

SUMMER 2017

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

# CONTINUUM



**STILL RIDING  
THE WAVES**

Doug Fabrizio celebrates  
30 years on the air at KUER.

CAVE OF BONES ❖ THE UNCONDEMNED ❖ LONG LINE OF ALUMNAE ❖ POW WOW!

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# SUMMER 2017

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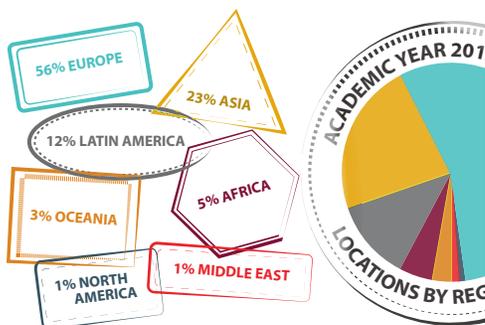
Cover photo by Austen Diamond



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Michael Gills

**RISE AND WRITE**

Well-written article! Fascinating teacher and writer.

*Linnea Charnholm BS'91  
Draper, Utah*

Wonderful story. Some very good tips for an aspiring writer—except for the part about getting up at 0430. Ugh! Thanks.

*Bob Poirier BS'73  
Martinez, Calif.*

**INTELLECTUAL INFUSION**

Great article! Professor Martinez was by far my favorite professor at the U. I learned so much from her. Many things I still use to this day. She made me think differently both then and now. The University of Utah can only HOPE to have more instructors just like her.

*Michele Mills BS'06  
Salt Lake City*

**RUNNIN' WITH THE PAC**

My brother [Frank MD'84] and I are alumni living in California. We rarely had a chance to see Utah sports until they joined the Pac-12. It is fantastic attending games out here and wearing Utah red.

*Patrick Robinson BS'80  
Sacramento, Calif.*

**FOODIE GONE WILD**

Great article, great life story. Just a new fan to *North Wild Kitchen*, but becoming devout. My wife is Norwegian, so the Scandinavian food experience is new, fun, and wonderful. Put me on the list for a copy of the cookbook when it comes out.

*Stan Lucas*

**GODFATHER OF THE MUSS**

I have known John [Fackler] since the early 1980s. His enthusiasm for the U is incredible. He remains a great guy and a true asset to the university. The state is fortunate to have him.

*Frank Pignanelli BA'81 JD'84  
Salt Lake City*

[John Fackler is] one of the true professionals in alumni affairs. And one of the best Utes I know!

*Patti Daves*

**FACING THE TEACHER SHORTAGE**

One solution I like to think exists with education in general is to look for alternative ways people learn. I believe that there are many opportunities to use video games. Of course, like everything else, limiting the amount of time kids play video games in one sitting is important, but one of my interests in game development is helping education. I'm glad programs like the U's EAE [Entertainment Arts & Engineering] studio exist.

*Arturo Ordonez-Hernandez  
Current U master's student  
in EAE*

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*Some very good tips for an aspiring writer—except for the part about getting up at 0430. Ugh!”*

*Bob Poirier BS'73*



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# Pow Wow!

Singing and drumming swirled through the Olpin Union ballroom as the University of Utah's Inter-Tribal Student Association welcomed the American Indian community and friends to the U's 45th annual powwow in April. Dedicated this year to the Northern Ute Tribe, the powwow also highlighted growing intertribal unity across the country. The celebration opened with the customary Grand Entry, including paying respects to the American Indian flag and U.S., state, and tribal flags. This traditional gathering of tribal members honors the cultural and religious practices of the Native American community through language, song, and dance.



Visit [continuum.utah.edu](http://continuum.utah.edu) to see a gallery of photos from the powwow.

# U TO BEGIN SEARCH FOR NEW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF HEALTH SCIENCES

On May 1, President David W. Pershing announced that he will conclude his tenure as the 15th president of the University of Utah by the end of the 2017-18 academic year. He will remain in his role until a successor is in place. "Serving as the president of this remarkable institution has been the greatest honor of my life," wrote Pershing in a letter to faculty and staff.

Appointed in 2012, Pershing has made student success his top priority. Under his leadership, the university has implemented new deeply engaged learning experiences (such as undergraduate research opportunities), and six-year graduation rates have risen from 59 to 65 percent. The university is attracting more students who are better prepared for college than ever before, and is doing more to support them with academic counsel and advice. Numerous outreach programs to find and assist students experiencing academic and personal challenges have been created, and the U has nearly doubled its number of scholarships and created more on-campus jobs for students.

Pershing had expected to announce this fall that he would finish his service at the end of the next academic year but chose to make the announcement sooner so the search for a new president would run simultaneously with the search for a new senior vice president (SVP) of Health Sciences. "We'd like to have a new president in place when we are making the final decision on a Health Sciences senior vice president," says Pershing.

Just days before his announcement, Dr. Vivian Lee resigned as SVP of Health Sciences, CEO of U of U Health, and dean of the School of Medicine. During her tenure from 2011-17, the university has received national recognition for its focus on providing high-quality and patient-centered care, while stabilizing and reducing costs. "Dr. Lee has led a remarkable transformation of our academic and research operations and has been at the forefront of innovations in health care delivery," Pershing said in a prepared statement. "On behalf of the entire leadership at the University of Utah, I want to express my gratitude for Dr. Lee's extraordinary achievements." Lee will remain at the U as a tenured professor of radiology. Dr. Lorris Betz, who was SVP of Health Sciences from 1999 to 2011, is serving in the interim while the national search to replace Lee is conducted.

The news from both Pershing and Lee came on the heels of a controversy regarding the dismissal and reinstatement in March of Dr. Mary Beckerle as CEO and director of the Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the U. The university is working with the Huntsman family on a new Memorandum of Understanding with the goal of reaffirming HCI's role as an integrated and collaborative part of the university.

"The past few weeks have been challenging for our entire university community," says Pershing. "However, I want to assure our U family and friends that Dr. Ruth Watkins, senior vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Lorris Betz, and I are determined to work collaboratively and energetically to keep the university on course. And although I have announced that my time as president is nearing its conclusion, I am committed to maintaining the momentum the U is enjoying so that my successor will inherit a strong, vibrant campus."

Upon completion of his presidency, Pershing intends to return to teaching and research at the U as a Distinguished Professor of chemical engineering. He is the recipient of the university's Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Research awards and the Rosenblatt Prize for Excellence.

This story was last updated at time of press, May 15, 2017.

## NEW PROGRAM SUPPORTS AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS



The U is launching a first-of-its-kind program aimed at preparing African American students for success after graduation. The African American Doctoral Scholars Initiative, which begins fall 2017, provides eligible students with annual scholarships worth up to \$5,000, among other resources.

The community-building program is designed to help students develop skills including teaching, creating syllabi, submitting grant proposals, publishing and presenting research, etc. The scholarship award money may be used for research and conference travel, professional development, and dissertation research and writing expenses.

"Many African American doctoral students are only prepared to conduct research upon graduating," says Deniece Dortch, program manager for the initiative and a postdoctoral research fellow. "We recognize these gaps and want students to be competitive on the job market once they complete their degrees. This program provides students with a network of peers, mentors, and professional development workshops to set them up for success."

To be eligible for the program, students must self-identify as a member of the African American community, be accepted into a doctoral program at the U, be a full-time student, have earned a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher, be a U.S. citizen, and demonstrate a commitment to understanding black life, history, and culture in the United States.

## U NOW OFFERS ONLINE-ONLY BACHELOR'S DEGREES

The U will offer fully online undergraduate degrees beginning in fall 2017. A new package of courses, called "Block U," will fulfill all general education requirements. This set of courses will complement the select majors currently offered on the web. "In the past, the U has offered several online undergraduate majors, but without an online general education program, students going to school online couldn't complete their degree," says Ann Darling, assistant vice president of Undergraduate Studies. "Block U provides the flexibility of online delivery and the benefits of highly engaging instruction."

Majors offered through UOnline will include economics, nursing, sustainable tourism and hospitality management, psychology, and social work, along with a minor in gerontology. Most general education courses in Block U will be available for students to take at their convenience, helping them fit school into their personal schedules and busy lives.

Web-based courses don't come at the expense of developing relationships with classmates and professors. The global citizen course, in particular, was developed to give online students access to the benefits of a learning community experience. "U research demonstrates that learning community courses are especially powerful success experiences for students of diverse backgrounds," Darling says.

The U offers more than 450 web courses in addition to these fully online undergraduate programs. And online graduate degrees available through the U include electrical and computer engineering, occupational therapy, and information systems.



## A REASON TO SMILE



This May, future dentists tossed their caps in the air as the first cohort of students to graduate from the U's School of Dentistry. The university's first new school in more than 50 years has racked up an impressive set of achievements in its four short years: the inaugural class had the second-highest GPA for incoming dental students in the U.S., all 20 students have passed their dental board exams and scored in the top 15 percent nationally, and all will practice dentistry either in private practice or with additional training.

## SKI TEAM WINS NCAA TITLE



Photo courtesy flyingpointroad.com

The Utah ski team claimed the 2017 NCAA championship in March, their first nationals win since 2003. A special shout-out goes to freshman Martin Bergström, who won two national titles at the meet, in the men's 10-km classic and the men's 20-km freestyle race.

Utah Director of Skiing Kevin Sweeney notes: "In all my years of coaching, it was one of the most challenging four days of competition." Sweeney also led the program to its last title 14 years ago and served under Pat Miller as head Nordic coach on Utah's two NCAA title teams in 1997-98. "The weather was incredibly cold and windy, and challenging from both a waxing perspective as well as visibility and conditions. It took a lot of perseverance and gutsy performances for us to win."

The Utes have 11 NCAA titles and 12 championships overall, including an AIAW title in 1978. Utah's NCAA wins rank third all-time in skiing.

# VARSITY ESPORTS COMES TO THE U

The U and its nationally ranked Entertainment Arts & Engineering (EAE) video game development program are forming the U's first college-sponsored varsity esports program. Utah esports will compete in multiple games and has confirmed the industry-leading *League of Legends* as its first game, with additional games to be announced shortly. The esports program is the first of its kind from a school in the Power Five athletics conferences (Pac-12, Big Ten, Big 12, Atlantic Coast, and Southeastern).

"Esports has had a dramatic rise in popularity in the U.S. over the last few years—especially on college campuses," says A.J. Dimick BA'03 BA'06 MEAE'14, director of operations for the esports program. "We think college esports is a great opportunity, and we want our students to be part of it."

The U's esports program will be sponsored by the EAE program, which has been ranked the No. 1 video game design



program in the nation for three of the past five years by The Princeton Review. "EAE is proud to elevate competitive gaming at the U," says Robert Kessler BS'74 MS'77 PhD'81, director of EAE. "We think it is a great opportunity for our students, the vibrant gaming community here on

campus, and Utah fans in general to come together and watch these players hone their skills and play competitively to represent our school."

College esports is in its infancy, but there are scores of teams sponsored by student gaming clubs across the United States. "We have more than 750 university *League of Legends* student clubs, and more than 20 official varsity programs across North America," says Michael Sherman, college esports lead for Riot Games. "The U continues to showcase why it's among the nation's most innovative and competitive as the first Power Five school to build its varsity *League of Legends* team."

## DEBATE SOCIETY EARNS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Congratulations to the U's oldest student organization, the John R. Park Debate Society, for earning the season-long national championship awarded by the National Parliamentary Debate Association. The debate team also finished sixth place (first place in Pac-12) at the NPDA National Championship Tournament in March. The tournament included more than 140 teams from 41 universities and colleges.

## THE U TAKES ON REAL FOOD CHALLENGE

In February 2015, President David W. Pershing committed the U to the Real Food Challenge—a goal to have 20 percent of the university's food categorized as "real" by 2020. "Real food" is a newer term used to describe food that is local/community-based, fair, ecologically sound, and humane.

Spring semester, "real food" labels began arriving in some campus stores. The new labels highlight the elements of "real food" and are now on food items at Mom's Café and Mom's Pantry at the Marriott Library and the Counsel Café in the S.J. Quinney College of Law.

"These labels increase transparency about the food students are consuming," says Emily Paul, co-chair of the U's Real Food Challenge student group. "This will give students the opportunity to make more sustainable and ethical food choices now and moving forward."



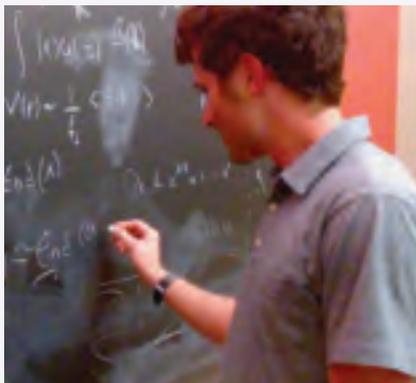
## U STUDENT AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS HERTZ FELLOWSHIP

Ethan Lake, an undergraduate student in physics and math, has received the prestigious and highly competitive Hertz Fellowship, a \$250,000 grant for up to five years of graduate study in the STEM fields. Lake is one of only 12 students nationally to receive this award and the second Hertz Fellow for the U.

The Hertz Fellowship seeks to support America's most promising students in the applied physical, biological, and engineering sciences. This year, 721 students applied and went through a rigorous merit-based process. The top 150 applicants were invited for an in-depth technical interview, and of those, 40 were invited back for a second interview, with each interview increasing in difficulty. "I found the application process, especially the interviews, to be intellectually rewarding and very enjoyable," says Lake. "I would definitely encourage other students to apply."

During his undergraduate career, Lake has published six first-author papers, with another three either submitted or in progress. Through his research, he has collaborated with scholars at institutions around the world including Princeton University, Caltech, the University of Colorado-Boulder, Peking University, and Tokyo University.

"I'm very grateful to the mentors I've worked with for their constant patience, and I appreciate the freedom they've given me to explore and think about research problems independently," adds Lake.



## PIANO SCHOLAR INSPIRES UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES



*"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything." ~ Plato*

Desiree González, multiple award-winning pianist, teacher, and senior doctoral student in the U's School of Music, uses this quote as her inspiration. González is the O. C. Tanner Piano Service Scholar for the 2016-17 school year. The program, created by the O. C. Tanner Company, selects one piano student at the U each year to receive an award in support of a teaching assistantship. The scholar presents 15 performances or presentations during the academic year with the community's underserved populations.

It's no accident that many of González's recitals feature works by Latin American and well-known classical composers. "I want specifically to help the Latino and refugee communities because I am one of them," says González. "I want to reach out through musical experiences to let them know that they are strong enough to pursue their dreams."

Susan Duehlmeier BFA'70 MFA'73, piano area chair at the School of Music, has described González's performances and assemblies in Salt Lake area public schools as remarkable. "The children are mesmerized by her presence," she says. "Desiree is a leader in the School of Music and is already considered an expert in the field of pedagogy [teaching]."

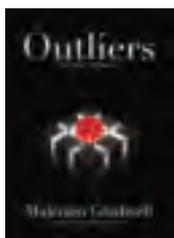
Born in Monterrey, Nuevo León, México, González began playing the piano before she was three. At age 14, she studied with the Mexican-German concert pianist Alicia Monfort, and later attended the School of Music at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from Brigham Young University and currently is an associate private instructor at the U's Preparatory Division and a U-Piano Outreach Program piano instructor under the tutelage of Vedrana Subotic, an associate professor (lecturer) in the School of Music. González's piano excellence has taken her to concert venues and music institutions across Mexico, the United States, and Europe, where her talent, academic research, and pedagogical interests have led to numerous presentations and performances, including a solo recital in Rome.

For González, music is the answer. And now she is using music to inspire others, as Plato's quote inspired her, to pursue their dreams and give "wings to their minds, flight to their imagination, and gaiety to their lives."

# WHAT A PHYSICIST READS FOR FUN

By Brooke Adams

They say you can't judge a book by its cover, but you can get to know someone by the books they read. Meet Ben Bromley, chair of the Department of Physics. By day, he studies planet formation, galactic dynamics, and astrophysics. In contrast, take a look at what he likes to read when he's not caught up in the stars.



## WHAT'S A GOOD BOOK YOU'VE READ LATELY?

I picked up Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers* recently. It was really fun, giving a perspective on the roles of hard work, talent, and luck of the draw in becoming a professional success. The author emphasizes the 10,000 Hour Rule, which suggests that extraordinary mastery of a skill or trade

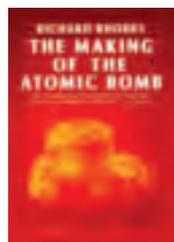
requires training and practice over a long period of time. I like this idea now as a new department chair, because I can tell my colleagues not to worry, in just another 9,000 hours, I'll be really good at this.



## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OF ALL TIME?

I'm from back East and lived for a time near the Appomattox Court House and other sites of great importance in the Civil War. After moving to the Mountain West, I finally picked up James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, which gives an excellent account of that critical period in our country's history. I became a little impossible to

be around when I was reading it, so wrapped up that I constantly gave friends and significantly younger family members up-to-the-minute reports about what was going on 150 years ago.



## WHAT IS ONE BOOK YOU THINK EVERY STUDENT SHOULD READ?

When I became a postdoctoral fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory, my family sent a few books related to "The Lab." Richard Rhodes' *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* was one of them. It gives a great summary of the science and history around the development

of nuclear weapons, as well as the role and responsibility of scientists. This book is a must-read, especially for students of physics.



## ANY MEMORABLE BOOKS FROM YOUR YOUTH?

I definitely have a favorite in the kids' category, the best buddy book of all time: *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann. I laughed, I cried. As a teenager, I loved the Poirot mysteries by Agatha Christie and any of the thrillers from Alistair MacLean that I could find.



MacLean's novel *Ice Station Zebra* is about some espionage-murder-intrigue at an Arctic weather station. I was at school in Vermont when I read it. In the novel, the temperature was dramatically cold at Ice Station Zebra. As I was tearing through the story, we were in a cold snap in Vermont, where it was a tick below -40 degrees, the point at which Fahrenheit and Celsius scales meet. It was warmer in the novel.

*"For sage advice and stress relief, I like to pick up one of my Calvin and Hobbes comic strip anthologies."*



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ANOTHER

# STUDENT SUCCESS

STORY

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Meet Kara, an artist – in every sense. She is a dancer, a playwright, and a novelist. Kara is the recipient of the Herbert I. and Elsa B. Michael Foundation Diversity Scholarship from the Honors College and has merit scholarships from the Departments of Ballet and English. At the U, she has devoted herself to future success – whether as a professional ballerina, choreographer, or a storyteller. Support student success like Kara's at [giving.utah.edu](https://giving.utah.edu).



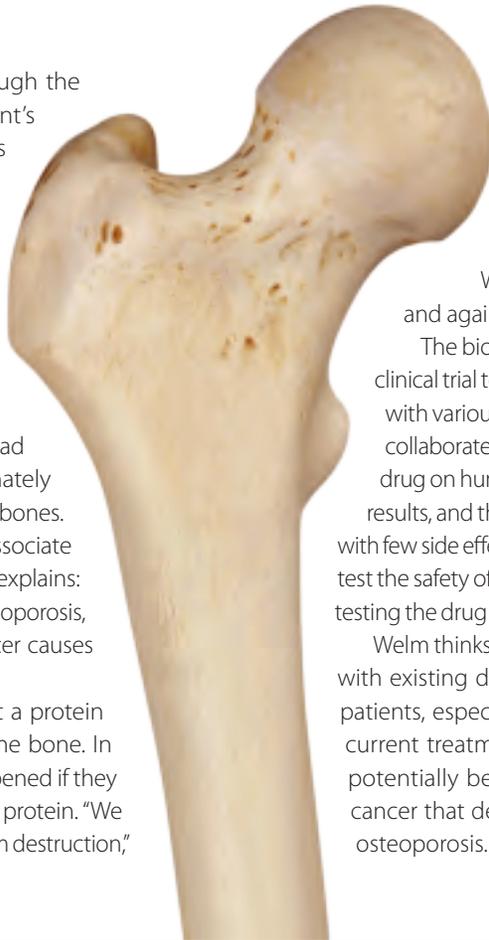
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## PROMISING RESULTS IN PROTECTING BONES FROM CANCER

Once breast cancer spreads through the body, it can degrade a patient's healthy bones, causing numerous problems. Scientists at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah have identified a new way that bones get destroyed through cancer. And they've also learned how to block that destruction with a new drug. Initial tests with patients show promising results.

Forty-thousand people die every year of breast cancer because the disease has spread to other sites in the body. And approximately 75 percent of the time, it spreads to their bones. Alana Welm, an investigator at HCI and associate professor of oncological sciences at the U, explains: "It's a similar process to what happens in osteoporosis, except to a much greater extent. The cancer causes bone to be eaten up."

Welm and colleagues discovered that a protein called Ron is responsible for destroying the bone. In mice, the scientists then studied what happened if they knocked out the gene containing the Ron protein. "We found it completely protected the bones from destruction,"



says Welm. But it isn't possible to simply knock out peoples' genes. So to test the process in humans, HCI scientists worked with a biotechnology company that was developing an oral drug that blocks the activity of Ron. Welm's group first tested this drug in mice and again saw positive results.

The biotech company was conducting a Phase 1 clinical trial to test the Ron inhibitor in men and women with various types of cancers, so Welm and her group collaborated with them to investigate the effect of the drug on human bones. The data showed encouraging results, and the drug was also well-tolerated in patients, with few side effects. But this trial was initially created only to test the safety of the drug. The next step will be specifically testing the drug in clinical trials with breast cancer patients.

Welm thinks the drug might work well in combination with existing drug therapies to improve outcomes for patients, especially those whose disease is resistant to current treatments. She also believes the drug could potentially be used for patients with other types of cancer that degrade bones, or for non-cancer-related osteoporosis.

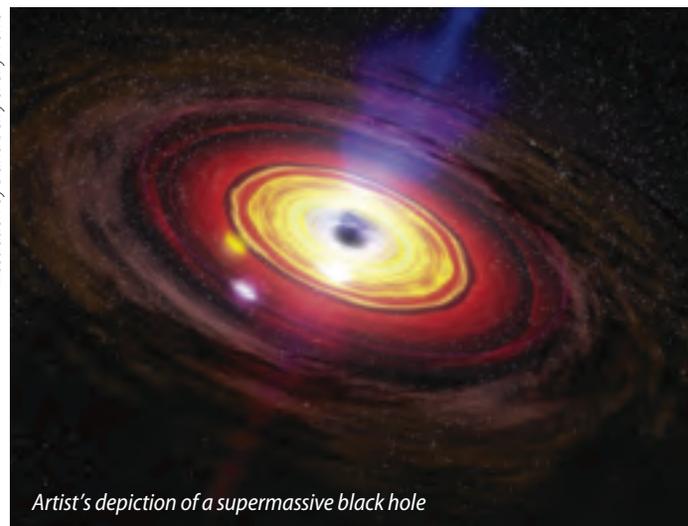
## HUGE BLACK HOLES FOUND IN TINY GALAXIES

Three years ago, a University of Utah-led team discovered that an ultra-compact dwarf galaxy contained a supermassive black hole, then the smallest known galaxy to harbor such a giant black hole. Now, the same group of U astronomers and colleagues has found two more examples of the phenomenon, suggesting that black holes lurk at the center of most of these galaxies—potentially doubling the number of supermassive black holes known in the universe—and that the dwarfs are likely tiny leftovers of massive galaxies that were stripped of their outer layers after colliding into larger galaxies.

"We know that galaxies merge and combine all the time—that's how galaxies evolve. Our Milky Way is eating up galaxies as we speak," says senior author Anil Seth, assistant professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy. "But we have a really incomplete picture of that."

Chris Ahn, postdoctoral candidate in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, and lead author of the international study, notes: "Maybe a fraction of the centers of all galaxies are actually these compact galaxies stripped of their outer parts."

Illustration by Dana Berry of SkyWorks



Artist's depiction of a supermassive black hole

## BADGER CAUGHT BURYING A BOVINE

While studying scavengers in Utah's Great Basin Desert, U biologists observed an American badger do something that no other scientists had documented before: bury an entire calf carcass by itself.

While badgers and their relatives are known to cache food stores, this is the first known instance of a badger burying an animal larger than itself. The finding suggests that badgers may have little or no limit to the size of animal they can cache, and that they may play an important role in sequestering large carcasses, which could benefit cattle ranchers in the West. "This is a substantial behavior that wasn't at all known about," says U senior Ethan Frehner, first author on the paper documenting the finding.

Badgers spend a significant amount of time either underground or in nocturnal behavior, which is hard to directly observe. Camera traps, a relatively new tool for researchers, made it possible to document the caching. A badger at another site in the study also attempted to bury a calf carcass, suggesting that the behavior could be widespread.

Badgers cache food to isolate it from other scavengers and make it last longer. But doing so could also provide an ecological service to ranchers, many of whom see badgers as pests, because they dig burrows through rangeland and can eat chickens. But burying carrion could prevent disease from infecting other cows. And, adds fellow U senior Tara Christensen, "If the carcasses are being buried, they're not going to be attracting large predators."

Both Frehner and Christensen participated in the study as undergraduates. The work was funded by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to doctoral candidate Evan Buechley. The team's research was covered by dozens of major media outlets, including *National Geographic*, NPR, and *Newsweek*. The time-lapse video of the caching had garnered more than 1.5 million views as of mid-May, more than any other video produced by the U.

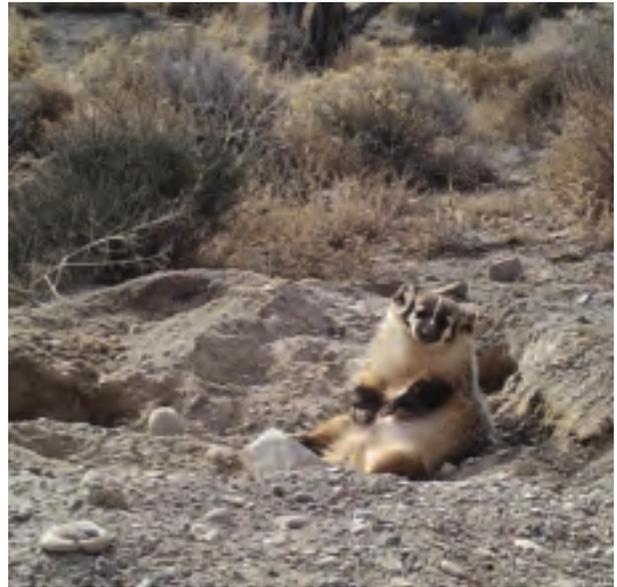


Photo courtesy Evan Buechley



Visit [continuum.utah.edu](http://continuum.utah.edu) to see the time-lapse video of the badger at work.

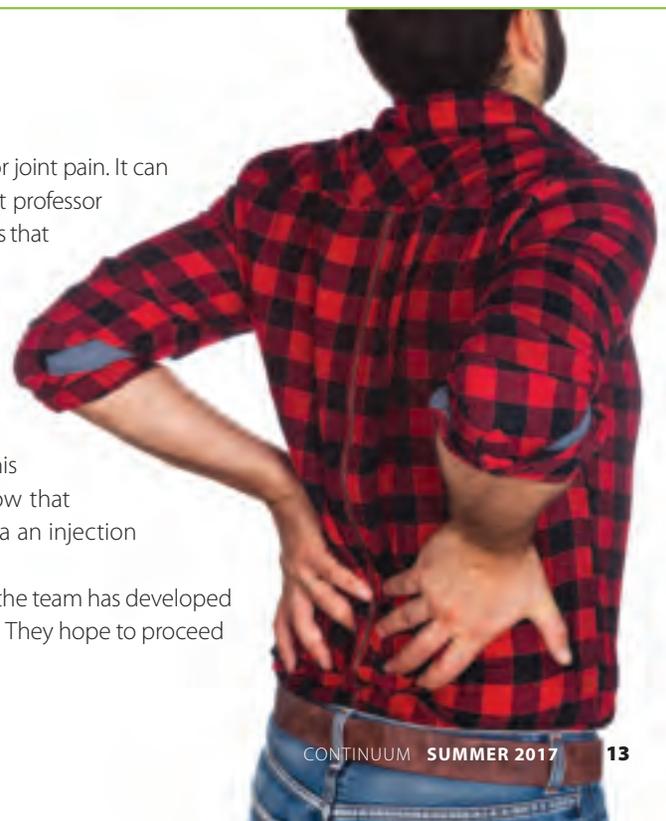
## STOPPING CHRONIC PAIN BEFORE IT STARTS

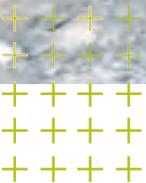
For millions of sufferers, there is nothing more debilitating than chronic back or joint pain. It can feel like a lifetime of misery. But researchers led by U bioengineering assistant professor Robby Bowles have discovered a way to curb chronic pain by modulating genes that reduce tissue- and cell-damaging inflammation.

Typically, inflammation is nature's way of alerting the immune system to repair tissue or tackle infection. But chronic inflammation can instead lead to tissue degeneration and pain. Slipped or herniated discs, for example, are a result of damage after inflammation causes cells to create molecules that break down tissue.

Bowles' team is using new genetics technology to stop the process. "This has applications for many inflammatory-driven diseases," Bowles says. Now that researchers know they can do this, doctors will be able to modify genes via an injection directly to the affected area.

"The hope is that this stops degeneration in its tracks," says Bowles. So far, the team has developed a virus that can deliver the gene therapy and has filed a patent on the system. They hope to proceed to human trials after collecting more data.





# The Cave

T H A T   H O L D S

# A Million Bones

...AND WHAT IT CAN TELL US ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.





Photo by Isaac Hart

By Michael Mozdy

Imagine you're in a cave about the size of a long garage on the side of a lake. It's cool, dry, and so remote that no humans have made it their home. Owls are the only inhabitants, and they spit up undigested bones, fur, teeth, and insect shells in the form of owl pellets on the cave floor. Week after week, year after year, century after century—indeed, millennium after millennium—owls do this mundane task, a part of their biology, in a remote cave no one knows exists. In so doing, they leave an unspoiled record of the creatures they ate: a compact time capsule of an ecosystem.

In the mid-1990s, archaeologists Dave Madsen and Don Grayson found and excavated a cubic meter of bones from such a cavern—now called Homestead Cave—west of the Great Salt Lake. Somehow, prehistoric humans never made it their permanent home, and its location within the Utah Test and Training Range has kept modern humans out.

This one cubic meter of bones represents 18 distinct strata dating back 13,000 years, and hundreds of thousands of carefully packed tiny bones have made their way to the permanent collections at the U's Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU).

### BREAKING DOWN THE BONES

Before finding his way to the museum perched just above campus, Grayson spent five years in a lab, sorting hundreds of thousands of tiny bones and classifying the age of the layers. Owls eat everything from rodents to fish, lizards, and other birds, and

Grayson's team sorted the bones into these categories. Next, researchers took a first crack at identifying the small mammals and the fish.

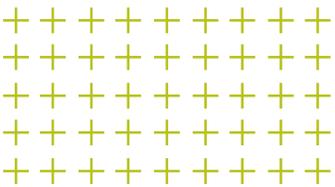
Both sets of bones have yielded significant and somewhat surprising insights into how these communities changed as climate changed. Homestead Cave was initially under the waterline of huge Lake Bonneville. But around 13,000 years ago, as the lake's water level was declining, Homestead Cave was revealed. The layers of bones can now tell us what happened to the diversity and relative abundance of the owls' prey as the lake continued to dry up.

Jack Broughton, a faculty member in the U's anthropology department, dove into the trove of fish bones. Of the 14,866 fish bone specimens representing 11 freshwater species, he found that most came from the first stratum of the cave. Broughton explains that dramatic increases in fish remains mark periods when the lake level fell, causing increases in water temperature and salinity and ultimately the fish populations to die off. "There are two such apparent die-off events, one at 13,000 and one near 10,400 BP [Before Present]," he says. This helps paleoclimatologists get a much more precise look at climate in the Great Basin.

Broughton writes that "since there is perhaps no more sensitive measure of regional climate than the size of closed-basin lakes, paleofish faunas can

**This one cubic meter of bones represents 18 distinct strata dating back 13,000 years.**





potentially provide one of the more direct proxies of climate change.” According to Broughton, things heated up significantly around 10,400 years ago, as shown by a massive fish die-off.

Rebecca Terry and Rebecca Rowe, collaborators with NHMU’s Vertebrate Zoology Department, examined the Homestead Cave rodents to gain even more insights into Utah’s ecological history. Rodent diversity and abundance took a nosedive not 10,000-some years ago, but in the 1800s. Terry and Rowe attribute this decline to the change in food source, specifically the rampant proliferation of non-native switch grass that was introduced by modern human migration. Rodents adapted to the conditions that spelled the demise of fish in the lake, but were greatly affected by an unforeseen consequence of human settlement.

### BIRD BONE BONANZA

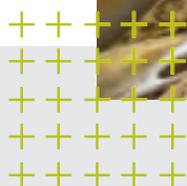
With small terrestrial mammals and fish now counted, classified, and analyzed, there remain several other treasures from that square meter of Homestead Cave yet to examine: reptiles and amphibians, pollen samples, and birds. Allison Wolfe MS’16, a doctoral student in zooarchaeology and awardee of an NHMU Summer Internship, is hard at work tackling the tens of thousands of avian bones found at the site.

Wolfe has been sifting through many plastic bags filled with bones from just the first two strata (the oldest ones), and learning much along the way. “We know there were some big owls, like Great Horned Owls, because we’re seeing some big bones, like duck,” she explains.

In the bottom 10 cm (stratum 1) of the excavation, Wolfe has catalogued almost 4,000 different bird bones, representing potentially 50 different species. The original sifting through the bones and rough cataloguing was hampered by the lack of comparative skeletons to help identify them. Thus, some could only be identified to the genus or even family level. Thanks to the resources at NHMU and the Anthropology Department at the U, Wolfe can be much more specific with her identifications. While the work is mind-numbingly voluminous, it does have its moments of excitement: at times she has had to develop her own criteria



**Things appear to have heated up significantly around 10,400 years ago, as shown by a massive fish die-off.**



*Allison Wolfe sifts through some of the oldest bones from Homestead Cave. She’s catalogued nearly 4,000 bones, from up to 50 different species.*



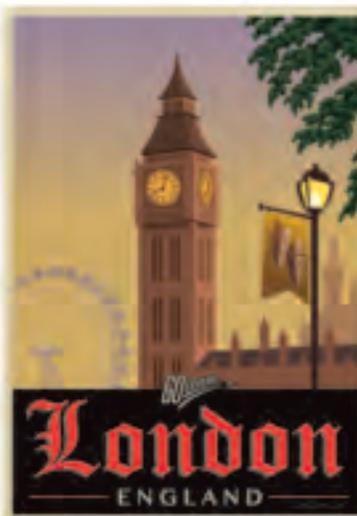
# The most rewarding journey IS THE quest for knowledge.



## EXPLORE GREECE'S ICONIC ISLANDS October 1-14, 2017

Trip Leader: Randall Stewart, Ph.D

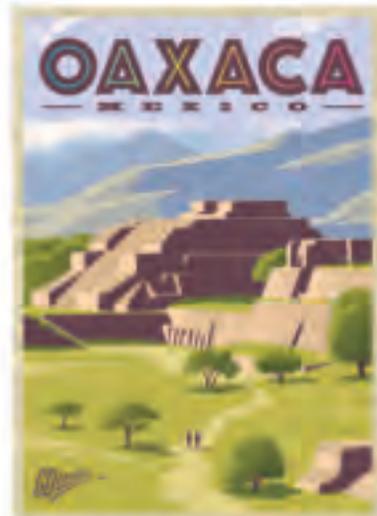
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Trip Leader: Rick Paine, Ph.D

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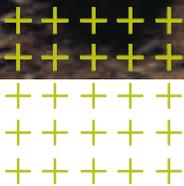
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Photo by Isaac Hart

**Wolfe says she is excited to see what larger narrative might emerge.**



to differentiate between species in a way that has not yet been formally described in scientific literature.

Broughton is enthusiastic about Wolfe’s work. “Distinguishing different species of closely related birds from fragmented bones is extremely difficult, and developing this skill can take many years of detailed study. I was truly shocked at how fast Allison picked this up—she has a rare gift,” he says.

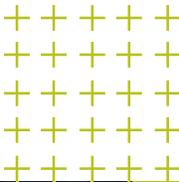
Wolfe is just finishing stratum 2, with 16 more to go. In the oldest two levels she’s seeing a lot of ducks, grebes, shore birds, and small passerines (perching birds). Already in this span of time (a few thousand years) she sees less big, fish-eating grebes and diving ducks and more small grebes and dabbling ducks. “We’re confirming ecosystem and habitat theories of fauna with hard evidence,” she says.

Wolfe is excited to see what larger narrative might emerge. For instance, she has identified a lot of greater sage grouse bones, and there has been some discussion recently of putting that bird on the endangered species list, so she wonders if this contiguous record of the bird might reveal when its abundance changed. What’s more, now that we know humans are affecting climate, we can look at how birds responded to climate change in the past and forecast from there.

Two families of creatures—terrestrial and aquatic—have changed in different ways and at different times within our interconnected ecosystems in Northwestern Utah. And with Wolfe’s examination of airborne animals, there appears to be one more tale yet to unfold. **U**

—Michael Mozdy is a science writer for the Natural History Museum of Utah.

 Visit [continuum.utah.edu](http://continuum.utah.edu) to see more photos from a recent cave excursion.



**SEE FOR YOURSELF**

An exhibit on NHMU’s third floor gives visitors a chance to read more about Homestead Cave and even imagine what this bone-combing work entails. Between the Basin and Range geology ramp and the Past Worlds dinosaur gallery is a table dedicated to Homestead Cave, complete with owl pellets and a clear tube of tiny bones researchers found on the site. It’s well worth a visit.



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## A Long Line of

# Alumnae

Meet a family whose U heritage spans five generations of female grads.

By Ann Floor



1898

Life at the University of Utah in 1898 was in transition. Students overflowed the classroom buildings that served as campus near 200 West and North Temple, President James Talmage had just resigned, and Joseph T. Kingsbury had been newly appointed as president. Just four years earlier, Congress had granted 60 acres of undeveloped land from the Fort Douglas Military Reservation to the university for its new—and permanent—campus. Leaders were busy raising money and designing the new school.

In June of 1898, Sabina J. Larson graduated from the U. Flash forward nearly 120 years to 2017 and meet Sabina's great-great-granddaughter, Hannah, who graduated in May. Sabina and Hannah are the bookends to five generations of women in their family who have graduated from the U. Here is their story.

*Sabina J. Larson Goff*  
1898

Sabina, first in the lineage line, received a "Certificate of Graduation" from the U on June 15, 1898, signed by President Kingsbury. She sewed her own dress, pictured in this photo, and styled her hair in a high bun with corkscrew curls. At her graduation, Sabina received a silver pin noting her as a member of the class of 1898—a pin that would later become a treasured family heirloom. Sabina fought for the right to vote as a suffragette and became the first licensed female mortician in the West. She worked side by side with her mortician husband, founding Goff Mortuary in Midvale, Utah.



*Melba B. Goff Matthews  
BS '31*

1931

Melba graduated from LDS High School and later was the librarian at Cyprus High in Magna, including when future governor Norm Bangerter ex'60 was a student. Both Bangerter and Utah Governor Cal Rampton JD'39, one a Republican and one a Democrat, would later attend her 90th birthday party. Melba received a bachelor's degree from the U in health and physical education, along with a teaching certificate. She also ran track and was a member of the U's modern dance group Orchesis. One of her best memories about her time at the U, according to her granddaughter Jill, was dancing on the stage at Kingsbury Hall for its grand opening in May 1930. Her daughter Connie Jo and great-granddaughter Hannah also have performed on that stage.



*"When I first realized my family had five generations of women U graduates, it took my breath away. With seven degrees between the five of us, our combined history took place in three different centuries."  
—Connie Jo*



1958



*Connie Jo Matthews Hepworth-  
Woolston BA'58 MA'77*

Holding down the middle spot in the line of five generations, Connie Jo received a bachelor's degree from the U in dance education with a minor in physical education, and later, a master's degree in modern dance with a minor in radio and television studies. She says the U offered her the finest dance education available in the country. In addition to graduating with "high honors," she served as vice president of her junior class, was a member of many service organizations, and was named U Days Queen, head cheerleader, and president of her sorority.

1989



*Jillian Sabina Heyworth Clark  
BS'85 BS'89*

Jill (pictured left) entered the U on a Presidential Scholarship earned from her scholastic excellence and leadership skills. At the U, she not only received undergraduate degrees in psychology and physical therapy (PT) but also held elected office in her sorority each year and was elected president of her PT class. One of her favorite courses was—no surprise—a dance class taught by the legendary Anne Riordan BS'56. Jill's mother Connie Jo (pictured right) spoke at her graduation, and her grandmother Melba was there, too. One of Jill's prized possessions is the silver pin her great-grandmother Sabina wore the day she graduated from the U. Jill's grandmother Melba gave it to her to wear the day of her graduation, and this year, Jill gave it to Hannah. "It was such a pleasure to pin it on my daughter's gown when she graduated in May," she says.

*"It's humbling to realize the trails these women before me had to blaze to attain their education."*

*—Jill*



*Hannah Lindsay Clark Hilton  
BA'17*

Hannah, fifth in line, graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in emergency medical services from the College of Health and a minor in disability studies from the College of Humanities. Her favorite class was her emergency medical technician (EMT) course her freshman year. The class provided her an incentive to study hard, and when she finished, to certify as an EMT. At Commencement, as she went through the ceremony and moved the tassel on her mortarboard from one side to the other, she proudly wore her great-great-grandmother's silver class pin with full awareness that she was the fifth link in her family's chain of U graduates. "I loved having a piece of my family with me as I received my diploma," she says.

*"I come from a line of extraordinary women. I'm grateful to call them family and am proud to be a Ute."*

*—Hannah*

2017

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# ‘THE UNCONDEMNED’

HOW HINCKLEY FELLOW PIERRE-RICHARD PROSPER MADE GLOBAL LEGAL HISTORY.

*By Brooke Adams*



**A**mong the many challenges they faced, there was this one: No one had ever been prosecuted for rape in a time of war. Moreover, rape in Rwanda had been in a category of crimes that equated it with theft of items such as a basket of beans.

Pierre-Richard Prosper and his legal team would overcome that obstacle and more—making legal history in having rape recognized as a war crime on par with genocide and sending a small-town Rwandan mayor to prison for life.

The case was the subject of a documentary released last fall called *The Uncondemned*. The University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics sponsored a screening of the film in November, when they also recognized Prosper as a Hinckley Fellow, joining the ranks of other distinguished politicians, academics, and professionals such as Malcolm Gladwell, Mitt Romney, and Thomas Friedman. As a Hinckley Fellow, Prosper lectures on campus; mentors students, faculty, and community leaders; and speaks at the Hinckley Forums. Since November, he has met with undergraduate honors classes and worked with several law students seeking career advice. "It is an incredible honor," says Prosper. "I hope that by being named a fellow, I can help inspire future leaders."

Prosper has lived in Utah for about a decade and is a partner in the Los Angeles-based law firm Arent Fox, where he specializes in international government relations and related issues. He had been working as a hardcore gang prosecutor in Los Angeles before taking the post as a war crimes prosecutor for the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He eventually served as chief prosecutor in the 1997 trial of Jean-Paul Akayesu, who was the mayor of Taba, a town in Central Rwanda, during the 1994 conflict between Hutus and Tutsis.

The magnitude of the atrocities that occurred over the course of 100 days in Rwanda are incomprehensible: 1 million people died, and tens of thousands of women were raped. Prosper says that comprehending the depth of that inhumanity was a struggle. "It was one of those situations where it expanded the mind and soul," he says. "You've got to imagine walking down the street a year later and you could still smell the stench of death."

As the team marshaled evidence—documenting mass graves, speaking with survivors and listening to their stories—they also had to work to retain their own humanity. "You don't want to become numb to the point where you lose your sensitivity, but you also don't want to become overly sensitive to where you can't be objective."

Until the 1997 trial, rape had never been successfully prosecuted even though it had been listed as an international war crime since 1919. "It was a lesser crime, a spoil of war, no big deal," Prosper explains. "It's hard to comprehend, particularly when it was on the books."

Rape, according to *Rape: Weapon of Terror* by Sharon Frederick and The AWARE Committee on Rape, has always been a weapon of war but has been viewed as a "mere injury to honor or reputation," something less egregious than personal injury or death.

But Frederick notes, as did the team working in Rwanda, that rape is a "very effective method for breaking down the community" through the degradation and humiliation of women. In some conflicts, there has been an intentional effort to impregnate women as a way of remaking a community or country. "All you have to do is spend two minutes with a survivor and you understand it is not an act of sex but of torture that destroys the individual and society, and that it should have equal footing with other crimes," Prosper says.

The initial indictment against Akayesu did not include sexual assault charges, and in the film, Prosper says that while the team was committed to prosecuting sexual violence, they needed evidence.

"Some of the challenges are the survivors themselves. Getting them to come out and speak about the abuses is not easy—it's not easy in the ordinary context of domestic sexual violence," he says. "But dealing in a war context, where there is rape, gang rape, and sexual slavery, it is extremely hard for the women to relive that and to identify themselves as someone in their community who has endured such horrific acts."

Then came Witness H. The legal team, as the film shows, was eventually able to get her and two other women to come forward and testify despite intimidation and even the murders of other potential witnesses. Akayesu was found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Since the Akayesu trial, there have been additional prosecutions in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, but "unfortunately it is not the norm," Prosper says. That's the case despite continued sexual violations by groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State.

"I worry that we have slipped backwards and lost some ground," Prosper says. "I hope this film reminds us of what is possible and that we get back to doing what we need to be doing." And that's why the message behind the film, which continues to be shown in theaters and at universities across the country, remains so important to share, explains Prosper.

"Individuals can make a difference, and we as individuals have a personal responsibility to each other and to humanity to do whatever is in our power to make a difference," he says. "It may simply be talking to your neighbor, talking to your elected officials, paying attention. In a lot of these conflicts, we were not paying attention and were being woefully blind. We do have a responsibility and duty to each other." **U**

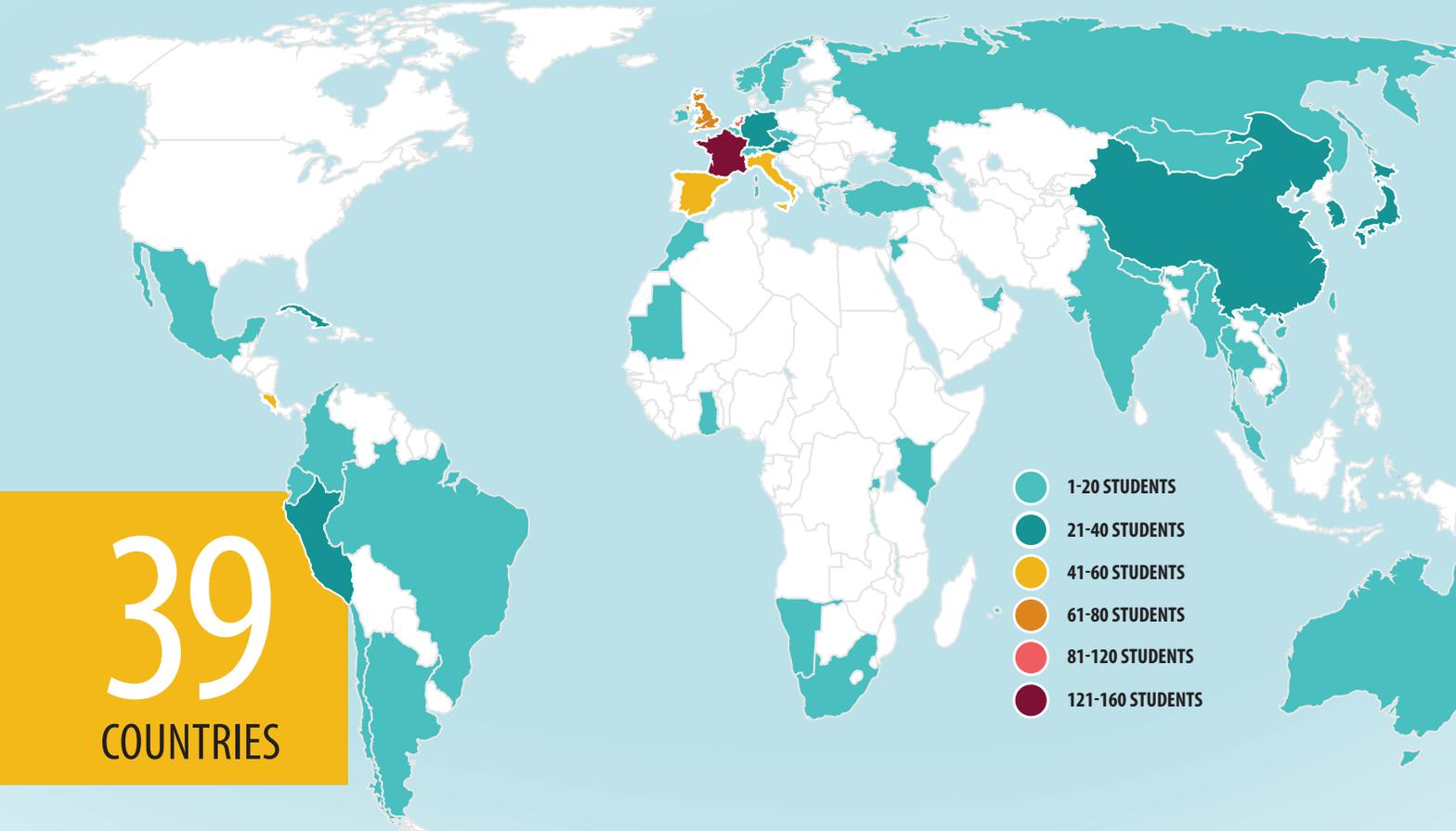
—Brooke Adams is a communications specialist with University Marketing and Communications.

# GOING GLOBAL

Coming up on its 30th anniversary, Learning Abroad had an exciting year as it saw an increase in student participation and faculty commitment. During the 2015-16 academic year, students from 104 majors participated in credit-bearing experiences around the world to enrich their education and immerse themselves in new cultures.



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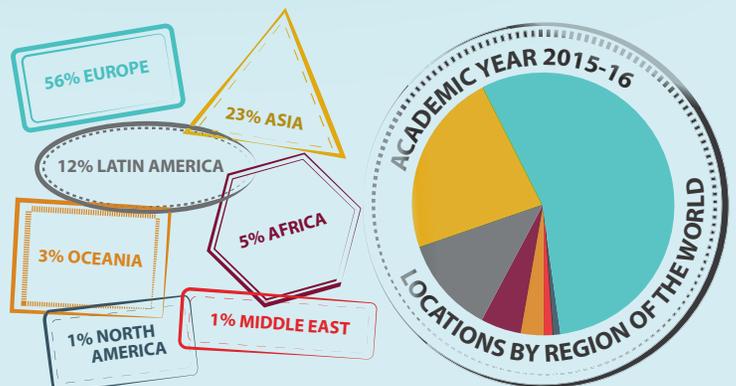


### U ASIA CAMPUS

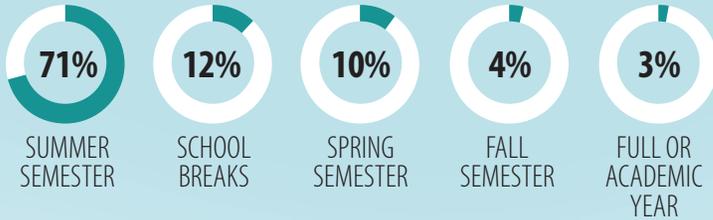
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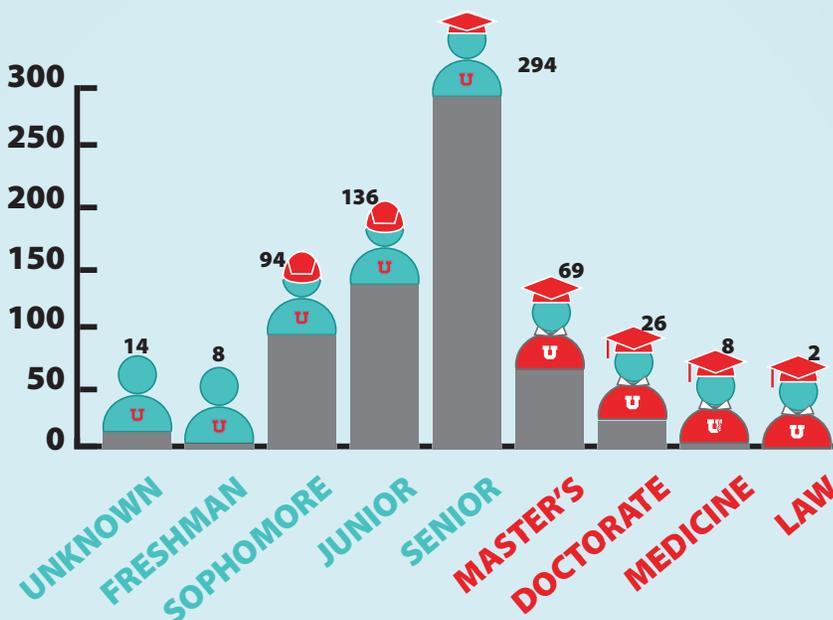


Unknown	4%
2.0 - 2.49	2%
2.5 - 2.99	6%
3.0 - 3.49	59%
3.5 - 4.0	29%

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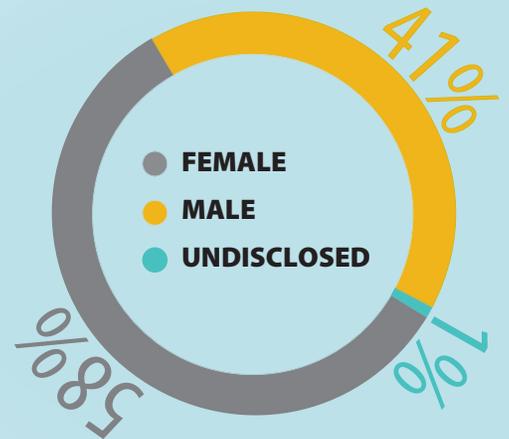
## NUMBERS BY CLASS/ADVANCED DEGREES



# 651

## STUDENTS ABROAD

## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS BY GENDER



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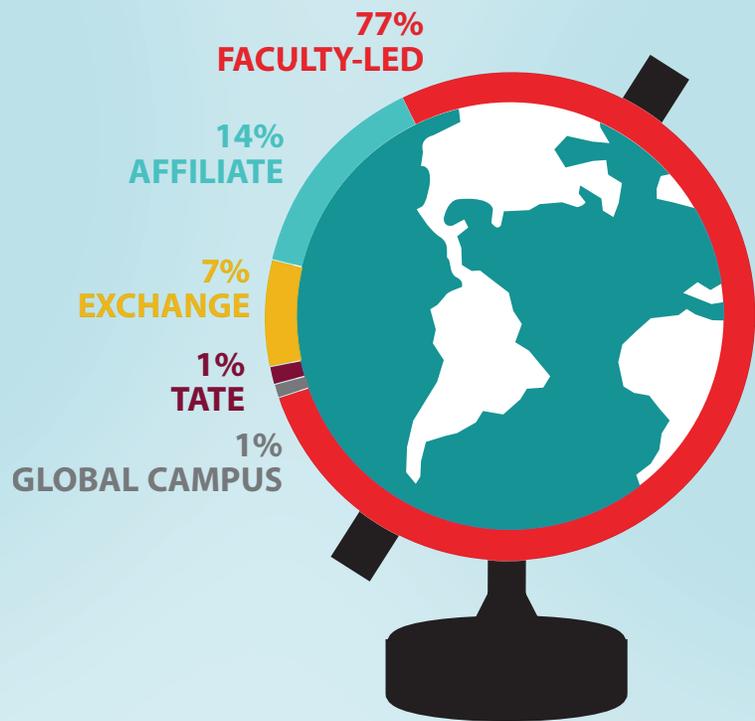
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## LEARNING ABROAD PROGRAM TYPES

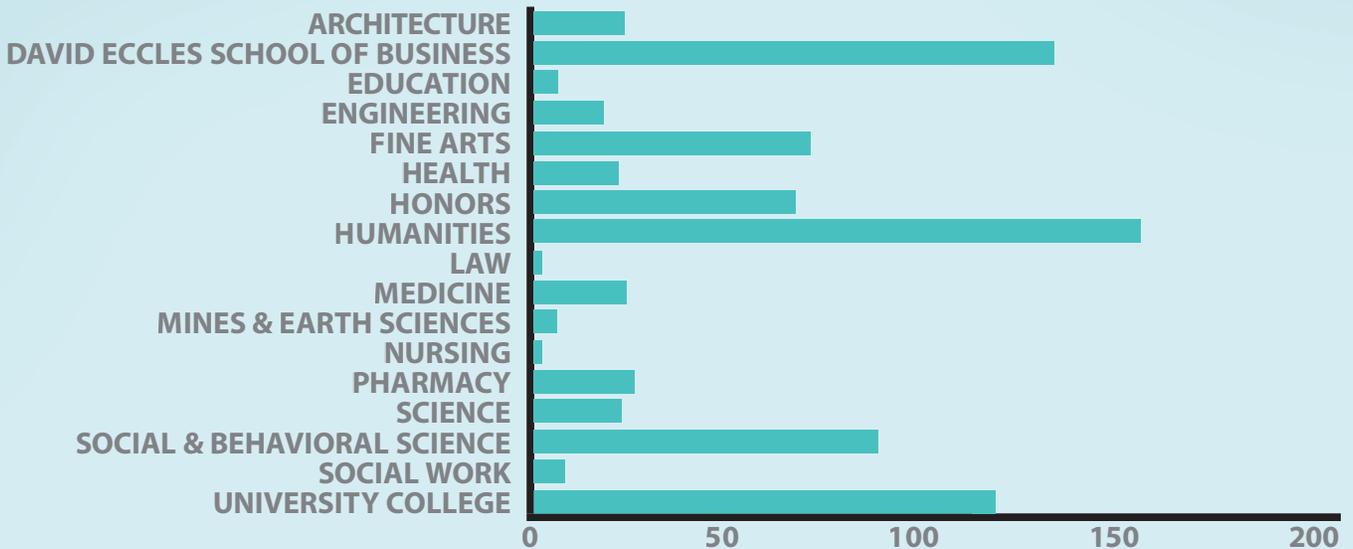
PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
<b>FACULTY-LED</b>	faculty members direct short-term programs & teach U courses
<b>AFFILIATE</b>	partner organizations provide on-site support for a variety of programs, internships, & volunteer options
<b>EXCHANGE</b>	agreements enable U students to enroll in universities abroad for one to two semesters
<b>TATE</b>	programs for individual students or one-time programs offer U credit on campus
<b>GLOBAL CAMPUS</b>	international extended campuses offer U credit abroad

**104**  
MAJORS

## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS BY PROGRAM TYPE



## NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY ACADEMIC COLLEGE/SCHOOL



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HOURS SPENT EARNING  
BADGES LAST YEAR



DESCRIPTION	HOURS
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Encourages students to practice language skills in a variety of settings & understand how language interacts with culture	96
Allows students to participate in intense academic inquiry & consider how culture impacts international research initiatives	30
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*Still* **RIDING**



*Story by Jeremy Pugh*

*Photos by Austen Diamond*

# *the* WAVES

**Doug Fabrizio celebrates  
30 years on the air at KUER.**

## By the Numbers

Number of shows:

3,000

(as of June 22, 2017)

Number of guests:

5,400+



Number of books  
Doug Fabrizio  
has read:

1,900+



Weekly listeners:

60,000

Weekly podcast  
downloads:

36,000

Up on the eastern edge of the University of Utah campus, it is 5 a.m., and the Eccles Broadcast Center is subdued and dark. The soothing British voices of the *BBC World News* are quietly wrapping up, and NPR's *Morning Edition* is about to launch into its jaunty theme song. In this interstitial moment, from his corner office, Doug Fabrizio BA'88 pauses to look up from the book he is reading to regard the twinkling lights in the valley below and jot down a question.

It is yet another morning in Salt Lake City, and once again the voice of *RadioWest* is preparing. Most of his research happens in these wee hours, cramming like a student during finals week, every week. Another topic, another hour, more guests, another book, another film, another set of notes and questions, another day, another morning, another show, and on and on and on. This year, Fabrizio is quietly celebrating his 30th year at KUER, and this summer, *RadioWest* will pass the 3,000-show mark.

And, yes. He does read all those books. Every. One.

### 'I FOUND MY SPOT HERE'

In 1987-88, Fabrizio was in his final year of study at the U. He had started college with designs to be an actor and, although he loved his theater courses and acting, his practical side steered him toward majoring in communication. One day, he walked into the campus radio station and never left.

"I was volunteering at KUER as a senior," Fabrizio recalls. "I pitched this idea for a show. Sunday nights were kind of a hole in the programming back then. There wasn't much going on, and I had this idea to make a news magazine show. We'd slice together all these great pieces from around public radio into this program."

It was called *Sunday Journal*, and its production became a survey course in great radio storytelling for the young Fabrizio. The early '90s were a woolly time in public radio here and around the country. Commercial radio was still

dominant, and a career in public radio was deemed more like a Peace Corps assignment than an actual job. Basically, if you think public radio is cool nowadays, then this was its awkward adolescence.

"There was a vacuum to be filled," Fabrizio says, "And there were not a lot of barriers to entry. You could go to NPR in Washington and say, 'Can I help you guys cut tape?' That is how a lot of radio producers got started—just showing up and putting in the work. I found my spot here."

Six years later, at age 24, he would become KUER's youngest-ever news director and would start a show called *Friday Edition*, the progenitor of *RadioWest*.

### 'I AM CONSTANTLY TERRIFIED'

*RadioWest* aired its first broadcast on May 21, 2001. The topic was polygamy, which remains a perennial favorite. It is the third most popular show on KUER, winning the Bronze respectfully behind NPR heavyweights *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. (Take that, *Prairie Home Companion*.)

Earlier this year, *RadioWest* moved from its longtime 11 a.m. slot to 9 a.m., where it takes the toss from *Morning Edition*. Every week, 60,000 people tune in to hear Fabrizio calmly walk through an hour of single-topic programming.

"The thing for me was creating these long stories," Fabrizio says. "Listeners here [in Utah] wanted the same thing they wanted from NPR, and I believed we had the ability to deliver that depth locally. I've always bristled against those types of people who, when you have an idea, they say 'Here's the problem. I'm interested in saying, 'Let's try it.'"

*RadioWest's* format is a rarity in today's frenetic media landscape. The show's dedicated listeners hear frank and detailed interviews with luminaries from around the country and the world. Fabrizio has interviewed the Dalai Lama, Spike Lee, Isabel Allende, Neil deGrasse Tyson, and



## Big Voices

*RadioWest* is the kind of show that attracts great minds from around the world. Here are just a few of the luminaries who have been guests on the show.

**Anita Hill** (attorney, educator)  
**Dalai Lama** (spiritual leader)  
**Desmond Tutu** (social activist)  
**Doris Kearns Goodwin** (historian)  
**Edward Albee** (playwright)  
**Edward Snowden** (former U.S. gov't contractor)  
**Elizabeth Smart** (abduction survivor, victims' rights activist)  
**Ethel Kennedy** (human-rights activist)  
**Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** (retired NBA player, author)  
**Ken Burns** (documentarian)  
**Laurel Thatcher Ulrich BA'60** (historian)  
**Madeleine Albright** (former U.S. secretary of state)  
**Mark Strand** (poet)  
**Michael York** (actor)  
**Ted Koppel** (broadcaster)  
**Terry Tempest Williams BS'79 MS'84** (author)  
**Tony Kushner** (playwright)

Desmond Tutu among his thousands of notable guests. It's less of a Q&A session and more a conversation that Fabrizio steers. Although he'll draft dozens of questions for a show, he won't get to many of them. Rather, he uses them at touchpoints to guide the conversation, draw out his guests, and allow them to unpack complicated ideas.

"I have an order in mind when I start the show," he says. "There is a sense of theater to it, and I try to get the conversation to move in that order, to move in a certain way and to keep it moving. The conversation should always keep moving, and it should go a certain direction in real time. I can't spend an hour and a half; I have to find the best hour."

It's a high-wire act, performed, most days, live. But even when it's taped for scheduling reasons, Fabrizio and his

producers keep a "live-to-tape" ethic and don't rely much on editing or trimming. This philosophy gives the show an urgent intimacy, while the longer format allows his guests to range much farther than typical soundbites and talking points. But, it only works if Fabrizio is on his game.

"I am constantly terrified," Fabrizio confesses. "The people on the show are all doing important, interesting work. I have to honor that by being prepared."

But *RadioWest* producer Ben Bombard says, above all, Fabrizio is calm, or, at least, he seems calm, which makes the high-wire act possible.

"He sets a good example," Bombard says. "There are moments in radio when things do not go as planned, and while we're struggling to deal with it and cope with it, Doug is calm. He can't bring tension into the mic."



## 'HE DOESN'T COAST'

Fabrizio is a part of life here in Utah. He's in our cars, in our kitchens. His voice comes in and out of our lives constantly—so much so that it's easy to take for granted. You're lost in your thoughts, driving home after the day, and his voice just floats out of the radio until something he says grabs your attention and you tune in to the conversation, perhaps staying in your driveway to hear its conclusion. It's easy because Fabrizio makes it sound easy.

Longtime colleague and *RadioWest* producer Elaine Clark says that Fabrizio's ability to smoothly navigate an hour-long program and draw his subjects out is a one-two punch of talent and hard work.

"He's not faking that sincerity," Clark says. "It's not clever editing or smoke and mirrors. He is just a hard worker, dedicated to making great radio. He doesn't coast on talent. It's taxing."

"It is taxing, yes," Fabrizio chuckles. "But what makes every show worth doing is this process of discovery. It starts with me; for the most part the producers are running down ideas that reflect my wildly diverse interests. I'm curious about a ton of stuff, and it never gets boring. I'm always asking, 'What is that about?' and that's how a show begins. And to make that show turn into a conversation? Now that's exciting."

Utah author and frequent *RadioWest* guest Brooke Williams BS'74 explains it this way: "I'm always impressed at how creatively confident he is. You don't get a sense that he's just going through a list of questions. He is really creating the show on the fly, and it makes it seem like a conversation at a bar. It is miraculous to me."

*RadioWest* airs weekdays at 9 a.m. on KUER 90.1 with rebroadcasts each day at 7 p.m. It is also available for download and streamed live at [kuer.org](http://kuer.org). 

—Jeremy Pugh is a former editor of Salt Lake magazine and a freelance writer living in Salt Lake City.

## Turning the Tables: Questions for the Host

### Have you ever been speechless?

"I had asked former Mayor Nancy Workman a difficult question about an issue with her campaign. We weren't far into the show, like 10 to 15 minutes, and she said, 'If you're going to be like that,' and stood up and walked out. I didn't know what to do. We were live on air. I just said, 'As you can tell, the mayor has left,' and sat dumbfounded."

### What has been your favorite interview?

"Gene Jacobsen. He had written a book called *We Refused to Die* about his experiences on the Bataan Death March and in a Japanese labor camp under this really sadistic camp commander. At the end of the interview, he was talking about the moment when he realized he had made it, about feeling joy and the differences between joy and happiness. It was such a poignant story, so authentic and genuine. We replay it every year around Veterans Day."

### Do you have a most embarrassing on-air moment?

I used to be one of the on-air hosts of *Morning Edition*. I was young and hadn't been in radio very long, and we would get regular phone calls, 'Why are you letting a junior high student host *Morning Edition*?' So, I was very self-conscious and nervous. And this was when Jesse Jackson was in his heyday in politics, and I was reading a story about him and referred to him as Michael Jackson. I absolutely felt like a moron.

### What is your proudest on-air moment?

There isn't one specifically, but generically, I feel proud when everything comes together like you hope. You always begin with this grand aspiration, and it almost never falls into place. So, my proudest moments are when the material and the person I am talking to flow together in the way I envisioned. Those moments take work, and I'm always proud of them.



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# MAKING AMERICA LAUGH AGAIN

HOW ALUMNA ANA BRETON 'PLINKO'D' HER WAY TO THE NYC COMEDY SCENE.

By Amanda Taylor

Ana Breton BA'09 is not one to simply accept her circumstances. Instead, she is a creative and innovative individual who looks at her surroundings and says, "How can I make this work for me?"

As a student at the University of Utah, she realized there wasn't an existing major that would help her accomplish her goal—to become a comedian and TV writer—so she tailored her education to prepare herself for her dream career. "Sometimes life is like a Plinko board," she explains. "You just have to find your way there—it's not a direct line."

Initially pursuing a career in journalism, she realized she couldn't ignore her passion for film, so she decided to double major. Splitting her college years between *The Daily Utah Chronicle* and the film lab, Breton kept busy. She also participated in the comedy troupe Friday Night Live at the U, which performed regular shows mixing improv and sketch. "I always wanted to do a little bit of everything," Breton laughs. "I think my only regret is: I wish I would've gone to more football games. I was always working!"

That work-work-work mentality has never quite slowed down for Breton, especially when she met her husband Nick Pappas BS'09 BS'13 (via his column in the *Chrony*, where he also worked). "One Valentine's Day,

he wrote a column saying he didn't have a date," she recalls. "So I just decided to ask him out—because I liked his writing." Soon, they were seeing each other regularly, and their dates often involved simply getting together and putting pen to paper. "And we have absolutely continued doing that," Breton says with fondness.

After graduating, Pappas' bright future in finance took them to The Big Apple. The two were married in 2014 and now share an apartment with their dog, Binks. "We moved here and I thought, 'This is the time to be pursuing comedy and film,'" Breton says. "New York has such a healthy environment for film—all the production companies are here. All the late night shows are here. It was kind of a now-or-never thing."

She began taking classes at famous comedy club Upright Citizens Brigade, and joined their digital team shortly after that, making comedy videos for the web. Her growing network in the comedy scene led to a job interview for a new show. "When I went to the interview, I kind of freaked out," she explains. "At the end, I said, 'I just want you to know that even if I don't get the job, I'm still going to be watching the show—I'm such a huge fan of Samantha Bee.'"

That tactic worked, and after two years "paying her dues" in New York's comedy world, Breton became a producer of short, funny videos for *Full Frontal* with Samantha Bee—both on the show and for the show's online presence. "Working on a political TV show is very involved," Breton says. "You are hyper-aware of everything that is going on. Because we have to respond to it in a really funny way, and that's a lot of what my job is."

Her first lightbulb moment on the show came when then-presidential candidate Donald Trump

A snapshot of Ana Breton (center), colleague Tzvia Berrin-Reinsten (left), and Samantha Bee (right) at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.





Photo by Marissa Kohn



*“I was never ‘into’ political activism; it just came out of frustration.”*

posted a photo of himself eating a taco bowl. Born in Mexico City, Breton moved with her family to Orem, Utah, when she was 9. She felt her personal passion for immigration and others of Hispanic heritage spur her forward. “I took a picture of Samantha with her own taco bowl, and we tweeted it out and it went viral,” Breton says with a bit of a twinkle in her eye. (The tweet is pretty pointed.)

She says she tries not to become overwhelmed with all the details of the nonstop political conversation, but nonetheless it has become a bit of an obsession. However, that may just be her personality. As a creative, Breton is all too familiar with the side hustle—the after-hours endeavors people often have in addition to their “day jobs.” “I find that creative people have to create all the time,” Breton says. “A lot of my coworkers have podcasts and stand-up shows, and we all need to be making things or else we go crazy.”

Although her husband moved to New York for finance, he was inspired by Breton’s success in comedy. He has since left Wall Street behind, was chosen for an NBC internship, and is becoming what Breton calls “Twitter famous” for his wit.

The two have recently collaborated on several projects, such as the *36 Questions Podcast*. Based on a study by a psychologist who claims two strangers can become intimate friends after answering a series of certain questions, Pappas and Breton bring two people together each week to test the claim. “Because the

people we know here in New York tend to be in the comedy community, it ends up being funny,” Breton points out. Everything in her life has a humorous thread.

Along with the podcast, the couple has worked together on projects including a number of short videos. He writes, then she gives notes, shoots, and edits the final product. The two just wrapped a six-episode web series based on the service Taskrabbit, which allows anyone to hire a stranger to perform a chore for them.

On her own, Breton still works on the digital team at Upright Citizens Brigade, and she also creates videos for *The Box*, a feminist sketch/talk show. And in her “spare time,” she organized a march protesting the border wall on May 6, to tie into Cinco de Mayo. “I was never ‘into’ political activism; it just came out of frustration,” Breton asserts.

So, how does she manage to stay balanced? Taking walks with Binks, eating good Mexican food, and enjoying the comedy in New York. Laughter is, as they say, the best medicine. And she knows she is doing what she loves.

“People are always going to quit along the way, so that opens up a path for you,” Breton notes encouragingly. “It’s easy to get scared of how competitive it is, but if you stick with it, you can Plinko your way there.”

She laughs at her second Plinko reference, then shrugs. “I really love Plinko.” **U**



# KEEPING THE FIRES OF INNOVATION BURNING

DOUGLAS HOLLETT: FROM GRADUATE STUDENT TO LEADERSHIP IN THE FUTURE OF FOSSIL FUELS

By Annalisa Purser

of the EGI and a research professor in the College of Engineering.

Hollett graduated from the U with a master's degree in geology. A Connecticut native who received his bachelor's degree in geology from Williams College in Massachusetts, Hollett says he had been glad to return to the West after summers spent doing research in Colorado and California. He was drawn to the U's outstanding faculty and ample graduate funding, which, coincidentally, came from the Department of Energy. Additionally, Hollett had skied competitively in college and says the access to world-class skiing in Utah was the icing on the cake.

During his visit this winter, Hollett noted how high-power computing has dramatically changed the energy industry since his graduate school days. He recalled getting his first PC in 1983 and marveled at the advances since that time. "The application of computers and the ability to handle large volumes of complex data are some of the biggest changes to the field," he says. "These advances have touched all scientific and technical fields and have been at the center of many of the conversations we've had today."

Hollett came to the Department of Energy in 2011 after more than 32 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, most recently as a manager and director for "unconventional new ventures." His first role at the DOE was as deputy assistant secretary for renewable power in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable

Energy, where he oversaw research, development, and demonstration for a diverse clean energy portfolio.

Hollett says that his transition from working in the private sector to public service was not necessarily a logical change, but it has been fun and fruitful. The key to success is to embrace and even look forward to inevitable changes, he says. He urges graduates to be flexible and maintain a passion for their chosen discipline throughout their career, and to constantly upgrade their skills and competencies.

"It's important to love what you do above all else," he says. "If you have passion, it will almost automatically make you good at what you do. You also have to be willing to take some risks and do things that aren't in your comfort zone."

Hollett notes that in his personal life, he found a partner whom he admires for her own ability to face daunting challenges. Pam Melroy is a former NASA astronaut who has spent more than 38 days in space over three missions, the last in 2007 as only the second woman to command the Space Shuttle. "Her willingness to set a goal and go straight for it, even when it seemed impossible, is impressive and a lesson for us all," he says. "Everyone faces barriers, whether imposed on them or self-imposed, but it is the willingness and ability to face them head-on that allows people to reach their dreams." 

—Annalisa Purser is a communications specialist for University Marketing & Communications.

**A**s head of the Office of Fossil Energy in the U.S. Department of Energy, Douglas Hollett MS'79 oversees researching technologies such as clean coal, along with a portfolio including R&D aimed at keeping the nation's fossil fuels clean, dependable, and affordable.

Hollett visited the University of Utah this past February to discuss the U's Department of Energy-funded projects with students and faculty affiliated with the U's Institute for Clean and Secure Energy, its Energy & Geoscience Institute (EGI), and other programs. "It was an honor to have Mr. Hollett at the U to show him firsthand some of our research, such as our rock-on-a-chip technology to test advanced stimulation methods for oil and gas carbon sequestration," says Raymond Levey, director

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# CITIZEN FOR TWO VOICES

ALUMNA  
JOAN  
O'BRIEN'S  
FIGHT TO  
SAVE THE  
SALT LAKE  
TRIBUNE

By  
Melinda  
Rogers



Chances are that if you studied at the University of Utah, at least once in your student career you picked up a copy of Utah's largest newspaper, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, to catch up on the daily news. Like other papers across the country, the *Tribune* in recent years has suffered from a shrinking circulation and a rocky transition adapting to a digital age, resulting in fewer resources and a smaller staff.

But about four years ago, the *Tribune* was dealt a particularly challenging hand: the newspaper's New York-based hedge fund owners sold half of the paper's future revenue to its competitor, *The Deseret News*, for a significant quick profit. The business arrangement forced the *Trib* to further cut employees and even more resources—a pattern that seemed dangerously set to repeat itself if a new agreement wasn't reached.

The scenario alarmed Joan O'Brien JD'03, a former *Tribune* reporter and editor, who left the news business after a successful journalism career to attend the S.J. Quinney College of Law. She and a group of *Tribune* supporters formed a nonprofit—Citizens for Two Voices—to fundraise and create a legal team to reverse the business decision that had left the *Trib* in a perilous position. The group later filed a federal lawsuit to fight for the *Tribune's* future. At the heart of the issue was the Newspaper Preservation Act, a federal law that provides an antitrust exemption to competing daily newspapers, so communities can essentially benefit from having a multitude of news voices reporting.

After a lengthy legal saga, the *Trib* was sold last year to Utah philanthropist and businessman Paul Huntsman, a move categorized by many as positive for the *Tribune's* future. O'Brien and other supporters dropped their federal lawsuit and have

been credited with playing a significant role in keeping the newspaper alive.

"Several years ago, I wrote a letter of recommendation for a *Salt Lake Tribune* staffer applying for admission to the University of Utah law school. One of my lines was: Journalism's loss will be the law's gain. That reporter was Joan O'Brien, and now, 16 years later, I must amend that sentiment," former *Tribune* editor Terry Orme wrote in a June 2016 column praising O'Brien's legal efforts on behalf of the newspaper. "During the past three years, O'Brien has deployed her legal expertise in the service of journalism, more specifically in her selfless, tireless, and sometimes thankless campaign to save *The Salt Lake Tribune*, and keep it as Utah's informational watchdog and investigative beacon."

O'Brien's love for the newspaper runs deep. "It's a family affair," explains O'Brien, whose father was the *Tribune's* publisher in the 1980s. After the deals closed for the paper to be purchased by Huntsman, a *Tribune* reporter tweeted about how he'd be mowing lawns if it weren't for O'Brien's efforts. And now, one year since its new lease on life, the *Trib* continues to serve the Utah community—and just this spring, received a Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting (for a series on campus sexual assault issues in Utah), a remarkable reward after its potentially close call.

"Through legal wrangling, and at times sheer willpower, Joan helped ensure that the *Tribune's* difficult financial position remained in the public eye," says Jennifer Napier-Pearce BA'91, the paper's editor. "I can safely say the entire newsroom salutes her persistence and undying support for this vital community institution." 

—Melinda Rogers is a communications manager at the S.J. Quinney College of Law.



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## 1970s



**Stephen Wilson Hales** MD'73

reigned as the 2017 Mardi Gras Rex, or King of Carnival, in New Orleans this February. Rex's proclamation

opens the celebration of Carnival, and he and his Queen preside over its glittering conclusion at the Rex Ball. A New Orleans pediatrician and community leader, Hales is the founder and senior associate of Hales Pediatrics and has practiced in New Orleans since arriving there in 1975. After receiving his medical degree from the U's School of Medicine, Hales completed his residency in pediatrics in Phoenix, Arizona, as well as a fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. A Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, he served as acting chief of pediatrics at the New Orleans Public Health Service Hospital.

## 1980s



**Yuan Chang** MD'87 and **Patrick S. Moore** MD'85

MPL'86, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine faculty members, have been awarded the 2017 Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize, an international research honor considered one of the most prestigious in the

field of medicine. The award recognizes medical researchers who have made significant contributions in the fields of immunology, cancer research, microbiology, and chemotherapy. The duo's Chang-Moore Laboratory is credited with discovering two of the seven known human viruses that directly cause cancer: the Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpes virus, and the Merkel cell polyomavirus.



## UAA SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: TURNING ADVERSITY INTO PASSION



Meet Nora Ismail, recipient of a 2017 Achievement Scholarship granted by the University of Utah Alumni Association (UAA) at its annual Spring Awards ceremony. This award is reserved for students who have overcome particular hardship to get an education.

Ismail was born in the U.S. as an American Egyptian/Russian, but her father's business took them to Dubai when she was 11. Not long after settling in, a community of radical Islamists began targeting her family. Ismail was Muslim, but she

attended church with her Christian mother, resulting in more harassment and even death threats from extremists. The persecution became so severe that Ismail was kicked out of school, and her family lost their business, home, and at one point didn't have money for basic necessities.

At age 17, when Ismail was about to be forced into a marriage with a much older man, her parents desperately sought help and found someone who arranged for her escape back to the U.S., but she had to leave her parents behind. Ismail was taken in by a family in Utah, where she was able to finish high school and prepare for college. She entered the U last fall. Ismail is majoring in business and Middle Eastern studies and hopes to create an organization to empower women and children to get their educations.

When asked what she has enjoyed the most about her experience at the U, Ismail says, "the privilege of getting a chance to have an education. I had my education taken away from me by force and lived without it for a few years, so I got to feel the loss and need for it in my life."

At the annual Spring Awards banquet, the Alumni Association honored 85 students with scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$6,000 per student.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS ACADEMIC ADVISOR



The association's Spring Awards ceremony also included the Perlman Award for Excellence in Student Counseling, which is given annually to a faculty or staff member who has made an outstanding contribution to the university through student advising and counseling.

The recipient this year is Maria Creasey-Baldwin, who is an academic advising coordinator with the U's TRIO Student Support Services, providing support to students who are low income, have disabilities, and/or are first-generation

college-matriculated. She has also coordinated a comprehensive six-week summer residential components in which students become familiar with going to college.

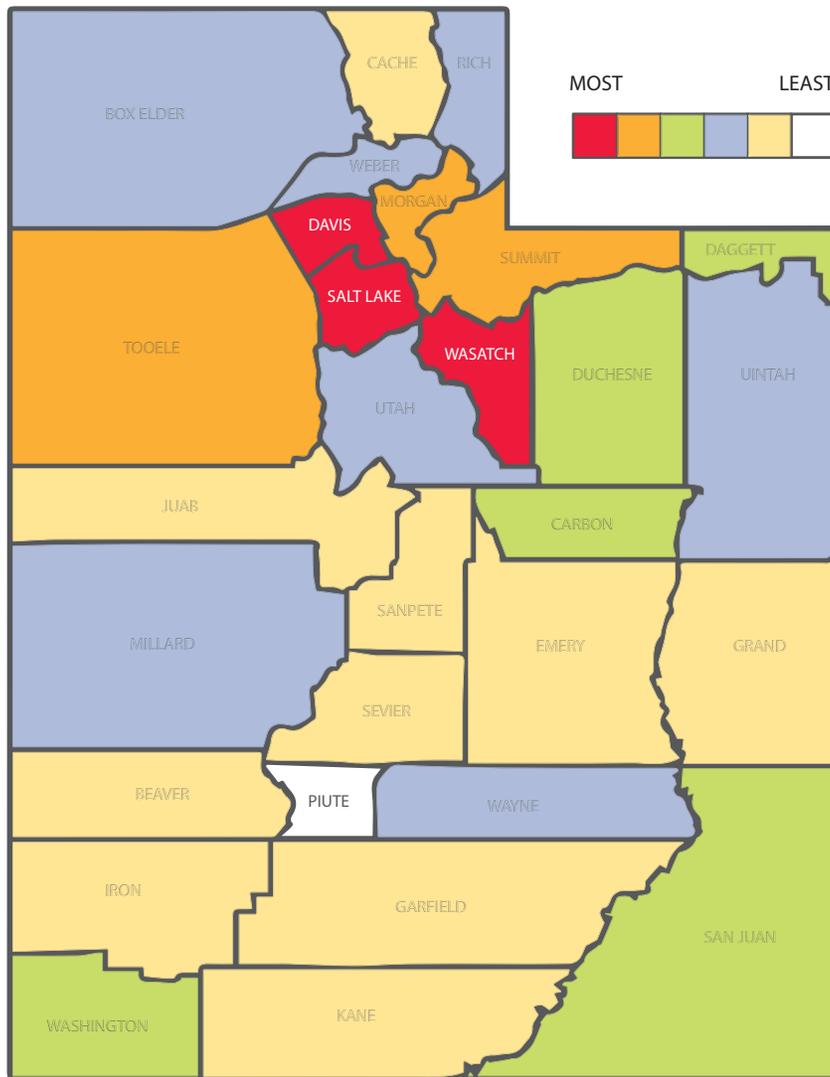
Creasey-Baldwin is beloved and respected by students and administrators alike for being deeply committed to helping students in any way needed. "If it was not for her, I would have not gone to school at all," wrote a student who nominated her for the award. Creasey-Baldwin says the best part of her job is witnessing student self-discovery and seeing them reach their goals. "Being a part of their journey is profoundly rewarding," she says.

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## 1990s



### Adrienne Gillespie Andrews BA'93

BA'96 has received the ATHENA Leadership Award from the Ogden Weber Chamber of Commerce. The

award recognizes professional excellence, community service, and active assistance helping women advance. Hired at Weber State University in 2005, Andrews was selected in May 2015 to serve as the school's first chief diversity officer. The recipient of several other awards, she facilitated the creation of Ogden's first diversity commission in fall 2016 and the Weber State Town Hall Conversations on Race series. In addition to her degrees from the U in political science and gender studies, Andrews has a master's degree from Minnesota State University-Mankato, and another from Rutgers. She currently is a doctoral student in the U's Department of Education, Culture, and Society.

## 2000s



### Thiago Ize PhD'09

and his colleagues at Solid Angle received a Science and Technical Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and

Sciences, hosts of the Oscars. Presented on February 11 in Los Angeles, the award honors their highly optimized geometry engine and novel ray-tracing algorithms that unify the rendering of curves, surfaces, and subsurface scattering. Developed at Sony Pictures, Imageworks, and Solid Angle SL, the team's visual effects software, "Arnold," is becoming one of the most popular programs in the industry and can be seen in films such as *Captain America* and the two new *Star Wars* movies. Arnold's computer animation abilities include rendering photorealistic images of actors who are no longer alive. Ize lives in Utah, where he continues to work on improving the Arnold software.



**Holly Rowe**  
BA'04, ESPN  
sideline reporter  
for college  
football games  
since 1998, is  
co-recipient of  
the U.S. Basketball

Writers Association Pat Summitt Most Courageous Award, named for the women's college basketball coach who accrued a record-breaking 1,098 career wins, and died from early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Rowe, known for her unique style in pursuing stories of athletes and teams, has been diagnosed with cancer and in February 2016 had surgery to remove two tumors. She has battled her illness with the same passion and relentless commitment with which she approaches her job. Rowe is the first recipient of the Summitt award who isn't an athlete, coach, official, or team public relations person. She was honored at the women's Final Four in Dallas in April.

## 2010s



**Alex Mejia**  
MS'13 and  
co-authors of the  
article "Latina/o  
Adolescents'  
Funds of  
Knowledge  
Related to

Engineering" (published in the *Journal of Engineering Education*) will receive the William Elgin Wickenden Award of the American Society of Engineering Education at the society's annual conference this summer. The award recognizes the author(s) of the best paper published in the journal. An Angelo State University faculty member since 2015, Mejia's primary research centers on working with K-12 schools to improve the success of Latino and other under-represented students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, a master's degree from the U, and a doctorate in engineering education from Utah State University.

## WHERE WILL YOU FLY YOUR FLAG?



The Alumni Association is offering an incentive for first-time members—a U Alumni garden flag. For as little as \$50, you can join a robust network of Utah alumni living all around the world. Becoming a member offers an array of perks and also helps support the association's scholarship program, which will provide more than \$700,000 to deserving students this year.

Association members enjoy benefits ranging from special members-only discounts, event invitations, career networking opportunities, and a subscription to all four issues of *Continuum* a year. Membership can be purchased annually, for three years, or for a lifetime, and is open to U alumni, family, nongraduates, and other friends of the U.

Visit [alumni.utah.edu/membership](http://alumni.utah.edu/membership) to join and learn more about additional member benefits and promotions (including limited-edition U Alumni socks). And, if it is a first-time enrollment, start planning now where you'll fly that U Alumni flag!

## SAVE THE DATE: HOMECOMING 2017



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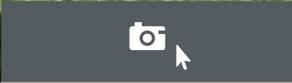
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# MUSSing Around



Student sports fans in The MUSS aren't always content to be on the sidelines. Once a year, they get their turn to play on the stadium turf in the MUSS flag football game, which precedes the Utes' Red-White Spring Game. Head Coach Kyle Whittingham typically oversees the MUSS matchup, and his staff coaches the teams. The showdown has been a favorite MUSS tradition since 2004. And by the looks of it, the students play with the same excitement and intensity on the field that they cheer with in the stands.



Visit [continuum.utah.edu](http://continuum.utah.edu) to see more photos from the MUSS flag football game.

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