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Cultivate Fall/Winter 2013

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cultivate

CONNECTIONS • MINDS • INNOVATIONS



From
**DAIRY
FARM *to*
DEAN**

Page 12

Fall/Winter 2013

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

In July, I assumed the new role as dean

of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. In the months since my appointment to this new position, my excitement to be the next leader of this college has continued to grow due in part to the many student successes I've witnessed.

Our students are provided many opportunities to apply the concepts learned in the classroom into real world environments and often find success when they do. Students like Ying Lu, Abdulla Khan, Jonathon Solorio and Xiaoxi Wang who took first place in a food product development competition with their creation, Dipeese. You can read more about their story and this important achievement on page 8.

I hope you share in my excitement for the future of this college and the future of the students and faculty in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences as they expand their impact throughout the state, nation and world.



Kenneth L. White



LETTER FROM THE CAAS ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CAAS OFFERS COMMON BOND

FALL IS A WONDERFUL TIME to be a student at Utah State University or for alumni to visit campus. A drive through Sardine Canyon is captivating with brilliant reds, oranges and yellows; it is an amazing masterpiece of nature. It is a drive I have enjoyed since enrolling in the College of Agriculture 42 years ago.

In adding "Applied Sciences" to our college name and including programs like landscape architecture and aviation technology, we have broadened the opportunities for ca-

reers and contributions. As I have talked to alumni and students, we all share a common bond in our stories of special professors who have had positive influences in our lives.

This past year the Alumni Council has welcomed new members to represent the broader interests of our college. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Brandon Monson, the development director for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your president. I want to thank the CAAS Alumni Council members who give of their time and their talents. It is a great time to be an Aggie, and it's a great time to be part of CAAS!



Randy N. Parker, '76 & '78
CAAS Alumni Council President

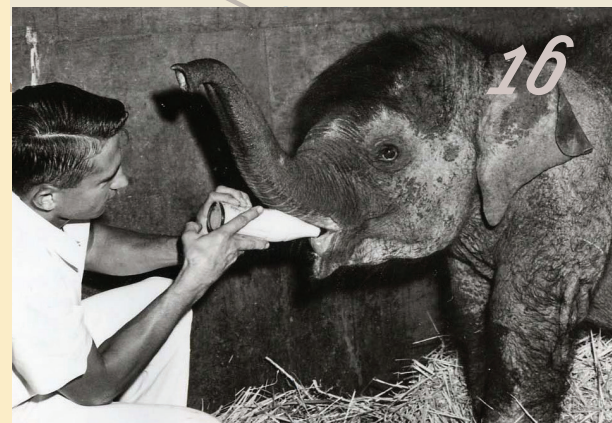
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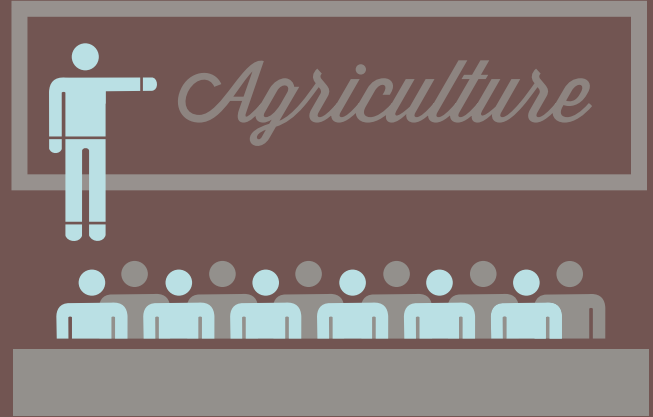
ON THE COVER

New dean Ken White stands on the Quad in front of the new Agricultural Sciences Building opened in 2012.

by the numbers

Faculty *to* student
RATIO:

1:12



Number *of* students:

2038 

Number *of* employees:

306 

Average GPA:

3.17



in pictures



**KOLBY
TALBOT,**
a pre-veterinary medicine
student, presents Manon
Caine Russell, with flowers
during the naming ceremony
of the George B. Caine Atrium.

FOR MORE ABOUT THIS STORY TURN TO PAGE 18.

THE FOLLOWING STORIES WERE WRITTEN BY AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS AND JOURNALISM STUDENTS & CAAS INTERNS.



Lawver accompanied a group of high school FFA students on a service trip to Haiti.

Agricultural Education Professor Participates in Haitian Service Trip

BY DAWN OTTERBY

This summer, Becki Lawver, an assistant professor in the School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education, accompanied 10 high school FFA students, their teacher and a student's mother, to volunteer their time through the FFA to Haiti Program.

While in Haiti, Lawver and her group worked at an orphanage and repaired some damaged housing as well as built new housing for several local families.

"We put one house up in about five hours," Lawver said. "We were pretty excited to put that home up for a family to move into so quickly."

"I teach a lot about volunteerism and service learning at both the undergraduate and the graduate level. But I felt like I needed a good, put-your-whole-heart-into-it experience, and I got way more than I expected."

LAEP Department Plans 75th Anniversary Celebration

BY JACK CHARLESWORTH

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning will celebrate its 75th anniversary from Aug. 28 to Sept. 1, 2014.

"We've focused the anniversary on preparing the program for the next quarter century," Sean Michael, LAEP department head, said. "To achieve that, the event provides alumni an array of opportunities to make a difference in LAEP's leadership."

Attendees, including incoming program members, can further their knowledge in the planned continuing education units. It will also be a great opportunity for alumni to return to campus, view the new building, talk to previous professors and catch up with old friends. In addition, participants will enjoy a golf tournament, canoeing and

biking with Craig Johnson. Many notable alumni will have displays of their work available for viewing at the Fine Arts — Visual Building. A banquet will honor retiring faculty and award other recipients.

"As the oldest and most influential landscape architecture program in the Intermountain West, LAEP is proud to invite its 1,400 alumni back to campus to celebrate this great legacy," Michael said. "The anniversary has been two years in planning and will be an event not to miss."

Registration will open on March 1, 2014. Participants can register and learn about the event at 75LAEP.usu.edu.

Aggie Ice Cream Introduces New Flavor

BY BAILEE WOOLSTENHULME

True Aggie Night has been a tradition here at Utah State University since 1990. The tradition holds that in order to become a “True Aggie,” a student must be kissed on the “A” block on a full moon. Now students can take part in the tradition another way.

Aggie Ice Cream introduced True Aggie Night, a new ice cream flavor, in August 2013 in honor of the tradition, and it has been a huge success. The idea for the flavor started churning in The Creamery about a year ago.

“[The Creamery management] knew that they wanted dark chocolate raspberry-filled hearts in the ice cream; and, once they were able to find them, they went from there,” said Dave Irish, Utah State University Creamery manager.

The creation of this flavor took about 7 to 9 months and was the first new flavor since Aggie Birthday Cake was introduced in 2012.

“The Creamery did a preliminary test run with 50 gallons of True Aggie Night in the Aggie Ice Cream Store and sold out in six days,” Irish said.

Ever since this preliminary run, the new flavor has been unbelievably popular. When asked if this flavor could become as popular as flavors such as Aggie Blue Mint or Bull Tracks, Irish said it has the potential to become that popular.

Irish said to purchase “two scoops in a waffle cone with two spoons and share it with the True Aggie in your life.”



True Aggie Night is now available at Aggie Ice Cream in Logan, Utah.



ADVS Gets a New Department Head

BY TIFFANY ADAMS

Dirk Vanderwall, an associate professor in the department, recently became interim department head after Ken White, the former ADVS department head, was named dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

“I am humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to assume the role of interim department head of ADVS,” Vanderwall said.

Vanderwall has been a faculty member at Utah State since 2012 in USU’s School of Veterinary Medicine. Before arriving in Logan, Vanderwall was a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Idaho. In 2003 while at the U of I, Vanderwall was part of the research team responsible for producing the world’s first equine clone.



Aviation Partners with SkyWest Airlines

BY TAYLOR ADAMS

Utah State University Aviation recently partnered with SkyWest Airlines, giving USU professional pilot students the opportunity to become SkyWest Airlines’ first officers after graduation.

“SkyWest is a very reputable airline within the regional jet industry,” Aaron Dyches, chief flight instructor for USU, said. “The Pilot Cadet Program is a great starting point for students who dream of a career in the airlines.”

Under the new program, professional pilot students who have been hired by USU as certified flight instructors are eligible to apply for the SkyWest Pilot Cadet Program.

Although the program is designed for flight instructors, all professional pilot students at USU, regardless of training or academic level, will benefit immediately from this agreement. Specific flight procedures and policies used by SkyWest have been integrated into the USU curriculum as of fall 2013, according to Dyches.

“Our training and academics have been tailored to regional jet operations and students will be better prepared to gain employment in the airline industry,” he said. “Our students have access to quality time with SkyWest representatives from the time they step into academics and ground school.”

Food Science Students Create New Award-Winning Dip

BY DAWN OTTERBY

Using only cottage cheese and spices, four College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences students created Dipeese, an award-winning chip and vegetable dip. The dip won first place in the Idaho Milk Processors Association's product development competition and the development team was awarded \$10,000.

"I loved seeing the end result of the effort I have put into my education," said Jonathon Solorio, the only undergraduate on the development team. "It feels good to see how book knowledge turned into real-world application."

Under the advisement of Carl Brothersen, associate director of the Western Dairy Center, along with graduate students Ying Lu, Abdulla Khan and Xiaoxi Wang, the group began developing the product last January.

"We needed a good shelf life, a sensory test with at least 120 people, a marketing strategy and a processing safety plan," Solorio said.

He and his fellow team members tested multiple dip flavors and selected ranch and spicy jalapeño to enter in the competition. Although the flavors may not sound very unique, Solorio said Dipeese offers something different.

"Most dips on the market today are made from sour cream or oil," he said. "Since our dip is made from cottage cheese, it is lower calorie, lower sodium and higher protein."



The winning food science team created a healthy alternative to conventional dip.

According to Solorio's father Hector, product development competitions give students an advantage in the work place. He received his Ph.D. in food science from USU and has worked in the industry for nearly 20 years.

"Companies are looking not only for technically trained individuals but also for individuals who are able to display leadership behaviors," he said.

Jonathon said the competition was truly a learning experience.

"My teammates were very capable and dependable so it made problem solving easier," he said. "I learned how to rely on them while at the same time [how to] contribute to the team effort."

CAAS Student Moving Forward after Accident

BY CASSIDY STEPHENS

Dallin Wengert, a former Utah State University pre-veterinarian student, remains optimistic while recovering from a car accident on May 30.

"I couldn't have done it without the love and support of everyone," Wengert said.

Wengert sustained injuries while driving on US Highway 89/91 in Logan. A Facebook page set up to update his supporters has garnered more than 30,000 likes from across the world.

USU students have also supported Wengert and his family by holding a country swing dance fundraiser in September, said Ashley Lee, senator for USU College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Another fundraiser will be held in the spring.

"There is no way to adequately express my gratitude to the faculty and students at Utah State University for their support during this time of need," Wengert said.



CAAS students held a country swing fund-raiser for Wengert in September.



Perrie displays her excitement after winning the Daphne Zepos Teaching Award.

Food Science Alumna Wins National Award

BY MCCARTY HATFIELD

Jess Perrie, an alumna of the food science master's program, received the first ever Daphne Zepos Teaching Award from the American Cheese Society.

This new award and its accompanying travel scholarship is given to a food industry professional with the goal of creating a group of cheese professionals able to teach about the history, culture and techniques of making artisan cheese.

"Daphne Zepos was a big influence in American artisan cheese [making], and we lost her too soon," Perrie wrote. "With this scholarship, I hope to continue her legacy in cheese education."

Perrie plans to use the scholarship to travel to Spain in April to learn about Basque cheese making. She currently works at the award-winning Beehive Cheese Company in Uintah, Utah.

ASTE Faculty Member Becomes Utah's Director of Agriculture in the Classroom

BY ELAINE TAYLOR

Denise Stewardson, a faculty member in the School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education, recently took on the additional role of director of Utah Agriculture in the Classroom. Utah AITC is part of a national program managed by the United States Department of Agriculture and aims to educate youth about agriculture.

"We use agriculture as a vehicle to teach science, technology, engineering, math, nutrition and social studies," Stewardson said.

Stewardson, who describes her new role as an exciting and big challenge, hopes to continue the success that the program has had in the past.

"My role will be to maintain the program that has been put together for the last 18 years...I really strive to maintain that level of professionalism and access to useful resources for teachers," she said.



Applied Economics Professor Named Agricultural and Resource Economics Review Fellow

BY MCCARTY HATFIELD

Paul Jakus, a professor in the Department of Applied Economics, was named an Agricultural and Resource Economics fellow by the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association.

The ARER Fellow award is given to authors who have published five or more peer-reviewed articles in Agricultural and Resource Economics Review and "who have demonstrated sustained excellence in research and commitment to the association's journal," according to the journal's website. This honor is given to fewer than one percent of authors whose work is published in the journal.

"I am honored to have been named an ARER Fellow," Jakus said. "I have always looked forward to receiving and reading the journal, because there is usually a research paper that can be used immediately in my own research program."



Professors Engage in Unique Stress-Reliever

BY ALEX BENNETT

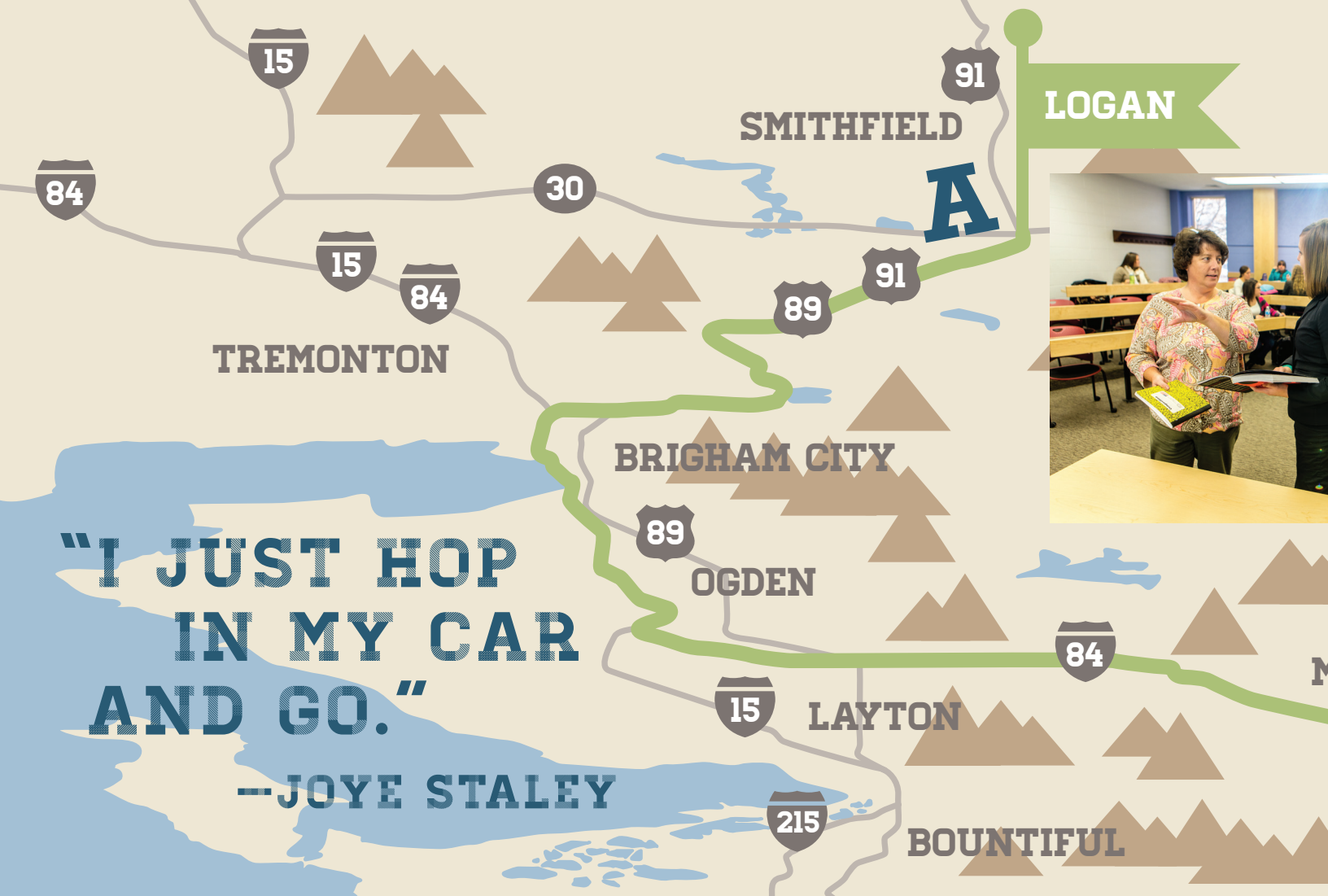
College professors hoop it up during Noon Basketball Association games every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Nelson Fieldhouse.

Unique rules such as not clearing the ball past half court on a turnover or air ball keep the games lively and competitive.

Dillon Feuz, head of the Department of Applied Economics, said he regularly plays these games for the exercise and as the ultimate stress reliever.

For more than 20 years, the fun-friendly environment has drawn faculty members of all skill levels and backgrounds. The games are the place to disregard academics and play ball.

"Everyone's equal out there on the court," Feuz said.



DO WHAT

FCSE STUDENT RETURNS TO SCHOOL AND TRAVEL

Commuting 279 miles a week from Coalville, Utah, 45 minutes east of Salt Lake City, to Utah State University's Logan campus, Joye Staley is nearing the finish line. Graduating this May, Staley will receive her bachelor's degree in family and consumer science education.

Originally beginning her career as a nurse, Staley left her job to care for her family after her first son was born. Expanding her family and adding three

more boys, she decided to return to work when her youngest was nine, this time as a special education aide. Charged with taking a special education student to and from her classes, Staley found herself interested in and excited about what the FCSE teacher was teaching.

"I was there one day passing by, just listening to what [the teacher] was saying," Staley said. "I thought, 'I really like this. I really want to do this.'"

Laid off from her job later in the school year, Staley viewed it as an opportunity to go back to school and become a family and consumer sciences teacher. Although going back to school can be seen as an anxiety-inducing decision, she and her husband Chad knew it was the right decision for their family.

"When I told my husband, we both just felt really, really good about it," Staley said.



Illustration by Elizabeth Lord

YOU LOVE:

S ALMOST 300 MILES A WEEK TO DO IT BY TIFFANY ADAMS

After deciding to attend USU to earn her degree, Staley was now faced with the long commute from Coalville to Logan, an hour-and-a-half trip one way.

“I really don’t mind the drive. My biggest concern has been snowstorms, but it hasn’t been bad,” Staley said. “I just hop in my car and go.”

Often the oldest student in class, Staley has bonded with the other students in the best way she knows how, as a mom.

“I just call them my kids because they are the same age as one of my sons,” Staley said. “They are really good people, really good kids.”

Adjusting back to life as a student, which comes with its challenges, has not been too difficult for Staley.

“A lot of housework doesn’t get done because school is first and kids are first,” Staley explained. “It’s been a little bit difficult juggling all of the different things.”

However, Staley is thankful she has had the opportunity to go to school at USU, especially as the financial burden has been lightened, thanks to the college’s donors.

“I am so, so grateful for the donors,” Staley said. “The scholarships have helped us tremendously. Teaching FCSE is something I have always wanted to do and something I really enjoy doing.”





FROM DAIRY FARM TO DEAN

by Tiffany Adams

Growing up on a small dairy farm in Pleasant Hill, Calif., Ken White recognized the importance of giving back at an early age.

“You’ve seen others who have reached out to you in your life and made a difference, so you feel a need or an obligation to make those impacts on other people’s lives,” he said.

This personality trait has carried over into White’s latest venture, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, vice president of USU Extension and director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, as he hopes to use his position to continue to serve faculty, students and the community.

"If I were in one of his departments, I would feel comfortable because he would always go my way, he would always tell me the truth. He is a man I

ANOTHER COURSE OF STUDY

Leaving his California home after high school, White earned his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University. While at BYU, he met his wife of almost four decades, Cindy, although, according to White, it wasn't easy convincing her to become his wife.

"I was kind of a dumb football player, and she didn't want a whole lot to do with me," he joked. "That was probably one of the best sell jobs of my life, convincing her to marry me."

Although he jokes about being a "dumb football player," science always interested White. Majoring in animal science, he planned to go to veterinary school after earning his bachelor's degree.

"I had relatively good grades, but I didn't have the outside experience necessary to be accepted because of my time commitment to football," he explained.

White used his rejection from vet school to pursue another course of study, setting his sights on what he thought would be a temporary career in research. He said one of the things he was really excited about at BYU was his reproductive biology course. He followed this interest to the University of California – Davis where he earned his master's degree in animal science.

Still planning to attend veterinary school after earning his master's degree, White reevaluated his plan after realizing how much he enjoyed research.

"I decided that continuing on and earning a Ph.D. was just as engaging to me as I thought earning my DVM would be," he said.

After his time at UC – Davis, White and his family, now including three children, moved to Baton Rouge, La., where he accepted a faculty position with that state's land-grant university.

"I think it was a great experience from a career standpoint as well as a personal standpoint, but when I traveled down for the job interview, I had to go look on a map to make sure I understood where Louisiana was," he laughed.

After almost six years at the southern institution, a reproductive biologist position opened at USU. Always amazed by the beauty of the valley, he and his wife decided now would be the time to move their family back west.

PIONEERING RESEARCH

Moving back to Utah in 1991, White spent part of his time teaching and the rest continuing his research. After several years at USU, his colleague, Gordon Woods, from the University of Idaho, approached White with an innovative research proposal.

"[Woods] came here to convince me to commit the time and resources necessary to become part of this mule-cloning project," White said. "He spent a full day with me. I spent most of the day trying to talk him out of it because of the huge logistical, scientific and technical challenges this particular model presented. Mules don't even reproduce."

After "sleeping on it," White decided to work with Woods and another UI colleague, Dirk Vanderwall, now the current department head of the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences at USU, and began the initial work in 1999.

Four years after the first meeting, the research team made a revolutionary discovery: higher calcium levels increased the pregnancy's success.

"It was unbelievable," White said. "However, you have to keep in mind that a horse's gestation period



White and his fellow researchers stand with the three cloned calves in 2003.

use, while decisions would not could follow.” – Randall Prather

is 340 days. You can imagine the pins and needles we were sitting on for almost a whole year.”

In 2003, the research was published, and the research team put both of their institutions on the map. The whirlwind of press conferences, interviews and photo opportunities began.

“It was pretty fun,” White said.

CHANGE OF PACE

A few years previous to starting his mule-cloning research, White began work in an area separate from his research, but of which he was still just as fond. He became a faculty athletics representative, which is a faculty member who represents the institution’s interest with campus athletics, and White continues to hold the position.

“I’m the campus entity that certifies the eligibility of our student athletes each year,” he said. “I pay attention to the well-being and welfare of the students.”

A student athlete himself during his undergraduate work, White said he is able to draw back on his own experiences and fully understands the amount of time, energy, emotional cost and investment that student athletes make.

White loves being able to combine two of his passions.

“It has been a joy,” he said. “It is somewhere I feel like I can make a difference with the student athletes and help them to better appreciate the academic side of their commitment — the student part of ‘student athlete.’”

THE MOVE TO ADMINISTRATION

In 2008, White became the department head of ADVS after several colleagues encouraged him to “throw his hat” in the nationwide search.

“I never envisioned in any plan or model that I was going to go into administration,” he admitted. “But I was also able to see a different part of being an adminis-



White talks to a student researcher.

trator [while department head] because I was able to make profound impacts on current and future students, faculty and scientists.”

Five years later, Noelle E. Cockett, former dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, moved to the Provost’s Office, and White decided to once again throw his hat into the search. Noticing the ability to help and positively impact his community set the stage for why he wanted to become dean.

Now working from the dean’s office, White hopes to continue the progress within the college while also continuing to increase enrollment.

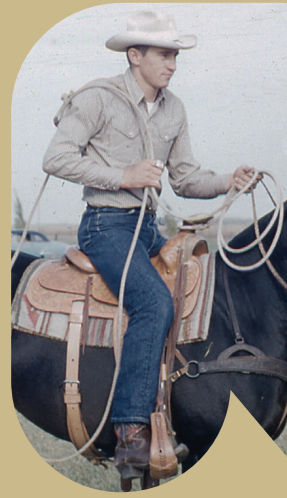
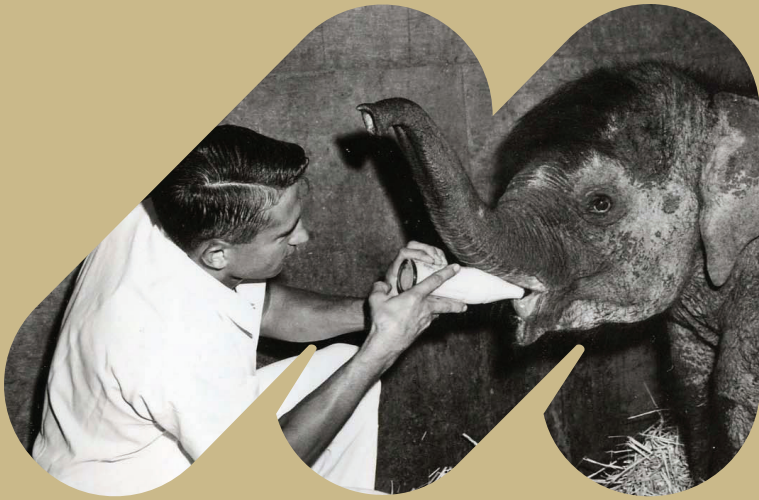
“I think that is important, not because of the numbers game, but because we have some really great programs in the college that have the ability to be life changing for the students,” White explained.

Also the vice president for USU Extension, White hopes to expand this organization too.

“We currently are hugely relevant in the state, region and nation,” he said. “I see an opportunity to reach out and impact a new generation of clientele through our Extension programs. I see Extension as the front yard of Utah State University.”

Randall Prather, a curators’ professor in the Division of Animal Science at the University of Missouri and longtime colleague, noticed White’s ability to be a great leader when they first met at a conference in 1989.

“Possibly his greatest strength is his personal integrity,” Prather said. “If I were in one of his departments, I would feel comfortable because, while decisions would not always go my way, he would always tell me the truth. He is a man I could follow.”



World-renowned Wildlife Veterinarian

He grew up during the Great Depression on a 63-acre farm in an area of the Salt Lake Valley known as “Poverty Flats.” He said he can’t remember getting any “As” in high school; not the background you’d imagine for the world-renowned wildlife veterinarian Murray Fowler became.

“You don’t always get to do the thing you want at the beginning; be patient” is Fowler’s advice to students today because that’s the life he lived.

His expertise has taken him to 52 countries around the world where he has administered care to animals

from tiny to towering. He has put a splint on the broken leg of a humming bird, sutured a tarantula and doctored elephant feet for Ringling Brothers Circus, but his path to success wasn’t clearly marked.

According to Fowler, the most important decision he made was to join the Navy right out of high school. Learning the value of hard work from his upbringing on his farm, Fowler admitted that his schoolwork was never outstanding, but his two-year stint in the Navy medical corps sparked his interest in medicine and learning in general.

Fresh out of the Navy, Fowler attended Utah State University on the G.I. Bill. He said his initial interest was in horses, and upon graduating from USU and then from Iowa State University in veterinary medicine, he established a successful practice as an equine surgeon in Southern California. It wasn’t until he joined the faculty at the University of California – Davis that he began thinking of more exotic animals.

“In the mid-1960s, my department head wanted to hire a wildlife veter-

>>> “You don’t always g



Named to Alumni Hall of Honor by Dennis Hinkamp

inarian, but after several unsuccessful searches, I volunteered for the job," Fowler said. "It wasn't a snap decision; I had been auditing classes in biology and wildlife for several years, so I was already becoming prepared for the career change."

Fowler took the position and program a step further by including both free ranging and zoo wild animals. What emerged was the first zoological medicine program in the world. Both he and the program flourished, and now 25 books and 250 profession-

al papers later, Fowler is technically retired, but still collaborates with people all over the world.

Even with all those publications, he can't spell the word "it" the same way twice, he said. The secret to his publishing success has been the editing skills of his wife, Audrey. And, he added that he has never kept any of the royalties from his most famous book, *Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine*; he donates them to the Morris Animal Foundation.

"A lot of people like to hold tight to their secrets rather than share them with the world," Fowler said. "I was never like that. I love to teach and circulate knowledge so other people can use it."

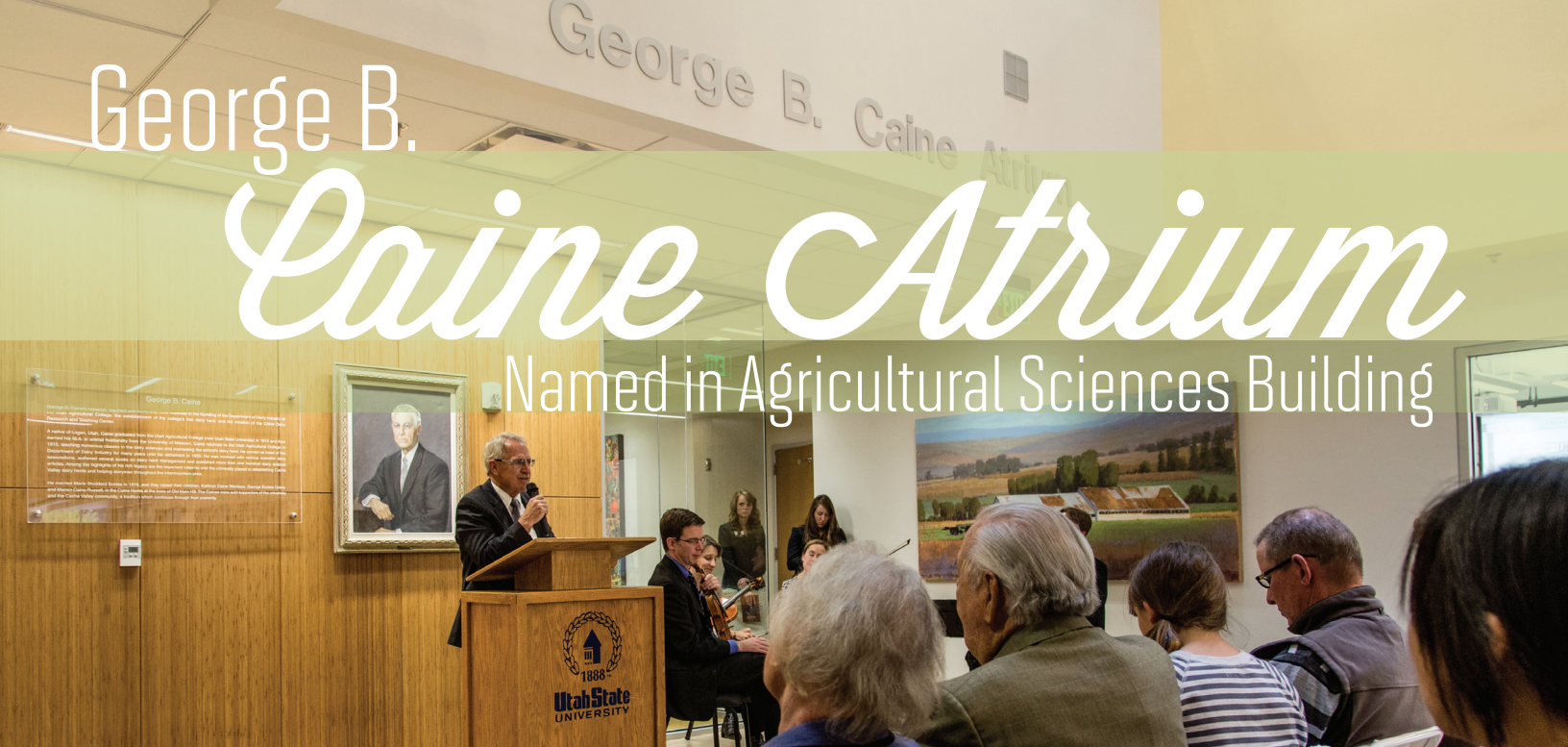
If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for the Alumni Hall of Honor Award, please go to bit.ly/HallofHonor.

et to do the thing you want at the beginning; be patient." – Murray Fowler

George B.

Caine Atrium

Named in Agricultural Sciences Building



A familiar name

on campus, the legacy of George B. Caine continues to grow. The George B. Caine Atrium, one of the final additions to the new Agricultural Sciences Building, was officially named on Oct. 30.

Born in 1889, Caine studied animal husbandry and graduated in 1912 with a bachelor of science degree from the Utah Agricultural College.

Returning to the UAC after earning his master of arts degree from the University of Missouri, Caine went on to establish the college's dairy and become department head of the dairy industry department.

Caine's influence on the university and the community didn't end there. Caine was involved in several USU

CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP:

USU President Stan Albrecht gives his closing remarks during the atrium's naming ceremony; Ken White and Joyce Albrecht speak with Manon Caine Russell after the event; The Albrechts and White look on as Manon and her granddaughter, Addie Russell, cut the ribbon.

Extension projects and also served as a cattle breed certifier for the state of Utah and in leadership positions in the American Dairy Association of Utah and First Security Bank in Logan.

Caine died in 1969, leaving behind a rich legacy of service and dedication to his community and area of expertise continued on by his children, George Caine Jr., Kathryn Caine Wanlass and Manon Caine Russell. —TA

why I give



“We have chosen to donate to CAAS *as a tribute* to those who donated before us of which we benefited from while attending USU and CAAS. It has also enabled us the awesome opportunity to meet some of the fine students currently pursuing their education in similar fields of study as our own.”

– CODY & ELIZABETH BINGHAM

“Our reasons for giving are quite simple.

As educators we know the value of a good education and are happy to

encourage higher learning.

As retirees, we find that, even though we are far from wealthy, our basic needs and, yes, even wants, are met and still there is some excess that can be used for the good of others. Giving, we feel, is good for the soul, and making the struggles of others less difficult is rewarding, especially when we are able to see the benefit in their lives.”

– REINHOLD & NONI RUEGNER



“We give to USU because we are *optimistic* in its future and confident that the students will make a *positive impact* in the world.”

– BRODY & KEESHA HOLBROOK

“As non-traditional adult students, my wife and I worked our way through undergrad and graduate degrees. We have been blessed with great jobs and fully understand the importance of getting a degree. Donating to the CAAS is our way of

“paying it forward” and helping others reach their life goals.”

– SCOTT & MARLA BOYER





Banquet Brings Donors and Scholarship Recipients *Together*

Donors, scholarship recipients, award winners and staff of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences gathered together in September to celebrate the college's achievements.

An annual tradition in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, the Awards and Honors Banquet was held this past September and celebrated CAAS donors and recognized the college's scholarship recipients.

Providing a unique opportunity, donors had the ability to meet the students whose lives they've touched while the students had the chance to say thank you for their life-changing scholarships.

Also at this event, CAAS student, staff and alumni award winners were recognized for their achievements. — TA

For a complete list of all past and present award winners, visit bit.ly/CAASBanquet.

AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Alumni Hall of Honor — Dr. Murray Fowler

Distinguished Service to the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences — Dolores Wheeler, Gossner Foods

Graduate Instructor of the Year — Trevor Robinson, ASTE

Graduate Researcher of the Year — Lindsay Cox, ADVS

Legacy of Utah State — Breanne Palmer, PSC

Scholar of the Year — Norma Patino, NDFS

Service to Faculty — Darlene Orduno, ADVS

Service to Students — Kathy Allen, LAEP

Undergraduate Researcher of the Year — Kathleen Combs, PSC

alumni corner



ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Randy Parker, '76 & '78

BY NATHAN RINDLISBAKER

Growing up on a small family farm in Pleasant Grove, Utah, Randy Parker has been connected to agriculture since his childhood. Parker graduated with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness in 1976, then earned a master's degree in agricultural economics in 1978.

For the past 10 years, Parker has worked as chief executive officer of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation. He also served on the Utah District Export Council where his efforts helped to gain approval for Logan's Gossner Foods Ultra High Temperature milk to enter the Hong Kong-China market.

Parker has served on the Alumni Council since 2005. While serving on the council, he said the signature

accomplishment of the group is the Alumni Hall of Honor that recognizes college alumni.

As council president, he wants to create a financial foundation under the council. The foundation would help the council provide one or more scholarships funded by alumni to future students studying in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Parker said there is no greater challenge or opportunity than for students to answer the question of the most basic human need: "How do we produce enough food to feed the growing population?" He said he knows that with the bright minds furthering their education, they will be able to address this issue.

Parker raised his family of five children in Riverton, Utah, with "the love of his life," Shelly Lind. They are the proud grandparents of 10 grandchildren. Parker is proud of his Aggie heritage and his claim of being a "True Aggie." He strives to build that heritage for future students with the help of the alumni and the Alumni Council. It all goes back to the small family farm that he called home as a child.

If you are interested in being a member of the Alumni Council, contact Brandon Monson at 435-797-2208 or at brandon.monson@usu.edu.

CAAS Alumni

Recognized at Homecoming

BY ALEXIS BINGHAM

Every year at Utah State University's homecoming, three alumni awards are given. This year CAAS alumni received two. Scott Fuhriman of Pocatello Valley, Idaho, is the 2013 Alumnus of the Year. A graduate of agricultural sys-

tems and technology, Fuhriman created two separate scholarships in honor of his deceased son and father.

Cody and Elizabeth Bingham received the Young Alumni Award. They started a scholarship for students in the

agriculture program from which they graduated with bachelor's degrees.

"We both benefited from scholarships while in the program," Elizabeth Bingham said. "We wanted to give back and pay it forward."

UTAH'S Water

Drought is no stranger to Utah. We have in the past century built dams, dug canals and drilled wells to build and sustain towns and cities. Today our massive water supply system dutifully supports 2.9 million people. On the brink of real drought, a little extra snow would always save the day, and so it will again.

Or will it?

er Future

BY SIMON WANG

Data describing the climate of a deeper past reveal a paleoclimate with episodes of drought much longer and more severe than any of us has experienced. Even the intense drought from 2000 to 2004 that was responsible for the record low water level of Lake Powell was comparatively short.

Then came 2013. All Utah counties have been declared drought disasters for the second year and more than half of Utah's reservoirs are currently below 50 percent of capacity and dropping.

WE NEED BIG SNOW NOW!

Precipitation in Utah oscillates in a wet/dry cycle, influenced by the Pacific Ocean's slow changes in temperature and heat content. A wet cycle develops about three years after the Central Pacific waters begin their transition from warm to cool, only to

change into a dry cycle three years after reaching the coolest phase.

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences climate faculty, including myself, have researched this approximately three-year time lag extensively. In 2010 we published a prediction that the years 2012 and 2013 would be at the driest phase of the wet/dry cycle. This has proven to be the case. The good news is we may soon recover from back-to-back drought years, but after this winter.

HOW TO MAKE THE DROUGHT EPISODES LESS DISASTROUS

Utah already has a water conservation plan in place aiming for a 25 percent reduction by 2050. However, an additional 540 million cubic meters will still be required to meet anticipated demand due to population growth.

Meeting future water demands under variable climate conditions

is a delicate problem requiring all kinds of expertise. It is a challenge, but also an opportunity, to open dialogues and open minds.

Simon Wang is an assistant professor in the Department of Plants, Soils & Climate in addition to being the assistant director of the Utah Climate Center.



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A lot has happened since the last issue. We've hosted summer citizens, held an ice cream eating contest and had some delicious apple cider,

ALL DOCUMENTED
ON OUR INSTAGRAM
ACCOUNT.

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