

**SPRING** 2020

**Ancient Spuds**

Indigenous farmers are revitalizing a potato that has fed people for 11,000 years, p. 14

**Falling Down on the Job**

U alums going big as stunt performers in Hollywood, p. 22

**They Pay Me to Do This!**

Proof that campus jobs aren't what they used to be, p. 34



## Clearing the Haze

When vaping turned vicious, U doctors were on the front lines to fight a new illness.



Outside



PHOTO BY RICK WOLCOTT



## Castle in the Clouds

A bank of clouds may make it look like Castleton Tower (the left pillar) is floating on an island in the sky. But it's actually deeply rooted in the earth, connected even to the rumbles of far-off ocean waves and earthquakes. U geologists say that vibrations carried through bedrock cause the tower near Castle Valley, Utah, to sway ever so slightly at about the same rate as a heartbeat. Studying how this and other natural rock formations move helps researchers keep an eye (and ear) on their structural health, including how human-made vibrations such as helicopter flights or truck traffic might affect seemingly unmovable rocks.

Setting rock climbing routes is just one of many unique campus jobs that help set U students up for success after graduation. See p. 34.



## WEB EXTRAS

More available at [magazine.utah.edu](http://magazine.utah.edu)



**The first official** visitors to Zion National Park in 1920 included five female U students. See photos documenting their adventurous journey.



**The U joined** the prestigious Association of American Universities. Watch a video about why membership in this elite group of 65 schools is such a big deal.



**U alum Anita Coyle** is an ultra-athlete and mother of four whose husband passed away the day after she had surgery for thyroid cancer. Read her full story online.

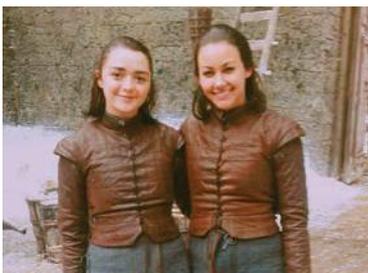


**Get to know** the U's 2020 Founders Day awardees in these web-exclusive videos highlighting their exceptional professional achievements and public service.

## FEATURES

# 22

**Falling Down on the Job** U alums Kristina Baskett and Andy Jones are no strangers to being stomped on, thrown down stairways, and hurled through windows. It's all part of the job as stunt workers on hits such as *Captain Marvel*, *Wild*, *Logan*, and *Game of Thrones*.



# 28

**Clearing the Haze** It was a medical mystery. What could cause an otherwise perfectly healthy 20-year-old to be hospitalized with pneumonia in the summer? U doctors followed a vapor trail and led the nation in treating some of the first cases of vaping-related illnesses.

# 34

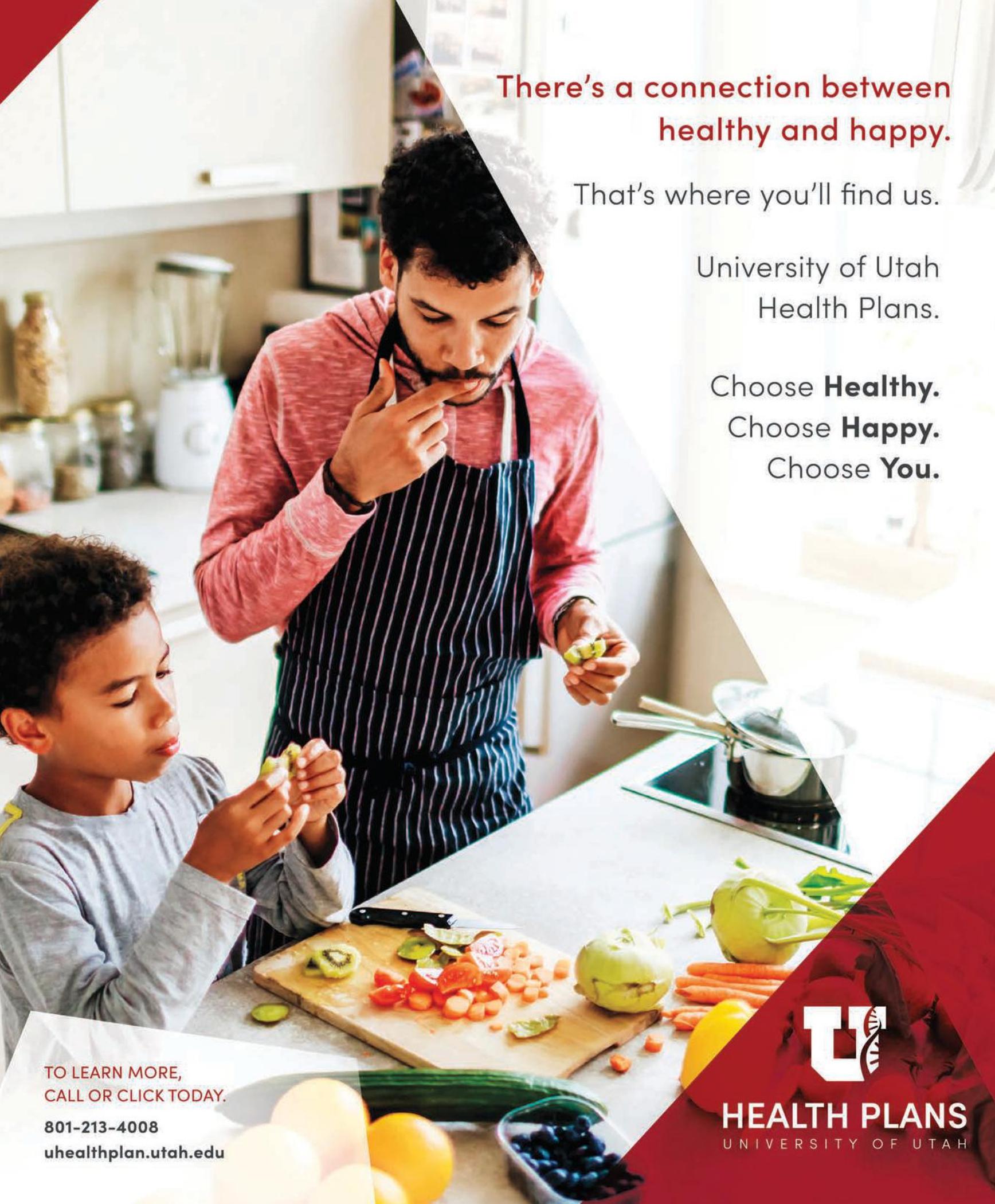
**They Pay Me to Do This!** Working for the U means more than having to park just once for work and school. It builds relationships that lead to faster graduation while preparing for life after college. From drone flyers to zebrafish feeders, meet some of the U students who work, study, and play on campus.

## ON THE COVER

**Vaping is a public health crisis** with more than 2,500 hospitalizations and 55 deaths nationwide, including one in Utah. Illustrator Brian Stauffer helped bring to life what it's been like for U doctors to diagnose and treat some of the first—and sickest—patients to become ill from e-cigarettes.

## DEPARTMENTS

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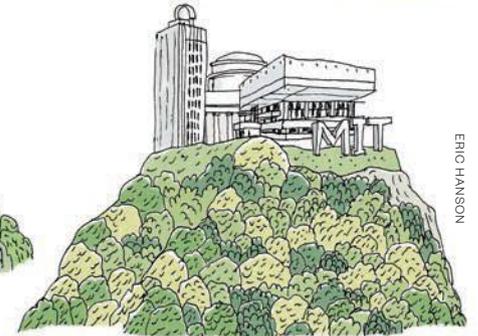
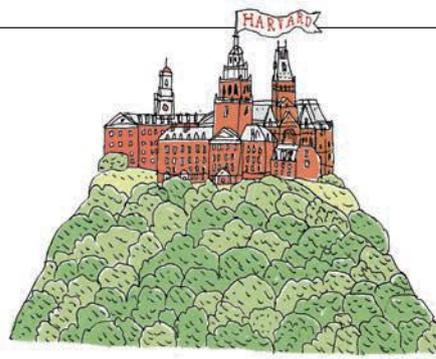
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Er-H

ERIK HANSON

# A Most Prestigious Invitation

Why your degree just became more valuable



I am delighted to share the news that your degree from the University of Utah received a significant boost with our invitation to join the Association of

American Universities.

Since its founding in 1900, the AAU has recognized public and private institutions engaged at the highest levels of research, scholarship, and education. Election to the AAU requires a majority of members—the most accomplished and distinguished universities in North America—to identify us as a peer.

The U's selection as one of AAU's 65 members reflects the excellence our institution has achieved and acknowledgement of our performance by peer institutions and their leaders. It confirms the quality and caliber of our faculty and staff and the innovative work they are doing to advance knowledge and address grand societal challenges.

Other indicators relevant to our selection: External funding for research, how

knowledge generated at the U is used, and where U graduates are placed, particularly those earning graduate degrees. Let me repeat that last point: *Where U graduates are placed*. Quite simply, this is a tribute to you and the way you have used your degree from the U to change and improve our world.

Our students, our community, and our alumni will be the ultimate beneficiaries of this membership and all that it brings, for example:

- The value of a U degree is enhanced by our membership in the AAU.
- Talented students, faculty, and staff who learn and build careers at the U are affiliated with an institution identified as among the best in the country.
- Our faculty and leaders now have greater opportunities to shape policy and federal research investments.

I want to express my gratitude for your role in this noteworthy recognition. We celebrate with you the tremendous achievements of the U in fulfilling its role as our state's flagship research institution and as a prestigious, highly regarded university.

PRESIDENT RUTH WATKINS



## New Name and Look

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed the new format. The topics, the writing, and the graphics are all outstanding, a quantum leap from the old magazine. Congratulations!

KATE LAHEY BA'75 JD'79, SLC

I was really impressed when I received the magazine in the mail. ...Thank you for creating such a neat platform for showcasing all the great work going on at the U.

ERIN MOORE BS'16, SLC

Really, really nice job with the print magazine and the website! I love the cover, the style, the name, the paper you chose... everything!

JOEY PARKER, BOUNTIFUL, UT

My future Ute eagerly awaits the arrival of each magazine. He grabs it out of the mail and reads it cover to cover before I see it.

JEFF MONACO, PROSPER, TX



## We want to hear from you!

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

## Huntsman Center Memories

My favorite memory was performing Leonard Bernstein's "MASS" in the Special Events Center [SEC]. I'll never forget how many times we had to run from floor to rafters in rehearsals.

SANDRA BROCK BFA'77, ALPHARETTA, GA

March 1979, the NCAA Final Four Basketball. I was 12 years old. My dad and I sat on the second to last row of the SEC, where I watched Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Larry Bird play in the finals. Unforgettable!

DAVID MCMASTER BA'91, MIDWAY, UT

I was a freshman football player in 1969. We had a few practices where we had to dress at the old Einar Nielsen Fieldhouse before we opened the SEC, which was a state-of-the-art facility. It was a momentous occasion to be part of an unbelievable transition of athletic history at the U. Go Utes!

ALAN GILREATH BS'73, AGOURA HILLS, CA

## Q&A with the Baking Doctor

"Baking Tips from an Anesthesiologist" was a big hit last issue. Lots of readers wanted to know more. Here's a snippet of a conversation in our online comments.

**Q:** Do you use bread starters? If so, which one do you recommend? Thanks for your article.

KAREN SATO BS'90 DPT'08.

**A:** Most of my breads have a type of "starter" called a pre-ferment. A percentage of the flour in the recipe is mixed with an equal weight of water and a small amount of yeast. This is allowed to ferment at room temperature for 12 hours, building a lot of flavor. It's added to the dough during mixing—making sure to subtract the amount of flour, water, and yeast from the final mix. This technique greatly improves the flavor of the bread.

RICHARD SPERRY BA'79 MD'83 MS'94 PHD'95

## Nod to Another Time

After seeing the retro-style cover on our Winter 2020 issue, Richard Pollei BA'55 was reminded of a student-produced magazine he used to read when he was at the U called *Unique*. He brought us two copies from 1946-47, which sold for \$.25 back then. We had a great time looking through the magazines together. Thanks, Richard, for sharing this glimpse of the past!



## SOCIAL SPOTLIGHTS

**Even celebrities love U swag!** Grammy Award-winning singer-rapper Lil Nas X shows off the personalized Ute jersey the team gave him when he came to campus last August. And Grammy Award-nominated musician Shawn Mendes flashes the U as he sports his Mendes-labeled Utah Utes parka, gifted to him by one of the U's licensed vendors. These were two of the most liked and shared posts ever on our U social channels!



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# News from the **U**



## Boosting Mental Health

A historic Huntsman family gift brings new life to efforts to improve mental health in Utah

The U is on its way to becoming a national leader in mental health thanks to a \$150 million gift from the Huntsman family. The funds will be used to establish the Huntsman Mental Health Institute and will support research, hire new faculty, train more students, and expand access to patient care. The negative stigma around mental health is one of the biggest, and first, barriers that the Huntsman family wants to address, says David Huntsman, president, COO, and director of the Huntsman Foundation.

“Too many people are suffering in silence and embarrassed to reach out and get the help they need. We want to change that,” says Huntsman. “We see mental health as the health crisis of our generation. And we want to do all we can to help.”

The funds will be given over 15 years. In the first year, \$2 million is allocated for campus programs and to help underserved populations in Utah, including rural communities. It's also supporting research to identify genetic risk factors that cause and contribute to mental illness, says James Ashworth BA'84 MD'89, interim chair of psychiatry.

The ultimate goal is to make this institute a model for other health systems around the country, Ashworth says. Programs can be tried and refined here at the U and then rolled out in other areas—for example, a pilot program that connects U students in crisis with a mobile outreach team. If successful, the model could be used at other schools, he says. “This gift is making us all think bigger. There's no telling what we can accomplish now,” Ashworth says.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**1 in 5**

adults experience poor mental health



**56%**

of Utah adults with mental illness do not receive treatment or counseling

**No. 1**

Suicide is the leading cause of death for Utahns ages 10-24



**100,000+**

adults in Utah experience serious mental illness



**15%**

of new mothers experience postpartum depression symptoms

**3rd lowest**

in the nation for child psychiatrists per capita



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute and Utah Hospital Association report, 2019

## Arnold Gatoro

### A sophomore majoring in engineering

“Last year, I was president of the Black Student Union. I got to see firsthand how campus works and learn about how we can improve our community. I want to help create a more diverse school at the U so we can all open our eyes just a little wider. That’s why this year I’m helping launch a chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and serving as its vice president. There aren’t that many black students in math and science, and this organization helps us with internships, networking, and job opportunities. My goal is to increase the retention of black students and create a better sense of community here at the U.

I get involved because I like to solve problems. I always have. I attended a math and science charter school as a kid, and I loved learning how things work. It’s why I chose a STEM major. It’s hard work. Take organic chemistry, for example. It was difficult, but I loved that class. I learned more about life than I ever thought possible.

When I was 6, my family came to Utah as refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was a lot for a young kid to take in, so much for me to learn. And I think I developed a passion for learning, for new challenges, and that’s part of what drives my curiosity. I don’t know exactly what I’m going to do after I graduate, but the things I’ve learned at the U about how the world works will help me find my way.”



## The Art of Healing

When it comes to medical school, learning complex chemistry and advanced biology is often the easy part. It's undertaking the human aspects of the profession—tough conversations with patients and learning to cope with traumatic experiences—that are really challenging, says fourth-year University of Utah medical student Lillian Boettcher.

She's the current editor of *Rubor: Reflections on Medicine from the Wasatch Front*, a student-run publication from the U's Program in Medical Ethics and Humanities. It's a collection of visual art, poetry, and essays submitted by students, doctors, nurses, and others in health professions at the U and the surrounding community.

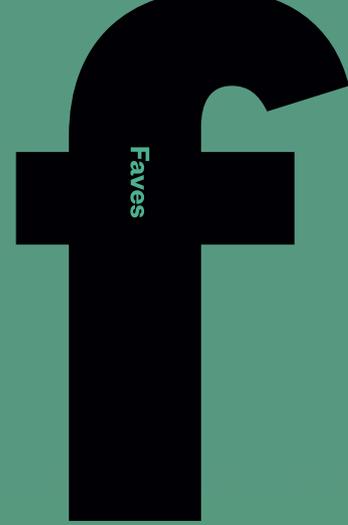
Students usually expect to take on massive amounts of schoolwork and stress. But they're not always ready for the intense emotions that come with the practice of medicine, says Susan Sample PhD'15, faculty advisor for *Rubor*. "Art reminds us that medicine is science applied to people. And sometimes putting pen to paper, or paint to canvas, can help us process and reflect in a way that may be healing professionally as well as personally," Sample says.

*Rubor* was started by students in 2013 and is published online at [rubor.med.utah.edu](http://rubor.med.utah.edu) as well as in 1,000 print copies distributed annually. Here's just a small selection of some of the art that has appeared in recent issues.





TITLES AND CREDITS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: *LORD OF THE RUSHIE RIVER*, JORGEN MADSEN MD'19; *BEFORE WE WERE SICK*, PHOEBE DRAPER; *CODE OF SILENCE*, WENDY YOUNG ROCKNE MD'19; *TEAM 1*, LILLIAN BOETTCHER; *WOMAN, SPINE AND SCAPULAE, POSTERIOR*, EMILY KAUWE; *MAN IN PAIN*, PHOEBE DRAPER



## The Changemaker

She's an expert in tribal law, a former associate dean, an appellate judge, a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians... and a trained opera singer. Meet Elizabeth Kronk Warner, dean of the S.J. Quinney College of Law. The first female and first Native American dean in the school's 107-year history is unapologetic in her push to take the college to new heights.

Kronk Warner believes student wellness should be a top priority, is working toward more collaboration across campus, and is incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion into the school's curriculum. And with contagious enthusiasm, she's the U's greatest new ambassador. "I pretty much eat, breathe, and sleep thinking about the U. I mean, what's not to love here?"



### Artist

Bunky Echo-Hawk is a modern Native artist, and I think his work is fascinating. He's a master of bold, striking colors and thought-provoking imagery.



### Research

Some tribal environmental laws are leaps and bounds ahead of our national policy. So, much of my research has looked at how we can see tribes as innovation labs and apply their lessons to our state and federal policy.

### Book

*Pride & Prejudice*. My husband makes fun of me because it's like my old friend. Reading Jane Austen makes me feel like I'm curling up with a cup of hot cocoa under a blanket on a cold day. Total escapism.



### NFL team

Packers, baby! I'm die-hard. I love the Packers. I lived close to Green Bay growing up (about three hours away). I spent a lot of time outside of the team's headquarters trying to see players during training camp, and I even have a signed football from the 2013-14 team in my office.



### Movie

*The Matrix*. It came out while I was doing a study abroad in Singapore, and movies were just a dollar on Tuesdays. I love the Alice-in-Wonderland story, and I think Keanu Reeves is just a good person. Who doesn't love Keanu?

# Jurassic Giant Discovered

New species of *Allosaurus* found in Utah

A remarkable new species of meat-eating dinosaur has been unveiled at the Natural History Museum of Utah. Paleontologists unearthed the first specimen in the early 1990s in Dinosaur National Monument in northeastern Utah. The huge carnivore inhabited the flood plains of western North America during the Late Jurassic Period, between 157 and 152 million years ago, making it the geologically oldest species of *Allosaurus*, predating the more well-known state fossil of Utah, *Allosaurus fragilis*. The new dinosaur, *Allosaurus jimmdadsoni*, was named after Utah's first state paleontologist, James H. Madsen, Jr. MS'57, who excavated thousands of *Allosaurus* bones from a dinosaur quarry in central Utah and published a book about his findings in 1976.

Weighing approximately 4,000 pounds and measuring up to 29 feet long, with 80 sharp teeth, this *Allosaurus* was the top predator in its ecosystem. Before its discovery, paleontologists thought only one species of *Allosaurus* existed, but this newly discovered dinosaur evolved at least 5 million years earlier than its younger cousin. *Allosaurus jimmdadsoni* has a narrower back of the skull, and a weaker and lighter skull, suggesting a different diet.

The two scientists behind the discovery, Dan Chure and Mark Loewen PhD'09, have studied nearly every *Allosaurus* bone in existence, says Chure. The first skeleton of the new dino was excavated from 1990 to 1994, and the skull wasn't found until 1996. It took explosives to remove surrounding rock and a helicopter to fly the 2,700-kilogram block to the museum for analysis. Discovering that the specimen was an entirely new species was an extensive

process. Just fully preparing all the bones for examination took seven years.

"*Allosaurus jimmdadsoni* is a great example of just how much more we have to learn about the world of dinosaurs. Many more exciting fossils await discovery in the Jurassic rocks of the American West," Chure says.

Other fossils previously thought to have belonged to *Allosaurus fragilis* have now been identified as the newly discovered species. And fossils are housed at museums in Montana, South Dakota, Switzerland, Brigham Young University, and of course the U's own Natural History Museum of Utah, which boasts the world's largest collection of *Allosaurus* fossils.

## PICTURE



**There's a lot more to water-wise landscaping** than rocks and cacti. And Red Butte Garden has proof. Three acres of proof, to be exact. From flowering shrubs to herbs and fruit that thrive in desert climates, the winding pathways through its Water Conservation Garden will inspire new ways to xeriscape. Come take a stroll for some spring planting inspiration.



*Allosaurus jimmdadsoni* inhabited the flood plains of western North America during the Late Jurassic Period, between 157 and 152 million years ago. Illustration by Andrey Atuchin

# Eating a potato with 11,000 years of cultural history



This tiny tuber has fed people across the Four Corners region for 11,000 years. Now, scientists and indigenous farmers are coming together to not only conserve the Four Corners potato as cultural heritage, but also to grow its potential as an economically viable food crop.

Last November, U researchers Bruce Pavlik and Lisbeth Louderback, together with Cynthia Wilson, director of the Utah Diné Bikéyah Traditional Foods Program, hosted farmers from the Pueblo Tribe and Navajo Nation on campus at Red Butte Garden. Altogether, the indigenous farmers harvested 54 pounds of potatoes tracing back to the Escalante, Bears Ears, and Mesa Verde areas.

The scientists shared their research on growing the spuds in mass quantities. The indigenous farmers shared their cultural memory of the potato and left the harvest with new tubers to plant this spring. “Revitalizing the potato is a way to capture our relationship with food and the spiritual elements of how food is grown, gathered, hunted, and shared through our communities,” says Wilson MS’16.

As for eating the mini spuds, Pavlik says they taste similar to today’s potatoes but are richer in nutrients. “Compared to organic red potatoes, the Four Corners tuber contains three times the protein, nearly twice the dietary fiber, and more minerals and vitamins,” he notes.

The taters made their contemporary culinary debut last fall at the 2nd Annual Indigenous Dinner at the U’s Natural History Museum of Utah, as well as at a special fall feast at Hell’s Backbone Grill in Boulder, Utah. Local restaurants are already putting in orders for next fall’s harvest. And if all goes to plan, it won’t be long before indigenous-led efforts will make the Four Corners potato an everyday menu item.



## U Researcher Inspires STEM Barbie Line

Move over, Malibu Barbie—there’s a new doll in town. And instead of high heels and a purse, this line of toys comes with cameras, telescopes, and arctic coats. U forest ecologist Nalini Nadkarni was recently tapped to help create a new line of Barbies in partnership with National Geographic and Mattel. The new Barbies include Wildlife Conservationist, Astrophysicist, Polar Marine Biologist, Wildlife Photojournalist, and Entomologist.

Nadkarni served on a five-member advisory board, consulting on the creation of the dolls to provide authenticity. The line was designed to focus on the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, where women are historically underrepresented. But even before

partnering with the national organizations, she was no stranger to making Barbies with a knack for nature. In fact, for more than 15 years, Nadkarni, a passionate science communicator, has been buying up Barbies from thrift stores and finding small helmets on eBay to make her own Treetop Barbies to sell at cost. She even got volunteer tailors to put together outfits, and each toy included a booklet on rainforest canopy plants to accompany the doll.

“In 2019, adventurous Barbies who have exciting scientific professions are on Mattel’s radar, as they have figured that there is a market for them,” says Nadkarni. “That shows amazing progress of a corporation, and of society.”



# When the Dust Settles

A new study details the devastating effects of a drier Great Salt Lake

The Great Salt Lake is shrinking. Due to increased irrigation and drought, more than 750 square miles of the lakebed are dry. And wind in this exposed area is blowing dust around the region, which can lead to devastating effects—including faster snowmelt and air quality issues, according to a new report from U atmospheric scientist Kevin Perry.

“Most people think that any water that goes into the lake is wasted water because it turns salty and we can’t drink it or use it through irrigation. So, there’s this mindset locally that we should use all the water before it gets to the lake because once it gets to the lake, it’s useless,” says Perry. But each drop adds to the unique interconnected environment supported by the waters of the Great Salt Lake.

Perry has been studying the dry part of the lakebed—also known as the playa—since 2016, mostly on his bicycle. The area has a surprising diversity of plant life and wildlife—he’s encountered porcupines, pelicans, coyotes,

bison, and even cougar tracks. As he’s explored the playa, he’s catalogued each area: Was there vegetation? How thick was the surface crust, and how erodible was it? Were there any other features, such as mineral crystals, sand dunes or, cryptically, rocks with long trails in the playa suggesting they had moved over time? He’s also taken samples back to the lab to analyze for percentages of silt and clay.

With Perry’s research, other scientists studying the effects of dust on snowpack in Utah’s mountains can use the chemical signatures in soil samples to determine where the dust comes from. For example, ecologists can assess the effects of both nutrients and toxic elements in the dust on near and distant ecosystems. And dust can now become part of the conversation about conserving and protecting the Great Salt Lake.

“I started off as a scientist, and I’m starting to feel more like an advocate for the preservation of the lake,” Perry says.

## The U’s Ant Man

For more than 30 years, U entomologist Jack Longino has been watching the ground. Whether he’s deep in a tropical jungle or scanning the sidewalks of a Central American city, Longino is always looking for ants. “Ants rule!” he says.

Recently, Longino compiled those decades of work into a detailed written study—called a monograph—of 234 species of the ant genus *Pheidole*. He’s given names to 57 of those species himself. He usually names them after physical characteristics, where they were found, or even in honor of colleagues and loved ones. Longino formatted the monograph to emulate a bird guide, hoping to engage more ant fans in the work of documenting and conserving ant species.

“You can think of what I do as making a map of diversity,” Longino says. “The first step in understanding and using animals and plants is having a map of what we’ve got. I’ve dedicated my career to filling in the map.”

Thanks to a \$1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation, Longino and colleagues will be able to fill in the map with even more detail. They are working on a project to obtain genetic information from 4,500 species of ants around the world to construct a comprehensive evolutionary tree of life for Longino’s favorite insect family.

And his discoveries don’t always require him to book an international flight. In fact, last August, Longino caught a glimpse of four ants in his garden that looked out of place. He dug deeper, and a close look in the lab revealed that it was a distinct new species. He says he hopes his new discoveries inspire people to “don headlamps and hand lenses and head out into the backyard on warm summer nights.”





**Nature is resilient. If you give it a chance, it comes back.**

MAYA LIN  
Artist and designer best known for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; Tanner Lecture, Nov. 20, 2019

When millions and then billions of people make ethical choices—what we buy, what we eat, what we wear—then the cumulative effect starts moving us to a better world.

JANE GOODALL  
Primatologist and conservationist; S.J. Quinney College of Law guest speaker, Oct. 4, 2019



**Embrace every experience as something that will eventually be useful. It might not be obvious, but it's a good way to go through life.**

JIMMY CHIN  
Professional climber and Academy Award-winning co-director of Free Solo; MUSE keynote speaker, Jan. 23



**WE CAN COME TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF NOT WANTING TO BE THE THINGS WE'RE ASHAMED OF.**

AISHA MOODIE-MILLS  
CNN Political Commentator, LGBTQ influencer, and social impact advisor; MLK Week keynote speaker, Jan 24

For me, the best part of nonfiction filmmaking is that you actually don't know what's going to happen next.

CHAI VASARHELYI  
Documentary filmmaker and Academy Award-winning co-director of Free Solo; MUSE keynote speaker, Jan. 23



# S

Stats

**NAME** Alyssa Barrera

**CLASS** Senior

**MAJOR** Strategic communications

**HOMETOWN**  
Chino Hills, CA

**NUMBER OF GAMES STARTED**  
157 and counting

**CAREER BATTING AVERAGE** .361  
(ranked fifth in Ute history)

**PASTIMES**  
Being with family and watching movies

**BIGGEST LEARNING CURVE** The year she played for the Mexican national team

**FAVORITE FOOD**  
Her grandmother's chili rellenos with cheese and shrimp

**FANDOM FAVE**  
*Game of Thrones*  
(she even sat on the throne on location in Dubrovnik, Croatia)

**TOP MLB TEAM**  
Los Angeles Dodgers

**MOVIE PICK**  
*The Devil Wears Prada*

**BAND OF CHOICE**  
No Doubt

## Batter Up

Hitting a game-winning grand slam against No. 3 Washington is one of Alyssa Barrera's favorite memories as a Ute. But it's just one of her many impressive moments as an outfielder on the U's softball team. Barrera has been a starter for every game since arriving on campus, and last season she led her team in hits (59), doubles (9), runs scored (30), and slugging percentage (.599). Triples have been her specialty as she has tied the U record for most in a season (7), led the Pac-12 conference, and ranked fifth nationally. "The U is a perfect fit for me," she says. "We're serious contenders, and we still have a lot of fun together."



# Finding a New Balance

This iconic coaching duo is creating a new routine

When Greg Marsden ex'78 retired from coaching Utah's Red Rocks gymnastics team in 2015, he made the decision to not attend any future meets. "After starting something and running it for 40 years, it's difficult not to have an opinion... about everything! They don't need a backseat driver," he says. "This is their time."

Greg built the Utah women's gymnastics program from the ground up starting in 1976 and retired as head coach with 10 national championships under his belt. His wife, Megan BS'84, a former star gymnast on the team and co-head coach with Greg starting in 2009, stayed on in that role for another four years after Greg retired, to ease the transition for Tom Farden, Greg's successor as head coach.

During that time, Megan was working 12-hour days, traveling with the team, and recruiting all over the country to nurture a "team in waiting"—future Utes. Greg made it his job to support Megan in every way possible. She came home to a clean house, folded laundry, and a hot meal on the table. "He's an all or nothing guy," quips Megan.

Megan announced her own retirement last April after 35 years on the coaching staff and multiple regional and national awards. This February, Greg and Megan were both honored with Distinguished Service Awards as part of the U's Founders Day celebrations (see p. 44).

Their new freedom has allowed the Marsdens to move away from the rigid schedule of gymnastics and spend more time with their two boys and new grandson. Megan can visit her parents in Iowa more often, and Greg has developed an interest in photography and video editing. Together, they relish hiking with their dogs Levi and Rocky on Salt Lake City's east bench trails or spike-hiking with them in Park City's Round Valley area.

"The University of Utah has done so much for us," says Greg. In addition to educating all four Marsdens, it provided an opportunity for Megan and Greg to work together at something they love. "We are forever grateful and will always be avid fans and supporters of the University of Utah and especially Utah Gymnastics. Go Utes!"

ANN FLOOR BFA'85



## SPORTS BRIEFS



**Beth Launiere** celebrated her 30th year as the U's volleyball coach last fall and was named Pac-12 Coach of the Year. The volleyball team reached the NCAA Sweet 16 and finished ninth in the final American Volleyball Coaches of America rankings, the highest finish in program history.



### Former Ute Mac Speedie

was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2020. Speedie—who lettered at Utah from 1939-41 (also competing in track and field as well as basketball)—joins All-America halfback Larry Wilson (1957-59) as Utah's two Pro Football Hall of Fame inductees. Speedie passed away at the age of 73 in 1993.



**Ninety-four percent** of the U's student-athletes are graduating within six years of enrolling, according to the latest NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR). That's the highest GSR of any Power Five public institution in the nation, and the third year in a row the U has had a GSR above 90 percent.

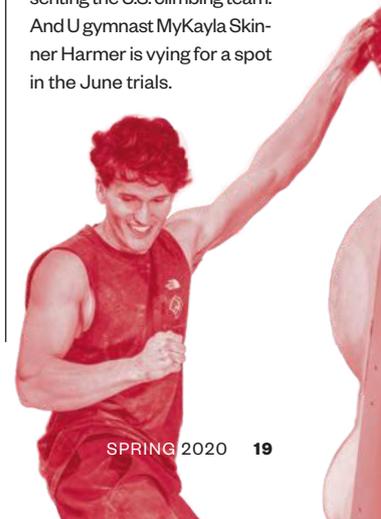
### Women's athletics

is getting a \$6 million planned gift from longtime U supporters Leo and Harriet Hopf—one of the nation's largest gifts of its kind. Eighty percent of the funds will go to women's basketball, women's volleyball, and the Utes with Wings program (which supports U women's NCAA athletics), and 20 percent goes toward women's club sports.



### Dreaming of gold

several U alumni are preparing to compete at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. Anissa Urtez BS'17 will be playing for the Mexican softball team, while Hannah Flippen BS'17 is an alternate for the U.S. softball team. Nathaniel Coleman ex'16 will be representing the U.S. climbing team. And U gymnast MyKayla Skinner Harmer is vying for a spot in the June trials.





**SAFETY ROUNDUP**



A new student-formed and -led group is working to make campus a safer place. **Students for Action Focused Empowerment (SAFE)** is focused on areas such as mental health and student/police communication.



As the U's first chief safety officer, **Marlon C. Lynch** oversees all campus safety initiatives and supervises the Department of Public Safety. He has served as police chief for three universities and most recently was VP for campus services and safety at New York University.



**Rodney Chatman** is the U's new chief of police. He comes to the U from the University of Dayton in Ohio, where he was chief of police. His ultimate goal is to build greater trust between the police and the community, he says.



**Chris Linder**, a U researcher focusing on sexual violence on college campuses, is supporting violence prevention and education efforts at the U in a one-year assignment.



**A new public safety building** is planned for 500 South just east of Guardsman Way. The 25,000-square-foot building will cost about \$13 million and is part of ongoing safety improvements on campus.

# U to Host 2020 Vice Presidential Debate

Thirty million people are expected to tune in, and more than 5,000 members of the media will attend as the U hosts the 2020 vice presidential debate this fall. Utah is the only western state selected for one of the three presidential debates and lone vice presidential debate. This is the first time the Beehive State has hosted a national debate.

The Utah Debate Commission and the U worked for more than a year on the bid to host, and the big event will be held in Kingsbury Hall on Oct. 7. Additional details, including format and moderators,

will be announced at a later date by the Commission on Presidential Debates.

"It is a tremendous honor to host a vice presidential debate, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to showcase our university and our state," says U president Ruth Watkins. "I'm excited for our students to be able to participate in this important component of the political process. It will be an incredible educational experience for them. Civic engagement is a core value of our democracy, and students will be able to see firsthand how being involved in the political process matters."

**PICTURE**



**Will it be a drag queen? An original rap? Or a slam poetry reading?** You never know at the annual Sociology + U Benefit. The event last fall, which featured performances on race, class, and gender, helped raise scholarship funds for students from underrepresented backgrounds. Here, Drag Thing Madazon Can-Can lip-synchs to "If I Were the King of the Forest" from *The Wizard of Oz* and "Memory" from *Cats*.

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# FALLING DOWN ON THE JOB

By Benjamin Gleisser

YOU'D THINK ANDY JONES BS'07 would develop a complex. Brie Larson brutally kicked him in the stomach, killing him, and Hugh Jackman stomped him into the ground. Kristina Baskett BS'09 doesn't seem to be faring much better—she's fallen off roofs, tumbled down numerous stairways, and been hurled through windows.

Such is the life of a Hollywood stunt performer, where getting punched, kicked, and tossed off a cliff is part of the job.

"I did a lot of fight work in the film *Logan* with Hugh Jackman. I was one of the guys flying from the trees, but unfortunately my scene didn't make it into the film," says Jones, a former member of the University of Utah's diving team. You can see him—kind of—in *Captain Marvel*, starring Brie Larsen.

"I actually got killed a couple times during fight scenes in that movie," he says. "Brie was awesome and super laid-back, but she has no idea what I look like—the only times I talked with her, I was wearing prosthetics to make me look like an alien."

Look for Jones in the upcoming *Avatar 2*—though you still probably won't recognize him behind the motion-capture special effects.

Baskett, a former member of Utah's gymnastics team, tumbled off a roof onto a trampoline in *Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates*—that's her in the yellow dress—and jumped, cartwheeled, and somersaulted through a restaurant for a TV commercial. And she tumbled through the wilderness as Reese Witherspoon's double in *Wild*. But her most recognized role to date was as Maisie Williams' (Arya Stark's) stunt double during the last three seasons of *Game of Thrones*.

"*Game of Thrones* was my most physical job," Baskett says. "There were lots of heavy fighting scenes, and lots of sword fights on stairways, and falling." She also helped Williams perform some of her own stunt work.

Look for her next on the new television show *Stargirl*. Baskett couldn't reveal much about the series but called the stunts challenging: "The most difficult thing about doing superhero stuff is making things that aren't humanly possible look possible."

## FLIPPING OUT

GROWING UP, BASKETT'S parents encouraged her to play all sports, but "gymnastics came pretty naturally to me," she remembers. "I just knew that I loved it."

As a teenager, she competed in Olympic trials but didn't make the final team. She won a gymnastics scholarship to the U, where she helped lead the Red Rocks to three consecutive second-place national finishes. Among her many athletic accomplishments, she won the uneven bar title at the 2006 NCAA Championships and took second on vault in 2008 and in the all-around in 2009. "Interestingly, uneven bars was the event I struggled the most with, so winning that award was special for me," she says.

In total, Baskett was a 12-time All-American and a five-time NCAA regional champion, winning 88 event titles in her college career, which ranks fourth all-time at Utah. She also received the Dahl Award for her outstanding academics.

"I can't say enough good things about my time at Utah," she says. "My coaches Greg and Megan Marsden gave me confidence and motivated me, and my classes prepared me for the host of amazing opportunities that later came my way. I thought about going into broadcast journalism after college but chose to work at Cirque du Soleil."

Performing as an acrobat in Cirque's *Viva Elvis* in Las Vegas led to stunt work in 2009 on the television show *Make It or*



**ANDY JONES BS'07**

The oil rig is on fire, and the bad guys are closing in. Only one option left: jump. From some 100 feet in the air, Jones leapt into the open ocean north of Ventura, California, while filming stunts for the CBS series *SEAL Team*. “The director needed a second take, so I strapped my pads back on and went back up for another.”



**KRISTINA  
BASKETT BS'09**

Yes, that's a real cityscape: Los Angeles, to be exact. And no, it's not a movie set. Gymnast-turned-stunt double Baskett says this photo on a rooftop is one of her favorite "headshots." And although she makes it look easy, Baskett assures, "Yes, it does hurt landing on concrete."





**Top:** Baskett stands right of Maisie Williams (Arya Stark) on the set of *Game of Thrones*. **Bottom:** Flashing the U in 2009 after her last routine competing at Utah.



**Top:** Jones stands left of actor Dan Donohue on the set of *Longmire*. **Bottom:** Working on his Skrull prosthetics for *Captain Marvel*.

*Break It*, about a teenage gymnast competing for a spot on the Olympic team. Over the next decade, she worked steadily on projects including *Sharknado*—where “I don’t think my character got eaten,” she jokes—and doubling for singer Hayley Williams in Taylor Swift’s “Bad Blood” video. “It was fun, and I liked the whole concept about strong, empowered women,” says Baskett.

She credits her stunt success to networking and to being a slim 5-foot-2, a not uncommon size for actresses. “The first thing casting directors want to know is how tall you are,” she says. After all, you have to look like the actor you’re doubling for. “Wigs, costumes, and makeup can be changed, but you can’t change your height.”

Recently, Baskett has been back on the mat as an assistant gymnastics coach for Arizona State. And this May, she takes on yet another new role: that of mother. As for stunt work, she definitely plans to go back. “Maybe not like before,” she says, “but however it will work into my new family life.”

## DIVING INTO IT

LIKE BASKETT, ANDY JONES was a kid who enjoyed sports, especially swimming and trampoline. He also loved Jackie Chan movies. “When I read that he did all his own stunts, I thought that was so cool,” Jones remembers. “I thought, ‘Wow, it would be so much fun to do that in the movies.’”

Disappointed he didn’t make his high school’s baseball team, he went to the school’s pool to hone his swimming skills and later walked on to the U’s diving team. He credits former Utah diving coach Rachel Degener with helping him win a diving scholarship for his junior and senior years.

“What I love most about diving is the freedom I feel when launching myself into the air,” Jones says, adding that he later taught himself how to add acrobatic moves to his launch and descent. “It’s pure enjoyment. My whole body tingles while the air rushes by me as I’m falling.”

Jones was named Diver of the Year as a senior and began performing high dives in exhibitions in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, then joined Cirque du Soleil, doing up to 15 high dives a week. In 2011, he competed in the Red Bull Cliff Diving competitions, and seven years later, he was ranked fifth-best in the world. His most memorable competition plunge: 92 feet into 50-degree F water. “Those high dives still make me nervous,” he admits, “but once I get on the platform and prepare to dive, I trust in my abilities and focus on hitting the water.”

Friends doing stunts in films helped him land a few gigs, where he impressed stunt coordinators with his diving know-how. His scariest film stunt: In *Code Black*, falling out of a helicopter 17 feet in the air and landing on a nine-inch pad buried so it looked like he was landing on just hard sand. “A lot of times, you walk onto a set and don’t know what you’ll be doing,” Jones says. “You’ve always got to be prepared for anything.”

Not all of Jones’ work is dangerous, he adds. “I did a Super Bowl commercial for Michelob where I’m swimming laps and singing along with a song in the ad, while Chris Pratt was trying to do a cannonball into the pool. He was having trouble making the jump, and I thought it was funny—the best person on the shoot to teach him the dive would be me, but nobody asked for my help.” **U**

*Benjamin Gleisser is a Toronto-based freelance writer.*

# QUICK QUIPS FROM THE STUNT-WORKERS

## ACTION STARS WHO KICK BUTT?

**Kristina Baskett:** Maisie Williams as Arya Stark (*Game of Thrones*). She’s an awesome character.

**Andy Jones:** Hugh Jackman, Brie Larson, and Dwayne Johnson are some of the first that come to mind. And Ryan Reynolds, who regularly gives a shout-out to stuntmen and women on his Instagram.

## TITLE OF YOUR BIOGRAPHY?

**KB:** *Happy*. The biggest thing in my life is that I want to be happy.

## WHICH SUPERHERO IS MOST LIKE YOU?

**AJ:** I have Deadpool’s dry sense of humor and Spiderman’s agility.

## A BOOK THAT CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

**KB:** *Feel the Fear and Do it Anyway* was a big help in my life. Live life the way I want to live, do what makes me happy. I go back to it again and again.

**AJ:** A biography of Hal Needham’s life called *Stuntman*. It didn’t get me to switch careers, but it definitely helped make up my mind as to what I wanted to do with my life.

## MOST EXCITING MOVIE OR SERIES YOU’VE EVER SEEN?

**KB:** *Game of Thrones*. I’m a big book reader, and I love fantasy and action. The show’s creators did a great job of creating that world.

**AJ:** *The Dark Knight*. The opening scene is amazing, and I remember sitting through the rest of the movie in awe. Hopefully, someday it will be *Avatar 2!*

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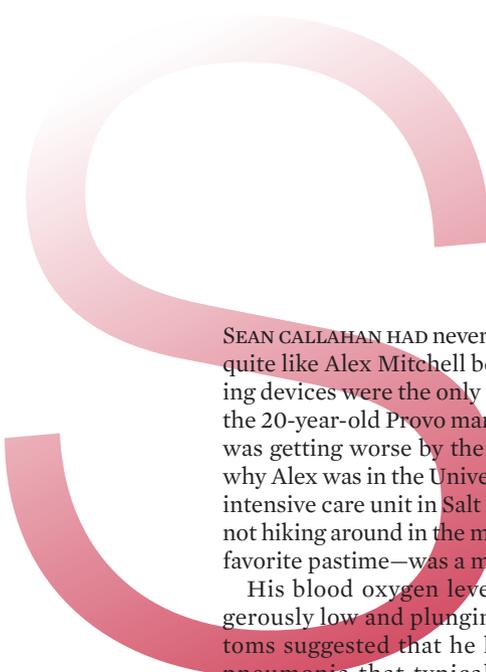
Haze



# How U doctors made sense of the vaping health crisis

By Doug Dollemore

Illustrations by Brian Stauffer



SEAN CALLAHAN HAD never seen a patient quite like Alex Mitchell before. Breathing devices were the only thing keeping the 20-year-old Provo man alive, and he was getting worse by the moment. But why Alex was in the University Hospital intensive care unit in Salt Lake City and not hiking around in the mountains—his favorite pastime—was a mystery.

His blood oxygen levels were dangerously low and plunging. His symptoms suggested that he had a type of pneumonia that typically occurs in people 50 years older. Yet tests showed no sign of bacterial or viral infection in his lungs. Nothing about Alex's condition made sense. For an instant, Callahan, an experienced University of Utah Health pulmonologist, was frightened. Really frightened.

"As a physician, you don't want to take care of someone who is going to die so young," Callahan says. "It honestly was a terrifying experience."

Ultimately, Callahan and his colleagues would save Alex's life. But in the months ahead (between June and December 2019), more than 31 seriously ill patients—an average of one per week—would be admitted to the hospital with symptoms eerily similar to his.

During that time, U of U Health physicians would become a focal point in a nationwide effort to understand and treat something new and perplexing. But before they could come to grips with it, this strange medical phenomenon would be linked to more than 2,500 hospitalizations in all 50 states—and 55 deaths, including one in Utah—before the end of 2019.

The search for a culprit would eventually carry U physicians and researchers down a vaporous trail leading to a pair of intriguing suspects: e-cigarettes and the marijuana-tinged liquid cartridges sometimes used in them.

## Mapping a new illness

Sorting out a medical mystery like this one is a bit like early European explorers trying to map the New World. One of the first renderings depicted North America shaped like a small wishbone from a turkey rather than as the vast continent that it really is. It would take hundreds of years for cartographers to uncover its real majesty.

But doctors didn't have centuries to figure out what was going on with Alex. Nor could they afford imprecision. For-

tunately, they got an important clue early on. A visiting physician, who had been consulted on the case before Alex was moved to University Hospital, had heard of similar symptoms in another patient in California who used e-cigarettes, commonly known as vaping. Alex vaped. Could that have something to do with his condition?

Initially, Callahan and his colleagues were skeptical. Alex's situation seemed much more severe than that case and others they had heard of. But soon, other patients would confirm that they also had vaped, and many were in just as dire shape as Alex.

"There's an old saying that if you can't figure out what's going on with a patient, it's either a new disease or you're not listening hard enough," explains Scott Aberegg, a critical care pulmonologist at U of U Health. "In some ways, we weren't listening hard enough, because, like everybody else, we were dismissing the hazards of vaping."

By early July, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was tracking outbreaks of this condition that quickly became known as e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI). As cases continued to

mount, Callahan and Aberegg were consulting with CDC scientists at least once a week, sharing their growing expertise in diagnosing and treating these patients while learning more about what was going on nationally. What was once considered a fluke was now a national health emergency, and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of e-cigarette users—many of them teens and young adults—were at risk.

## The vaping generation

Officially they're known as Gen Z. But young Americans born between 1997 and 2012 could also be dubbed Gen V—as in vaping. They might not remember much about 2007, the year e-cigarettes—devices that heat liquid to produce a vapor that users inhale into their lungs—were introduced in the United States. But little over a dozen years later, vaping has skyrocketed among this generation.

Since 2017, the percentage of high school students who vape has risen almost 2.5 times, from 11.7% to 27.5%, according to the CDC. The numbers for middle school students are even more sobering, leaping from 3.3% to 10.5% over the same span.

In Utah, about 12% of teens reported vaping in 2019, according to the Utah Department of Health. But, as in the rest of the country, vaping becomes more prevalent as Utah teens get older, ranging from 7% at age 13 to more than 15% among 16- to 17-year-olds. Vaping trails off among 19- to 24-year-olds, and by the late 20s, less than 9% of Utahns do it.

Many young vapers do it because they perceive that it is nonaddictive and safer than smoking conventional tobacco (emerging evidence suggests it's not). Some enjoy the sweet flavorings—including German chocolate cake and banana split—infused into the disposable vaping liquids (now banned from refillables). For others, it's the ability to discreetly get a puff of nicotine or other substances without producing lingering smells that might alarm parents, teachers, and other adults.

Whatever the reasons, by mid-July 2019 it was clear something had gone haywire. Vaping had turned vicious.

## 'He's as sick as you can be without being dead'

A funeral. It was something that Monica and Daniel Mitchell didn't want to contemplate. But the way things were going

for their son, Alex, it was a hard subject to avoid.

Lying before them in the cardiac ICU, Alex was suffering from what his doctors called acute respiratory distress syndrome. But no one was sure why. All Monica and Daniel knew was that Alex was very sick. He'd been intubated and was on a ventilator to help him breathe. He was sedated and temporarily paralyzed to keep him from breathing against the ventilator.

Then there was the large IV threaded into his heart cavity so he could more directly and safely receive medicines, such as the drug keeping his blood pressure artificially elevated. Soon, doctors would add extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, using a machine that pumps and oxygenates a patient's blood outside the body, allowing the heart and lungs to rest.

"One of his doctors told us that Alex was as sick as you can be without being dead," Monica recalls. "It was really scary, and I knew that he might not make it, but I couldn't face that possibility. I kind of put it off in a corner of my mind."

Just days earlier, Alex had been fine: hanging out with friends, hiking, and preparing for the next phase of life in college. He vaped, but both he and his parents thought it was better than smoking, which he had started doing when he was 16. Two years later, he switched to vaping for a couple of reasons. First, to save money: a pack of cigarettes cost \$7; a vape pod cost \$20 but lasted longer and contained the same or more nicotine. Then there was the convenience: having to go outside to smoke every two hours was a drag.

"I knew it wasn't healthy because you're still inhaling something into your lungs that's not supposed to be there," Alex says, "And there was the nicotine, which I knew was addictive. So, I figured there might be trouble for me down the road, but there was nothing on the radar that suggested that this kind of thing would happen."

"This kind of thing" began in mid-June, when Alex began to feel nauseous and achy, and had difficulty breathing. He and his family suspected the flu, but when his symptoms worsened, he went to urgent care, where a doctor diagnosed pneumonia, prescribed antibiotics, and sent him home.

But before he could get there, the urgent care physician, who had reconsidered his assessment, called and recommended that Alex seek care at Mountain View

## How to Talk to Kids about Vaping

Social workers Jessica Holzbauer and Liz Wetmore counsel teens and young adults on a daily basis at the University Neuropsychiatric Institute. We asked their advice on how to bring up and discuss vaping.

**Do your homework.** A bit of knowledge is good, but avoid trying to come across as an expert. Let them know that you have a basic understanding of vaping and, like them, are trying to find out as much as you can. Start by checking out websites such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration.

**Take advantage of cues.** A billboard, a TV ad, a vape shop, or seeing someone vaping on the street are wonderful opportunities to raise the topic, Wetmore says. "Hmm, what do you think about that?" or "I'm curious, what do these ads or people you see make you think about vaping?" That kind of conversation starter will feel more genuine and natural and likely lead to more honest answers.

**Keep it casual.** A calm voice and nonthreatening body language will help keep young people engaged, Holzbauer says. Sit with them; don't stand over them. Ask open-ended questions such as, "What do you think about vaping?" or "When you talk to your friends about vaping, what do they say? What do you say?" Being curious rather than confrontational will help them feel like equal, informative partners in the conversation.

**Shorter is better.** Start by planting a seed with short one- or two-minute conversations. You can always come back to the topic later. "Your kids will know you're aware of vaping and interested in their opinions," Wetmore says.

**Stay in the here and now.** Keep the conversation on your kids and their experiences. Kids can have a hard time relating to you because so much has changed since you were younger. "Talking about your own experiences with peer pressure and substances will likely shut down a conversation quickly," Holzbauer advises.

**Know your child.** Use these tips as guidelines, not gospel. "Most parents know what best motivates their children," Wetmore says. "Just because one approach works for other adults and kids down the street doesn't mean it will work for you."



Hospital in Payson. There, doctors were puzzled because tests for bacterial pneumonia and other common respiratory ailments were negative. However, Alex did have some abnormal immune cells in his lungs that are associated with lipoid pneumonia, a rare, potentially deadly condition that usually occurs in older people who accidentally breathe in oil-based laxatives. Alex didn't fit that profile. Yet he continued to falter.

On June 24, he was airlifted to University Hospital, where the next steps taken by U doctors and nurses would determine his fate.

### 'We shared information like it was wildfire'

Standing next to Alex's bed in the ICU, Callahan gave no hint that he was just as shocked and bewildered as Alex's parents, who sat just feet away. Instead, Callahan focused on keeping Alex alive. "A dying 20-year-old with pneumonia in the middle of the summer gets your attention, particularly since he had clinically worsened throughout the day," he says.

Over the next few days, Callahan, in consultation with Aberegg, Sean Maddock, Meghan Cirulis MD'14, Lynn Keenan, Cheryl Pirozzi MS'15, and Sanjeev Raman and others on the hospital's pulmonary critical care team, would reach out to colleagues at University Hospital—as well as those across the country—seeking answers.

"We shared information among ourselves like it was a wildfire," Aberegg says. "It was that kind of community engagement among hospital staff that helped make sure that we didn't miss something that might be important in treating Alex and these other patients."

A bronchoalveolar lavage, a procedure used to gather samples of lung tissue, soon confirmed that Alex had something similar to lipoid pneumonia, but without its characteristic features. Not having much else to go on, his doctors began treating him with steroids in hopes of reducing the inflammation in his lungs. It worked. Within days, Alex was well on his way to recovery.

But what had caused his lung failure remained a mystery until Alex mentioned that he vaped THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, which is illegal for recreational use in Utah. As other patients were admitted to University Hospital with similar symptoms, doctors found a

link. At least 80% of these patients had recently vaped THC. It was a trend that matched a pattern nationwide.

In the weeks ahead, U doctors would examine lung tissue samples from these patients. They all shared an unusual characteristic: large immune cells containing oily droplets like those found in Alex. Based on this finding, the team identified the cells as a possible biomarker that could help other doctors diagnose the mystery disease more quickly and accurately.

After publishing the results and holding a press conference—the first to paint a picture of doctors' and patients' experiences with the new illness—Callahan and Aberegg were sought out by dozens of media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Colleagues at hospitals nationwide were seeking their expertise and advice.

### Finding a new normal

The vaping epidemic reached its peak in September, falling from 216 patient admissions nationwide to 26 in late November, likely due to diminishing use of vitamin E acetate in THC cartridges. At University Hospital, doctors are still admitting about one patient per month, Aberegg says. Meanwhile, researchers are investigating why EVALI occurs in the 10% to 20% of vapers who don't use THC.

In any case, the experience has changed how Callahan, Aberegg, and other U physicians evaluate patients. Prior to the crisis, they rarely asked about vaping or THC use. Now they always do.

"I don't think we had any one brilliant eureka moment," Aberegg says of the experience of being on the leading edge of the public health crisis. "It was a combination of diligence and serendipity.

# A dying 20-year-old with pneumonia in the middle of the summer gets your attention.

But Callahan and Aberegg suspected there was more to the story. People had been vaping THC for years without any ill effects. The cartridges involved in the outbreak had been purchased legally at vape shops in other states as well as illegally off the street in Utah. So, they surmised that some sort of contaminant had recently tainted THC cartridges.

In November, the CDC confirmed their suspicions, announcing that vitamin E acetate, a substance used to dilute THC prior to sale, was the likely culprit behind the EVALI outbreak. A supplement found in many foods and cosmetic products, vitamin E acetate is an enormously sticky substance, and when inhaled as a vapor, coats the lungs like honey, triggering an immune reaction that leads to EVALI.

Perhaps the main thing was having a group of smart, dedicated medical professionals who worked well together and rose to the challenge."

Alex Mitchell continues to recover. Although his lung capacity remains about 25% below normal, he has begun hiking again, taking frequent stops for rest. He no longer smokes or vapes. While he considers his experience a cautionary tale, he believes individuals should evaluate the risks, then make their own choices about smoking or vaping.

In the future, he hopes to attend college, majoring in something that perhaps Callahan and Aberegg can relate to after treating him: chaos theory. **U**

*Doug Dollemore is a senior science writer for U of U Health.*

# They Pay Me to Do This!

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Campus jobs aren't  
what they used to be

## Photos by Dave Titensor

For many students, the University of Utah is a second home. They eat, sleep, study, and even work here. In fact, one in four undergraduates (about 6,000 students) are employed in one way or another by the U. These jobs not only help students pay the bills but also help get them on a faster track to graduation. Compared to their counterparts, students who are employed through campus jobs are about 12 percent more likely to graduate within six years or less.

Why would working campus jobs help students graduate quicker? It's all about making connections, says Mike Martineau BA'08 MS'12 PhD'13, director of institutional analysis at the U. "Does someone other than a professor know your name? Students who work for the U are often more engaged, with more friends on campus, more mentors, and just more connections," he says.

From fish feeders to salt enthusiasts, meet some of our students with the most unusual, interesting, and rewarding jobs that leave them remarking, "Wow, they pay me to do this!"



## ◀ Study Salt

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Jeremiah Bernau is obsessed with salt. The doctoral candidate has been studying it for years across several states. In Utah, Bernau has been making treks out to the Bonneville Salt Flats for three years now. It's dirty, challenging work that goes on, come freezing brine or blinding salt. And it's a two-hour drive. But it's worth it, he says. "The salt flats tell an important story," he explains. "It's a system that connects scientists, other people, and nature." His group is investigating how humans interact with the varying landscape and environment. Whether it's speed racing, mining, or the changing climate, it all affects the flats, he says.

## ▶ Set Routes

---

Abby Emerson keeps the U's rock-climbing community on their toes... and fingers. She and nine other route setters curate the boulder problems and roped routes snaking up the walls of The Summit climbing gym in the Student Life Center. As head route setter, Emerson ensures that route styles and difficulties challenge all climbers, from beginners to the U's competition climbing team. She also wants to inspire more women to take up the profession. "Climbing is pretty even in terms of men to women, but route setting is male-dominated. But it's getting better," says Emerson. "I hope to open my own gym to show that women can do it."





## ◀ Predict Weather

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Andy Park was a Hotshot. That is, he was on the Lone Peak Hotshots fire crew that fights the most intense wildfires in the West. Seeing how weather could impact fires sparked a passion in Park. The senior, studying atmospheric sciences, works for his department maintaining weather stations around the Salt Lake Valley. He also works on air quality monitors on the valley's TRAX light rail. He's gaining a greater appreciation for what goes into forecasting. "It takes years of experience to understand the weather station data," he says. "This job is helping me do just that." After graduation, he wants to be a meteorologist in Alaska or maybe Oregon.



## ◀ Feed Fish

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Undergrad Carolina Lozano-Ashton double-checks the tanks for more than 150 researchers on a regular basis. "And I find their mistakes sometimes, too," she remarks. Her title? Fish feeder level II. The senior studying mathematics works in a zebrafish facility with more than 6,000 tanks housing 120,000 fish. The fish, which share about 70% of our genetics, are used for studies on everything from diabetes to cardiology—even an experiment from the dean of pharmacy about how zebrafish respond to opiates. "I love my job," she says. "I'm responsible for thousands of fish. And I love that I get to make a difference while learning so much."



## ◀ Fly Drones

---

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a drone. And they're used for a whole lot more than hobbies these days. In fact, graduate student Bonnie Erdenekhu-yag BS'18 is one of the first students to use drones as part of a mining engineering master's program. She recently finished an internship at Rio Tinto's copper mine where she used drones to create extremely accurate (within just a few centimeters) maps of the region. The research assistant originally from Mongolia is now using drone data to examine different mineral makeups in a region of Utah.

Drones have made a massive impact on the mining industry, she says. They can be used to determine vegetation and for environmental monitoring. And with cages to protect them, they're able to fly into caves and in confined spaces. "Drones are the future of mining. They're going to make it safer and more efficient and have less environmental impact," she says. "And it's a pretty fun way to make a living."

# ► Be the Hawk

---

If there were a degree for Swagger, he'd have a doctorate. But in the meantime, he's a super senior studying communication and dance. Swoop is a red-tailed hawk, a bird respected by the Ute tribe. He enrolled at the U shortly after hatching at the first basketball game of the season in 1996—hence the jersey number 96.

Like most hawks, he's a social creature and covers a lot of ground. He makes an appearance at almost every important U event both in and out of state. Let's just say his calendar is booked solid (and the only reason he can keep up with his studies and his job is because there are actually three human students trading off the role, but shhh, don't tell).

Although Swoop doesn't say much, we were able to talk to some friends to discover a few little-known details about our beloved mascot. His personal record for the number of push-ups he can do in a row is 156 and a half, which he's very proud of. His favorite foods are small rodents, Froot Loops, and Cocoa Puffs. Originally, Swoop wanted to study aviation science, but he decided that would be too easy, being a bird and all, so he changed majors. He says he'll be a U student for life. But if that doesn't work out, he could always pursue a backup career as a GQ model.



# Probe Arctic Waters

For doctoral student Ryleigh Moore, math is a way to understand the world, and have a lot of fun. Last fall, as part of Moore's job at the U, she joined an international collaboration of researchers traveling to the Arctic to map and measure the melting of sea ice. They used fractal geometry and satellite imagery to examine the impacts of rising temperatures. She led the installation of equipment that will collect data for scientists to use all around the world. Of course, they also did some drilling to measure the thickness of ice floes.

"A lot of people may think math is boring," she says. "But I took a Russian research vessel out of Norway and made it all the way to the Arctic. I'd say that's pretty exciting!"



## Short Takes



### MOST DRAMATIC

*Patient Actors*—These students get to refine their theatrical skills by playing out different medical scenarios and conditions for health professionals in training.

### QUIETEST

*Book Observer*—Yes, it's a job. These Marriott Library employees accompany visitors who are there to look at very old and rare books, photos, papers, and even diaries in the Special Collections.

### MOST TRAVELED

*Football Videographer*—This lucky duck gets to travel with the team to learn how to capture and edit video used to help the athletes improve their game.



### MUDDIEST

*Red Butte Gardeners*—These interns aren't afraid of a little dirt. They pull, rake, plant, trim, pinch, and sometimes wade in waist deep pond water—all for the sake of the plants.

### MOST ATTENTIVE

*UMFA Security Guards*—Their duty is to help protect a collection of more than 20,000 objects and artworks and to provide excellent customer service to thousands of visitors each year.



### YOU-GO-GIRLIEST

*GoGirlz Facilitators*—As part of the Women's Resource Center, these students get to work with underserved girls in local schools, helping them learn more about pursuing college.



### MOST PATIENT

*Child Caretakers*—With numerous preschools and day cares on campus, U students have plenty of opportunities to get paid to nurture mini humans.

### HIGHEST STEPCOUNT

*Hospital Valets*—These students get in shape quickly, walking up to 10 miles per day. Some who have gone on to careers in health say their valet beginnings at the hospital helped open doors for them.

### JUDGIEST

*Kids' Court Coordinators*—Law students get to run a program that helps underserved middle schoolers around the state train for moot courts, where they get to visit the U's law school and argue or judge a mock case.

### MOST POISED

*Art Models*—This student job has one simple task: to model (in draped or undraped poses) for three hours at a time for classes in the Department of Art & Art History.



### FRIENDLIEST

*SafeRide Drivers*—They transport fellow students from point A to point B on campus between 6 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. weekdays (think campus Uber, but free).



### LONGEST LIST

*Zoology Digitizers*—These students have a pretty long to-do list helping the Natural History Museum of Utah digitize 350,000 specimens, artifacts, and records.



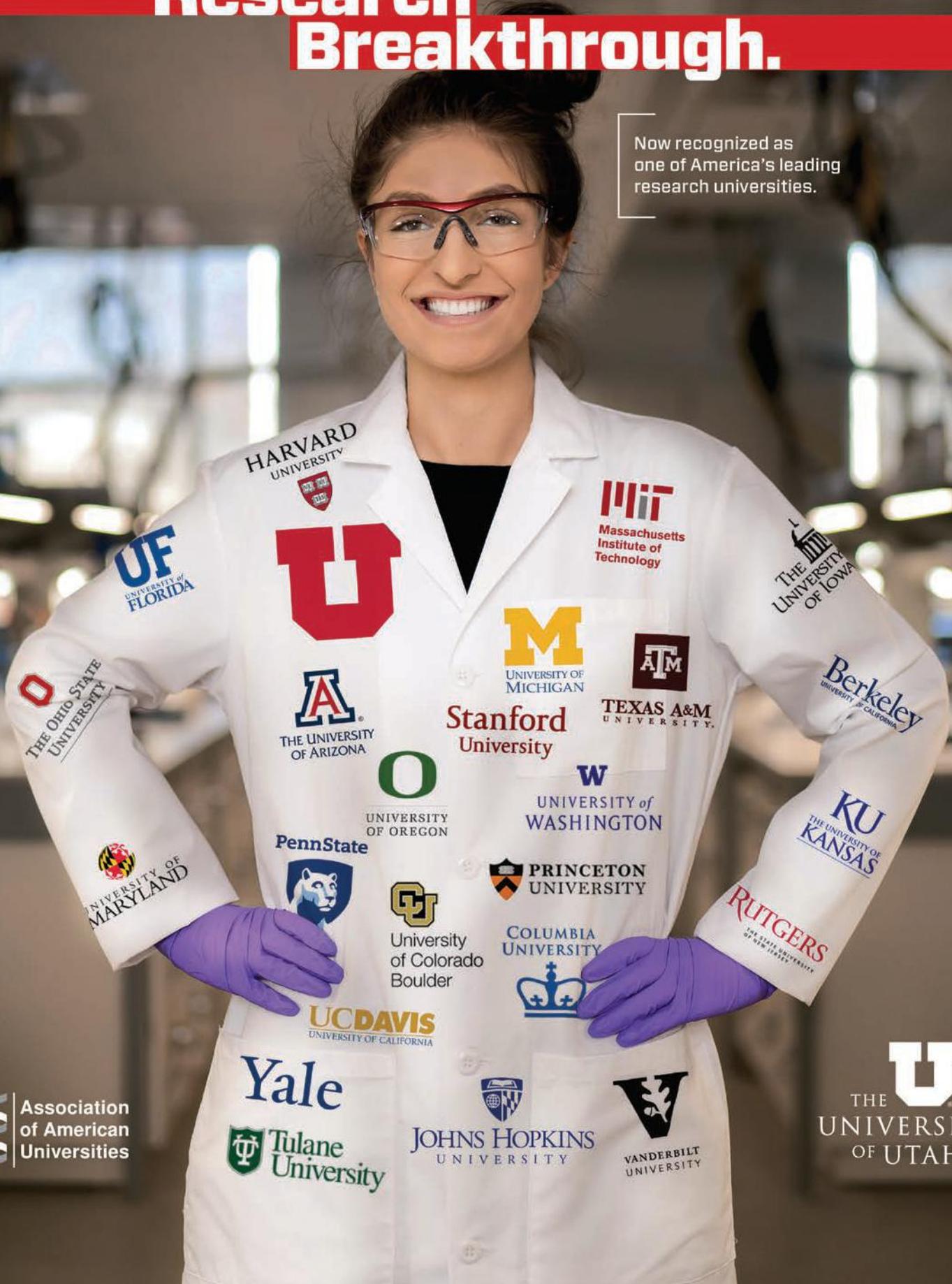
### GREENEST

*Sustainability Interns*—Students can hone their green thumb as a campus garden steward. Or they can opt for a transportation job, which involves a lot of counting: bikes, skateboards, scooters... anything that rolls across campus, really.

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## Celebrating Our Roots on Founders Day

### How well do you know the U's origin story?

Every year on or around February 28, the U celebrates Founders Day and awards some of its most prestigious alumni honors. This year marks 170 years since the U got its humble start, so we thought our readers might appreciate a brief refresher of our history before we share the names of this year's Founders Day awardees.

The story begins in 1850. The pioneers wanted to establish a university, so the General Assembly of the State of Deseret, led by LDS Church leader Orson Spencer, chartered the University of Deseret. But times were tough, so classes were taught in private residences and other make-do spaces, and within three years, the university had to close due to lack of funding.

Courses were held intermittently for more than a decade, until state leaders could put greater resources into the school. In 1869, John R. Park became the university's first president. By 1886 the university had moved into its own building, granted its first degrees, and formed the Alumni Association. After the move, student life began to develop

on campus with the establishment of literary and debating societies and the annual University Ball.

In 1892, the school was renamed the University of Utah. The Territorial Legislature petitioned Congress to get acreage for a new campus, which was granted in 1894, landing the university on the east bench—its permanent home.

At the Founders Day gala in February, the Alumni Association recognized the following individuals for their professional excellence, service, and support of the university. Distinguished Alumni (see next page): Jeff Battcher ex'84, Katharine Garff BS'64, Kathy Loveless BA'71, and Eric Weddle ex'06. Honorary Alumnus: Al Landon, U assistant dean of business and former chairman and CEO of Bank of Hawaii. Distinguished Service awardees: Ted Capener BS'53, a long-time broadcaster and U vice president (see p. 48); and Megan BS'84 and Greg Marsden ex'78 (see p. 19), former Utah gymnastics coaches.

ELENA GARDNER

*Above: The first classes at the University of Deseret in 1850 were held in the home of pioneer John Pack. The roster was 25 students, and tuition was \$8 for the quarter.*



#### Web Extra

Watch a video about each Founders Day honoree at [magazine.utah.edu/FD2020](http://magazine.utah.edu/FD2020)

## ROUNDUP



### Join Alumnifire for the U

This networking community helps connect alumni with each other and with current students. It's free and serves as a mentoring platform to share career advice, practice interview skills, offer resume tips, post job opportunities, and more. Sign up at [uofu.alumnifire.com](http://uofu.alumnifire.com).



### Sport a U License Plate

Become a U plate holder for only \$40 a year and make a lasting impact on the lives of students. More plates on the road means more scholarships for deserving U students. Order yours today at [utahplate.com](http://utahplate.com).

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

### Get Involved with Your Local Alumni Club

The U has more than 30 alumni clubs around the world, many with their own Facebook pages. Club activities are planned year-round and can range from family picnics to community service events. Visit [alumni.utah.edu](http://alumni.utah.edu) to see what's on the calendar. To get involved with clubs, email Nelly Divricean at [nelly.divricean@alumni.utah.edu](mailto:nelly.divricean@alumni.utah.edu).



# What post-grad job tips do you have for the U's class of 2020?

Hear from our Founders Day Distinguished Alumni.



**Jeff Battcher** ex'84, CEO and founder of Battcher Communications and AIM Sports Management, former vice president of Delta Airlines, BellSouth, and Level 3 Communications

**Be on time.** Eighty percent of life is just showing up! Sit in the front row of every meeting. Always ask for the most difficult assignments. Don't be a problem, be the solution. And don't expect your boss to manage your career. It's your career; take charge of it.



**Katharine Garff** BS'64, a board member of Garff Enterprises, Inc., and a director of the Robert H. and Katharine B. Garff Foundation, as well as past chair of the Utah State Board of Education

**Find a job you enjoy,** but don't expect it to fulfill your deepest dreams. Sometimes life means hard work that will put food on the table. Always tell the truth, especially when you make mistakes. Value teamwork, and don't worry about who gets the credit.



**Kathy Loveless** BA'71, speaker, author, CEO, and founder of Loveless Enterprises, Inc., a management consulting firm, and first female vice president of investment banking in Utah

**Consistently do more than you are asked to do,** and always look at the type and quality of work through your boss's eyes. Ask what burden you can lift from his or her shoulders in moving the mission of the organization forward—then do it.



**Eric Weddle** ex'06, retired NFL free safety with the Los Angeles Rams, six-time Pro Bowl, and five-time All-Pro honoree, and made *Sporting News'* latest NFL all-decade team

**Don't settle for being average.** Strive to be the very best at whatever job you start out in, setting that standard from day one. Also, don't waste one second on what people say or think about you. Have the confidence and mental toughness to believe in yourself.



## Capping It Off

There are many ways to stand out in a crowd. But few involve as much glitter and glue as the growing trend of decorating the mortarboard—the flat top of a graduation cap—as part of the commencement celebrations. To (as she quips) “put a very sparkly cherry on top” of her experiences at the U, Mercedes Maestas BS'19 hosted a graduation cap decorating party for 25 friends last year. “It was really the ‘last hurrah’ to say farewell to the chapter I was closing that day,” says Maestas (whose shiny red cap is shown here at right).

And it's more than just a way for loved ones to find students in a sea of black caps, according to University of Nevada, Las Vegas, researcher Sheila Bock, who studies this growing phenomenon. Some caps are whimsical, while others are profound, but most fall into categories of celebration, identity, and politics, she says. Here's just a small selection of some of the fabulous caps seen at recent U graduations.





# The ‘Gutah’ Boys

Twenty Norwegians who came for an education, left as friends—and will never forget the U.

When Oslo native and U alum Per Kaarby BA’86 was running in the New York Marathon back in 1987, he had an epiphany about how he could keep in touch with his fellow Norwegian U alums. He would form a social group (remember, this was before social media) as a way to keep in touch. A few short weeks later, “Gutah” was born.

Now, celebrating more than three decades of Gutah—19 of whose 20 members live in the Oslo area—the congenial and fun-loving group meets several times a year to catch up and reminisce, hitting the slopes in winter and the golf greens in summer. They also help recruit Norwegians to the U and are proud that this year there are more than 20, many of them on athletic scholarships.

According to Kaarby, who works with Just Cruzin’ Production in Oslo, the history of Norwegians at the U started in the ‘60s when the first skiers came over on scholarships. The number peaked at 100 students in the ‘80s, when favorable student loans and grants from the Norwegian government encouraged students to study abroad. At the U, almost all were skiers—and half joined the cross-country or downhill ski teams.

Some followed other U sports teams or the Utah Jazz, and some became “ski bums” working at Alf Engen’s Ski School at Alta, recalls Andreas Scheel BS’87, who works as

an editor for the Norwegian business newspaper *Finansavisen*’s weekly supplement, *Motor*. “Many of us drove 1960s convertibles, and over Christmas and spring breaks, we rented RVs for trips to California,” adds Scheel, who still drives convertibles and RVs for his reviews.

Geir Vik BS’85 almost didn’t make it to the U. He was scheduled to start at Dartmouth College when old ski friends from Norway attending the U at the time insisted that he move to Utah, where they have “The Greatest Snow on Earth”... and a great engineering program. Vik later introduced fully automatic snowmaking systems to the North American ski industry, and—now a 30-plus-year resident of Park City—operates The Viking Yurt, a Norwegian-inspired adventure dining restaurant at Park City Mountain Resort.

“We traveled halfway around the world to get a good education, a cultural and language understanding, and to meet new friends,” says Steinar Sønstebø BS’86, CEO of Atea ASA, a market leader in IT infrastructure in Europe. “We could not have known then how much the time in Salt Lake City and at the U would mean for us for the rest of our lives.” Plans are underway for Gutah’s 35-year celebration in Salt Lake City in 2022. “It will be just like the old days!” he declares.

ANN FLOOR BFA’85

*Above: Knut Aronsen BS’86 celebrates Norway’s independence day on the slopes at Alta Ski Resort in May 1985. Below: Hans Ellingsen BS’85, left, and Harald Gefle BS’87 road tripping in San Diego for spring break 1983.*



# Class Notes

## '50s

The new book *The Art of Gaell Lindstrom* details the life and extensive works of the noted Utah artist **Gaell Lindstrom** BS'51. A master of forms including watercolor, oil painting, and photography, Lindstrom captured people and scenes from Guatemala to China and taught art as a university professor for decades.

## '60s

**Cecelia "Cece" Foxley** MA'65 PhD'68—past Utah Commissioner of Higher Education and CEO to the Board of Regents—was the state's longest-serving commissioner (10 1/2 years) and the only woman. She served the board for more than 18 years total and now pursues philanthropic and consulting activities.

## '70s

**Robert Berman** BA'70 MS'75 PhD'77 has been elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Berman is a professor of neurological surgery at the University of California, Davis, as well as a faculty member with the UC Davis MIND Institute and its Center for Neuroscience.

## '80s

**John Eccleston** BS'83 has co-authored the first two novels—most recently, the installment *Blood Red*—in the techno-thriller trilogy *Heaven Ride*, about a seemingly miraculous invention that sends people to heaven and brings them back to their lives on earth but which contains a devastating flaw.



Jenise Anderson

**Jenise Anderson** BFA'85 JD'93 was recognized with a Utah Lieutenant Governor's Public Service Award. She is legal director of the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center—litigating innocence and wrongful conviction claims, many in coordination with a class and clinic at the U's College of Law, where she also teaches.

**Jon Serbousek** MS'85 is president and chief executive officer of Orthofix Medical Inc., a global medical device company. Serbousek's experience spans more than 30 years in the medical device and biotech industries.

**Lynne Ward** BS'80 stepped down after 15 years leading my529 (formerly called the Utah Educational Savings Plan). Ward says that helping hundreds of thousands of families save for higher education and reduce student debt was "an immense privilege."

## '90s

**Wendy Terrien** BS'91 published a new YA fantasy novel, *The Forge of Bonds: Chronicle Three in the Adventures of Jason Lex*, a coming-of-age story in which friendships thrive despite paranormal adversity. Terrien's debut novel, the first of the trilogy, was named to Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2016.

**Jim Olson** BA'92 is president of the Utah Jazz and Larry H. Miller Sports & Entertainment. A 25-year veteran of the Larry H. Miller Group, he oversees business operations of the Jazz and provides strategic leadership for other LHM properties such as Megaplex Theatres, the Salt Lake Bees baseball team, and Vivint Smart Home Arena.

**Linda Edelman** MPL'93 BS'95 PhD'08, R.N., received the Amy J. Berman Geriatric Nursing Leadership Award from the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Director of education and practice in the U's College of Nursing, she has focused on improving geriatric care in long-term care settings.

**Erin Fox** BA'94 PhD'99 was honored with a Zellmer Lecture Award. Senior director of drug information and support services at U of U Health, Fox is a nationally recognized expert on the impact of rising drug costs and ongoing shortages of critical medications.

**Nicole Priest** BS'94 MD'98 is the inaugural chief wellness officer for Merit Medical Systems, implementing a global program to help employees live healthier, more fulfilling lives. With deep experience in primary care med-

icine, Priest has also taught since 2005 in the U's Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

**Teresa Welch** BA'94 BS'96 MA'02 JD'02 was appointed a judge for the Third District Court, in Utah. Welch had previously worked as a public defender with the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association since 2003. She also teaches college-level criminal justice and philosophy classes. Her master's and one bachelor's degree are in philosophy.



Lori Richer

**Lori Richer** MS'95 MD'03 is the hospice and palliative care medical director at Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice in New London, New Hampshire. Richer grew up in the area and returned after earning her medical degree. As a primary care physician from 2006-18, she became drawn to taking care of patients in the last phase of life and transitioned to that specialty.

**Sue Phillips** MS'96 is the new director for the U.S. Geological Survey's Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, in Corvallis, Ore. Phillips has been a FRESC research manager for a decade. She previously spent 12 years with the USGS Southwest Biological Science Center's Canyonlands Field Station in Moab, Utah.

**Chelsea Koch** BS'97 JD'00 has been appointed a judge for the Third District Court. Since 2008, Koch has run her own private practice. She also served as a public defender in Tooele County and was an assistant federal defender and trial attorney for the Utah Federal Defender Office.

**Sáša Woodruff** BA'98 joined Boise State Public Radio as news director. She had most recently been an editor and producer for the national *Marketplace Morning Report* program. She was previously an editor, producer, and reporter for NPR.



Jared Bennett

**Jared Bennett** BS'98 JD'01 MPA'01, first assistant attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Utah, has spent time in Mexico over the last 10 years helping transform its criminal judicial system. "Mexico has been making herculean efforts to improve its justice system to address organized crime and violence," says Bennett. "And the U.S. has been a significant contributor to those efforts."

**Dustin Robertson** BS'98 is the inaugural president of Grow, a business intelligence platform based in Lehi, Utah. With 20 years of dot-com experience, his prior leadership experience includes Vegas.com and Backcountry.com.

**David McCray** LLM'99 has been reappointed as one of three justices on the California Courts-Martial Appellate Panel, which hears criminal appeals involving California Guard and Reserve personnel.

## '00s

**Geoffrey Butler** BS'02 MBA'07 is now planning director of Oklahoma City. He started his career with the city in 2009 as a senior planner, helping develop and implement planokc (the city's award-winning comprehensive plan).

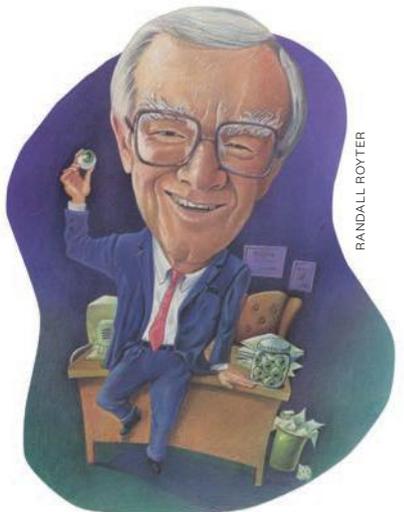


Reshma Shetty

**Reshma Shetty** BS'02 was honored with a Rosalind Franklin Award, which recognizes outstanding female leaders in the biotechnology field. A groundbreaker in synthetic biology (SB), Shetty co-founded Ginkgo Bioworks, a Boston-based biotech company that became SB's first unicorn (a startup valued at more than \$1B).

## SPOTLIGHT

**Ted Capener** BS'53, an esteemed longtime newsmen, broadcaster, and vice president of university relations at the U, was honored at the university's 2020 Founders Day gala (see p. 44). Capener's 60-plus-year media career has spanned print, radio, and TV. But in what he called his "dream job" at the U, from 1985-99, he helped create this magazine—originally called *Continuum*—and chaired the committee that chose U Athletics' new mascot Swoop.



RANDALL ROYTER

SPOTLIGHT



**Ryan Brijs** BFA'07 is the senior creative director for the Sacramento Kings pro basketball team. Brijs says, "My love of basketball started early at the Huntsman Center, and my career as a designer was formed and shaped in the Department of Art and the Art History building."

**John Nixon** MBA'02 is senior vice president of CNSI, a Rockville, Maryland-based company that delivers health information technology solutions. Nixon was previously a vice president at the U and was Utah's state budget director, and also served as director for Michigan's Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, leading 2,700 employees.

**Mike Cross** BS'03 PhD'09 wrote *Francesca and the Genie of Science*, a Dr. Seuss-style rhymed children's book that helps teach kids about science while entertaining parents as well. Cross is a professor of chemistry at Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts. Book proceeds benefit the NECC Fund, which provides support for scholarships and academic programs on campus.



Sarah Jackson

**Sarah J. Jackson** BA'05 accepted a Presidential Associate Professorship in the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication. Jackson is well-

known for her studies of media, with a focus on communication by and about black and feminist activists.

**Claybourne Elder** BA'06 is on Broadway in the hit musical comedy *Company* through September. Elder has starred in a number of plays on and off Broadway as well as in TV and film. Last fall, he was honored with the 2019 Horizon Award by the U's Department of Theatre.

**Jeremy Jensen** BA'06 co-founded Outwild—an event series and resource hub—and hosts the podcast *The Adventurepreneur Playbook*. Both aim to help people who want to build lifestyles and businesses around a love for adventure, travel, and the outdoors.



Preston Johnson

**Preston Johnson** MS'06 analyzes athletes' performance as an ESPN sports betting analyst on the show *Daily Wager*. "A master's in sports psychology is a very unique degree, and... having insight into an athlete's mental approach and state of mind gives me an advantage that not every analyst or prognosticator has," he notes.

**Jennifer Cartisano Sparlin** MEd'07 is now an instructor of education at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. She previously worked for many years as a public school special education classroom teacher and administrator.

**Derek Anderson** BS'08 is executive director of the new Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, New York. Prior to joining parent company Northwell Health in 2010, Anderson worked in surgical services at Intermountain Healthcare in Utah.

**Ana Breton** BA'09 and **Victoria Elena Nones** BFA'11 produced *Run*, an uplifting reality docuseries in which five female political experts from across the nation empower novice, passionate female candidates running for office. Nones is a comedian, entrepreneur, and founder of the nonprofit Women in Comedy and Satira Comedy. Breton is a twice Emmy-nominated director and producer currently at *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*.

**Wesley Johnson** BA'09 was named Paralympic Coach of the Year by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee for his achievements coaching U.S. elite paratriathletes to international success in 2019, including three gold medals at the world series in Japan. Johnson also leads a squad of paratriathletes as founder and head coach of Balanced Art Multisport in Salt Lake City.

'10s

**Kelly Drabik** BS'10 recently participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Baja California, Mexico, studying desert and marine landscapes. She is a graduate student at MU.



Alexander Au

**Alexander Au** BS'12 MD'19 presented a global mental health app at the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference. Au says the app aims "not only to diagnose and manage mental health but to improve methods to better understand suicide." Now a grad student in Biomedical Informatics at the U, Au notes that suicide "is a leading cause of death among our youth on a global scale."

**Garrett Bright** BA'12 has been training to become a commercial airline pilot, his "dream job." With the U.S. Air National Guard since 2014, he served as a large aircraft transport pilot and recently returned home from being deployed overseas as a 1st lieutenant.

**Lyndsey Calvin** BS'13 was accepted into Minneapolis's FINNOVATION Lab, a social business catalyst. Calvin is working to revolutionize post-operative care for transgender women. She is

passionate about developing and commercializing solutions for underserved and marginalized populations.

**Kaitlin Bundock** PhD'15 is an assistant professor of special education and rehabilitation at Utah State University. She previously taught high school math in a resource setting.

**Kerry E. Kelly** PhD'15 received the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Environmental Division Early Career Award. A U assistant professor of chemical engineering, Kelly focuses her research on the links between energy, air quality, and human health, and she serves on Utah's Air Quality Policy Board.

**Eri Nishihara** BFA'15 was featured in *Pointe Magazine*. She currently dances for the Richmond Ballet in Virginia.

**Joél-Léhi Organista** BS'17 was elected the national vice president of youth for the League of United Latin American Citizens, the largest Latino civil rights organization in the country. He is the first national board member from Utah.

**Bryan Erspamer** MS'18 is head athletic trainer for the Stockton Heat pro ice hockey team. He was previously head athletic trainer for the Utah Grizzlies.



What's up with U?

Send updates to [classnotes@utah.edu](mailto:classnotes@utah.edu)

SPOTLIGHT



**Anita Coyle** BS'02 MS'04 PhD'07 received the Dave DeSantis XTERRA Warrior Award this past fall "in honor of her exemplary courage in the face of adversity." Coyle is an ultra-athlete and mother of four whose husband, competitive athlete Jason Coyle BA'01, just 42, passed away suddenly from a rare heart condition in January 2019—the day after Anita had surgery for thyroid cancer. In the midst of facing her loss, recovery, and new challenges as a single parent, Anita decided to continue training for the triathlon and qualified for the XTERRA World Championship in Maui, Hawaii, last October. For more on her story, visit [magazine.utah.edu/anitacoyle](http://magazine.utah.edu/anitacoyle).



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Emilia C., University of Utah Professional MBA '14

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<b>MBA ONLINE</b>	For working professionals seeking flexible online solutions to achieve career advancement or to begin a new career track	Online with weekly live sessions and deliverables	10 years	34	Top 10 in the world
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**Web Extra**

To see more images of the trailblazing women, visit [magazine.utah.edu/zion](http://magazine.utah.edu/zion)

Reflect



## Gigantic Grandeur

In May 1920, Zion opened as a newly formed national park, and these women were its first official visitors—five of them University of Utah students. The young adventurers scaled cliff faces and traversed winding canyons, documenting their journey as part of a promotional campaign to introduce the park’s “gigantic grandeur” to the world. This image is from a collection of photographs and newspaper clippings purchased online by Melissa Clark. She and husband John Clark showcased the rare images in a book they co-authored called *Opening Zion: A Scrapbook of the National Park’s First Official Tourists*. Photos here and online provided by the University of Utah Press and the Union Pacific Museum.



Cindy Burrows, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry

# 3 Elevate Research and Engineer Innovative Solutions

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