

The 'Rite Stuff

A U researcher and meteorite hunter examines the culprit behind a boom heard 'round the Salt Lake Valley. p. 22

College Town Magic

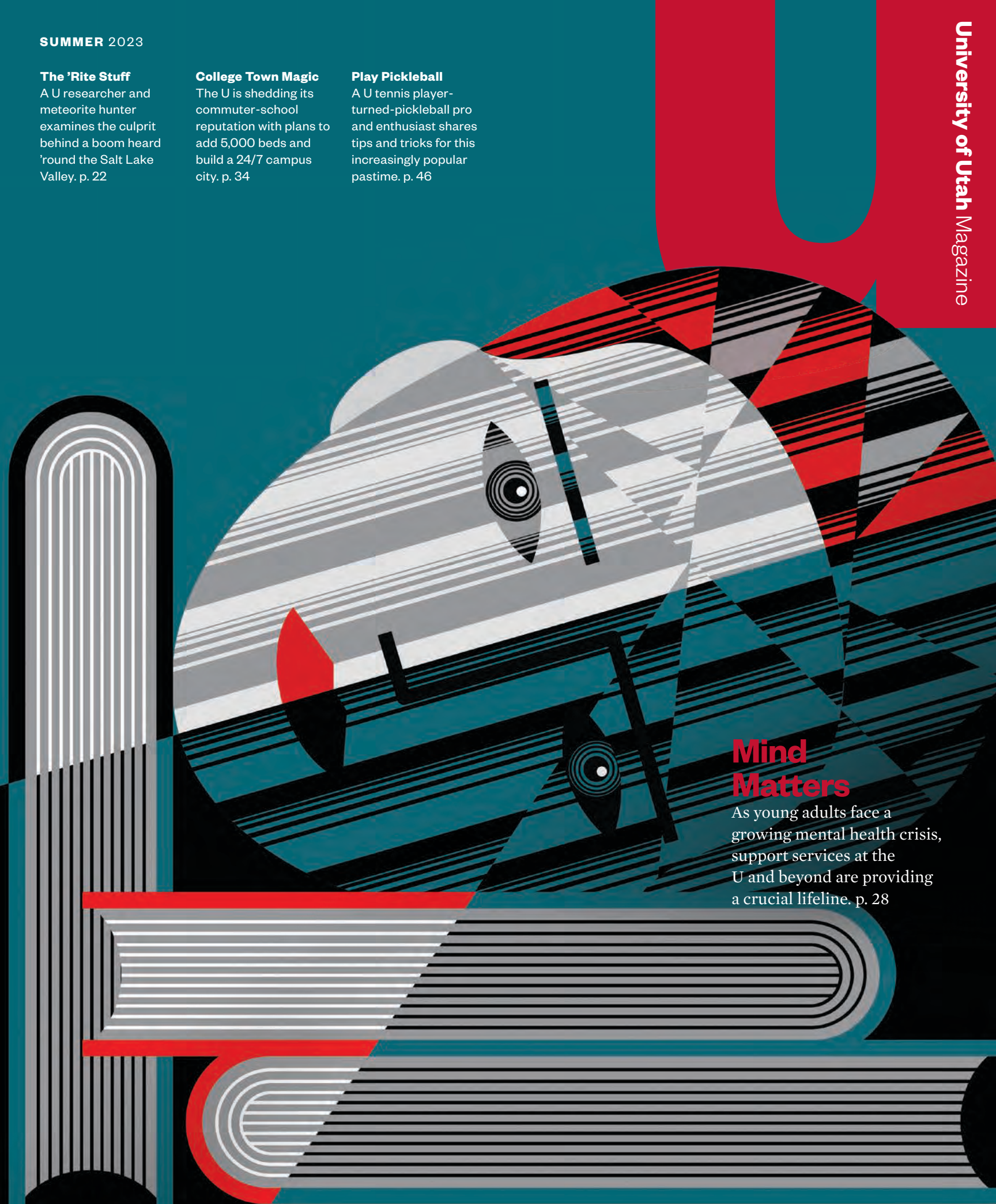
The U is shedding its commuter-school reputation with plans to add 5,000 beds and build a 24/7 campus city. p. 34

Play Pickleball

A U tennis player-turned-pickleball pro and enthusiast shares tips and tricks for this increasingly popular pastime. p. 46

Mind Matters

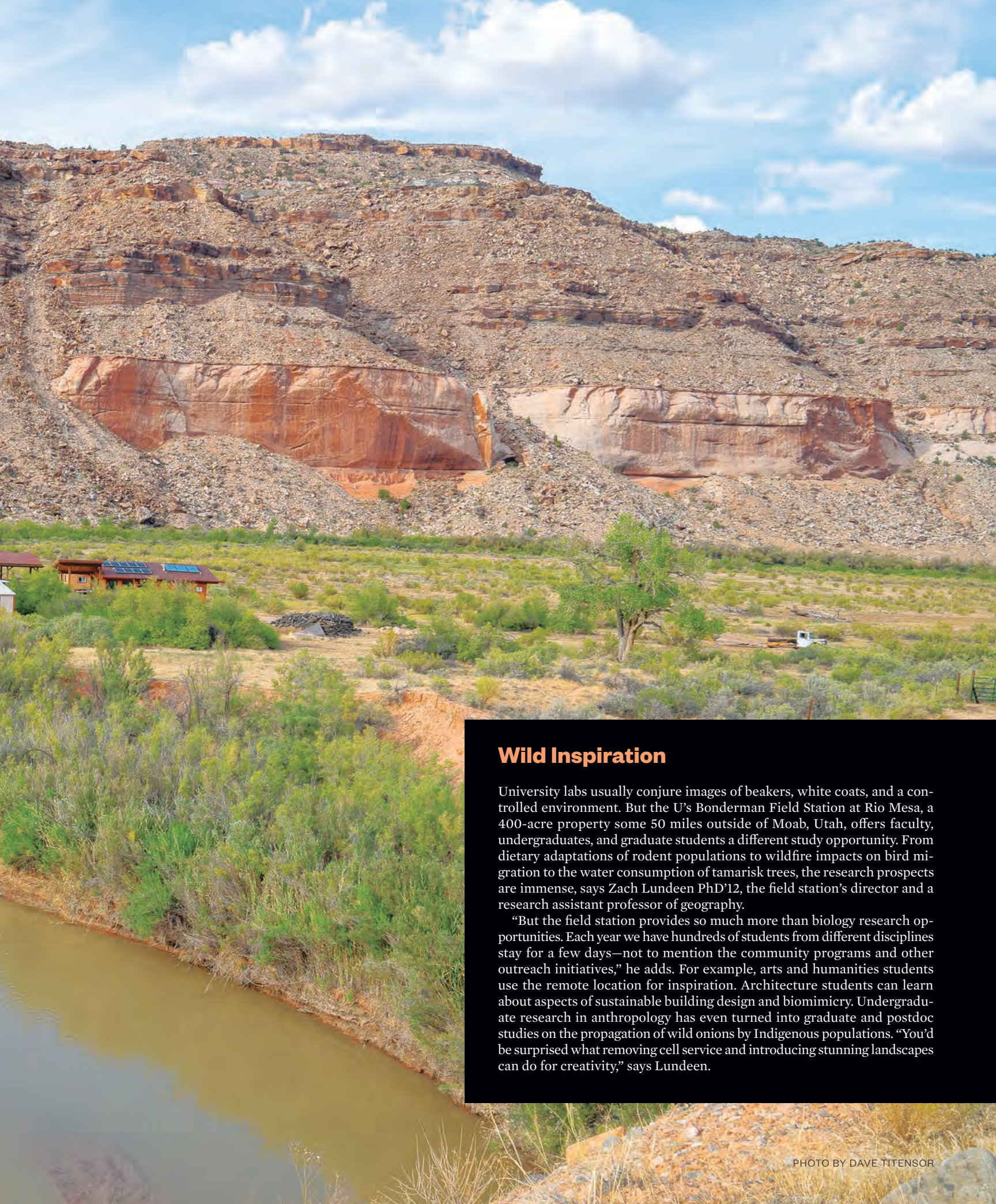
As young adults face a growing mental health crisis, support services at the U and beyond are providing a crucial lifeline. p. 28





Outside





Wild Inspiration

University labs usually conjure images of beakers, white coats, and a controlled environment. But the U's Bonderman Field Station at Rio Mesa, a 400-acre property some 50 miles outside of Moab, Utah, offers faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students a different study opportunity. From dietary adaptations of rodent populations to wildfire impacts on bird migration to the water consumption of tamarisk trees, the research prospects are immense, says Zach Lundeen PhD'12, the field station's director and a research assistant professor of geography.

"But the field station provides so much more than biology research opportunities. Each year we have hundreds of students from different disciplines stay for a few days—not to mention the community programs and other outreach initiatives," he adds. For example, arts and humanities students use the remote location for inspiration. Architecture students can learn about aspects of sustainable building design and biomimicry. Undergraduate research in anthropology has even turned into graduate and postdoc studies on the propagation of wild onions by Indigenous populations. "You'd be surprised what removing cell service and introducing stunning landscapes can do for creativity," says Lundeen.

U University of Utah Magazine

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Volume 32, No. 2

More housing is coming to campus. As the U plans to add 5,000 new beds, it's also creating a nonstop living-learning experience that will make students wish college never ended. p. 34

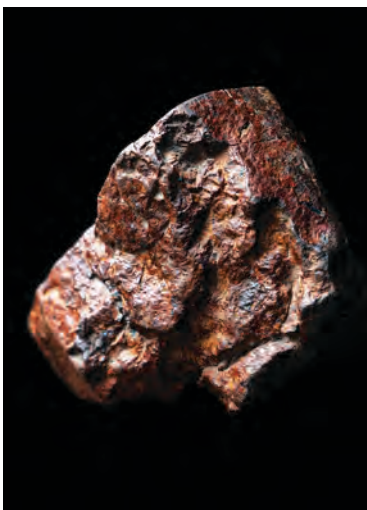


ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL WARAKSA

FEATURES

22

The 'Rite Stuff In August 2022, thousands of Utahns heard the boom of a heavenly object breaking the sound barrier and falling to earth. What's now known as the Great Salt Lake meteorite made its way to a U planetary scientist, giving him and the university a chance to learn what secrets of space this chunk of rock holds.



28

Mind Matters More and more young adults are struggling with mental health issues, leading to a growing need for support services. The U's Huntsman Mental Health Institute, campus organizations, and community leaders are stepping up to provide crucial mental health lifelines for college and high school students.

34

College Town Magic The U has long been known as a commuter school. But with new housing in recent years, that reputation is fading. Now, the university is embarking on plans to add 5,000 beds and build a campus city where students can live, learn, find community, and have a 24/7 college experience.

ON THE COVER

Major life changes like going to college or moving away from home can leave some students feeling lost, lonely, and in need of support, as depicted in this illustration by the Balbusso Twins.

WEB EXTRAS

More available at magazine.utah.edu



After leaving her family in Afghanistan to seek refuge in the United States, Shogofa Mahnaz Safi was scared and heartbroken. She found solace, kindness, and a chance to improve her English skills through

the Zions Evening ESL Program at the U. Visit magazine.utah.edu/esl for an extended Q&A about this course and other English Language Institute programs.

The 2023 U Distinguished Alumni Award recipients have lived amazing lives. Visit magazine.utah.edu/founders2023 to watch stories of this year's awardees, which include an NCAA champion skier who helped launch a space-geodetic network, a neurosurgeon who served as the 2002 Olympic Games chief medical officer, and a community college administrator who moonlights in a jazz band.



A new tool that injects fluorescent green dye into lung tumors is helping Huntsman Cancer Institute surgeons locate hard-to-find nodules during procedures. Visit magazine.utah.edu/lungtumor to see a tumor light up during a real-life lung cancer surgery.

DEPARTMENTS

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EVERYONE IS

WELCOME



HEALTH PLANS
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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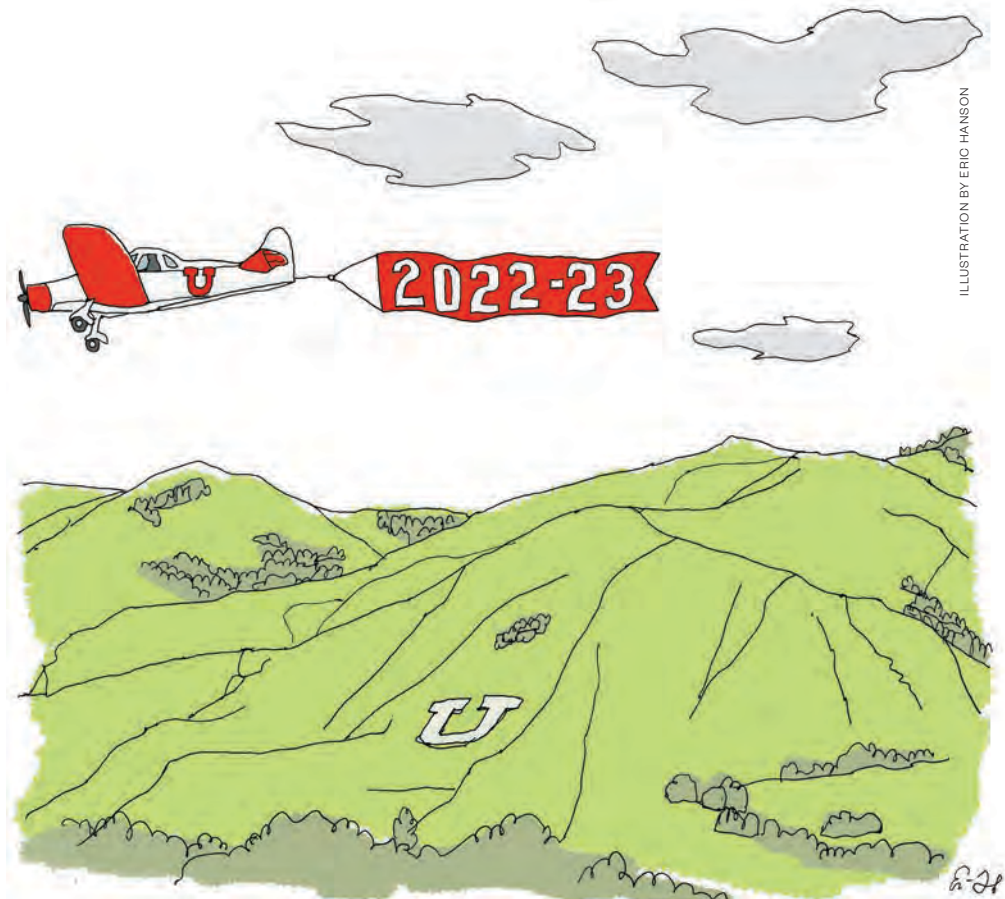


ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC HANSON

A Banner Year



In May, we welcomed the biggest group of graduates—8,723—to the ranks of our 300,000-strong alumni network. Congratulations! What a wonderful way to finish off an academic year filled with many notable milestones and achievements.

Last year we welcomed our largest and most diverse class ever to a bustling campus back in full swing following the pandemic. We launched the Wilkes Center for Policy & Climate, and we formed the Great Salt Lake Strike Team with Utah State University and other state agencies. We kicked off plans for the John and Marcia Price Computing and Engineering Building and launched the Stena Center for Financial Technology. We saw research grants grow to \$686 million, getting closer to our goal of \$1 billion.

As you'll see in this issue, we've increased mental health resources for our students and community (p. 28), and

more student housing is on the way as part of an exciting campus transformation plan (p. 34). On the athletics front, we played in our second consecutive Rose Bowl, women's basketball made the Sweet 16, and women's gymnastics reached the national championship for the 47th season. And in a year of record-breaking snow, for the fourth consecutive year and 16th time overall, our Utah Ski Team was named national champion.

I want to thank the Utah Legislature for sharing our vision to impact the lives of all 3.4 million Utahns and for helping fund many of these important endeavors. I also want to thank all of our generous alumni, donors, and supporters who helped raise a historic amount of \$3 billion over our eight-year capital campaign that closed out this spring.

This truly was an amazing year. And there is more to come as we move ever closer to reaching our goal of becoming a top 10 public university with unsurpassed societal impact.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR RANDALL HBA'90

Sparking Progress

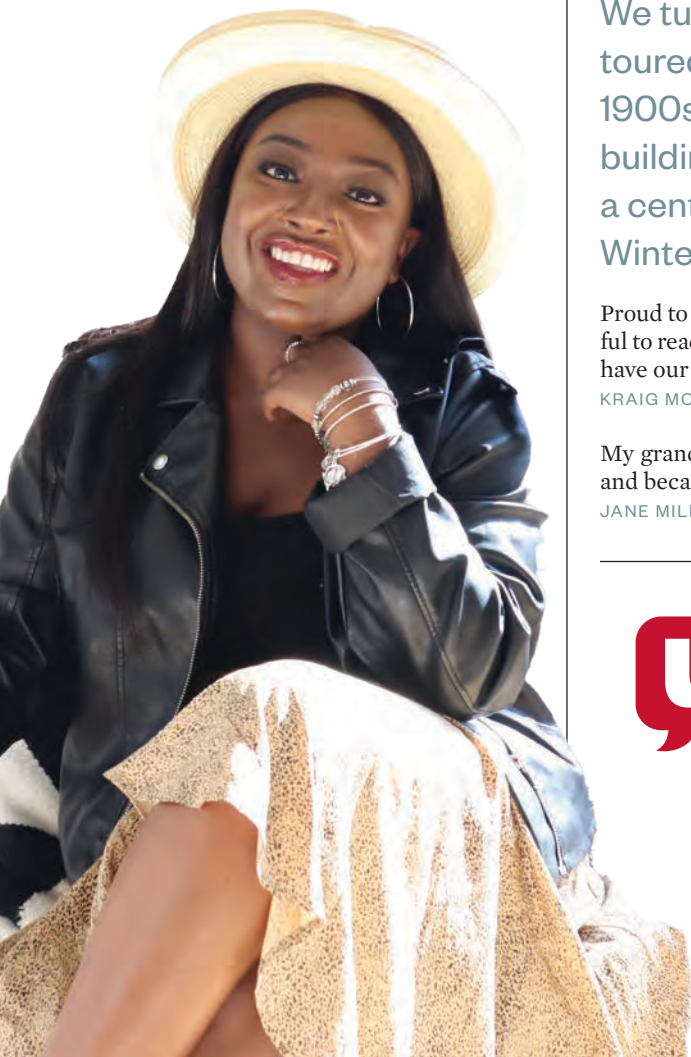
Barbara Kufiadan BS'19 helped launch the U's Black Cultural Center and has started an organization to help support and encourage Black women in graduate school ["Ask Black Grad Girl," Winter 2023].

Ms. Barbara Kufiadan is a formidable Black woman who will continue to make strides for Black women far beyond her work that began at the U on the Black Cultural Center. She is much appreciated.

STEVEN BELL MS'92 PHD'06
FARMINGTON, UT

Love the article. Thank you for the work you've done!

SHAUNA GRAVES-ROBERTSON
MPA'87 JD'90



Pathways to the Past

We turned back the clock and toured the U campus of the early 1900s to learn about some of the buildings that have been around for a century or more ["100 Years Ago," Winter 2023].

Proud to be a graduate from this great school. It's wonderful to read about the history of the U. This coming fall we'll have our third generation attending the U!

KRAIG MOLL BEE'81, SAN ANTONIO, TX

My grandmother, Lucile Chase, studied at the university and became a teacher in 1909.

JANE MILLAR MALLERY BS'77, MONUMENT, CO



We want to hear from you!

Join the discussion at magazine.utah.edu or email us at magazine@utah.edu. Comments may be edited for length and clarity.

Lessons from D-Day

As memories of WWII begin to fade, the U is preserving the stories, lessons, and legacy of the war ["Allied Against Tyranny," Winter 2023].



I think people born in the '70s, '80s, '90s, and 2000s have no real understanding of the sacrifice and commitment that winning WWII was for my parents' generation. Many younger people have no idea how many people died. The more that can be done to educate people on this war, the better off we will all be.

CHARLES L. ARCHER BS'69 MBA'77
HOLLADAY, UT



SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

It wasn't just star athletes in the spotlight when the NBA All-Star Weekend rolled into town this past February. Morgan Williams, a student in the U's Master of Business Creation program, made the final round of the first-ever NBA All-Star Pitch Competition. She founded Blendyd Studios, which provides affordable recruiting software to help the trucking and logistics industry make hiring more efficient.

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IVORY UNIVERSITY HOUSE

ELEVATED STUDENT LIVING



A NEW MODEL FOR SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION

The Ivory University House represents a new model for student housing and supporting higher education. The Ivory Family, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the University of Utah are excited to participate in this project, which will provide 623 academically-focused students with an opportunity to live next to campus. The first phase, opening Fall of 2023, will welcome its first 124 students; with two additional phases and hundreds of added beds coming in the Spring of 2023 and Fall of 2024. this community will be the newest and best place to live.

“The vision for the Ivory University House is to provide students with a focused learning community where they will feel welcomed, engaged, supported and secure as they work diligently towards their educational and career goals.”

- Clark Ivory, the CEO of Ivory Homes

The core values and the culture of Ivory University House will be at the forefront of the community’s mission:
Generosity - Balance - Respect - Leadership - Determination



Now Leasing, Scholarship Opportunities Available

To learn more, visit IvoryUniversityHouse.com



News from the U

ILLUSTRATION BY HARRY CAMPBELL



New Fintech Frontier

The Stena Center for Financial Technology will bring a new start-up incubator, venture fund, and more to the U

Everything from the apps we use to do online banking to the algorithms that calculate credit scores use financial technology (fintech). And Utah is developing a reputation as the epicenter of fintech education and innovation.

Now, the U, in partnership with the Stena Foundation, is leading out at the crossroads of fintech education with a new entrepreneurial laboratory—the Stena Center for Financial Technology.

Using \$65 million in orchestrated funding assembled over the next 10 years, the center will include industry-sponsored labs, a startup incubator, venture funds, and fintech-focused degrees and certificates. Reinvestments from the venture funds ultimately are projected to fund the center in perpetuity.

President Taylor Randall HBA'90 says pairing fintech with education is like mixing chocolate and peanut butter—extraordinary. “There is no greater educational experience than starting a new business,” says Randall. “This new center will take an industry that is ripe for disruption and innovation, combine it with the research and passion of our faculty and students on campus, and create a whole new level of financial technology ecosystem in the state of Utah.”

Center initiatives will launch this fall with an incubator—the fintechXstudio—and venture capital funds will be made available to 10 to 12 qualifying founders working in fintech. Each of their start-up companies could receive as much as \$100,000 in venture capital to get off the ground. Eventually, investment returns from those start-ups will be reinvested in the incubator, funding the center.

“We want to invest in an ecosystem—something that’s perpetuating and building on itself,” says Steve Smith BS’93, former chairman, CEO, and co-founder of Finicity and co-founder of the Stena Foundation.

Led by executive director Ryan Christiansen, the center will collaborate with academic units on campus to develop programs and degrees. The first three university colleges involved will be the David Eccles School of Business, the John and Marcia Price College of Engineering, and the S.J. Quinney College of Law, along with the President’s Office. The university already offers a minor emphasis in fintech. Over the next four years, the U will begin offering undergraduate and master’s degrees in the field.

NEWS ROUNDUP



The U launched a new hub to support STEM education and teacher training in Utah’s schools. Nancy Butler Songer has been named the inaugural associate provost of STEM

education to lead the initiative. The program will recruit and support STEM classroom teachers in Utah, with the aim of graduating 80 STEM teachers each year. Financial support will be available for those enrolled in a teacher education program at the U or Salt Lake Community College.



The Price Family gifted \$5 million to the Utah Museum of Fine Arts to create the Marcia and John Price Executive Director Endowment. Marcia Price BA’57 (along with a 2006 honorary doctorate) and John Price BS’56 are longtime supporters of the museum and the arts, and their involvement was instrumental in the construction of the current facility. The gift will help ensure the financial sustainability of the museum and its work in serving people throughout Utah and the region.



Health Sciences researcher Erin Rothwell PhD’04 has been named the U’s new vice president for research. She was previously the U’s associate vice president for

research, and helped improve the U’s grant support pipeline. She also led the development of hubs to increase collaborative projects across the university.

m



Shogofa Mahnaz Safi

Teacher at the U's Bright Horizons Day Care Center

I am an Afghan refugee. I arrived in Utah in May 2022. My journey has been difficult, filled with uncertainty and fear. My heart aches every day for my parents and brother who remain in Afghanistan, and I am constantly worried for their safety. The thought of them being punished because of my departure keeps me awake at night.

However, I have found some solace in the kindness of strangers, and joining the Zions Evening ESL Program at the U was a big part of that. When I first arrived, the International Rescue Committee introduced me to University Neighborhood Partners (UNP), which connected me to the 16-week evening course. We met four times a week for two hours, and it has been a ray of light in my life. I'm grateful Zions Bank sponsored the program—I couldn't have afforded it otherwise. It provided me with a warm and supportive environment to develop my language skills and form connections with fellow students from all over the world who have faced similar challenges.

The lessons in this program are nothing like what I have seen before. They are a blend of traditional grammar lessons and unique experiences. The small classroom setting with 20 or so students and a fantastic instructor [Sam Dunn MFA'90] allowed me to improve my English skills.

I will never forget the day we went on a scavenger hunt at the Natural History Museum of Utah, where I got to experience the wonders of the natural world and learn about the rich history of this land. The landscape in Utah is like where I lived in Kabul, Afghanistan. There are canyons, and the mountains and plants are very alike. I also fondly remember the potluck day, where we brought food from our native countries and shared stories about our backgrounds.

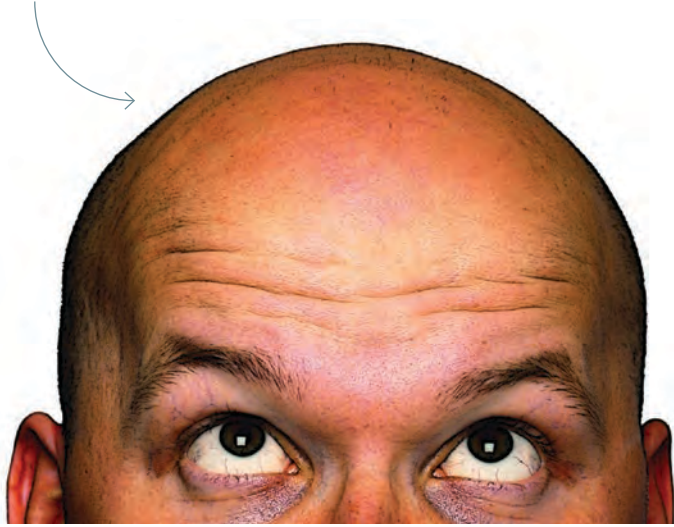
The Zions Evening ESL Program was more than just a language course. It has been a source of comfort, hope, and inspiration for me. I am grateful for this opportunity and the memories that I have made here. I love the University of Utah, and one day I hope to attend. I'd like to fulfill my mother's dream and go into the medical field so I can help others.



Web Extra: To learn more about the Zions Evening ESL Program and other English Language Institute programs, visit magazine.utah.edu/esl

The Roots of Hair Loss

Research into hairlessness in humans and other animals could lead to new treatments for conditions from baldness to cancer



Orangutans, mice, and horses are covered with it, but humans aren't. Why we have significantly less body hair than most other mammals has long remained a mystery. But a first-of-its-kind comparison of genetic codes from 62 animals is beginning to tell the story of how people—and other mammals—lost their locks.

Humans appear to have the genes for a full coat of body hair, but evolution has disabled them, scientists at University of Utah Health and the University of Pittsburgh report in the journal

eLife. The findings point to a set of genes and regulatory regions of the genome that appear to be essential for making hair.

The research answers fundamental questions about mechanisms that shape this defining human characteristic. The scientists suspect it could eventually lead to new ways to recover hair after balding and chemotherapy—or in people with disorders that cause hair loss.

The study goes on to show that nature has deployed the same strategy at least nine times in

mammals that sit on different branches of the evolutionary tree. Ancestors of rhinos, naked mole rats, dolphins, and other hairless mammals stomped, scuttled, and swam along the same path to deactivate a common set of genes in order to shed their hair and fur.

“We have taken the creative approach of using biological diversity to learn about our own genetics,” says Nathan Clark, a human geneticist at U of U Health who carried out much of the research while at the University of Pittsburgh with Amanda Kowalczyk and Maria Chikina. “This is helping us to pinpoint regions of our genome that contribute to something important to us.”

To perform the search, they developed computational methods that could compare hundreds of regions of the genome at once. They surveyed 19,149 genes and 343,598 regulatory regions that were conserved across the dozens of mammalian species analyzed. Clark and colleagues are now using the same approach to define genetic regions involved in preventing cancer, extending lifespan, and understanding other health conditions.



ERIC LARSON, FLASHPOINT SLC

U.S. Energy Secretary Announces \$74M Funding During U Visit

The U is at the forefront of the renewable energy industry, and the Biden administration is taking note. Last February, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm visited the U as part of a post-State of the Union tour to highlight President Joe Biden's energy and climate initiatives.

She came to learn about the Department of Energy-funded Utah FORGE project, which is designed to develop technology that can tap into the vast resource of geothermal energy without needing a hot spring, says Joseph Moore, principal investigator of Utah FORGE. The enhanced geothermal systems technology is currently being developed at an experimental site near Milford, Utah.

“We're very excited to be watching the success of [Utah] FORGE,” says Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Mitzi Montoya. “We are very committed to continuing to support and invest in this project, because we know its importance as we continue to develop sources of renewable energy for the country.”

Granholm also toured the geothermal pump room at Carolyn and Kem Gardner Commons. The building is entirely heated and cooled by some 150 geothermal wells located under a nearby soccer field. The system saves the university over \$60,000 annually in energy costs.

Following the tour, Granholm held a press conference at the Hinckley Institute of Politics, announcing up to \$74 million for new pilot projects to advance enhanced geothermal systems.

“We are excited about a new, enhanced geothermal economy,” says Granholm. “And if we do this right, we will have another affordable, powerful, clean, dispatchable, baseload source of power for Utah and for the rest of the nation.”



PICTURE

U researchers collecting data to understand how human activity has shaped ecosystems in South Africa got help from an unusual assistant—Sparkles, the inflatable unicorn. Sparkles was used as a floating platform to operate study equipment. This image taken by Lynne Quick, a senior researcher at Nelson Mandela University, was a winner of the #ScientistAtWork photo contest from the journal *Nature*. Tyler Faith (left), associate professor of anthropology and curator of archaeology at the Natural History Museum of Utah; Stella Mosher (middle), geography doctoral student; Mitch Power (right), professor of geography and curator of plant collections at NHMU; and Kathryn Sokolowski (out of frame), anthropology master's student, are at work here.

Utah Women Run

Only 26% of Utah state legislators are women. But a nonpartisan initiative now housed at the U is working to improve that number. Utah Women Run joined the U's Hinckley Institute of Politics last November.

"Having women at the table is a proven way to improve political discourse and policy outcomes," says Morgan Lyon Cotti BA'01, associate director of the Hinckley Institute. "But in Utah we have some of the lowest numbers of elected women in the country."

Utah Women Run provides resources, networking events, and mentorship to support women who want to become more politically active. Begun in 2011, the program has trained over 1,000 women on how to wage successful campaigns.

"The Hinckley Institute is a destination for civic engagement and political expertise, and our resources are open to all," says Lyon Cotti. "Hosting Utah Women Run is right in line with our mission of encouraging everyone to engage in the political process."



Investigating a Climate Culprit

Where there's natural gas production, there's methane—a potent greenhouse gas with 85 times more global warming potential than carbon dioxide over the first 20 years it's in the atmosphere. It's nearly impossible to keep every component of the gas production process airtight, so methane—the main component of natural gas—can leak along the way.

Addressing methane emissions is a crucial part of the climate conversation. But scientists have little long-term data on those emissions from wells and pipelines, making it hard to answer questions about sources, magnitudes, and trends. Answers are starting to come from the Uinta Basin in eastern Utah. Known as Utah's dinosaur country, the area is home to several fossil fuel producers. U researchers partnered with the Bingham Research Center at Utah State University's Uinta Basin campus to conduct what may be the longest continuous methane-monitoring study in an oil- and gas-producing region.

Between 2015 and 2020, the researchers observed, methane emissions in the Uinta Basin approximately halved as natural gas production did the same after fossil fuel prices collapsed

following 2014. However, while the total methane emissions declined, the researchers noted that methane leaks remained consistently high, at about 6-8 percent.

“That's one of the highest percentages in the country,” says study co-author John Lin, professor of atmospheric sciences at the U.

These leaks don't just impact climate, notes study co-author Seth Lyman, who directs the Bingham Research Center. Other compounds co-emitted with methane contribute to air pollution, affecting the health of Uinta Basin residents. But Lyman has hope these emissions can be reduced. “This study shows that what happens on the ground is affecting what's in the air,” he says. “That tells us maybe the tools to deal with this problem are already in our hands.”

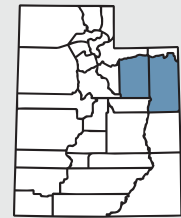
The researchers hope to continue the methane monitoring study and the partnership between the U and USU. “As two of the main research universities in the state,” says Lin, “there's a lot we can do together.”

West Texas A&M researcher Erik Crosman also contributed to this study, along with the U's Ryan Bares, Benjamin Fasoli, and Maria Garcia.



SPOTLIGHT

Duchesne and Uintah Counties



As the state's flagship university, the U is committed to improving the lives of all Utahns. These stories highlight how we're making an impact in every county.



Bold Exploration

The U campus is set to receive a major upgrade with the Crocker Science Complex

A new science complex is coming soon to campus. It will include a new 100,000-square-foot building, as well as the remodel of the historic William Stewart Building. Last February, the U broke ground on the Applied Sciences Project, a \$93.5 million endeavor that will be used to address some of the country's most urgent issues, including energy, air quality, climate change, and water management.

The cluster of buildings will be known as the Crocker Science Complex. The interdisciplinary STEM hub on the west side of campus will be possible thanks to an \$8.5 million gift from Ann Crocker (BS'74) and Gary Crocker (ex'69; honorary doctorate, 2019), along with nearly \$65 million in state funds.

"Utah is growing, and we need to expand," says U President Taylor Randall HBA'90. "This project will help us increase capacity to educate new generations

of STEM leaders and provide the expertise to sustain Utah's STEM economy to keep Utah vital."

It will provide additional classrooms and experiential learning opportunities. The Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy and the departments of Physics & Astronomy and Atmospheric Sciences will relocate to the new building in late 2024.

"In the end, when all is said and done, the core objective of philanthropy has always been the impact that a gift might have on individual lives. Ann and I know very personally that the College of Science is the pivotal portal in this state through which students wishing to enter the sciences and science-based profession must pass," says Gary Crocker. "Ann and I have seen this virtuous cycle: science leading to commercial innovation, leading to better jobs and better communities."



PICTURE

How can we bridge linguistic and cultural gaps needed to better care for diverse patient populations? The short film *Language of Care* explores how a community of deaf patients are co-designing their care with U of U Health. It was directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ross Kauffman and made possible by the support of the Kahlert Foundation. Pictured here are Kauffman and Tamiko Rafeek, a Deaf Diabetes Can Together member, at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, where the film premiered. Visit magazine.utah.edu/carelanguag to watch the short film.

BY THE NUMBERS

Transformative research at the U is changing the game in fields as diverse as medicine and fine arts. But the benefits don't stop at groundbreaking discoveries—U research is also a major driver of economic development.



From 2014-21, U research projects contributed

\$714M
to the national economy,

\$15.9M
was spent on small businesses, and



\$10M
was spent on minority- and woman-owned companies.



8,000

Nearly U employees are compensated by research dollars, as of FY22.



The U has seen 9 years of consecutive research funding growth and hit a historic high of **\$686M** in FY22.

Sources: Institute for Research on Innovation and Science report (2014-21), an additional IRIS report, and the VP for Research office

a

Ask



Giving Kids the Keys

Desirée González Miller DMA'18 believes music education is a right. An award-winning Mexican pianist and teacher, Miller directs the University of Utah Piano Outreach Program (UPOP), which was started to provide kids from underserved communities the opportunity to learn the instrument. UPOP offers after-school group piano classes and private lessons taught by U piano graduate students at six Salt Lake County Title I elementary schools. The 28-week program serves approximately 120 children from grades K-6. Miller says learning an instrument should not be an “extra” reserved for those with means. “Our mission is to make music education available to everyone.”

How do kids benefit from learning to play an instrument?

Learning to play music helps improve focus and reading skills. It also gives kids the opportunity to work toward long-term goals. That is a skill that I think is becoming more rare these days. In our society today, everything is about instant gratification. Everything is available one click away. But with piano, you have to work for many weeks and even months to get a piece ready for recitals. Working on long-term goals can be tricky even for adults, so teaching these life skills when kids are little is very important.

Why is it important to include the arts in education?

The arts introduce students to a new level of sensitivity. Music teaches sensitivity through many expressive means—dynamics, tempo, rhythm, harmony, balance. Being aware of other musicians in an ensemble also teaches collaboration skills.

What's next for the piano outreach program?

One of my goals is to have all materials available in both English and Spanish because I think language should never be a barrier to becoming involved in a program like this. And we hope to expand to more schools throughout the valley and add middle schools to the program.

Why did you want to become a piano teacher?

I love the process of helping someone discover their full potential. Sometimes people do not know what they are capable of achieving. It is such a sacred responsibility, I think, to help someone discover and nurture their talent.



Keeping the Lake Alive

‘Stark and hopeful’ findings from a strike team show how the Great Salt Lake can be saved

News reports from around the country have shined a spotlight on the dire drought situation in the West and the chilling consequences if the Great Salt Lake is lost. A “strike team” of academic and government experts issued findings in February detailing the conditions that led to the lake’s critically low level and options available for rescuing it and its ecosystem.

“Our findings are both stark and hopeful,” say strike team co-chairs Brian Steed JD’02, executive director of the Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air at Utah State University, and William Anderegg, director of the Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy at the U. “We firmly believe the Great Salt Lake can be saved, but it will require state leadership, research university technical expertise, and individual and collective action.”

As temperatures have trended upward over the past 40 years, the report states, the amount of precipitation in the basin has stayed roughly the same, on average, while the amount of that water withdrawn by people has increased.

If the lake level sits below certain benchmarks, the report says, the ecosystems within the lake and the residents surrounding it face serious negative consequences. The exposed bed can generate dust storms and potentially introduce toxic metals like arsenic into the air. Low lake levels and increased saltiness also make life harder, and eventually impossible, for the brine shrimp and microbialite organisms that live in the lake and serve as the foundation of its food web.

The record low water elevation of 4,189 feet above sea level, measured in 2022, leads to “serious adverse effects to human, ecological, and economic health. Immediate action must be taken to prevent further impacts,” according to the report. But the worst consequences can be avoided by raising the lake level to an optimal range of 4,198–4,205 feet.

The strike team concludes the report with evaluations of 11 policy actions for the Utah Legislature to consider. Those include the following: leverage wet years; set a lake elevation goal; invest in conservation, as well as water monitoring and modeling; develop a holistic long-term water resource plan for the watershed; and request in-depth analyses on policy options. To read the full report, visit magazine.utah.edu/lake.



On Pitch

The U women's rugby team has hit the ground running

The primary requirement to join one of the U's newest teams isn't experience. Instead, Women's Rugby looks for students with grit. "You can be completely new to the sport and still join," says Aubrey Ralston, team captain and president. "But you should know, rugby takes incredible dedication, hard work, and drive."

Although the sport is more popular in other countries than it is in the U.S., the rugby world here is tight-knit. "That's one of the many benefits of joining the team—you become part of a powerful community," notes Ralston. There's camaraderie that comes from competing and practicing nearly year-round in such a physically and mentally demanding sport, she adds. One of the regular practices runs Friday nights from 9 p.m. until midnight. "But the blood, sweat, and tears brings us together," says Ralston. It's also common to bond with other teams—share some food after a match, chat about some of the biggest hits, and just have a good time, she says.

In its second season, the team has made some remarkable progress. Regular practice attendance is around 30—up from about three or four people when the team first launched. They opened the 2022-23 season with four consecutive wins, including three shutouts. And although it's a self-funded club team with volunteer coaches, they still have their sights set on success.

There is no one type of person who can play rugby, notes Ralston. "Countless young women have been turned away from sports because they aren't considered acceptable in terms of body shape or size," she adds. "But rugby is all-inclusive and truly relies on having a diverse team."

To stay up to date on games, practices, and other happenings, follow the team on Instagram at [instagram.com/utahwomensrugby](https://www.instagram.com/utahwomensrugby).

HANNAH HAAG WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SETH BRACKEN

SPORTS BRIEFS



The Utah Ski Team secured its fourth consecutive NCAA team championship in March, marking its fifth national title in six years. Led by Novie McCabe, the team dominated in the Nordic races, sweeping the competition with her win in the women's 20K Classic. This also marked Utah's sixth consecutive victory in women's Nordic races at the NCAA Championships.



The University of Utah women's basketball team ended its historic 2022-23 season with a 66-63 loss to LSU in the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 round. The game was a close call, with Utah leading 63-62 in the final minute before LSU converted four free throws to win. Despite this, Utah tied the second-most wins in program history with 27-5 for the season and made its third Sweet 16 trip, and first since 2006.

The Utah Red Rocks gymnastics team finished third in the national championships for the third year in a row, while Oklahoma placed first. It was a successful season for Utah, with a Pac-12 title, NCAA regional win, and its highest postseason score in history. Maile O'Keefe became Utah's first NCAA all-around winner since 1999, scoring her sixth 10.0 of the season on beam and second in a row at the NCAA Championship.



The No. 15 U softball team claimed the first-ever Pac-12 Softball Tournament Championship, downing the No. 2 UCLA Bruins 7-4. It clinched an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, Utah's 17th foray into the national postseason.

For the first time in school history, the U men's tennis team is Pac-12 Regular Season Champions after downing UCLA 4-3 last April. The last time Utah won a conference title was with the Mountain West in 2008.



Stats

Raise the Net

Utah is known for a lot of things, though sandy beaches are not usually one of them. But one of the U's newest D1 teams—beach volleyball, which was launched in 2017—is changing that.

Unlike those of its indoor and more sure-footed counterpart, beach volleyball squads are made up of just two players, explains player Bella Vezzani. “It’s a much more individualized sport. You’re guaranteed to touch the ball every time,” she notes. “Building a connection with your partner and being able to succeed together is the best feeling.”

While the sport obviously requires great physical stamina, it also takes a strong mental game, adds Vezzani. “Over the past few years, I’ve been lucky enough to work with coaches who prioritize mindset, and I’ve noticed how much growth I’ve made with both mentality and volleyball skills.”

YEAR IN SCHOOL

Sophomore

HOMETOWN

Castle Rock, Colorado

MAJOR

Strategic communications, with an entrepreneurship minor

FAVORITE CLASS

Entrepreneurship

EXPERIENCE

Playing volleyball since I was 8 years old

MEMORABLE

MOMENT

First Pac-12 win, against University of Arizona

BEST-LOVED MOVIE

The Blind Side

PUMP-UP JAM

Bad Bunny! And occasional country

MOTTO TO LIVE BY

“For Him” to remind me I’m playing for something bigger than myself

TOP CUISINE

Mexican, especially Red Iguana



Lighting up Lung Tumors

Diagnosing and treating lung cancer—the number one cancer killer in the U.S.—at the earliest stage improves five-year survival rates dramatically. But the smaller the tumor, the harder it is to biopsy or find during surgery, says Brian Mitzman, a lung cancer surgeon at the U's Huntsman Cancer Institute. Now, a new tool at the cancer center is making it a lot easier.

The Ion system uses a robotic arm to maneuver an ultrathin, ultra-flexible catheter through the lung's airways to locate nodules and remove cells for biopsy. The Ion can reach more areas of the lung than any other biopsy tool, and it's better able to remove an adequate sample, or yield, from tiny nodules. "Our yield results are much higher with the Ion," says Mitzman. "So we're diagnosing more lung cancers at an earlier stage now."

Huntsman Cancer Institute is one of the few cancer centers in the country also using the tool not just for

biopsies, but for tumor marking—a way to make the cancer easily visible during surgery. That's crucial for tumors too small to see or feel, adds Mitzman. "In some situations [without the Ion], we have to look at the CT scan and say okay, the tumor is in the top right corner of the lung. We're going to take that entire corner out and hope it's right in the center there."

Using the Ion, surgeons can inject tumors with fluorescent dye prior to surgery. "Then when I go inside the patient's chest, the tumor lights up," he explains. "We know exactly what to remove. We can take a much smaller piece of the lung and preserve as much healthy tissue as possible."

Patients who are older or have pulmonary conditions can only tolerate so much loss of lung function, Mitzman says, so the Ion can mean the difference between being able to remove the cancer and not. "It really is making a big clinical impact on our patients."



Web Extra Watch a tumor light up during a real-life lung cancer surgery at magazine.utah.edu/lungtumor



TOP INSET PHOTO COURTESY HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY INTUITIVE

A Vision for the Future

The U's upcoming West Valley City campus takes a multifaceted approach to working and partnering with the community

We're one step closer to walking through the new West Valley Health and Community Center doors, set to open in 2027. Architectural renderings show the look of the facility that was designed with the input of many west side residents in surveys and hundreds of hours of community meetings going back more than four years.

The medical center will include an inpatient hospital and ambulatory building totaling over 750,000 square feet. Offerings and clinics will consist of primary care, cardiovascular, orthopedics, women's health, disease management, and a surgical and procedural clinic. Behavioral and oral health will also be available and integrated into primary care.

"The goal is to make the facility a central part of the community," says Richard Orlandi BS'87 MBA'23, chief medical officer of ambulatory health. Spaces for the public will be made available for community meetings and events, trainings, and classes taught by local nonprofits. Small rooms allow patients to meet with health workers and enroll in community programs. "Everyone wins when the

community sees this new medical center as their own," Orlandi continues.

What began as a health care initiative and plan to build a hospital has evolved to include academic pathways, workforce development programs, and economic

development strategies—all designed to build on existing community assets and the vibrancy of the West Valley area.

Job training opportunities and new education pathways have been designed to help West Valley students of all ages and life stages move into health careers. The U is working with Salt Lake Community College and other partners to hire and train staff from the local community.

"We are bringing together the power of health care and education, the knowledge and assets of West Valley communities, and a commitment to measuring and taking responsibility for outcomes. With these ingredients, we can create unsurpassed and sustainable societal impact," says President Taylor Randall HBA'90.

A rendering of University of Utah's West Valley Health and Community Center, which will be constructed at 3750 S. 5600 West in West Valley City



Study Explores Moondust to Shade Earth from the Sun

As humanity emits more and more greenhouse gases, the Earth's atmosphere traps more and more of the sun's energy—steadily increasing the Earth's temperature. One strategy for reversing this trend is to intercept a fraction of sunlight before it reaches our planet. For decades, scientists have considered using screens, objects, or dust particles to block just enough of the sun's radiation—between 1 and 2 percent—to mitigate the effects of global warming.

A U-led study explored the potential of using dust to shield sunlight and

found moondust may be the best way to shade the planet. The scientists analyzed different properties of dust particles, quantities of dust, and the orbits that would be best suited for shading Earth. The authors found that launching dust from Earth to a way station at the Lagrange Point between Earth and the sun would be most effective but would require astronomical cost and effort. An alternative is to use moondust. The authors argue that launching lunar dust from the moon instead could be a cheaper and more effective way to shade the Earth.

"That was the seed of the idea; if we took a small amount of material and put it on a special orbit between the Earth and the sun and broke it up, we could

block out a lot of sunlight with a little amount of mass," says Ben Bromley, professor of physics and astronomy and lead author of the study.

"It is amazing to contemplate how moon dust—which took over four billion years to generate—might help slow the rise in Earth's temperature, a problem that took us less than 300 years to produce," says study co-author Scott Kenyon, from the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian.

The study authors stress that they only explored the potential impact of this strategy, rather than evaluating whether these scenarios are logistically feasible.

"Our strategy could be an option in addressing climate change," says Bromley, "if what we need is more time."

The Next Chapter

The U's College of Engineering receives a naming gift from the John and Marcia Price Foundation

For 128 years, the U's College of Engineering has been the state's premier research and educational institution for engineering and computer science. And it recently received a major boost in the form of a historic \$50 million gift from the John and Marcia Price Family Foundation. The donation will be used to benefit future students, educational programs, research centers,

and entrepreneurship, as well as to support the construction of a new \$190 million computing and engineering building on the U campus.

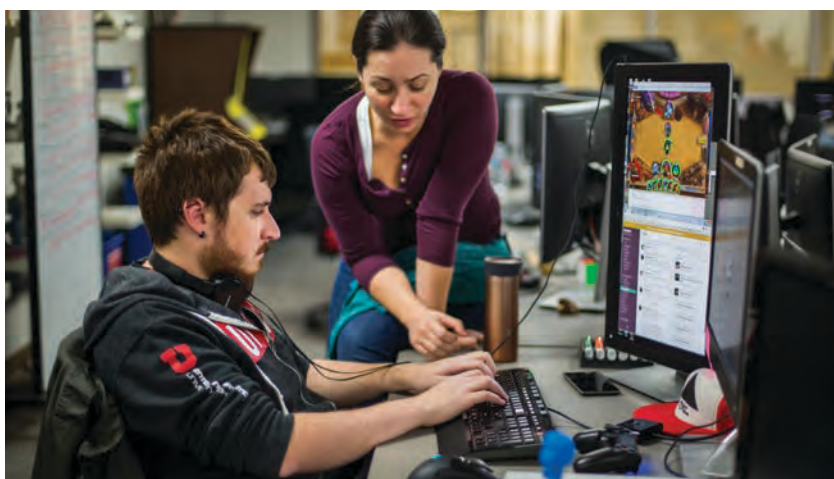
In honor of the gift, the college was renamed the John and Marcia Price College of Engineering. The donation is the largest in the college's history and one of the biggest for the university. "This generous gift from the

Price family is transformational," says Richard B. Brown PhD'85, dean of the college. "This is going to cause another inflection point in the ascent of the college and the growth of Utah's technology sector."

Of the \$50 million, an endowment of \$32.5 million will go to student scholarships, teaching labs and equipment, educational initiatives, and more. The remaining \$17.5 million is reserved for the new John and Marcia Price Computing and Engineering Building. This six-story, 253,000-square-foot building will enable the college to grow its number of graduates to an additional 500 per year and feed more highly qualified engineers into Utah's workforce for the state's rapidly growing engineering and computing sectors. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

"The University of Utah has an international reputation for innovation in engineering and computer science. Marcia [BA'57 and 2006 honorary doctorate] and I want to help ensure that opportunity for this and future generations," says John Price BS'56. "Our gift to the College of Engineering is an investment to provide education at the highest level of excellence and to meet the engineering and computing needs for local and global demand. Additionally, these funds will strengthen, elevate, and expand the college's research and educational initiatives."

A \$50 million gift will help bring an additional 500 engineering students like Ozum Yuksel MAE'16 (right) and Andrew Riehl MAE'16 (left) to feed more engineers to Utah's workforce.



The Missing Piece in the National Parks Conservation Puzzle

National parks are the backbone of conservation. Yet mounting evidence shows that many parks are too small to sustain long-term viable populations and maintain essential, large-scale ecological processes, such as large mammal migrations and natural disturbance regimes.

A new U study published in *Scientific Reports* found that enhancing ecological connectivity, known as "corridors" or "linkages," among several of the oldest and largest national parks in the western United States would greatly extend the time that many mammal species populations can persist. The authors analyzed the value of establishing ecological corridors for large mammals between Yellowstone and

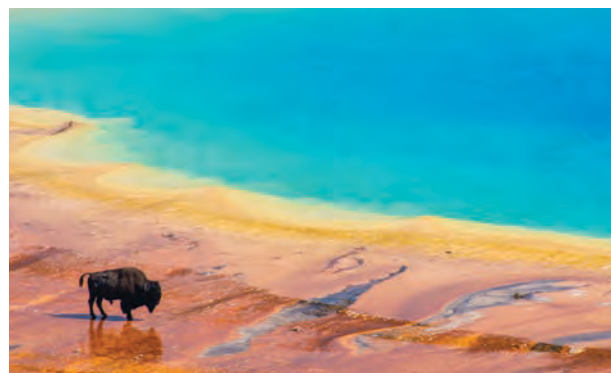
Glacier national parks and between Mount Rainier and North Cascades national parks. Their findings show that these corridors would not only enlarge populations, but also allow species to shift their geographic ranges more readily in response to climate change.

"Eliminating barriers of movement between parks and more carefully managing land-use along these pathways are crucial for the survival of many mammal species," says William Newmark, research curator at the Natural History Museum of Utah and lead author of the study.

The authors found that linking Yellowstone National Park with Glacier National Park, and Mount Rainier National Park with North Cascades National Park, would increase the long-term persistence time of mammal species by a factor of 4.3 relative to the persistence time of species in fragmented, individual parks.

The proposed corridor network would cross two- and four-lane highways, which would require multiple ecological bridges over and under the roadways. Fortunately, highway authorities in the western U.S. and Canada are beginning to construct such over- and underpasses for wildlife. But many more are needed, the study notes.

A new study shows linking national parks via corridors increases mammal species' survival and adaptation to climate change.





THANK YOU

JOHN AND MARCIA PRICE FAMILY

We are proud and honored to have our college bear your name.



The 'Rite Stuff

A U planetary
scientist
helped analyze and
name the
heavenly culprit
behind a raucous boom
heard by thousands.

By Paul
Gabrielsen

Photos by
Dave Titensor



19 For years,

Jim Karner has trekked almost annually to Antarctica on expeditions looking for meteorites. The research associate professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics has probably seen and handled more cosmic debris than most will see in a lifetime. But on the morning of August 13, 2022—along with the rest of the northern Wasatch Front—he heard one explode, for the first time.

“That was really loud,” he remembers thinking as he stood in his driveway. “My immediate thought was, ‘Wow, that sounds like what people have described as meteorites exploding and breaking the sound barrier.’”

Within days, a piece of what would eventually be named the Great Salt Lake meteorite made its way into Karner’s hands, giving him and the U an opportunity to learn what secrets of space this chunk of rock brought with it to the Salt Lake Valley.

Searching in Antarctica

Karner’s expertise in meteorites comes from years of expeditions to Antarctica as part of the NASA-funded ANSMET, the Antarctic Search for Meteorites. Since 1976, ANSMET

has sent expeditions, including a few select volunteers such as Karner, to pick up meteorites off the ice during the Antarctic summer. The samples are classified and curated by NASA Johnson Space Center and the Smithsonian Institution for analysis by planetary scientists who can’t just walk up to a planetary body or asteroid and chip off a sample whenever they need one.

Meteorites don’t fall any more often at the poles than they do anywhere else on the planet. But those that fall in Antarctica can be caught up in the continent’s glaciers—conveyor belts of ice that carry rocks and dirt from the center of Antarctica toward its coasts. In some places, these glaciers run up against mountains before reaching the coasts, dumping their rocky cargo, including meteorites. Those specimens, protected from weathering, could have landed on Earth anytime in the last two million years.

The first requirement for any prospective volunteer meteorite hunter is to send a letter to ANSMET, explaining their interest in the program.

“This letter is the first test,” Karner says. “You have to put something down on paper and actually mail it.” Prospective applicants have to show that they’re up for the challenge. “Can you handle the cold? Can your family handle you being gone for two months?”

In 2004, Karner wrote his letter and embarked on his first expedition.

“I remember the first meteorite we found,” Karner says. He was in a group of four, slowly patrolling the ice on snowmobiles. “One of the women on the

team gave the sign that she’d found one,” he says. It was a rare type, a stony-iron meteorite, that he’s only seen again three times.

“I think humans have a tendency to collect and search for things, because of the thrill that comes with the hunt and finding something special,” he says. “My first trip was awesome that way. I still get excited to hunt meteorites.” Karner kept going back and became the co-principal investigator of ANSMET in 2016.

Four-time veteran ANSMET volunteer Jani Radebaugh remembers the first meteorite she saw on the ice. The group was gathering around a dark object. “I looked down and there was this big rock sitting on the ground,” says Radebaugh, a professor of geological sciences at Brigham Young University. “And I thought, ‘Wait, we don’t have to dig for these? It’s just sitting there on the ground.’ I was absolutely floored.”

While she loved the experience, it wasn’t always easy. “It’s every bit as hard as—probably harder than—I expected, to live in a tent in Antarctica for six weeks,” she says. “You’ve gotta dress like an astronaut when you go out there. Not quite like an astronaut, but it takes you 20 minutes to get dressed. It felt like the closest thing to outer space operations on earth that I could imagine.”

Karner adds that the solitude is otherworldly. “When we’re out there in the mountains of Antarctica, it’s just rocks, ice, and snow—and that’s it,” Karner says. “There’s no bugs, there’s no trees, there’s no leaves. Once the snowmobiles are all turned off, it’s super quiet.”

Searching the Playa

After the boom on that August morning, Karner contacted a friend at NASA Johnson Space Center, Marc Fries, who had developed methods for tracking where meteorites land using Doppler radar. Fries sent Karner a map of the potential impact

UTAH METEORITES BY THE NUMBERS



28

According to the Meteoritical Society, **28** named meteorites have been found in Utah, with the earliest discovered in 1869.



1,166

At **1,166** lbs., the largest found in Utah was located in 1944 near Delta by Akio Ujihara and Yoshio Nishimoto.



8

Between 2007 and 2014, **8** meteorites were found on the Tule Valley playa near Sevier Lake in west-central Utah.



1

Only **1** other Utah meteorite was recovered after being witnessed: a hunk of asteroid Vesta, which fell near Tremonton in 1950.



Left: U geologist Jim Karner examines cosmic debris. Below and previous page: Samples of meteorites used for study and classroom instruction.

What We Can Learn from Meteorites

Meteorites tell their story through their composition. Some are made of almost pure iron, suggesting that they come from the core of an asteroid. Some consist of rock fragments, indicative of a parent asteroid's violent past. Still others are constituted of round chondrules—little drops of rock that date back to the very beginning of the solar system.

To learn about the composition of this meteorite, Karner brought the sample to the U's electron microprobe lab, led by Sarah Lambart, assistant professor of geology and geophysics.

It was her first time working with a meteorite.

"It's not every day that I can analyze a sample that was 'floating' in space just a couple of weeks earlier," she says.

The classification came back as an "ordinary chondrite," which is a common type, but Karner says the fact that the fireball was seen by so many people adds to its scientific value.

"They can probably trace its origins back to the asteroid belt," he notes, "and its orbital path around the sun. And that hasn't been done with a lot of meteorites." Researchers may also be interested in the booms heard as it fell, and in determining how big the original rock was before it burned up in the atmosphere.

"I think it'll be of great interest to not only scientists," he adds, "but to the general public as well."

Before Karner sent off the sample to the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory at Portland State University (the U is not an official repository for meteorite specimens), he had the chance to suggest a name. In December, he got word that the name was official: The Great Salt Lake meteorite. Karner had classified and named a meteorite from New Mexico before, but this was different.

"I was kind of tickled," he says.

Paul Gabrielsen is a science writer for the U's Genetic Science Learning Center.

area, on the southwest shores of the Great Salt Lake near Stansbury Park.

"Jim called me and said, 'Do you wanna go look for a meteorite?'" Radebaugh recalls. They set out searching—this time without parkas and snowmobiles. "It's white expanses, just like Antarctica," she says. "So we felt right at home, except we were on foot."

Any fragment of dark rock, they noticed, would be seen from far off. "So I was thinking, 'Yeah, we're gonna find something,'" Karner adds.

Except someone already had. Meteorite enthusiasts pay close attention to any reported fireball and also use public record Doppler data to zero in on potential impact sites.

"They are there in the next few days from all over the country," Karner says. Within 30 minutes of starting their search, Karner got a message from Fries: Sonny Clary, a private meteorite hunter from Las Vegas searching in the same area, had found something.

Clary, sporting camo gear, a wide-brimmed hat, and a metal detector strapped to his four-wheeler, met up with Karner and Radebaugh. He let them examine the sample.

"The piece was beautiful," Radebaugh says, "fist-sized or larger."

They discussed where Clary might donate a piece of it for analysis. The Meteoritical Society, which issues official names for meteorites, requires that at least 20 grams or 20 percent of a found object is donated to a scientific institution for analysis before it can be named. After bandying around schools with extensive planetary science programs or schools closer to Clary's home, the group agreed that the sample would be analyzed at the U.



DRIVEN TO DISCOVER WHAT'S POSSIBLE



At University of Utah Health, we're always asking, "What's next?" Our thinking jumps off the page and into lives. We're creating AI tools to better diagnose disease. And we're taking cues from sea coral to generate cancer-fighting compounds. From performing the first permanent artificial heart transplant to developing new therapies that recover failing hearts, our discoveries are changing lives every day in Utah and beyond.



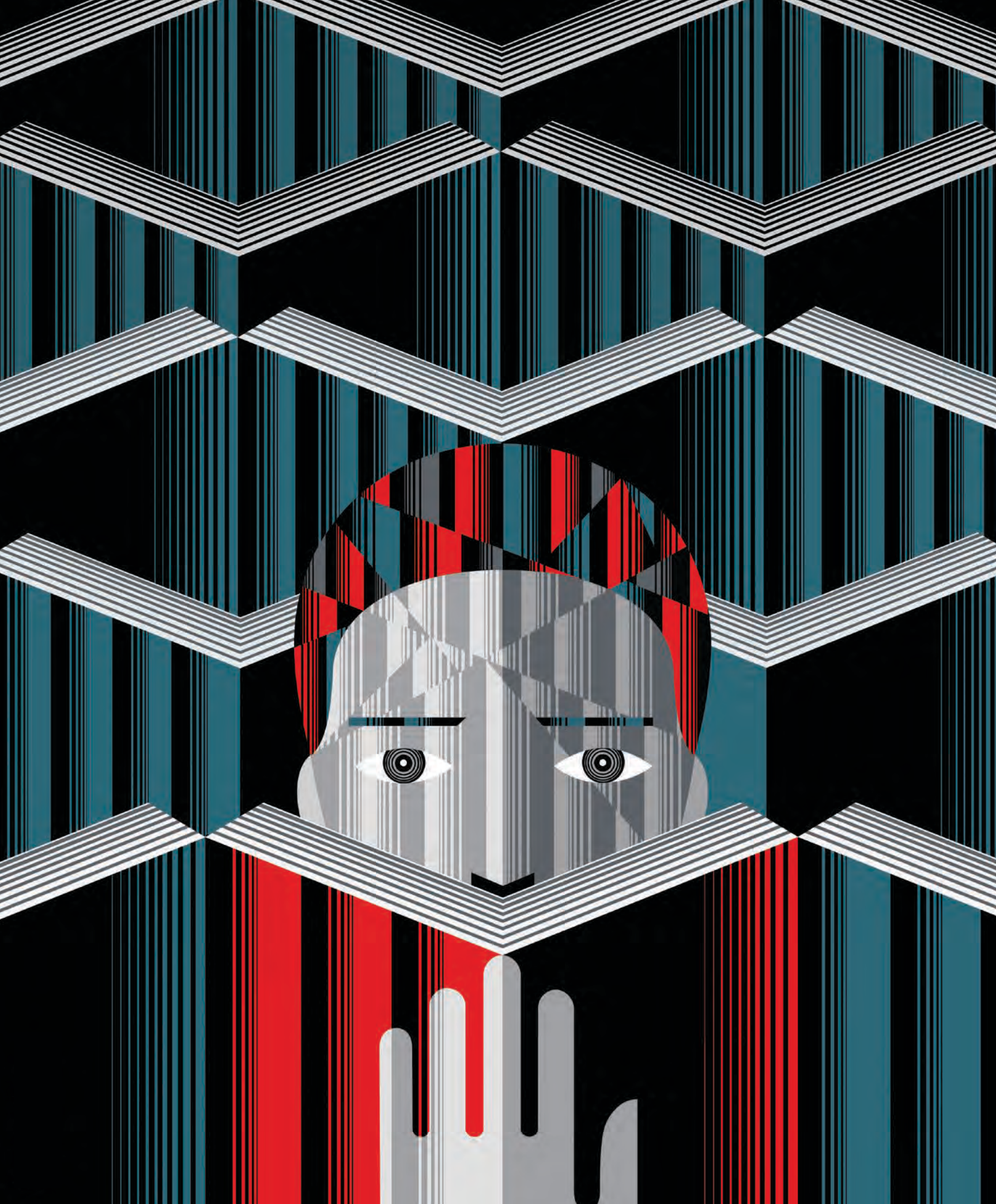
BLE



DISCOVER OUR RESEARCH

uofuhealth.utah.edu/research







Mind Matters

As young adults grapple with emotional well-being, resources at the U and beyond are providing a crucial lifeline.

by Benjamin Gleisser
Illustrations by the Balbusso Twins

As he began his first semester of college,

Mark Rapaport felt all the usual jitters of transitioning to a new phase of life. He was nervous and unsure of himself, struggling to find his footing in unfamiliar surroundings. His parents came to the rescue with a simple yet powerful gesture: hand-written notes of love and inspiration. These little missives helped him to push past his isolation and make connections on campus.

“I’ll never forget those letters from my father telling me he missed me,” remembers Rapaport. Now, as CEO of the U’s Huntsman Mental Health Institute, he understands how vital it is for students to feel loved and encouraged at such a vulnerable time.

“First-year students may feel lost and awkward at times,” says Rapaport. “It’s important for parents to support their children at college, especially in the first semester when they’re getting used to their new life.”

Knowing this, Rapaport, who is also professor and the William H. and Edna D. Stimson Presidential Endowed Chair of psychiatry, strives to make sure new students feel like the University of Utah community is their home.

“Going away to college was a real transition for me, just as it can be for many parents—especially if the child leaving home creates an ‘empty nest,’” Rapaport continues. “Parents want their children to succeed, but they’re still going to miss them and want to know the university is taking care of their needs.”

Today, those needs include more than fostering intellectual growth. Social development is just as important, behavioral researchers say—especially now, when many new university students may feel socially uncomfortable after years of distance learning or home schooling due to the pandemic. Returning to face-to-face interactions can make adolescents feel awkward in situations like attending a lecture class with a hundred other students or learning to live with a roommate.

Thankfully, help is always just a smartphone or keypad tap away.

Should a student experience any mental health challenges, they—and their parents—can rest assured: HMHI (formerly University Neuropsychiatric Institute, or UNI), is located on campus and staffed with trained professionals who are ready 24/7 to help students in crisis. The facility offers several outreach services for students with mental and emotional needs, including overnight beds for those who need time to get away and “cool off.”

HMHI grew out of a \$150 million donation from the Huntsman family in 2019. Upon announcing the gift, the Huntsman Foundation and university officials aimed to generate a statewide movement to help find more effective treatments for mental illness and end stigmas associated with mental health.

Rapaport says the Huntsman Foundation’s generous gift changes lives.

“They’ve taken on the challenge of providing equitable care for those in need,” he says. “They will also help grow the mental health workforce. The University of Utah is so grateful for their dedication and partnership.”

At the announcement of the gift, Huntsman Foundation CEO Peter R. Huntsman noted, “This is a unique opportunity to bring together an immensely talented university with superb leadership and a philanthropic, generational commitment that we hope will only expand over time. It is past time to change the stigma and misperceptions about mental health.”

Saving Lives

Mental Health First Responders (MH1), created through an affiliation with HMHI, is a groundbreaking program that helps students in crisis who live on campus. From 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week, MH1 runs an after-hours hotline for students with mental health concerns and operates an on-campus office with an open-door policy so students can drop in any time and talk with a licensed professional counselor.

“We get a majority of calls during fall semester, which is an intense time for many new students,” says MH1 supervisor Torrence Wimbish MS’06 PhD’09. “They’re just coming out of high school, and going away to college is a new experience. It can be tough adjusting to dorm life and learning to be responsible adults.”

In a recent American College Health Association survey, college students reported a range of issues:

- 13% reported symptoms of anxiety
- 25% admitted sleep difficulties
- 33% acknowledged stress-related problems
- 43% said they felt so depressed at some point in the academic year that it was difficult to function
- 10% seriously considered suicide
- 1.9% had attempted suicide

Incidences of depression and self-harm are even greater among LGBTQ+ college students, according to a Rutgers University study, which found queer and transgender college students experienced depression and contemplated suicide at four times the rate of their peers.

MH1 is most effective late at night, Wimbish says, when the pressures of college life may make some students feel like there’s no one to listen to their struggles with classwork and personal issues. What’s worse is when those self-doubting thoughts lead to ideas of self-harm.

For example, when Samantha (not her real name), a student who lived on campus, was showing signs of depression and talking about death as “a release,” her roommate reached out to MH1. Wimbish and the residential advisor visited the student together. Wimbish asked basic questions and led

Looking Ahead

The Huntsman Mental Health Institute is involved with several projects to create awareness of mental health services available to students and all Utahns. Among them:

THE AD COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

With a founding gift of \$15 million from HMHI, the Ad Council announced plans for a wide-reaching communications effort to address the mental health crisis throughout the U.S. and encourage people to take steps to support their mental health. “The Ad Council will bring together a coalition of leading mental health organizations, federal agencies, and private sector groups to truly transform mental health for every person beyond Utah and the Mountain West,” says HMHI CEO Mark Rapaport. “We believe this is a transformative partnership that will yield real and lasting change.”

THE KEM AND CAROLYN GARDNER CRISIS CARE CENTER

The new Gardner Mental Health Crisis Care Center will be the first building on the future site of the Huntsman Mental Health Institute Campus of Hope in South Salt Lake. The 78,000-square-foot building is expected to open in 2024 and is made possible, in part, by a \$5 million gift from the Gardner family. It will incorporate community services, training, and crisis care, including inpatient and outpatient care, a free law clinic, primary care and dental clinics, connections to existing community resources for housing, health care, and employment, and more.

(Previous page) One of the biggest challenges for students is loneliness. (Right) Students can access resources from their phone. (Next page) Students can reach out to counselors during challenging times.





deep-breathing exercises. The student admitted feeling glad someone was listening to her and began talking about painting and playing guitar, her creative outlets. Wimbish encouraged those activities, with the goal of giving her things to look forward to. The student visited the MH1 office the next day with one of her artworks in hand and agreed to come to a support group. “We’re here to listen,” says Wimbish. “It’s why MH1 was created. We’re out here saving lives.”

‘Finding Your Weird’

Several counseling centers are open on campus for students to talk about everything from tutoring needs to career advice to mental health issues. There is even, for example, a special advisor for engineering students who need a friendly ear to listen to their specific difficulties.

In addition, students can access private and confidential resources by phone from anywhere on campus—including from the comfort of their dorm rooms.

Downloading the My Student Support Program (My SSP) app onto their phones allows students to instantly reach a call center that will connect them with a licensed counselor for immediate support. Students without a smartphone can call 1-833-369-1250. The service is available 24/7 from anywhere in the country.

If the pandemic has a silver lining, it was that services like My SSP were born.

“Before the pandemic, counseling was not done online,” says Lori McDonald BS’95 PhD’16, vice president for student affairs. “But the pandemic’s impact compelled them to innovate quickly.”

One of the biggest challenges she hears from students is loneliness. “Studying is important, but young people need to be people, too, and finding stress outlets is very important for our well-being,” she says. “When I talk with students dealing with loneliness, I tell them there are over 600 student clubs on campus, and more are always forming. There are clubs for students who like chess, cooking, politics, or cars—you name it. And if a student feels there is nothing like what they’re interested in, I encourage them to start a club of their own.”

Jessica Holzbauer, program manager at HMHI, encourages students who feel lonely to “find your weird.”

“Going away to college means not just developing intellectual skills, but learning life skills,” Holzbauer says. “A lot of kids need to find their brand of weird. Once they find their people, they’ll feel comfortable opening up and sharing more about themselves.”

SafeUT is another app students can use when they need to hear a friendly voice. It’s a crisis chat and tip line that provides real-time crisis intervention for students from kindergarten through college, as well as parents, guardians, and educators. The app, used statewide, was created in 2015 by state legislators who acted to stem the growing number of suicides among Utah youth. In 2022, the app, which is housed at the U, logged over a million messages and conversations—and not all calls were from students, says Dénia-Marie Ollerton, SafeUT manager at the U.

“We often talk with people who are concerned about their loved ones living away from home,” Ollerton says. “We tell them, ‘We’re that trusted adult when you’re not close by.’” SafeUT counselors also encourage students to find a trustworthy person like a parent or guardian, professor, or advisor with

whom they can share their challenges. “The goal is to get you a strong support system that will not let you suffer alone,” says Ollerton.

Teach Your Children

In 2017, Herriman High School reported seven student suicides, the most recorded at a Utah public school that year, according to David Kozlowski BS’97, a licensed marriage and family therapist. School officials sought help and turned to Kozlowski, who hosts Light the Fight, a podcast about boosting mental health by improving relationships.

Kozlowski teaches a class at Herriman he created to help 10th graders improve their social health by strengthening relationships with family, friends, teachers, people they interact with online, and—most importantly—with themselves.

When it comes to addressing issues that are bothering students, Kozlowski stresses this formula: “connection before concern.” The aim is to problem-solve by reminding about the connection you have with someone before addressing the concern.

“It can be difficult for some younger people to understand that face-to-face discussions are different than online and need to be addressed in a different way,” he notes. For example, if a student were upset their friend didn’t invite them out last weekend, rather than briskly ask why they weren’t included, a more productive discussion might start with the connection. “I like hanging out with you, and my life is better because you’re in it.” Then comes the concern, “I know you’d never do anything to intentionally hurt my feelings, but I was bummed when you didn’t invite me to hang out with everyone last weekend.” This helps keep the second student from feeling defensive and creates a healthier space for conversation.

And the formula works for more serious life events, Kozlowski adds. “For example, if a loved one confesses suicidal ideation, I always tell people to start with two words: Thank you,” he says. “Thank them for trusting you with this information and acknowledge what a major step this was.” Then move on to concern. “In the case of suicidal thoughts, you may say something like, ‘I don’t want you to be hurting. Let’s discuss some ways we might be able to work together to help you heal.’”

When young people have a better sense of self, they’re more willing to share themselves, Kozlowski remarks. “They realize they’re not strange or broken but have something unique and beneficial to offer the world.”

Benjamin Gleisser is a Toronto-based freelancer.

Warning Signs

A 2022 study published in the journal *Pediatrics* found that among youth aged five through 19, emergency room visits due to suicidal thoughts increased 59 percent from 2016 to 2021. Johns Hopkins Medicine reports the following warning signs of depression, which could lead to thoughts of suicide.

- Changes in eating and sleeping
- Loss of interest in activities or school
- Neglecting one’s personal appearance
- Obsession with death and dying
- More complaints of physical ailments linked to emotional distress
- Problems focusing
- Lack of response to praise
- Verbal hints such as “I won’t be a problem much longer” or “If anything happens to me, I want you to know...”
- Giving or throwing away cherished belongings
- Cheeriness after a depressive episode

If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts or mental health matters, please call or text 988. Senders will be directed to Utah Crisis Line, staffed by certified crisis workers at HMHI. The line is confidential, no-cost, and available 24/7/365.



Web Extra Learn more about the MH1 First Responders and how students can work on their mental health at magazine.utah.edu/MH1

C O L L E G E
O L G
T O W N
M A G I C

The U is shedding its reputation as a commuter school and adding 5,000 new beds to create an unparalleled 24/7 college experience.

BY LISA ANDERSON PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL WARAKSA





34,734 students, the University of Utah has a population that even some U.S. capitals can't boast. But campus has traditionally lacked the housing and services that would give it a college-town feel. That's all changing.

With a spate of new housing going up in recent years, the university has already been making over its commuter-school reputation. Now, a new vision aims to complete the transformation. Plans are in motion to add 5,000 beds and create a campus city where students can find community and have one-of-a-kind living-learning experiences. U President Taylor Randall HBA'90 calls it "college town magic," and it's part of his vision to inspire students and reimagine higher education.

"The world is becoming increasingly complex, and it's not enough to offer learning just inside the classroom," he says. "We need to think about the 24/7 college experience."

Young adults crave the close friendships you get from residing on campus, says Andrea Thomas BS'88, the U's chief experience officer, who notes that the pandemic has intensified the desire for social connection. "We know that students who live on campus have a vastly different college experience from those who do not," she adds. They become more engaged and tend to have better outcomes. Research shows students who live on campus have higher GPAs, are more likely to graduate, and are more likely to be accepted into grad school.

The U faces a perennial problem of demand outstripping supply, however, as on-campus housing has failed to match pace with steadily increasing enrollment numbers over the years. As many as 3,000 students went on the housing waitlist in fall 2022. The university came up with stopgap measures to help reduce that list, renting nearby apartment buildings and converting part of the University Guest House into student residences. But those solutions aren't sustainable. And demand will only increase with the U's target enrollment of 40,000 students by 2030. U leaders want enough residences by then for 25 percent of the student body to live on campus—which means doubling the number of beds to 10,000.

Randall sees the historic lack of housing as an opportunity. "Other campuses that built dorms years ago were building them for a different type of student," he notes. "We have the chance to be at the forefront of what the new generation needs."

Purpose-built residential communities that offer real-world learning opportunities are the wave of the housing future. The U's Lassonde Studios is a prime example. Other institutions haven't quite been able to replicate the concept, though more than 500 universities have toured the facility to glean inspiration. The living-learning community provides 24/7 spaces for entrepreneurial students from any major to test ideas, build prototypes, and launch start-ups. Residential floors encourage socializing and are designed more like neighborhoods than hotel hallways. It's a far cry from Bailiff Hall, the dorm razed

to make way for this new era of student housing.

"The word 'dormitory' comes from *dormir*, which is Latin for 'to sleep.' That's all we used to have to provide," says Sean Grube, executive director of Housing and Residential Education. "Students want a much different experience today. As we look forward, we want most, if not all, of our beds to be in living-learning communities."

It will take more than just residence halls to become a residential campus. "It's not reasonable to say students who live here have to leave campus for everything except their academics," says Andrew King BS'07 MUP'08, director of campus planning. A proposed concept for South Campus Drive paints a picture of a bustling street with retail shops, a grocery store, and restaurants situated alongside housing.

King says more dining and recreation spaces will be added across campus as well, including in the Union Building, which may grow by 30 to 50 percent. Campus planners are working on strategies to address the parking needs of a larger population. But like many modern, eco-conscious cities, there will also be an increased emphasis on auto alternatives: more bike lanes, e-bike and e-scooter rentals on campus, and increased shuttle and public transit service.

The campus city vision comes with a hefty price tag—an estimated \$1 billion. "The university doesn't have the capacity to bond for all that, so we've had to look creatively at how to finance it," says Grube. The solution: a public-private partnership, or P3. The U will work with a private company that will plan, construct, and operate student housing. Over the long-term contract, the university would continue to own the housing and the land beneath it.

Realizing the campus city vision is a major undertaking. But U leaders say it's not just nice-to-have, it's a must and even a should.

"We're making an investment in the workforce of the future," says Randall. "We will produce students who are better trained and better capable of dealing with the biggest challenges society faces today."

Here's a look at the housing underway and plans for the future.

THE IMPACT & PROSPERITY EPICENTER

Though it's still under construction, the newest living-learning community on campus already has a nickname: the soul of campus. "The Impact & Prosperity Epicenter was created around this concept of bringing together students, faculty, staff, community members, and partners in the name of creating positive change in the world," says Stephen Alder BS'92 MS'96 PhD'01, executive director of the U's Center for Business, Health, and Prosperity.

Seeded by anchor donations of \$10 million each from Jim Sorenson BS'75 and Bob (BA'76) and Lynette Gay (honorary doctorate, 2016), the Epicenter is a collaboration between the U's Sorenson Impact Center and Center for Business, Health,



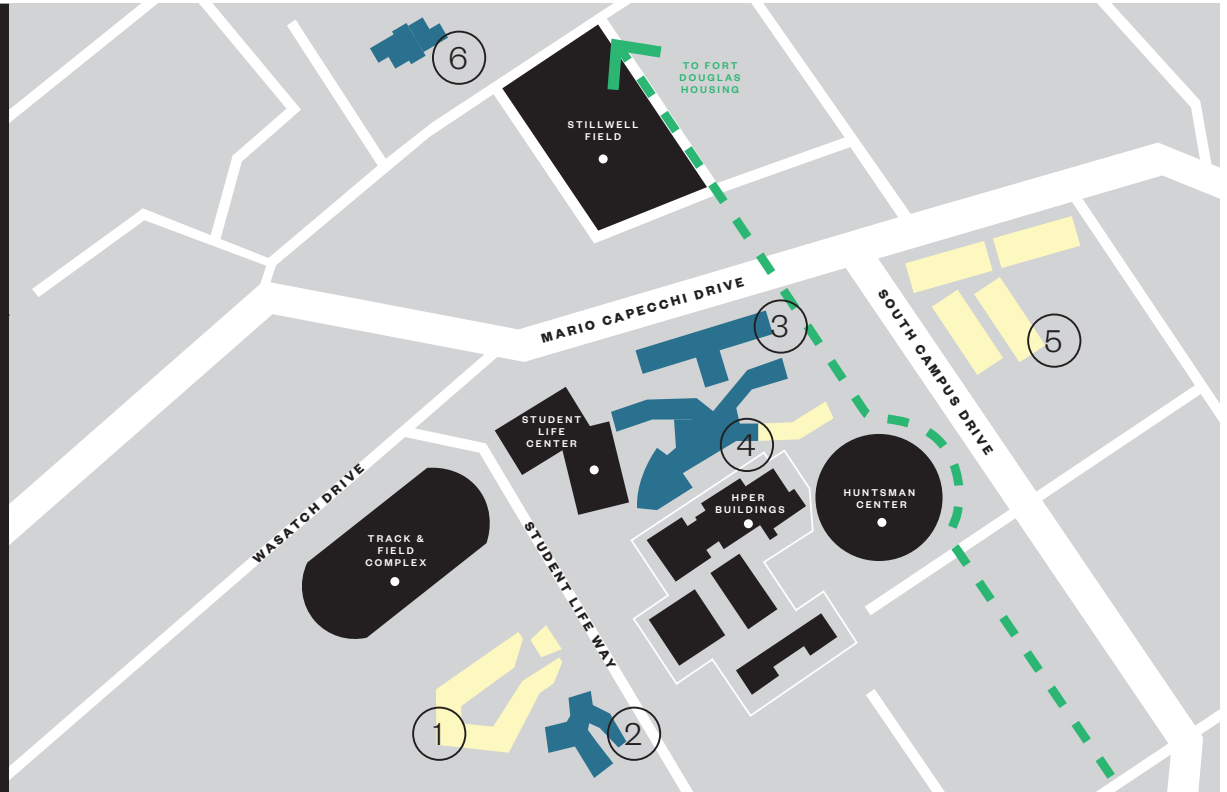
(Above) Some 780 students will call the new Impact & Prosperity Epicenter home.

CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Most of the U's current housing is located in Fort Douglas and in the southeast quadrant of campus. Future housing would most likely be located in these areas, connected by a proposed pedestrian spine that could include dining and retail shops.

KEY

- ① **Impact & Prosperity Epicenter**
Residential Community
- ② **Lassonde Studios**
Residential Community
- ③ **Marriott Honors Community**
Residential Community
- ④ **Kahlert Village**
Residential Community
- ⑤ **Ivory University House**
Residential Community
- ⑥ **Peterson Heritage Center**
Dining, Recreation, and Residential Services



■ LANDMARKS ■ PEDESTRIAN SPINE ■ EXISTING HOUSING ■ NEW HOUSING

and Prosperity. The Epicenter will house 782 residents as well as offices for the two centers, which both engage students in real-world solutions to social and environmental challenges.

The Epicenter will be modeled after the U's Lassonde Studios, a residential community that focuses on entrepreneurship. Though the themes differ, the two buildings share the concept of an immersive living-learning environment that facilitates engagement and real-world problem solving.

Lassonde turns the idea of traditional student housing on its head. In fact, "we didn't set out with the idea of creating a residence building," says Troy D'Ambrosio BA'82, executive director of the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute. "We started by asking students what would make it easier to become entrepreneurs."

Students wanted equipment, tools, and materials to build prototypes, and they needed space to operate their start-ups and store inventory. They wanted to engage with each other outside of class, and they wanted the option to create at two o'clock in the morning if they so desired.

"Some students said that's when they're most productive," says D'Ambrosio. "We thought, wow, this actually is more of a lifestyle." That's when the idea for a living-learning facility was born. The first floor, open to the entire U community, is a creative playground, with a maker studio, tool shed, wood and metal shop, and 3D printers. Several spaces are open late, like the Miller Café, or even round-the-clock. Lounge areas and residential floors encourage socializing, with central gathering spaces where residents can play video games or relax in hanging chairs.

(Above) New housing in the southeast quadrant is energizing campus.

Alder says the Epicenter will serve as a complement to the idea generator that is Lassonde. "Our goal is to curate students' start-up ideas that have the greatest opportunity to benefit society and get them out to the world," he says. Students who invent medical devices, for example, can engage with the Epicenter to take the product from the early stage to the market and into global communities.

"We've designed the Epicenter to attract, engage, and train the next generation of impact leaders," says Geoff Davis, CEO and executive director of the Sorenson Impact Center. "We're equipping students with the skills, mindset, experiences, and networks to create and implement solutions to the world's most pressing challenges."

The Epicenter's building design echoes its mission. A space called the Forum sits at the heart of the building and will host guest speakers, presentations, trainings, conferences, and community outreach events. The Forum's floor design—a central circle surrounded by radiating rings—represents the intent for the ideas exchanged here to go out into the world and make an impact. That's what today's generation wants to be part of, says Alder.

"They want to be engaged personally in making a difference now, not just when they're done with school," he says. Through the Epicenter, "we're creating a forward-facing, modern university experience that prepares students to be current and future changemakers."

- 6 residential floors
- 782 beds



- 300,000 square feet of student-centric space
- Full-service cafe open to the public
- Three housing options: single or double rooms, 4- and 8-bedroom apartments, and microunit communities with private sleeping quarters and community lounges
- Opening August 2024

IVORY UNIVERSITY HOUSE

A collaboration between the Clark and Christine Ivory Trust, the University of Utah, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, this apartment community at the corner of Mario Capecchi Drive and South Campus Drive goes beyond filling an immediate need for housing. It will serve students well into the future through a unique funding model: all net proceeds will go toward scholarships, housing stipends, and internships. The complex will house undergrads and graduate students.

- 4 buildings
- 5.6 acres
- 552 single-occupant units
- First building opening by fall 2023 semester



KAHLERT VILLAGE FOURTH WING

A fourth and final wing will complete the X-shaped building design of Kahlert Village, which initially opened in 2020 with three wings and 992 beds.

The word “village” is a very intentional part of this living-learning center’s name. Designed to help students work together and build social networks, Kahlert Village groups residents with shared interests into themed communities—health and wellness, outdoor leadership, and engineering, to name a few.

In addition to modern new living digs, the village draws students with amenities like indoor bike storage, meditation spaces, and music rooms. Residents can grab Mongolian barbecue or gelato at the Urban Bytes café, learn to use design software at the Adobe Creative Commons, or hang out around the firepit in the outdoor courtyard.

- 430 beds
- Double, single, and triple rooms
- Opening fall 2023

UNIVERSITY WEST VILLAGE

The University Student Apartments on Sunnyside and Foothill Drive opened in 1973, answering the call for housing close to campus for graduate students and students with families. Now the aging buildings are frequently in need of repairs and don’t meet seismic requirements. New, higher-density housing is replacing the West Village apartments, and phased demolition of the East Village units will take place over the next decade.

- 504 apartments
- Opening July 2023

THE NEXT PHASE OF HOUSING

What could it look like to add 5,000 beds and improve the on-campus living experience? U leaders recently undertook a housing vision study to consider just that.

“What we identified was that current housing is disconnected,” says King. “So we said, how do we connect these buildings to create a student residential environment that’s more cohesive and intentional?”

The concept that emerged was a residential “spine” from housing in Fort Douglas and down along South Campus Drive. Planners identified several possible locations for residential buildings along this stretch, including south of Kahlert Village and west of the Huntsman Center.

Fort Douglas expansion is likely, thanks to plans to relocate the Stephen A. Douglas Armed Forces Reserve Center to Camp Williams in Bluffdale. The U received \$100 million in March 2023 to facilitate the move.

The residential spine could include retail shops, restaurants, and a grocery store. The end result will be a “24-hour campus where people can shop, eat, recreate, and meet up with friends,” says King. He expects plans for the next phase of housing to be announced by mid-2024.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITY: RESEARCH PARK

Established in 1968 on the University of Utah campus, Research Park is an innovation hub with about 50 companies and more than 80 university departments. As buildings age and leases expire, say U leaders, there’s an opportunity for a new vision.

A capacity study showed possibilities for what Research Park could look like several decades from now: a mixed-use, amenity-rich, walkable district that may include housing for students and employees, retail, dining, businesses, intentional green spaces, walking and biking paths connecting to hiking and nature trails, and transportation hubs.

U leaders emphasize that “vision” is the key term here—nothing is concrete. Leaders are taking a careful look at all factors and working closely with those who have a stake in the master plan.

“We’re gathering input from all constituents, including our surrounding neighbors,” says Randall. “We intend to create a college town that will serve our students and community long into the future.”

Lisa Anderson is associate editor of Utah Magazine.

Ivory University House (top) and the final wing of Kahlert Village (bottom) will open in fall 2023.



Web Extra For more renderings, images, and updates on the campus transformation, visit magazine.utah.edu/collegetown

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Tim Chambless MS'77 PhD'87

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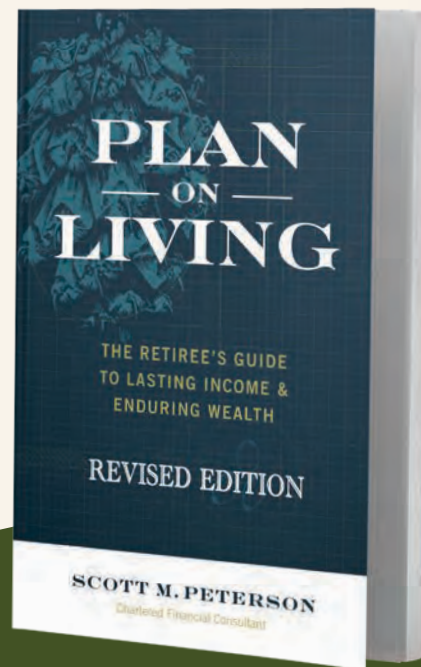
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PHOTO BY DAVE TITENSOR



Trailblazing Triumph

A U alum paves the way for undocumented 'Dreamers' to practice law in Utah

When Heidi Chamorro-Leon BA'11 HBA'11 JD'15 questioned whether she could be admitted to a Utah law school with an undocumented immigration status, an advisor asked her to consider: Will you be doing this for nothing?

Chamorro-Leon was aware that the Utah bar would likely not let her sit for the exam because of her immigration status. Still, she was determined to earn a law degree. Her response to the advisor: "But I can apply, right? That's all I wanted to know."

Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and brought to the U.S. as a child, Chamorro-Leon says she was drawn to the legal profession because of her grandfather, an attorney in Mexico. She applied and was accepted into the U's S.J. Quinney School of Law, hoping that by the time she graduated, the Utah bar rule would have changed or she'd have options in other states.

In the meantime, she obtained Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. As a "Dreamer," she had authorization to work. But she still couldn't sit for the bar in Utah after graduating. So she decided to take action. She teamed up with a law grad from BYU and petitioned the Utah Supreme Court to change the rule—and they succeeded. In

2020, the court announced "Dreamers" could now take the bar and practice law in Utah.

Chamorro-Leon credits the U's Pre-Law LEAP program with giving her the confidence to pursue law. Part of the Office of Undergraduate Studies, LEAP programs have helped students adapt to college life for nearly three decades. They're academic learning communities of 25-30 students who take a set of classes together, usually with the same professor. The U offers 12 LEAP programs, each centering on a specific area of study.

"Being part of a cohort gives students a place of belonging," says Ann Engar, who teaches five of the six Pre-Law LEAP classes. She says the program was created to help students from underrepresented groups enter the profession and provides them with a close support network as they pursue their career goals.

Now that Chamorro-Leon has achieved her goal of becoming an attorney, she says it was well worth the effort.

"I love being in a position to help people," she notes. "There's something so empowering about clients coming to you with their problems and trusting that you can help solve them."



It's not just the game against UCLA on Saturday, Sept. 23, that will make this year's Homecoming week a spectacular reason to visit your alma mater this fall. The U5K, golf tournament, and—of course—the U Alumni tailgate make the entire experience a treat. Check out details about all the events for the whole family leading up to the big game at uhomecoming.com.



One night a year, red takes over the normally purple-and-silver Coors Field as U Alumni hosts Utah Night at the Rockies. The event was started by Colorado Rockies co-owner Charlie Monfort BS'82 more than 15 years ago. Hosted by the U's Colorado Alumni Chapter, it brings hundreds to the Major League Baseball stadium in Denver for an exciting evening. This year's event will be held on Monday, July 31. Learn more at alumni.utah.edu.



Need a space for your next conference, reception, wedding, or other event? We've got the perfect spot at the Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House. The 34,000-square-foot building has a spacious ballroom, multiple meeting rooms, and boardrooms, all in the heart of campus. Visit ecclesalumnihouse.utah.edu for more info.



Pickleball Prowess

If you had asked Callie Smith BS'15 how she felt about pickleball a decade ago, her response wouldn't have been positive. In fact, Smith had a passionate disdain for the sport, which led her to confidently claim that she would never touch a pickleball paddle as long as she lived.

Her intense dislike of pickleball didn't extend to all paddle sports. Smith grew up playing tennis, taking state all four years in high school and going on to play for the U. After graduation, she was coaching tennis when her husband's grandpa asked her to play in a pickleball tournament with him. Hesitantly, Smith agreed, and afterward was approached by a local pickleball ambassador. Smith thought nothing of it until later, when she and her husband, Kyle, were playing pickleball on a date, and an older couple challenged them to a game. "We got crushed—just demolished," Smith says. She called up the rep, started practicing with a local group in Kaysville, and the rest is history.

Now, as No. 2 in PPA Women's Doubles and No. 4 in Women's Singles, Smith has adopted pickleball as a way of life. "All my best friends have come through pickleball. Just really cool people." In her "ample" spare time, Smith loves being with family—even if that means bringing her kids to practice, because, as she puts it, "you can be you and a mom."

And for any naysayers of the sport, Smith says to "just go out and try it. You might find that you change your mind." ELENA GARDNER

+ADVICE FROM A PRO

If you're a beginner, get the basics down; learn the optimal techniques first. There's only a certain level you can reach with your own technique versus correct technique. It's a lot harder to break bad habits than it is to start them correctly.

If you're trying to go pro, play a lot of tournaments, because losing is learning. The match play brings out the pressure and exacerbates what the weakness is in your game, so go play a lot. And then drill, drill, drill afterwards.



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

Shaping a Brighter Tomorrow

The U celebrates its legacy with its annual Founders Day celebration

The University of Utah has come a long way since its inception in 1850. To commemorate its rich history, the U holds an annual Founders Day event to recognize outstanding alumni and honorary alumni who have made significant contributions to their communities, professional fields, and the university itself. The awards presented on this day are considered some of the most prestigious given by the university. Meet this year's awardees.

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



Anke Friedrich BS'90 MS'93 is a professor of geology and helped lead efforts to launch one of the world's first continuously operating space-geodetic networks, which was used to monitor tectonic activity around a proposed nuclear waste site in Nevada. At the U, she earned All-American honors on the ski team with three individual NCAA championships in giant slalom and slalom.



James S. Hinckley BS'71 MS'77 has been the chairman of the Hinckley Institute of Politics and its Investment Committee since 1990. An influential figure in Utah's vehicle industry, he was president of the Utah Automobile Dealers Association, as well as a member of the U's National Advisory Council and the Natural History Museum of Utah's Board of Advisors.



Lyn Hinckley BS'73 has been an avid supporter of the Hinckley Institute of Politics in various capacities since 1973. She is a community advocate for the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention and is deeply committed to furthering the objectives and mission of the Natural History Museum of Utah. She was previously an elementary school teacher and worked with the Junior League of Salt Lake City.



J. Charles Rich BS'62 MD'65 served as president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and American Academy of Neurological Surgeons, as well as chief medical officer of the 2002 Olympic Games. He was president of the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine's Alumni Association and a member of the U Alumni Board of Directors. He and his family have also hosted student-athletes and contributed to scholarships for many years.



Clifton Gregory Sanders PhD'90 is chief academic officer for Salt Lake Community College and was previously the school's dean of science, mathematics, and engineering. Currently, he mentors U graduate students from underrepresented groups. He received the Arts and Letters Distinguished Service Award from the Utah Academy of Sciences and *Salt Lake City Weekly's* Best Straight-Up Jazz Band award with The G Brown Quintet.

Honorary Alumnus Award Recipient



John Bircumshaw is passionate about the U's gymnastics program and helped popularize the "Flash the U" gesture. He travels with the team and provides a community for the gymnasts' parents. He worked for Utah Power from 1973 to 2015, as a meter reader, then a journeyman lineman, and finally as director of apprentice training. He served as a venue captain for skating events in the 2002 Olympic Games and was a volunteer firefighter and ski patroller in Park City, Utah.



Web Extra Don't miss honoree videos online at magazine.utah.edu/founders2023

d

Diagram

4,964
registered users

162
job applications sent

96
jobs posted

2,274
alumni offer mentoring

3,194
networking connections made through messages, invites, and virtual meetings

196
events posted

72
active mentoring pairs

15
academic chapters based on college/school

19
affinity alumni chapters & interest groups

26
regional alumni chapters

Forever Utah Alumni Network

Networking is one of the most effective tools for building a career—but making connections is easier said than done. Enter the Forever Utah Alumni Network. The site is a ready-made professional community where U alums, students, faculty, and staff can share career advice, find and post job listings, promote their businesses, and establish mentorships. Take a look at the action that's already happened on the platform since it launched in 2021. And if you haven't yet joined, sign up with your LinkedIn or email account at forever.utah.edu.



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID MEIKLE

- MEIKLE -

Class Notes

'50s

R. Wayne Pace BS'53 is professor emeritus of organizational leadership in the Marriott School of Management, Brigham Young University, and has taught at a number of universities in Australia, among others. Author of more than 20 books, he specializes in HR development, organizational communication, and individual and organizational change, and has served as a corporate advisor. Founding president of the Academy of Human

SPOTLIGHT



Kathy Fagan PhD'87 recently published her sixth poetry collection, *Bad Hobby*, a meditation focused on memory, class, and might-have-beens. Fagan is cofounder of the MFA program at The Ohio State University, where she teaches poetry, and co-edits the Wheeler Poetry Prize Book Series for *The Journal* and The Ohio State University Press. She is the author of previous collections including *Sycamore*, a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Award and for which she was named the Ohio Poet of the Year; *MOVING & STRAGE*, winner of the Vassar Miller Prize; and *The Raft*, winner of the National Poetry Series. Her work has appeared in such esteemed venues as the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *Poetry*, *The Nation*, *the New Republic*, *Best American Poetry*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day. She has served poetry residencies at The Frost Place, Yaddo, and MacDowell, and has been awarded fellowships from the Ingram Merrill Foundation, the Ohio Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Resource Development, the AHRD years later named their book award for him, and he has received numerous other honors for his research and scholarly excellence. He has served as president of the International Communication Association and several others, along with 50 other positions in professional associations.

'70s



Patricia Sparks

Patricia Sparks MD'75 has published the memoir *Making the Rounds: Defying Norms in Love and Medicine*, named one of Kirkus Reviews' Best Indie Books of 2022. Written under the pen name Patricia Grayhall, the book chronicles coming of age during second-wave feminism and striving to have both love and career as a lesbian doctor. Sparks says, "This book is relevant to all marginalized people who are struggling to fulfill dreams that others take for granted."

'80s



Rudy Barela

Rudy Barela BS'83 and his husband, David Karjola, have endowed a scholarship now housed in the LGBT Resource Center. The Barela-Karjola Scholarship will be awarded to students with financial need, with preference for those earning business or nursing degrees who are committed to serving the LGBTQ+ community through their chosen career fields. Barela is a CPA and regional controller for Granite Construction, and Karjola is in real estate.

'90s

John Hill BS'92 BS'92 JD'95 is the new director of Salt Lake County's Criminal Justice Advisory Council. Hill was previously the director of the Office of Life, Justice and Peace at the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City.

SPOTLIGHT



Veteran story artist **David G. Derrick, Jr.** ex'00 is directing the upcoming musical long-form *Moana* series, expected to debut in 2024. A former head of story at Walt Disney Animation Studios, Derrick's first project at Disney was the original 2016 *Moana* feature. Since then, he's worked as a board artist on the CG remake of *The Lion King*, *Raya and the Last Dragon*, and *Encanto*. He previously spent a decade at DreamWorks, where he storyboarded on *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Rise of the Guardians*, *Megamind*, *Bee Movie*, and *Flushed Away*. Derrick is Samoan from his grandmother's side and spoke in the past about his interest in working on *Moana*, telling the *Boulder Weekly*, "When the first Polynesians came to Utah, they were forced to—they were segregated out to—this place called Skull Valley, which they named Iosepa. [My grandmother] died there, and I made a rubbing of her grave and put that up above my desk. [It] reminded me why I was making this film. It was both a thank you and an apology at the same time, thanking her for this rich heritage that most people don't fully understand and also an apology for the way she was treated."

Kaskade (aka **Ryan Raddon** BA'95) returns to perform in Utah this summer at the Ogden Twilight concert series. The Grammy-nominated DJ/electronic dance music producer has had numerous Billboard dance chart Top 10 hits, created chart-topping remixes for the likes of Lady Gaga, headlined major music festivals such as Coachella, and collaborated multiple times with Deadmau5. Raddon started DJ-ing as a student at the U and had a radio show on the U's student-run radio station K-UTE, often featuring his own music. He shares three daughters with wife **Naomi Raddon** BA'00, a fellow snowboarder whom he met at the U.



John Flores

John Flores MPH'97 received the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Utah Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the state organization's top honor. A

principal lecturer in the public health program at Utah State University, Flores was recognized for his outstanding efforts as a teacher, mentor, and adviser to student and professional AIHA members, both in Utah and throughout the world.

Macey Mott BA'98 BA'98 is a director, actor, and designer who runs the nonprofit theater company Riot Act, Inc., which explores meaningful issues and empowers actors, directors, and playwrights in her hometown of Jackson, Wyo. In her day job, Mott is a travel agent and has worked in the travel industry for more than 20 years.

'00s



Luz Escamilla

Utah State Sen. **Luz Escamilla** BS'00 MPA'06 spoke at the U's most recent Latinx Networking Social, hosted by U Alumni and the Latinx Alumni Chapter. The event provides an evening of networking and community building for Latinx alums from different career fields and professions.

Mark Phelan MS'05, an associate professor of philosophy at Lawrence University, has been chosen to participate in the Council of Independent Colleges' New Currents in Teaching Philosophy Institute. Selection to the

institute is highly competitive and a significant honor in the field of philosophy. Only 33 faculty members were chosen for this year's gathering.



Samantha Eldridge

Samantha Eldridge BS'08 MPA'10 is director of the U's American Indian Resource Center and was a first-generation college student.

Originally from Shiprock, New Mexico, Eldridge is Diné and grew up in a remote area on the Navajo Reservation in a home where there was no electricity and water. "My first year at the U was actually the same year the American Indian Resource Center was established," she notes. "It's really inspiring to come full circle."



Oliver Tsuya

Oliver Tsuya BA'09 is a Veteran alum who established the Tsuya-Stephens Endowed Veterans Scholarship at the U with his wife, Billi (who is also a Veteran). Oliver

joined the army when he was 17 years old and went to college at the U with the G.I. Bill. "My wife and I both come from a long line of service member families," he notes. Oliver has worked at the U for more than 10 years with Internal Medicine's IT group, while Billi works at the U as a physician assistant. He adds, "We realized the importance of giving back to the community and supporting our fellow Veterans."

'10s

Ryan Meeks BA'10 produces and hosts *The Path of Art*, a podcast that aims to share the insights of creative people—musicians, actors, directors, painters—in hopes of inspiring those on a similar path. Meeks started his career as a graphic designer before shifting to a role as a digital content producer at KSL News Radio.



Marquis Newman

Marquis Newman BS'15 is the new general manager of the Salt Lake City Stars, the official NBA G League affiliate of the Utah Jazz, as of the 2022-23 season. Newman has worked with the Jazz since fall of 2018.



Kenneth Scott

Kenneth Scott BS'15 BS'15 recently delivered a TED Talk discussing the importance of a legacy-driven mindset. A former Utah Football player, Scott spoke in part on his recently published memoir of his late mother, reflecting on her legacy and asking audience members, "How will you be remembered? Who will you leave behind? Because if not you, then who? If not now, then when?"



Megan Townsend

Megan Townsend BS'15 MCP'17 was recognized by *Utah Business* magazine as a rising star in its annual "20 in their 20s" to watch list. Townsend is community and economic development director for the Wasatch Front Regional Council, which assists local communities with planning and policy. She also serves as board chair for the Seven Canyons Trust nonprofit organization, which she helped to found.



Kerry E. Kelly

Kerry E. Kelly PhD'15, a chemical engineering associate professor at the U, is one of five national winners of the 2022 Women In Science Incentive Prize, which recognizes "innovative female scientists working on solutions to the most pressing environmental issues of our time." The prize is given out by The Story Exchange, a nonprofit media organization dedicated to elevating women's voices. Kelly was honored for her research on Utah's air quality and her work developing and building portable air quality sensors that regular consumers can purchase for their homes.

Emily Nuvan BS'16 BS'16 JD'20 is an associate in the Salt Lake City office of Armstrong Teasdale. She has become her firm's resident expert in non-fungible tokens—or NFTs—helping people scammed in digital transactions.



Manny Del Rio

Manny Del Rio BS'17 was recognized by *Utah Business* magazine in its annual "20 in their 20s" feature of rising stars to watch. Del Rio is a vice president with

Practice Pathways, a professional finance division of Zions Bank, specializing in complex, high-value loans for medical professionals. Del Rio has worked with Zions for more than six years and previously spent nearly four years with America First Credit Union.

'20s



Nichole Briceno

Nichole Briceno BSW'20, a student at the S.J. Quinney College of Law and treasurer of its Minority Law Caucus, received the 2022-23 Durham Fellowship from the Utah Center for Legal Inclusion. The UCLI stipend will support Briceno's studies, and she will partner with UCLI on law student programming. During an internship at the District Attorney's Office, Briceno worked with Spanish-speaking

families who were experiencing abuse and undocumented families who feared deportation because they could not afford legal representation. In the future, she hopes to support marginalized communities as an attorney.



Iqan Fadaei

Iqan Fadaei JD'20 was recognized by *Utah Business* magazine as a rising star in its "20 in their 20s" to watch annual feature. Fadaei is an associate attorney in Michael Best's Salt Lake City office,

where he advises clients on securities and financial services regulation. Outside of work, Fadaei is president of the board of Employ Ukraine, a nonprofit corporation connecting displaced Ukrainians with prospective employers.



What's up with U?

Send updates to classnotes@utah.edu

SPOTLIGHT



In the summer before her sophomore year at the U, **Valerie Cazedessus** BS'22 realized she wanted to do college a fresh way—in a new place, seeing new people and things. "I looked at online options for fall semester and quickly found four classes that fit within the gen-ed requirements." She thought about moving to Costa Rica, where her mother is from and which she had visited many times, but finally decided on Oahu, Hawaii. "I had never even visited that island before, but I thought to myself, why not?" She explored several majors before discovering international business through the College of Humanities, "something I had never even heard about," and which quickly became her passion. "I was able to complete my sophomore and junior years 100 percent online while living in Hawaii (partly due to the coronavirus, but mostly due to the awesome online options through the U). I even found a study abroad program for my senior year in Spain that I could do simultaneously while having four online classes." Among her messages for others: "Your college experience can be whatever you want it to be. College is about finding yourself." She has now started her own portable hammock business and lives part time in Hawaii "and part time everywhere else."

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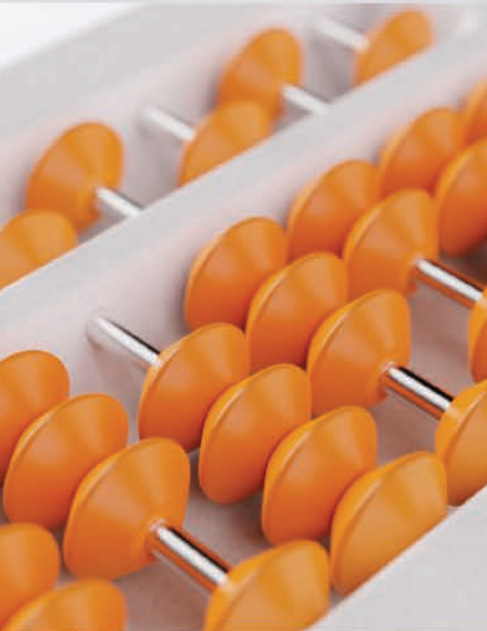
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Champion for Education Equity

Alberta Henry BS'80 was the first Black woman to receive an honorary doctorate from the U, in 1971. Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1920, she moved to Salt Lake City in 1949 and lived in the area until she passed in 2005. Henry was a powerhouse in Utah education and founded the Alberta Henry Education Foundation to provide scholarships for underprivileged students. She was also the president of the Salt Lake City NAACP for 12 years and became the first Black employee of the city's school district, helping recruit more Black teachers, combat discrimination, and ensure that Black children were being treated fairly. Henry's other efforts included founding an honor society to support and encourage high school students. Today the Alberta Henry Scholarship continues to help students pursue their education at the U. Here, Henry holds an unidentified elementary school student's hands in 1975.



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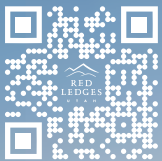
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