

Moon Shot

U students win NASA's BIG Idea Challenge with their innovative concept for forging iron on the lunar surface. p. 9

Drug Scarcity

A U service is shedding light on America's medication shortages, providing crucial info to hospitals nationwide. p. 22

75 Years of Art

Celebrate the College of Fine Arts' diamond anniversary with a tribute to creative exploration. p. 34



Utah's Buzzing Future

Explore six ways Utah is changing and how the U is at the forefront of this significant new era. p. 28







On Thin Ice

Sea ice is more than just a frozen expanse. It's a multifaceted structure that plays a pivotal role in our planet's climate, wildlife ecosystems, and oceanic currents.

However, the Arctic region, a significant component of the Earth's stock of frozen water (known as the cryosphere), has lost an ice area equivalent to two-thirds the size of the contiguous United States due to planetary warming, says Ken Golden, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at the U. The journal *Nature Reviews Physics* recently published a viewpoint article

co-written by Golden about how the behavior of sea ice is a central problem in the physics of Earth's climate system.

In just recent decades, the extent of Arctic sea ice has shrunk by about half. "Not over the past million years, not over a thousand years, but over the past 30 or 40 years," Golden said in his opening remarks at the recent Climate Summit hosted by the U College of Science's Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy. Here, during a 2007 expedition, Golden drills into Antarctic sea ice, whose extent has also recently reached record lows.

U University of Utah Magazine

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Volume 33, No. 1

With a flourish and a leap, students Leslie Jara and Annalise Wood embody the vibrant legacy and dynamic future of the College of Fine Arts on its 75th anniversary. p. 34



PHOTO BY DAVE TITENSOR

WEB EXTRAS

More available at magazine.utah.edu

Since its founding in 1948, when it was housed in a small surplus barracks on campus, the U's College of Nursing has grown into Utah's premier nursing education institution, with multiple centers, initiatives, and degree programs. Visit magazine.utah.edu/nursing for an interactive timeline of the college's storied past.



Before they were instructing people how to do butterfly pose while hanging upside down, Christopher Harrison BUS'84 and Darlene Casanova BFA'85 were dance and musical theater students whose Broadway dreams became a reality. See magazine.utah.edu/anti-gravity to read more about their journey from the U to the Big Apple to teaching aerial fitness around the globe.



Every year, alumna Laura Wanlass BS'05 tackles the off-road navigation challenge known as the Rebelle Rally—what the *New York Times* calls “over 1,600 miles of an ‘insane obstacle course,’ a gut check for women.” See photos from her adventures at magazine.utah.edu/rebellerally.

FEATURES

22

Behind the Drug Shortages Some 300 medications are currently in short supply in the U.S., ranging from simple saline to life-saving chemotherapy. Drug shortages affect patients' wallets and even their lives. Learn about the U resource that investigates the scarcities and provides crucial info to the nation's hospitals, think tanks, and lawmakers.



28

A New Utah If you think you know the Beehive State, it's time to take another look. With shifting demographics, surging growth, a sizzling economy, and costly housing, Utah has entered a new era. As we face an inflection point, the U is tackling challenges and embracing opportunities to help the state flourish and prosper.

34

Encore! Art delves into humanity's marvels, mysteries, and mirth. For decades, the U's College of Fine Arts has fostered this exploration, lighting the way for students to make their creative mark on the world. See our tribute celebrating 75 years of CFA and looking ahead to many more.

ON THE COVER

Illustrator Giacomo Gambineri presents a playful swarm of bee-professionals around Salt Lake City, highlighting the U's role in pollinating ideas for Utah's ever-growing hive.

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Schuyler Welch enrolled in the MBC program in person to grow Doxy.me, a telehealth company that boomed during the pandemic.

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ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC HANSON

Serving the New Utah



Our great state is changing. We're at a pivotal moment, facing new problems and opportunities as our population grows and ages, our economy booms, and our society becomes more diverse. At the University of Utah, we are committed to meeting the challenges of the "New Utah" (see p. 28). We're innovating for Utah and preparing students for the jobs of today and tomorrow, ensuring that the next chapter of our collective story is marked by prosperity and well-being.

As an economic engine for the state, the university and the 160,000 U alumni who reside here play a key role in the state's success. Consider the unprecedented surge in engineering and technology sectors since the turn of this century, an exponential growth of more than fivefold compared to the national average. This surge contributed a remarkable 12-15 percent to Utah's \$200 billion economy in 2020 alone. The U has been a cornerstone of this expansion, producing a majority of the state's engineering and computer science graduates.

Another example is in health care, where we serve the people of Utah not only by providing patient care at our five hospitals and 11 community care centers but also by educating the workforce. The U trains two-thirds of Utah's doctors and a host of other health professionals who serve as the backbone of our state's health care systems. We're also home to the state's only medical, dental, and pharmacy schools and to Huntsman Cancer Institute and Huntsman Mental Health Institute.

And our reach extends even further. From the College of Fine Arts celebrating 75 years of inspiring creative minds (see p. 34) to a resource that investigates and reports on drug shortages (see p. 22), the U is at the forefront of societal impact, weaving together vital advances, educational excellence, and community engagement.

I'm immensely proud of our alumni and the significant contributions you make to the fabric of Utah. Your achievements have propelled the University of Utah to the forefront of innovation and have been instrumental in driving growth and progress in our state. I look forward to the future, as we lead Utah into a new era of prosperity together.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR RANDALL HBA'90

Learning Abroad

From week-long journeys to full semesters abroad at the U Asia Campus, the U offers worldwide scholastic expeditions that change students' lives, educations, and careers ["Going Global," Fall 2023].

I went to another school down south, but I wish I had gone to the U. The U Asia Campus looks like such a terrific experience. We just welcomed my daughter into the world, and I'm going to encourage her to go to the U and to U Asia Campus! Her grandmother grew up in Seoul, and it would be so meaningful for her to study there.

BECKY LEE, SOUTH JORDAN, UT

I loved this article in print! I'm traveling to Chile soon, and I thought how great it would be if I could have done that as a student. I've told both my kids they should consider the U Asia Campus when they're older. I think it would be such a valuable experience (and I'd get to go visit them!)

ANONYMOUS



Tailgating Tradition

Since the early '70s, a group of tailgaters have been supporting the Utah football team—complete with an antique fire truck ["Four Generations of Fandom," Fall 2023].

What a fun legacy for the families! Love this old fire truck and the Shillings family especially, we have been friends forever! Go red!

KIM HOLMES, HOLLADAY, UT

Very cool! Never stop celebrating and cheering for our UTES!
RONALEE ELLIS, SALT LAKE CITY

This group and the truck are legendary. True fans through thick and thin.

FARHAD



SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

With record-breaking snowpack last winter to spring, students from ATMOS 5260 hit the canyons to measure snow depth (363 centimeters here) while reppin' the U.

Exemplary Leadership

An alum recently became the youngest and first-ever woman to serve as presidential chief of staff for Palau ["Helping Build Up a Nation," Fall 2023].



This is an excellent article about this young Palauan woman, whom I respect a lot. She represents the young people in Palau who are always striving to contribute to their motherland.

YOICHI K. RENGIL, GUAM

 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.



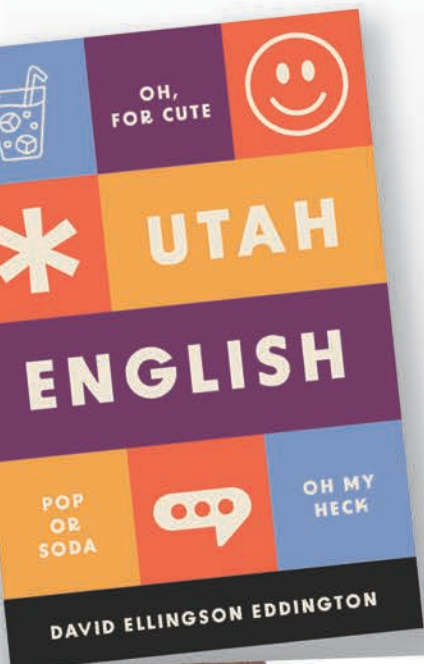
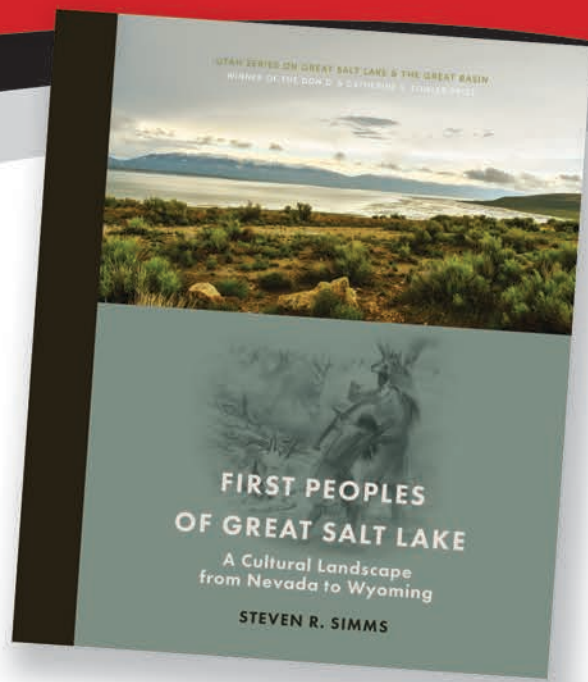
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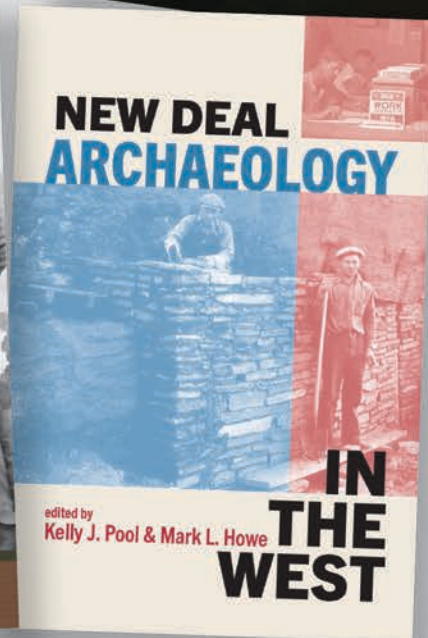
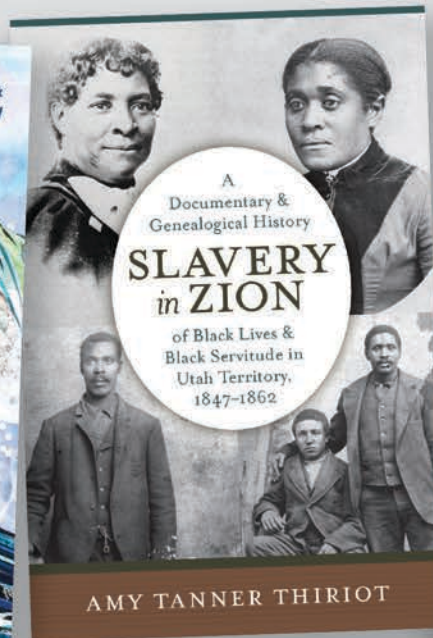
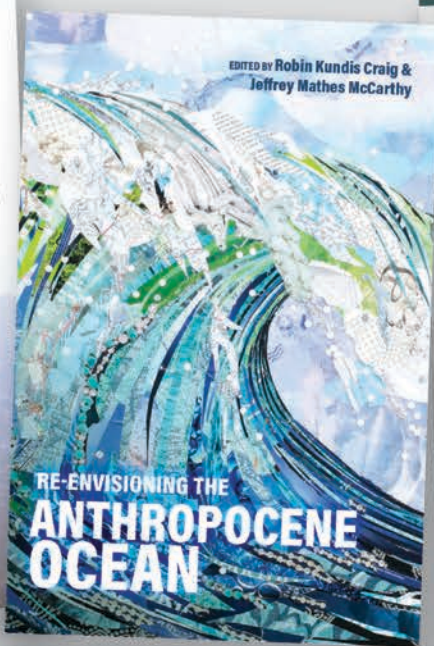
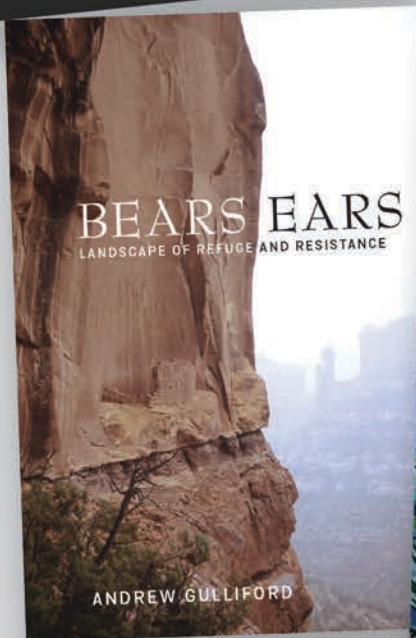


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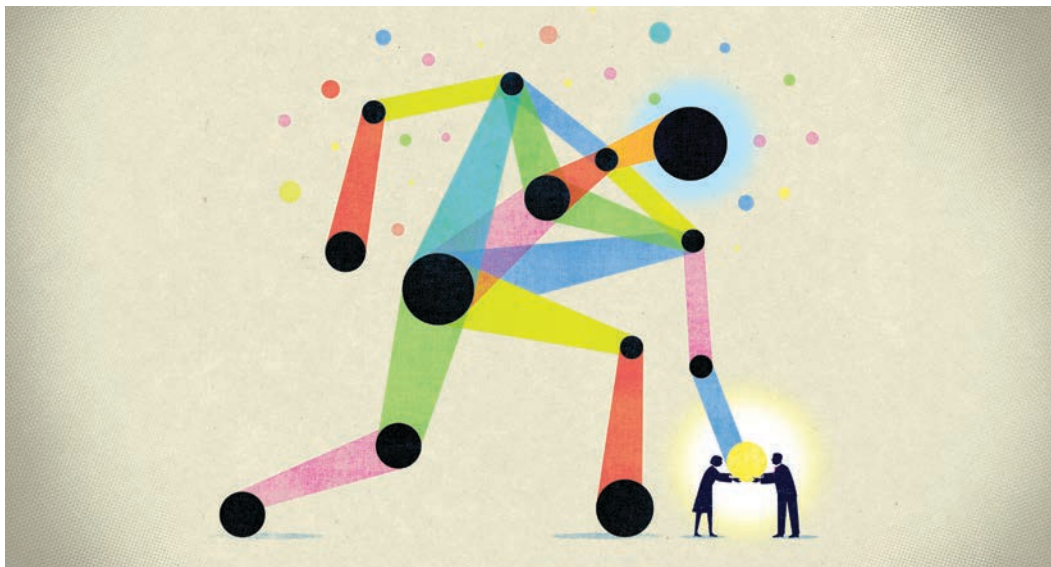


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News from the U



Utah's AI Leap

The U is investing \$100 million for an initiative tackling societal challenges with artificial intelligence

The University of Utah is launching a new research initiative focused on artificial intelligence that aims to responsibly use advanced AI technology to tackle societal issues. President Taylor Randall HBA'90 announced a \$100 million investment in the newly created Responsible AI Initiative, which will advance AI and its applications in ways that achieve societal good while also protecting privacy, civil rights, and liberties, and promoting principles of accountability, transparency, and equity. The initiative will be led by the U's Scientific Computing and Imaging (SCI) Institute as part of a concerted effort to conduct research at the U that improves the lives of Utah's 3.5 million residents.

"As one of the nation's leading research universities, we have an opportunity and responsibility to use our resources in ways that can impact and serve our community," says Randall. "From being the fourth node of the original internet to performing the world's first artificial heart transplant, the U has a pioneering legacy that we hope to continue by investing to become a national leader in responsible artificial intelligence."

In its initial stages, the goal of the initiative is to create transdisciplinary excellence in responsible

AI by bringing together deep technological expertise, advanced cyberinfrastructure, and disciplinary expertise across the university to position the U as a national leader in translational AI. The project will begin with a focus on issues that have regional implications, such as health care and societal wellness, public services, and our natural surroundings.

"Harnessing this tool will allow us to break new research ground while training our students and creating a workforce that is prepared with an essential skill set," says Manish Parashar, director of the SCI Institute.

Initial funding for the initiative will raise and repurpose funds from three non-tuition sources: returned overhead, investment income, and philanthropy. Because of the energizing nature of AI research, future gifts to support the project and additional areas of interest are possible, with further information yet to come.

"Our investment in this initiative is indicative of our commitment to forge new frontiers in our quest for understanding," says Provost Mitzi Montoya. "The ripple effects of this investment will impact all aspects of our state, from the technical and social to the economic and environmental."

NEWS ROUNDUP



The U's Environmental Humanities Graduate program, dedicated to shaping future environmental leaders, has been awarded a three-year grant renewal of \$791,000 from the Mellon Foundation, enhancing its commitment to climate study, resilience, advocacy, and environmental justice, while also focusing on leadership pathways for underrepresented groups and community collaboration.



The Huntsman Mental Health Institute recently broke ground on the Utah Mental Health Translational Research Building, a pioneering 185,000-square-foot facility. It will create a working lab for researchers and educators to collaborate with experts in science, translational science, artificial intelligence, public policy, business, and law in holistic ways to address mental health challenges.



The U recently appointed Marc Brown BA'06 MBA'10, a service professional and educator, to be the first executive director of the new Hospitality Leadership Initiative. The new program is part of the university's effort to leverage the thriving local hospitality and tourism industry to become a world-renowned destination for training future hospitality leaders.

Helping NASA Solve a Cosmic Conundrum

Is there a feasible way to produce metal products on the moon? That's the question NASA asked university students in its 2023 Breakthrough, Innovative, and Game-changing (BIG) Idea Challenge. And a team of U materials science and engineering students answered with a winning proposal.

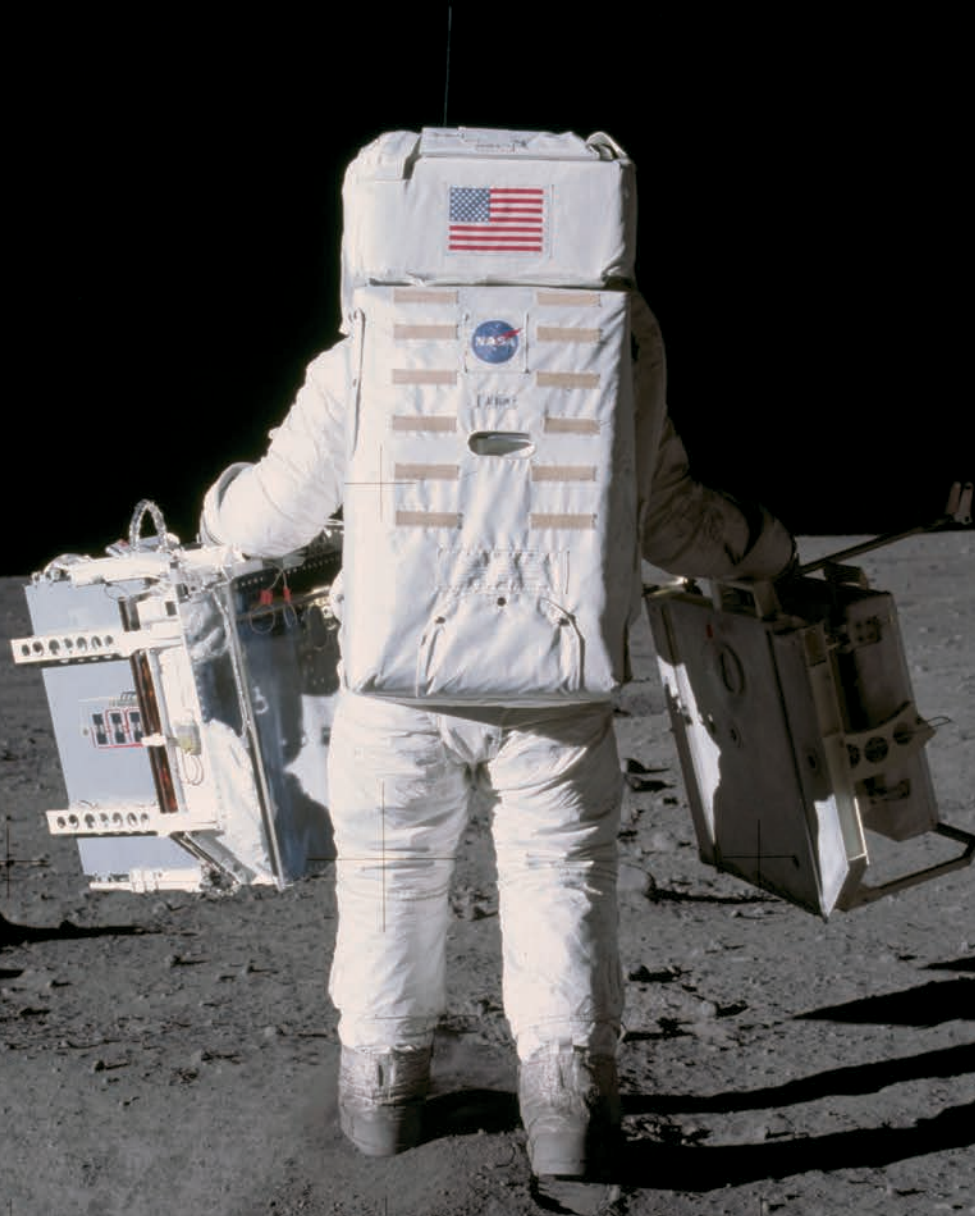
NASA's Artemis program aims to set up a permanent lunar base, and the challenge offered winning teams up to \$180,000 to design, develop, and demonstrate technologies for producing building materials from moon-sourced metals.

"Transporting metal to the moon is difficult and expensive," explains doctoral student John Otero, who co-led the team. "Fortunately, the moon's surface is relatively rich in iron." The team turned

to a method called iron carbonyl refining, which already produces iron powder for fortified cereal, vitamin supplements, and a few other uses.

"We realized that the advantages of the process pair incredibly well with the lunar environment," says doctoral student and team leader Collin Andersen. The students proposed a setup small enough to fit inside a living room, in which iron is pressurized with carbon monoxide to become a gaseous compound. Then it's heated, causing the iron particles "to fall down like a light snow," says Andersen. "It's a very fine powder perfect for 3D printing. Then all it takes is sandblasting or some other kind of finishing, and you've got yourself a full part."

After receiving the challenge's top honor—the Artemis Award, given for the concept with the greatest lunar-mission potential—the U team is hopeful their idea will someday land on the moon.





Celebrating 20 Years of Community Connections

Because of University Neighborhood Partners (UNP), Almaida Yanagui believes in fairy tales. “I’ve always felt like Cinderella,” Yanagui says. “Education was my carriage to a brighter future, and UNP has been the ball where everything changed.”

Nearly two decades ago, when Yanagui needed resources to support her daughter, she found UNP. She attended a course about parental rights in the education system and learned how to advocate for her children. Through UNP, Yanagui found the confidence to earn her GED and attend college. This led to her working at UNP as the Education Pathways partnership manager/community organizer.

As UNP celebrates two decades of collaboration between the U and Salt Lake County’s west side, stories like Yanagui’s are the heart of the partnership’s accomplishments. UNP was started in 2001 to increase access to the U for west side residents and build a reciprocal relationship between both communities. Since then, multiple resident committees have been created, partnerships have grown, and the UNP work has expanded into West Valley City.

The UNP network and the Hartland Partnership Center provide resources such as English language

instruction, mental health support, citizenship classes, employment workshops, after-school and summer programs, and more. Scholarships to the U and other Utah colleges and universities are also available through UNP. Notably, many of the partnership’s staff began their careers at UNP after benefiting from these very resources.

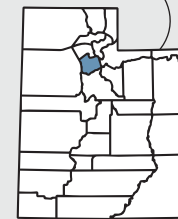
“There is a strong network of university students, faculty and staff, community organizations, and residents on the west side of Salt Lake City that have created an ecosystem of belonging and opportunity,” says Kimberly Schmit BFA’98 MED’07, UNP’s director of community praxis. “Pieces of that ecosystem were always there. When members of the community allowed us to learn and grow with them, what emerged is an even deeper culture of opportunity for all involved.”

UNP has witnessed these resources impact multiple generations of families, adds Schmit. “There are families where I knew the mom, then I knew her son, and now I see his children,” she remarks. “It’s three generations that UNP has had the privilege of engaging with and learning from.”

MATILYN MORTENSEN

SPOTLIGHT

Salt Lake County



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



Wendy Watson Nelson, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President Russell M. Nelson, U president Taylor Randall

Healing Hearts and Souls

LDS Church President and alum Russell M. Nelson donates medical papers to the U

Medical innovator and world faith leader Russell M. Nelson BA'45 MD'47 has donated his medical papers to the University of Utah. At a ceremony last August, U President Taylor Randall HBA'90 and Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Michael Good accepted the gift of 35 volumes—including Nelson's doctoral thesis, research publications, and surgical notes for thousands of cardiothoracic surgeries he performed over a three-decade career in medicine.

"As we appropriately allow individuals to study your records, they will see how you were inspired and remember that you were not only a great healer of people, but you've been a great healer of souls, and that you felt inspiration the entire time that you were performing your profession," said Randall. "Thank you deeply for donating these volumes to the University of Utah."

Nelson, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, earned his medical degree from the U at the age of 22. After graduation,

he went to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, where he completed his internship and residency training in surgery. While at Minnesota, Nelson helped lead the research team that developed the heart-lung machine used to support the first-ever human open-heart surgery in 1951. In 1955, Nelson returned to Utah, where he performed the state's first open-heart surgery.

For 17 years, Nelson was director of the U's Thoracic Surgical Residency program. In addition to his work in Utah, he was a visiting professor in Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, and China. In 2020, Nelson received an honorary doctorate from the U for his valuable contributions to his field and his life of service. During his 30-year career, Nelson performed nearly 7,000 surgeries.

"I am deeply grateful for the important role the University of Utah played in my education and surgical career," Nelson said. "Wendy and I are very pleased to donate these valuable records to the University of Utah. Thank you for accepting these tangible tracks of my surgical career."

Renowned Author and Civic Leader Eboo Patel Named U Impact Scholar



Eboo Patel, founder and president of Interfaith America, a leading national interfaith organization, has been named a University of Utah Impact Scholar.

Declared "one of America's best leaders" by *U.S. News and World Report*, Patel is a civic leader who believes religious diversity is an essential and inspiring dimension of American democracy and a civil society. During his tenure, he has led Interfaith America in its work with governments, universities, private companies, and civic organizations to brand faith as a symbol of cooperation rather than one of divisiveness.

"Many of those who study wellness and belonging have noted recently the importance of faith in human experience," says Mary Ann Villarreal, vice president of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at the U. "This appointment will bolster our efforts to build communities of trust, care, and inclusivity at the U and in the broader community."

A Rhodes Scholar and author of five books, including *We Need to Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy*, Patel is an Ashoka Fellow who holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University. He also served on President Obama's inaugural faith-based Advisory Council.

"I am thrilled to be an impact scholar at the University of Utah," Patel said. "In this role, I will be looking to work with administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the wider Utah community on critical issues related to religion, diversity, and social cohesion."

Patel joins two other visiting university impact scholars—Arthur C. Brooks, columnist at *The Atlantic* and professor of the practice of public leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School, and Tim Shriver, chair of The Special Olympics and founder and chair of UNITE. Visiting university impact scholars are appointed for two years and visit the university's Salt Lake City campus two to three times a year.

Sustainable Futures

The U's Wilkes Climate Prize backs a project poised to mitigate the silent methane menace

A pinch of enzyme magic in the daily diet of cows might just be the secret ingredient to a cooler, more sustainable planet. The U's Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy recently awarded a \$1.5 million climate prize to a project that developed enzymes with the potential to significantly reduce the climate-damaging methane that cattle burp.

"It's perfect for the Wilkes Climate Prize at the University of Utah—we want to supercharge a credible, ambitious idea that may be too risky for traditional funding sources," shares William Anderegg, associate professor of biology and director of the Wilkes Center. "The technology is patented, it works in the lab, and now, it's time to scale it up."

Methane might not be as well-known as CO₂, but it's a silent and potent contributor to our warming planet, with a whopping 80 times more warming power over a 20-year period. It also doesn't linger as long as CO₂, meaning cutting methane emissions could cool our atmosphere more quickly. A quarter of today's global warming is attributed to methane from human activities, primarily agriculture, with livestock being the largest agricultural source.

The awarded project, born from the minds of scientists who discovered how to genetically engineer the edible algae spirulina, extends its approach to target methane-producing microorganisms in the rumen, a specialized compartment of cattle's gastrointestinal tracts. The spirulina is engineered to produce an enzyme protein that destroys methanogens, the microbes responsible for methane production in the rumen, without affecting the cattle or their other beneficial bacteria.

The enzyme is so effective that a tiny addition to a cow's diet could make them methanogen-free. The prize money will be used to enhance the enzyme mixture, evaluate its safety and efficacy in cattle, determine optimal dosage, and validate large-scale outdoor production methods.



Mesfin Gewe, senior scientist at Lumen Bioscience, holds a dish filled with powdered spirulina cells, each one filled with a therapeutic protein payload.

The Wilkes Climate Prize at the U is one of the largest university-affiliated climate prizes in the world and aims to push through potential breakthroughs with a one-time, unrestricted cash award.



Study: Unimpeded Environmental Risks Amplify Financial Consequences

Earth's rapidly changing climate is taking an increasingly heavy toll on landscapes around the world in the form of floods, rising sea levels, extreme weather, drought, and wildfire. And a recent study found those risks may damage an increasing amount of U.S. property in the next century, though aggressive preventive action could substantially reduce the costs.

"We find that property values exposed to these climate-sensitive disturbances increase sharply in

future climate scenarios, particularly in existing high-risk regions of the western U.S.," the study determined. The research team attempted to quantify the value of U.S. property at risk in forested areas, says lead study author William Anderegg, associate professor of biology and director of the U's Wilkes Center for Climate Science and Policy.

To help identify climate-related risks to property values, Anderegg teamed with faculty from the College of Social and Behavioral Science—Tim Collins, professor of geography, and sociologist Sara Grineski, professor of sociology and environmental studies—and others outside Utah.

"We looked at two separate climate scenarios, one in which we don't really do anything [to reduce emissions driving warming]—it's just business as usual, and things

get more dramatically worse—and one in which we implement mitigation more aggressively," says Collins. "Under a scenario in which we actually try to mitigate emissions in a way that reduces impacts of climate change, you see substantially less property value at risk in the future."

Looking at just privately owned lots one acre in size or larger, about \$4 billion (in 2017 dollars) in property is currently exposed per year to wildfire in the contiguous United States, according to the study.

That volume is projected to grow to \$22 billion and \$45 billion, by 2049 and 2099, respectively, under the do-nothing scenario. The study found, however, that the value of exposed property tops out at about \$11 billion under the scenario in which aggressive climate action is undertaken.



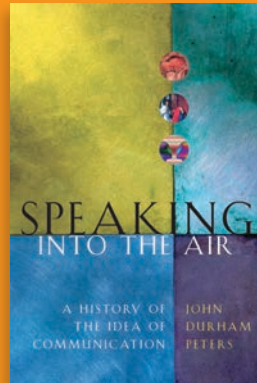
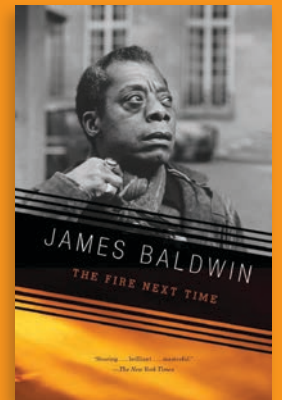
Rediscovering Humanity with Literary Masterpieces

Dust off that library card and read along with the College of Humanities in their latest course, Great Books. Covering the breadth and depth of humanities with a selection from each department, students in HUM 1500 will join leading faculty from English, Philosophy, World Languages and Cultures, Linguistics, History, and Writing and Rhetoric Studies as they explore everything from London in the 1920s to what it means to be human. “Great Books offers a chance to think in complex ways about complex challenges,” says Scott Black, professor of English. “It’s an excellent foundation for the skills needed to succeed in any major and any career.”

The Fire Next Time, James Baldwin, 1963

“It is sublimely written, historically and presently pertinent, and it clarifies the reality, consequences, and our ongoing goal of understanding and addressing racism. Enduring greatness is predicated on knowledge of the past. This and other readings from the Great Books course can help students achieve greatness, both as members of their respective disciplines and as members of the human species.”

—MAXIMILIAN WERNER BA’93, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF WRITING AND RHETORIC STUDIES



Speaking into the Air, John Durham Peters, 1999

“It has become a modern classic in communication research. It digs deep into the Western canon to challenge our common and often simplistic notions of communication and what it can accomplish. What’s more, Peters is one of our most distinguished alumni of the Department of Communication, having completed his MA here [1982].”

—SEAN LAWSON, PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION



The Trial, Franz Kafka, 1915/1925

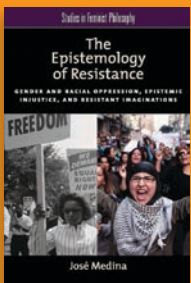
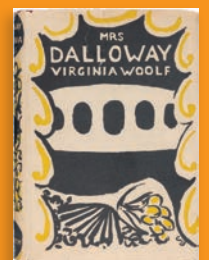
“It’s practically synonymous with questions of guilt, innocence, and justice, as well as with the attempt to make sense of our absurd modern world. But the book also offers so much more: bizarre surreal humor, a deep exploration of the relation of the law to our bodies, and moments of sacred mystery and transcendence. It’s one of the best reads you can encounter.”

—JOSEPH METZ, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Mrs. Dalloway, Virginia Woolf, 1925

“One of the greatest novels of the twentieth century and one of the greatest reading experiences you’ll ever have. In a bold narrative experiment, *Mrs. Dalloway* explores the intertwined lives and voices of a group of friends during one day in London in 1923. Woolf’s writing is gorgeous, and in expressing Clarissa Dalloway’s consciousness so beautifully and fully, she broadens and enriches the reader’s own.”

—SCOTT BLACK, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH



The Epistemology of Resistance, José Medina, 2013

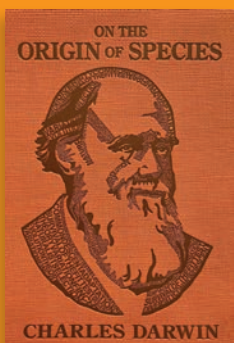
“The book illustrates what socially engaged philosophy looks like. It explores how oppression shapes knowledge of others and ourselves. It’s full of interesting concepts and examples. It’s challenging and relevant. Though written in 2013, the book connects to classic questions in philosophy, such as Aristotle’s idea of living well, and asks how to create a better, more just world.”

—ERIN BEEGLY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

On the Origin of Species, Charles Darwin, 1859

“It synthesizes many of the great scientific and philosophical debates of the time, while also setting the stage for the next century and a half of new debates. Since that time, *Origin* and Darwin’s subsequent writings have continued to influence discussions of what it means to be human and how we are related to the rest of the living world—issues that only seem to grow more pressing.”

—RACHEL MASON DENTINGER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

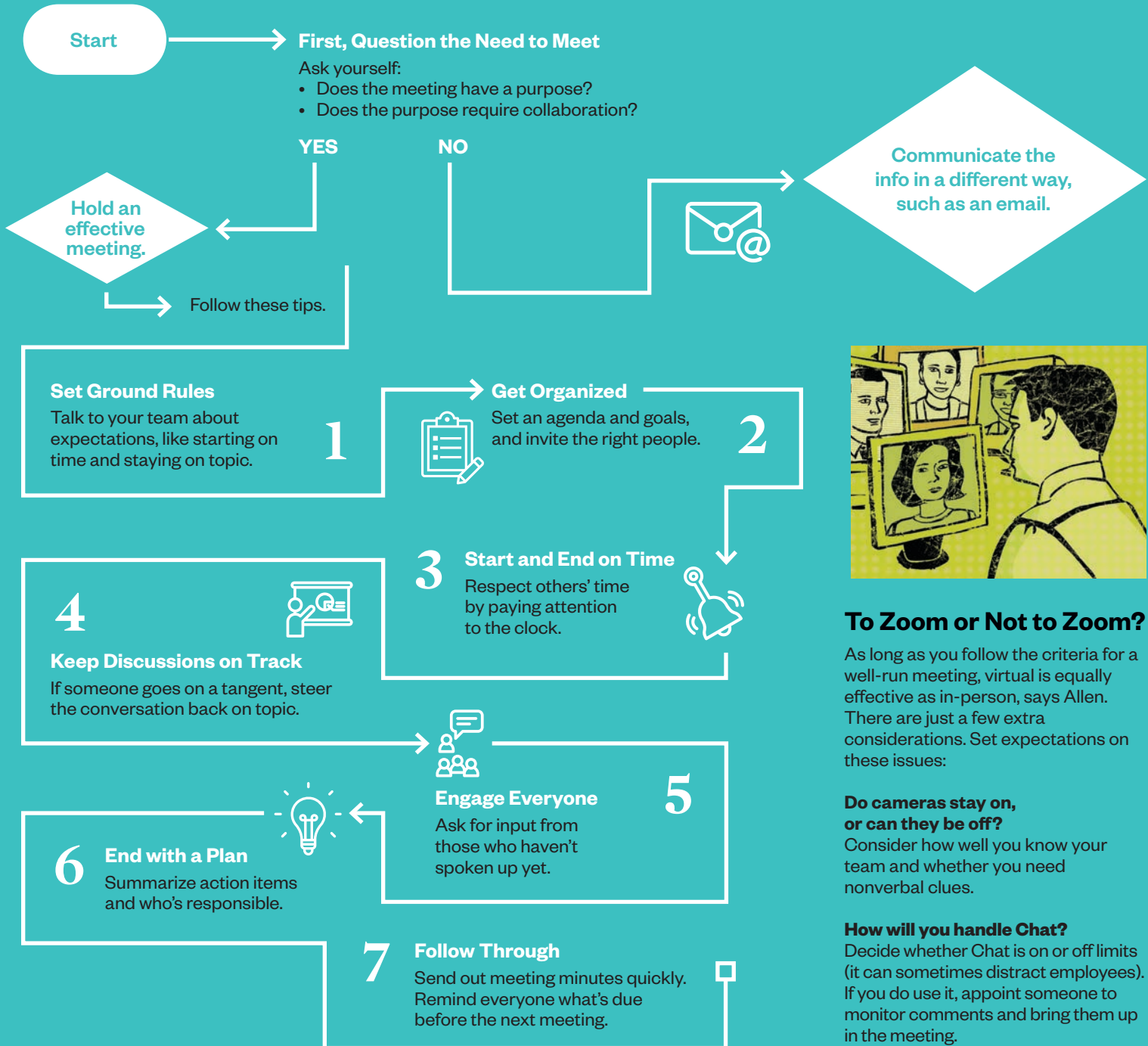




This Meeting Could've Been an Email!

Meetings have been around for centuries (cue joke about how they sometimes feel that long). But research on how to do them well only began in the last 20 years, says Joseph Allen, professor of industrial and organizational psychology at the U. Allen literally wrote the book(s) on the subject and created the Center for Meeting Effectiveness to fill the research void.

Allen says ineffective meetings can lower job satisfaction, raise stress, and lead to thoughts of quitting. On the flip side, he adds, "Good meetings increase job satisfaction and engagement, give you resources, and guard against burnout and fatigue." Follow his guidelines for meeting success below. If you're tempted to skip the steps, be forewarned: "Our research shows that one bad meeting causes three more meetings," says Allen.



To Zoom or Not to Zoom?

As long as you follow the criteria for a well-run meeting, virtual is equally effective as in-person, says Allen. There are just a few extra considerations. Set expectations on these issues:

Do cameras stay on, or can they be off?

Consider how well you know your team and whether you need nonverbal clues.

How will you handle Chat?

Decide whether Chat is on or off limits (it can sometimes distract employees). If you do use it, appoint someone to monitor comments and bring them up in the meeting.



New Program Aims to Help Undergraduates Start Research Sooner

Having access to undergraduate research experiences is one of the key differences in getting a degree from a top-tier research institution like the U. That's why the Office of Undergraduate Research is launching a new program with a simple application designed to remove as many barriers as possible for students who want to find an opportunity.

The Early Exploration Scholars program connects undergrads with mentors to help them embark on research. Students who are selected for the program will receive a \$500 scholarship, as well as take part in other activities including research tours where they can visit faculty labs.

"We created a program for helping students get connected to mentors early on so they can develop those relationships in a research dynamic," says Annie Isabel Fukushima, associate dean of undergraduate studies and the director of the U's Office of Undergraduate Research.

Lab work helps students home in on purposeful career paths, and it can lead to quicker degree completion. However, without programs like the Early Exploration Scholars, it can be daunting for students to find a research position, and some miss the opportunity altogether because they wait too long, she adds.

Ava Peitz is a senior at the U who started undergraduate research during her second semester of college. At that point in her studies, Peitz wanted to go to medical school, but the lab she was in helped her learn that while she loved research, she didn't want to study medicine. She adjusted her studies accordingly and continued as a researcher in a new lab.

"My love for research hasn't faltered, even as the subject matter I've been able to research has flexed and changed," says Peitz.

A Decade of Growth

U research funding continues to soar, and FY23 broke all previous records by topping \$750M

U research funding hit a record \$768 million in fiscal year 2023. It was the tenth year in a row of annual increases, including a climb of well over \$100 million since 2020, when it hit the \$600 million mark, and a \$500 million milestone in 2018.

"To see that our research funding has hit another record year is a testament to our students, faculty, staff, and community partners' commitment to bringing solutions to the societal issues of today and tomorrow," says Erin Rothwell PhD'04, vice president for research.

As a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, the U is taking on the most critical challenges across many areas—from energy to food insecurity, and aerospace to cancer. In FY23, more than 3,000 grants were awarded to U principal investigators.

Research funding is also a boon to the local economy. More than 8,300 employees are compensated by research dollars, and over the last three years, research has supported nearly \$600 million in wages.

President Taylor Randall HBA'90 says the now decade-long growth in research funding only solidifies the U's status as a national and global leader in science and innovation. "Discoveries at the U are finding solutions to some of society's biggest challenges, bringing hope to issues that seem unsolvable, and inspiring generations of future researchers," says Randall. "Our goal of \$1 billion in research support is within reach thanks to the passion, hard work, and dedication of the U's research community."

SPORTS BRIEFS



Utah soccer's freshman forward Kennedy Schoennauer was named to the Pac-12's All-Freshman Team. She finished her first year as a Ute with four assists, tied for the most on the roster, and she was also in the top five in points, shots, and shots on goal. Schoennauer is the first Ute to earn an all-freshman team nod since Taliana Kaufusi in 2020 and is the program's ninth all-freshman selection overall.



The U is set to build a new baseball facility on campus, named America First Ballpark. Smith's Ballpark—the current home of the U baseball team, as well as the Salt Lake Bees—is slated for demolition as the Bees move to Draper, Utah. The new venue will rise on Guardsman Way, transforming the site of the existing Utah Baseball practice field into a state-of-the-art facility, in partnership with America First Credit Union.

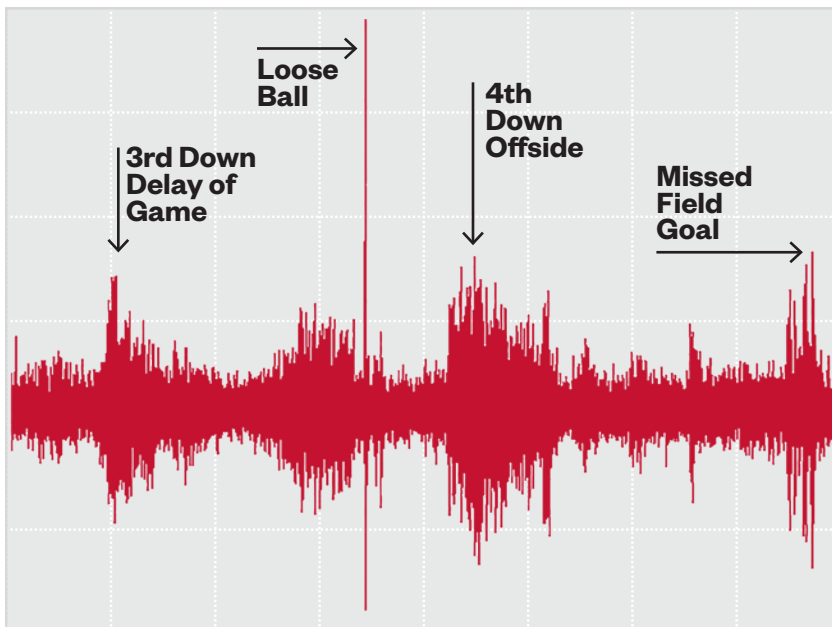


Utah volleyball outside hitter Kamryn Gibadlo earned a spot on the All-Pac-12 Freshman team. Gibadlo ended her first season as a Ute in the top 30 in the Pac-12 with 2.61 kills per set. The Cave Creek, Arizona, native tallied 17 matches with double-digit kills. She accumulated 284 kills in her debut season on 787 swings, ranking second on the team in each category.



Led by a pair of All-American efforts from McKaylie Caesar and Anna Peters, the 14th-ranked Utah cross country team finished 13th overall at the NCAA Championships this past fall, the second-best finish ever in program history.

Utah women's basketball forward Alissa Pili is No. 1 in the NCAA for 3-point percentage and No. 4 in points per game. She was named Player of the Week by the AP, U.S. Basketball Writers Association, ESPN, and Pac-12 for performances in December, including 37 points against No. 1 South Carolina.



Ground-Shaking Fan Energy

When Rice-Eccles Stadium roars, the earth responds. New vibration detectors capture the seismic excitement of game day.

The eardrum-shattering third-down jump at Rice-Eccles Stadium isn't just causing false-starts and pumping up our players—it's actually moving the earth. Last season, University of Utah Seismograph Stations (UUSS) installed what it calls UteQuake, a set of tools to monitor amplitude signals at the stadium. You may have seen the real-time updates on social media during the games.

"Although a seismometer's primary role is to record earthquakes, these very sensitive instruments will detect any ground shaking, regardless of the source, including from rowdy Utes fans in Rice-Eccles Stadium," UUSS posted on the UteQuake website.

The idea is to help pump up game-day excitement, while also promoting the Seismograph Stations' vital public safety mission to reduce the risk from earthquakes in Utah through research, education, and public service, says Jamie Farrell MS'07 PhD'14, a research associate professor of geology and geophysics. The UUSS operates a regional network of 200 seismographs stretching from the Grand

Canyon in Arizona to Yellowstone National Park in Montana.

Tested during the Utes' season opener against the Florida Gators—when record attendance exceeded 53,000—the experiment proved a roaring success, says Farrell. However, UUSS scientists caution against using the seismic data to draw magnitude equivalences, the standard measure of earthquakes. "UteQuakes are not real earthquakes, they are measurements of ground motion caused by fans in the stadium," notes Farrell. To avoid confusion, Farrell's team refrained from sharing magnitude equivalence.

"It turns out it's hard to calculate a magnitude for something that isn't an earthquake," adds Farrell. "The best we can do now is relative amplitudes from game to game." The UUSS team also compared seismic readings taken during games at Rice-Eccles with those from a permanent seismograph station located .6 miles north of the stadium, which has been measuring actual earthquakes for years, including the magnitude 5.7 Magna quake in 2020.

S

Stats



Success on the Slopes

Last year was a four-peat. And now, as the Utah Ski Team continues competition as the reigning national champs, they're looking to make it five consecutive NCAA titles in a row. A key component in that goal is last year's women's slalom and giant slalom gold medalist, Madison Hoffman. Her victories were part of a dominant performance by the Utes, particularly on the women's side, where they won all four national championship races—Utah's Novie McCabe took home top place in the 5K freestyle and 20K classic.

Hoffman's journey is inspiring. She returned to the slopes following a season-ending ACL injury in 2022, having qualified for the Olympics as a member of Team Australia. "I used my recovery time to fall back in love with skiing," she notes. "I changed my narrative about approaching races. Instead of thinking 'I have to perform,' I switched it to 'I get to perform and show all the work I've done.'"

MAJOR

Finance

YEAR

Senior

CURRENT HOMEBASE

Park City, Utah

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Swept the 2023 NCAA women's alpine individual championships
- Two-time NCAA First Team All-American
- Pac-12 Academic Honor Roll
- CSC Academic All-American
- Represented Australia at the World University Games

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

End the year in the top 30 in world rankings

OFF THE SLOPES

Anything ocean related, especially surfing and swimming, due to her Australian roots

FOODIE FRIEND

Passionate about cooking and often invites her team over for dinner

STAYING FIT

Recently discovered a love for biking and CrossFit

Nursing Legacy Honored

As World War II intensified, the nation required not just soldiers but nurses to care for the injured. What began in 1913 as an affiliation with nursing diploma programs in Salt Lake City flourished to become the first nursing baccalaureate program in the state of Utah in 1948. Over the past 75 years, the University of Utah College of Nursing's faculty, staff, and alumni have been pivotal in transforming health care, delivering top-tier care to patients, families, and communities and advocating for well-being, says Dean Marla De Jong. "Reflecting on our 75th year, I feel a deep sense of connection and pride," she notes. "We benefit from a long tradition of innovative thinkers, creative problem solvers, and a culture of collaboration passed down through the generations. Nursing has evolved dramatically over the last 75 years. Our college continues to be critically necessary and relevant today—and it will be for many years to come."



Web Extra For an interactive timeline of the college's storied past, visit magazine.utah.edu/nursing

Number

75



University of Utah to Host 2024 Presidential Debate

The University of Utah has been selected by the Commission on Presidential Debates as a presidential debate host site for the 2024 election cycle. On Wednesday, October 9, 2024, qualifying candidates for president of the United States will take center stage at Kingsbury Hall for a moderated debate to be broadcast on all major television networks.

“To have the opportunity to host a U.S. presidential debate is a privilege, and we are thrilled to welcome the world back to the University of Utah,” says U president Taylor Randall HBA’90.

The general election debates include three presidential debates and one vice presidential debate. All will be broadcast internationally.

“The Hinckley Institute of Politics is dedicated to providing University of Utah students with transformative experiences,” says Jason Perry JD’99, institute director and U vice president for government relations. “Civic engagement and involvement in the political process is particularly critical for college-age students. We know early engagement leads to lifetime participation—which all of our communities and the nation needs. We are honored to provide our students with a front-row seat to national politics in 2024.”

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U successfully hosted the vice presidential debate between then-Vice President Mike Pence and Democratic vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris. Nearly 300 members of local, state, national, and international press filed their stories from a 14,000-square-foot media filing center tent erected on Presidents Circle.

“Ours is a state on the rise, and I’m certain that Utahns will once again exemplify our hospitality and professionalism on both a national and international stage,” says Utah Governor Spencer Cox. “Our successful hosting of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and previous site of a vice presidential debate shows Utah is ready for this distinct honor.”



Never Too Late to Learn

The U’s Osher Institute marks 20 years of enriching minds of adults aged 50+

For two decades, adult learners aged 50 and better have found a home at the U. But these pupils aren’t taking classes for grades or degrees, but rather for the joy of learning, thanks to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the U. Part of a nationwide network of 125 institutes across all 50 states, OLLI offers an array of courses, lectures, and special activities.

“We were very pleased to be one of the earlier Osher programs in the country,” says Jill Meyer BA’88, director of OLLI. “And thanks to our roster of over 250 longstanding instructors, we are able to offer a wide variety of courses each term.”

Classes range from art history to Western films and everything in between, she notes, and new courses are offered each session. OLLI runs some 70 classes in the fall, winter, and spring, and about 40 classes in the summer term, ensuring a steady stream of opportunities for its members to explore new topics and ideas.

In 2024, the institute is proud to celebrate its 20th anniversary with a year-long celebration. Each month will offer a course, special event, or other activity for its 1,600 members, many of whom have been involved with the program for 10-15 years.

The courses are taught by distinguished emeritus faculty, scholars, and community experts. For example, some are led by Stephen C. Hall, a retired United States Air Force colonel



who has taught World War II history at Georgia Tech, Morehouse College, BYU, and the U.

“We find that a lot of people benefit from structure and opportunities to challenge and engage their minds after they retire,” Meyer says. “Whether you never had a chance to take fun classes in college or you just want to learn something new, Osher is an outstanding resource. Come check us out.”

For a full list of courses and 20th anniversary events, visit continue.utah.edu/osher.

Longtime Osher member and UMFA docent emerita Anne Dolowitz BS’64 (left) discovers the joys of ukulele with instructor Marci Villa.

BY THE NUMBERS

From the *Wall Street Journal* to *U.S. News & World Report*, independent evaluators are placing U programs among the best in the country. Here is just a smattering of some of the top 10 rankings we've achieved this academic year.

8TH

best public university in the country from the *Wall Street Journal*

Other top 10 rankings among public institutions*:

#1 

Games/Simulation Development

#2 

Business Analytics (MS)

#4

Entrepreneurship (BS)
Executive Education
Physician Assistant



#5 

Atmospheric Science Research
Entrepreneurship (MS)
Environmental Law
Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Physical Therapy

#6 

Finance (MS)

#7

Nursing Midwifery



#9

MBA Programs for Veterans
Rural Medicine

*Sources: *U.S. News & World Report*, *College Pulse 2024 Best Colleges*, *Financial Times*

Purposeful Living

New residences opening fall 2024 and forward will shape the next generation of global changemakers



Calling all students who prioritize sustainable, purposeful, and socially conscious learning. The new Impact & Prosperity Epicenter—catering to pupils dedicated to those causes—will open this fall. The building will house 778 students and feature six residential floors, a range of fully furnished housing options, study and lounge spaces, and a full-service café. At its core lies the Forum, a dynamic hub where scholars and changemakers from across campus can converge, collaborate, and engage in events and workshops.

“This generation of students isn’t interested in spending four years copying notes from a whiteboard. They’re looking for real-world, hands-on experiences and engaged learning,” says Geoff Davis, co-executive director at the Epicenter and CEO of the Sorenson Impact Institute.

The Epicenter’s changemaking ethos influenced the building’s design. “This is a space for every student looking to create a difference in the world,” adds Stephen Alder, co-executive director at the Epicenter and executive director of the Center for Business, Health and Prosperity.

The U is also collaborating with a private firm to build additional new, modern student residences that will blend seamlessly with existing buildings managed by Housing and Residential Education

(HRE). The housing will offer themed residential communities, much like the hub at Lassonde Studios with its entrepreneurial resources available to all students. They will also introduce more living-learning communities for students to connect over common interests, like the existing programs for STEM, the Honors College, health and wellness, and more.

These projects are all part of the university’s broader strategy to bring 5,000-plus new beds to campus. And incoming first-year students for the 2024-25 academic year who apply for housing by the given deadlines will be guaranteed on-campus accommodations.

“It’s not every day we get to make big changes to our campus, but here we are, ready to bring that college town feel that’ll make a difference for years to come,” says Sean Grube, executive director of HRE at the U. “We’re all about keeping up the great experience HRE is known for and taking it to the next level.”

Other recent completed housing projects include:

- 430 beds in the fourth wing of Kahlert Village
- 504 beds in the University West Village
- 124 apartments finished, with 497 more on the way by fall 2025, in the Ivory University House, which is privately owned and operated by the Ivory Foundation

PICTURE



For the fourth year in a row, the U welcomed a record number of incoming students to its campus. Fall 2023’s class of 5,560 first-year students is a 24 percent increase from 2020’s incoming class and is the school’s most academically prepared class yet, with a cumulative grade point average of 3.68. Overall enrollment continues to increase at the U as well, with a student body of 35,310 members as of fall semester, an increase of more than 500 students over the previous fall.

U BELONG

IN YOUR MAJOR
DOING RESEARCH
IN OUR CLUBS
IN YOUR FAITH
ON CAMPUS



BELONG.UTAH.EDU

BEHIND THE DRUG SHORTAGES

THE U'S SPECIAL UNIT INVESTIGATING MEDICATION SHORTFALLS REVEALS THE COMPLEX LANDSCAPE IMPACTING PATIENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

BY ELAINE JARVIK ILLUSTRATIONS BY KEITH NEGLEY

P

PROBABLY NO ONE'S GOING TO MAKE a six-season medical drama about the work she and her team do, agrees Erin Fox BA'94 PharmD'99 MHA'23. After all, what would the scenes be? A spreadsheet, a phone call, yet another Zoom meeting?

But sometimes it's important to tediously amass page after page of data to reveal how patients' lives are in peril.

For over two decades, the University of Utah's Drug Information Service (DIS) has been methodically investigating and logging

prescription drug shortages, providing a nationwide database that has become indispensable for hospitals, think tanks, and lawmakers. Along the way, Fox—associate chief pharmacy officer and head of DIS—has become a go-to national expert.

In 2023, she was quoted in print and interviewed on-air more than 5,000 times. Last March she was one of four experts who testified before Congress about how drug shortages impact national security, and in May she testified about the effect on patients' wallets.

There she was, yet again, a pleasant woman patiently explaining that behind each shortage is a manufacturing and reporting system that woefully lacks transparency. Once again, asked why a particular drug is in short supply or when the situation will improve, she had to explain that sometimes it's frustratingly impossible to find out.

T

THE MOST RECENT PRESCRIPTION drug shortages span the alphabet from acetazolamide to zoledronic acid and include some 300 drugs in between, from simple saline to life-saving chemotherapy. But when Fox joined the Drug Information Service in 2000, shortages were rare and poorly understood.

Linda Tyler BPH'78 PharmD'81, currently clinical professor in the U's College of Pharmacy, was head of the DIS then and remembers a pivotal encounter with a cantankerous oncology doc. When she explained that a chemotherapy drug was in short supply, the doctor asked her which "irresponsible pharmacists" were in charge. "No, no, we have a great team," Tyler explained. "We've been trying to buy more of that drug for six weeks." In those days, even the U.S. Food and Drug Administration didn't have a drug shortages division, and the doctor was leery.

So Tyler came up with a plan to involve physicians earlier in the process. That led to alerts written on bright red paper ("cherry memos," she called them). Then, as shortages began to snowball, she realized that there needed to be a national database, so that every hospital and clinic in the country could know if a shortage was local or widespread, fleeting or dire. That led to a partnership with the 60,000-member American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), whose website has posted the U's data since 2001.

"It's become a resource that everyone relies on in the industry," says Eric Tichy, division chair of Pharmacy Supply Solutions at the Mayo Clinic and board chair of the End Drug Shortages Alliance.

These days, nearly every hospital in the U.S. has at least one person whose sole job is managing shortages, Fox says. Nationwide, that adds up to \$365 million a year in extra labor costs. At University of Utah Health, there are DIS staff members who investigate and verify each shortage report, and others who are on the phone all day tracking down any remaining vials of a drug in short supply or researching alternate meds (which might cost more, not work as well, or cause more toxic side effects).

The hospital drugs most commonly in short supply are generic sterile injectables (GSIs, in hospital lingo): crash cart drugs, antibiotics, morphine, oxytocin. The fact that these drugs are inexpensive is, counterintuitively, at the heart of the problem.





When former Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch teamed up with Sen. Henry Waxman in 1984 to pen the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act (“Hatch-Waxman” for short) the idea was to save Americans money by making it easier for manufacturers to reverse-engineer bioidentical, cheaper versions of expensive brand-name drugs once patents have expired.

The unintended consequence of all that money saved, however, has turned out to be what Fox and others call “a race to the bottom.” The problem is that hospitals, subject to government insurance spending caps, are encouraged to buy the least expensive drugs available. The injectables, though, amount to mere pennies of profit for the

“IT’S BECOME A RESOURCE THAT EVERYONE RELIES ON IN THE INDUSTRY.”

ERIC TICHY
DIVISION CHAIR OF PHARMACY SUPPLY
SOLUTIONS AT THE MAYO CLINIC

manufacturers, and are complex to make and crucial to get right: unlike oral medicines, where impurities can be filtered by the digestive system, the injectables go directly into the bloodstream. Trying to make them inexpensively means that some manufacturers cut corners in dangerous ways.

Hospitals often have no way of knowing, though, which manufacturers these are, or which corners have been cut—or of knowing in advance whether the manufacturers will suddenly be forced to shut down or will decide it’s too much trouble to keep going.

Generic drug manufacturers aren’t required to publicly reveal details, even about which products they make or where they get the raw ingredients from. If the FDA discovers something amiss during an inspection, it keeps much of it redacted in public reports because the information is deemed proprietary, says Fox. The reports end up looking like a checkerboard of gray rectangles where key revelations should be.

To compound the problem, U.S. manufacturing infrastructure is deteriorating, and an increasing number of GSIs or their raw ingredients are now manufactured abroad, largely in India and China, where the FDA inspects the facilities but often runs into problems: because of visa concerns, the inspections are announced in advance, and quality control is sometimes lax, deceptive, or both.

The details are alarming: incriminating test results stuffed into plastic bags and hidden away, falsified test results, birds flying around sterile labs, urine in buckets next to sensitive machinery, workers wearing gloves with holes in them, barefoot workers, mold on the walls, metal shavings in the vials.

Because hospitals have no way of knowing which generic drug manufacturers are reliable, the only criterion they can base purchases on is price. And since manufacturers can only compete on price, there is no incentive to be safer, or to make ample supplies of a drug. Sometimes, weary of trying to meet FDA quality demands, or weary of making minimal profit, plants shut down or switch to making brand-name drugs that can bring big profits for their shareholders.

Most shortages take hospital pharmacists by surprise. And there isn’t enough refrigerator space to keep more than several months of a drug in reserve just in case. And, too, there is the ethical question of whether a hospital should hoard a bigger supply.

In 2023, the American Society of Clinical Oncology began advising doctors to administer dwindling supplies of chemotherapy medications just to patients with a higher chance of surviving, a potentially deadly form of triage.

U of U Health, including Huntsman Cancer Institute, has been lucky so far, says clinical pharmacist Tom Sanders. “We’ve had 12 or 13 high-impact oncology shortages, but we haven’t reached a point where we’ve had to cancel appointments or turn patients away.”

A hospital with specific teams to address shortages will do better, says Fox, “especially if you have someone who can stay on the phone all day to place a back order. ... It’s first come, first served,” so the more staff a hospital has, the better. “It’s unfair, but it’s the game we have to play.”

T

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF PAPERS and studies and Congressional testimonies about how to fix this mess.

The Brookings Institution, for example, released a report last summer that proposed some solutions, including low-interest loans to generic drug manufacturers to upgrade quality; a requirement that the FDA publicly share how they rate drug manufacturers; rating hospitals on their efforts to prevent shortages; and permitting medical insurance to pay more for generics that are more reliable. All of this, of course, won’t be cheap.

The Brookings report was co-authored by health economist Marta Wosinska, who relies on DIS data and praises Fox for “engaging people in any way she can.”

Fox is a self-described introvert. But 14 years ago, after seeing a TV news report that was full of mistakes, she surprised herself by raising her hand to be the DIS’s on-air explainer. Now she knows that each explanation—in the media or to Congress—adds to pressure that might lead to change.

What she would really like, she says, is for the shortages database and her advocacy to become obsolete. “My favorite thing would be if we had none of this work to do.” **U**

Elaine Jarvik is a Salt Lake City-based freelance writer and playwright.

WITH THE RIGHT TEAM, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

We've been nationally ranked in the top 10 in health care for 14 consecutive years.

At University of Utah Health, our care teams relentlessly leverage our patient-first culture for the best outcomes.

We've now been nationally ranked in the top 10 in health care for 14 consecutive years by the prestigious 2023 Vizient Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Award.

For the latest ranking, 784 hospitals across the country participated in the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study. The ranking measures performance on the quality of patient care in safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient centeredness, and equity.

"I am incredibly proud of the work that our team members do each day. It is their efforts and expertise that have earned us this distinction. The history of our high ranking as an organization speaks to the culture that we have created together in providing skilled, compassionate, and high-quality care to our patients and community," said Dan Lundergan, CEO of University of Utah Health Hospitals and Clinics.

U 14 YEARS AT THE TOP

National Distinction in Quality



HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



healthcare.utah.edu

A New Utah

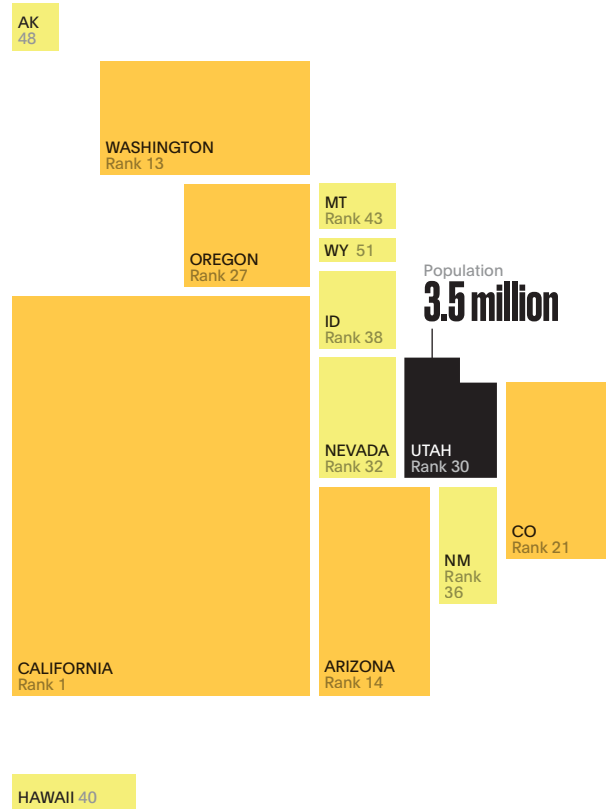
As the “landscape” of Utah evolves through six defining changes, the U is helping guide the state to a prosperous future.

By Amy Choate-Nielsen
Illustrations by Matt Twombly





STATE POPULATION RANKINGS 2023

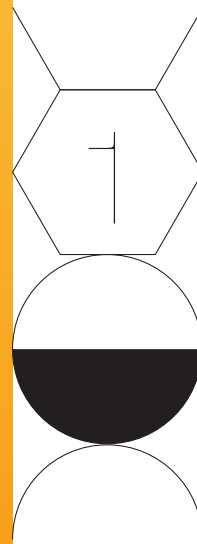


Once upon a time, the Beehive State was buzzing with youth. Families were populating in affordable housing, driving on open freeways, and working in agriculture, mining, or the defense industry. It was a decent economy that had its ups and downs, but overall, it was fine. Then a steel mill closed. A copper mine eliminated jobs. Utah experienced seven years of net out-migration. Then came the year 2000, and things started to change further. The 2002 Olympic Winter Games were on the horizon. And in the headlights of a state speeding toward an unknown future, it appeared that Utah’s fate could go either way. The stage was set for the beginning of a new day.

Fast forward to the present, and the state is going strong. But Utah’s story is still one of change. With an aging population, shifting demographics, growth, a sizzling economy, increased diversity, and rising costs of housing, the state has pushed itself into another echelon through six key transitions. According to a report compiled by the U’s Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, the “New Utah” has arrived, and with it, another turning point. The question now is, what comes next? And how does the University of Utah assist our community in these uncharted waters?

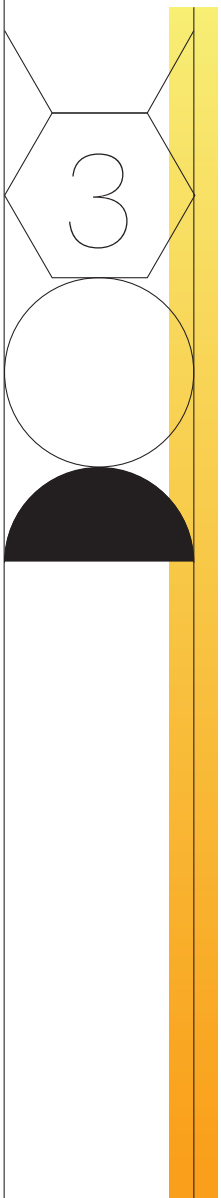
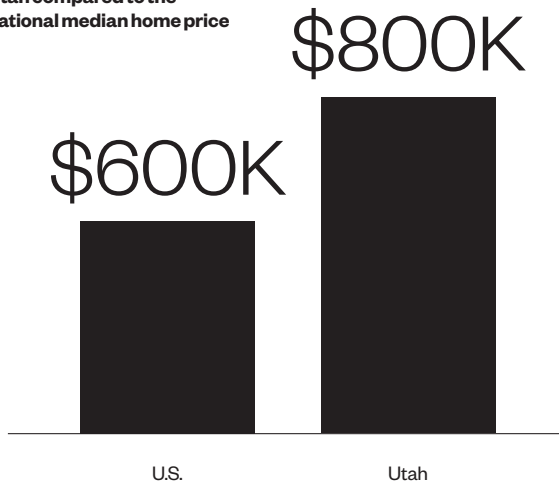
“Our work at the U has the potential to impact all Utahns,” says President Taylor Randall HBA’90. “We generate new discoveries to address the challenges of the day. We inspire success in our students who contribute to our hopeful future, and we serve our community. Whatever tomorrow brings, we are committed to being part of a brighter path forward.”

To consider the challenges that lie ahead, it’s important to understand where we are now. Here’s a deeper look at the key transitions Utah is experiencing.



Welcome to a Mid-Sized State

The median home price in Utah compared to the national median home price



Houses Aren't Cheap

These days, it is hard to find an affordable home in Utah.

With a median home price of \$800k compared to the national median home price of \$600k according to the U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency, we're out-ranked only by Hawaii, California, Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado. The rising costs of housing coincide with the rising number of people experiencing chronic homelessness in Utah, which increased 27 percent between 2022 and 2023.

Some initiatives on campus, including Ivory Innovations, a nonprofit organization housed at the David Eccles School of Business, are dedicated to researching and catalyzing solutions in housing affordability. Meanwhile, the U is working to expand on-campus housing options, including

adding a guarantee of available housing for fall 2024 first-year students who apply by the deadline for their preferred option.

While each of the transitions that encapsulate how Utah is changing are significant, the challenge of housing affordability has far-reaching impacts, such as an impending difficulty of filling middle-class jobs, including nurses, police officers, firefighters, and teachers. Future decisions about these issues are crucial, as once again, a metaphorical crossroads appears in the distance.

"We're at an inflection point," says Gochnour. "If we handle it well, we can progress to a whole new level of prosperity or performance. If handled poorly, we may compromise our livability and standards of living. That's a pretty serious statement—we have to handle this right."

We're Getting Older

With fewer babies joining the ranks, the number of Utah's residents who are 65 and older is projected to increase from roughly one in 10 today to one in five in the next 30 years. This shift could potentially change transportation, tax structure, health care, and the economy's composition. The potential for added stress to our health care system is already on the radar of Michael Good, CEO for U of U Health and senior vice president for health sciences.

"As part of our commitment to making unsurpassed societal impact, we are responding to the interests and needs of our aging population," notes Good. "The U joined the Age-Friendly University Global network, and U of U Health is designated as an Age-Friendly Health System. Through campus and community collaboration, we're enhancing the lives of older adults now and in the future."

Other areas of research across the U are also focused on adapting to an aging population. U of U Health scientists are conducting research through a \$7.5 million grant from the National Institute of Mental

Today



Right:
In the next 30 years, the percentage of Utahns aged 65 and older is expected to double from one in 10 to two in 10.

Next Level Economy

Health to see if web-based interventions—similar to a video game—can alleviate depression in older adults. Another project, Enhancing Active Caregiver Training, is an arts-based intervention intended to support caregivers of those with dementia. The Healthy Aging and Resilient Places (HARP) Lab, launched in 2021 with funding from the Center on Aging at the U, is an interdisciplinary research hub that catalyzes research focused on healthy aging and resilient places. Projects in the lab look at everything from fall risk mapping to developing new accessibility measures to support transportation for older adults.

“It’s such a pivotal time to have a Tier 1 research institution that is well-funded and engaging in these sorts of real-world problems on the ground and as they’re happening,” says Avery Holton, chair of the Department of Communication in the College of Humanities. “The university’s role in this is to become a change agent and produce innovative thinkers who have community in mind while considering the whole of what we are.”

In 2000, Adobe co-founder John Warnock BS '61 MS '64 PhD '69 wanted to bring his company to Utah, but he worried there weren't enough people to hire. He met with then-Gov. Mike Leavitt about his concerns, amid news that Geneva Steel had laid off its workers, Kennecott Utah Copper had shuttered its north concentrator, and construction was slowing as mortgage rates rose. The next year, Leavitt announced the Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative, which invested \$2.5 million initially, and \$1 million ongoing, in Utah's higher education system to double the number of students graduating with majors in engineering, computer science, and math. It was a turning point for the state.

“Our economic structure, like that of the nation's, is undergoing a fundamental change,” Leavitt said at

the time. “To succeed, our workforce must be prepared to enhance their skills and commit to lifelong learning. And government must respond by investing in infrastructure and education and preserving quality of life.”

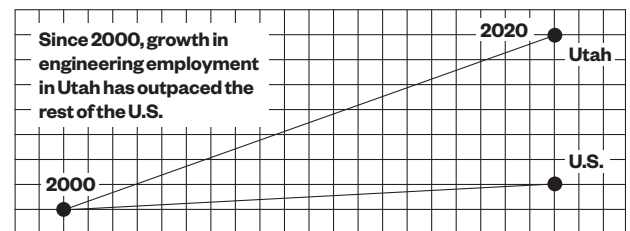
Today, Utah has moved from a strong economy to an elite economy, excelling in technology and science. The creation of key entities such as ARUP Laboratories, BioFire Diagnostics, Megahertz Corp., and Myriad Genetics—all

of which have connections to the U—diversified and strengthened the state's financial system. Since 2000, growth in engineering employment in Utah has outpaced the rest of the U.S. by more than fivefold, with Utah's engineering and computer science workforce generating 12-15 percent of the state's \$200 billion economy in 2020.

The state's investment paid off with higher numbers of graduates in computer science and engineering

at Utah System of Higher Education institutions, blooming from 1,540 in 2000 to more than 3,700 in 2020. A majority of the graduates have come from the U.

“We see that our students have a critical impact on our community, as citizens and a potential workforce for the future,” says Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Mitzi Montoya. “Our job, and our top priority, is to prepare them to be successful in whatever field they choose to pursue.”



12-15%

of the state's \$200 billion economy in 2020 was generated by Utah's engineering and computer science workforce

In 30 Years



Richer Diversity

An upside of the increased numbers of people moving into the state is increased diversity. Nearly one in four Utahns is a racial or ethnic minority now, according to the New Utah report, which puts us ahead of states like Ohio, Minnesota, and Missouri. In the next 20 years, that ratio is projected to be one in three.

Utah's diversity is becoming increasingly obvious in language classrooms at the U. Some 147 different languages are spoken in Utah homes, according to the 2022 Fall Enrollment report from the Utah State Board of Education, and students are looking to learn more through programs that stretch from kindergarten to college.

“Utah's dual-language immersion and Bridge programs are like nothing else in

the rest of the country,” says Christopher Lewis, chair of the U's Department of World Languages and Cultures. “They are very forward-thinking programs, and it's been visionary of the state legislature to be so supportive of them over the years. Otherwise, they wouldn't work.”

At the U, some 1,400 students a year participate in the Bridge Program, a language pathway plan that offers early college concurrent enrollment credit to dual-language immersion students in grades 10-12. **U**

Amy Choate-Nielsen is the PR and Communications manager for the Office of Academic Affairs.



BRIANA GILLET

Musical Arts Doctorate Candidate

Embracing a growth mindset propels Briana Gillet toward success as she pursues her doctoral degree in trumpet performance.

“My work is about cultivating my relationship with the instrument while creating new audience experiences with other artists,” she says.

Gillet loves to engage with audiences through interdisciplinary projects. In one example, Gillet orchestrated the filming of a circus artist performing over the Salt Flats to accompany a live performance of a piece for trumpet and electronics.

“This is a great way for me to reframe how I approach the trumpet and how it can be used to connect with people and explore new concepts,” she adds.

Story by
MATILYN MORTENSEN

Photography by
DAVE TITENSOR

Encore!

**HERE'S TO 75 YEARS — AND MANY MORE — OF THE
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS REDEFINING THE
CREATIVE LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING THE WAY FOR STUDENTS
TO MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD.**

ART CAPTURES the essence of our collective journey—its marvels, mysteries, and mirth—binding us in ways nothing else can, while offering a shared canvas that turns the unfamiliar into friends. And as the U's College of Fine Arts celebrates its 75th anniversary, we are recognizing the arts as a communal treasure and a beacon of enlightenment and empathy. "The arts are not just a pleasant diversion, but the soul of our civilization and the heartbeat of humanity," says John W. Scheib, CFA dean and associate vice president for the arts.

CFA programs are designed to foster not only individual talent but also collective growth and inclusivity. "A fine arts degree is, in fact, a degree in the complexity of human experience, equipping students with critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and the ability to navigate the world's diverse tapestry with grace and insight," Scheib adds.

So, as we celebrate the past, we also look to the future as the five departments and schools in the college continue to innovate and inspire, shaping the next generation of artists and audiences who will carry forward the transformative power of the arts into new realms of expression and understanding.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Theater is a way of celebrating and reflecting on humanity, says Chris DuVal, interim chair of the U's Department of Theatre. "We're committed to revealing the depth and breadth of what it means to be a human in today's world," he shares.

This dedication is evident in the department's careful selection of plays, always considering the timely question: Why this play now? "Whether it was written yesterday or hundreds of years ago, what does it have to say to us as contemporary artists living in a unique time?" DuVal queries.

The U's theater program, established in 1892 by Maud May Babcock, the U's

first female faculty member, commits to honoring her legacy by amplifying historically marginalized perspectives. "My hope is that we can bring all of the voices that have been unheard for too long more fully into this space," says DuVal.

The U boasts Tony-, Emmy-, and Academy Award-nominated and -winning alumni. And theater education provides students with a versatile skill set that goes beyond performance on screen and stage. It fosters collaboration, hones communication skills, and promotes deep scholarship. Students engage with various disciplines, including history, science, politics, and art. "Theater doesn't just prepare you for the spotlight—it prepares you for the world," remarks DuVal.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Access to music shouldn't be a privilege, says Kimberly Council, director of the School of Music. "And it's the responsibility of higher education to make sure everyone has access to a wide variety of music and musical experiences."

Historically, music has been a cornerstone of Utah's cultural foundation, with music courses among the earliest offerings at the U. "I was drawn here from the East Coast by the palpable passion for music and the unique position of the School of Music as a community linchpin," Council reflects.

Examples of community partnership include the Preparatory Division. Founded in 1978, it now cultivates the talents of some 230 piano, string, guitar, and organ students, both adults and children. The University of Utah Piano Outreach Program takes this a step further, providing complimentary piano lessons to students in low-income elementary schools. Additionally, the school is a hub for the community, organizing a variety of workshops, camps, competitions, and conferences for local, national, and international audiences.

Council is determined to broaden these community connections. "We're redefining the scope of music access—exploring innovative ways for individuals to engage with music at every stage of life," she explains. "The School of

GABE ROOT

Sophomore

Learning to be an actor is learning to be human, or so says Gabe Root. “So much of theater is understanding other people—why we do what we do and what we’re trying to get from someone else,” he remarks.

In the Actor Training Program, Root says he’s realizing the many options for having an entertainment career. “Things are more achievable than I thought,” he adds. “The idea of being on Broadway isn’t out of the question.”

Music is not just about education; it’s about building enduring community ties and supporting our students as they carve out their musical paths in Utah and beyond.”

DEPARTMENT OF ART & ART HISTORY

The U holds the distinction of being a Tier 1 university. But here, the brushstroke is as revered as the test tube, and art infuses life into our academic rigor, says V. Kim Martinez BFA’98, chair of the Department of Art & Art History. “For example, students who want to make art featuring the human figure can take anatomy classes,” she says. “That typically does not happen in a traditional art school.”

Drawing classes have been taught at the U for more than a century and a half. It was from these courses that the school’s first art department grew. “Art isn’t just a subject for a class or a major—it’s a transformative force,” muses Martinez. Students leave equipped to lead revolutions in the visual arts, digital media, design, art teaching, and more. “Our graduates are able to conceptualize public art that communities rally around and to pioneer innovations in design that change how we interact with our environment.”

What’s more, as the university continues to grow with an emphasis on becoming a 24/7 campus where

students study, live, and play, Martinez says the arts serve an important role in shaping that energy. “Spaces like our new gallery provide an opportunity for students to delve into contemplations that transcend their daily academic grind—fostering a culture of reflection and intellectual adventure.”

DEPARTMENT OF FILM & MEDIA ARTS

In the 21st century, communicating with video and audio is a skill that anyone can use, not just filmmakers, says Andrew Patrick Nelson, chair of the U’s Department of Film & Media Arts. “It doesn’t surprise me that more students are gravitating to this area and that non-majors are banging down the door and trying to get into our classes,” Nelson remarks.

In the 1970s, an English professor taught the U’s first film course. Five decades later, the Film & Media Arts department is the largest unit in the College of Fine Arts, with more graduates than any other academic unit.

“One of the most exciting things in our department is the number of working professionals teaching here who are succeeding at the highest levels of their disciplines,” Nelson notes. “Having a professor who has done what you aspire to do professionally is crucial to a contemporary art form.”





DIEGO ALBERT TORRES
Senior

Pursuing an art degree has infused Diego Albert Torres's creations with intention. "Every piece I craft now carries a message," Torres explains. "I constantly question, 'What does this convey through its execution?'"

Torres says art is where he feels most comfortable expressing himself. He aspires to use it as a channel for voicing his views on community and other topics close to his heart.



RYAN ROSS
MFA Candidate

Ryan Ross always envisioned the stories he wrote and the music he composed coming to life on screen. This dream and his love of photography steered him toward a graduate degree at the U.

"For me, film is the medium that best engages with my sense of awe," Ross says. "Awe is such an important emotion, because it makes you think about the larger context you are part of."

Many of the department's faculty members are either from the Mountain West originally or have adopted it as their home. Nelson says this sets a powerful example for students of what is possible for their own career. "Our faculty, day in and day out, demonstrate that local or regional stories have national and international interest," he adds.

SCHOOL OF DANCE

The U's School of Dance is built on excellence. It's one of the oldest and largest programs in the country—and it was recently named one of the Top 10 College Dance Programs You Should Know by *Backstage* magazine. Its impact reverberates around the world as alumni go on to perform with and instruct at professional companies and troupes around the globe. But its biggest historical impact can be felt even closer to home.

The final concert of this academic year will celebrate the relationship with three local professional companies that have grown out of the U: Ballet West and Ririe-

Woodbury Dance Company, each commemorating 60 years, alongside Repertory Dance Theatre, marking its 58th anniversary. "We are so excited to celebrate these organizations that, along with the U's School of Dance, make an undeniable impact on the arts and culture in Utah and beyond," says Melonie B. Murray, director of the U's School of Dance.

Both the modern dance and ballet programs have highly selective admissions. But the students who are accepted have ample opportunities for success. "Over half of dance majors double major in other subjects," says Murray. "Many other professional dance training programs don't have that option." Each dancer's journey is highly individualized with their interests, experiences, and goals. Instructors encourage each student to pursue meaningful studies to influence their art, as well as set themselves up for success after graduation, she adds. **U**

Matilyn Mortensen is a communications specialist for University Marketing and Communications.



ANNALISE WOOD

Sophomore

As an interdisciplinary student, Annalise Wood (right) hopes to blend her ballet expertise with insights from her psychology minor. "Dance offers a fresh lens on diverse subjects, including what makes us human," she notes.

Watching many others in the ballet program complement their dance training with studies in other fields, Wood cherishes seeing her peers succeed—on and off stage. "This community is so special," she adds. "It can be rare to find an environment that is so positive in the dance world."

LESLIE JARA

Senior

Dancing helped Leslie Jara (left) heal as a child after her little brother passed. But, despite her love of the art, she couldn't afford to formally participate in dance until high school.

Jara dreamed of helping other people have more opportunities to dance. Last year she opened Allegiant Dance Crew, where 30 people receive dance training for \$40 a month. "I feel like I can go back to my seven-year-old self and say, 'We made it,'" she says.

ALUMNI IN THE ARTS

Max D. Adams BFA'94: Screenwriter known for *Excess Baggage*, starring Alicia Silverstone, Benicio del Toro, and Christopher Walken • **Maggie Baird** ex'81: Singer and actress known for roles in *Bones*, *The X-Files*, and *Six Feet Under*; also the mother of singer Billie Eilish • **Ruby Chacon** BFA'98: Award-winning mural artist and activist • **Lee Isaac Chung** MFA'04: Director and writer of *Minari*, which won top awards at Sundance and a Golden Globe, and received six Academy Award nominations • **Keene Curtis** BA'47 MS'51: Won a Tony Award for *The Rothschilds* on Broadway and had a recurring role on *Cheers* • **Matthew Davis** ex'98: Actor known for *Legally Blonde*, *The Vampire Diaries*, and *Legacies* • **Rod Davis** BS'80: Vice president of Music Business Affairs for Sony Pictures Entertainment • **Claybourne Elder** BA'06: Actor in the Broadway revival of *Company* and HBO's *The Gilded Age* • **Anayat Fakhrie** BA'08: Writer for *Real Time with Bill Maher*, *Gaslit*, and *Orphan Black: Echoes* • **Leo Geter** BA'92 MFA'96: Actor (*Footloose* [1984], *No Way Out*), film and stage director, and television producer (*The Closer*, *Major Crimes*, *Longmire*) • **Leigh Harline** BA'27: Composer who won an Academy Award for "When You Wish Upon a Star" from *Pinocchio* • **Trent Harris** BFA'75 MFA'77: Independent filmmaker best known for the cult classic *Rubin & Ed* • **Dean Hoff** BA'98: Two-time Daytime Emmy Award winner and vice president of animation production for Nickelodeon Animation Studios • **Joseph Kearns** BA'29: Actor known for *Dennis the Menace* and voicing the Doorknob in *Alice in Wonderland* • **Stephan Koplowitz** MFA'83: Award-winning choreographer with six National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowships • **Stefanie Londino** BFA'09: Played Miss Hannigan in the national tour of *Annie* • **Bobby McFerrin** ex'78: 10-time Grammy Award-winning vocalist and composer, known for "Don't Worry, Be Happy" • **Enzo Mileti** BA'00: Television writer for *Fargo*, *Snowfall*, and *Kingdom* • **Victoria Morgan** BFA'73 MFA'77: Former principal dancer, CEO, and artistic director for the Cincinnati Ballet • **Gerold Ottley** MFA'67: Music director of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, under whom the choir won two Emmy Awards and released two platinum records • **Timothy McCuen Piggie** BFA'85: Actor and director who originated the role of FBI Agent Bill Cod in the musical *Catch Me If You Can* on Broadway • **Ewa Plonka** DMA'14: Juilliard-trained Polish operatic singer • **Brad Smith** BA'80: Produced visualizations for National Geographic, the BBC, and PBS, and developed methods using MRI to study embryos • **Randall Smith** BS'72 BFA'72: Founder of leading Utah-based graphic design firm Modern8 • **Jane Summerhays** BA'67: Tony-nominated actress with a role on *Sex and the City* • **Brad Evan Taylor** BFA'88: Ceramic artist and assistant professor at University of Hawai'i at Manoa • **Richard Winn Taylor** BFA'68: Co-created Rainbow Jam and toured with the Grateful Dead, Santana, and Led Zeppelin, and created special effects for *Tron* and other films • **Derryl Yeager** BFA'76 MFA'78: Founder and artistic director of Odyssey Dance Theatre; former Ballet West principal dancer with a 25-year career in film, television, and Broadway



Rallying to Success

A U alum covers new territory in the first U.S. women's off-road navigation rally raid



Web Extra Check out more photos from her adventures at magazine.utah.edu/rebellerally

Pictured here: Driver Laura Wanlass BS'05 (right) and navigator Maria Guitar

Not many people would willingly choose to be dropped off in the desert for a week with no cell phone or other technology, but for Laura Wanlass BS'05, it's become a yearly occurrence.

Wanlass, who works at a management consulting firm, was looking for a new challenge when she discovered the Rebelle Rally, the first women's off-road navigation rally raid in the U.S. Also called cross-country rallying, a rally raid is a type of long distance off-road racing that usually takes several days.

How did her first event go? "It kicked my butt," says the Salt Lake native. "It was the biggest humble pie experience of my life."

The eight-day Rebelle Rally covers 1,500-plus miles of terrain across the Nevada and California desert and tests participants' driving and navigation skills—with no GPS or cell phones allowed.

Wanlass, who grew up off-roading in Utah, is the driver for her team, while her partner navigates.

A record-setting high school and college pole vaulter, Wanlass has been an athlete her whole life. "I basically did pole vault because they told me women couldn't do it," she says. "And now it's amazing to see what women can do." Having developed rheumatoid arthritis after her daughter was born, Wanlass views the rally as a way to do things with her vehicle that she can't do with her own body anymore.

While she loves being challenged, her favorite part of the Rebelle is the community. "I think all of the women who do it are unique and brave," she says. "It's a very difficult event... and I just love seeing how big of an accomplishment it is for them when they get to the end."

Wanlass came in third with partner Maria Guitar in this year's event, her sixth, and she doesn't plan on slowing down anytime soon. She's already looking for the next new humbling challenge.

ELENA GARDNER

Elevating Fitness

How does Christopher Harrison BUS'84 describe the work he and Darlene Casanova BFA'85 do? "Darlene is Tinkerbell to my Peter Pan alter ego—we love teaching people to fly."

Harrison and Casanova met at the U as dance and musical theater students, sharing dreams of Broadway that later became reality. Today, however, the two are more likely to be found above a stage than on it. Harrison founded aerial entertainment and fitness company AntiGravity, Inc. in 1991, first coming up with the idea for aerial choreography after his dance troupe was booked at a small-staged but high-ceilinged nightclub. With no option but to go vertical, Harrison designed a special silk hammock and created a transcendent aerial performance.

The show was a hit. Plus, adds Harrison, "Once we learned how to hang from our hips upside down, we found we could get rid of our back pain by doing so." He was able to ditch his twice-weekly chiropractor visits thanks to these "zero-compression" inversions, which provide spinal traction. Now, the company trains and licenses instructors around the world to teach yoga and fitness classes using AntiGravity silk hammocks.

"It really has changed how fitness looks to me," says Casanova, AntiGravity's first franchisee and now its global curriculum director. In addition to decompression, she notes, AntiGravity classes are low-impact and build strength and flexibility at the same time. "I can actually say I'm stronger and more flexible now than I was at the peak of my performance career."

Eager to try it? Look for a certified AntiGravity instructor near you, and follow Harrison and Casanova's advice:

- **Start with AntiGravity Fundamentals.** This intro class teaches you the basics of using the hammock.
- **Give it a few classes.** Don't give up if it feels difficult or weird at first. "By the third time, you'll be so addicted," says Harrison.
- **Trust in AntiGravity's safety measures.** The company prioritizes safety with strict requirements for rigging the hammocks, which can support 1,000 lbs.



Web Extra Read more about Harrison and Casanova's journey from the U to Broadway at magazine.utah.edu/antigravity

n

Wade C. Roberts

BA'04 PhD'09

In 1999, I paused my academic and athletic endeavors to serve a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints among refugees in California who survived the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia. I gained a deep love for them and became aware of the immense suffering they were experiencing. I wanted to be a part of the solution.

Upon my return to school, I took a course that opened my eyes to the extensive grip of global poverty and guided my academic journey toward economics, culminating in a Ph.D. My dissertation research focused on the pervasive issue of landmines in Cambodia, leading to practical, life-saving policy solutions. My desire to help those trapped by extreme poverty continued to grow.

Over the span of the next 15 years, I taught economics at various universities, while continuing to explore the complexities of poverty in Cambodia. In 2022, I embarked on a new chapter, transitioning from academics to non-profit work. Together with Dr. Tyler Elmore and my entrepreneurial brothers Rhett, Ben, and Lloyd, who founded LoanPro, a Utah fintech unicorn, we created the charity Become More. Our mission is to decrease extreme poverty and increase fulfillment.

Become More empowers entire villages in rural Cambodia to escape poverty through our health, education, and Fat Cow initiatives. A healthy foundation is established by providing villages with safe drinking water, prenatal vitamins, dental care, and feminine hygiene supplies. Educational support removes barriers preventing children from attending school by supplying books, uniforms, tuition, and bikes, and even offering rice for going to class.

Additionally, our education programs teach financial literacy and English. Families can also enroll in our Fat Cow program where we transform skinny cows into fat cows through proper nutrition, vaccinations, and modern farming practices. The Fat Cow program decreases mortality, speeds up reproduction, and doubles the weight of offspring, resulting in a fivefold return on investment. This program creates a vehicle of savings and development for families while generating enough revenue to continue funding the health care and education needs of whole villages. If you want to learn more, visit becomemorecharity.org.



Igniting Potential and Rekindling Purpose

Elevate the journeys of students and recent grads by weaving your wisdom and support into their career paths through the Forever Utah Network

Feeling burned out or unfulfilled at work? Mentoring others might be the perfect antidote. In fact, one recent study from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management found that giving back, versus receiving, provides longer-lasting happiness.

But finding connections and time in a busy schedule isn't always easy. That's where the Forever Utah Network becomes a valuable resource, says Karen Ashton BS'80, senior manager of networking and mentorship with U Alumni. "It's a free online community exclusive to the U for alumni to share their academic and employment journey, explore new career opportunities, and build a stronger professional network—and help fellow U alumni and students do the same," she notes.

The network now boasts more than 4,600 alums and 1,200 students, many of whom are looking for a little guidance. "We have these outstanding students who are just looking for a nudge in the right direction," says Ashton. "Most of their requests could be addressed with a few short email messages." And what may be a short time investment for an alum could profoundly benefit the students, she adds.

What kind of help are students asking for? "Simple things like advice for life after college, tips for

grad school applications, and how to make networking less terrifying," says Ashton. To sign up, visit forever.utah.edu and click "Join Now." The prompts make account creation a breeze, and you'll be able to select the type of mentoring you can offer.

"The filters are quite powerful," says Ashton. "For example, students can sort for alums who are willing to help their specific major. And just scrolling through and seeing what alums with a similar major went on to accomplish professionally can provide valuable insight regarding potential careers for the student." What's more, the site includes resources with advice and training to be an effective mentor.

Mentoring enhances leadership skills, broadens perspectives, and provides purpose, says Kris Bosman BS'99, chief alumni relations officer at U Alumni. We have a chance to build a stronger, more connected alumni community through this free and easy-to-use tool, she adds. "Students and recent grads need help," she remarks. "If I know anything about our alumni community, it's that they are generous, kind, and want to give back. And here's a simple and fulfilling way to do so."

Visit forever.utah.edu and sign up or update your profile today.

ALUMNI NEWS ROUNDUP

Mark your calendars for Giving Day on April 2 and 3. This 1,850-minute celebration and fundraising event honors the University of Utah's founding year. Giving Day is an opportunity to donate directly to the colleges, departments, and areas you care about most. Last year, the generosity of thousands of individuals culminated in \$1.2 million in donations. This year, U Alumni aims to raise money specifically for scholarships and alumni programming.



The interlocking U plate is back! You can now choose between the classic block U design or the reintroduced interlocking U option. With an annual contribution of \$40, not only do you get to navigate the streets with your U spirit on display, but you also directly support scholarships for deserving U students. Ready to ride with U pride? Order your plates today at utahplate.com.



U Alumni hosted a Grad Bash celebration last December for students completing their degrees with the fall 2023 semester, offering free food, photos, and gifts. Although they'll be invited to walk in the spring, the event was a warm prelude to their official commencement.



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

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

Support U students through the Office of Alumni Relations' License Plate Scholarship Program. This year, you can choose from two different options—the block U plate or back-by-popular-demand interlocking U plate!

Get your plate today at utahplates.com.





“We all have a duty to give back, and many of us needed help. Sometimes, when we become successful, we forget that.” —Nick Boris, PMBA '09, For Utah donor

This Giving Day, **help us serve our expanding student body** while ensuring affordability and access **by donating** to the **For Utah Scholarship program**. Your support can keep U of U students enrolled and **on track to graduation**.



Giving
DAY
APRIL 2-3, 2024



75 Years of Sharing New Knowledge

Since 1949, University of Utah Press has been helping historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, linguists, and other academic experts share their knowledge with the world. “We are committed to working closely with our authors to make their books the best possible contributions to their fields,” says director Glenda Cotter. Many of the press’s 600 in-print titles relate to Utah and the region, although some extend all the way to Middle Earth (a grammar tome about Sindarin Elvish), and the press also publishes select poetry and memoirs, among other works. Pictured here is its first publication, a book about dentures called *New Teeth for Old*.

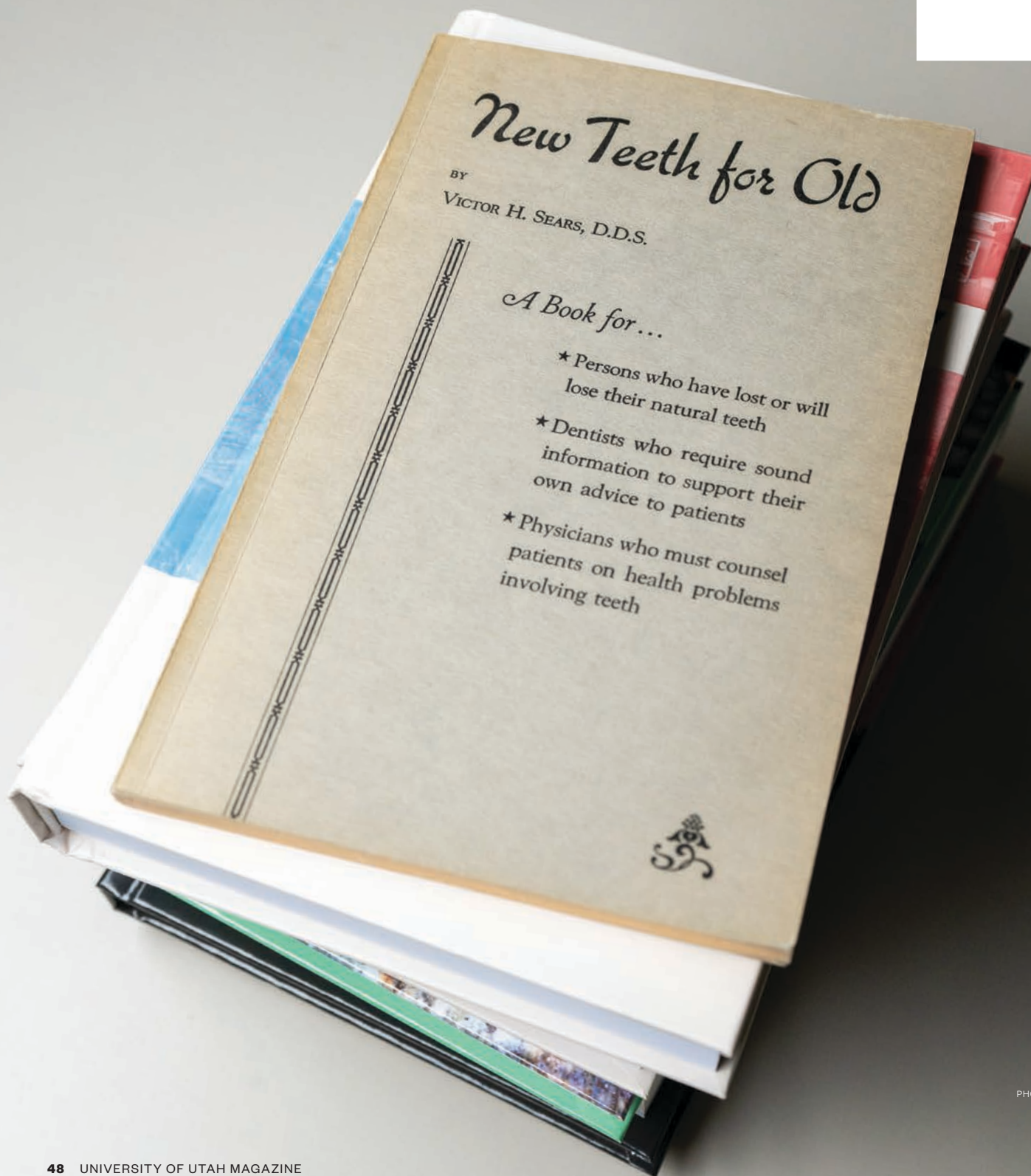


PHOTO BY DAVE TITENSOR

Gymnastics

Women's Basketball

Football



PAC-12 CHAMPIONS



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ATHLETICS

CHAMPIONS



SKIING



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