeply and less often to encourage deep roots for more drought-proof plants.

Routine: This includes thirsty turfgrass like Kentucky bluegrass, water-loving shrubs and flowers, small fruits, and vegetables. These likely need watering twice a week or more.

Reduced: Think of things like your established, average to low water perennials and fruit trees. They need to be watered about once a week.

Limited: These are hardy plants that need limited watering or only need attention during extreme dry spells, including many ground covers, perennials, tough shrubs, and drought-tolerant grasses.

Nonirrigated: Some mulched areas, xeric vegetation, and native plants will require no irrigation or watering.

Refine Your Design

Create a map of your yard, draw bubbles around the different features in your landscape, and label each with an irrigation zone. Now, focus on building up the limited and nonirrigated zones and reducing the routine zones. For example, if much of your backyard is covered in turfgrass, consider replacing portions with a rock garden highlighted with native plants that will serve as a limited irrigation zone.

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

Consider the big picture. Get an overall view of your yard and what affects it. How much light does it get? Is there a shaded north-facing slope where many sun-loving plants wouldn't flower?

Observe the temperature. Cold winter air and moisture may settle in parts of your yard and be a challenge for some desert plants. Consider heat-loving plants for sunny western and southern exposures.

Identify existing irrigation and precipitation effects. Where does water collect and drain? Look for dry and wet areas and incorporate these into your hydrozoning. Areas that stay wet in winter can cause many low water plants to suffer.

Plan for natural turf. Identify where it makes the most sense to keep—children's play areas, pet areas, and areas of a size and shape that are easy to maintain efficiently.

Create varying points of interest. Consider when plants bloom throughout the growing season for a consistent display and features that provide focus in different seasons, like fall color and attractive winter bark.

Do an at-home soil test. Dig about 12 inches down into your yard and place that dirt in a jar. Mix it with water and shake. Set it out overnight to see how it settles as the finest, sandy layers rise to the top and the more clay-like earth remains on the bottom. This can give an idea of the makeup and texture of your soil.

Continued on p. 39





Meet Some Water-Wise Plants

Florae perfectly acclimated to the arid valleys of Utah and the surrounding area

TREES

Single-leaf pinyon (*Pinus monophylla*)

The gray hues of this thick evergreen tree blend beautifully with desert landscapes. It can grow to be 10 feet wide and up to 30 feet tall. It will need little to no

fertilizer and watering just once or twice a month.

Other options:

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) 'Espresso', Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus*

scopulorum), Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*)

GROUND COVERS

Woolly thyme (*Thymus lanuginosus*)

Some plants just make you want to feel them, and that's the case

with this herb. Grow this tough perennial with pinkish-purple flowers between the cracks of paving stones, along a gravel path, or to replace other turf such as that formed by grass. This herb doesn't mind

being trod on—in fact, it produces a citrusy bouquet when pressed.

Other options:

Sedums, bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), thyme leaf speedwell (*Veronica oltensis*)

PERENNIALS/ ANNUALS

California (golden) poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)

Its cheerful blooms spring up nearly overnight, swathing wide plots with bright, silky petals and blue-green foliage.

Other options:

Wasatch penstemon (*Penstemon cyananthus*), chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*), Little Mountain beebalm (*Monardella odoratissima*), and many more



WESTERN
VIRGIN'S
BOWER

VINES

Western virgin's bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*) Drought-tolerant, this vine will encase chain-link fences and clamber over trees. The delicate white flowers appear in late summer and are followed by

silky seed heads. It can grow up to 60 feet long and thrives throughout the western United States.

Other options: Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Kintzley's Ghost honeysuckle



FALSE
INDIGO BUSH

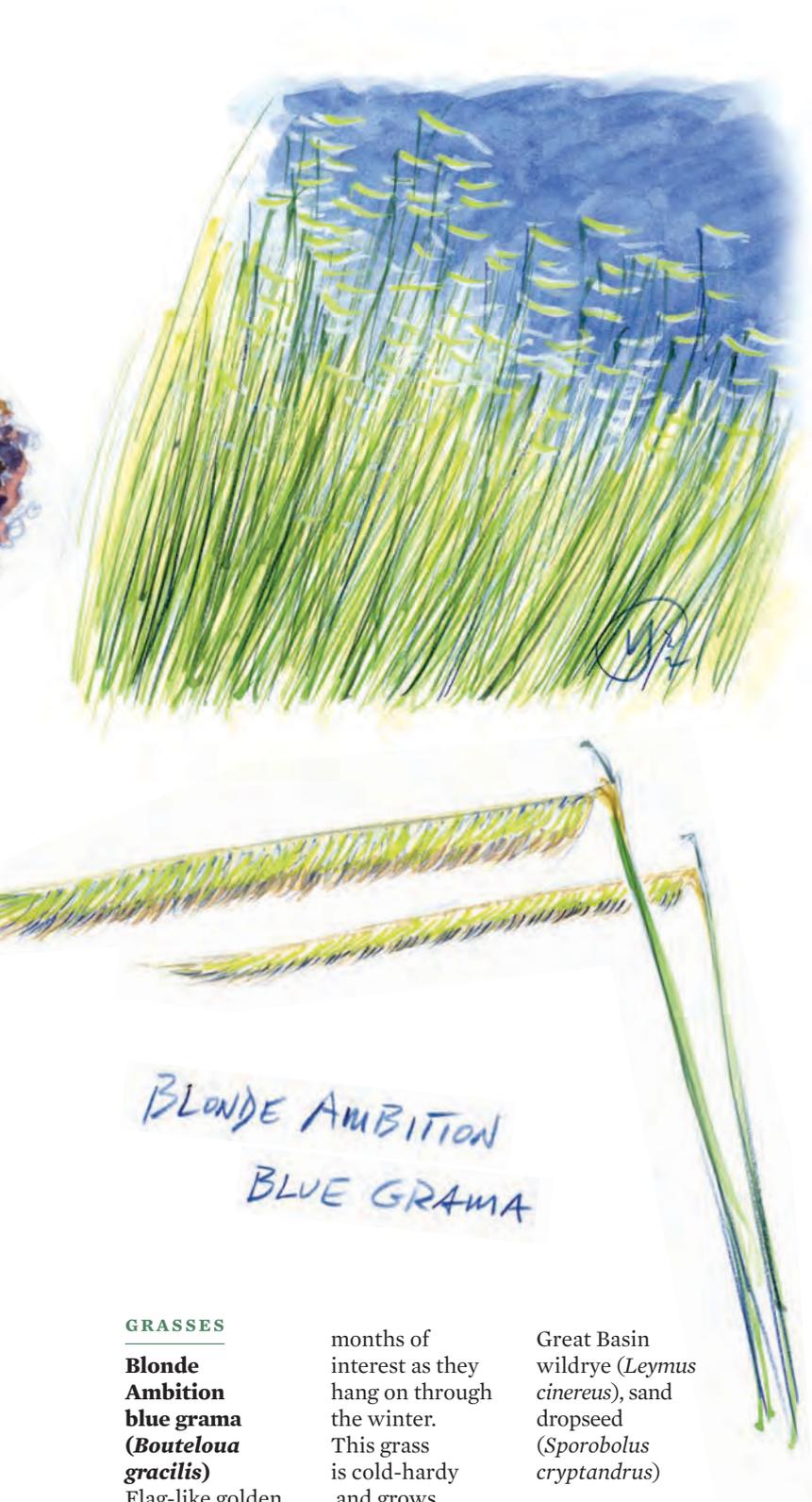
SHRUBS

False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) Shrubs are a terrific way of landscaping areas that are more

difficult to access; they can shade out weeds, provide habitat for birds and pollinators, and give bright colors when they blossom. The bloom on this airy plant lasts only two or three

weeks each spring, but the purple flowers add a lovely point of interest.

Other options: Fernbush (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*), golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), blue sage (*salvia pachyphylla*)



GRASSES

Blonde Ambition blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)

Flag-like golden flowerheads emerge from the blue-green foliage in the middle of summer and provide many

months of interest as they hang on through the winter. This grass is cold-hardy and grows well in most types of soil.

Other options: Big bluestem grass (*Andropogon gerardii*),

Great Basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*)



Web Extra

For more plants that thrive in an arid climate, visit magazine.utah.edu/waterwise

If your soil is primarily clay, it will retain water, and you may need to improve drainage with lots of sharp sand or fine gravel and some compost or mulch. A sandier mix of soil is a good fit for most desert plants.

Take baby steps. Not everyone has the time or resources to convert a large yard in a single season. Consider starting with things like parking strips and make long-term goals and plans for other areas.

Decide what you want from your space. Consider things like vegetables, fruits, flowers, pollinators, sun, shade, formal design, topiary, and meadows.

Consider what you are keeping and remove unwanted plants and weeds before you start. Then plan your hydrozones.

Add circles for light, temperature, wind, privacy, water flow, and other features.

Plan an irrigation schedule with less frequent deep watering that encourages roots to grow deeper in pursuit of the H₂O.

Install your irrigation, rocks, and other hardscape.

All plants need enough space, so consider mature size and how plants respond to crowding.

Establish plantings with regular watering for the first couple of years until they develop a good root system. Cut watering down sooner for very low-water plants.

Here to Help

Whether it's wandering the pathways of the Water Conservation Garden or taking an in-person or online class, Red Butte Garden is a resource for the community, says Eddy Dawson, the director of programs. "The mission of the garden is straightforward: connect people with plants," Dawson notes. Some of the classes are designed to help make you a better gardener, and others are designed to help you benefit from nature in other ways, he says. Here are some highlights.

Horticulture Classes Gardening classes and workshops include water-wise planting, soil basics, irrigation management, plants to know, pruning, and more. In addition to U specialists, the garden partners with USU plant experts.

Health and Wellness Classes Through a partnership with Huntsman Cancer Institute, Red Butte Garden leads meditation, yoga, qigong, tai chi, art, and improv courses, which are open to HCI's staff, patients, and faculty and to the public.

With so many tasty vegetables and herbs in their grounds, the garden also has dietitian-taught cooking classes focused on healthy and seasonally chosen eating—thanks to help from the Nutrition & Integrative Physiology and Family & Preventive Medicine departments.

Research shows that exposure to nature improves mood and enhances attention. Join the garden for the popular forest bathing class, designed to immerse participants in nature, or on a birding walk led by experts from HawkWatch International.

In partnership with the U Counseling Center, the garden also hosts mindfulness, mental health, and emotional wellness workshops for students at no cost.

Botanical Art There is no better way to connect with and observe plants and nature than looking through the lens of an artist. The garden hosts flower photography, botanical illustration, flower arranging, plein air (outdoor painting), and nature sketching classes.

Visit redbuttegarden.org for more resources, to sign up for classes, and to plan a visit. **U**

Seth Bracken is editor of Utah Magazine. Special thanks to Guy Banner for providing the plant suggestions, techniques, and other tips.

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WELCOME**

Todos são
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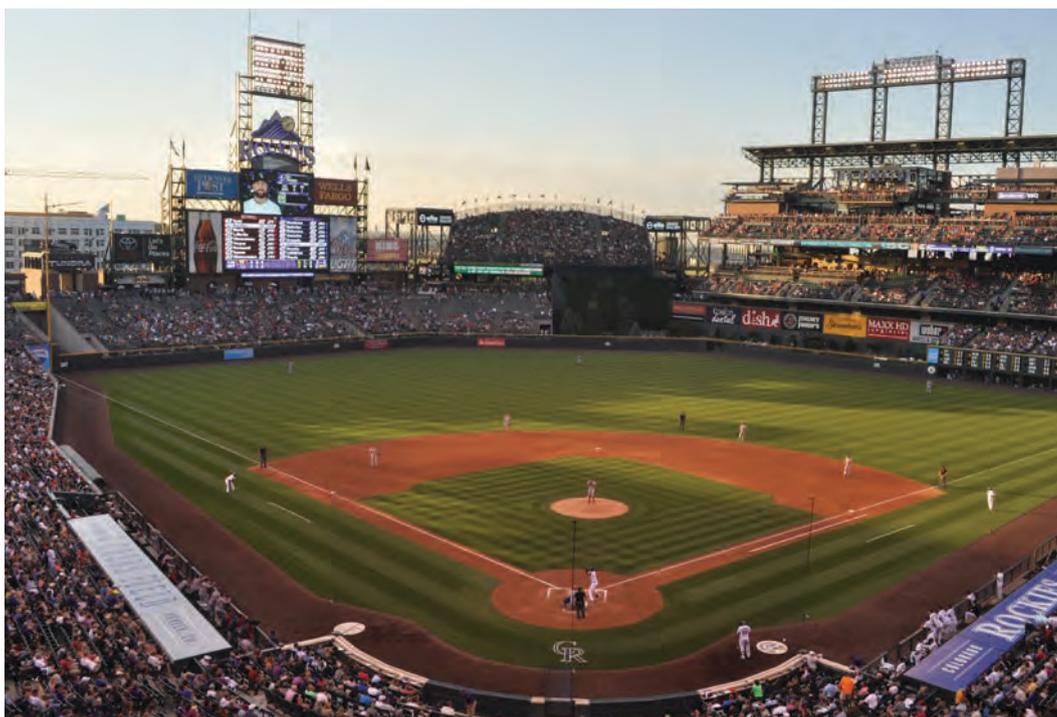
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Forever **U**



Coors Field has hosted a group of U alums for an annual Utah Night at the Rockies for more than 15 years. This year's event will be held July 28.

Play Ball

For one night each year, a sea of red floods Coors Field in Denver for Utah Night at the Rockies

Picture it: nachos, pretzels, hot dogs, and a setting sun silhouetting the majestic Rocky Mountains in the distance. The Colorado Rockies Major League Baseball team is minutes away from taking the field on another picture-perfect summer evening, and all around there are... Utah fans?

Normally, red is an uncommon color to see at the purple-and-silver Coors Field stadium in Denver. But for one night of the season when Utah fans pack the ballpark, it's hard to miss.

For more than 15 years, the University of Utah Colorado Alumni Club has hosted a Utah night at the Colorado Rockies. The event, started by team co-owner Charlie Monfort BS'82, attracts hundreds of U fans from Colorado, Utah, and other neighboring states—including the university president.

"We sell out every year," says Carolyn McFarland Hunter BS'83, a fourth-generation U grad. "People just love it. They bring their families. I've met a lot of people—including some I went to school with and didn't even know."

Hunter attended the U with Monfort, and she pitched the idea of bringing together Utah fans at a Rockies event. It began with a small gathering at a spring training and attracted enough attention to warrant a move to a primetime game.

Chief Alumni Relations Officer Kris Bosman BS'99 has been involved since its early days. "It was a huge success right away," says Bosman. "It's an affordable, easy, and fun event—and everyone really felt that."

On the agenda? First comes a big picnic and a raffle, and then the group heads to a huge special section—complete with banners and a Go Utes message on the billboard.

"We just love it," says Hunter. "I think more cities should do that. It's so important that there's reachout for alumni in other places, and not just for Salt Lake."

What's most important in choosing which game to host the event during? Playing a team who isn't wearing red, of course!

This year's event will be held on July 28. For details, head to alumni.utah.edu/calendar.

ELENA GARDNER

ALUMNI NEWS ROUNDUP

One Network for Alumni, Students, Faculty, and Staff Link up with more of your U family across the globe by joining the Forever Utah Alumni Network. This online platform was created to foster new relationships between alumni and friends, facilitate mentoring students and new grads, and inspire our next generation of U alumni leaders. Sign up at forever.utah.edu.



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Get Social Follow @utahalumni on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook for the latest on alumni happenings, news, and discounts.



Check Out Local Alumni Club Events The U has more than 30 alumni clubs around the world. Club activities are planned year-round and can range from family picnics to community service projects. Visit alumni.utah.edu/clubs to see what's on the calendar.

Just Right Research

Arie Sitthichai Mobley BS'00 PhD'07 was new to teaching, but it didn't take long for her to notice gaps in her students' knowledge.

"I couldn't believe it—most of them thought studying stem cells was illegal," Mobley notes. She launched a new course on neuro stem cells at Western New England University, the liberal arts school in Massachusetts where she was tenure-track faculty.

As she began developing the curriculum, she ran into a Goldilocksian problem. The textbooks on the topic were either too broadly or narrowly focused, or too advanced for the undergraduate class—none were just right. "If no one else had done it, why shouldn't I?" Mobley wondered. She spent the next three years writing *Neural Stem Cells and Adult Neurogenesis* (Elsevier).

Mobley identified two gap areas: stem cells and adeno-associated viruses (AAVs). Stem cells proliferate—replicating many times,

and without becoming specialized cells like muscle or blood cells—and can replace a variety of dying cells. There is great interest in whether stem cells can differentiate into specific neurons to treat conditions like Alzheimer's disease. AAVs are used as a delivery mechanism for gene therapy to treat certain illnesses. "These two fields of study are advancing medicine faster than you can imagine," Mobley adds.

She's now an associate study director at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, carrying out experiments on mouse models to test therapeutics for some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. In short, she's helping uncover ways to treat previously untreatable diseases.

Mobley has come a long way since she cut her teeth on lab work by studying the olfactory sensory neurons of squids as an undergrad. "My undergraduate years at the U were the best of my life," she says. "Late-night study groups, learning how to collaborate, discovering that thirst for new knowledge—there's nothing like it."



World-Class Art with Homegrown Roots

The artistry of Lane Twitchell BFA'93 is as captivating and hypnotic as the snowflakes he creates—unique, unexpected, and never duplicated. His creations are full of color, cultural insight, and whimsy and have

JASPER MAG TWITCHELL



been reviewed by esteemed publications like *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. As a distinguished alum with a significant contribution

to the American contemporary art landscape, Twitchell's art can be found in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. "I developed this distinct way of working that is completely apart from anything I was ever taught," Twitchell says. "My work is an invention of my own experimentation, and I find that to be really satisfying."

Twitchell named his first 1998 exhibition of cut-paper work in New York City *The Greatest Snow on Earth*, drawing on the phrase that adorns license plates across Utah. Now, his art is making its way back to his home state—to the museum where he first showed his award-winning work as a high school student. You can see several of Twitchell's latest pieces on display at the Springville Museum of Art until July 20 as part of the *From Student to Studio* exhibition, which features the work of 13 former All-State High School Art Show participants (including fellow U alumni) who have established their careers since their work was first displayed.



(TOP) *THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM OF DA BRONX* (INSTALLATION VIEW IN NYC'S PATH HOMELESS FACILITY), AUTOMOTIVE ENAMELS ON CUT MELINEX AND RICE PAPER IN THREE-PART GLASS LAMINATION, 61" X 61", 2011; (LEFT) *THE GREATEST SNOW ON EARTH* (INSTALLATION VIEW, STEFFANY MARTZ GALLERY, NEW YORK), CUT PAPER, 12"-48" DIAMETER, 1998; (RIGHT) *THE 101*, OIL AND POLYMERS ON CUT PAPER MOUNTED TO PANEL, 72" X 72", 2021 (PRIVATE COLLECTION, SALT LAKE CITY).

Lauding Our Past and Looking to the Future

The U celebrates its legacy by recognizing alumni creating a bright tomorrow

Since 1850—first as the University of Deseret and later as the University of Utah—the U has grown from humble beginnings to a remarkable present. To commend this storied history, the U holds a Founders Day celebration each year to honor alumni who have excelled professionally, served their communities, and supported the university in its mission. The awards are among the highest given annually by the U. Meet this year’s honorees.

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



Chair and president of the Beesley Family Foundation and Heritage Holding Corporation, **Bonnie Jean Beesley** BA’79 strives to raise the overall attainment rate of higher education and close achievement gaps between populations. She was previously chair of the Utah System of Higher Education Board of Regents and co-chaired the state’s Women’s College Task Force.



Michael E. Bird BA’76 MSW’77 was the first American Indian to be named president of the American Public Health Association, as well as the first to serve on the National Policy Council of the AARP. For more than 30 years, Bird has worked with Native American populations in social work, health promotion, and more.



Throughout his career, **Robert M. Graham** JD’60 has strived to help individuals of all ages gain the benefits of higher education. He currently serves as secretary, treasurer, and general counsel at the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation. This follows a celebrated career with the firms Haskins & Sells/Deloitte and Ray Quinney & Nebeker.



The Founders Day honors are among the highest given annually by the U.



An education at the U helped set up **Tyrone E. Medley** BS’74 JD’77 for a “lifetime of continued learning and opportunity,” he says. Medley was the first Black judge in Utah. He served as a Fifth Circuit Court judge from 1984–92 and Third District Court judge from 1992–2012. He also helped the Runnin’ Utes make a national championship run as an outstanding point guard at the U.

Honorary Alumna Award Recipient



Kathie Miller believes education is the cornerstone of success. She began her career teaching English and reading in the Jordan School District and then working with her husband, Mark, in the family’s Mark Miller auto dealerships. She now sits on many boards in the community, including several at the U to help further her belief that education is paramount.

Distinguished Service Award Recipients



Margie Egbert Edwards MSW’62 PhD’76 and **Daniel Edwards** (Yurok Tribe) MSW’65 DSW’76 helped develop and direct the American Indian Social Work Career Training Program at the U starting in 1970. The couple established the E. Daniel and Margie Egbert Edwards American Indian Scholarship in the College of Social Work in 2011 to further support Native American students.



Web Extra Don’t miss honoree videos online at magazine.utah.edu/founders2022

Class Notes

'70s



Les Standiford

New York Times-best-selling author **Les Standiford** MA'70 PhD'73 has written a new book, *Battle for the Big Top: P.T. Barnum, James Bailey, John Ringling, and the Death-Defying Saga of the American Circus*. Standiford has authored 25 titles, including *The Man Who Invented Christmas*, which was made into a 2017 feature film.

'80s

John Wecker BA'82 published *Three Years in Afghanistan: Bamiyan, Balkh, and Bagram*, a photo journal of his work there as a diplomat. The photos in this collection show the incredible beauty of the land and people of Afghanistan, and

rare scenes of life at remote military outposts. The end result is a new and interesting look at the often-overlooked beauty and wonder of this war-torn and tragic country.

Dan Lundergan BS'82, MHA, is now chief executive officer at U of U Health Hospitals and Clinics. With more than 40 years of experience and success at U of U Health, Lundergan oversees five hospitals and 12 community clinics as well as the nearly 14,000 employees who work in the clinical system.

Natalie Gochnour BS'84 MS'88, associate dean in the David Eccles School of Business and director of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, received the ATHENA Leadership Award from the Salt Lake Chamber. The organization's highest recognition for women in business, it is presented to a member who demonstrates excellence, creativity, and initiative in business.

Edward Bateman BFA'85 MFA'03 made his fifth showing in the international exhibition *de Gravure de Liège* (Contemporary Engraving of Liège) in

Belgium—among 48 artists selected from 470 applications, arriving from 62 countries—and was again invited to exhibit work in *Agenda*, an annual exhibition at Bibliotheca Alexandrina (the New Library of Alexandria), a distinguished exhibition on the Egyptian art scene. Bateman is an associate professor in the U's Department of Art & Art History.



Ted Dawson

Ted Dawson MD'86 PhD'86 has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honors in health and medicine. Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Cell Engineering and a distinguished professor of neuroscience and pharmacology, his discoveries have helped in the development of new treatments for Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other neurodegenerative disorders.



Jose Parga Torres

Jose Parga Torres PhD'87 received the National Award in Education from the Association of Mining Engineers, Metallurgists, and Geologists of Mexico, celebrating excellence in teaching. Parga is widely published in his field and has served for more than 40 years on the faculty of the Technological Institute of Saltillo, where he and his students have been recognized for numerous achievements.

Steven J. Anderson BA'89 has published *The Bicycle Book: The Story of a Boy, His Father, a Paper Route, and 12 Secrets of Serving Others in Business and Life*. A fourth-generation alum of the U, Anderson shapes his deeply Utahn, often funny memoir as a tribute to the lifelong power of lessons learned young from attentive parents sharing life wisdom about the keys to fulfillment and success.



Deb Oakeson

Deb Oakeson HBA'89 is the new deputy regional forester for the Intermountain Region. Oakeson began her career with the Forest Service in 1999 at the Geospatial Technology and Applications Center and had most recently served as the acting national director for Engineering, Technology, and Geospatial Services.

'90s

Amy Oliver BS'95 (summa cum laude) was appointed a Third District Court judge by Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox. Oliver previously spent 15 years as an attorney for the federal government, first with the U.S. Attorney's Office and most recently with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Prior to her public service, she worked for law firms in Washington, D.C., and Phoenix, Arizona.

Lara Lockwood BA'96 launched Savvy Sosh, which teaches social dances and social graces to teens and teens in the Seattle area with the goal to help youth connect with each other face to face in meaningful and joyful ways. Lockwood is also a freelance event planner in the area.

'00s

Jeffrey M. Brown PhD'01 is vice president of preclinical research at Deep Genomics, an artificial intelligence therapeutics company. Brown previously built the research organization and led multiple gene-therapy discovery research programs at Voyager Therapeutics, led multiple programs with Wave Life Sciences, and spent nearly a decade as a senior research investigator with Bristol-Myers Squibb.



Nick Scown

Nick Scown BA'02 co-directed the new film *Too Soon: Comedy After 9/11*, which *The New York Times* called "smart and surprisingly cathartic." The film explores the sudden halt and triumphant rebirth of comedy following the cataclysmic events of 9/11. The film was Scown's labor of love for five years.

Carey Hilderbrand MBA'02 is chief marketing officer for National University System, a nonprofit network of education institutions including City University of Seattle. She was previously chief marketing officer at Western Governors University and has more than 20 years of combined marketing and management experience.

Adam S. Arthur MPH'02, MD, is the chair of neurosurgery in the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Arthur has been the director of cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery for Semmes Murphey Clinic and the UTHSC Department of Neurosurgery since 2009. He also has more than a decade of distin-

SPOTLIGHT



Linda C. Smith BFA'64 was honored by the Madeleine Arts and Humanities Council for her contributions to the arts in Utah. As co-founder and executive/artistic director of Repertory Dance Theatre, Smith fulfilled her dream of becoming a performer, teacher, choreographer, writer, producer, company director, and more. Her pursuits have led to the development of the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, the establishment of the RDT Community School, providing commissions for established and emerging choreographers, and the creation of multi-disciplinary activities touching on dance history, the environment, social issues, multi-ethnic history, sustainability, and community. Her performing experience spans more than 90 works, and she has taught in over 1,000 schools, including as an adjunct associate professor of dance at the U and as a certified movement specialist in the Utah Artists-in-Education Program.

SPOTLIGHT



President Joe Biden nominated two alumnae of the U's S.J. Quinney College of Law to serve as U.S. attorneys—marking the first time ever that two U Law graduates have simultaneously been named to the position. **Trina Higgins** JD'95 (left) was nominated to serve for the District of Utah, and **S. Lane Tucker** JD'87 (right) for the District of Alaska. Higgins has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Office for Utah since 2002, most recently as special counsel to litigative programs from 2017-21 and as senior litigation counsel from 2015-17. She was the violent crime section chief within the office from 2008-15 and the U.S. Attorney's Office tribal liaison from 2005-15. Prior to her work on the federal level, she was a deputy district attorney for the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office from 1995 to 2002. Tucker has been a partner in the Anchorage office of Stoel Rives LLP since 2010. She was previously in the U.S. Attorney's Office for Alaska from 2002-06, following serving of counsel at Perkins Coie LLP and as a sole practitioner. From 1991 to 2002, she was a trial attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. From 1987-91, she served as an assistant general counsel for the General Services Administration.

gished service as a neurosurgeon at major hospitals in Memphis.

Timothy D. Greene BA'07 is a new partner in the Los Angeles office of law firm Gunderson Dettmer and a member of its Licensing, Strategic Partnering and Commercial Transactions group. He was previously a residential fellow for Copyright and Fair Use at Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society and remains affiliated with CIS as a non-residential fellow.



Darin Mano

Darin Mano BA'08 BS'08 became the first Asian American elected to the Salt Lake City Council in November 2021. An architect with his own firm and deep experience with urban planning, he was first appointed to the city council in 2020 to fill the vacancy in District 5. He previously served on the Salt Lake City Planning Commission and the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Advisory Committee.

Sandra Mitchell PhD'08, CRNP, FAAN, has been promoted to senior scientist at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health. She

also serves as program director in the Outcomes Research Branch in the Healthcare Delivery Research Program at the National Cancer Institute and maintains a clinical practice in survivorship care. Author of more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, she has been recognized with honors including fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing.

'10s



Candelario Saldana

Candelario Saldana BS'10 was named one of 2022's 40 Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40 by the LGBTQ+ Bar, which recognizes legal professionals who have distinguished themselves in their field and demonstrated a profound commitment to LGBTQ+ equality. Saldana is an associate with the Capital Markets group of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in Charlotte, NC.

Miriam Albert-Sobrino MFA'14 and **Sonia Albert-Sobrino** MFA'14,

known as the Also Sisters, recently screened two of their new films internationally. *AURA* premiered at the 54th edition of the Sitges Film Festival in Catalonia, Spain. *Face Not Recognized, Try Again* premiered at Colorado's first and longest-running genre film festival, the Telluride Horror Show. The twin sisters are both assistant professors in the U's Department of Film & Media Arts.



Ciriac Alvarez Valle

Ciriac Alvarez Valle BS'17 is a senior policy analyst at Voices for Utah Children, which advocates for and advances policies and practices for the state's youngest citizens. Alvarez Valle was born in Mexico and grew up in Salt Lake City. While at the U, she served a Hinckley Institute internship with Ibarra Strategy Group in Washington, D.C., and she plans to continue her education by attending law school.

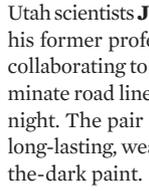


Jacob George

U electrical and computer engineering assistant professor **Jacob George** MS'18 PhD'20, director of the Utah NeuroRobotics Lab who is also helping develop the "LUKE Arm" motorized prosthetic, was named one of *Forbes*' "30 Under 30" in the Science category for 2022.

Emily Guffin MCP'19 (city and metropolitan planning) is the new trails manager for the City of Bella Vista, Arkansas, maximizing opportunities for biking and walking. Guffin is focused on creating healthy and active communities.

'20s



Jason Nance

Utah scientists **Jason Nance** MS'20 and his former professor Taylor Sparks are collaborating to find better ways to illuminate road lines to make roads safer at night. The pair are working to create a long-lasting, weather-resistant glow-in-the-dark paint.



Sandra Leu Bonanno

Sandra Leu Bonanno PhD'20 won the American Educational Research Association's Social Justice Dissertation Award for "Towards a Democratic Project of Schooling: Ex-

ploring Culturally Sustaining Leadership Mindsets." Bonanno is an assistant professor at Metropolitan State University in Denver.



Francesca Hsieh

Francesca Hsieh BFA'21 was awarded the Ivory Prize for Excellence in Student Leadership for her work in creating BIPOC Artists for Awareness, which helped launch an important dialogue between the U's Department of Theatre and its students and enhanced the department's commitment to anti-racism. The award includes \$2,000 for the recipient and a \$10,000 donation to their cause. She is now pursuing a master's degree in theater directing from Royal Holloway, University of London.



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Send updates to classnotes@utah.edu

SPOTLIGHT



Camille Washington BA'06 was recognized with a Living Color award for her work with Good Company Theatre, the only Black-owned theatre in Utah—now in its 10th year—which she co-directs with her sister Alicia, her co-honoree. A playwright (her play *Oda Might* was produced at Plan-B Theatre, and several others at GCT), Washington also works by day as the marketing and box office manager at Onstage Ogden and serves on the Ogden City Arts Advisory Committee. She is a past Lambda Literary Writers Retreat Playwriting Fellow and was recognized as the 2019 David Ross Fetzer Foundation Emerging Playwright. She holds a master's degree from the San Francisco Art Institute and was previously curatorial fellow for diversity in the arts at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN.



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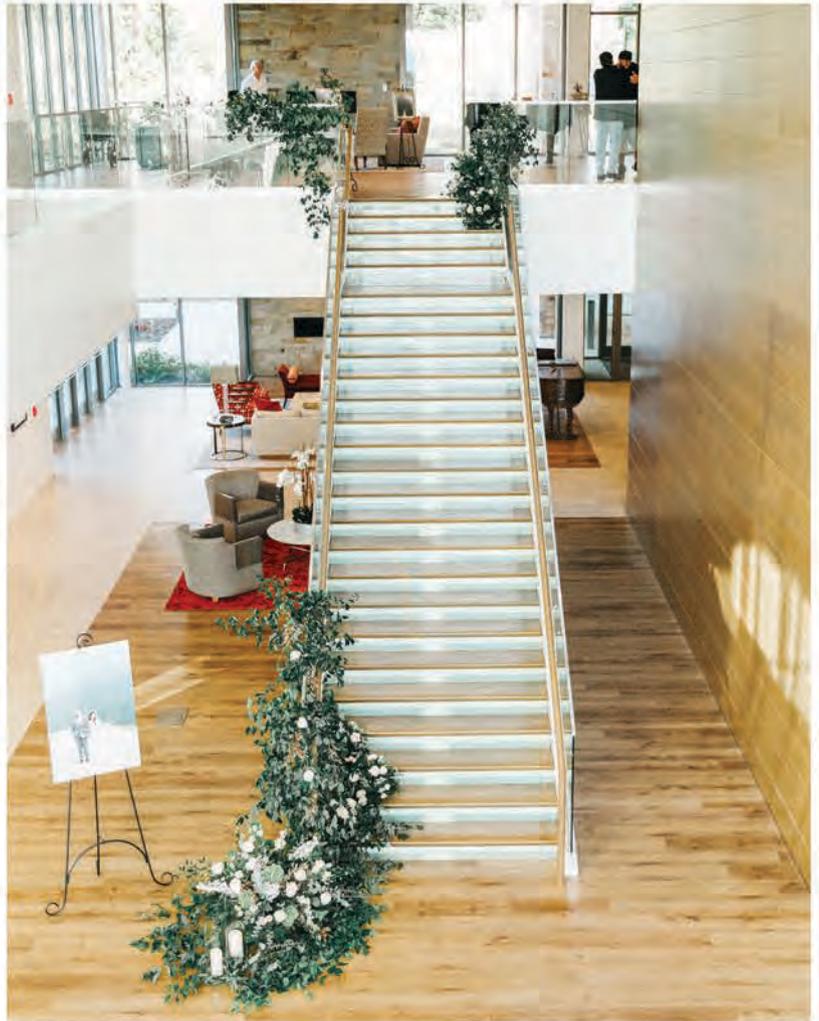


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Symphonic Convergence

In 1948, then U President A. Ray Olpin announced that the Utah Symphony would have a new home on the U's campus. Music students who previously had to travel to either coast for expert instruction were now able to study with experienced professionals who held adjunct faculty appointments at the U and leadership positions in the symphony. This practice continues today with 20 members of the Utah Symphony teaching as adjunct members of the U's applied orchestral faculty.

Here, Maurice Abravanel—who was awarded an honorary doctorate from the U in 1950—leads a rehearsal at the U in that decade.

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