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2016

## Cultivate Fall/Winter 2016

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# *cultivate*

CONNECTIONS • MINDS • INNOVATIONS



*Agricultural Sciences Building*  
NAMED FOR RETIRING PRESIDENT

PG. 12



## LETTER FROM THE DEAN

**The year's end is a time to reflect and be more mindful of the things for which we are grateful. It seems the perfect time to express my thanks for some of the people and things that shape the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and Utah State University. This is in no way a ranked list. That would be impossible because all these components come together to make the college and university what they are.**

I am grateful for our faculty who embody USU's teaching, research and service mission. Our faculty work side-by-side with students in classrooms and laboratories whether they are in campus buildings, airplane hangars, greenhouses or barns. They teach face-to-face and use technology to reach students across the state and around the world. They are teachers and researchers who are dedicated to discovering new knowledge and preparing others to succeed in their lives and careers.

Keeping the college running requires plenty of support from staff and facilities crews who do everything from advising students and making sure the bills get paid to keeping things clean and in good repair. We have great staff who use their skills every day to support our mission.

I am grateful for our students. It is easy to sometimes get discouraged about the state of the world and to worry about the future. Certainly, there are students who struggle academically and personally, but I count it a blessing to work in a place with so many bright, hard-working people who leave me feeling hopeful for the future.

Alumni and friends of the college make many of the things we do possible. They are part of the ongoing story of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences whether they were here last year or decades ago. All of us appreciate the support we receive whether it is financial support for scholarships and new facilities, networking opportunities for our students and faculty, or help with our efforts to recruit new students who will become proud Aggies.

Thanks again to all the people who make CAAS great and who will continue to build the college that puts the Ag in Aggies.

**Kenneth L. White**

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

## CAAS ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**It was a busy fall for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The CAAS Alumni Council was involved in many of the events including the Utah Agriculture Products Barbecue before the Homecoming football game. The barbecue features local agricultural products sponsored by Utah's Own. The event raises dollars that will be used for scholarships in the College of Agriculture and Applied Science. Volunteer support from CAAS students, faculty and staff make this annual event possible.**

Congratulations to Michelle James who received the CAAS Alumni Council's Scholarship during the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Award and Honors Banquet. Michelle is a sophomore at Utah State University majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences.

During the Awards and Honors Banquet it was my privilege to introduce Wade Dewey as he was inducted into the college's Alumni Hall of Honor. I would like to thank Wade for his efforts to make dry farming in Utah and Southern Idaho sustainable. His commitment to research, crop improvement and teaching has set a high standard for students and associates, and has helped Utah State University be recognized as having one of the top agriculture programs in the country.

Years ago, as a young member of an FFA chapter, I would stand in our meetings and repeat, "I believe in the future of farming with a faith born not of words but of deeds, of past and present generations of farmers...."

I now appreciate these words and the opportunities that have been given to me in agriculture by friends, neighbors, family and others who care about the "Future of Agriculture."

The CAAS Alumni Council cares about the future of agriculture and has been willing to help where needed, and words of wisdom or suggestions for the council are always appreciated. Δ



**Scott Fuhrman**  
CAAS Alumni Council President

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After nearly 11 years as president of Utah State University, Stan L. Albrecht retires at the end of 2016. His support for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences has been instrumental in the growth of programs and facilities in the college. His legacy will be remembered for decades to come with a building bearing his name on the historic Quad, an honor he wouldn't have dreamed of when he was a farm boy growing up in rural southern Utah.



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Dwarf smut nearly wiped out the wheat and milling industries in Utah. But Wade Dewey's 33-year career as a wheat breeder kept farmers a step ahead of the disease and the 2016 CAAS Alumni Hall of Honoree inductee's work continues to help farmers in Utah and beyond.



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Food scientist Donald McMahon and his colleagues have studied and invented products that help the dairy industry for decades. But one of his career-changing discoveries was recognizing that the greatest impact of his work is in the students he teaches.



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**ON THE COVER:** (R to L) USU President Stan Albrecht, former senator Steve Urquhart, Provost Noelle Cockett and John Cockett at the gathering to name the Stan L. Albrecht Agricultural Sciences Building. Photo by Donna Barry.

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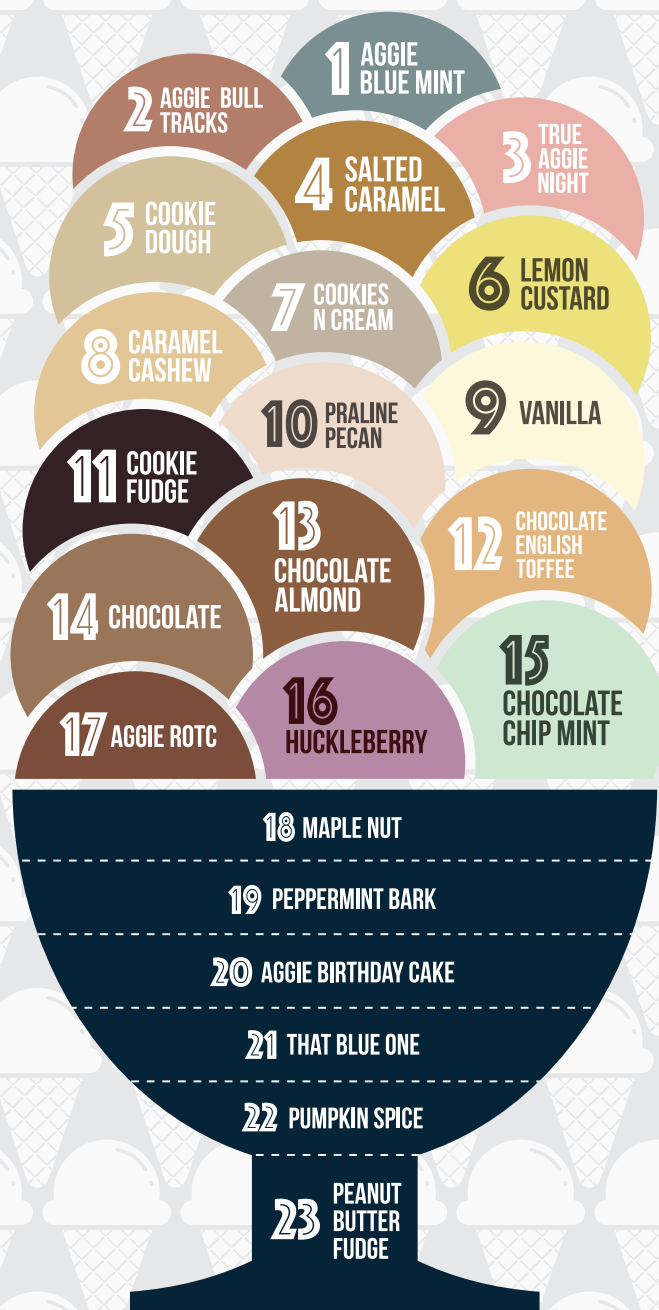
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by the numbers



It was happy (but not surprising) news, that Famous Aggie Ice Cream was named the state's favorite ice cream in a KSL News poll last summer. Nearly every Aggie alumnus has memories of delicious scoops of their favorite flavors that helped celebrate an accomplishment or brighten a gloomy day. The menu has changed over the years, and the current flavors are as cool, creamy and sweet as ever. Here they are in order from the most to the least produced:



# *in pictures*

A birds-eye view of the Stan L. Albrecht Agricultural Sciences Building and Bear River Mountains taken from far above the Quad. On days like this one, it's especially good to be an Aggie!



# USU LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS RECEIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BY SHELBY RUUD

**Students in Utah State University's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning recently received the American Planning Association – Utah Chapter's highest honor for creating an open space plan for a rapidly growing part of the Wasatch Front.**

Students in the fall 2015 Recreation Design and Open Space Planning Studio, taught by Assistant Professor Ole Sleipness, collaborated with the City of Draper and landscape architecture firm Logan Simpson to generate a conceptual design for approximately 4,000 acres of public open space. The Draper Open Space Master Plan was officially adopted by the city in April.

showed me how important open space integration is within communities.”

Jeremy Call, a senior planner at Logan Simpson and USU alumnus, reached out to the department to get the class involved with the project.

“One of the benefits of our department and our program is our really large and active alumni base,” Sleipness said. “Oftentimes our alumni will bring opportunities for our students to be involved in, allowing us to work on collaborative projects like this one.”

**For more information about USU's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, visit [laep.usu.edu](http://laep.usu.edu).** Δ

“IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR OUR STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE WORKING ON ACTUAL PROJECTS WITH REAL-WORLD CONSTRAINTS,” SLEIPNESS SAID. “BY WORKING WITH REAL PROJECTS AND REAL CLIENTS, THEY GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING THEIR DESIGN SKILLS TO SOLVING TANGIBLE NEEDS.”

The students visited the open space areas, met with representatives of the city and Logan Simpson, and created design alternatives for the areas in order to maximize recreation opportunities.

“We had to take into consideration the steep topography, erosion control, storm water management and several other factors,” said David Durfee, a student who worked on the project. “We were able to work with the cities to solve those issues. It really



## 2016 CAAS RETIRED FACULTY



**Conly Hansen**  
Professor, food science



**Roger Kjelgren,**  
Professor, horticulture



**Donald Snyder**  
Professor, applied economics



**Left: Ralph Whiteside**  
Professor, agronomy



**Right: Stanford Young**  
Research professor, plant science

## 2016 CAAS NEW FACULTY

**Sherzod Akhundjanov**

Assistant professor, applied econometrics and microeconomics

**Clara Cho**

Assistant professor, nutrition science

**Curtis Frazier**

Professional practice instructor, technology and engineering education

**Matthew Garcia**

Extension assistant professor, animal science

**Ryan Larsen**

Assistant professor, agribusiness

**Natalie Norris,**

Professional practice assistant professor, dietetics

**Sara Sutherland**

Professional practice assistant professor, natural resource economics

**Windi Turner**

Assistant professor, family and consumer sciences

**Steven Voelker**

Assistant professor, dendroclimatology

**Michelle Weed**

Professional practice assistant professor, equine science

**Austin Welch**

Professional, career and technical education instructor







# AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROFESSOR RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

BY KAILCEE HARRISON

**The North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) recently honored Michael L. Pate with the NACTA Educator Award at the society's annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. The award is presented to those whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education.**

Bruce Miller, department head of the School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education, nominated Pate for the award because of his outstanding teaching efforts.

"Dr. Pate makes a very conscious effort to engage each student in their learning," said Miller. "He is passionate about the teaching and learning process."

Pate said that he was humbled to have received the recognition and that he has been working toward excellence in teaching over the past six years at USU.

"Teaching is something I have always enjoyed," said Pate. "It is important to me to have positive engagement with all my students. I believe that my students enjoy the hands-on experiences and my commitment to laboratory activities that emphasize real-world problems."

The NACTA is a professional society for postsecondary teachers that focuses on scholarship of teaching and learning agriculture. Pate teaches several classes in agricultural systems technology, preparing his students to become teachers in secondary schools, in addition to his extensive research as part of a national project to improve farm safety. [Δ](#)

# USU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CLASS OF 2016

This year marked an important milestone for Utah State University's School of Veterinary Medicine. The first class of 27 doctors of veterinary medicine graduated from the Washington-Idaho-Montana-Utah Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine. Dirk Vanderwall, associate dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, is excited for the new veterinarians to begin their careers in medicine.

"Through the combined efforts of two world-class universities, USU and WSU, our students have received a state-of-the-art veterinary medical education that has prepared them for their veterinary careers," Vanderwall said. "We look forward to seeing them take their places in, and make their individual contributions to, this wonderful profession."

Recent graduates are now scattered all across the United States treating animals in a variety of disciplines. New graduate Colton Thacker is part of an internship program at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, KY. His education at Utah State University helped him prepare for success as an ambulatory intern working in the Thoroughbred industry.

"I am grateful for the time I was able to spend at Utah State University and the things I learned from the professors there," Thacker said. "Utah State has some great professors that took the time to help me to build a foundation of knowledge that I use every day."

Each year up to 20 in-state and 10 out-of-state students are accepted into the program, and spend 2 years studying at Utah State and the final two years of study and clinical work at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

*At the end of 4 challenging years, the inaugural class of Utah State University's School of Veterinary Medicine received their DVM degrees. Congratulations to this pioneering group!*

*The new veterinarians and representatives from our faculty and staff (noted by\*) gathered for a celebratory photo.*

**Left to right, front row:** Heloisa Rutigliano\*, Audrey Raby, Elizabeth Read, Chelsea Whitehouse, Danielle Rowen, Amanda Vockler, Chiara Velotta, Heather Skinner, Jessica Crozier, Colton Thacker, Lee Rickords\*;

**Second row:** Michael Bishop\*, Briedi Gillespie\*, Amanda Amstutz, Jennifer Bunnell, Emily Ozmun, Bethany Bushe, Cassandra Westfall-Eakins, Kristen Lucibello, James Akagi, David Payne, Michael Noyes, David Wilson\*

**Fourth row:** Johanna Rigas\*, Brent Yardley, Heidi Brinkley, Alexis Sweat, Hayley Rasmussen-Ball, Taylor Hatton, Bryan Johnson, Mark Carter, Alika Fisher

**Top row:** Kerry Rood\*, Tom Baldwin\*, Aaron Olsen\*



*Jace Hill returned to Utah prior to commencement to begin work with his father's equine practice in Ogden, but received his diploma at USU from Associate Dean Dirk Vanderwall.*



# NOELLE COCKETT NAMED PRESIDENT OF UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

BY LYNNETTE HARRIS, ERIC WARREN AND PAIGE PUGNUCCO

**Noelle Cockett, an internationally recognized animal geneticist and former dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, has been appointed the 16th president of Utah State University. She succeeds President Stan Albrecht who announced his retirement earlier this year.**

"I am deeply humbled and greatly honored to be named as the 16th president of Utah State University by the Utah Board of Regents," said Cockett. "I pledge to all in the USU community that as president I will tirelessly devote my skills, experience and energy to keeping this institution true to its land-grant mission, to doing everything possible to increase its success and impact and ensure that it flourishes and continues its tradition of excellence in the years to come."

Cockett most recently served as the university's executive vice president and provost, having been appointed to that position in 2013. She joined the faculty in USU's Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences in 1990 and achieved the rank of professor in 1996. She served as the dean of CAAS from 2002 to 2013, vice president for Extension and agriculture from 2006 to 2013 and director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station (UAES) from 2009 to 2013. She has also served USU as interim dean of the School of Graduate Studies, vice provost for academic affairs and as interim provost.

Cockett grew up on a beef cattle ranch in Montana and received a bachelor's degree in animal science from Montana

State University. She earned master's and doctorate degrees in animal breeding and genetics from Oregon State University and was a research geneticist at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service U.S. Meat Animal Research Center for five years. In 2014, Cockett was part of the international team that first sequenced the sheep genome.

"Noelle is highly qualified and has a tremendously diverse background — from her own research, to dean of the graduate school, to an academic dean and recently as provost," said Ken White, who succeeded Cockett as dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, vice president for Extension and director of the UAES. "I'm particularly excited about her strong background in agriculture. She came from rural Montana, was close to the land growing up, and her experience in academia — still in agriculture — means she knows well how to keep USU's focus on our land-grant mission and the important part agricultural traditions will continue to play in the state."

Utah State University has an enrollment of approximately 29,000 students, a workforce of more than 3,000 faculty and staff, and institutional funding of \$554 million. In addition to its main campus in Logan, Cockett will be responsible for Utah State's three regional campuses, a comprehensive regional college, Extension offices in 28 of the 29 counties in Utah and at the USU Ogden Botanical Center, Thanksgiving Point, the USU Botanical Center in Farmington, Utah, and the USU Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter in Park City, Utah.



## CAAS STUDENT AWARDS

Graduate Student Teacher of the Year  
**Rose Judd-Murray, ASTE**

Graduate Researcher of the Year  
**Min Yang, ADVS**

Legacy of Utah State  
**Lea Palmer, NDFS**

Scholar of the Year  
**Ian Sroufe, ADVS**

Undergraduate Researcher of the Year  
**Alissa Aguilar, NDFS**

## CAAS STAFF AWARDS

Service to Faculty  
**Tami Spackman, ADVS**

Service to Students  
**Pam Garcia, ADVS**



A highlight of the this year's Awards and Honor Banquet was a video "Thank you" note to the college's supporters. There are two ways you can view the CAAS "Thank you" video.



1. If you have a smartphone with a camera and QR code reader app, just point your camera at the code and video will launch. Newer smartphones may have the application pre-installed, but if yours does not, there are free QR readers in your phone's app store.

2. If you prefer to view the video online, go to [tinyurl.com/CAASthanks](http://tinyurl.com/CAASthanks).

## CAAS FACULTY AWARDS

Distinguished Professor of the Year  
**Noelle Cockett, ADVS**

Faculty Researcher of the Year  
**Silvana Martini, NDFS**

Graduate Research Mentor of the Year  
**Heidi Wengreen, NDFS**

James LeGrande Shupe Achievement  
**Roger Columbe, ADVS**

Teacher of the Year  
**Clay Isom, ADVS**

Undergraduate Faculty Advisor of the Year  
**David Evans, LAEP**

Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year  
**Bart Tarbet, ADVS**

Faculty University Service Award  
**Becki Lawver, ASTE**

Distinguished Service to the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences  
**Don Wang**  
(Pictured below)



### ALUMNI HALL OF HONOR

**Wade Dewey**  
(Read more about him on pg. 18)



Photo: Courtesy of Dennis Hinkamp

# Stan L. Albrecht Agricultural Sciences Building



## Agricultural Sciences Building NAMED FOR RETIRING PRESIDENT

BY MAREN ALLER AND LYNNETTE HARRIS

**In recognition of Stan L. Albrecht's tenure as president of Utah State University and his outstanding support of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, the college's flagship building on the historic Quad is now the Stan L. Albrecht Agricultural Sciences Building.**

"This is an honor beyond anything I would ever have imagined," Albrecht said. "I want you all to know that it is something for which I will always feel great humility and appreciation."

At the October naming ceremony, former state senator Steven Urquhart said that during his years

in the legislature he had come to think of Albrecht as his

"guy" and sought his council whenever he had an idea or question about higher education because he trusts Albrecht's judgment.

"I measure success in the public arena by asking, 'How were things before you showed up? How are things when you leave?'" Urquhart said. "Look around this campus. Look at the vibrancy of this place and the new buildings. Look at USU's regional campuses, outpacing growth everywhere else and providing quality instruction and such wonderful opportunities."

As the state of Utah's land-grant institution, USU is charged with providing an education to all who qualify regardless of socioeconomic status or geography. Hailing from Utah's rural

**"WHEN YOU THINK OF SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN A CHAMPION OF THE LAND-GRANT SYSTEM AND HAS MULTIPLIED THE IMPACT OF UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY THROUGHOUT ALL OF UTAH, STAN ALBRECHT'S NAME COULD NOT BE MORE FITTING FOR THIS BUILDING"**

Wayne County, Albrecht has committed a large part of his presidency to overseeing growth and funding, both from private and public sources, for the educational opportunities provided by USU in all parts of the state

Ken White, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, pointed out that in addition to administrative offices for the college, the building houses administration for most of the college's departments, for the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station which funds research in most of the colleges on campus, and USU Extension which serves people in every county in the state.

"When you think of someone who has been a champion of the land-grant system and has multiplied the impact of Utah State University throughout all of Utah, Stan Albrecht's name could not be more fitting for this building," White said. "We are honored to have his name on our building as he has done so very much to positively impact the students and faculty in our college and for the constituents within agriculture. It's a natural link of his strong ties to agriculture throughout his life and career and we are pleased to remember his impact for generations to come."

The prestigious location of the building, constructed in 2012, highlights the continuing commitment of USU to agricultural research and education, the agricultural industry and USU's land-grant mission including Extension.

"Stan has strengthened and instilled a deep commitment to the land-grant mission at USU," said Noelle Cockett, executive vice president and provost at USU, who was the dean of CAAS when the building was constructed. "His agricultural background is part of his strong work ethic core belief in the goodness of people. His name stands as a fitting tribute to this building as he facilitated the conversations with the Utah legislature that made this building a reality."

Albrecht was named USU's 15th president on Feb. 1, 2005, and he will retire at the end of 2016. He has seen the university through many changes and successes, most notably enhancing USU's statewide reach, the successful \$500 million plus capital campaign for USU, Logan campus transformation and growth of regional campuses and online degree offerings. Albrecht worked to secure state support for construction of the Agricultural Sciences Building, and was central to the university's gaining legislative approval and funding to establish its School of Veterinary Medicine.

Albrecht said his only wish that could have made the naming ceremony more complete would have been to have his parents there to see it because they had great respect for the Utah Agricultural College, as USU was called in earlier years.

"My father never had a chance to go to college, but he often mentioned the old "AC" as those of his generation referred to it," Albrecht said. "But it was this institution that did the research and work through Extension that helped them accomplish what they needed to do to survive in a rural part of the state. My mom never had the opportunity to go to college, but I don't think any of my siblings would say that there was ever any doubt that we would go to college. That

was largely due to her personal direction."

Albrecht credited his parents with teaching the personal attributes other speakers had praised in him that day.

"They instilled in me values of a strong work ethic, commitment to never quitting until a task is completed, appreciation for teamwork and a recognition that my future would be determined in a very significant part by the manner and extent to which I took advantage of educational and career opportunities," Albrecht said. "They taught me to recognize that leadership opportunities, when they were granted, were an honor and privilege, but that they also carried enormous responsibility to set aside some personal goals and expectations for the good of the larger whole." Δ



Photos: Courtesy of Donna Barry



**Left:** USU Provost Noelle Cockett and CAAS Dean Ken White unveil the building's new name. **Top:** Stan and Joyce Albrecht. **Above:** Ken White and Stan Albrecht



## **EQUINE EXPERIENCE INVALUABLE FOR VETERANS**

BY JULENE REESE

It looks like any other guided horse trail ride – several seasoned riders guiding a half-dozen novice riders along a sunny, semi-steep trail in the Wellsville Mountains. But what an onlooker wouldn't know is that the riders are military veterans and family members participating in Utah State University's Equine Activities and Therapies Program, gaining strength from each other, enjoying nature and learning about themselves from the horses they ride.

This is the ninth USU Equine Experience Veteran's ride for the summer and the fourth such ride for Marine Corporal Justin Bishop. The USU social work major assists with the veteran's rides and also works as a peer mentor at USU's Veteran's Resource Office.

"I came to help with this program think-



Photo: Courtesy of McKay Jensen

ing of it as a resource for the veterans I work with," he said. "But never did I imagine how helpful it would be for me."

When Bishop went on his first ride through the program, he hadn't been on a horse since he was 8 years old.

"I was very nervous," he said. "And horses can pick up on that. You can't lie to a horse. After that first nerve-racking ride, I began to think 'I can do this. I can ride a horse. I can be on this animal and venture out.' So I started to develop that trust. I have ridden a different horse every time on these rides, and each horse has its own personality and character. I like it because I get to know the horse, and it gets to know me."

So what is it about horses?

Michelle Weed, recently hired director of USU Equine-Human Sciences, has been asked that question many times. She said horses have the ability to detect underlying energy and emotions from those around them. Therapeutic riding instructors then use that connection, attachment and movement to address connecting with another being, problem solving, sequencing, core strength and more, while also teaching riding skills.

"Horses allow us to see when we are being incongruent –

such as smiling when we are angry inside," she said. "They can read a person's intentions and mirror them. Therefore, once the person is congruent, the horse gives immediate feedback by relaxing or engaging. They also have a three-dimensional movement that has yet to be replicated by a machine or therapy tool. This mimics the human gait as well."

Weed said the veteran's rides are just one aspect of the USU Equine Activities and Therapies Program. Also offered through the program are corporate equine-assisted leadership programs, therapeutic riding, equine-assisted learning for community participants and veteran's workshops. There are currently four trained therapy horses in the program with hopes for two more in the future so that hippotherapy rehabilitative treatment – which helps improve physical coordi-

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**“IT’S NOT SO MUCH ABOUT RIDING AS IT IS LEARNING TO WORK WITH A HORSE WITH A MIND OF ITS OWN. HORSES DON’T ALWAYS GO WHERE YOU WANT THEM TO GO – AND PEOPLE DON’T EITHER.”**

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nation, balance and strength – can be offered.

Weed said USU is one of the few schools in the nation that offers hands-on equine assisted activity and therapy training, and USU has developed the education program to train instructors in disability awareness, teaching techniques and safety. She said using certified instructors ensures protection and effectiveness of the programs.

"Our goal is to train innovative, client-centered professionals," she said. "It's not about a diagnosis or label, it's someone's life. We teach them to help clients reach goals through activities with therapeutic benefits that carry over to activities of daily life."

Weed said she is excited about the work being done with veterans because they are near and dear to her heart. She has been married to a career Air Force officer for 27 years and has a deep appreciation for the military.

Weed has worked in the field of equine assisted therapy for 20 years in varying capacities, including instructor and training faculty member for the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. Her many years of experience in the field have made her passionate about how effective equine-assisted counseling can be.

"Imagine being in a counselor's office with your spouse discussing family dynamic issues," she said. "Often, each person has a different view on how his or her actions contribute to the challenges. Defense mechanisms, such as





Photo: Courtesy of Eli Lucero

denial, can hinder progress toward solutions. With equine-assisted counseling, the environment, movement, group activities and the horse's reactions to underlying emotions quickly demonstrate the true dynamics. This allows people to process and start building toward solutions."

Weed said equine-assisted therapy has been shown to be effective for people who struggle with anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, sexual trauma, relationship difficulties and other adjustment issues.

For Bishop, equine-assisted therapy has helped him work through adjustment issues he faced post deployment.

"Everyone experiences combat differently, and their takeaway is different," he said. "My takeaway was that I ended up with very low self-esteem. I did my job and I came back alive, but there were still people who didn't. Because of that, I lost a lot of self-esteem and confidence because I felt like it was my fault. It is also hard to trust again. You rely on your buddies in combat, but everyone else is out to get you, and it's hard to come back home and realize they're not anymore."

Bishop said he has had post-deployment therapy that has been helpful, but the veteran's trail rides have helped tremendously with confidence in himself and in talking about his experiences. The rides have also taught him to rely on the horse and to trust it, which has helped him transfer that trust into other areas of his life.

"When I'm riding, I'm not thinking about school, and bills and stress," he said. "I'm thinking about myself, the horse and

developing that relationship. At the end of each ride, we have lunch, then we have some great discussions. They are reflective of the day's ride and how a veteran sees challenges and approaches them. These rides have been very helpful to me."

Jared Schultz, director of USU's Rehabilitation Counseling Program, has served as the counselor on four of the veteran's rides conducted since the program began in the fall of 2015. He goes on the 2-hour ride with participants, eats with them, then leads a discussion about learning life lessons from the experience.

Schultz said one man had never ridden a horse before, and he didn't know how to trust it. How do you risk with a horse? How do you show fidelity so trust can be developed over time?

"We then expanded that discussion into life and teenagers and dealing with change and adjustment," Schultz said. "It's about learning from experiences and drawing life lessons. Therapeutically speaking, the best work you do as a counselor isn't always in your office in a 50-minute session.

These experiences help accelerate that work by getting individuals out of the office and into life. It's not so much about riding as it is learning to work with a horse with a mind of its own. Horses don't always go where you want them to go – and people don't either."

Schultz said the veteran's rides provide participants with a connection to other people in similar circumstances. The

**"WHEN I'M RIDING, I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT SCHOOL, AND BILLS AND STRESS. I'M THINKING ABOUT MYSELF, THE HORSE AND DEVELOPING THAT RELATIONSHIP."**



Photo: Courtesy of Julene Reese



Photo: Courtesy of Julene Reese

rides provide a supportive community for them as well as the mental health benefits of “getting out and doing.”

Karl Hoopes, USU Extension equine specialist and a practicing veterinarian for 13 years, is director of the Extension part of the program. He began the equine-assisted therapy rides for veterans in the fall of 2015 as a way to help military families cope with the challenges they face.

“With these rides, we don’t offer a lot of instruction on riding etiquette,” Hoopes said. “It’s not about the horse, it’s about the individual’s experience with the horse. It’s neat when the connection between the rider and the horse occurs. It allows the person to experience emotions and encourages them to talk. That’s why the counselor is involved in every ride.”

Hoopes said people from the Veterans Administration asked him to provide a trail ride for women experiencing post-traumatic stress. One woman talked to him about the difficulties she faced because of her experience, and Hoopes coached her on how the horse could help her.

“That was a really special ride,” he said. “At times like that, I know the program is making a huge difference, and that’s really gratifying.”

To date, equine rides for veterans have been held in Cache County, Eden, Richfield and Panguitch. Participants can bring one guest with them, and the ride is kept to 10 people, excluding the therapist and horse trainers, so that the group is small and manageable.

“My goal is to deliver the program to all Utah counties,” Hoopes said. “We would love every county to have a veteran’s trail ride. A major problem we have is finding the right horses and being able to purchase them for the program. Horses and equipment are a huge expense. We did receive a small grant to get started, and we’ve received some sponsor support, which has been very helpful.”

Annika Claire is Hoopes’ intern for the program. The USU psychology student has assisted with grant writing and

all aspects of the veteran’s rides.

“I know many veterans, and I’m happy I can help with an experience that benefits that population,” she said. “It’s amazing what a horse can do for a person that they can’t do for themselves.”

She has been on horses since she was just a year old. She said she has been through some difficult things in her life, and her goal is to use those experiences to help other people.

“I feel like I can get down on myself and be sad or pull up my boot straps and help people who are going through similar things,” she said. “I love horses, and I’ve found the perfect match. My dad always told me, ‘Do something you love, then write it off your taxes.’”

The Equine Activities and Therapies Program is quickly expanding. Weed came on board in April 2016 to one horse in training, no participants and one part-time staff member. The program officially began on June 1 and since then, there have been 43 participants.

Weed said two undergraduate courses are offered this fall: principles of equine-assisted activities and therapeutic riding instructor training. The long-range goal is to have an associate’s degree, a minor for the BS degree, a major and a graduate certificate in equine-assisted learning and counseling.

“The overwhelming response we’ve had shows the need for alternative programs for our community members and students,” Weed said. “I am excited to be part of growing this program. Horses have a unique way of nudging us over those plateaus we hit in therapy, in life and in relationships.”

To donate or learn more about USU’s Equine Activities and Therapies Program, contact Brandon Monson, 435-797-2208, [Brandon.monson@usu.edu](mailto:Brandon.monson@usu.edu) or Michelle Merrill, 435-797-8556, [michelle.merrill@usu.edu](mailto:michelle.merrill@usu.edu). [△](#)



Photo: Courtesy of Dennis Hinkamp

# Wade Dewey:

BY DENNIS HINKAMP

**Wade Dewey, the 2016 Alumni Hall of Honor Award recipient, likes to have fun with his “smutty” story. Smut, the provocatively named plant disease is the bane of wheat growers worldwide and Dewey spent 33 years as a wheat breeder at Utah State University trying to stay one step ahead of it.**

The two most common wheat diseases are rusts and smuts, Dewey said. Both are fungus diseases that have been plagues since humans started cultivating wheat. Rusts affect primarily the leaves and stems, whereas smut attacks the kernels. Rusts do most of their harm to wheat in humid areas, so they're not as great a threat to Utah and Idaho's dry lands. Smut, however, began thriving in the Utah/Idaho region, both dwarfing the wheat and replacing the kernel with a mass of black spores – thus the name dwarf smut.

Dewey points to a photo of what looks like a black cloud coming from the back of a wheat combine. The black cloud is airborne, pulverized smut. Even the normal kernels of wheat are rendered worthless because they become polluted with the black powdery mass of smut spores when the wheat hits the combine. Flour mills won't buy smut-contaminated wheat, so for the farmer; a smutted crop is a complete loss.

The job of wheat breeders is to keep smut at bay by developing resistant wheat varieties. The first of these varieties developed at Utah State was “Cache” and it helped



# 2016 Alumni Hall of Honor



save dryland wheat farmers, at least for a time. Smut doesn't give up easily. It seemingly has its own research team that keeps changing, mutating and developing new "races" of smut that can defeat the defenses of new resistant varieties of wheat.

As "Cache" began to fail, Dewey began breeding new wheat varieties based on a smut-resistant variety found in Turkey. The new resistant wheat turned out to be low yielding and not good for baking bread, Dewey said. However, by breeding it with local varieties with desirable baking characteristics, USU developed the best of both worlds in "Hansel" and "Manning." That's where the story pauses, but doesn't end in the 1970s.

Smut has kept adapting and wheat breeders keep fighting back with new varieties. Dave Hole, USU's current small grains breeder and geneticist has continued the research that Dewey started.

"Because of what Wade Dewey started here USU is the only lab in the world that tests for dwarf bunt resistance," Hole says. Hole explains that they sometimes use the words bunt and smut interchangeably; both are fungal diseases. All bunts are smut but not all smuts are bunts.

"We are still using some of the genetics of the Hansel variety to breed new varieties," Hole said. "Hansel is still the gold standard for a desirable wheat breed for yield and bread making."

One of the challenges of wheat breeding and agricultural science in general is getting producers to accept the advice of scientists. Dewey said one of the things he is most proud of is getting the Pocatello Valley growers to plant his new wheat varieties.

According to Clark Hamilton, both a former student of Dewey's and a grain farmer, Dewey had the ability to understand and teach science and genetics while understanding producers' needs and how to apply the technology. He related well with farmers and communicated with them. His work has been, and continues to be, crucial to the grain industry.

"I consider myself very fortunate to have been taught by Wade and directly understand the importance of his work and contributions to agriculture," Hamilton said.

Wade's son, Steve Dewey, retired from USU after a long career as the Extension weed specialist, and recalls spending a lot of time as a boy playing in the fields at the Blue Creek Experiment Station while his father worked on wheat plots. He also remembers the lessons learned from his father. "My dad taught me all the skills to become successful such as doing a job right the first time, dependability and the philosophy of doing the right thing even if nobody is watching."  $\Delta$



# College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Alumni Council

## Meet our 2016-2017 alumni council members:

I am a third-generation Aggie, graduating in 1968. I grew up on my family's ranch in Rich County and keep deep ties in agriculture and our family ranching operation. I served my country after graduating from USU, as a pilot in Vietnam and flew commercially as a captain for Delta Airlines. My experience and education at USU served me WELL.



**ROBERT ADAMS**

I graduated from USU in 2002 with a BS degree in Ag Systems Technology and Education with a minor in agribusiness. For the past 12 years, I have worked for the Utah Farm Bureau Federation and am currently vice president – organization. I previously worked as a hunting guide and have two separate farm and ranching operations in Utah and Nevada. I have been married to my beautiful wife for 16 years. We have six children and make our home on our farm in Liberty, Utah.



**DAVID BAILEY**

I have worked for Western AgCredit since 2007 and currently serve as the vice president for marketing and communications director. My position includes internal and external communications, including producing FenceLines magazine, managing the association's online presence, representing Western AgCredit at ag-related meetings and conventions, organizing customer events and producing advertising materials. I graduated from Utah State University, having studied public relations and minored in business and political science.



**SARAH BUTTARS**

I am a 1985 graduate in agricultural economics. Following graduation, I started work with the Federal Land Bank Association in Bakersfield, CA. In 1990 I began my career at Lewiston State Bank in Lewiston, UT, working as a loan officer, operations officer, financial officer, and now, as president of the bank. My education at USU has served me well! GO AGGIES!



**DALE BUXTON**

I graduated with a B.S. degree at Utah State University in 1993 and majored in animal science in the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences. I was employed for several years as an Extension agent in Iowa. I took advantage of an opportunity to come back to Utah and be the director of the Willow Park Zoo in Logan and am glad to be back home and involved with my alma mater.



**TROY COOPER**

Alumni Council members also reach out to Utah communities and encourage others to become involved in supporting students by funding scholarships, serving on the council, and providing venues to educate CAAS students about career skills and opportunities.

**If you are interested in serving on the CAAS Alumni Council please contact Brandon Monson, [Brandon.monson@usu.edu](mailto:Brandon.monson@usu.edu), (435) 797-2208.**

# alumni corner

The CAAS Alumni Council is a volunteer group of alumni who are passionate about USU and the college and want to give back through their time, talents and resources to advance the mission of the college. Members serve as an advisory board for the college's dean and development officers. The council promotes the interests and welfare

of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, its alumni, students and staff by maintaining connections between the college and its alumni. Members serve 3-year terms in which they help with college events, network, mentor students and graduates and select other alumni for prestigious college awards and honors.

I attended Utah State University in the early 1970s, studying agricultural systems and technology and thoroughly enjoyed my time at the university. My brother Michael and I currently run the farm that has been in the family for 110 years in Pocatello Valley, ID. I was honored to be selected as USU's Alumnus of the Year in 2013. As the CAAS Alumni Council president, I feel strongly about being involved to help the students, because students and alumni of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences stand out from the crowd. CAAS graduates are good, hard workers who can show off their abilities in the workforce.



SCOTT FUHRMAN

I earned a bachelor's degree in agribusiness and applied economics. The friendships that I made while I attended USU are lifelong. I was hired by the Utah Farm Bureau as a regional manager shortly after graduation and have worked for the UFBF for 14 years. I also work with my brothers and cousins on a family dairy and crop operation. I am married to Krista Gibbons and have three daughters and one son. We live in Cache Valley. Go Aggies!



SPENCER GIBBONS

I received a one-year certificate in agriculture mechanization in 1975 and then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in agriculture education/business in 1990. I moved my family to Mesa, AZ, to take a position with Bingham Equipment and in 1999, after receiving an MBA, was promoted to a corporate service manager over 10 equipment service locations in Arizona. In 2006, our family moved back to Logan and I took a position at USU as a lecturer. I was promoted to senior lecturer in 2011 and have the opportunity to use my years of experience in the equipment industry to work with students and teach the skills to find rewarding work in an ever-changing industry and help farming and agriculture continue to grow.



ROYCE HATCH

I graduated as part of the class of 1974 with a major in agricultural economics. My first job following graduation was with U&I Sugar Co. at Eureka, WA. In 1975 I went to work with my father and brother on the farm that has been in the family since 1886. My experiences in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences have helped me be a better participant with the water community in the Bear River Basin and the state of Utah. I have enjoyed being involved with CAAS, including the CAAS students and staff. I enjoy giving back financially to the college through scholarship funding since I was the beneficiary of a small scholarship when I was a freshman at USU.



CHARLIE HOLMGREN

I grew up in Summit County, Utah, where I found my passion for agriculture. I continued developing that passion at Utah State University, and was proud to represent CAAS as the college's senator. I am currently working on a Master of Science Degree at USU and look forward to pursuing a career where I can promote all aspects of agriculture.



CALEE LOTT

# why I give



**“I GIVE BACK TO THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN ITS MISSION TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS, FARMERS, EDUCATORS AND PROFESSIONALS WITH A PASSION FOR WORK THAT SUSTAINS AND IMPROVES OUR COMMUNITIES.”**

*As a member of the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences, I am pleased to contribute to a scholarship program that supports our student researchers, giving them the resources needed to enhance their degree programs.”*

*— Abby D. Benninghoff*

*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 and Elizabeth Bingham*



*“My husband was the first of his paternal cousins to receive a bachelor’s degree, which he accomplished at Utah State University. His example has paved the way for our children who either earned bachelor’s degrees at USU or are in the process of accomplishing this goal. For our children, being scholarship recipients ‘eased the load’ and allowed them to spend more time focusing on academics instead of having to find employment while attending college.”*

**“STEVE AND I FEEL THAT GIVING MONTHLY TO A SCHOLARSHIP FUND WILL HELP SOMEONE ELSE’S CHILD TO DO THE SAME.”**

*— Jean and Steve Edwards*

*The Real Value*

IS IN

*Our Students*

**BY PROFESSOR DONALD J. MCMAHON**

Director of the Western Dairy Center

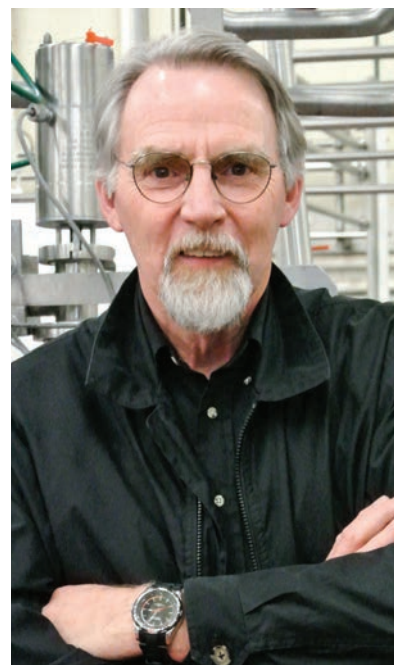
**When I started my career at Utah State University in 1987, the Western Dairy Center had just been formed as a collaboration with Oregon State University, Brigham Young University and the dairy foods industry. That was a great opportunity for me as a young assistant professor to investigate ways to solve problems related to the quality of dairy foods and to look at technologies that could lead to innovations in the foods we eat. Being part of the Western Dairy Center certainly accelerated my ability to be successful.**

The study of dairy foods at Utah State University owes its heritage to the late Professor C. Anthon "Tony" Ernstrom who brought together the faculty that made up the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences when it was formed in the 1960s. I was fortunate to meet Tony while he was on sabbatical leave in Australia and be recruited as a graduate student (PhD, 1983). It was his efforts to solve problems relating to dairy foods that led to the formation of the Western Dairy Center, which over the past 30 years has received about \$20 million of research funding. During that time, half of all food science MS and PhD graduates were financially supported by the Western Dairy Center. So next time you are enjoying some of our Famous Aggie Ice Cream®, spare a thought and reflect on the impact that our past dairy foods professors, such as Tony Ernstrom, Gary Haight Richardson, AJ Morris and others, have had on the lives of the students they taught and mentored.

After the first 10 years of my life as a professor, I was thinking of the impact my research was having on the world. I had already reached the rank of full professor, and had a continuous stream of new research projects. Along with a good friend and colleague, Professor Craig Oberg, I had explored the chemistry and microbiology of cheese, and understood why mozzarella cheese melts so well, and even patented strategies for making a nonfat cheese for baking on a pizza. I thought it was quite a compliment to be told that "I've got all your papers in my filing cabinet" and "We used your papers to develop our new technologies." It was a confirmation that my work was of value, although it took another 10 years

to recognize what being a professor is all about.

In 2013, a good friend and research leader in the dairy industry, Eric Bastian, told me that my research, and that of other faculty in the Western Dairy Center, was all well and good, but the real value is in the students, who have the talents companies need to be innovation leaders. This wake-up call caused a paradigm shift within our research center. We responded to the twin messages about the growing need for graduate students who understand dairy technology in the western region, and that supporting those students would be a worthwhile investment by the dairy industry. Thus, started the BUILD Dairy program at the Western Dairy Center that aims to Build University-Industry linkages through Learning and Discovery. Now in its third year, there are 18 BUILD Dairy students being supported at Utah State University as well as at universities in four other states in the western region.  $\Delta$





# *Nominate* A College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Graduate for Induction Into the CAAS Alumni Hall Of Honor

Past honorees include alumni who have built outstanding careers in agribusiness, medicine, government service and science.

**Nominees must have:**

- A DEGREE FROM USU'S COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES
- MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS/HER PROFESSION OR TO SOCIETY
- A RECORD OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS
- AT LEAST 25 YEARS OF EMPLOYED SERVICE AT THE TIME OF NOMINATION.

Please help us select the 2017 inductee by submitting your nomination on our website at: [caas.usu.edu/awards/alumni-awards](http://caas.usu.edu/awards/alumni-awards). The nomination deadline is May 15, 2017.

For more information, contact Jean Edwards, 435-797-2205, or [Jean.Edwards@usu.edu](mailto:Jean.Edwards@usu.edu).

