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cultivate

CONNECTIONS • MINDS • INNOVATIONS





LETTER FROM THE DEAN

I would like to recognize with deep appreciation

the substantial number of donors we have who make a significant difference in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

We had a record number of attendees at our awards and honors banquet in September, and we applaud our donors who make such a positive impact on our programs and students' lives. These funding opportunities help provide resources so our students' experiences in CAAS are top notch and the best available in the country. We appreciate our donors who provide research funding for our faculty and the impact this in turn has on our classrooms as it helps us provide outstanding programs. This kind of support is critical for us to continue to provide hands-on opportunities for our students as we prepare them for the future.

Thank you to our loyal donors for the contributions you are making. It is important for you to know that each contribution has impact and truly makes a difference. My hope is that everyone can realize the significance of giving back and the great opportunities that these gifts provide in the lives of others — long lasting differences that are transforming and generational.

Vice President, Extension and Agriculture
Dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

LETTER FROM THE CAAS ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT

WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT WAS

to represent the Alumni Council at our annual CAAS Awards and Honors Banquet in recognizing Dr. Alvin C. Warnick with the coveted Alumni Hall of Honor Award. Seldom have I met a person so full of optimism, gratitude and common sense. His short and powerful message to students, donors and administrators was insightful and enlightening. In conversation before the banquet, Dr. Warnick looked around at all the happy people and said, "We have it all and often don't even realize it."

He was especially complimentary of caring and discerning advisors who encourage students to reach their full potential. Dr. Warnick had such advisors when he was a student

at Utah State University and later at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With all of his accomplishments as a writer and a researcher, Dr. Warnick loved teaching his students even more. He said the greatest accomplishment of his professional career was serving as advisor to 70 graduate students who have gone on to play leading roles in academia and industry.

Dr. Warnick has never forgotten his roots or the university that gave him the foundation upon which he accomplished so much. The rest of us have a similar opportunity to "pay back" those who have helped us become successful. One way to do that is to provide financial and moral support to students who

follow us. The CAAS Alumni Council is a great place to serve. We are excited about the relatively new CAAS Alumni Council Scholarship fund and the exceptional student, McKenna Christy, who received our scholarship this year. Brandon Monson, CAAS development director, can help you learn how to donate or serve.

Thanks for keeping our college strong and vibrant. Best wishes to our CAAS alumni, and students who will soon become alumni members.



Clark
Israelsen, '76 & '79

CAAS Alumni
Council President

contents

Features

10 ON THE COVER: INTERNSHIPS: WHERE LEARNING MEETS EXPERIENCE

Learning in the classroom and lab is important, but the real test comes when students take their skills to the workplace. Meet a few of the students who invested their summers in internships and learned plenty along the way.

18 OUR “DEAR AND NOBLE” FRIEND Ardeshir Zahedi graduated in 1950 with a degree in animal science, and went on to shape more than three decades of geopolitical history.

Departments

4 BY THE NUMBERS

5 IN PICTURES

6 IN BRIEF

21 ALUMNI CORNER

22 THE LAST WORD: NEW APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Irina Polejaeva, associate professor in Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences, on why goats — very special goats — may be key to learning to treat a human heart malady.

Development

16 ALVIN C. WARNICK

Alvin Warnick's career as a scientist and teacher changed cattle management in the United States and abroad. This spry member of the class of 1942 is the newest inductee in the CAAS Alumni Hall of Honor.

20 WHY I GIVE



10



16



18

Contributors

DEAN:

Kenneth L. White

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT:**

Brandon Monson

EDITOR:

Lynnette Harris

DESIGNER:

Elizabeth Lord

COPY EDITORS:

Donna Falkenborg
Tammy Firth
Julene Reese

WRITERS:

Lynnette Harris
Julene Reese
Elaine Taylor
Dawn Otterby
Irina Polejaeva

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Gary Neuenswander
Dennis Hinkamp
Vic Saunders

Additional photos provided by:

Randy and Shelly Parker
Daniel and Lina Teng
Alvin Warnick

Hudson Printing, Salt Lake City, Utah

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UtahState
University


CAAS

then and now

2009-2010


ENROLLMENT

 Undergraduates: 1,022


 Grad Students: 125

1,147

SCHOLARSHIPS

 Undergraduates: 182


Awarded: \$166,300

 Grad Students: 10

Awarded: \$13,900

2014-2015


ENROLLMENT

 Undergraduates: 1,745

 Grad Students: 302

2,047

SCHOLARSHIPS

 Undergraduates: 314

Awarded: \$409,000

 Grad Students: 47

Awarded: \$163,875

by the numbers

in pictures



This year's Utah Ag Products BBQ drew a record crowd.

About 1,600 people enjoyed great weather, delicious Utah-produced food and helped boost scholarship funds in the college. A big "thank you" to our sponsors.



LAEP Alumni Come Back to Campus

BY LYNNETTE HARRIS

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP). The high point of this notable year was a celebration over Labor Day weekend that drew more than 200 alumni and friends of the department back to Cache Valley — including many who had not set foot on campus since they graduated decades ago.

The weekend's events included a visit to the Utah State University Extension-operated Swaner EcoCenter in Park City, a reunion dinner on the Quad, panel discussions and other

educational opportunities, displays of alumni work and a tribute to retiring faculty members Michael Timmons and Dick Toth. Susan Marsh, (BLA '80) received the department's Distinguished Alumnus Award, and proceeds of a silent auction and numerous industry sponsorships will fund scholarships in the department.

"The event's overwhelming success was a testament to the spirit and sacrifice of our alumni, faculty and staff," said Sean Michael, head of the LAEP Department. "We're gratified to have heard from so many people who attended about how much they enjoyed and appreciated the event."



LAEP alumni, faculty and friends gathered for a celebratory weekend.

New CAAS Associate Deans Named

BY LYNNETTE HARRIS

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences' administrative team underwent some changes in late summer with the appointment of two new associate deans.

DeeVon Bailey, professor in the Department of Applied Economics, is the new associate dean for research and will bring his experience to bear on research efforts in the college, the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station (UAES) and USU Extension. He has extensive research, teaching and administrative experience at USU and abroad.

"Research is the cornerstone to this university and our college in particular," said Ken White, dean of the college, vice president for USU Extension and director of UAES. "DeeVon's appointment signals the continued priority the research enterprise is to our college."

"My goals will focus on enhancing opportunities now and into the future for CASS, UAES and Extension faculty to preserve and expand outside funding and to publish their research findings," Bailey said.

Brian Warnick, associate professor in the School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education, was named the CAAS associate dean for academic programs. He took over the position formerly held by Janet Anderson who has begun serving as a new vice provost at USU.

Warnick looks forward to working with more students and faculty in the college and to build on recruitment and student services efforts. Warnick was named USU's 2008 Faculty Advisor of the Year and received the university's Eldon J. Gardner Teacher of the Year Award in 2012. He was recently honored with the USDA Western Region Excellence in College and University Teaching Award.



DeeVon Bailey



Brian Warnick



Dallas A. Hanks

In Memoriam

BY JULENE REESE

Dallas A. Hanks, M.S. '90 and Ph.D. '12, passed away June 25, 2014, after a four-year battle with cancer. He was founder and director of USU Extension's Center for Agronomic and Woody Biofuels and Utah's "Freeways to Fuel" project. He pioneered innovative biofuels projects by using untillable land to grow biofuel feedstock plants. He is remembered as a brilliant scientist, agronomist, farmer, entrepreneur and Extension employee.

In August, Salt Lake County made a proclamation in appreciation for the lasting impact he made there. He led a team that created an urban farming program in Salt Lake County that now includes a thriving Refugee Garden, four community gardens and three commercial farms using more than 20 acres of county-owned land. He created a 200-acre biofuel feedstock farm in collaboration with Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and USU. The farm has been used by other organizations as a model, including by the U.S. Department of Defense.

In September at Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats, Hanks' colleague Mike Morgan set two speed records going 132.6 mph and 133.8 mph in a Dodge Rampage using USU-made biofuels. The record was a personal journey to fulfill Hanks' dream — and displayed on the side of the truck were the words "This one's for Dallas."

Keyes Video Award

BY DAWN OTTERBY

Agricultural communication student Jamie Keyes' video project began as a class assignment and ultimately won second place in the 2014 National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Critique and Contest. The annual contest is organized by the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT), a national, collegiate organization for students studying agricultural communications.

Industry professionals judged the submissions and the winners are announced during Ag Media Summit, an annual, nationwide gathering of professional agricultural communicators. Keyes learned about the contest while attending an ACT professional development conference in Manhattan, Kansas. After some encouragement from Kelsey Hall, assistant professor of agricultural communications, Keyes decided to enter her project in the electronic media division.

She made the short video for her multimedia boot camp class (JCOM 2030) during fall 2013. Keyes chose to highlight her family's cattle operation in southern Utah.

"I wanted to do it on something I was interested in, so I took the camera home during Thanksgiving break," Keyes said. "I shot tons and tons of video."

Using the footage she recorded, Keyes created a video about life on a small cattle ranch.

"I love it so much because it's just something real," Keyes said. "Most people have no idea what it's like to be a rancher in the West."

"Jamie's award illustrates the great opportunities Utah State students have for doing hands-on projects in their classes that are nationally recognized as outstanding work," Hall said. "As the agricultural communication and journalism program continues to grow, students will have more opportunities to participate in the National ACT Critique and Contest as well as networking and professional development activities with industry professionals."

Her winning video is available to view online at

<https://bit.ly/1vz8N9S> .



James Keyes runs the Keyes Cattle Company in Monticello, Utah, the subject of agricultural communications student Jamie Keyes' award-winning video.

Food Science Award

BY ELAINE TAYLOR

A team of three food science students from Utah State University took first place at the Idaho Milk Processors Association's Food Product Development Competition. Teams including students from Brigham Young University and Washington State University/University of Idaho met in Sun Valley, Idaho, for the annual competition.

USU team leader Jonathon Solorio and members Xiaoxi Wang and Kari Olsen won for the development of Instant Sour, a product used to make sourdough bread. Initial development of Instant Sour began with Solorio in the fall of 2013 when he became interested in finding new uses for acid whey from Greek yogurt. The team continued to refine the product over the next year with the men-

torship of Carl Brotherson, associate director of the Western Dairy Center, and associate professor of food science, Marie Walsh.

As part of the competition, the team submitted a written report explaining the steps in making Instant Sour and presented the product to competition judges and attendees. This year's award comes on the heels of last year's first place prize for Dipeese, a low-fat cottage cheese dip and 2010's top award for Yogannaise. The USU team was awarded \$10,000 for their product. The three students will share \$5,000 of the award, with the remaining going to support the work of next year's team which will take on a new product challenge.

White Coats and Baby Animals Start the Year for Vet Med Students

BY ELAINE TAYLOR

Utah State University veterinary medicine students had a busy start to the academic year with a retreat for first-year students and a ceremony marking their entry to the profession, and second-year students were part of a team at the Utah State Fair's first ever animal birthing center.

Incoming students spent three days at a camp in Post Falls, Idaho, along with others entering the Washington-Idaho-Montana-Utah Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine, to get their studies off to a solid start.

"The program was developed by the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine and establishes a foundation for personal growth and lasting professional success as students embark on the rigorous four-year veterinary education program," said Dirk Vanderwall, head of USU's Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS).

The experience culminated with the White Coat Ceremony, which formally marks students' transition to their clinical veterinary education and entry into the profession.

Students in their second year blended the demands of the start of the semester with helping care for baby farm animals at the Utah State Fair, gaining experience in an important facet of veterinary medicine — communicating with people.

"The main purpose was to expose more people to animal agriculture," said Kerry Rood, assistant professor in ADVS. "Bringing in baby animals and hatching eggs provided a way to capture the public's attention...and provided an opportunity for our students to educate visitors, and exercise the client communication and public relations skills they have been learning in the program."

Thirty students took shifts at the birthing center, as did several local veterinarians. For student Casey Drummond, working with the pigs, cows, goats, sheep and chickens at the fair was fun, educational and a great reminder of why she wants to be a veterinarian.

"It's so easy to find yourself swimming in all the little scientific details that you are exposed to daily in lectures and labs that it's refreshing to get to interact with people and remember why we pursue this complex field of study," Drummond said. "As much as veterinary medicine is about animals, communication with people is probably one of the most important skills we can learn to improve the lives of animals."

Most animals deliver without help from their human caregivers, but the students are keeping the mothers and babies healthy and safe and turning the animals' behavior into teaching opportunities.

"We have a sow with piglets, and being pigs, they were most interested in nursing and sleeping all day, Drummond said. "Mama sow got a little irritated at some crowds around her pen in the afternoon, but for the most part we were able to alert the public to these sorts of things, which is a great outlet for education about interpreting animal behavior. We had three goat kids that we were able to let people interact with, which is really just a lot of fun for people of any age because goats have a lot of character. And who doesn't love baby animals?"



Veterinary medicine student Tara Whalen at this year's White Coat ceremony. Second-year "vet med" student Jessica Nielsen with visitors at the Utah State Fair.





Internships: Where Learning Meets Experience

by Lynnette Harris



It's the standard question posed each fall, "What did you do over your summer vacation?" The start of our students' answers may be the same, "An internship." But that's where the similarities end. Students in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences gain internship experiences throughout the year, and in an array of fields as broad as the degree programs the college offers.

"Internships provide our students with excellent ways to directly apply what they're learning at the university," said Brian Warnick, associate dean of academic programs. "These authentic learning experiences help students make connections with successful people in industry, and employers benefit from the skills,

ideas and the energy that students bring to their internships."

In just the past year, CAAS students have covered a lot of internship territory. Taylor Bean was a "supply chain" intern at Frito-Lay in West Valley City, Utah, and assigned to improve the use of seasoning on the potato chip line. Translation: figure out how the plant could improve efficiency by \$20,000 and reach its 91.78% seasoning efficiency goal. Midway through the summer, a regional vice president visited the plant and the plant's four interns were tasked with giving a presentation on their work, an exercise that resulted in Bean being flown to Frito-Lay headquarters in Texas to repeat the presentation.

Other students worked in national parks identifying and removing invasive plants that threaten native ecosystems, or with water conservation districts where they helped educate people about wise water use. Another worked in Spain, gaining hands-on experience growing and harvesting organic olives and processing olive oil. Still others used and improved their agricultural communications skills writing about everything from animal genetics to pest control and using their multimedia and graphic skills, but for higher stakes than a grade.

Clearly, student interns are not gofers. They are not just biding their time waiting for classes they need in the fall. Here is a closer look at four CAAS students who went looking for new experiences last summer — and found them.

Dillon Fallon

Food scientists are not chefs. But if your children are someday drinking and loving skim chocolate milk with less sugar, calories and sodium, and more fiber than their usual school lunch milk, they might have Dillon Fallon to thank. Likewise, if you hear of a batter-coated food like fish or

chicken fillets that absorbs less oil during frying, research done by Fallon and his colleagues at Glanbia Nutritionals in Twin Falls, Idaho, may be the source.

Fallon, a graduate student in the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences, worked in research and development for the sister company of Glanbia Foods, a food processor with operations worldwide. Its major product is cheese which it makes for other companies, like Kraft Foods. From cheese making comes by-products, including whey protein which is used as a functional ingredient and for the structure it provides.

“The research I did was about understanding the functional components of whey protein, because it was being used to create a barrier to prevent fried foods from absorbing oil,” Fallon explained. “It worked very well in batters like tempura and beer batter and we were able to reduce oil uptake by forty percent.”

Glanbia was not Fallon’s first internship, but it was different, and not just because his previous one was all about cookies. His first experience was with a company culture that didn’t allow much autonomy.

“Glanbia’s approach was more, ‘Here is a problem. We trust you to do what you need to do and if you don’t know something, we trust you to ask about it,’” Fallon said. “We were very independent and got to show our skills. It helped me learn more about communication and how to work through problems. We asked questions, but you also think, ‘That guy doesn’t know exactly how to do this either because we’re developing something brand new.’”

Someone has been given a problem to figure out and that someone is you, so you’d better think hard and do it, plus, they are paying you so you’ve gotta show them you’re worth it.”

The Troy, New York, native loved the opportunity to apply chemistry and theory from the classroom and lab to real products and problems. He also relishes every opportunity to develop skills that will give him an advantage in his job search.

“School is great, but everyone else getting that degree is taking the same classes, getting the same knowledge and experience,” Fallon said. “You’d better differentiate yourself. If you aren’t differentiating yourself, you’re not giving anyone a reason to hire you.”

*“School is great,
but everyone else getting
that degree is taking the
same classes, getting the
same knowledge and experience...
you’d better
differentiate yourself.”*

Tyler and Leah Hayes

Most students assume internships will let them test the waters of their career path. In Tyler and Leah Hayes' case, their summer on the sprawling Two Dot Ranch was a pivotal experience that helped them make crucial decisions about their careers and their family.

The opportunity to work for the Whittaker family came late in spring semester. In fact, they worked out the details during finals week. Tyler was on the job just days later, while Leah finished her last two weeks with her employer in Logan.

Two Dot Ranch, which is set to be recognized as a Centennial Ranch (meaning it has been a working ranch and in the same family for 100 years), operates on 20,000 private and 80,000 leased acres in Leadore, Idaho, which the 2010 U.S. Census reported has just 105 residents. The Whitaker family has about 1,700 cows and bulls, 350 replacement heifers and plenty of work to go around. Perhaps going to the Two Dot Ranch was fate because Jordan Whitaker and his wife Susan

met in Professor Lyle "Doc" McNeal's animal science class at USU, just as Tyler and Leah did.

Tyler, an animal science major/ag business minor, and Leah, an ag business major/accounting minor, took a pay cut to do the internship, but approached it with a specific goal in mind: decide whether to build agribusiness careers or take on a ranch of their own.

"The experience was much more valuable than making more money in the short term," Tyler said. "We really wanted to decide what to do and thought the insight and perspective we could get would point us in one direction or the other."

Tyler grew up on a farm/ranch near Rexburg, Idaho, so much of what Two Dot required was not new to him. Leah, however, grew up in River Heights, Utah, and had no ranching experience.

"I'd done a lot of (horseback) riding, English riding," she said. "But there is a lot to do on a ranch, and they trusted me to work hard. My first hour there I got a lesson and was driving a tractor for the rest of the day. And I learned that one of my favorite things was getting on a horse and moving cows."

The couple lived in a doublewide trailer on the ranch so their "com-

mute" meant walking outside. They immediately felt like part of the ranch, working alongside and eating some meals with the rest of the ranch hands, primarily the Whitaker family.

In the end, Tyler and Leah decided for certain that upon graduation this year, "We'll be doing our own thing," Tyler said, and Leah enthusiastically agreed. "It's a little intimidating thinking about working with lenders, running the business and doing the work, so this experience was really valuable. We got to see their effective management techniques and come up with ideas about how we will manage our future ranch."

Their choice is not just about money. The experience on a family-run ranch confirmed for Tyler and Leah that the lifestyle is what they want for their family. Discussing their work on the ranch with their own extended family created another opportunity. Tyler's grandfather, like many of America's aging farmers and ranchers, was deciding what to do with an operation he can't manage much longer. The young couple's enthusiasm for the things they were doing and learning led to an agreement for them to lease and potentially buy the place.



*Dillon Fallon
Food Scientist
at
Glanbia
Foods*

So, with diplomas in hand, experience to back them up, and loans negotiated with lenders, Tyler and Leah will become a ranching family. But because they aren't complete novices, they know that means working very long days, managing animals, ecosystems, contracts, ledgers, and no traditional day off. They can hardly wait to get started.

Trevor Siebert

Here's a tip: when building aircraft, there's no such thing as "close enough" because most parts must fit within 3 thousandths of an inch. That's a thickness of 3 mils, the thickness of plastic bags, and not the heavy duty kind.

While that level of precision is comforting to the flying public, it can be a trial for the builders. It's a lesson Trevor Siebert had reinforced during his internship at MSC Aerospace.

"Everything that comes from the factory has to be perfect and that starts on the shop floor," Siebert said, reflecting on what he learned during his experience with the aircraft manufacturer. "I love aviation, and MSC worked with me as an intern and allowed me to roam to different projects."

Siebert is working toward a degree in aviation maintenance management and connected with MSC Aerospace at a career fair at USU. The company manufactures and sells the SJ-30 Syberjet, the fastest plane in its class. The light business jet has a growing fan base. Actor Morgan Freeman likes his so well that he was on hand for the opening of the Cedar City, Utah, plant last May. The plane's interior has space for seven passengers including the pilot, and shares a design pedigree with Maserati and Ferrari.

Siebert said classroom and lab work at USU was great preparation because the program encompass-

es so many aspects of aviation. Of course, he learned a lot on the job, but never felt like a "bottom-of-the-totem-pole intern" because he was treated like an equal by his coworkers and given opportunities to experience different projects.

"That allowed me to understand not just how to perform certain repairs or build certain parts, but to understand where the part is used, what its purpose is, and how all the parts relate to one another," he said. "I was well prepared for the aircraft structure work I was involved in."

On a typical day of his internship, Siebert found himself doing precision drilling, measuring, removing and installing rivets and other fasteners, working with sheet metal and using engineering blueprints and specifications.

"Another thing that struck me was how much the company you work for affects your lifestyle," Siebert said. "I enjoyed working for MSC and it wasn't difficult for me to go to work in the morning. Work wasn't a burden. I worked with some awesome people and everyone treated me as an equal."

*Trevor
Siebert
Aircraft
Manufacturer
at MSC
Aerospace*

*"I love aviation,
and MSC worked
with me as an
intern and allowed
me to
roam to
different projects."*

*Tyler &
Leah Hayes
Ranchers at
Two Dot Ranch*



*“There is a
lot to do
on a ranch, and
they trusted me
to work hard.”*





2014
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND
APPLIED SCIENCES

ALUMNI
HALL OF HONOR

ALVIN C. WARNICK

ALVIN C. WARNICK NAMED TO ALUMNI HALL OF HONOR

BY CLARK ISRAELSEN AND LYNNETTE HARRIS

DR. Alvin C. Warnick's remarkable career in animal genetics and reproductive physiology has spanned four decades and changed the management of cattle in the United States and abroad. His skill and knowledge as a researcher are extensive, but are exceeded by his love of teaching.

Warnick was raised on a livestock farm in Millard County, Utah, and he received his bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Utah State University in 1942. He was offered a fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but graduate school had to wait until after he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees in Wisconsin and then joined the faculty at Oregon State University. Three years later, he moved to the University of Florida where he became part of a team of scientists who brought science to bear on a number of problems and changed the livestock industry.

When Warnick arrived in Florida, cattle there were plagued with severe mineral deficiencies and

pest problems and were largely unimproved genetically. He made remarkable contributions to the science of managing cattle reproduction. In addition to his work at the university, he worked extensively in Argentina, Brazil and Ethiopia.

During his career, Warnick trained 70 graduate students who have gone on to play leading roles in academia and industry, and since his retirement he continues to deliver occasional lectures, participate in field days and seminars and pose insightful questions to graduate students. He has published more than 300 scientific papers, co-authored three books and his career is honored at Florida State with a lecture series and an annual Extension reproductive management school that bear his name. At age 93, he remains interested in science, follows a weekly workout schedule that includes time on the treadmill, and doesn't allow diminished eyesight to keep him from reading to keep up on news and favorite topics. In fact, Warnick planned to attend his namesake management school just weeks after his trip from Florida to Logan for the CAAS Awards and Honors Banquet.



Alvin Warnick and students at a field school in Florida.



Our “Dear and Noble” *Friend...*

Story Courtesy of University Advancement

Once, at a New Year’s Eve reception in Los Angeles, Humphrey Bogart approached Ardeshir Zahedi ’50 and said, “Come and dance with a beautiful lady.” He then placed Zahedi’s hands into the hands of his wife, Lauren Bacall, and himself danced away with Zahedi’s partner, Queen Soraya, the wife of the Shah of Iran.

Bogie and Bacall? The Shah of Iran? It represented only a blink in time, of course, but that blink offers volumes of insight into the immensely respected and charmed life of the man Utah State University President Stan Albrecht calls “the most distinguished graduate in our history.”

USU, in fact, will soon name the upper atrium in its Agricultural Sciences Building the Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi Atrium, in honor of Zahedi’s decades of philanthropic friendship and personal engagement with his beloved alma mater. Albrecht still gets a lump in his throat as

he recounts the announcement of the gift that created the Ardeshir Zahedi International Professors of the Year professorship at USU. To a gathering of political, economic and education leaders in Switzerland — and with tears running down his cheeks — Zahedi proclaimed “I was born at Utah State University.”

His memoir details how for three decades Ardeshir Zahedi played one of the most significant roles in the political history of modern Iran. As a trusted adviser, confidant, son-in-law and friend, he played an influential role in the life of the last Shah, for whom he would eventually be entrusted to handle all funeral arrangements in Egypt. Zahedi served twice as Iran’s ambassador to the United States and as ambassador to the United Kingdom’s Court of St. James. He was foreign minister of Iran for seven years. He has known and

worked with seven U.S. presidents, entertained countless iconic artists and Hollywood A-listers and, in the early 1950s, was witness and principal aide to his father in Iran's tumultuous rise and fall of Mohammad Mossadegh and the appointment of his father as prime minister.

Zahedi, in fact, is the descendant of two families that have shaped the history of Iran. Before his father, Fazlollah Zahedi, served as prime minister, he was an important political and military figure of the Pahlavi period. Ardeshir's maternal grandfather, Hossein Pirnia Motamen ol-Molk, himself served as the first prime minister of Iran after the establishment of the constitution in the early 20th century. After his days as an Aggie, Ardeshir returned home to play a pivotal role in the political life of his country alongside his father and the Shah. "Marrying the Shah's daughter was kind of a natural course of events," Albrecht said of his friend.

"But when you look at a 20-, 30- maybe even 40-year period of world history, it has Ardeshir's fingerprints all over it — in so many important ways. He's just an amazing man," Albrecht said, "an amazing, wonderful, generous human being who has been a major figure in that period of world history. The humaneness, the gentleness, the kindness; he's quite the gentleman."

In 1968, as foreign minister and head of the Iranian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Zahedi signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In 1977, while ambassador to the United States, Time magazine credited the courageous intervention of Zahedi, along with Egypt's Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal, and Pakistan's Ambassador Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, for defusing the deadly Hanafi siege of three buildings in Washington, D.C. Zahedi and the other two diplomats first phoned, and then met in person with, 12 Hanafi Muslim gunmen who were holding 149 hostages. The hostages were freed, in part, after the ambassadors were able to point out verses in the Koran that plead for compassion.

"He played a critical role in Richard Nixon's getting into China. He played a very, very important role in America's early involvement in Pakistan. He was very good friends with the prime minister of Pakistan," Albrecht said. "Again, I understand we've had a lot of accomplished graduates, but who else has ever moved in those circles?"

Zahedi's father wanted to give his three sons the best possible education, Albrecht said. "So he sent two to the finest universities in Europe, and selected Columbia for Ardeshir." The young Zahedi landed in New York, but became very unhappy, Albrecht said, so he contacted a good family friend, Franklin Harris, former president of Utah State, who encouraged Ardeshir to come to Logan. Zahedi joined a fraternity while in Utah, and still has

photos of himself washing dishes in the student center to help pay his tuition.

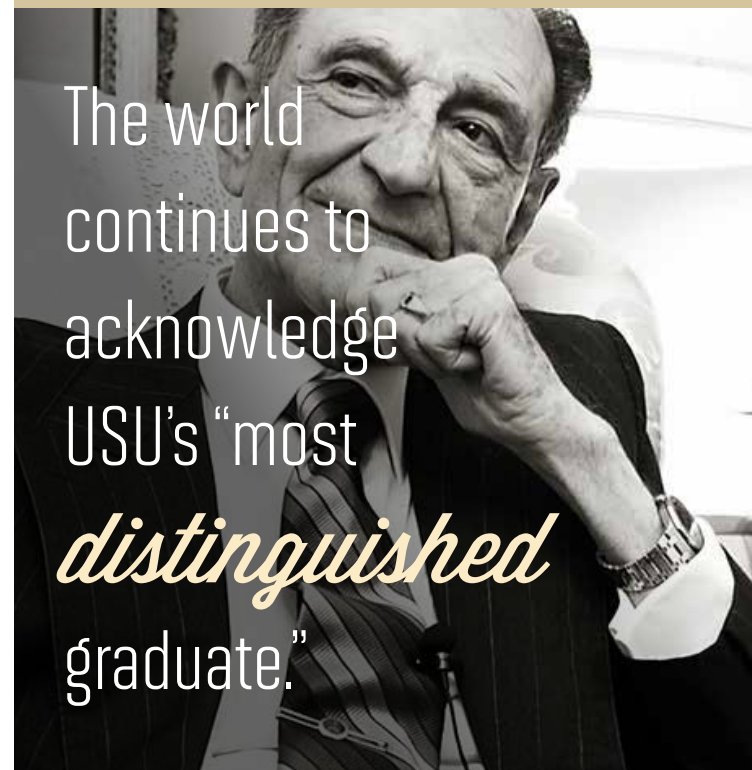
Now, at 85, Zahedi resides in Montreux, Switzerland, where the world continues to acknowledge USU's "most distinguished graduate."

"There's still that enormous respect for him," Albrecht said. "When I was in his home a few years ago, in the course of three or four hours he had calls from Los Angeles, from Washington, from Paris, from Moscow, from London...you know, people from all over the world checking in with him."

And at a particularly special event one evening, the Albrechts even got a taste for what it must have looked like decades ago to see one dashing Aggie dancing with a Hollywood star. "Here's this man in his 80s," Albrecht said. "His health is not good, but all of the beautiful women from Montreux wanted to dance with him. It would be one after the other, just dancing away. They would walk him back to the table and kiss him and then the next one would take him again. It was just amazing."

Albrecht said Zahedi's graciousness and generosity are behind countless thank-you cards and friendly notes being sent to Logan every few weeks.

"Every one begins, 'My dear and noble friend,'" the president said. "And that's Ardeshir Zahedi."



The world
continues to
acknowledge
USU's "most
distinguished
graduate."

why I give



"In the early 1960s, Taiwan's economy was just starting to take off. It was impossible for students to study abroad without financial assistance. We were fortunate to receive scholarships from Utah State University to further our studies. We feel that establishing scholarships is the best way

to show our gratitude

to the university and to help the future generations."

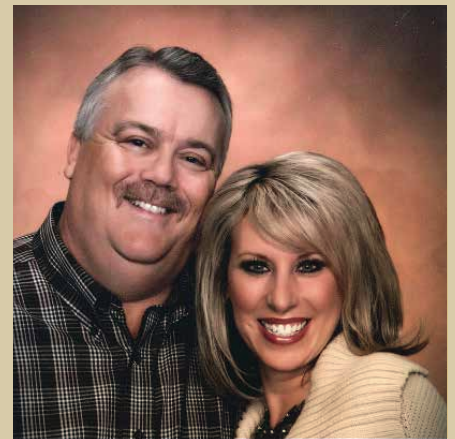
- DANIEL AND LINA TENG

"As the first college graduate from my family, I'm a proud Aggie and a proud College of Agriculture alumnus. I have fond memories of the USU Quad, enjoying Aggie Ice Cream, Homecoming and dedicated professors.

Sadly, many times with Old Main fading from our memory, it's easy to forget our university experience made an important contribution to our success... Shelly and I are proud and excited to give back and

help a new generation of Aggie graduates

who will make contributions to society and bring honor to our alma mater." - RANDY AND SHELLY PARKER



We give because we have a very personal connection to the school and students. We see the quality and caliber of students attending USU, because we work with them every day. We see their hopes, their dreams, their struggles. Because they invest so much into their individual

development, we want to be vested in helping

them achieve their goals. Though we are not in a position to help all of our students, we hope to make the journey for a couple of them a little easier."

- MICHAEL AND MELISA BISHOP

alumni corner



ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Amy Petersen, '10

 by Julene Reese

Though only in her 20s, Amy Petersen's ties to agriculture run deep. She was raised on a dairy farm in Tremonton and now teaches agricultural science at the Granite Technical Institute in South Salt Lake.

Petersen, who earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural education from USU in 2010, says she's a farmer at heart and would farm all day long if she could, but she also loves the opportunity to teach urban students about agriculture.

"Our technical school is unique in that we have students bussed from eight surrounding high schools and they come here to receive career training," she says. "They are serious students and it's wonderful to be able to share my love of agriculture with them. I came from the production side of agriculture and now am involved with the science side, and it's been great to link the two."

Petersen was involved with FFA both in high school and college, Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers, Alpha Tau Alpha, was a College of Ag ambassador and served as the College of Agriculture's student senator. She also received one of 15 scholarships awarded nationwide to study abroad in Malaysia and Taiwan with the International Collegiate Agriculture Leadership program to learn about global agriculture and international marketing.

Petersen says as she looks back, her experiences at USU have given her a great foundation.

"I love Utah State University and bleed Aggie blue," she says. "Last year I was asked to speak at the CAAS senior banquet, and was recommended for the Alumni Council. I've loved this opportunity. I think it's

important to stay involved and keep the agriculture tradition going."

Petersen says many of the high school students she teaches want to go to USU, so her continued involvement with the college helps her know about opportunities she can share with her students.

"Being an Aggie doesn't leave your blood," she says. "It's fun to plan things and represent the alumni and think about how we can better reach out to them so past students still feel included in this Aggie lifestyle. Who we are today is because of the experiences we had at USU."

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

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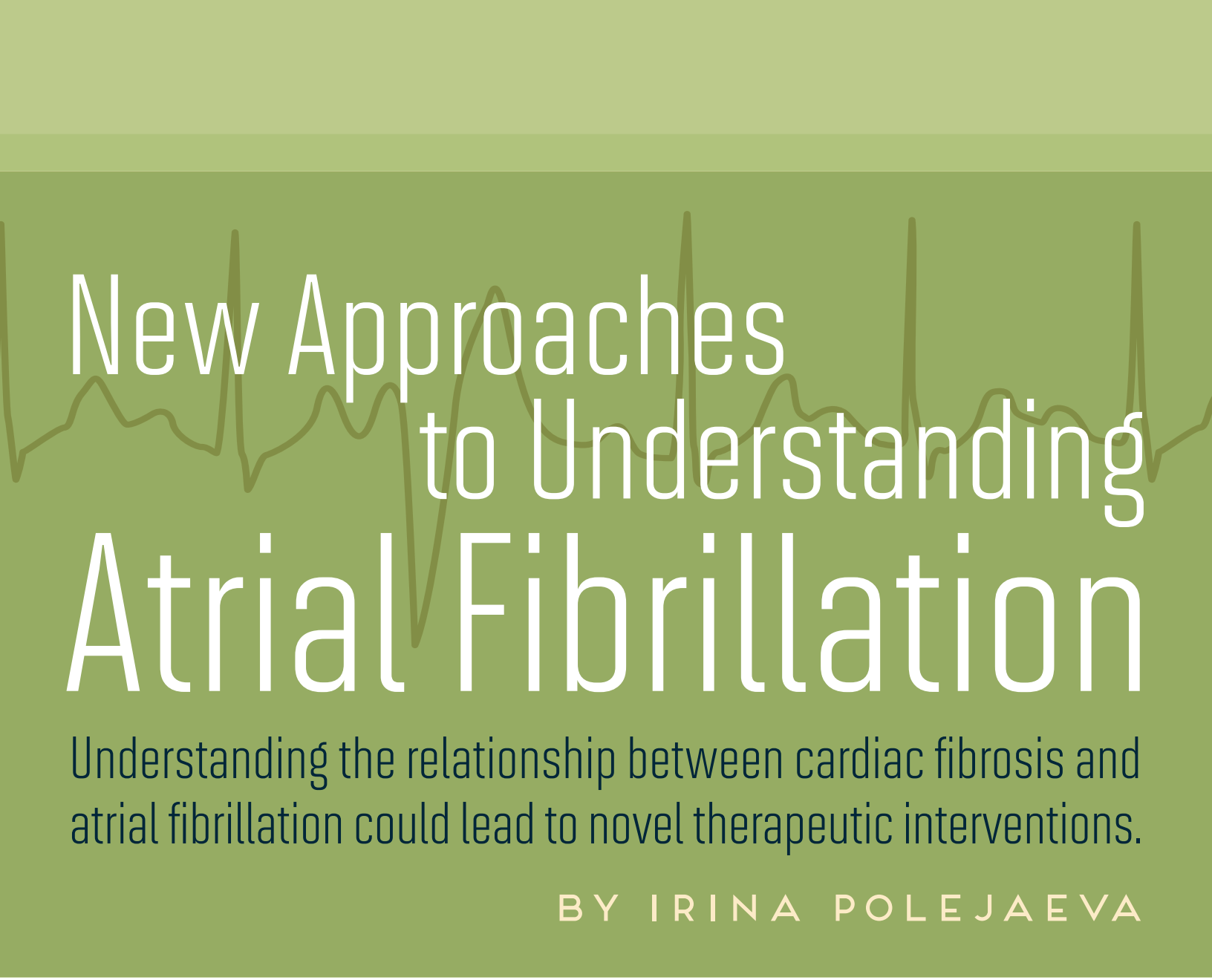
Robert Ward, Faculty Researcher of the Year
Ryan Bosworth, Teacher of the Year
Clay Isom, Graduate Research Mentor of the Year
Jeanette Norton, Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year
Rusty Stott, Undergraduate Faculty Advisor of the Year
Donald McMahon, Distinguished Professor of the Year
Tom Bunch, James LeGrande Shupe Achievement Award

STUDENTS

Sara Calicchia, Scholar of the Year
Reagan Wytsalucy, Undergraduate Researcher of the Year
Fatih Ortacki, Graduate Researcher of the Year
Jacqueline LaRose, Graduate Student Teacher of the Year
Bill Kay, Legacy of Utah State

STAFF

Susan Crosbie, Service to Students
Morgan Polityka, Service to Faculty



New Approaches to Understanding Atrial Fibrillation

Understanding the relationship between cardiac fibrosis and atrial fibrillation could lead to novel therapeutic interventions.

BY IRINA POLEJAEVA

ATRIAL fibrillation (AF) is the most common heart arrhythmia, in other words an irregular, rapid heartbeat. It leads to more frequent and serious diseases and health problems, fainting, chest pain and especially stroke and heart failure, as well as increased mortality in aging populations. According to the Heart Rhythm Society, the estimated number of adults currently affected by AF in the United States is 2.7 million and this number is projected to more than dou-

ble by the year 2050. AF creates significant public health problems, and estimates suggest that in the United States this condition accounts for \$16–26 billion of annual spending as AF is reaching epidemic proportions.

Numerous treatments are available, but all have significant limitations and yield suboptimal results. Just what causes early stage AF to transition to more severe arrhythmias is not well understood, in part because animal models typically

used to study heart disease are not adequate for studying AF. Genetically modified mice are commonly used in cardiovascular research, but they have some major limitations. Due to the small size of their hearts, mice do not develop AF. In addition, it is problematic to assess electrical activity of small hearts in transgenic mice.

About three and a half years ago several members of the Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences Department faculty, including Chris

the last word

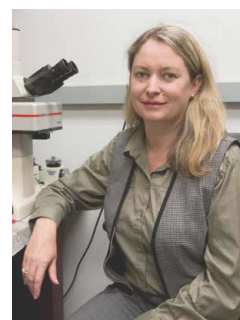


Davies, Aaron Olsen, Ken White and myself, got together with our collaborators from the Comprehensive Arrhythmia Research & Management Center at the University of Utah with a quest to develop a refined transgenic goat model for atrial fibrillation. Cardiac fibrosis – the formation of excess fibrous connective tissue in the heart – is commonly observed in AF patients, but it is unclear whether fibrosis causes AF. To answer this important question, our research team produced a

goat model of cardiac fibrosis and is conducting detailed molecular, cellular and functional characterization. The Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative (USTAR), the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the American Heart Association currently fund the project.

Our key finding at this point is that progressive cardiac fibrosis leads to increased susceptibility to AF. We anticipate that this model will play a key role in developing new therapies including drug-based, molec-

ular therapeutics, or device-related treatment. It will also help to identify the best timing and duration of preventative treatments.



Irina Polejaeva is an associate professor in the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences.

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