

Sudden Impact

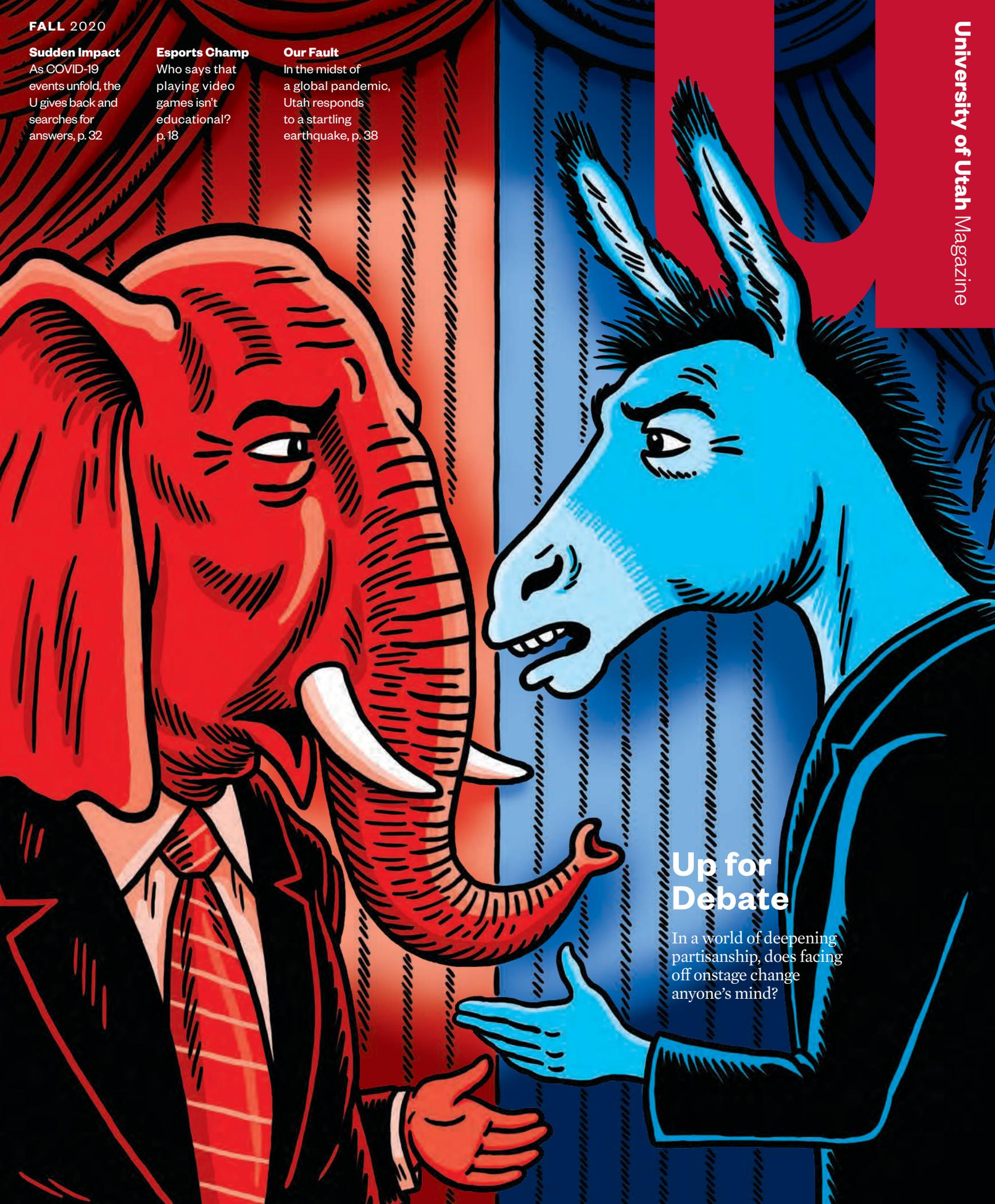
As COVID-19 events unfold, the U gives back and searches for answers, p. 32

Esports Champ

Who says that playing video games isn't educational? p. 18

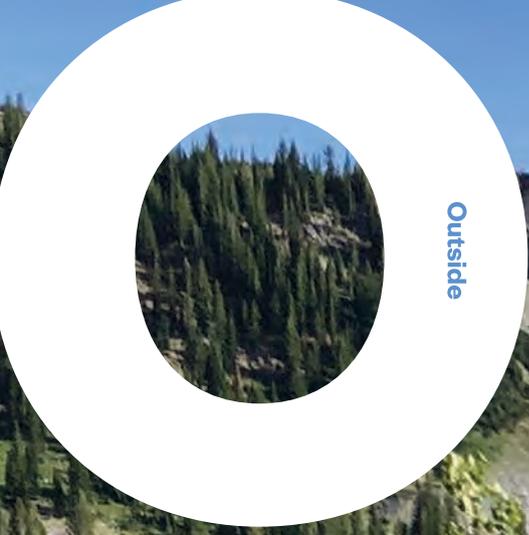
Our Fault

In the midst of a global pandemic, Utah responds to a startling earthquake, p. 38



Up for Debate

In a world of deepening partisanship, does facing off onstage change anyone's mind?



Outside



PHOTO BY THE UTAH SKI TEAM



An Epic Playground

Just another training day for the Utah Ski Team, pictured here at Lake Mary in Big Cottonwood Canyon last fall. With hikes like this within 45 minutes from campus, you might say U students are a bit spoiled. “The Wasatch Mountains provide an epic playground of endless training opportunities,” says Miles Havlick BS’13, head Nordic coach. “The ski team is outside more often than not.” And that’s precisely what appeals to students like Samuel Hendry, a sophomore and Nordic skier from Canada. “There’s nothing I love more than getting out for a ski tour at Gobblers Knob before class or going for a run in Millcreek afterward,” he says. “I look forward to three more years of adventures in the Utah outdoors.”

Some heroes wear capes. Ours wear scrubs. Last spring, the U recognized our health care heroes and their fight against the coronavirus. Read more about the U's efforts against COVID-19 on p. 32.



WEB EXTRAS

More available at magazine.utah.edu



Is there intelligent life beyond earth? Alum Thomas Stucky BS'15 is trying to find out. He helped create AI tech for a Mars exploration mission set to launch this summer. See p. 45 and a longer story at magazine.utah.edu/mars.



How do athletes stay emotionally strong during these difficult times? Listen to a podcast with the director of psychology and wellness for Utah

Athletics to hear how U student-athletes are learning to change expectations.



The U's nationally ranked John R. Park Debate Society argues perhaps their most appropriate topic ever: Can a debate change anyone's mind? Check out the podcast.

Editor's note Many of the photos in this issue were taken before COVID-19 and do not reflect up-to-date safety protocols such as face coverings and social distancing. For the latest back-to-school guidelines, visit coronavirus.utah.edu.

FEATURES

24

Opposing Arguments For the first time ever, the U has been selected to host a national debate. And as the two vice presidential candidates come to campus this October to share their vision for the next four years, we ask our experts—do debates change people's minds?

32

Sudden Impact In less than eight months, more than 16 million people were diagnosed and upwards of 650,000 died from COVID-19 worldwide. See a timeline of the rapid succession of events and learn how the U community is on the front lines fighting the effects of the virus, giving back to those in need, and searching for new treatments.

38

Our Fault In the midst of a pandemic, Utah experienced the strongest quake ever recorded on the Wasatch Fault—and aftershocks have been felt for months. U scientists are learning all they can about this event and helping Utahns get ready for the next one.

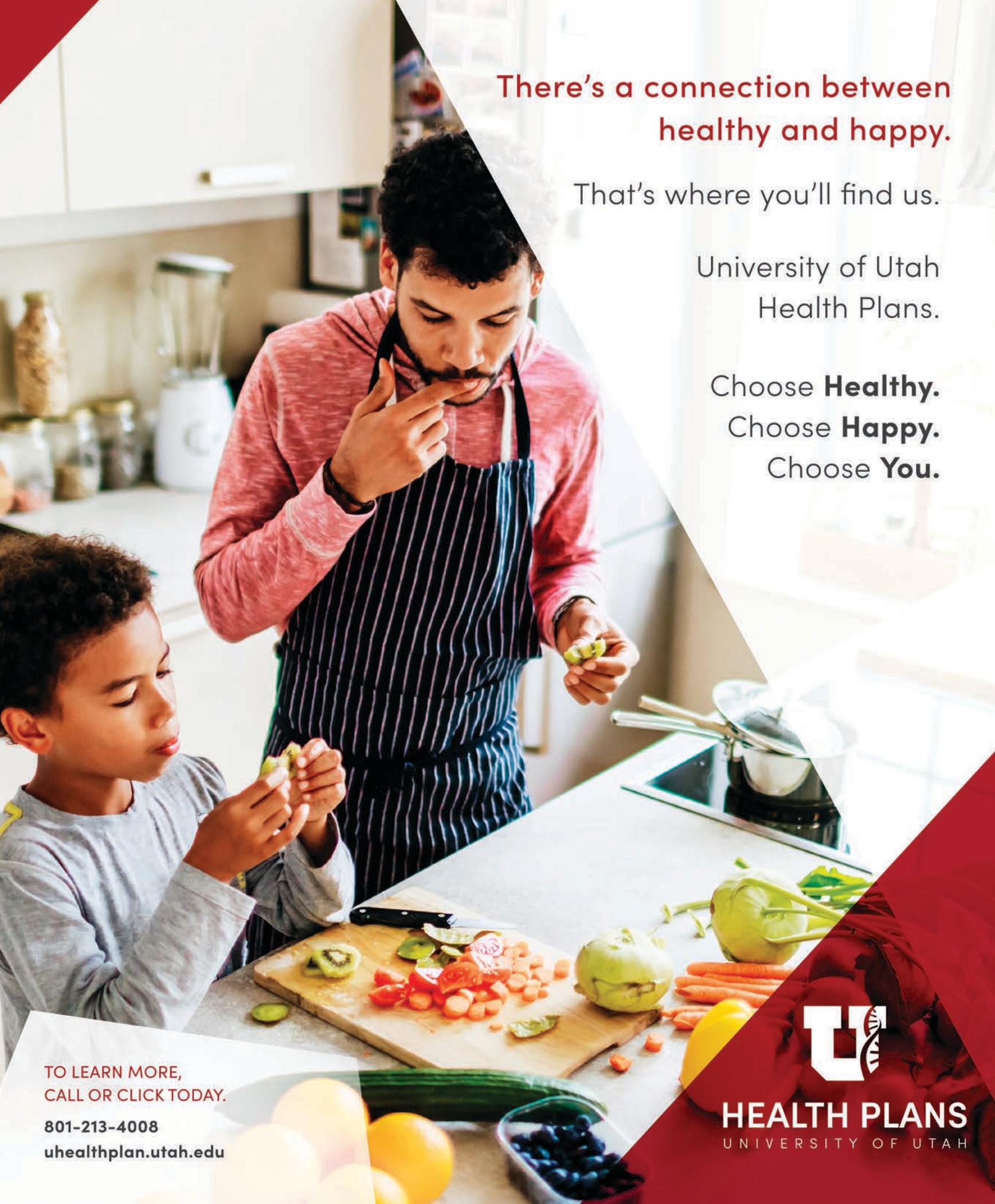


ON THE COVER

With partisanship holding powerful sway over voter decisions, could anyone be convinced to reconsider their opinions? And if not, why hold debates at all? Illustrator Ward Sutton captures the tension felt not just by the political candidates but all those involved in the political process.

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Many Issues on the Table

Research universities are needed now more than ever



At the University of Utah, as across the country and around the globe, we are embracing change.

From the coronavirus pandemic to justified calls for racial equity, we see a new world before us—one with new health problems to solve, new innovations to discover, new partnerships to form, new opportunities.

This is, quite frankly, a moment when our communities, our state, and the nation need research universities to lead the way. At the U, we are ready.

Our health care providers and researchers are on the front lines of figuring out how to test, trace, treat, and prevent coronavirus. Our educators are expanding the ways they deliver an exceptional

educational experience. Our policy thinkers are working with state officials to ensure a swift and steady economic recovery for Utah. Our senior leaders are taking us forward as we strive harder to be equitable, diverse, and inclusive. Our staff are reaching out to students to support them in every way we can in their educational journeys, because this is the time to pursue a degree with even more vigor.

You should be proud of your university. I am.

We have another chance to shine this fall with the U hosting the vice presidential debate at Kingsbury Hall. Do debates change hearts and minds? It's a good question, and our cover story shares what the experts have to say on that point. I hope you find the story a good primer for this election season.

PRESIDENT RUTH WATKINS



Spring Issue

I want to commend you and your staff for your new literary creation—the *University of Utah Magazine*. The layout, flow, graphics, meaningful short articles, plus lengthy contemporary subjects on vaping and mental health are enlightening. The attractive page on the U becoming one of America’s leading research universities is impressive. We will be looking forward to the next edition.

ERNIE [BS’64] AND MARSHA [BS’65]
WITUCKI, LAKEWOOD, CO

I always read the alumni magazine and enjoy it, but the Spring issue was the most interesting I have ever read. Two very unique topics were great fun: “Falling Down on the Job” and “They Pay Me to Do This,” both highlighting students as “real” and well-rounded people.

JOAN MATTHEWS, MIDVALE, UT



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.

Student Jobs

In our Spring feature “They Pay Me to Do This!” we highlighted student jobs on campus and invited our readers to share what they did to pay the bills as U students. Here’s a sampling of the many fun responses.

“In the 1980s I was a calf sitter for calves that had had the Jarvik artificial heart implanted. I cared for two to six calves at a time, cleaning their messes and taking readings of blood pressures and other vital signs.”

DELRAY ANDERSON BS’81 MD’85,
TREMONTON, UT



I managed the instrument inventory for the band program and designed the pre-game and halftime show formations. I learned things about running a music program that weren’t covered in any classes, and the show design work turned into a lucrative summer job that has helped me survive as a public school teacher.

VICTOR NEVES BMU’91, ALPINE, UT

When I was attending law school, I worked as a surgical orderly at the University Hospital. It turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. ... I watched hundreds of surgeries of every type. It was such a great opportunity I’ve often said I shouldn’t have even been paid for doing it.

JAMES HARDY BS’64 JD’66,
EVANSTON, IL

I was on the crew that spent days on elevators and in the shelves with book carts, moving the library collection from the old building (afterward the Utah Museum of Natural History and now the Crocker Science Center) to the brand new Marriott Library.

H. MICHAEL ROBERTS BA’70 MED’73,
SHERIDAN, WY



Kudos to Arnold

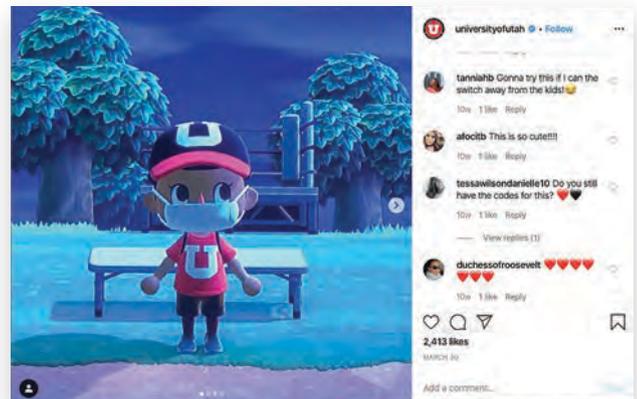
Arnold [Gatoro, “Humans”] was also a student in Diversity Scholars, showing how bright students who go through that program are! So happy to see him excelling after his freshman year.

ELIZABETH ARCHULETA, SALT LAKE CITY

Your high school principal continues to be proud of your ongoing learning and development.

BRETT WILSON BS’82, SALT LAKE CITY

SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT



Praised for its ability to provide comfort and social connection, *Animal Crossing* has been a pandemic pastime for video gamers around the world. And U fans were thrilled when they found out they could show off their school pride from behind the console. Thanks to the U’s Entertainment Arts & Engineering program, players can now pick from a series of U-branded outfits and designs for their character (including a mask appropriate for the times). The low-key game, designed for play on a Nintendo Switch, lets gamers take on the role of an island paradise’s lone human, tasked with building a village in harmony with a bevy of friendly critters.



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ALUMNI

FOREVER UTAH

News from the U

NEWS ROUNDUP



For up-to-date information on heading back to school this fall, visit coronavirus.utah.edu.

ACT and SAT scores are not required from U applicants for Fall 2021 admission under a two-year pilot program. A holistic approach considering other items, such as high school GPA and course rigor, will be used. The change comes in part due to a lack of access to testing centers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



By virtually every measure, the U is on the rise. What makes this such a great university? The people. President Ruth Watkins is bringing the U's incredible individuals, research, and impact into the spotlight in her new "U Rising" podcast, with interviews on topics ranging from campus safety to discovering arts to fall sports. Visit president.utah.edu/u-rising-podcast.

A new ASUU presidency has been sworn in. From left to right, the 2020-21 Associated Students of the University of Utah leadership team is Michelle Valdes, vice president of student relations; Ephraim Kum, student body president; and Ayana Amaechi, vice president of university relations. The new ASUU presidency plans to focus on a holistic approach to safety, a more inclusive and connected student experience, and a push to make education more affordable for everyone.

Combating Racism

The U is committed to creating an equitable, diverse, and fully inclusive campus

You cannot fix what you cannot face. The adage from author James Baldwin is especially poignant with the recent killings of Black people that have sparked nationwide protests, and the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African American and Latinx communities, as well as American Indian nations.

These events have brought into clear focus the longstanding history of systemic racism, mistreatment, and murder that have resulted in the racial inequity we experience today, says Mary Ann Villarreal, the U's inaugural vice president for equity, diversity, and inclusion. The U is taking steps to become an anti-racist 21st-century campus grounded in equity and inclusion, she says.

The first step is examining institutional policies and practices that could perpetuate racism, bias, and systemic inequity in the recruitment, hiring, retention, and advancement of staff and faculty. To address this, a new EDI Executive Committee is being led by faculty co-chairs and administrative leaders who can effect change immediately. They

are delivering their findings and beginning implementation this fall.

The second step is the creation of One U Thriving, which brings together groups from around campus to work together on EDI strategies and goals. This initiative will help ensure that students, faculty, and staff have a voice in bringing about racial healing and transformation, dealing with racial bias incidents, and shaping our journey as we achieve the goal of an anti-racist, inclusive, and equitable campus, says Villarreal.

The U also announced a new George Floyd Memorial Fund, which will support students and is committed to advancing the interests of the next generation of aspiring Black leaders.

Finally, the U has also created two new EDI-focused leadership roles and will prioritize research activities that specially support EDI efforts. "Equity, diversity, and inclusion are defining elements of our university values," says Dan Reed, senior vice president for Academic Affairs. "We are unwaveringly committed to making this university an even more welcoming and inclusive place."





Patiently Waiting

Standing 12 feet tall, *Ethnic Man* (1991) has spent several lonely months watching over the silent and still Utah Museum of Fine Arts after it temporarily closed its doors in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. A favorite in the museum's collection, this massive sculpture was created by Viola Frey (1933-2004), a ceramic artist who looked beyond the traditional small scale of that artform. This and hundreds of other stunning artworks have been waiting to be rediscovered and enjoyed once UMFA reopens (check umfa.utah.edu for updates and for free virtual arts programs). In the meantime, *Ethnic Man* stands ever alert, waiting for visitors to return.

Lookout

MELDRUM FOUNDATION



Dominique Pablito

2020 chemistry graduate

Dominique Pablito BS'20 grew up in the small town of Aneth, Utah, on the Navajo Nation, and in New Mexico on the Zuni Reservation. She lived in a four-bedroom house with 13 family members.

With access to math and science courses limited in reservation schools, Pablito convinced her family to move. “We ran out of gas in St. George, Utah, where I registered for high school even though my family was unable to find housing,” says Pablito. “During my first quarter, I slept in a Nissan Xterra with my mother, brother, and grandmother while I earned straight A’s, took college courses at Dixie State University, completed a research internship at Dixie Regional Medical Center, and competed in varsity cross country.”

She applied for 15 scholarships and was awarded 12. “I started college at 15, and by age 16 my parents were no longer part of my life,” she says. “I

never felt more alone.” For support, she turned to her grandparents and joined Indigenous student groups where she tutored math and science and taught Diné Bizaad (Navajo). She decided to major in chemistry when she interned with the U’s Huntsman Cancer Institute and later Harvard Medical School.

Pablito is now attending Brown University to pursue her doctorate in molecular and cell biology and biochemistry. Her dream is to open a lab on the Zuni Pueblo to expose students to research. That interest in science and medicine originated in her childhood experience with the Indian Health Service.

“Many of my elders distrusted going to doctors because most health care providers are white,” says Pablito. “I want to spark an interest in STEM in future generations of Indigenous scholars and give them advantages I never had.”

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How could COVID-19 impact future workplace habits?



Erika George, director of the Tanner Humanities Center and professor of law

The global pandemic has highlighted the importance of employee voices. Humans are much more than resources. As we see more people working from home, we recognize the long-undervalued housework and care efforts done mostly by women. We also have a greater appreciation for our temp and part-time workers. I hope we can use this as an opportunity to create more flexible, equitable, and fulfilling employment opportunities and to better support people who are unable to work. Human creativity, the capacity to collaborate, and compassion will be key in the post-pandemic workplace.



Tony Tsai, director of leadership development and education strategy, School of Medicine

We're seeing a fundamental shift in the definition of the "workplace" from being office-centered to something that is not tied to a location. This shift will transform work itself as it changes from being tied to a single role in an office to multiple work engagements with flexible roles in different work communities. This trend will only be accelerated with the decline of full-time positions due to the emerging economic situation. There is benefit for those who can embrace this flexibility as it entails greater freedom to define our work and professional communities.



Elizabeth Tenney, assistant professor at the David Eccles School of Business

What COVID-19 should make abundantly clear to business leaders is that the fates of employees, vendors, customers, and executives are intertwined. Having tunnel vision for the bottom line, or ignoring broader community and environmental consequences of business decisions, is not a sustainable management practice. What I hope changes is an enduring gratitude for those on the ground floor and an acute awareness that to survive the toughest times, leaders need to focus on what really matters across all levels of organizations—building strong relationships.



Jeff Herring BA'98, the U's chief human resources officer

It has been said that necessity is the mother of all invention. This is true with telework. The reluctance to allow people to work remotely has been ripped away by necessity during COVID-19. Most work has continued or even increased with telework. I think we'll see a dramatic increase in remote work arrangements. I also foresee more reliance on tech tools. The workforce has become much more familiar with virtual meetings, e-forms, streamlined processes, etc. If these are used strategically post-COVID, I believe workplaces can be far more efficient.

BY THE NUMBERS



8,628

total graduates in the Class of 2020

5,851 bachelor's degrees

2,411 master's degrees

686 doctoral degrees



Class of 2020 represented:

27 Utah counties

50 states

59 countries



3.39

average undergraduate GPA



321

veterans received degrees

Graduates ranged in age from

18 to 69 years old

Numbers based on data available prior to graduation and may have changed slightly.



Virtual Graduation

The Class of 2020 was the U's first ever to have an online ceremony

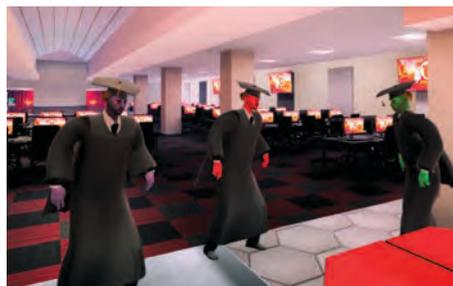
Silent were the cheers filling the Huntsman Center, and instead of family and friends watching the proceedings on the jumbotron, they tuned in on much smaller screens at home. The U held its first virtual commencement last spring due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thousands tuned in online, as well as locally on KUTV, to watch the event.

“The biggest challenge was capturing the pomp and circumstance and really giving the graduates the ceremony they deserved. And we only had a few weeks to figure it out,” says Jeff Hanson, executive producer at the U. “We couldn’t have done it without PBS Utah and the fantastic people who work there. They stepped up to make it happen.”

In some ways the commencement felt familiar. It opened with the national anthem and featured

messages from Pres. Ruth Watkins and keynote speaker John Warnock BS’61 MS’64 PhD’69, co-founder of Adobe Inc., as well as from college deans. More than 20 people were recorded for the event—all while maintaining appropriate social distancing and cleaning measures. But it was still not the ceremony students anticipated.

U student Miranda Stewart, who graduated with majors in sociology and international studies, also spoke, and noted that her graduating class was dealt some challenging hands. “We have faced every tragedy and trial with grace and resiliency. No, it is not fair, but none of us is facing it alone. Being in the same boat means we all weather this storm together, and I have no doubt we will make it through,” she said.



PICTURE

The latest game created by the U's Entertainment Arts and Engineering didn't require players to defeat their opponent or solve any puzzles. Instead, it was the simulated environment for more than 200 EAE students to hold their own virtual convocation. The graduates logged in with their customized avatars, listened to speakers, and received their graduation cords. “We wanted the students to leave on a high note,” says professor Robert Kessler BS’74 MS’77 PhD’81. “And we’re games people, so we said, ‘Let’s make a game.’”



Equity, Responsibility, Belonging

We don't live in the same world we did six months ago. We cannot ignore the health inequities in minoritized communities, laid bare by the pandemic, or our country's history of sustained racism, and the deeply distressing injustice and particular racism faced by the Black community, says Mary Ann Villarreal. The U's inaugural vice president for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) has been on the job for a momentous year. We asked her about the responsibility higher education has to create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus.

You describe your own path as “twisty-turny.” Why?

I grew up a queer kid in a small, religious town in Texas. In high school, my sister said it was probably safest for me to leave the state and not come back—although she became my biggest supporter and ally. It took strong mentors to keep me on the path to earning my degrees, because I tired of being the outsider. My mentors reminded me I had a responsibility and an opportunity to make room at the table. And it became clear that I wanted to be involved in social justice work.

How do we help people care about EDI issues?

For decades the conversation has focused on diversity, the social and economic public good of diversifying our teams. However, that's not enough, because diversity without equity and inclusion simply changes the composition. It does not change who has opportunities nor erase the structural hierarchy of racism. We help people care by demonstrating that EDI does not simply replace one body with another. EDI seeks to ensure equitable access and uproot the conscious and unconscious beliefs that make us think our socially constructed oppressions are inherent in our being.

How can universities rise to the call?

We have to revolutionize the way we think and act. And I don't use that word lightly—revolutionize. It's a call to action to find the areas where we're complicit in our own racism. And especially right now, we must stand in solidarity with the Black community. We must acknowledge and mourn the aggrievances of our nation, the injustices and killings over the past 400 years. When we say that Black lives matter, we must also act like Black lives matter. We need to face painful, uncomfortable truths and work with urgency and compassion to build a more equitable campus and community.

Clearing the Air

Study: Students from minority, low-income neighborhoods breathe more air pollution

How clean is the air your kids are breathing? That may depend on where they go to school. A new study found that schools in Salt Lake County with a higher minority and low-income population were exposed to higher levels of pollution.

U researchers gathered data from 174 schools and analyzed the fine particulate matter levels (PM 2.5) during three different scenarios: relatively clean, moderate inversion, and major inversion days. Schools with predominantly minority students were disproportionately exposed to worse air quality under all scenarios. Charter schools and schools serving students from low-income households were disproportionately exposed when PM 2.5 was relatively good or moderate. The findings speak to the need for policies that protect school-aged children from environmental harm, says Sara Grineski, U professor of sociology and environmental studies and senior author of the paper.



“The persistence of these injustices—from the pretty clean but health-harming levels all the way up to the horrific air days—at schools serving racial/ethnic minority kids is unacceptable,” she says. Exposure to hazardous air pollutants is associated with worse performance in reading, math, and science, as well as health issues including asthma, cardiovascular disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.



Thousands took to the streets of Salt Lake City in June as part of nationwide protests and rallies sparked by the death of George Floyd in late May. U student Brian Pham, a junior majoring in marketing, caught one moment with this photo.



U Reorganizes Public Safety Functions

The U is restructuring its public safety infrastructure to improve accountability and better meet the needs of the U community. The new chief safety officer, Marlon C. Lynch, now directly oversees the U’s emergency management, U of U Health security, campus security, and police divisions. Previously, these units all reported to the chief of police.

As part of the reorganization, a new community services division has also been created to help crime victims, and Lynch has hired former Utah Department of Public Safety Commissioner Keith Squires to focus on relationships with external public safety agencies and campus safety committees.

Additionally, a new security and law enforcement technology director will be hired to oversee the department’s IT infrastructure, and an administrative director came onboard to manage strategic initiatives, communications and marketing, and budget planning.

“We recognize that there are many aspects to individual safety, and we know that our work cannot happen in a silo,” says Lynch. “These changes will enhance our partnerships on campus, as well as with community agencies.”

Despite the limitations placed on campus by the coronavirus pandemic, Lynch has connected with ASUU, the Academic Senate Executive Committee, Staff Council, and other students, faculty, and staff members to keep them apprised of these changes, incorporate their feedback, and gain input during hiring processes.

In addition to these division-wide changes, University Police has a new command staff to lead a unit focused on fostering partnerships and collaborating with community stakeholders.

“This is a transformational time,” says Lynch. “I am honored to be part of the foundational efforts in creating a culture of safety at the U.”

PICTURE

Welcome to Campus Living at Kahlert Village

Student life on campus has been transformed with the opening of the new Kahlert Village residential building. The village—which can house up to 1,000 students—is the single largest building project in U history and is named for lead donor the Kahlert Foundation.

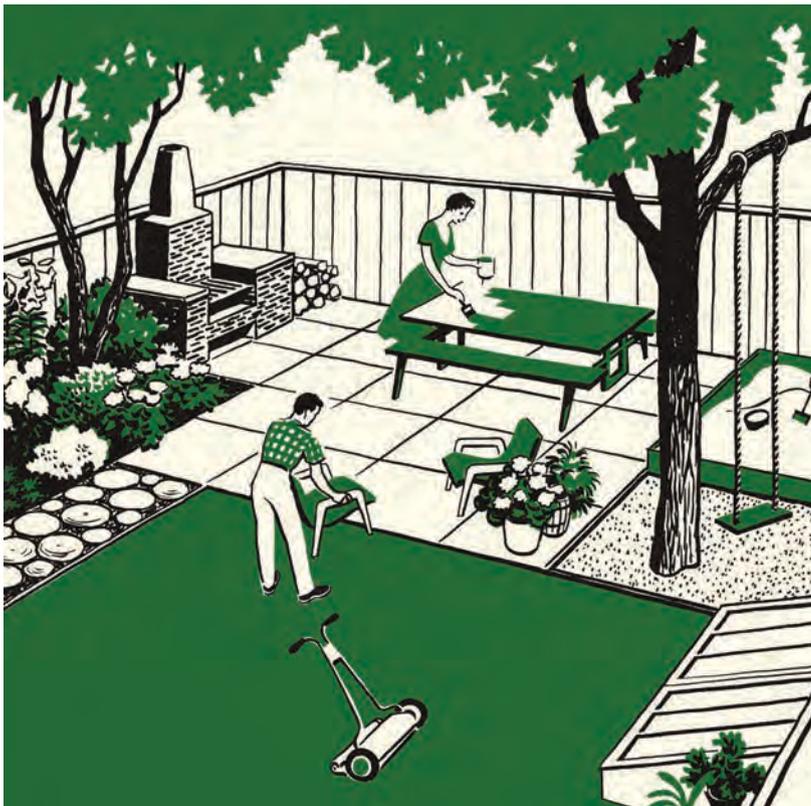
Centrally located near the Student Life Center, the Huntsman Center, and the Fort Douglas TRAX stop, it has three themed towers thanks to the generosity of Heather Kahlert BS'07 (STEM), Gail Miller (Community Engagement), and Patricia W. Child BS'62 (Health & Wellness).

Research shows that one of the strongest predictors for student success is whether a student lives on campus. In fact, spending just a year living on site increases successful degree completion by 12 percent, and this project will boost those odds for many more students.



Finding Balance

U study links communication, division of housework, and relationships



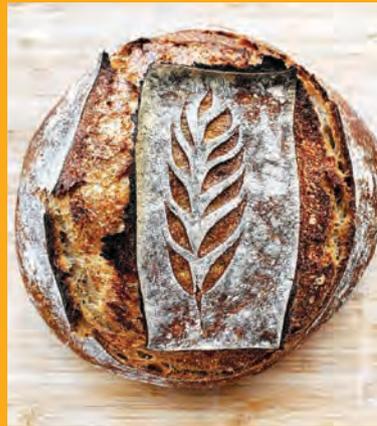
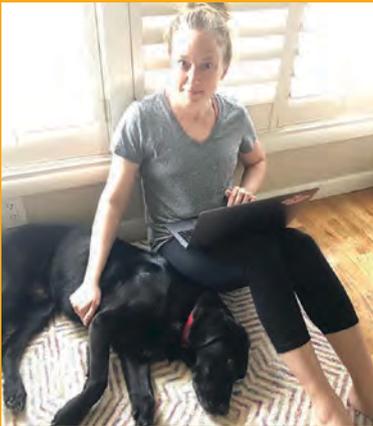
For many couples, COVID-19 has shattered the normal routine and led some to renegotiate who does what around the house. Research has shown that both communication and the way couples divide up household chores are related to satisfaction in relationships.

A new U study found that communication is the most important factor linking the division of housework to relationship satisfaction—but communication quality matters differently to men and women.

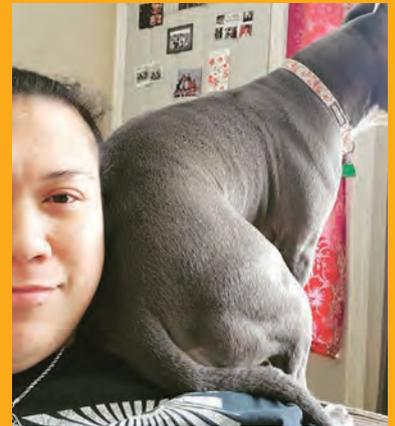
During the pandemic, families have lost important supports that enable them to work. “We lost childcare and schools, and some people have lost jobs, so more responsibilities have been thrust onto parents,” notes the paper’s lead author, Daniel Carlson with Family and Consumer Studies. That new reality has made this an important time to evaluate communication and domestic labor and think about future arrangements, he says.

The way women communicate shapes how couples split up housework, and when women communicate negatively, men do more. But that negative communication causes men’s relationship satisfaction to decline. However, when men contribute equally to household duties, they communicate better; when women do the majority of the chores, men communicate worse. For women, an equal division of labor is important to their relationship satisfaction. For men, it depends on how his partner communicates with him.

The study used data on 487 heterosexual couples, and Carlson is now looking into how the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent stay-at-home orders shifted the parents’ divisions of childcare and housework.



B I N G O				
Attended Common Nights	Own a piece of U Gear	Visited the Utah Museum of Fine Arts	Signed the wall at the Pie	Gone to a performance at Kingsbury Hall
Attended a Utah Gymnastics meet	Taken a picture in front of the Block U	Walked through Red Butte Garden	Been on an Outdoor Adventures trip	Taken a selfie flashing the U
Biked across Legacy Bridge	Participated in Song Fest		Gone bowling at the Union	Taken public transit to campus
Given someone a high five	Been to a Utah Football game	Hiked the Living Room trail	Danced during RedFest	Studied at the Marriott Library
Visited the Natural History Museum of Utah	Joined a University of Utah club	Tagged the University of Utah on social media	Eaten at Big Ed's Publik	Volunteered with the Benson Center



U at Home

What did you do during stay-at-home orders last spring? We asked our U community to share on social what they did to keep busy. Here's a sampling of the responses. Turns out we have some pretty talented artists, musicians, bakers, and even stitchers—as well as dedicated students, staff, and faculty busily learning, teaching, and working from home... with the help of a few furry friends.

NAME Evee Le, esports player and coach

HOME TURF
the Salt Lake Valley

4.0 GPA in high school, and 3.95 GPA as an undergrad

SKILL RATING
Top 5% worldwide and rank of Grandmaster

NATIONAL TITLES
Two first-place and two second-place finishes

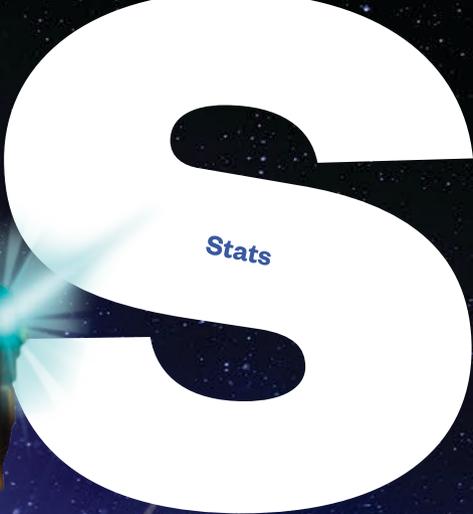
550+ COLLEGE TEAMS competed in the inaugural ESPN Collegiate Esports Championship

15,000+ PEOPLE watched the stream of the national tournament

10 PLAYERS on the *Overwatch* team, each eligible for a U scholarship

TWO-HOUR PRACTICES held four times per week

100+ STUDENTS compete for walk-on spots each fall



Esports Grandmaster

Six heroes descend onto the battlefield. Their commander, Eevee Le BS'20, guides their strategy to outwit opposing college teams. But this isn't a traditional stadium—it's virtual. Le has been a coach of the U's *Overwatch* varsity esports team since it launched in 2017. The U also has teams for *Hearthstone*, *Rocket League*, and *League of Legends*. It's the first college-sponsored varsity esports program from any school in a Power Five athletics conference. Le, who is now pursuing her master's in accountancy, already has a job offer from one of the big five accounting firms. "Parents might worry kids aren't learning anything by playing video games," she says. "But esports taught me teamwork, leadership, and how to think critically."

SPORTS BRIEFS



With fall Pac-12 sports including football and women's soccer set for conference-only opponents (to help safeguard the health of all involved), athletes who still opt to sit out due to COVID-19 concerns will have scholarships honored and remain in good standing with their teams.



Seven U football players were drafted by the NFL this spring, and five more signed as free agents. The U led the Pac-12 for most players drafted this year and tied for fifth-most in the country. It was the second-most in school history. The total school draft tally reached 102, with head coach Kyle Whittingham being at the helm for 52 of those drafted to become pros.



Spring sport athletes who had their seasons canceled or cut short due to COVID-19 have the possibility of an extra season of eligibility. The NCAA approved the decision to allow

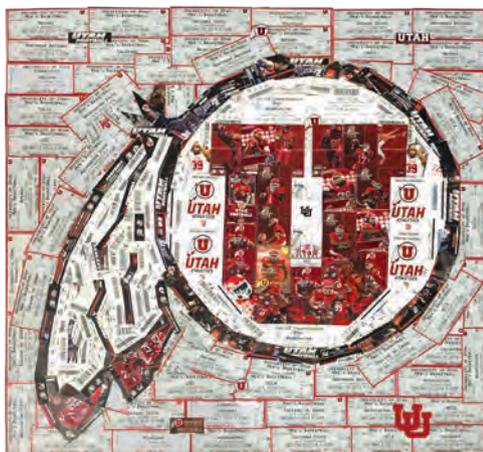
universities to adjust financial aid rules and enable teams to carry more members on scholarship. The move affects more than 200 athletes in Utah, and at least 12 from the U are planning on returning.



Skier Guro Jordheim BS'20 and safety Terrell Burgess BS'19 are Utah's 2019-20 recipients of the Pac-12's Tom Hansen Conference Medal, given annually to outstanding senior athletes at each member school. Jordheim was a seven-time All-American with 17 career victories and 29 career podium finishes. Burgess led the backfield with 81 tackles and played 45 career games with 17 starts. He was drafted by the L.A. Rams.



Five Ute gymnasts were named regular season All-Americans by the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association, and the coaching staff swept our region's coaching awards. When the season ended due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Red Rocks were 11-0 and ranked No. 4 in the nation. Also highlighting the 2020 season, Utah gymnastics broke the school and NCAA attendance records for season average. Between the four home meets, Utah averaged 15,273 fans.



Colby Groneman grew up in Utah County. "But I've always bled red," he says. In 2004, he started keeping his tickets from U gymnastics meets, football games, and other events. With some time on his hands this spring, he set to work cutting and gluing 400+ stubs together for this collage. The only two that were off limits were his Sugar Bowl and Fiesta Bowl tickets. Visit magazine.utah.edu/tixart to watch Groneman's time-lapse video.

PICTURE

Athletic Resiliency

Student-athletes face enormous pressure. How do they cope emotionally?

A quarterback who threw two straight interceptions. A softball player who can't seem to shake a recent string of strikeouts. How do athletes recover and stay mentally tough? That's where Jonathan Ravarino MSW'02 MS'08 PhD'08 and his team come in. Director of psychology and wellness for Utah Athletics, Ravarino has been helping athletes with their emotional resiliency since 2015. "Psychological wellness will always carry a stigma, especially in sports culture, where it can feel like you just have to walk it off or grin and bear it," Ravarino says.

Athletics programs around the country are recognizing the impact of counseling, he notes. "It's all related. Mental health affects sports, and sports affect mental health." His team has grown since he started in 2015, and now there are three full-time psychologists and two wellness interns on the Utah Athletics staff.

And with the season-ending pandemic, Ravarino and team are helping student-athletes as the uncertainty of what comes next weighs heavy. "We try to help them realize

that things might look different coming back. The lifting session might be different. The practice might be more about connecting with your team than it was before," he says. But he's hopeful for the future: "Usually with a crisis you emerge based on the place you were before it started. And the University of Utah was in a good place."



Web Extra Listen to a podcast about how Utah Athletics is helping students prepare for what's ahead.



E-Health Records May Miss Medication Errors

Electronic health records were designed to help reduce human errors that could harm patients. But EHRs may be failing to do their job, according to a new study. The electronic systems have largely replaced paper patient records and are supposed to alert when there are potentially harmful drug interactions or medication errors. But in simulated tests, scientists at U of U Health, Harvard University, and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston found that EHR systems consistently failed to detect errors that could injure or kill patients.

"EHRs are supposed to ensure safe use of medications in hospitals," says David C. Classen MS'93, the study's author and a U professor of internal medicine.

"But they're not doing that. In any other industry, this degree of software failure wouldn't be tolerated. You would never get on an airplane, for instance, if an airline could only promise it could get you to your destination safely two-thirds of the time."

One reason the tests may not have detected up to 33 percent of medical errors in study simulations is that hospitals must customize and adapt their EHR software to meet their own needs, Classen says. This is a complex process that makes it difficult to keep up with all changes in drug safety.

"Although EHRs are now widely used, their safety performance continues to vary from hospital to hospital," says David W. Bates, a study co-author. Classen says federal regulators only inspect EHR systems with factory specifications, meaning that whatever alterations hospitals make after installation aren't accounted for.



Telling the Truth

How to spot misinformation and fight fake news

In the age of rampant false news, nobody is immune from deception. Manipulated videos and opinion articles are packaged as factual, vetted journalism. As we prepare for the 2020 presidential election during a pandemic, how do we sort fact from fiction?

A group of 10 Honors College undergraduate students spent the 2019-20

school year researching media literacy and disinformation. To share their findings, the students created an online competition with cash prizes.

They also taught mini workshops to middle schoolers—the age many kids start their own social media accounts. What did they learn? Here are some of their tips.

1 Consider the source. Many website names are meant to look and sound credible. They may be very similar to a well-known news organization, with just one letter or number changed. Explore the "about" page if it exists and note whether the site publicly acknowledges its contributors and editors.

2 Check the byline. Suspicion should arise if there is no byline or if it only includes a username. If the author's full name is there, take a look at some of their other articles.

3 Scrutinize the photo. Fake articles often include generic stock photos of things like police lights that could have been taken anytime, anywhere. Credible news stories will include the most relevant photo possible.

4 Examine the attributions. Information within an article that is attributed to a person should include a full name and title. If you have time, follow linked sources to see if they are referenced or reported by other trustworthy sites.

5 Run it through a fact-checker. Before you believe or share an article, run the URL through a fact-checker site such as Politifact, Snopes, FactCheck, or TinEye.





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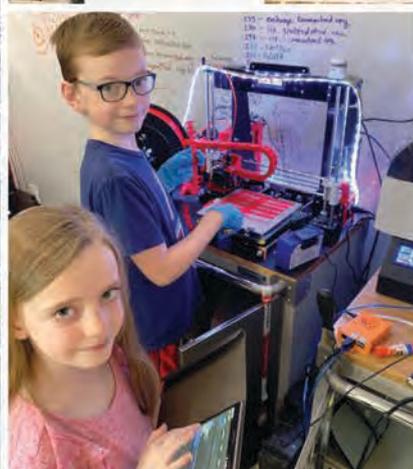
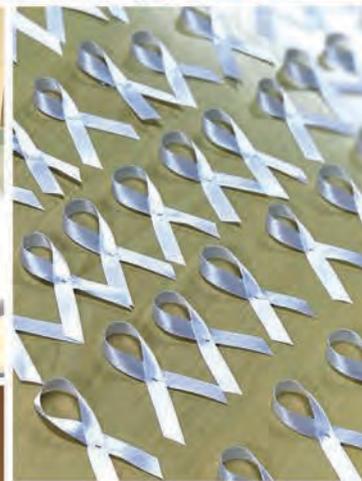
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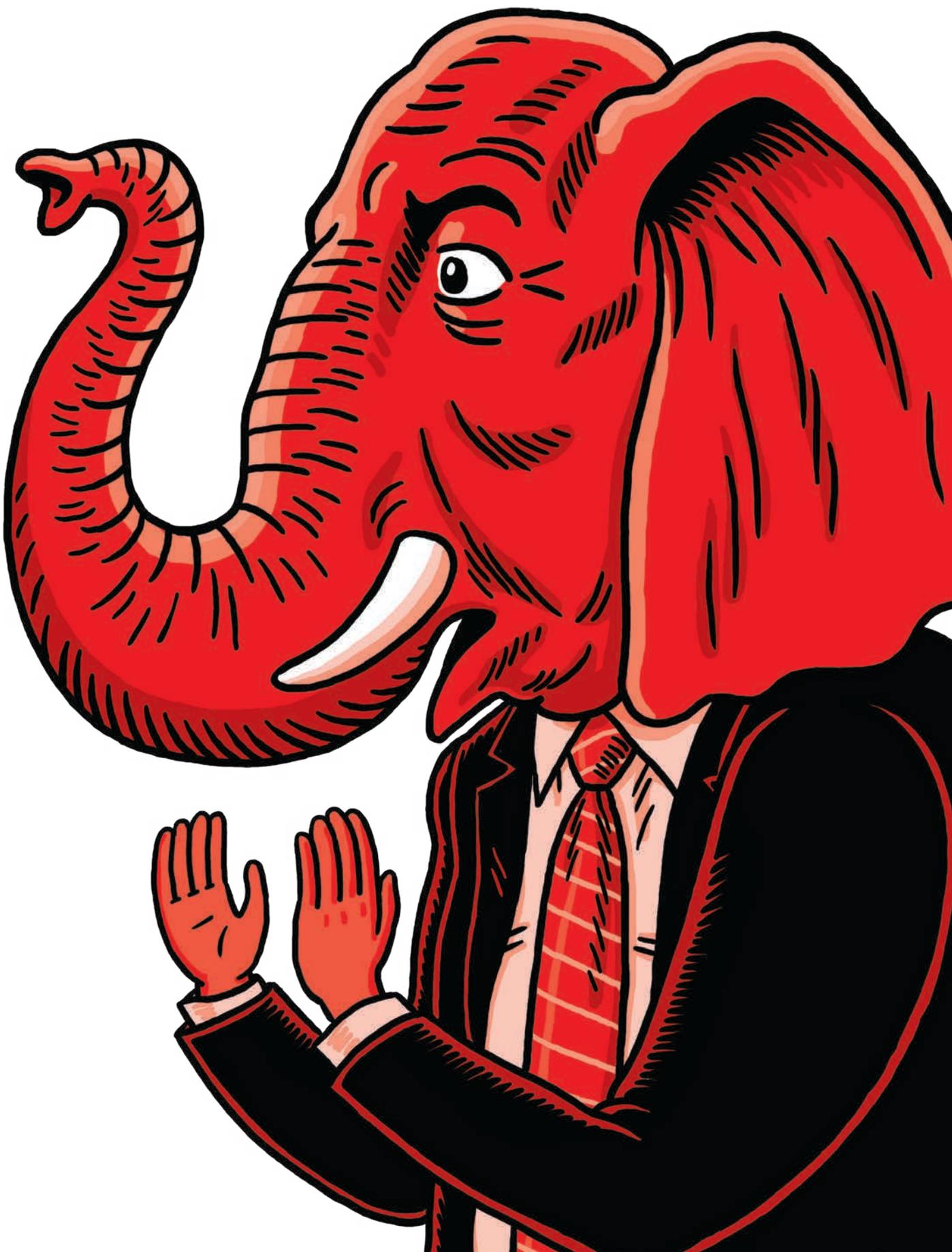


As candidates take the stage to make the arguments of their lives, the question remains whether debates actually change people's minds.

By **Andrea Smardon**
Illustrations by **Ward Sutton**

gripping





Arguments

FOR NINE DECADES, Kingsbury Hall has been the University of Utah's center stage, hosting VIPs such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Gerald Ford, Maya Angelou, and Ta-Nehisi Coates. But on October 7, its curtains will open to its biggest audience ever as the 2020 vice presidential candidates square off in their one and only debate. "We predict 100 million people from all over the world to tune in," says Jason Perry JD'99, director of the U's Hinckley Institute of Politics. "And hundreds of student volunteers will get experience in the political process that you cannot get any other way."

And while hosting the first national debate in Utah's history is a big deal, one might say that every debate and election at every level this year has extraordinarily high stakes. We are, after all, battling a pandemic amid economic and social upheaval. Politicians are making the arguments of their lives, and Americans should be listening closely.

"Debates give voters the opportunity to cut through the campaign rhetoric," says Nena Slighting BS'86 JD'91, executive director of the Utah Debate Commission. "They get to actually see candidates discussing the most important issues of our time."

A national debate seems like a critical opportunity for candidates to convince us that they have the ideas and character needed to lead our country, but the golden question is, do debates change people's minds? In a moment when partisanship holds powerful sway over voter decisions, could anyone be persuaded to shift opinion? And if not, why hold debates at all?

Political science professors and the U's resident champion debate coach help answer these questions and more as they explain the role of debates, how to measure their impact, and ways we can recognize our own biases.

The Partisan Pull

"Debates are the most balanced presentation of each candidate's arguments," says U associate professor of political science Juliet Carlisle. "In a very polished manner, candidates articulate their platforms, issue positions, and arguments." This would appear to be the ideal setup for candidates to persuade voters to align with them.

But that's not how it usually plays out. "Most people are driven by their partisan orientations," Carlisle explains. "Moving somebody from one camp to another just isn't likely."

Surprisingly, even though both major parties are less popular than at any other time in history, party loyalty is actually at a record high. And it's not just because voters are attached to their party; it's because they're increasingly *opposed* to the other party. Political scientists have coined this "negative partisanship."

"People aren't just saying 'I like Democrats or Republicans,' they're saying 'I really don't like the other side,'" says U professor Matthew Burbank MS'86, co-author of *Parties, Interest Groups, and Political Campaigns*. In 2016, for example, many Republicans didn't vote *for* Donald Trump, they voted *against* Hillary Clinton. People take that same negative partisanship

Debates give voters the opportunity to cut through campaign rhetoric.

Voters can see candidates discussing the most important issues of our time.

with them when they watch debates. "They decide they don't like this candidate or any candidate from that party," Burbank adds. "And that's a hard mindset to change."

On the flip side, when party lines aren't drawn, as in primary elections, debates have more of a chance to make a difference at the ballots. "Voters have to figure out which candidate they like without a party label to guide them," says U political science associate professor James Curry. "This creates more uncertainty for voters, and more opportunity for candidates."

Meanwhile, campaigns are getting longer, with contenders declaring their bids sometimes two years before an election. "Most voters already have strong opinions about the candidates by the time we get to the general election," says Curry. "We saw this in 2016, when it was hard to find many people who didn't have strong opinions about Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. These are folks who have been in the public eye for a long time."

But what about the 38 percent of the electorate who are unaffiliated with a major party? Some are disengaged from politics, but if they're planning to cast a vote, they tend to have their minds made up by this point. "Most voters go into a general election for the presidency preferring one of the major parties to the other, even if they don't formally identify with either," Curry says. "A lot of people who call themselves independents still strongly prefer one party." Only 7 percent of Americans overall don't express a partisan leaning, according to the Pew Research Center.

Even with all these forces solidifying voters' opinions, there is still a small percentage who may be swayed by a debate. If a candidate is clearly dominant, the polls can shift by a percentage point or two. "We refer to that as a bump for the winner," Curry says. The bumps tend to be fleeting, though, usually just for a few days, he notes. "Campaigns move on very quickly to the next event or controversy."

The Real Purpose of Debates

Despite the evidence that political debates generally don't change the opinions of the electorate, experts agree that they still play a critical role in choosing our leaders. "Debates are important," says Burbank, but not because voters are listening to the details on policy positions. "The conventions and the debates tend to be the defining events for most campaigns." In short, debate performances can change the course of a campaign.

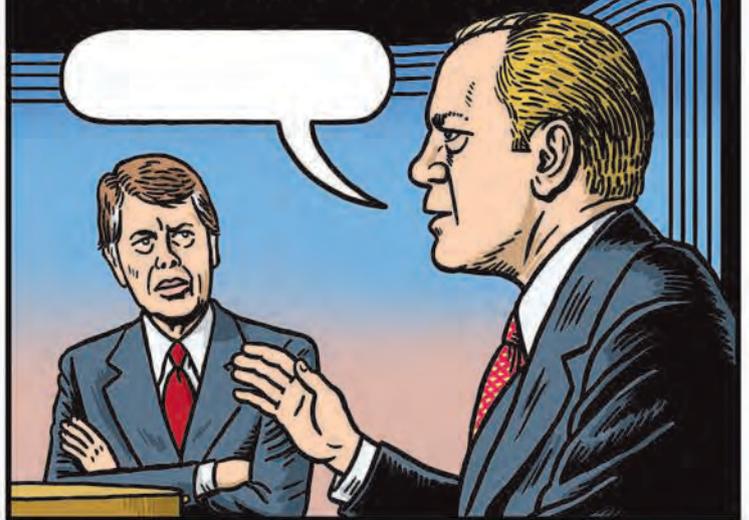
In 2012, when Mitt Romney faced President Barack Obama in their first debate, the incumbent was favored to win easily, but it didn't unfold that way. "Mitt Romney comes out on top as Obama stumbles in first debate," reported *The Guardian*. "Does Barack Obama really want to be president?" asked a *Washington Post* op-ed. A Gallup poll showed that 72 percent of debate watchers believed Romney was the clear winner, and he jumped ahead in the polls for the first time in his campaign.

WHO SAID IT?

MATCH EACH FAMOUS DEBATE QUOTE WITH THE CANDIDATE WHO UTTERED IT:

1. "WHO AM I? WHY AM I HERE?"
2. "YOU'RE LIKABLE ENOUGH."
3. "LET ME FINISH."
4. "THERE IS NO SOVIET DOMINATION OF EASTERN EUROPE."
5. "WHERE'S THE BEEF?"
6. "SENATOR, YOU'RE NO JACK KENNEDY."
7. "I WILL KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY IN A LOCKBOX."
8. "I PREPARED TO BE PRESIDENT."
9. "WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE SECOND BEST."
10. "WELL, ACTUALLY, HE FORGOT POLAND."
11. "THERE YOU GO AGAIN."
12. "SAY IT AIN'T SO, JOE."

A. GERALD FORD (WITH JIMMY CARTER, 1976)



B. JOHN F. KENNEDY (WITH RICHARD NIXON, 1960)



C. AL GORE (WITH GEORGE W. BUSH, 2000)

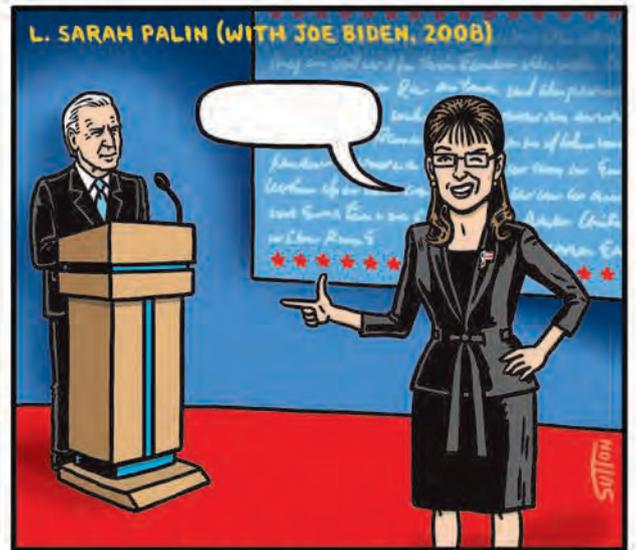
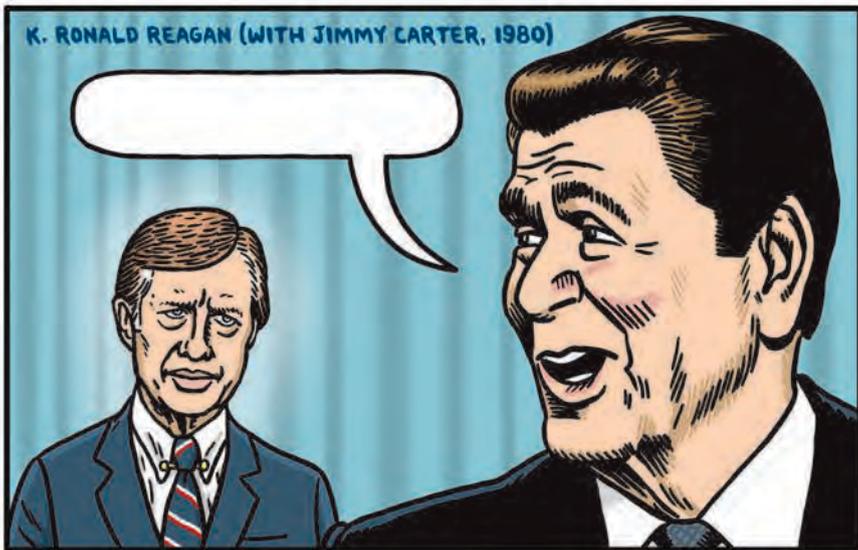
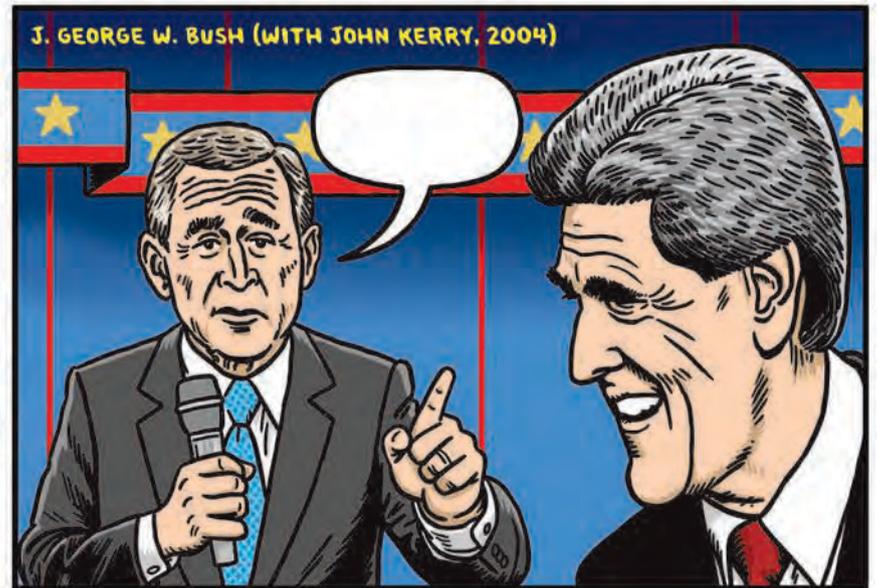
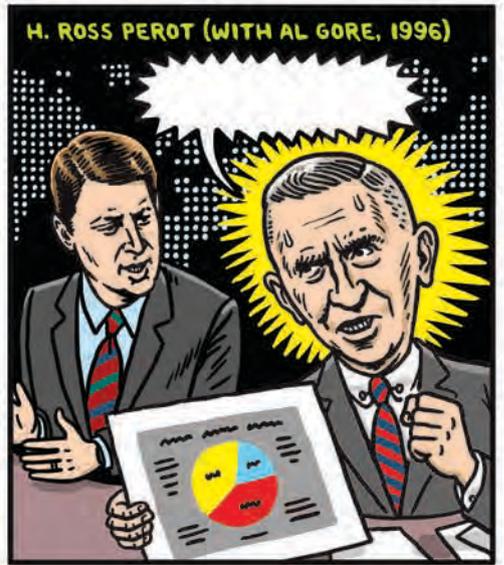
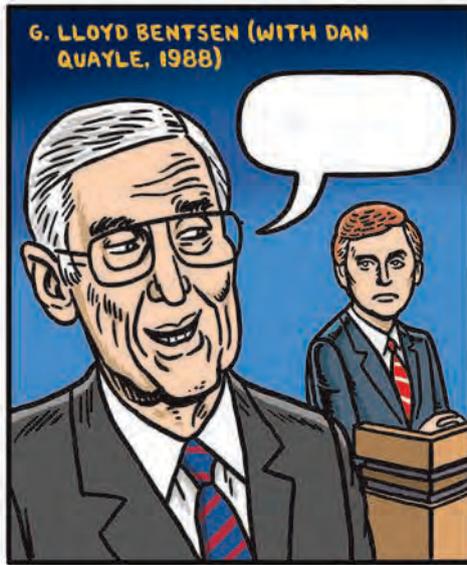
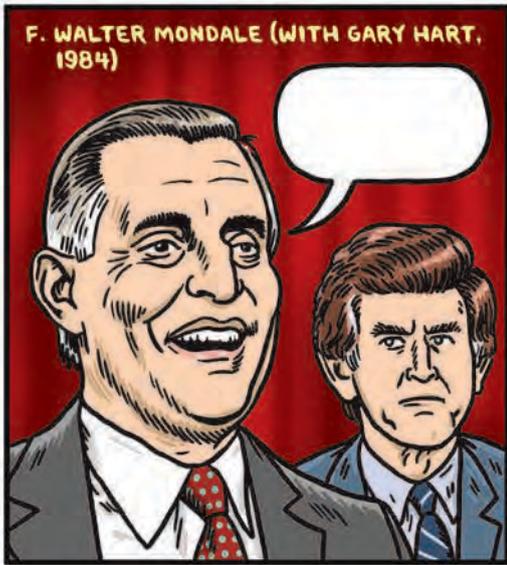


D. HILLARY CLINTON (WITH DONALD TRUMP, 2016)



E. VICE ADMIRAL JAMES STOCKDALE (WITH DAN QUAYLE AND AL GORE, 1992)





ANSWERS: 1E, 2I, 3H, 4A, 5F, 6G, 7C, 8D, 9B, 10J, 11K, 12L



The upset had consequences for the campaign. “That kind of debate performance impacts how people generally perceive candidates,” says Burbank. “Romney demonstrated that he could criticize the president and stand there as an equal.” Republicans rallied around Romney after that, and Democrats had to rush to their candidate’s aid. “It changed what happened in subsequent debates,” adds Burbank. Ultimately, Obama stepped up his performance and secured his second term.

“The number one thing presidential campaigns do is remind people why they like their party and their candidate,” emphasizes Curry. In this way, debates are great motivators. “They get people to show up and vote for their party on election day.”

What to Look for on Stage

You can tell a lot about a person by how they perform in a situation under high pressure and heavy conflict. Just ask grad student Frank Gigray, an assistant coach for the U’s renowned John R. Park Debate Society. Gigray has helped the team win seven first place Overall Sweepstakes trophies over the past year.

“There’s something about being a public figure on stage with someone who is ostensibly grilling you and having to respond to a national audience that is a kind of extreme pressure to perform,” explains Gigray. “There’s a certain value in that stress test.”

Take President Trump’s debate performances in 2016, his displays of antagonistic dominance and refusal to back down, even after fact checks from other candidates and moderators. Gigray says it provided a preview of how he would act as president, particularly on foreign policy. “This is how Donald Trump reacts interpersonally when he is put on the spot, and how he responds to these kinds of pressures,” points out Gigray. “He’s been fairly consistent on how he responds as demonstrated by his debate performance.”

A savvy candidate can use debate questions to craft a coherent, convincing narrative about themselves and their positions. “I want to hear a clear story that I can follow through and understand,” Gigray says. Just like he teaches his debate team, it’s not enough just to string together facts that support your argument. There will always be facts on the other side of the argument, too. “What does this platform mean as a wider position, and how do each of your arguments fit together?”

In this way, you can learn what candidates are telling you about themselves. “You can extrapolate and say that ‘This candidate is this kind of person, and if they’re in this position, they’ll probably do X, Y, or Z,’” adds Gigray. “That’s part of making yourself knowable to the population.”

Declaring a Winner

After decades of debates, political scientists have concluded that the most reliable predictor of who comes out on top is what the polls say before the debate occurs. In other words,

The strongest predictor of who wins is what polls say before a debate.

Both Democrats and Republicans often think their side won the same debate.

the audience is looking for confirmation of what they already think. A Democrat and a Republican can watch the same debate and both believe that their side won.

“We all see the world through our biases,” says Carlisle. “We have partisan and ideological biases. We also have biases with regard to sex and gender,” which she points out could play an important role in interpreting the performance of the vice-presidential candidates this year. Recognizing these biases and overcoming them is not easy, but Carlisle believes it’s vital. “If we’re not informed, we’re open to manipulation.” If you are overly confident in your viewpoint, Carlisle says that’s a good sign that you are a victim of confirmation bias—meaning you’ve only been paying attention to information that confirms your point of view.

When watching debates and media coverage, she suggests you challenge yourself to seek out contrary information—to find alternative sources and talk to people you trust who have differing perspectives. To do this effectively, though, Carlisle says you have to be open to the idea that it’s possible to have good reasons for contrary viewpoints. “One of the things I talk about in my classes is that people come to politics prioritizing different values,” she says. For example, one side might prioritize freedom over equality. “Debates are often about value choices at the core.”

And while people tend to view debates through the lens of their partisan positions and biases, media can have an influence, too. Studies have shown that the prevailing media narrative or “spin” can change some voters’ impressions of who won a debate.

“The primary purpose of debates in the current media environment is visibility and a ‘win’ for one’s side,” says U communication associate professor Kevin Coe. So how can you be sure you aren’t vulnerable to spin? “It’s useful for people to watch the debate and think about it on their own before reading or viewing any of the subsequent news coverage,” Coe says. “Then, when turning to news coverage, try to look at several sources as opposed to just one.”

On the Edge of Our Seats

Hinckley Institute’s Jason Perry says there are a lot of unknowns going into this fall’s national debates, and that’s part of what makes it so interesting. The 2016 election defied pundits’ predictions, and 2020 is shaping up to be an unusual year, to say the least.

“You look at what’s happening with a global pandemic, for example, and you start talking about, what kind of leader do we need in a crisis?” Perry says. “Many people go into these elections having already picked their candidate... but a lot can happen between now and then.” **U**

Andrea Smardon is a SLC-based journalist and podcaster.

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SUDDEN IMPACT

LESS THAN A YEAR AGO, the term COVID-19 didn't exist. By the end of July, more than 16 million people worldwide had been diagnosed, and upwards of 650,000 had died—about a quarter of them right here in the U.S. The disease has plunged the nation into a recession and reoriented life as we know it. To cover the entire pandemic in one article is impossible. The impacts are too vast and fluid. Instead, we focus here on bringing to light some of the good being done in the world and how the U's scientists and researchers are tackling not just the disease but many related issues that accompany the pandemic: concerns like how to rebuild the economy, improving testing and treatment, and what lessons we can learn to not repeat the same mistakes in the future.

We also present a timeline that covers some of the notable events that have occurred in rapid succession since the outbreak. Many things seemed major at

the time but were quickly overshadowed by the next noteworthy incident. Remember when the first NBA player diagnosed with COVID-19 was the Utah Jazz's Rudy Gobert? Or when Tom Hanks tested positive? But what can't be put into a timeline are the more significant events that many of us have experienced on a more personal level. The sense of dread and unease at seeing empty store shelves. The pain and loneliness of isolating for months at a time. The loss of a job or closing of a business. Or worse, the sickness or loss of a loved one.

For now, there are still more questions than answers. But as the virus overturns so much of our lives, it also seems to bring to light what's important and what makes life worth living.

By Seth Bracken



01.30.20

WHO declares global emergency

02.29.20

First COVID-19 death reported in the U.S.

01.21.20

First confirmed case in the U.S.

01.11.20

First COVID-19 death in China

12.31.19

Mysterious disease sickening dozens in China

02.26.20

Campuswide safety announcement sent about monitoring global spread





03.13.20

President Donald Trump declares a national emergency

Announced that Utah K-12 schools would be closing

Museums close, Fine Arts performances cancelled

Utah Athletics suspends all public activity



03.19.20

U secures first grant to study the virus



03.14.20

First COVID-19 diagnosis on campus



03.18.20

Utah Rep. Ben McAdams tests positive

U classes go online

03.20.20

New York City becomes epicenter of U.S. outbreak

03.22.20

First coronavirus-related death reported in Utah

03.31.20

Announced that U summer classes would be online

3/4 of U.S. under stay-at-home guidelines

05.01.20

Utah eases restrictions on businesses

04.28.20

America exceeds 1 million COVID-19 cases mark



06.02.20

Utah surpasses 10,000 cases; daily diagnosis rate is climbing

05.20.20

Red Butte Garden cancels concerts

05.27.20

U.S. records 100,000+ COVID-19-related deaths

Utah's COVID-19 death toll is past the 100 mark

04.20.20

ARUP rolls out its first COVID-19 antibody test



04.30.20

U holds virtual commencement



04.07.20

"Heroes Work Here" campaign thanks U frontline health care workers



03.27.20

Students move out of campus housing

Gov. Gary Herbert asks Utahns to stay home



Travel from Europe to U.S. is suspended

Jazz player Rudy Gobert tests positive

Actor Tom Hanks is diagnosed

NBA stops season

03.12.20

ARUP launches FDA-approved COVID-19 test

LDS Church suspends services worldwide

03.09.20

U staff encouraged to work remotely when possible

Northern Italy becomes epicenter of outbreak

03.06.20

First case of COVID-19 confirmed in Utah

07.23.20

U.S. cases double in just six weeks, crossing the 4 million mark

07.03.20

U.S. hits highest single day of new cases with more than 57,000



07.10.20

U fall sports set to play conference-only opponents



06.15.20

Utah Athletics reopens training facilities

06.13.20

South and Southwest become hot spots in the U.S.



06.12.20

Gov. Gary Herbert urges Utahns to wear face coverings

06.26.20

Salt Lake, Summit counties implement face mask mandate



07.17.20

Phased reopening of Marriott Library announced



PHOTO BY JEN PILGREEN

GIVING BACK

The last several months have been trying. Yet even in the toughest times, our community has shown remarkable resilience. Here are just a few snippets of good being done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

60,000

THE NAVAJO NATION has had one of the highest infection rates in the U.S. Several efforts to help were quickly launched at the U, including medical students who collected 60,000 face masks, 50,000 gloves, and other medical equipment. Another initiative led by Heather Tanana JD'10, an assistant professor of law, collected 19,000 pounds of food and supplies for the Navajo Nation. The fundraisers partnered with other local groups, including the Real Salt Lake Foundation, Angel Flight West, Backcountry Santa, and With Love, From Strangers.



18,000+

FOR HELP NAVIGATING the economic downturn, more than 18,000 people tuned in to a series of online forums hosted by the David Eccles School of Business. Presenters included former Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt, Sen. Mitt Romney, and

other business and community leaders discussing topics ranging from how nonprofit leaders can make difficult decisions to how to manage cash flow in a pandemic.



37,000

WITH PEOPLE STUCK INSIDE, and cars aplenty, alum Winslow Young BA'11 and his colleagues at Young Automotive Group came up with a way to put those vehicles to good use. They led a caravan through northern Utah neighborhoods asking people to fill the trucks and vans with nonperishable items for local food banks. The drive netted more than 37,000 pounds of food.

\$200,000

THE PANDEMIC HIT hard and fast, and it left a lot of people in need. A call went out for emergency aid for students, and the community responded quickly and in a big way, raising more than \$200,000 as of July 1. The on-campus Feed U Pantry also went to curbside pickup in March and in just five days helped more than 700 people with the essentials. They received more than 9,000 pounds of donations March through May.



5 MILLION

IN THE LARGEST volunteer-driven effort in the state since the 2002 Olympics, 50,000 Utahns made 5 million medical-grade masks for health care workers. *ProjectProtect* was a collaboration between U of U Health, Intermountain Healthcare, and Latter-day Saint charities. And to bring in a little higher-ed competition, the project ended with a Sew Your True Colors campaign asking participants to show their school pride by the color of their thread.



\$75,000

SENIOR LIVING CENTERS, refugee organizations, school districts, and other nonprofits have been in dire need of personal protective equipment. The Chinese Utahns' Alliance Against COVID-19 raised \$75,000 to purchase and donate PPE for local nonprofits—including \$30,000 worth to U of U Health.



FINDING ANSWERS

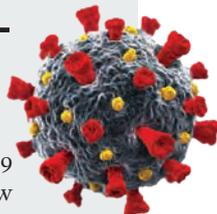
As it became clear this pandemic would have far-reaching effects, the U's Immunology, Inflammation, & Infectious Disease (3i) Initiative, and the office of the VP for research, offered up \$1.3 million in internal funding to get projects off the ground, report 3i co-directors Daniel Leung and Ryan O'Connell. So far, COVID-19-related research has brought in \$4 million+ in external funding, says Nicole Frank, 3i associate director. "We don't have all the answers, but we do have the drive to find them," she says.

How can we better TEST AND TREAT this novel coronavirus?

Engineer Massood Tabib-Azar is developing technology that transforms a cell phone into a COVID-19 sensor. Neurobiologist Christopher Gregg is using artificial intelligence to track thousands of speech, vocal, and facial patterns to identify people who likely have COVID-19 and related issues, such as anxiety and depression. And one study from the David Eccles School of Business has deployed students to conduct 10,000 swab and antibody tests at households across the Wasatch Front. The U is also partnering on two clinical trials for COVID-19 treatments.

Can we PREDICT the spread of the virus?

Researchers knew a surge of COVID-19 cases was coming to Cache County. How did engineer Jennifer Weidhaas and her colleagues at the U, USU, and BYU predict the swell in cases? By testing sewage waters. Now, 40 treatment plants covering



three-fourths of Utah's population are being tested regularly.

How has the virus altered MENTAL HEALTH?

With so much time at home, people's diets, exercise, and sleep patterns have changed. Family and preventive medicine researcher Kelly Baron MS'03 PhD'07 is looking at how these changes are impacting mental health and COVID-19-related disease prevention. Other studies include one by psychologist Monisha Pasupathi, who is examining how students are adapting to interrupted schooling. And another by biomedical informaticist Michael Conway, who is digging into social media to see the psychological consequences of social distancing.

How can we

IMPROVE

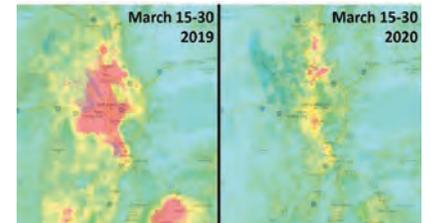
and expand testing?

The U's clinical lab, ARUP Laboratories, began preparing for COVID-19 testing in January. It was one of the first labs in the nation to earn FDA approval for both diagnostic and antibody testing for the virus. By mid-June, ARUP had performed more than 250,000 tests nationwide. The diagnostic lab's experts are key to several studies, including researching the genetics of the virus and determining whether COVID-19 can be detected in saliva.

How has COVID-19 affected DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Stay-at-home orders were enacted to stop the spread of coronavirus. But for people who are living with domestic abusers, the

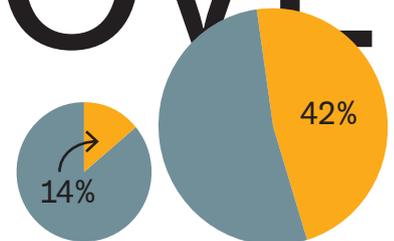
already difficult situation became increasingly dangerous. Sharon Talboys PhD'15, with Family and Preventive Medicine, and Sonia Salari with Family and Consumer Studies are examining new needs of victims, how communities can help, and how to be ready for future disasters.



How has COVID-19 impacted

AIR QUALITY?

In the U.S., air travel dropped to 5 percent of normal in early April. And in Utah, road traffic plummeted as much as 50 percent. Stay-at-home orders provided a unique opportunity for atmospheric scientist Logan Mitchell. Data showed a 33 percent drop in CO₂ levels at one Salt Lake Valley monitoring site, and particulate matter dropped 41 percent across the valley.



Why is COVID-19 having an INEQUITABLE impact on different communities?

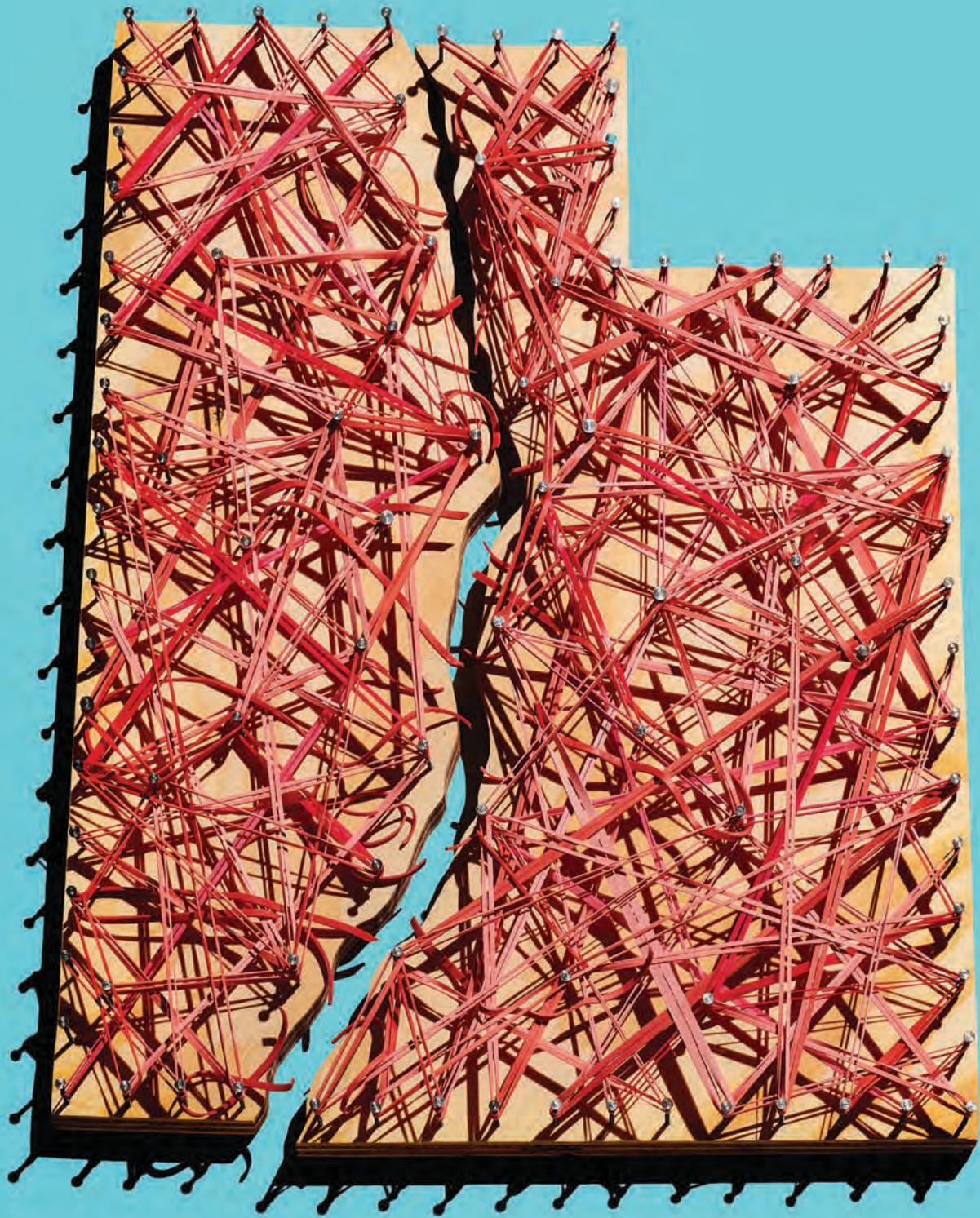
Latinx individuals make up 14 percent of Utah's population but account for more than 42 percent of the state's positive COVID-19 tests. Robert Welsh in the Department of Psychiatry is working to better understand how Latinx people receive health information, and how to make it more trustworthy, timely, and accurate. **U**

Our Fault

In the midst of a
pandemic, the
U responds to a
startling earthquake

By Paul Gabrielsen Illustrations by David Arky

IMAGINE rubber bands slowly being stretched farther and farther. Eventually, small cracks will form, and the bands will break with a jerk. Now imagine the rubber bands are rocks, miles below the Earth's surface, where stress is slowly building over time. When the rocks break, the sudden release of energy is felt as an earthquake.





AT 7:08 A.M. ON MARCH 18, the power grid in Salt Lake City hummed along, bricks on buildings sat squarely mortared in place, and dishes and knickknacks rested quietly on shelves.

The number of people in the Salt Lake Valley who knew what a moderate-sized earthquake felt like was small. Maybe they'd lived in California or Alaska or another part of the world where earthquakes are frequent. Maybe they had been around in 1962 when a magnitude 5.2 quake shook the valley.

By 7:09, though, everyone knew.

A rumble at first and then a shudder, long enough to disperse anyone's first thoughts that it might be a large truck passing by, reawakened the truth that this is earthquake country.

Within minutes, the University of Utah Seismograph Stations, or UUSS, reported that the quake measured a magnitude of 5.7 with the epicenter in Magna, Utah.

By seismological standards, the earthquake was only moderate. But it was the strongest quake recorded on the Wasatch Fault—and a sharp reminder of the potential for larger quakes to come. U scientists and other experts are learning all they can about this event and helping Utahns get ready for the next one.

Whoa. Was that an earthquake?

Yes. And as soon as UUSS director Keith Koper realized that, he dove under his desk to ride out the shaking. “My

cat came flying by,” he says. “She was looking at me like it was my fault.”

He then called associate director Kris Pankow and set into motion plans that their team had practiced many times—with some modifications for the COVID-19 pandemic. Just two days before, the staff had started working remotely.

Koper drove to campus to speak to the media and coordinate with state and university leaders. “And when I got there, there was actually a news crew waiting at the door for me to get in,” he adds.

Since 1966, UUSS has been the go-to source for earthquake information in Utah and beyond. The network of stations, now numbering more than 200 and with locations around the state and Yellowstone region, relays information in real time, providing the building blocks for earthquake data reporting and maps of ground shaking within minutes of a quake.

That reputation drew the media crews to the U, where the first news conference of the day began via Zoom with Koper and Bob Carey, earthquake program manager for the Utah Department of Public Safety, answering reporters' questions.

Load the car. I heard a bigger quake is coming.

Hold your horses. That news didn't come through official channels. Even during the news conference, rumors began flying on social media. One claimed that the U was predicting a 9.0 earthquake within “the next two hours.” Another claimed that Utah's oil refineries were out of commission, leading people to stock up on fuel.

Part of the confusion came from misunderstandings about how seismology works and how earthquakes happen. Quakes can't be predicted, says Pankow. And the Wasatch Fault simply isn't big enough to produce enough energy for a magnitude 9.0 quake. The strongest we could see is around a magnitude 7.0 to 7.3—still plenty large enough that it's what some call “The Big One.”

Here's how earthquakes happen: If you pull something elastic, like a rubber band, it will stretch, but only to a point. When you stretch it too far, small cracks begin to form and—snap!—the band breaks with a jerk.

It's that sudden release of energy that causes an earthquake, says Pankow. “Roughly eight to 10 kilometers [five to six miles] below the earth, there was a patch of area on this fault plane all along this crack where the stress exceeded the strength. When you've built up enough strain on the fault, those patches break.”

ENVISION trying to slide these two boards covered in sandpaper against one another. They're going to jump and grind rather than slide smoothly. Similarly, when a fault settles, the friction and jumping causes a sequence of quakes. The largest event in the sequence is the mainshock. Any before are foreshocks, and any following are called aftershocks.



It was in Magna?

Yeah, all the way in Magna, about 14 miles west of Salt Lake. That's where Danny Colosimo BS'79 lives. He's the co-owner of Colosimo's Standard Market, on the city's Main Street. He was a child in the 1962 quake, also centered in Magna. But the 2020 quake, he says, felt much more violent. "This felt like you were sinking," he says, "or somebody had just grabbed and pushed on the house."

Soon after checking on his neighbors, he drove down to Main Street to check on the store. He saw the damage as soon as he arrived. "And that's when my heart sank," he says. The bricks from an upper portion of the side wall had crashed to the sidewalk. Still, Colosimo was grateful. A food delivery had been scheduled for later that morning. "Had I been there I could have been crushed."

Colosimo was surprised that the quake occurred on the Wasatch Fault, which comes to the surface at the base of the Wasatch Mountains, on the east side of the Salt Lake Valley. Magna is on the west side, at the base of the Oquirrh Mountains.

"We all hear about the Wasatch Fault," Colosimo says. "You know, that's a big, well-known fault. I had no idea that Magna was on it."

Well, fault planes aren't always straight lines plunging into the earth. The Wasatch Fault bends as it gets deeper and flattens out. It underlies the entire valley.

Yep, that was an aftershock.

One of many. As of June 24, UUSS had recorded 2,320 aftershocks in what's now being called the "Magna sequence" of earthquakes. Pankow has another analogy to talk about aftershocks. Picture two wooden boards, she says, both covered in sandpaper. Now try to slide them past each other. "You have a lot of friction," she says. "It doesn't just slide smoothly, right? It sort of jumps." All of those jumps are part of a sequence of earthquakes, as a fault tries to settle back to rest. For very large earthquakes, aftershocks may continue for years—or decades.

"It's re-equilibrating," Pankow says. "And it's just getting to where it's locked back together. All of those aftershocks are the earth sort of recovering from that big pull."

In a sequence, the largest event is called the "mainshock." Any that come before are called foreshocks, and any that follow are called aftershocks. In the Magna sequence, the mainshock was the very first. So when is a

sequence over? Generally when seismic activity has settled down to background levels, Pankow says.

Aftershocks are a scientific opportunity. Because the risk of aftershocks decreases with time, U geoscientist Amir Allam jumped right into action on the day of the first quake to gather what data he could.

Allam had felt his fair share of quakes living in Southern California and Alaska. So when he woke up to his house shaking, he immediately started counting. Earthquakes consist of several types of seismic waves, and the time difference between them, he says, can give you an idea of how far away the quake was. It's like counting the time between a flash of lightning and a clap of thunder.

"Then once I realized it was close by," he says, "I jumped up and said, Okay, it's time to go to work. And I rushed into the office to get my sensors ready."

Geoscientists can learn a lot about the subsurface with every quake and aftershock. The pulses of energy that ripple through the layers of rock reveal faults and other features in the Earth, similar to the way a CT scan uses X-ray pulses to reveal features inside the body.

Allam and his colleagues began placing portable seismometers, each a little smaller than a coffee can, to record seismic events. Their first stop was a landfill near the epicenter. "It was just the foulest smell," he says. "It's the nastiest field work I've ever done, digging in mucky mud." Next, they went to the construction site of a new Utah State Prison.

"I had just stuck a sensor in the ground," he says, "and I stood up and bang! There was a deep, deep reverberating, blasting sound. And then the ground shook." It was a magnitude 4.6 aftershock, directly under his feet. "That was really cool."

Four weeks and thousands of aftershocks later, UUSS researchers retrieved the sensors. It will take time to process all the data—but first looks suggest that the technicians' quick work will yield scientifically beautiful results.

Ugh. I can't take any more. With everything else that's going on...

That's a normal feeling, says Michelle Ertl, a psychologist at the Utah Center for Evidence Based Treatment. "Being more aware, being more on guard, all of that is completely normal and typical," she says.

Any traumatic event sets our brains into a state of hyper-alert, says Ertl, who helped clients work through earthquake-related anxieties. Heightened awareness helps us stay prepared in case additional threats emerge. Re-regulating can take weeks. And repeated aftershocks aren't helpful. "When there's this consistent reactivation, it can take a little bit longer for that re-regulation to happen."

Up until mid-March, Utahns had been shopping and attending school, church, and sporting events as usual. But COVID-19-related closures rolled out through that week, sweeping nearly all of those activities out of daily life. Which is just when the ground started shaking. Repeatedly.

“A lot of people had stress levels that were already high,” Ertl notes. Physical distancing measures also meant that people didn’t have access to some of the social support they would normally lean on to cope, she says.

So emotional preparedness is a thing, too, just like storing water and food. Learn how you best manage stress and anxiety, Ertl says, and maybe include in your emergency kit some kind of game or distraction for when the event is over, to reassure your brain that things are safe.

“Your body is doing what it’s designed to do to keep you safe,” she says. “The majority of people will recover on their own over time.”

Jeez, I really wasn’t ready. Good this wasn’t bigger.

Yes, things could have been much worse. Welcome to Bob Carey’s world. At the Utah Earthquake Program, he and his team run simulations to prepare for various earthquake scenarios. For this quake, he says, some things were much less complicated. Many parents were working remotely, and schools had already been closed. Utah’s hospitals were prepared for a surge of patients.

Out of simulations (as well as moderate quakes such as this one) arise recommendations and plans to minimize damage and accelerate recovery. The vulnerability that many felt, he says, can become a constructive tool to help prepare for future emergencies.

“You’re used to turning the light on,” he says. “You’re used to turning on the faucet, and you just don’t think twice about that. When people start to feel vulnerable, that’s when they actually start to do things.”

Carey, Pankow, and others who pay acute attention to Utah’s seismic hazards see an opportunity. The risk of a large earthquake on the Wasatch Fault is suddenly more real.

“When I do outreach talks, people say, ‘You’ve been telling me for 20 years that there’s going to be an earthquake, and I still haven’t felt one. You need to change your story,’ ” says Pankow. “Right. And now we’ve had that event.” **U**

Paul Gabrielsen is a research and science writer for University Marketing & Communications.

Earthquake

Whether you grew up doing duck-and-cover drills or are a new resident of quake country, it’s always good to review the basics. We chatted with Bob Carey, the Earthquake Program manager for the Utah Department of Public Safety, to learn the fundamentals of earthquake safety.

101

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

Know your building’s seismic status

Seismic building codes were enacted in the ‘70s, so structures built before 1975 were constructed without seismic reinforcement. Some have since been retrofitted—but many haven’t.

Store two weeks’ worth of supplies

In serious emergencies, individuals and families may need to have 14 days’ worth of necessities on hand to tide them over until utilities and government aid services can reach them.

Make a plan

Have a game plan for how family members will meet up after an earthquake and where you’ll go if your home is damaged. Think of common places people might be, like work and school, and various weather conditions.

Strategize ways to cope with stress and anxiety

Any crisis can create feelings of anxiousness and worry. In your emergency planning, include diversions and stress-management techniques.

DURING THE SHAKING

Drop and cover

The bulk of injuries in an earthquake are from falling debris. Getting under a table, desk, or counter protects you from that debris, which can include plaster, masonry, or even elements like HVAC systems in commercial buildings.

so hold on to it. If you can’t find cover, kneel adjacent to an interior wall, covering your head and neck with your arms.

And hold on

Furniture that you take cover under may move during the shaking,

Don’t go from inside to outside or vice versa

Especially for buildings with unreinforced masonry, the area just outside can be hazardous because of falling debris. Running into or out of a building puts you at risk.

AFTER THE SHAKING STOPS

Handling natural gas

Unless you smell a natural gas leak (a rotten egg odor), there is no need to shut off the natural gas supply to your house.

Get your news from official channels

In the aftermath of a scary and confusing event, rely on news from official government and news sources. News on social media travels fast but is difficult to verify.

Watch for aftershocks

Aftershocks can occur for days, weeks, and even months after an initial earthquake, with timing and magnitude that can’t be exactly predicted. Maintain readiness.

Keep an eye on mental health

Anxiety for a few weeks following a trauma is normal, but if it persists for several months, it might be time to seek additional help.

For more ways to prepare, go to utah.gov/beready.

Forever **U**



Global Solidarity

A tight-knit group of alumni find solace in their friendships during trying times

Celine Ruggeri Tartaras recalls the sobering silence in the streets of Milan, Italy, during the COVID-19 outbreak last spring. “The only sound we heard outside was the sound of ambulances,” she says. The region was on strict lockdown for nearly three months, and Celine and her two sons rarely left their apartment. “If you had a dog, you could go for a walk, so our neighbors joked about sharing dogs just to have an excuse to get outside,” she recalls. “The experience was heavy and difficult; I had to learn to find the positive.”

One of those positives was a group of lifelong friends who met at the U in 1994. “We bonded during international student orientation week,” explains Heike Hoffmann Otsuka MA’99, from Germany. “And we’ve stayed in contact ever since.” The friends came to Utah from all over the world—Argentina, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the U.S. Some stayed one year; others stuck around for several.

In 2016, the alums started a WhatsApp chat group called “Utaholics.” When COVID-19 hit, they began messaging more frequently. “And then we decided to have

video calls to hear how everyone was doing, how the situation was the same or different in our various countries,” says Heike, who is president of the U’s European Alumni Club. “Especially during these crazy and trying times, it has felt so good to be connected.”

During the video calls, the old pals joke, cry, vent, talk politics, swap parenting tips, trade recipes, and share loads of memories. While sheltering-in-place in Germany, Kathrin Hofmann Gommel and Daniel Gommel (who married after meeting at the U) found old photos and created collages to share. “We don’t talk about coronavirus all the time,” says Kathrin. “We laugh a lot, too.”

“There was something special about our group,” says Ajay Ravindranathan PhD’99, from India and now living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Themis Tartaras MS’97 PhD’01, from Greece and now residing in Norway, explains it this way: “We met when we were young. We bonded through sharing new and fun experiences.... It’s been 25 years and we’re still close. That speaks to how good of an experience we had in Utah.”

MELODY MURDOCK

Alumni from seven different countries joined editor Melody Murdock on a video call to talk about their pandemic experiences, friendships, and memories from the U. See story online for full caption with names.

ROUNDUP



Expanded Career Resources

The U Alumni Office is ramping up its career development services. Alumni can take advantage of free monthly webinars, virtual continuing ed courses, and career counseling. And don’t forget the Alumnifire app, an online mentoring program that connects U alumni mentors with students and recent graduates. Visit alumni.utah.edu/career.



Revamped Alumni Website

Check out alumni.utah.edu for info about virtual and educational events accessible to alumni everywhere, career and networking services, and useful links to campus content—from the latest news to health and wellness offerings to lifelong learning.

New Alumni Board President

Meet Kim Brunisholz BS’05 MS’11 PhD’15, president of the U Alumni Board of Governors. You might remember her from her days as a Red Rock gymnast (2001-03). She now serves as a senior scientist and is a federally funded researcher with the Intermountain Healthcare Delivery Institute. “I look forward to finding new ways to connect with alumni of all ages and experiences,” she says. Brunisholz is leading with president-elect Glenn Seninger BS’88, a group vice president for North America at Oracle Inc. The new leadership plans to focus on networking and careers, diversity and inclusion, and helping alumni make a difference in the lives of today’s students. The U Alumni Office extends a sincere thank you to outgoing board leaders Joe Sargetakis BA’80 and Susan Porter BS’85 MSW’88.



Next Stop, Mars

David Bowie sang “Is there life on Mars?” and Thomas Stucky BS’15 is trying to find out

Stucky, a SETI Institute software engineer and consultant at NASA’s Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, played a vital role in the current Mars exploration mission, which was set to launch late this summer. Stucky helped create the software for the drill on the arm of the *Perseverance* rover, the wheeled robotic explorer that will perform experiments on the Martian surface. The arm will dig into the Red Planet’s surface and then analyze the soil looking for signs of microbial life.

“I believe there’s intelligent life in the universe,” says Stucky. “It’s unreasonable to think we’re the only ones that have developed in this way. But the question is, will we be able to recognize intelligent life when we see it? Intelligence

is relative and can be a hard thing to define.”

While Stucky and other NASA researchers were developing the digging technology, they tested rovers and their drilling arms at far-flung places on Earth that mimic the Martian landscape. These trips included several jaunts to Devon Island in Nunavut, Canada—the largest uninhabited island in the Arctic Circle, which resembles the Martian ice caps—and the Atacama Desert in Chile, the driest nonpolar desert on Earth, with a rugged, prehistoric-like terrain.

Stucky is now working on developing artificial intelligence for autonomous flight vehicles like driverless helicopters and spacecraft that will someday travel to distant worlds.

BENJAMIN GLEISSER



Web Extra

To read more on Stucky's work with AI, go to *magazine*. utah.edu/mars.

Racers Wanted

Stretch out those hamstrings to raise dollars for scholars at the Alumni Homecoming U5K



Alumna Angela Folsom BS'87 MBA'88 had one goal for the 2019 Homecoming U5K: make it across the finish line without stopping. It was the first race she'd ever attempted. "I wasn't there to set any records except to prove to myself I could do it," she says.

On race day, her adult children ran by her side cheering her on. As the finish line came into view, she saw her three-year-old granddaughter and knew she could make it. "It ended up being so much fun," says Folsom. "I realized you don't have to be a runner to participate. There were also joggers, walkers, and even strollers on the route."

Her advice to alumni: Just do it—sign up with your family and friends and have fun!

It's not only a good time but also raises money for an excellent cause: student scholarships. In a year that has seen unprecedented challenges, scholarship funds are needed now more than ever.

"We want to get students across the finish line and on to the next phase of life," says Linda Dunn BS'81 MEd'95,

interim chief alumni relations officer.

In case you're still not convinced, we asked Kat Pagano, a long-distance runner and a doctoral candidate in the U's Department of Health & Kinesiology, to share some pre-race tips. For beginners, she recommends searching for a comprehensive training plan (see sample below) and running the length of the race consistently to boost your confidence.

She also advises investing in quality running shoes and comfortable clothing, and getting a good sense of the race route to ease pre-race anxiety. "Sticking to your training plan and knowing exactly where you're going will give you confidence on race day," says Pagano.

And finally, she advises packing the night before (water, snacks, extra layer in case the weather turns), arriving early, and bringing someone with you. "I call them my crew—even if it's just one other person to watch your stuff or just be there for moral support."

This year's U Alumni Homecoming U5K and Kids 1K will take place Saturday, October 17. We invite you to run, walk, or stroll virtually from wherever you are or to join the race in person on campus (following COVID-19 safety guidelines, of course). Visit u5k.fun to sign up and get the latest race updates.

ELENA GARDNER

Kat Pagano, long distance runner and U doctoral candidate, shares some 5K training and race-day tips.

HOW TO TRAIN FOR A 5K IN 6 WEEKS

	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
	RUN/WALK FOR		
WEEK 1	10 minutes	13 minutes	1 mile
WEEK 2	16 minutes	19 minutes	2 miles
WEEK 3	19 minutes	22 minutes	2.5 miles
WEEK 4	22 minutes	25 minutes	3 miles
WEEK 5	25 minutes	28 minutes	3.5 miles
WEEK 6	20 minutes	30 minutes	1 mile



Expert



An Economist's Perspective

Make a check mark on a piece of paper, then tilt it toward the long end. That is how Natalie Gochnour BS'84 MS'88 describes the country's economic recovery. "It includes a rapid fall, followed by a steady but slow economic climb up the other side," she says. "The economy will recover, but it will take time."

In the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, it was Gochnour and team at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute who helped answer the call for a state economic recovery plan. "Government and business leaders knew the value of a directionally correct plan to hold onto and then iterate from," says Gochnour, director of the institute and associate dean of the David Eccles School of Business.

What followed was a frenzy of work from Utah's economic task force composed of volunteers from both private and public sectors, including Gochnour. "And then the Gardner Institute became the natural home for all this thinking to come together," she adds. "Our staff put in long hours editing and compiling a lot of information." The result: *Utah Leads Together*, a three-phase recovery plan that has since evolved over several iterations in response to the status of the virus's spread (see the latest version at coronavirus.utah.gov).

When asked what we can all do in our everyday lives to help the economy recover, Gochnour advises: "Follow public health guidelines. If you're opposed to a shutdown, wear a mask." She reminds us that the pandemic is not a short-term problem but a new risk we must manage. "Our actions will make all the difference."

Class Notes

'60s

Ed Catmull BS'69 PhD'74 and colleague Pat Hanrahan were recognized this year with the A.M. Turing Award, often referred to as the Nobel Prize of computing, for fundamental contributions to 3D computer graphics. Catmull co-founded Pixar Animation Studios. He shares the \$1 million Turing prize with fellow computer scientist Hanrahan, one of his first hires at Pixar, who helped its team revolutionize CGI for film and video games.



Keith Larsen

When **Keith Larsen** BS'64 MBA'67 was a doctoral student at Arizona State University, he helped to advance research into the early development of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, treatment. The medical technology is now helping a small but growing number of patients recover from COVID-19. Following his 1971 doctorate in chemical/biomedical engineering, Larsen went on to a J.D. at ASU. After returning to Salt Lake, he had a law practice and developed an insurance marketing service. He is now a guest lecturer and serves on an engineering project judging team at ASU.

'70s



Pierre Lassonde

Pierre Lassonde MBA'73—founder of the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute at the U's David Eccles School of Business—stepped down earlier this year as chairman of the board for Franco-Nevada, the leading gold-focused royalty and streaming company he led for 35 years. The milestone concluded an epic career with the company he cofounded and grew to its current valuation of \$38 billion.

Roland Colton BS'74 wrote *Forever Gentleman*, a novel about a concert pianist in Victorian London. An amateur classical pianist—and an attorney and trial litigator by profession—Colton sponsored a contest awarding \$10,000 for

three original compositions to be used in the electronic version of the historical novel (as well as any film or TV adaptations). Several hundred composers from nearly every country in the world entered the competition. Colton resides alternately in Orange County, California, and the Loire Valley in France.

Stanford E. Reichert BA'74 has served as a superior court judge for 15 years in San Bernardino County, California. Reichert holds a J.D. from Columbia University and has experience working in civil cases, eviction, felony trials, small claims, and his current assignment as a probate judge.



Satyam Moorty

Satyam Sikha Moorty PhD'75 published his latest book *Passage from India: Essays, Poems, and Stories*. An award-winning writer, scholar, and editor originally from India, Moorty taught literature courses at Southern Utah University for 31 years before retiring in 2006. His other books include a similar collection focused on Moldova, where he was a Fulbright professor on three occasions. He also taught in Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, and Yemen.

David Atwood BS'78 recently retired after a professional career spanning more than 40 years. The majority of his career was spent working with energy-related companies TerraTek and Schlumberger, with notable projects including developing multiple laboratory testing systems, materials, and facilities. During a stint at an entertainment robotics company, he also worked on design and fabrication of the robotic dinosaurs in the Jurassic Park: The Ride attraction at Universal Studios Hollywood and the robotic water fountains at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas.

'80s



Carol Rowsemitt

Carol N. Rowsemitt PhD'81 BSN'97 MS'00 was named a fellow of the Obesity Medicine Association for her dedication and commitment to the clinical treatment of

obesity and obesity-related diseases. Rowsemitt is a nurse practitioner and CEO of Comprehensive Weight Management in Templeton, Calif., and Providence, R.I.

Stephen Hunter BA'84 DPT'08 was honored as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association. Hunter has worked for Intermountain Healthcare for more than 30 years and been a pioneer in establishing rehabilitation outcome measures and care process models.

U chemical engineering professor and department chair **Eric Eddings** BS'88 PhD'92 received a \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for research on converting coal pitch into carbon fiber, a process that could help revitalize the coal industry.

Gwen Latendresse MS'88 PhD'08 is a board member of the Postpartum Support International-Utah Affiliate, which successfully lobbied for February to be declared Utah Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month. Latendresse is a certified nurse-midwife and an associate professor with the U's College of Nursing.



Chun Yuan

A professor of radiology and bioengineering at the University of Washington School of Medicine, **Chun Yuan** PhD'88 was recognized by the

American Heart Association for research to detect and predict blocked arteries and cardiovascular risk associated with knee MRI images. Yuan was able to reduce the time required to read an MRI from four hours (by an expert) down to seven minutes (by a cloud-based data analysis computer program).

'90s



Maria O'Mara

Maria O'Mara HBA'94, executive director of both KUER and PBS Utah—the state-wide public radio and TV stations broadcasting from the U—has been elected to NPR's national board of directors. In 2017, O'Mara returned to lead the radio station where she started her career as a reporter in the 1990s. She began overseeing PBS Utah (formerly known as KUED) this February.

John Breinholt III BA'96 BS'96 MD'00 is division chief of Pediatric Cardiology at Phoenix Children's Heart Center. He was previously with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. An interventional cardiologist by training, Breinholt offers special expertise in heart catheterization to provide less invasive treatment of congenital heart defects.

SPOTLIGHT



Lori McDonald BS'95 PhD'16, the U's vice president of student affairs, was about to commit to another school when she took a last-second tour of the U and realized it was the school for her. Her history with the U has now included time as an undergraduate in biology, an academic advisor, a career counselor, assistant dean of students for fraternity and sorority life, associate dean of students, dean of students, and now a vice president. Lori and her Grandpa Walt are so far the only members of their family to attend the U. Walt played football for the U from 1929–33 and went on to play professionally until 1936. One of his letterman sweaters now hangs in Lori's office.

SPOTLIGHT



Christian McKay Heidicker BA'04 received a Newbery Honor for his third novel, *Scary Stories for Young Foxes*, which follows two fox kits as they face various “monsters”—a revisioning of classic horror tales as they could be experienced by actual foxes, such as a rabies outbreak as a zombie story. The Salt Lake writer was about to start his first day at a tutoring job to make ends meet when he got the call telling him he'd just received one of the highest honors in children's literature. His works in progress now include a graphic novel about a spaceship graveyard.



John Dreyzehner

John Dreyzehner MPH'96 (also an M.D.), a highly respected national leader in the field of public health, is director of the Center for Preparedness and Response at the

Centers for Disease Control. As commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health from 2011-19, he led the state's preparedness and response to threats such as the national fungal meningitis outbreak and natural disasters including tornadoes and flooding. As a health district director in Appalachia from 2002-11, he was among the first in the nation to describe the opioid crisis ravaging the region as a public health epidemic.

MountainWest Capital Network recognized **Stephen Neeleman** MD'98 as its 2020 Entrepreneur of the Year. Neeleman is founder and vice chair of HealthEquity, Inc., one of the leading nonbank trustees of consumer health savings accounts (HSAs). His work educating congressional leaders has helped establish legislation supporting HSAs. As a practicing surgeon in the early 2000s, Neeleman saw that health

care costs were headed up and believed that new pathways could give consumers more and better options to deal with those escalating costs.

Shawn Traini JD'99 has been appointed a judge in Alaska's Palmer District Court. Traini has practiced law for 20 years, most recently as an assistant district attorney.

'00s

Lee Dibble PhD'01 received the Excellence in Neurologic Research Award, which honors a member of the Academy of Neurological Physical Therapy who has demonstrated continuing excellence in research related to neurologic PT theory, practice, and/or education.

Mike Firmage BA'04, co-founder and managing director at Horizon Partners, was named the 2020 Boutique Investment Banker of the Year by the M&A Atlas Awards for innovation in transaction strategy, process, and structuring. Firmage has previously received industry honors for excellence in deal making and client advisory.

Jayson A. Neil HBS'04 was named a 2020 Patient Preferred Neurosurgeon representing the states of Kansas and Missouri by the Patient Preferred Physicians and Practitioners network. He received his medical degree from New York Medical College before pursuing subspecialty training.

Ilaheva Tua'one HBS'06, now a doctoral candidate in the U's English Department, received the first place Helene W. Koon Memorial Award from the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies for her conference paper “Nocturnal Revelling: HMS Dolphin, The Story of the Ship That Lost Its Integrity.” A Tongan-American, Tua'one developed and teaches a favorite class at the U called “South Sea Tales.”

Gabe Epperson MPA'07 is the new director of the Whatcom Land Trust in Whatcom County, Washington. Epperson was the planning director at Envision Utah for five years, completing the Blueprint Jordan River and Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow projects. He moved to Bellingham in 2015 to do land acquisition and conservation planning for the land trust.

Darin Masao Mano BA'08 BS'08 (M.Arch., Harvard), assistant professor of architecture at the U, is a new member of the Salt Lake City Council. Mano beat out 27 other candidates for the District 5 seat, which was vacated by SLC Mayor **Erin Mendenhall** BS'04. His term runs through January 2022.

'10s



Nichole Garcia

Nichole Margarita Garcia BUS'10 is an assistant professor of higher education at Rutgers Graduate School of Education in New Jersey and is author of a popular blog in *Diverse:*

Issues In Higher Education. A Chicana Latina feminist scholar, her current research project looks at the displacement of Puerto Rican college students in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. She has a master's degree in Chicana/o studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Matthew Powers PhD'10 launched Powers Squared, which publishes “science books for people who don't know they love science.” Powers is an associate professor at the University of Washington and associate director of its Department of Communication's Center for Communication and Civic Engagement.

Jaclyn Arduini MS'16 is an athletic therapist with Cirque du Soleil. She recently toured Europe with its traveling show *Crystal*, the first Cirque show to blend circus acts with ice skating, and she previously toured North America with the company for more than a year. She joined the circus immediately after graduating from the U, working for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas as a resident therapist for the artists in *O*.

Ashley Chin-Mark BFA'18 BS'18 is a company artist with the James Sewell Ballet, which performed at last year's Cannes Film Festival. Chin-Mark has served as the International Ballet Summer Intensive director's assistant at the University of Utah Asia Campus in Incheon, South Korea. She also taught online in the 2020 Utah Ballet Summer Intensive at the U's SLC campus.

Grayson Murphy BS'18 won gold in her debut at the World Mountain Running Championships in Argentina—which included a river crossing and 2,475 feet of total ascent—despite dealing with serious stomach issues caused by something she'd eaten the night before. Murphy was a five-time All-American runner in track and cross-country at the U. “I can see how my time at the U has guided not only my professional life but my personal life as well,” she says.

Mesa Weidle BS'19 is an assistant coach for the track and field team at Rock Springs High School (Wyoming), her alma mater, as well as a certified SASS Go instructor focused on empowering young women. Weidle was a state place winner in track at RSHS all four years, was part of a 4x400 relay that set a new state record, and still holds several school records. She ran track at the U for five years and was a Pac-12 athlete of the week in 2018.



What's up with U?
Send updates to classnotes@utah.edu

SPOTLIGHT



Yuliya Petukhova DDS'20 was inspired to draw the 46 members of her dental school graduating class all together (excerpt pictured here) since a photo could not be taken due to COVID-19. She used head shots from when the class members first started school four years ago and drew caps and gowns on each person in the sketch. In addition to receiving multiple awards for her academic accomplishments, including the 2020 Elizabeth Fuhrman Gardner Prize for the Outstanding Woman Student in the U of U Health Sciences, Petukhova was accepted to a prestigious six-year dental residency in oral surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

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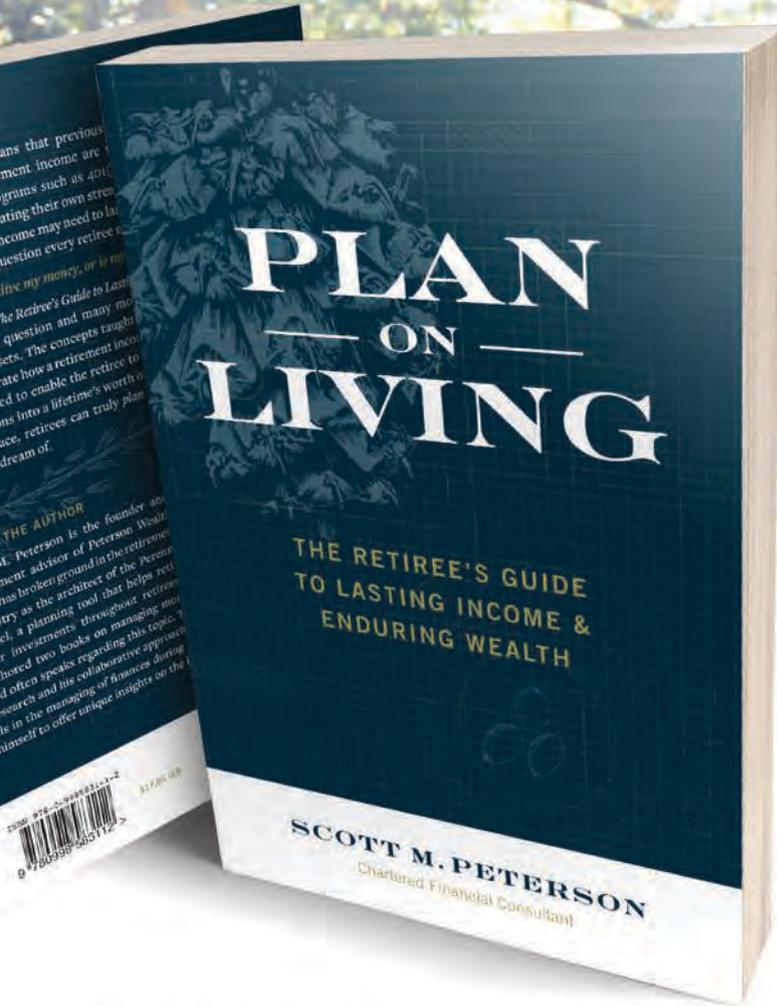
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* Sharpe, William F.; Scott, Jason S.; & Watson, John G. "Efficient Retirement Financial Strategies." July 2007 - Sharpe, Scott and Watson are not affiliated with Peterson Wealth Advisors.

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Knitting at Park

Red Cross volunteers gathered on the steps of the Park Building in 1918 to knit scarves and other items for the war effort. As if the strain of WWI wasn't enough, that same year, the Spanish Flu broke out and swept across the globe, eventually infecting one-third of the world's population. In Utah, about 100,000 people contracted the disease and nearly 3,000 died. Public gatherings were banned. Schools, churches, and theaters closed, and people began wearing masks in public. By the summer of 1919, the pandemic had mostly run its course. The war formally ended about the same time with the Treaty of Versailles.

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