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With all the recreation options around here, it’s possible you may find yourself in a situation needing some unexpected care. Fortunately, the specialists — from cardiologists to neurosurgeons to, yes, orthopedic surgeons — at University of Utah Health Care are just minutes from local ski resorts. And, for the third year in a row the University was ranked among the country’s top 10 academic medical centers in quality and safety. So, go ahead, opt for the chutes over the blue cruisers, but please, no snowplowing. It just looks bad.

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The Book of Commandments, containing an account by Mormon church founder Joseph Smith, is one of the most valuable pieces in the U’s rare book collection.

Photo by August Miller

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Your Comments

LOOKING AT THE LOGO

I just finished reading the “Heartbeat of the People” article in the [Fall 2012] Continuum, and the following comments/questions are stirring within me. I attended the U in the “Runnin’ Redskins” era and was saddened when that nickname went away. Now, it seems that “Utes” and the “drum and feather” logo are not politically correct. The issue is not with the Ute Tribe but with people not raised in the shadow of the U and the tradition of the Native American culture. The warrior mascot has been replaced by a red-tailed hawk whose name brings to mind a certain athletic shoe. How will the teams of the U be named if the changes become effective? What would be the next target? The colors of the U? ... It seems like rewriting history. My five yearbooks are no longer correct with their references to unacceptable nicknames, mascots, and logos. Just some thoughts. I am very thankful for the education and enjoyment that the University of Utah has afforded me for all these many years.

Steven M. Hansen BS’66
Richmond, Texas

My heart goes out to everyone attached to the Ute name and the drum and feather logo. As an undergraduate alumna of a school (The College of William and Mary) that was so proud of its two-feather logo when I attended, it has been hard to accept its replacement. Yet for the current students there, they embrace the new symbol and mascot wholeheartedly because it represents their college. Though my heritage is remotely Native American (1/16 Seminole), I was proud to support the tribe and am still uncomfortable with the “tomahawk chop” arm motion used by students at sporting events. It is likely that the abuse of Indian imagery will persist in our time. Even without it, some will continue to be offended by the Ute name and logo. Should the Board of Trustees choose to replace them, at least we alumni can consider our Ute gear and paraphernalia to be rare classics in years to come!

Debbie Martin-James MS’96
Dana Point, California

A PIONEER FOR EQUALITY

In the Fall 2012 issue of the Continuum, Kim M. Horiuchi wrote a very good article, “Leveling the Playing Field,” on Norma Carr, a U alumna and former coach, and her struggle to participate in sports before, and even after, passage of Title IX in 1972 giving women equal access to intercollegiate sport as men. What the author neglected to mention is the woman primarily responsible for the passage of Title IX, Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-Hawaii). In fact, Title IX is [now] known as the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. ...

Robert Moriguchi BS’54
Granada Hills, California

A MEMORABLE PROFESSOR

Such a wonderful article on a truly amazing man [“The Way of Motion,” Fall 2012]. I was a member of the Actor Training Program when Jerry [Gardner] first came on board, and there are few people who leave an impression on your life so strong that 12 years later you still hear their voice in your head, dropping lessons and insight. Jerry is certainly one of them. I miss him out here in NYC, but his lessons are always there.

Chris VanDijk BA’99
Continuum submitted via continuum.utah.edu

We’re eager to hear from you. Please go to continuum.utah.edu/contact-us/ for our contact information. Visit continuum.utah.edu to see more letters from readers on the Fall 2012 issue.
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On September 21, the University of Utah dedicated the Donna Garff Marriott Honors Residential Scholars Community, the newest solution to the U’s growing need for on-campus housing. The dorm provides apartment-style living to 309 honors students in all years of the program.

“These are not old-fashioned dorm rooms,” says Sylvia Torti PhD’98, dean of the Honors College. “The buildings were designed to create a seamless living and learning environment under one roof. Student apartments, classrooms, faculty offices, a library, easy transportation access—even a market—all in one place draw together the traditionally segmented components of campus life. Importantly, the dynamic atmosphere created here could become the new model for an engaged student experience throughout the U.”

The complex is located on the eastern side of campus, adjacent to a TRAX light rail station, and a short walk to the Honors Center in Fort Douglas, the University Health Sciences Center, USTAR building, sports facilities, and the future Student Life Center.

The building also incorporates classroom and collaborative workspaces that host the honors learning model. That model is based on small, intensive courses, led by a team of distinguished faculty across disciplines, and often with involvement by non-academic experts from the local community.

The living quarters are four- or eight-person apartments, which appeal to new students and particularly upperclassmen, who typically gravitate to apartment living as they get older.

“Research shows that students who live on campus stay engaged, do better academically, and graduate earlier than those who live elsewhere,” says Torti. “This building makes it easy for students to engage our four-year program.”

The design makes optimal use of the site with ample use of natural light, and includes windows that open to take advantage of canyon breezes. Proximity to the TRAX line provides easy access to shopping and attractions.

“The seven-minute ride downtown and secure bike storage with bike-in, bike-out access make having a car on this campus obsolete,” Torti notes.

The apartment wing is private, but the building entry and the amenities on the first floor are open to everyone on campus. The lobby is open and staffed by students 24 hours a day, offering a market with groceries, snacks, prepared meals, a coffee shop, and lounge areas.
Students live in four- or eight-person apartments in the Honors Residential Scholars Community.

Classrooms and offices occupy one wing off the lobby. The Virginia and L.E. Simmons “Big Ideas” Innovation Center is a large open classroom planned for many uses. The windows have a special coating that turns them into writable white boards. Furniture can be arranged to suit the size and style of just about any class. All classrooms have wireless computer access and can be subdivided for small group study.

The building meets LEED Gold certification and includes green and sustainable features such as occupancy sensors, as well as LED and CFL lighting in common areas, Energy Star-rated appliances, and separate chutes for recycling and trash. Each floor also includes a dashboard system to monitor and display electrical use throughout the building.

A group visits in a common area of the building.

The community lobby is open to all U students.

Classrooms all have wireless computer access.

The building meets LEED Gold certification and has features such as occupancy sensors, to control lights.
David W. Pershing was officially inaugurated on October 25 as the 15th president of the University of Utah. Pershing, a Distinguished Professor of chemical engineering and former longtime academic vice president at the U, was selected by the State Board of Regents earlier in 2012 to succeed Michael K. Young.

President Pershing’s inaugural address highlighted many of the goals he hopes to accomplish. Much of the speech centered on his desire to improve the undergraduate experience at the University. “Students must be job No. 1,” he said.

He noted many of the recent changes implemented in the admissions process, including taking a more “holistic” approach to examining a potential student’s suitability for college. While emphasizing the U’s commitment to diversity and affordability, Pershing also made note of his “presidential promise”: his commitment to ensuring that all incoming students have at least one transformative experience during their time at the U, whether working one-on-one with a well-known professor, or perhaps participating in some form of study abroad program.

Pershing also announced that the U intends to build a 400-bed residential entrepreneurship institute, as well as explore opportunities for joining a multi-university campus in South Korea.

The inauguration followed a week of special events at the University, which included a Community Engagement Day on October 23 with opportunities for faculty and staff to join social service projects, and a student social with the new president on October 24.

Visit continuum.utah.edu to view a video of the inauguration.

Eccles Foundation Grant Helps U Student Life Center Proceed Toward Construction

The George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation has provided a $3 million “capstone” grant for a much-anticipated new Student Life Center at the U. The grant completes funding needed to begin construction on the center, slated to be a centerpiece of campus activity that will include state-of-the-art facilities for recreation, fitness, and social activities. Groundbreaking is scheduled for spring 2013, with completion in time for the start of the U’s fall semester in 2014. The 172,000-square-foot facility has been a priority of Associated Students of the University of Utah leaders for more than five years, and they approved an increase in student fees in order to bond for the majority of the facility’s cost. The Eccles Foundation grant provides significant momentum toward the $6 million private fundraising campaign for the project, which also includes an early leadership gift of $1 million from Kem Gardner BA’67 JD’70 and a $1 million pledge from the University Federal Credit Union. The Student Life Center will be open year-round, seven days per week, and will offer an indoor running track, wellness clinic, café, and study nooks, among other amenities.
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The Groucho Marxist

U professor Sam Wilson melds whimsy and discipline in his art.

By Elaine Jarvik
Photos by Tom Smart
Here comes Sam Wilson, carrying a wild pig.

He plops the pig, which is mustard-colored and plastic, on a platform in the center of his classroom. It is the beginning of the 2012 Fall Semester, and the beginning of Wilson’s 35th year teaching at the University of Utah, and he is here to show his students how to draw.

Today the topic is triangulation, the technique of drawing, for example, a pig’s head by sketching a series of smaller and smaller triangles instead of the object’s natural curves. It’s a technique that will help the students draw what they actually see rather than what they assume they see, and the result is often messy. That’s okay, Wilson tells the students. “Be sloppy. Leave footprints. Show me you were alive when you drew it.”

Before they begin at their easels, he demonstrates at his own. “I’m going to do a couple of brief drawings,” he tells them, then pauses before he delivers his next line: “I’m going to draw underwear.” He pauses again, waiting to see if they’ve gotten his joke. This is quintessential Wilson; if there’s a pun to be made, he’ll make it, rounding it off with a smile that looks something like a grimace.

The students stand around him in a semicircle. “We’re after drawing as a verb, not a noun,” he tells them. “That means working at it, again and again, and it means being willing to make mistakes. Remember,” he says, “in the College of Fine Arts, everyone sees your blunders,” by which he means, basically, get used to it. Drawing, as a verb, means caring about the act of drawing—or painting or making a sculpture—as much as you care about the finished product.

It might even mean caring more about doing art than selling it.

Which brings us, now, to Wilson’s home studio, a few miles south of the U. He is standing amid so much clutter and inspiration and finished products and nearly finished products that it’s hard to find an uncovered surface. “I have the world’s largest collection of my work,” he deadpans. There are paintings and drawings stacked deep on shelves and on the floor; many of the works are crammed into corners of the room.

There are also plaster busts, of Mozart and Beethoven and St. Francis of Assisi; there is a mannequin wearing a bra and Foreign Legion hat; there are skeletons and photos of popes; there is a rooster, a banjo, a moose head. There is a cabinet of rubber heads, including one with a fake nose, eyeglasses, mustache, and a beret. This is the one he calls Groucho Marxist.

In Wilson’s paintings, Groucho Marxist is a stand-in for the artist himself, and indeed the name and the mask add up to the perfect Sam Wilson. Don’t take any of this too seriously, they seem to be saying.

Like the studio itself, the paintings are crammed full of an odd juxtaposition of images. Wilson pulls out one painting with a title that’s 15 words long in Latin, plus 30 more in English, which he translates as “All things change as the years go by.” The painting is populated by a couple dozen figures, including a host of Renaissance-era Florentines, a comic-strip Blondie, the Groucho Marxist, and the initials LSMFT (from the 1950s ad slogan “Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco”).

Wilson likes surprises, so perhaps it’s no wonder that when he begins each painting, he has no plan and no message in mind. They usually begin with something realistic—a finely rendered drawing of a turtle, perhaps—and then Wilson’s subconscious takes over. Many of his paintings include monks and everyday folks, which he freely admits he has copied from Renaissance works of art. The paintings might also include copied illustrations from 1950s magazine articles, with titles such as “Weasels Ripped My Flesh,” and perhaps a clown or a set of false teeth. The paintings are rendered in intricate detail, through a process of layering charcoal, pastels, and acrylics.

“He has his reasons for putting the objects together,” says his colleague,
University of Utah art professor Kim Martinez BFA’98, “but he’s asking the viewers to come up with their own associations.”

Wilson sometimes calls his work “over-educated folk art,” and at other times “a neurotic conversation” or “these harmless dramas.”

He hates to be pigeonholed (he is, after all, a man who loves Italian Renaissance painter Domenico Ghirlandaio and also walks around a lot of the time chewing on toothpicks), but perhaps his art can best be described as pop art—not of the Andy Warhol variety but more Jasper Johns; art full of visual jokes about art itself. “They’re all legitimate historical things,” Wilson says about the art references in his paintings, “but I’ve redirected the truth of art history. It’s like I have a play with a lot of characters and I’ve mixed up the scripts; I have Hamlet quoting Puck.”

The titles of his works, often full of puns, add to the whimsy: He might refer to an “altar” ego, or “A Tension to Detail,” or the “Bisontennial.” Sometimes the titles are in Latin, or some approximation of Latin. Sometimes the titles go on for a hundred words or more.

His tendency to begin a painting without a roadmap of where it’s going to end up is “a product of a lack of discipline,” he says. But this is more self-deprecation than truth. His brother-in-law once figured out, for example, that one of Wilson’s paintings—a relatively small four-by-five-foot piece—took 450 hours to finish.

Wilson is a disciplined artist, comfortable with routines, and he has little patience or applause for what he calls T-ball art (anyone can do it), the kind of conceptual art in which the idea is sometimes more important than the execution. He is wary of celebrity culture, and museum and gallery curators who have too much power. “Contemporary art is too big a tent,” he says. “There has always been a balance between concept and content, and to me, it’s shifted excessively to the conceptual, at the expense of people making things. It’s getting to the point you’re denigrated if you make something.” And then, just to make sure you know that he realizes how he sounds, he adds, “Like every generation, Wilson’s gotten old.”

“I think my beef with contemporary art,” he says, “is their collar isn’t blue enough.”

Wilson was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and grew up in Southern California, the son of two parents who never finished high school. His own high school career, he says, mostly centered on being cool. He gives a demonstration of what “walking cool” looked like in 1961: He strolls across his studio, slouching a bit and looking like someone who doesn’t care about anything very much.

His real name is Roger Dale Wilson; but one day when he was 5 his father looked at him and announced, “You look like somebody named Sam,” and that’s the way it has been ever since, except on his driver’s license and Social Security card and the Art Department list of faculty, where “Sam” is still in parentheses.

After high school, he enrolled in a community college and got a D in art history. He was married briefly in the 1960s and had one son. By the mid-1960s, Wilson was against the Vietnam War—and then he was drafted. He was sent to Vietnam as a sign painter, and when he
came back home, his protestor friends thought he was too much a soldier, and his soldier friends thought he’d had too cushy a job in-country.

He enrolled in college again, and this time he tried harder. Here’s how he likes to tell it now, though: “You became an art major so you didn’t have to grow up too soon.” He eventually got bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fine arts from California State University at Long Beach.

The art degrees led to teaching art at his alma mater. There were also some side jobs painting the carousel animals at Knott’s Berry Farm, and cleaning the brushes of the matte painter for the movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind. In 1978, he was hired by the University of Utah as a visiting artist, and then stayed on and became a faculty member. Along the way, he met and married his wife, Kristie Krumbach BFA’80.

Today, as a professor of art, he teaches beginning and advanced drawing, figure drawing and figure painting, and intermediate and advanced painting. “I’m probably the least structured teacher” in the Art Department, he says. Except in the beginning drawing classes, he says, he tends to not have a series of set assignments. “I think it’s my role to encourage the students to find their particular voice.”

Over the past decade, he has also mentored five emerging artists through Art Access, a Salt Lake gallery that encourages and provides a venue for disabled and disadvantaged Utah artists. Art Access, which is part of VSA Utah, which in turn is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,

“Part of selling art is building a reputation. But I don’t want the responsibility of a reputation.” —U art professor Sam Wilson

occasionally couples these new artists with established artists.

“Sam is one of the kindest people I know,” says Ruth Lubbers, who retired in 2011 after 17 years as director of Art Access. “He puts on a really good act, like he doesn’t care. But he cares.”

The first artist Wilson mentored was
Vojko Rizvanovic, a Bosnian war refugee whose injuries left him nearly blind. They first started working together in 2003, and the mentoring continues informally to this day. Rizvanovic BFA'05 is currently working on his master's degree in fine arts at the U.

“He never says 'Look at me, I'm the best,' ” Rizvanovic says about his mentor. “But I've never seen anyone who draws that well, especially with colored pencils.” More than most observers, Rizvanovic has gotten an up-close view of Wilson's work; because he is legally blind, he views both his own art and everyone else's by using a magnifying glass. Many of the paintings in Rizvanovic's MFA art show were made with art supplies Wilson donated.

Rizvanovic likes not only the mastery

in Wilson's work, but the spirit. “His art says, 'Laugh, eat well, make friends, because tomorrow we will die. ... Use your mind, make some jokes.' ”

Wilson's most public art pieces can be found at Salt Lake City's Cathedral of the Madeleine, where his 14 paintings of The Stations of the Cross line the cathedral walls. Wilson grew up Lutheran, which he defines as "an underachieving Catholic." But he had spent 16 months in the 1980s helping to renovate the interior of the Cathedral of the Madeleine, and when the diocese put out a call seeking someone to do the Stations, he applied. The paintings, which he completed in 1993, are in Wilson's brightly colored, fractured style, but his usual irony has been replaced by a more mystical, darker reverence. Wilson chose to make each Jesus look different from the one before: Some look Hispanic, some Middle Eastern; all clearly show their pain. In 2010, Wilson was awarded the Cathedral's Madeleine Festival Award for his artwork.

His cathedral paintings sparked his interest in the long history of church art in Italy. He and Kristie now travel there every year. Like the 15th-century Florentines he admires—Ghirlandaio and Filippino Lippi—he isn't what he calls "a headliner," the way a Michelangelo or a Masaccio was. By and large, he has made no effort to sell or promote his art, although he has shown his work in galleries in Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and California. Former first lady Betty Ford bought one of his paintings at a gallery owned by a friend of his in Vail, Colorado. The piece was from his trompe l'oeil days, a watercolor featuring a paper sack, masking tape, and a seascape in the background. The title: "Pull-tab Seascape in a 10-ounce Container."

"Part of selling art is building a reputation," he says. "But I don't want the responsibility of a reputation," because that entails going to too many gallery receptions, he says. And, too, "the expenditure of time promoting myself isn't worth it."

He is happy to be holed up in his studio, or teaching his students to draw, or traveling to Italy with his wife, soaking in yet another fresco.

"I would rather do art," he says, "than 'be an artist.' "

—Elaine Jarvik is a Salt Lake City-based playwright and journalist, and a frequent contributor to Continuum.

Visit continuum.utah.edu to view a gallery with more photos.
Helen and Nick left their legacy.
Imagine U could leave your own legacy of excellence.

Alanna Lee Nulph grew up on the Hoopa Indian Reservation in Northern California and is of the Hupa and Yurok Tribes. Thanks to the Nick & Helen Papanikolas Scholarship, Alanna thrives at the U, where she competes in track and studies political science. After graduation, she plans to return home and help her tribe tackle environmental issues through policy and law.

Helen Papanikolas BA ’39 (1917 – 2004)
Nick Papanikolas BS ’38 (1915 – 2000)
As children of Greek immigrants, Nick and Helen knew the importance of education for success—they both were among the first from their families to attend college. Helen was editor of the U’s Pen literary magazine, graduating with honors. She later became a historian, educator and award-winning author. After studying business at the U, Nick became a general contractor and successful business owner.

Generations of alums have secured a bright future for the University of Utah through their estate plans. You can carry on this tradition by including a provision in your will for the U.

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TO FOSTER EXCELLENCE

By Stephen Speckman

UTAH ATHLETICS HAS A FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO BRING U FACILITIES TO THE PAC-12 LEVEL.
On Guardsman Way, just east of Rice-Eccles Stadium and across the street, construction workers have been laying brick and hanging drywall on a new Football and Sports Medicine Center at the University of Utah. Take a tour through virtual video renderings that the U’s Athletics Department has created to show what the facility will look like, and you’ll see the grain and warm hues of smooth wood accents and floor-to-ceiling windows that let sunlight flood some of the building’s glittering gathering spaces. Stay a little longer, and you’ll see giant flat-screen TVs inside slick meeting rooms and offices, inviting hydrotherapy pools in another room, and a seemingly endless array of training equipment in a 21,000-square-foot weight room.

When the $30 million facility opens this summer, it’s expected to serve more than 400 student athletes, including 100 or so football players, who make up 18 varsity teams from various sports at the U. And it’s just one step in a larger, five-year plan to improve the quality of the U’s practice facilities and playing fields.

In the real world of the Pac-12, which the University of Utah joined in 2011, the Utes are playing in the first period of a game of catch-up in a league where the U’s comparatively meager athletics operating budget of $36.8 million for 2010-2011 was the lowest in the conference. In comparison, the average athletics operating budget in the Pac-12 during 2010-2011, the most recent year for which figures are available, was $63.5 million. Given those numbers, it’s no surprise that athletics facilities at the University also lag behind those of many of its Pac-12 peers.

The U aims to even the score with or surpass competing Pac-12 schools through a $150-million, five-year athletics resource and facilities plan that, by 2016, will usher in new training, practice, and playing areas on the U campus for basketball, softball, tennis, swimming, and football. By building the new facilities, the U intends to ensure a level playing field when it comes to recruiting top athletes, who in theory will help the U stay competitive in one of the nation’s most talent-rich athletics leagues.
For U Athletics Director Chris Hill MEd’74 PhD’82, the reality of needing an ambitious five-year plan crystallized upon hearing that the Utes would be in the Pac-12. “It quickly became apparent that we need to support our student athletes and our coaches with operating expenses and facilities that put us in the game with the rest of the league,” Hill now says.

The strategy behind the U’s building plan is to create facilities that will dazzle, delight, and, of course, serve student athletes for decades. In addition to the football center, plans are under way to build a softball complex, outdoor tennis courts, a Basketball Training and Sport Performance Center, and a swimming and diving complex. The Athletics Department also intends to improve its soccer field and expand the Burbidge Academic Center for providing academic support to student athletes.

Indeed, the U is currently the only Pac-12 school without a 50-meter pool or outdoor tennis courts. Hill says all of the facilities upgrades are needed—and soon—to compete. “We’re moving this as fast as we can,” he says.

Other Pac-12 universities, meanwhile, are spending large amounts on new facilities of their own. The University of Washington is building a new football stadium, to be completed in 2013, at a cost of $300 million. Arizona State University is planning a football stadium renovation that will run at least $150 million, probably more. The University of California at Los Angeles has more than $280 million invested in renovations to Pauley Pavilion and the Rose Bowl. The University of California at Berkeley is renovating its football arena to the tune of $321 million. In 2009, Stanford University completed its $90 million football stadium.

In other sports, the University of Arizona has a new $20 million gymnastics practice facility. The University of Oregon put down $227 million for a new basketball arena. And Oregon State University is spending more than $18 million to improve its basketball facilities.

Hill says that eventually he’d like to see the U’s sports facilities and budget land somewhere in the middle of the Pac-12. Achieving that goal, he says, will require the $150 million. One-third of that amount, $50 million, will come from Pac-12 television revenues. The Athletics Department launched a capital campaign last spring with the aim of raising the remaining $100 million from private donors. So far, the U has received $7 million from the Pac-12 television revenues and raised $22 million from private donors.

As part of the Pac-12 revenues, the U will see its annual share of the Pac-12 television 12-year contract go from $8 million this year to $12 million next year and, upon being fully vested, about $16 million a year by 2015. Brisk ticket sales, which generated nearly $10.4 million last year, have planners talking about how to squeeze more seats into the south end of Rice-Eccles Stadium. Corporate sponsorships, expansion of merchandise sales, and licensing revenues also are expected to help the U generate more money to stay in the game.

### Softball Complex

**NORTH OF THE MCCARTHEY FAMILY TRACK AND FIELD ON WASATCH DRIVE**

**$4.5 million**

In the spring of 2013, the U will begin hosting home softball games at its new 500-seat stadium, day or night, with the addition of a lighted field. The entire complex includes a press box, athletic training room, outdoor batting cages, and an indoor hitting and pitching facility.

While football, basketball, and gymnastics may attract the most attention of Ute sports, softball is one area that is no less competitive in a league where the Pac-12 is consistently one of the top conferences in the nation. U Athletics Director Chris Hill anticipates that the new digs will begin to turn the recruiting tables and eventually make the women’s softball team a Pac-12 powerhouse.
Planning is still under way for this facility, expected to open for the 2014-2015 academic year. An artist’s rendering depicts two full-sized men’s and women’s practice gymnasiums on either side of a large area that features a weight room, video-viewing rooms for the women’s and men’s teams, and a training room. Plans also include offices, meeting rooms, and a revamped basketball Hall of Fame, as well as a hydrotherapy area and facilities to support strength and conditioning for athletes in various sports, including basketball.

U Athletics Director Chris Hill is confident that the basketball program will continue to improve and live up to its proud history, and donors already have stepped up to help. “They understand the vision,” Hill says. One donor for this $24 million project has already committed a seven-figure gift that provides a jumpstart for the committee formed to raise $10 million in donations for the building. The U will bond for the project, which also will be backed by dollars from the U’s Pac-12 television contract.
Welch Suggs, a former associate director and now a consultant for the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, says the U’s plans are all “doable.” But it won’t be easy, he says: “How much wealth is there, and how much competition does Utah face in its home territory?”

Suggs now studies college sports issues as an associate professor of journalism at the University of Georgia, which is among only a handful of schools in the country that year after year are able to cover their athletics expenses with the revenue brought in by sports programs. The universities of Alabama, Florida, and Iowa, as well as Ohio State University, are a few others.

The norm is that athletics departments end up relying on their universities’ institutional support to cover athletics expenditures. Whether that will happen to the U, Suggs says, may depend in part on whether worst-case scenarios unfold, such as another economic recession or chronically losing teams, which hurt ticket and merchandise sales.

Hill, however, believes the U Athletics Department will be able to prevail, and balance its budget, with its fundraising through private donors. And the projects outlined in the five-year plan don’t require tapping into University institutional funds or public monies. “It’s all athletics, all our funding,” he says. “We want that to be clear.” There is “zero” competition between athletics and academics for public funding, Hill says.

Doug Knuth, the U’s senior associate athletics director for external relations, is spearheading the Athletics Department’s private fundraising efforts. His challenge is to find potential donors who are passionate about a particular sport to see if they’re ready to support a specific Utah team. He believes a strong athletics program at the U helps build an inviting “front porch” to engender support for the rest of campus. “When athletics wins, we all win,” he says.

For the new Football and Sports Medicine Center, about half the cost, roughly $15 million, is coming from donations, and the rest will be funded through television revenues. At least 20 donors gave more than $100,000 for the project. U football alum Alex Smith BS’04 donated $500,000, and his name will appear on a new strength and training room in the building.

Hill says the glittering new center is a cornerstone for the U’s overall effort to improve its resources for athletes. “It puts us in the game to provide our student athletes with support.”

—Stephen Speckman is a freelance writer and photographer based in Salt Lake City, and a frequent contributor to Continuum.

Visit continuum.utah.edu to view videos about the new athletics facilities.
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Stories
Within Stories

Story by Kim M. Horiuchi
Photos by August Miller

The U has one of the top, and most accessible, rare book collections in the West.

University Rare Books
Manager Luise Poulton, left, and U student Matthew Scholl look at a leaf of a Gutenberg Bible, printed around 1450.
Luide Poulton casually holds out the small, unassuming—even plain-looking—book. It lacks the exquisite line drawings, the delicate rice-paper pages, the elegant typeface, and even the literary credentials of many of the other books in the University of Utah’s rare book collection. “It’s a tiny little book. It’s not very fat, it’s not very tall, and it’s very unprepossessing. The paper isn’t particularly great,” says Poulton BA’01, the rare books manager at the U’s J. Willard Marriott Library. “There’s nothing fancy about it.” But this book is likely the most valuable of the 80,000 pieces in the University’s rare book collection. It’s a treasure among treasures, all of which visitors are free to handle, touch, and read from cover to cover.

That includes this deceivingly valuable little Book of Commandments, or a surviving original of Galileo Galilei’s Dialogo, or the first novel Charles Dickens wrote (at age 25), or a tome of sacred Buddhist writings from China printed in 1440, 10 years before Gutenberg’s famous press.

“Here, you want to hold a million dollars?” Poulton says as she hands over the palm-sized Book of Commandments, written in 1830 and containing Mormon church founder Joseph Smith’s description of what he said were his revelations from God. The book, which sat in his brother Hyrum Smith’s library, was donated to the U by LDS Church leader John M. Whitaker in 1969. The U Rare Books Division also has one of only two known copies of the Book of Mormon inscribed by Joseph Smith; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints owns the other. But the Mormon pieces are, by far, not the only storied stories.
The Marriott Library is home to one of the top rare book collections west of the Mississippi. The books are shelved in the library’s “inner sanctum,” a 7,000-square-foot, humidity-controlled, secured vault kept cold—between 58 and 62 degrees—and dark, with posted signs demanding, “Lights Out! Lights Out!” Stretching 120 feet long by 80 feet wide, the vault houses the world’s third-largest collection of Arabic papyrus, the largest collection of medieval facsimiles in the state, and the largest collection of fine press and artists’ books in the region. The books are brought to the vault after cataloguing in a “staging area,” but they don’t stay in the vault.

Poulton’s strong belief is that anyone who desires should have access to the collection—from a leaf of the Gutenberg Bible printed between 1450 and 1455 to Isaac Newton’s first-edition Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica, an “extremely valuable book” that was printed in 1687 and is worth up to a half-million dollars. Poulton describes her job as balancing security and access. She shoulders the task of safeguarding the books, a responsibility that she acknowledges makes her nervous and keeps her up at night. But just as important, she says, is ensuring access to the books and making them as available as possible. “And I love that. I love the idea that you don’t have to come in with a letter from the president of Harvard to see these books. I love it that anyone—anyone—can walk into that room and say, ‘I’d like to see this book,’ and they get to see it.”

While other universities and institutions around the world may have larger, more impressive collections, Poulton marvels that the University of Utah, a public university, has the collection it does. “This is not Yale’s Beinecke Library, this is not Princeton’s library that has two full copies of the Gutenberg Bible. This is not Oxford. This is not Bibliothèque de Paris. This is a state institution,” she says, “and we have these things.”

The way Poulton speaks about the renowned collection reflects her own background. As a young ballet dancer working in New York, she realized she had advanced as far as she could and needed a degree, so she came to the U as a student in the Ballet Department but ended up switching majors and graduating in history. Of Rare Books’ latest exhibition, Fighting Words: American Revolutionary War Pamphlets, which took months to curate, she says with a dancer’s aplomb: “We want the end-product to look effortless, like any good performance, right?” She rattles off an intricate history of
I love the idea that you don’t have to come in with a letter from the president of Harvard to see these books. I love it that anyone—anyone—can walk into that room and say, ‘I’d like to see this book,’ and they get to see it.” —Luise Poulton, manager of the U’s Rare Books Division

each book but in the next breath betrays a performer’s anticipatory excitement: “The props that I have are just so incredible.”

Poulton has worked at the Marriott Library for the past 20 years, including the last 15 with Rare Books, and her enthusiasm for the job is palpable. She wants everyone to have the sensory experience of holding a centuries-old book—to not just touch it while leafing through pages but to inhale the mustiness of a book’s scent, to hear the thick rustle of pages made from rag paper, to see the fine craftsmanship of books that were early printers’ pride and joy, to handle ideas that were revolutionary.

“To hold a copy of Common Sense, printed in 1776, that was held by hands in 1776, and most likely read out loud to other people in 1776, that’s a connection. That’s a very physical and visceral connection,” Poulton says. And anyone can have that experience, by visiting the Rare Books room during its regular hours, Monday through Saturday. A staff member usually supervises the visits.

The power of holding these books is unmistakable. “There’s just nothing like it,” she says. But equally powerful are the stories behind each book, and the paths of the books through history. Among the most compelling is that of the U’s copy of Galileo’s Dialogo. Only 1,000 copies of the book were printed in 1632. The book’s discourse on astronomy and Galileo’s contention that Nicholas Copernicus was correct in postulating that the planets revolved around the sun rather than the Earth drew the ire of the Catholic Church.

The church considered the book so dangerous that Galileo was convicted of heresy by the Inquisition, placed under house arrest until his death, and prohibited from publishing any future books. The Dialogo was placed on the Inquisition’s list of forbidden books and remained there until 1835. Most of the copies were destroyed. It is believed only about 200 copies survived, and somehow, some way, one of those copies made its way to the U, hidden away and changing hands throughout the centuries.

Other highlights among the scientific books in the U’s collection include Euclid’s Elements of Geometry, the oldest mathematical textbook still in common use today. The first-edition copy, also among the U’s most valuable at $185,000 to $200,000, was printed in 1482 by famous German printer Erhard Ratdolt. “This was his book,” Poulton says, pointing out Ratdolt’s “self-congratulatory blurb” on the first page, in which he describes the quality of work his shop produces. Or there’s the first-edition Novum Organum, printed 138 years later, in which Francis Bacon

The delicate rice paper on which Da ban ruo bo luo mi duo jing is printed is just one part of the book’s multifaceted history. Purchased by the University of Utah as part of the Kenneth Lawrence Ott collection, the book is the first volume from a set of sacred Buddhist writings and was printed in China in 1440, during the fifth year of the reign of the Ming Emperor Cheng Tung.

The book’s 100 pages are bound accordion-style and contain Chinese characters, made from a wood-block print, interspersed with lavish illustrations. Most of the U’s rare books tell a strong Eurocentric story, says the collection’s manager, Luise Poulton. “But we do have pieces like this, and we try to use these pieces as often as possible to make the point that book-making—communicating with the written word—has been going on all over the world for a very long time.”
disagrees with Aristotle to set “the stage for a new way of seeing, studying, and understanding the world around us.”

The pieces are among the “big guns” in the U’s science collection, Poulton says. But the science collection is just one part of “a world-renowned archives,” says book dealer Ken Sanders, owner of Ken Sanders Rare Books store in Salt Lake City. There are “hundreds of significant collections housed at the library, any one of which could provide a student a master’s thesis and a lifetime of research,” he says. One of the U’s rare pieces, an aquatint by Karl Bodmer featured in the 1839 book by German Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied, is now on display at the Smithsonian through January 27.

But Poulton finds the simple stories of some of the books in the U’s collection to be as compelling as those of the grander works. She recalls curating an exhibition of 18th-century multi-volume herbal books. In one of the volumes, a dried plant had been pressed on a page that matched the picture of that plant. “This was at least a 200-year-old book,” Poulton says, “and who knows when that particular specimen was added in that 200 years and by whom—and why just that one, and why didn’t they keep going, or maybe they did and the rest fell out. So there’s the find. There’s this very personal touch, and then there are all these questions. So I love knowing. I also love the mystery.”

Like the discovery she stumbled upon in a lesser-known book given as a gift to a woman. Poulton doesn’t even remember the book’s title, but in it, she found an inscription by inventor Nikola Tesla. “I just flipped out,” she says. “I called one of my
sisters and said, ‘You won’t believe this.’ ” Poulton’s students have had similar experiences. Just this fall, Poulton was giving a lecture on artist books, which are unique, newer books in the collection, mostly made in the 20th century. “One of those students was looking at a book smaller than a cell phone and burst into tears. I mean, lost it,” Poulton says. The text was about charity and quoted the medieval Jewish scholar Maimonides.

“I’ve had reactions like that often. It gets to be personal. ... The smell, the touch, the sound really does have meaning to it. It’s the difference between getting an ‘I love you’ in an email and getting a hug in person,” Poulton says.

Emily Michelson, a history professor at St. Andrews University in Scotland who taught at the U from 2006 to 2009, says those stories and the experiences they elicit are extremely valuable. In Utah, she brought her students every semester to visit the Rare Books room. “It was enormously important for the students,” Michelson says. “Often the books were the oldest man-made objects they had ever seen, much less held.”

Poulton says she is always striving to expand the “depth and breadth” of the collection. “I have a wish list that’s five million lines long and a Microsoft-worth of money.” Besides expanding the collection, Poulton also is working to digitize many of its works so that readers can look at them online. It’s an interesting juxtaposition, given her desire for people to physically hold the books and equal wish for the greatest accessibility. She can’t help but think the early printers from centuries ago would feel the same way.

“I can see them saying on the one hand, ‘Wow, what a great idea,’ because part of the reason for Gutenberg developing printing with movable type was out of an obvious need for more copies of less expensive books. On the other hand, they did make a big deal about making what they produced beautiful.” Poulton—who doesn’t own a Kindle, has “no plans to get a Kindle,” and won’t use an iPad because it has no keyboard—can relate: “‘Texting is a great example. That’s not spelling,’ she says.

Yet that modern-day dilemma is another example of what makes the rare books so intriguing. By handling and touching the books, it is easy to grasp that they are the reflection of real lives and real people who grappled with many of the same everyday circumstances that exist today. Their stories are rich, and the stories behind them even richer.

“The rewarding part is sheer selfishness,” Poulton says. “This is what I do. This is what I am surrounded by. To give students a context as to why they should care about some musty old books and see their reaction, that’s the most gratifying thing.”

—Kim M. Horiuchi is a longtime journalist and freelance writer based in Salt Lake City.

Visit continuum.utah.edu to view a gallery with more photos and read about another highlight of the collection.
Elizabeth Armour-Roth BSN’82, left, a nurse manager at University Hospital, talks with Quinn McKenna, chief operating officer of U Health Care.
Expecting a new baby girl in early December, Katina Anthony and her husband, Chris, were both excited and worried. Already the parents of a 2-year-old boy, the couple has no health insurance, and they don’t know just how they’ll pay the hospital bill. “A delivery is like nine or 10 thousand dollars,” says Katina, who works part time as a night janitor for the University of Utah, a job that doesn’t qualify her for insurance benefits.

Her husband had been working for a small company that supports the construction industry, in a job that also lacked insurance coverage. Like many people, the couple found themselves living in an unfortunate financial gap: They couldn’t quite afford to buy private insurance, but still made too much to qualify for Medicaid. Katina says state workers advised her earlier this year that the only way the family could qualify for assistance was for her husband to quit his job. “Before that, they told me I could divorce my husband and live alone, and then I would qualify,” she says. “I was shocked. There’s got to be a better way.”

By 2014, the young couple likely won’t have to worry so much. That’s when the major reforms in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are slated to take effect, expanding access to health care to about 32 million Americans and
potentially transforming nearly every aspect of the way health care is paid for and provided. "Overall, I'm happy about the Affordable Care Act," says Katina, whose family would have access to coverage under the law.

FOCUSING ON CORE VALUES

Passed in early 2010, the Affordable Care Act is considered the most sweeping reform of the health care system since the implementation in 1965 of Medicare, a publicly funded insurance program for seniors over age 65, and Medicaid, the assistance program for low-income Americans. The new federal law’s provisions are intended to expand access to insurance, increase protections for consumers, improve health care quality, streamline care delivery, curb costs, and shift the focus in health care to prevention and wellness.

For providers like University of Utah Health Care and the U’s School of Medicine, understanding and preparing for the law’s reforms isn’t easy. The complex law has many ramifications and will likely have unintended consequences for consumers, providers, insurance plans, and governments. As a paradigm shift, the law is “huge,” says Vivian Lee, the U’s senior vice president for health sciences, dean of the School of Medicine, and the chief executive officer of University of Utah Health Care.

“What we are trying to do is focus on some of the core values and core principles of how we need to deliver care,” Lee says. “We’re working on the things that prepare us for the new world but also enable us to survive in the old world.”

And how exactly does an institution change? “That’s the million dollar question,” says Lee. “It’s a migration.”

A number of factors are driving the way the U’s health care system—and other providers nationwide—will address the law’s countless changes. Those include volatile national and state-level political and philosophical debates and the more practical realities of funding and personnel. Proponents say the law will provide critical relief to the more than 50 million uninsured Americans by providing access to health care at affordable prices. The supporters say tax credits and subsidies will help both businesses and individuals manage costs and that health care will be less expensive for all.

Opponents of the $900 billion law, however, see it as a government takeover of health care that infringes on states’ rights. They contend the law hurts businesses and unfairly meddles in the private financial decisions of citizens. Opponents also argue the law will cost more than projected, raising the federal deficit even while curtailing as much as $500 million in Medicaid spending and imposing new taxes.

Although passed by Congress, no Republicans voted for the law, and since 2010, more than 30 unsuccessful attempts have been made to repeal it. Twenty-six states, including Utah, and the National Federation of Independent Business also sued the government to stop the Affordable Care Act’s implementation, arguing that many of its mandates are too expensive for already strained state budgets. That particular legal battle was lost this past June, when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law’s implementation, on a 5-4 vote.
That the debate over the Affordable Care Act is mired in politics is no surprise to Robert Huefner BS’58, a U professor emeritus of political science and former director of the U’s Governor Scott M. Matheson Center for Health Care Studies. Politics and government are in part about making choices between values, Huefner says.

“Government programs tend to be those where you’re having to balance things that you can’t just balance with a cost equation. You get those kinds of concerns in health all the time,” says Huefner, who helped two Utah governors through major changes to public health programs during the 1960s. “A second reason is cost. Health care is now the second biggest cost of state government in the country, behind education, so that means it’s political just in terms of the tradeoff between financing a public service and maintaining acceptable taxes.”

Huefner predicts that even if the Affordable Care Act is ultimately repealed, the U.S. health care system won’t go back to where it was two years ago because the system—from individual doctors to government programs and institutions such as University of Utah Health Care—has already started to change. “Too much has happened, and they are already moving on it,” he says.

**MEDICAID EXPANSION**

As the law now stands, some of the key—and controversial—provisions include Medicaid expansion to cover individuals with incomes below 133 percent of federal poverty guidelines, and a requirement that individuals, with some exceptions, have health insurance through public or private providers, or face a penalty. Businesses will be required to offer insurance or face a penalty. States must create health-insurance exchanges to allow consumers to easily shop for and compare health-insurance plans and costs. And insurance companies will no longer be able to exclude individuals from coverage because of preexisting conditions, or charge variable premium rates.

How the Affordable Care Act will play out in Utah depends in part on decisions made by Governor Gary Herbert and the Republican-dominated Legislature that controls the state budget. Census figures from 2010 show 411,926 Utah residents...
health care. State health-department data project about 111,400 of those people would qualify for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Of those, about 53,000 would be newly eligible. The remainder are people who already qualify but have never enrolled in Medicaid, says Tom Hudachko BA’98, spokesman for the Utah Department of Health. That group of people is also likely to come onto the Medicaid rolls under the new law’s expanded provisions.

HELPING THE UNINSURED

But Medicaid spending, which represents more than 21 percent of Utah’s budget, is already vexing lawmakers. State analysts project expanding the rolls could cost the state as much as $1.7 billion dollars between 2014 and 2022, despite continued federal reimbursements. The Affordable Care Act allows states to opt out of the Medicaid expansion plan, and it’s not yet clear what Utah will do.

At the University, Lee says the state ends up paying for uninsured people’s health care costs anyway, regardless of whether the federal law prevails. Some costs are “baked in” to insurance premiums paid by others, and the rest is covered through so-called charity care, meaning that the University’s health care system picks up the tab, she says. Last year alone, University of Utah Health Care spent more than $80 million of its $1.2 billion budget providing care to uninsured or underinsured patients, says Quinn McKenna, chief operating officer of University Health Care.

Lee notes that it’s far more costly for institutions, and individuals, if patients defer care until they reach a crisis point. “You’d rather have them on Medicaid, managed and seen in clinics, so they don’t come to the ER three weeks later,” she says.

If the new federal law continues on track, just how many of the uninsured would come into the U system as patients in 2014 with either private insurance or as part of expanded Medicaid isn’t clear. Both expanded Medicaid and private insurance roles have the potential to bring some dollars back to the University, and that could cut the volume of charity care so that those funds could be redirected for medical education, direct care, and other uses.

Another uncertainty is what the rest of Utah’s health care market will do under the new federal law, Lee says. “If the rest of the market is receptive to these patients, then the distribution will be the same. If there are barriers put up for some of these patients, then more of them will come to us, because we take everybody.”

Either way, it seems certain that the demand for health care will grow. That has Lee, as dean of the School of Medicine, focused on making sure that Utah is training enough new doctors to meet the need. The U has the only medical school in the Intermountain West and is typically the main supplier of physicians for Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and northern Nevada. Nationwide, a shortage is predicted of at least 91,500 physicians by the year 2020. Utah’s own physician shortage is even more severe, Lee says. A 2008 Association of American Medical Colleges study found Utah currently has fewer than one primary-care physician per every 1,000 people. Only three other states have fewer physicians per capita, and it’s hard to close the gap quickly, because it takes nearly a decade to train a physician. “With the Affordable Care Act and the fact we are the fastest-growing state in terms of population, that means that it’s just going to get worse,” she says.

TRAINING MORE DOCTORS

To address the shortage, U administrators want to use a two-step process to restore the number of students accepted into the medical school annually from 82 to 102, and then expand the enrollment to 122. In 2008, the school had to reduce its class size from 102 students to 82 due to cuts in federal funding that were not replaced by the Legislature. Increasing the annual class size, however, will require money, and that funding is a top priority for the U with the Legislature in 2013, says Jason Perry, the U’s vice president for government relations.

Lee says that the U Medical School gets about $26.5 million annually in funding from the state. Increasing the number of medical students to 122 will require a projected $12.2 million in annual funding. The U is asking state lawmakers to cover $10 million of those costs. A similar appropriation request was made, but not funded, in 2012.

Raising tuition to help cover expanded enrollment costs just isn’t an option, Lee says. “Our students come out with an average of $158,000 in debt,” she says. “You don’t want to increase tuition more, because then they will have more debt, which forces them away from primary care [careers] and pushes them toward the higher-paying specialties.” Primary care doctors are expected to be in high demand after 2014, because the Affordable Care Act seeks to place more emphasis on wellness care and prevention.

The federal law will also begin to change the way doctors and hospitals get paid, and that has administrators like McKenna concerned about the bottom-line costs of doing business. In addition, the law’s reforms require that more of the health care dollar be spent directly on patient care, and the government will give more scrutiny to care delivery to make sure benchmarks are met.

University Health Care facilities and staff annually handle an average of 1 million outpatient visits and 27,000 inpatient admissions and surgeries, McKenna says. That care gets paid for fairly evenly through private insurance and publicly funded programs. Data from the past three budget years show that on average, Medicare payments make up about 32 percent of the budget, and
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team—a group of system-management engineers working than those in many other hospitals. A performance excellence found that U patients stayed on the breathing machines longer and outcomes, and bolstering overall /financial strength. goals of bettering the patient experience, improving care quality reforms. It’s also helping the U health care system meet its own mission. Both on paper and in practice, the initiative seems a delivery and the processes needed to support the health care health care reform curve through staff-driven redesigns of care years, he has promoted initiatives to keep the U ahead of the health care reform curve through staff-driven redesigns of care delivery and the processes needed to support the health care mission. Both on paper and in practice, the initiative seems a match with many of the criteria outlined in the federal law’s reforms. It’s also helping the U health care system meet its own goals of bettering the patient experience, improving care quality and outcomes, and bolstering overall financial strength.

The work is already netting tangible results. One review of patient outcomes for individuals needing ventilator support found that U patients stayed on the breathing machines longer than those in many other hospitals. A performance excellence team—a group of system-management engineers working

in concert with doctors and nurses—reviewed the treatment protocols, looking for ways to improve. Under the changes they proposed, the number of patients staying on ventilators longer than 48 hours has dropped by 27 percent. The amount of time patients remain hospitalized has also been cut by 2.7 days, and the number of ventilator-associated pneumonia cases has been reduced by 67 percent.

Overall, that has saved the U health care system $3 million, McKenna says. “That’s what we’re trying to do across the board. We’re looking across the system and asking, ‘Where do we have those kinds of opportunities to redesign the way we do things?’”

POISED FOR REFORMS

So far, care redesign has been approached on a project by project basis, McKenna says. The next step will be to up the tempo of change and spread the initiative across the wider health care system—a move that will help the U better prepare for the federal law’s broad reforms.

No matter what changes the law brings, the main goal of the University’s health care system is to provide the highest quality of care, McKenna says. “Our goal, my personal goal, is, whatever we are doing, we’re going to make it better.”

Lee and McKenna believe the institution is poised to weather the reforms well. The proactive work already begun has helped to reduce or flatten costs in recent years. Utah’s smaller and generally healthier populations also play in its favor. “I’d say we’re in a pretty good starting position,” Lee says. “And I hope we’re a good model for the country.”

To help that happen, Lee has established a health care reform committee to study the law’s reforms and analyze what protocols are already in place to ensure the U system makes the best possible choices for the future on the uncertain road ahead.

“I can picture seven scenarios where we’re doing the right things, and we’re going to be just fine,” McKenna says. “I can also picture two or three scenarios where all bets are off, and we’re going to have to be wildly creative and [think] out of the box, more so than what we are doing now. I think that’s where the nervousness comes. Is it going to be the seven or the three?”

Regardless of which scenario unfolds, uninsured patients like Katina Anthony are hoping the law prevails and provides them with much-needed help. Her husband lost his job this past fall, and the couple hoped they’d qualify for Medicaid in time for the baby’s birth, so the bills can get paid and so Katina and the newborn would have a few months of care. “It’s ridiculous,” Katina says. “We don’t want to be the ones who are living off the government, and Chris is out looking for a job right now, but this will help.”

—Jennifer Dobner is a former longtime Associated Press reporter and editor who now is a freelance writer based in Salt Lake City.

Visit continuum.utah.edu to view a gallery with more photos.

Chris and Katina Anthony shop for baby items, with their son Daniel.
Moran Eye Center Congratulates its Faculty for an Extraordinary Year of Achievement.

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- **RANDALL J OLSON, M.D.**
  Binkhorst Medal of Honor, The American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
Lessons of the Bones

University of Utah alum Lindsay Zanno seeks clues to the future in the fossils of the past.

By David Menconi

Paleontologist and University of Utah alumna Lindsay Zanno spends much of her time out in the field prospecting for dinosaur bones, and this past summer took her to the Mussentuchit Flat area near Cedar Mountain in Utah’s Emery County. It’s difficult work, in a moonscape of drab, barren hills. But that’s where you find dinosaur remains, and Zanno hit pay dirt with a new discovery the same way she always does: by looking down.

“Someone else on the team called me over to the other side of a hill, and as I was walking over there, I looked down and saw bits of brown bone sticking out of the ground,” says Zanno MS’04 PhD’08. “I got very excited right away because I could tell it was a theropod bone—they’re very thin, with a big cavity on the inside, just like the bones of a bird. That’s how you know you’ve found theropod leg bones, by the thinness.”

Zanno’s team collected what they could and tagged the area for excavation, which they’ll go back to do in 2013, in a process that can take a couple of years before the new species is named and its significance assessed. Then it will go into the database Zanno has been amassing for years, to help fill out an ancient family tree of feathered dinosaurs that stretches from hundreds of millions of years ago to present-day bird species.

“It’s almost an obsession,” she says. “The idea that the world was once very
different than it is today. I enjoy trying to help people understand the idea that life is transient but also permanent. It changes, but everything is intertwined that way. It’s thrilling to be part of a longer story, the idea that you’re part of a long web of interactions through time. It’s an interesting way to look at life. What we see now is a snapshot in a very long history, and the present is this one little piece. Paleontologists get to go back in time and experience a little more of that past through a longer lens. That helps put my own life in perspective.”

As a paleontologist, Zanno splits her time between work in the field and work in her lab, hunched over a microscope examining fossils, or crunching numbers. She also holds forth to visitors at the North Carolina Museum of Sciences’ Nature Research Center, explaining scientific findings in layman’s terms. Zanno, a research assistant professor at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh, is director of the Nature Research Center’s paleontology and geology lab, which has a fossilized skeleton of a young Tyrannosaurus rex standing guard outside the door.

Zanno grew up in a single-parent family in Norbrook, New York. Her parents divorced when she was 3, and her mother, Sally, worked the night shift as a nurse. So Zanno had long stretches of time alone as a kid, developing a streak of curiosity and inquisitiveness. She liked being outside, taking things apart and putting them back together.

When it came time to choose a college, Zanno knew she wanted to get out into the world. So she opened up a road atlas to a random page and wound up at the one for New Mexico. That led her to the University of New Mexico.

“I can be fairly impulsive,” she says with a laugh, “although that’s lessening somewhat in my old age. But I don’t like living or thinking within the box. I wake up every morning thinking, ‘How can I erase what I know, think in new ways, and create something completely different?’ I still try to live my life that way.”

At New Mexico, Zanno started out studying human evolution. Then she did an internship with a grad student named Andrew Heckert (now an associate professor at Appalachian State University), who was doing a dissertation on micro-sorting fossils under microscopes. That resonated with Zanno’s obsession with ancient times, inspiring her to shift the focus of her studies farther back in geologic time. She changed to dinosaur paleontology and came to the University of Utah to study with then-new curator of paleontology Scott Sampson for her graduate work. With Sampson serving as her advisor, Zanno received master’s and doctoral degrees in geology.

“She’s always been driven and curious, and also interested in women in science,” Sampson says. “That’s a really important aspect of her personality, how to get more women into the field, and how to make science more relatable for the general public. We need more scientists trained in communication. She also wrote an amazing dissertation examining a group of small-bodied feathered relatives of Velociraptor. One important discovery was that a number of them were not carnivorous but herbivorous. She’s continued that work and made a real contribution to evolutionary history.”

Along with field work unearthing fossils, Zanno’s other formative experience at Utah was working as a resident graduate student at the old Utah Museum of Natural History, which gave her numerous opportunities to interact with the public. One of Zanno’s earliest efforts at making science more accessible to the public was a children’s book she wrote while at Utah, The Fall Ball (2005, BookSurge Publishing). Zanno wrote the book, and her sister, Kristine Zanno-Kratky, illustrated it. They
Alum Profile

Zanno did it as a tribute to their mother, who died of breast cancer in 2000.

“She’d work the night shift while we were growing up, and she’d write ideas for stories in her journals,” Zanno says. “When she died, my sister found some of them, and we decided to write one of her stories for her. It’s about the cycle of life, trees that dress up by putting on their fall colors, sleep through the winter and then come back in spring. We’ve talked about doing a dinosaur book, too, but I’m not sure how that might work out, because they keep me pretty busy here.”

“Here” would be the Nature Research Center, Zanno’s professional address for the past year. Before that, she did stints as a research associate at Chicago’s Field Museum and as an assistant professor of anatomy at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. But the Nature Research Center job offered special allure for Zanno, thanks to its mission of demystifying science and involving the public in the process as much as possible through “citizen science” initiatives. She moved to Raleigh with her husband—fellow U alum Terry Gates MS’04 PhD’07, a postdoctoral fellow in paleontology at Ohio University—and their two young daughters in time for the museum’s opening in April 2012.

Zanno is one of four lab directors at the Nature Research Center and oversees a staff of six researchers and graduate students. Her job involves as much communication about science as hands-on research. The museum’s research work takes place in an atmosphere of transparency, with a mantra of, “How do we know what we know?” You can watch the scientists at work through the glass, and the public is frequently invited into the labs to take part and talk to scientists about the work.

“When it comes to dinosaurs, the most common public misconception is that they’re extinct,” Zanno says. “That’s something I say on a daily basis to any audience I can, because it’s a tidbit of information that can be transformative. Explaining to somebody that dinosaurs are still here and you interact with them whenever you see a bird, something clicks. It opens up a new fascination with the world we live in.”

As part of its goal to make science more appealing to lay people, the Nature Research Center envisions and presents its four directors as “rock stars”—visible personalities, and the institution’s faces. Each of the Nature Research Center’s labs is in charge of public outreach programming for one day every week, and Zanno’s paleontology and geology lab handles Tuesdays.

Most Tuesdays, you’ll find Zanno presenting her findings in the museum’s Daily Planet multimedia theater, either in-person or via satellite from the field. Margaret Lowman, the Nature Research Center director who hired Zanno, calls her a rising star.
“She may even be a supernova in the constellation of amazing scientists I’ve been honored to hire,” Lowman says. “Lindsay has an extraordinary enthusiasm, and also an amazing ability to relate to young people—which is important, because there’s a unique component of science communication that’s required as part of her job. But what’s even more important is that the paleo-history work she’s been doing in Utah is incredible. The family tree she’s constructing is going to be fascinating. As a botanist, I hope to learn from it myself.”

The outreach aspect of the job is perfect for Zanno, who has always put a high value on making science appealing to the general public. But the science profession hasn’t always seen the need for accessibility. Scientists have at times thought that explaining themselves and their work was beneath them.

“I’m not so sure that time is entirely past,” Zanno says. “But it’s a process. The public in general does not seem to trust the scientific process anymore, and as scientists we are responsible for that. The recent trend of mistrust toward science, I find that disturbing and concerning because our problems about the environment, technology, and health are only getting more intense. If I can help make a difference in terms of building trust between science and society, I feel like my career will have been a success.”

A common question people ask Zanno is how she knows where to find dinosaur fossils, and the answer is simple: in places where there aren’t too many plants. For example, there’s the Crystal Geyser Quarry, one of her research outposts, in Utah’s Grand County. Zanno and her crews regularly go there to unearth fossils from a “mass death assemblage” of *Falcarius utahensis*, a plant-eating dinosaur from the Cretaceous era, bringing the specimens back to North Carolina to pore over them in the lab.

Originally discovered in 1999, the Crystal Geyser Quarry cache is a hillside with a layer of fossilized bones about one meter thick. There are several hundred bones per square meter, from newborn dinosaurs to elderly specimens, and they’ve yielded up a veritable gold mine of information about growth curves and how that rate changed over time.

Fossil records are usually just fragments that give researchers clues, and it’s very rare to find so many individuals of one species in the same place, as Zanno and the other paleontologists have done at Crystal Geyser. But there are still some sample gaps for *Falcarius utahensis*; Zanno is hoping to find more of the skull, for example. Maybe that will shed light on how these dinosaurs died, which is where the practical modern-day value of Zanno’s work comes in.

You could say Zanno is going back to the future here, trying to understand how dinosaurs responded to environmental changes similar to those happening today as the earth’s climate becomes warmer and dryer. Some people may debate about the reasons for climate change, but the way Zanno sees it, whether mankind is causing climate change is irrelevant. Whatever the causes, its potential consequences are ominous.

“There have been other periods of rapid climate change in the earth’s history—each associated with a mass extinction event,” she says. “Humans are adapted to a certain temperature range and sea level, and the temperature is getting hotter while the seas are rising. We have to deal with it. It doesn’t matter if this is natural or not. And paleontologists are the only ones looking back through the longest-running natural experiment, life on earth, with a historical perspective on how life changes in response to climate change.”

To that end, you’ll find Zanno spending summers at various dig sites for the foreseeable future, and the rest of the year trying to put it all together. The future is unknown, but the best way to predict it might be to look at the distant past.

“It might be the same spirituality that religion is for many people,” she says. “The idea that you’re part of a story, and you can understand that everything that happened before led to this point. Not that they were predestined to be that way; it’s just how things unfolded. But you’re part of it.”


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Encouraging Education
The U Alumni Association awards $400,000 annually in scholarships.
By Cassie Taylor

During the past year, more than 50 scholarship recipients were honored at the association’s Spring Awards Banquet in April, and the Founders Day Scholarship recipient was honored last February at the Founders Day Banquet. The Alumni Board Awards and Scholarships Committee selected Randy W. Cardon for the Founders Day Scholarship in 2012.

The Alumni Association awards the full-tuition, $6,000 scholarship annually to recognize students who have overcome difficult life circumstances or challenges and who have given service to the University and the community. Cardon is a U student and gunnery sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps who has served five deployments, including two tours in Iraq.

Scholarship winners honored at the Spring Awards Banquet included 13 other Founders Day applicants who were selected to receive the Achievement Scholarship, which is $4,000. The committee also awarded 11 Campus Involvement Scholarships to students who have been exceptionally engaged in campus activities, in addition to their studies, while maintaining good grades; 11 Legacy Scholarships to students who have parents or grandparents who attended the U; six scholarships to nonresident incoming freshmen; and two Marvin J. Ashton Scholarships, to a graduate student in the Humanities College and one in the Business School.

The Alumni Association’s affiliate boards presented scholarships this year, as well. The Emeritus Alumni Board awarded $5,000 each to six students at Salt Lake City’s Bryant Middle School who participate in the board’s tutoring program. Most of the students are refugees who have fled hardship and political strife in their home countries, and they will be the first in their families to attend college.

This academic year, the University of Utah Alumni Association will award more than $400,000 in scholarships to deserving students at the University of Utah. A broad range of scholarships are offered to anyone from incoming freshmen to final-year seniors, and from those who come from a long line of U graduates to first-generation college students.

Scholarship applications are available on the Alumni Association webpage, www.alumni.utah.edu/scholarships/, and most will be due in early February. Applications for the Founders Day Scholarship are due the following November.

Several committees made up of members of the various Alumni Association boards are given the task to select the scholarship recipients every year. Committee members spend hours reading hundreds of applications from well-qualified students. While this is a difficult task, it is very rewarding when they know that the money given helps to relieve the financial burden of paying for the ever-increasing costs of tuition.

U Emeritus Alumni Board member Carolyn Kump tutors Dumam Ebbet in reading at Bryant Middle School, as part of the board’s Bryant Scholarship Project, which aids students for whom English is a second language.

Photo by Michael Brandy
The Emeritus Alumni Board also gave two scholarships to nontraditional students who are returning to continue their education after many years away from school. The Young Alumni Board’s scholarship committee gave scholarships to four seniors and four graduate students this year. The Beehive Honor Society Board presented one undergraduate scholarship and one Beehive Legacy Scholarship, which is given to a Beehive Honor Society inductee or child of a Beehive inductee. These scholarships all required a GPA of at least 3.0 and ranged from $1,000 to $4,000 in value.

Funds for scholarships are available thanks to donations from and participation in events by generous alumni. The purchase of University of Utah license plates for vehicles is the greatest source of funds for scholarships. The Young Alumni Scholarship 5K, held every year in conjunction with Homecoming, is another big source of scholarship revenue and is a fun way for alumni and others to get involved and contribute to the Alumni Association scholarship fund.

The Alumni Association places great value on being able to award scholarships to help students achieve their academic goals. With the help of scholarship money, students are given the opportunity to improve themselves and the University. Tate Matta, recipient of the Marvin J. Ashton Scholarship, says, “The money generously awarded through the scholarship will provide an incredible opportunity for me to further my career goals while increasing my ability to positively impact lives around me. I hope to build my own legacy of service and compassion throughout my career while continually supporting the University.”

—Cassie Taylor is a program coordinator for the University of Utah Alumni Association.

**Founders Day 2013**

The University of Utah Alumni Association will present the 2013 Founders Day scholarship winner in February and will honor four outstanding graduates of the U and one honorary alumnus with 2013 Founders Day awards. A Founders Day Banquet will be held in their honor on February 28 at the Little America Hotel. Go to www.alumni.utah.edu for more information and to register, if you’d like to attend.
Merit of Honor Awards Recognize Five Exemplary U Alumni

By Marcia C. Dibble

The University of Utah Emeritus Alumni Board honored five alumni in November with its 2012 Merit of Honor Awards. The annual awards recognize U alumni who graduated 40 or more years ago and whose careers have been marked by outstanding service to the University, their professions, and their communities.

This year’s winners are Daryl Cameron Barrett BS’67, Kim R. Burningham BS’60, Loabelle “Loa” Black Mangelson-Clawson BS’59 MFA’68, Bryant W. Rossiter BA’54 PhD’57, and JoAnn B. Seghini BS’58 MEd’73 PhD’79. The Emeritus Alumni Board hosted a Merit of Honor Awards Banquet for them on November 7 at Rice-Eccles Stadium and Tower.

Barrett has spent many years as a community volunteer for child advocacy and education, serving on community boards and committees including the University of Utah Alumni Association; Junior League of Salt Lake City; Utah Children; Zoo Arts and Parks; and Planned Parenthood Association of Utah. She was also elected to a term on the Utah State Board of Education and was appointed to the Utah State Board of Regents. With her sister-in-law, Barrett co-authored “You’re In Charge,” an innovative child-abuse prevention program for elementary-aged children that gained national recognition. She has been recognized with honors including a National Association of Child Advocates Volunteer Award.

Burningham (who also holds a master’s degree from the University of Arizona and an MFA from the University of Southern California) served as a member of the Utah House of Representatives for 15 years and has been a well-respected teacher of speech, debate, and drama at Bountiful High School for 27 years. She was also elected to a term on the Utah State Board of Education and was appointed to the Utah State Board of Regents. With her sister-in-law, Barrett co-authored “You’re In Charge,” an innovative child-abuse prevention program for elementary-aged children that gained national recognition. She has been recognized with honors including a National Association of Child Advocates Volunteer Award.

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Mangelson-Clawson is a legend in Utah dance. Now University of Utah professor emerita, she studied with eminent dancers including Martha Graham, William Christensen, and Alwin Nikolais. Mangelson-Clawson was a charter member of Repertory Dance Theatre and also danced for Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, and her choreographed works have been performed by both companies. In 1978, she formed and became artistic director of Performing Danscompany, a student company. She has directed hundreds of dance productions and has directed and produced two award-winning films on dance. She has also written articles on dance history and technique, and she created and performed a 90-minute one-woman show about Isadora Duncan, later produced as a video by KUED.

Rossiter spent many years conducting scientific studies with the Eastman Kodak Research Laboratories, becoming director of the Chemistry Division and later director of Science and Technology Development, through which he helped form a new venture between Eastman Kodak and ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc. that led to pioneering efforts to develop broad-spectrum antiviral drugs. One drug, Ribavirin, was eventually approved worldwide for the treatment of respiratory syncytial virus, hepatitis C, and a number of other viral diseases. Rossiter is senior editor of Physical Methods of Chemistry, a 23-volume treatise found in many libraries and scientific institutions throughout the world.

Seghini, now in her fourth term as mayor of Midvale, Utah, dedicated 36 years to the Jordan School District. She taught K through sixth grades for 12 years and then was an administrator for 24 years. She retired as assistant superintendent of curriculum and staff development. She also spent more than a decade as an adjunct faculty member with both Utah State University and the University of Utah, and was co-chair of the Brigham Young University-Public School Gifted/Talented Task Force. Her contributions to community and professional boards and committees include currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the Itineris Charter School and as chair of the Salt Lake County Human Services Committee.

PTA Friend of Children Award and a Legislative Leadership Award.

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Alumni Homecoming Events Raise $60,000 for Scholarships

Photos by Nathan Sweet

The University of Utah Alumni Association raised about $60,000 for U scholarships for deserving students through its fundraising events during Homecoming week.

Homecoming began Saturday, September 8, when scores of volunteers turned out to participate in the Legacy of Lowell Community Service Day. The following Tuesday, campus groups decorated their areas to reflect this year’s Homecoming theme, “Red, White and U.” The U’s emeritus alumni—those who graduated 40 or more years ago—gathered for their Homecoming reunion later Tuesday afternoon, with tours of the Natural History Museum of Utah followed by a reception and dinner there featuring museum director Sarah B. George as the guest speaker.

Fraternity and sorority members competed in song and dance at Songfest on Thursday. Students and alumni then gathered for a pep rally at the Union Building on Thursday night. Friday began with the U Alumni Association hosting the Homecoming Scholarship Scramble, a golf tournament at Bonneville Golf Course. Under the leadership of this year’s tournament chairman, Keith Wallace BS'72, the golf tournament netted approximately $30,000 for U scholarships, about 50 percent more than last year. Friday night, students gathered for the annual Homecoming dance, held at The Depot at The Gateway shopping center in Salt Lake City.

The Young Alumni 5K and KidsK on Saturday morning, September 15, also raised about $30,000 for U scholarships. The crowds headed in the direction of Rice-Eccles Stadium in the afternoon for the Alumni Association’s pre-game tailgate party on Guardsman Way and then watched the Utes triumph over Brigham Young University, with a score of 24-21.
Treasuring the Wasatch

U alum and physician Howie Garber photographs the mountains to help preserve them.

By Kim M. Horiuchi

“He there are many similarities in my two professions. As an emergency physician and as a nature photographer, you must accept that many factors are out of your control.”

Howie Garber MD’80, an emergency room physician and award-winning nature photographer, has focused his expertise and efforts outside medicine on preserving and defending the beauty of Utah’s Wasatch Mountains.

Garber has photographed the Wasatch Range for 25 years and received national and international awards for his images. His pictures have been widely published as book and magazine covers and in calendars and greeting cards.

“There are many similarities in my two professions,” he says. “As an emergency physician and as a nature photographer, you must accept that many factors are out of your control. Every day as an outdoor photographer is different and often full of surprise. Your success depends on multiple factors—weather, planning, animal behavior, and luck.

His latest project is a book, Utah’s Wasatch Range: Four Season Refuge (Peter E. Randall Publisher, October 2012), that is a collaboration with 22 writers, including 17 University of Utah professors or alumni. Among the contributors are Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker JD’77 MS’82; U professors Brooke Hopkins, Jim Steenburgh, and Margaret “Peggy” Battin; and professors emeritus Gale Dick, former dean of the U’s Graduate School, and William T. Parry BS’57 PhD’61 of the Geology and Geophysics Department. Each contributed essays for the book that accompany nearly 160 photographs by Garber. The photos feature the area’s wildlife, alpine scenery, and people—including skiers, hikers, and children.

“There wasn’t a single person who turned me down, and it really didn’t take much convincing,” says Garber, who adds that what makes him most proud about the book was the opportunity to collaborate with the writers. “It
just shows how much people love the Wasatch Mountains."

Photographer and author Stephen Trimble, who contributed one of the essays, says the photos and essays “work together to celebrate the diversity and fragility of one small mountain range that does so much for so many.”

Garber says the book sprang from his wish to preserve the remaining natural areas and watershed of the Wasatch Mountains. Proceeds from the book, which is available for purchase through utahswasatchrange.com, will benefit groups working on clean air, wilderness, and protection of natural areas in the Wasatch. Garber’s involvement in Utah conservation efforts started after the City Creek Flood of May 1983. Garber met regularly with city planners and helped establish the current system for biking and pedestrian use of the city’s surrounding canyons. In 1987, Salt Lake County started a master plan, incorporating bike and pedestrian use, for Emigration, Mill Creek, Parley’s, and Big and Little Cottonwood canyons.

Garber worked for the next two years with Salt Lake County planners, as well as Becker, who was a consultant at the time, and a citizen’s advisory committee, on the master plan adopted by Salt Lake County. In 2009 and 2010, Garber worked with

Envision Utah on the Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow plan. Since 2008, he has worked with Utah Physicians for Healthy Environment to improve Salt Lake City’s air quality.

Garber, who was born and raised in Boston, says he is constantly trying to balance his three loves: medicine, photography, and conservation. He began working as an emergency room physician in 1982 after graduating in medicine from the U. His career path soon took him to Nepal and Brazil, where he met Sandra Cavalcanti, who was hitchhiking. Cavalcanti, to whom he was later married for a time, is a biologist specializing in jaguars and sparked his interest in wildlife photography.

Garber most recently has worked as a doctor at a hospital in Rawlins, Wyoming, and has filled in for doctors at hospitals across the West and Alaska. “I still really enjoy practicing emergency medicine,” he says. “I never really worked full time as an ER doctor, because I always wanted to have time to do other things. I could easily work full time as a photographer, but I don’t think it would pay the bills.”

So he strives to do both—two completely different professions that have taught him many of the same life lessons. “Every day is totally different and unexpected,” he says. “There’s an inability to predict what will happen, and surprises. And I guess I’m the kind of person who really likes that. I don’t think I’m the kind of person who could work a job that was the same thing every day.”

Garber’s photo clients have included Newsweek and National Geographic, as well as Nikon, Patagonia, Anheuser-Busch, and Greenpeace. In 1997, he won the Wild Places (landscape) category of the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year contest. During the summer of 2000, his work was featured in Nikon World, which highlights the best of photography from around the world. In 2004, he won the Animals in their Environment category of the BBC contest. His work has been exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of Natural History in London.

As for his new book, he says, “I hope to give people a greater appreciation for what we have in our backyards. Not only is the Wasatch an incredible place, but it’s so close to so many people.”

—Kim M. Horiuchi is a longtime journalist and Salt Lake City-based freelance writer.
'60s

A.U. "Dan" Daniels BS'61 PhD'66 has been named an international Fellow of Biomaterials Science and Engineering by the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering. The main focus of this field is research and development for materials used to create surgical implants and other medical devices. The union includes the biomaterials societies of the United States, Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, and Korea. Daniels was a tenured professor at the University of Utah in the colleges of Medicine and Engineering. In 2003, he became a professor of experimental surgery with the University of Basel Faculty of Medicine, in Switzerland, and is now a professor emeritus there.

Robert B. Smith PhD'67 BS'72 was honored by the Geological Society of America with its George P. Woollard Award for outstanding contributions to geophysics. Smith is a University of Utah professor emeritus and research professor of geophysics and a coordinating scientist at the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory run jointly by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U, and the U.S. National Park Service. He is recognized as a leading expert on earthquakes and volcanism in the Yellowstone-Gayd Teton National Park region and for operating seismic and Global Positioning System networks that record quakes and ground deformation in the region. Last fall, Smith was honored with the 2011 John Wesley Powell Award from the Geological Survey.

'70s

Jim Holbrook JD'74, clinical professor of law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, was honored with the 2012 Alumni Award from Grinnell College for his "extraordinary contributions of service" to his profession and community. Holbrook graduated in 1966 from Grinnell in philosophy before going on to a master's degree in history and philosophy from Indiana University. In 1969, he served for a year in Vietnam with the U.S. Army, receiving a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal for Valor. After graduating from the U’s College of Law, he spent more than 25 years as a mediator and attorney, including two years with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Salt Lake City. He began teaching alternative dispute resolution classes at the U in 1990, becoming a full-time professor in 2002. He published a book on advanced negotiating skills in 2011.

Paul C. Burke JD'97 was recognized by the Utah State Bar as the 2012 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year. The award is one of the State Bar's top honors. Burke, a partner and general counsel of Ray Quinney & Nebeker, was honored for his significant pro bono work during the preceding year, particularly his representation of an abused teenager in a complicated child welfare case, which included district court proceedings, two appeals, and an appellate mediation. Burke also served in 2011 as a mentor for a first-year lawyer through the Utah Supreme Court’s mentoring program, as chair of the Rules Committee for the United States Soccer Federation, and as a member of the Utah Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

'90s

Erin R. Fox BA'94 DPH'99, director of the University of Utah Health Care’s Drug Information Service and an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy, has been honored by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) with its 2012 Award of Excellence. Fox was recognized for bringing the issue of drug shortages to the attention of legislators and the public, helping the ASHP Drug Shortages Resource Center keep up with drugs in short supply, and finding alternative solutions. ASHP is a professional organization whose nearly 40,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians nationwide.

Miriah Meyer PhD'08, a computer scientist at the University of Utah, was selected as one of seven Microsoft Research Faculty Fellows for 2012. The award recognizes innovative, promising new faculty members from research institutions around the world for their advancements in computing research. Meyer is a USTAR (Utah Science Technology and Research) assistant professor in the U's School of Computing and Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute. Her computer research focuses on visualization systems that support complex data analysis for scientific research. Fast Company magazine placed Meyer at No. 24 on its "100 Most Creative People in Business" list for 2012 (ahead of Björk).

We want to hear from you! Please submit entries to Marcia Dibble, marcia.dibble@alumni.utah.edu. To read more alumni news, check out the “Honor Roll” column in the latest issue of the Alumni Association's online newsletter at www.alumni.utah.edu/alumniconnection.php.
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A Monumental Tradition
The mountainside Block U celebrates victories, and reflects dignity in defeat.

By Roy Webb

The Block U of the University of Utah is said to be not only the first such symbol placed on a hillside by a university, but one of the largest.

It has its origins in a class competition. In April 1905, the sophomore class at the University laid out and painted a giant “07” on the side of Mount Van Cott, easily visible from the University campus. Not to be outdone, the freshman class replaced the numbers with “08,” and for a time the numbers changed as often as students could scramble up the hill with buckets of lime.

Cooler heads proposed that instead of numbers, a giant “U” be put on the hill, “as an emblem of loyalty to the whole school,” according to an account in the Utonian yearbook. One spring day shortly after this decision was reached, almost the whole student body turned out to haul buckets of lime from a nearby kiln to replace the dueling numbers. But by the spring of 1906, the snow and rain had all but washed it away. It was refreshed that year by 600 students who handled about 5,000 buckets of lime, but it was obvious that unless they wanted to redo it every spring, a better solution was needed.

In 1907, Stayner Richards, the student body president, proposed that the “U” be constructed of concrete and whitewashed each year. This was met with enthusiasm, and with the help of a water wagon drawn by spans of U.S. Army mules borrowed from Fort Douglas, the “U” was laid out. The massive size of the symbol, 100 feet wide by 100 feet tall, meant that it took two days and part of a third for the men of the student body to mix and pour the concrete.

After that, whitewashing the concrete “U” became a hallowed campus tradition every April, and hundreds would participate in the annual ritual. In the 1960s, to make it visible at night, lights were installed. But by the end of the 20th century, the “U” had fallen prey to the ravages of Utah winters and was in poor condition. University administrators and alumni rallied to save the “U,” raising more than $400,000 in a campaign to renovate it. In October 2006, an official lighting ceremony was held during the halftime of a football game between the University of Utah and Texas Christian University.

The new “U” is not only stabilized on its hillside, with a diversion dam and a drainage system to protect it from melting snow, it also has flush-mounted lights that can flash red and white, and be dimmed or brightened as the need arises. The lights are controlled by a wireless signal that emanates from a control panel located in the Merrill Engineering Building. Today, all members of the University community can be proud that the symbol can be seen all over the Salt Lake Valley. As former U president David Gardner once put it: “It flashes when we win a game; it burns steady in defeat.”

—Roy Webb BA’84 MS’91 is a multimedia archivist with the J. Willard Marriott Library.

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About now, it’s comforting to know one of the nation’s finest health systems is just down the hill. Check into University of Utah Health Care.

With all the recreation options around here, it’s possible you may find yourself in a situation needing some unexpected care. Fortunately, the specialists — from cardiologists to neurosurgeons to, yes, orthopedic surgeons — at University of Utah Health Care are just minutes from local ski resorts. And, for the third year in a row the University was ranked among the country’s top 10 academic medical centers in quality and safety. So, go ahead, opt for the chutes over the blue cruisers, but please, no snowplowing. It just looks bad.

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