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2014

Cultivate Spring/Summer 2014

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cultivate

CONNECTIONS • MINDS • INNOVATIONS



Visions of **SUCCESS** | *Page 10*

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Since the last issue of our alumni magazine,

the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences has continued to grow and our partnerships have continued to strengthen and expand.

First, we broke ground on the final phase of the Sam Skaggs Family Equine Education Center at our Animal Science Farm. This exciting development is thanks to a generous donation from The ALSAM Foundation, and you can learn more about it on page 18.

We are also pleased our longstanding partnership with Valley Implement and Case IH has continued and been strengthened with the signing of a 10-year master agreement. This partnership aids our researchers and, in turn, our students who benefit from and often assist with this research, and are impacted in their education by having access to the most up-to-date technology and innovations.

Lastly, I'm sad to note the passing of a beloved former professor, Ross A. Smart. Ross was a dear friend to this college who dedicated four decades to his students and colleagues. He will long be remembered for his kind and generous attitude and as someone who was never too busy to help a student. I offer my condolences to his family and to all those who loved and admired him and appreciated the tremendous impact he had on Utah State University and the region.



Kenneth L. White

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



LETTER FROM THE CAAS ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Randy N.
Parker, '76 & '78

CAAS Alumni
Council President

JUST AS THE ROOTS of our land-grant university celebrate spring as a time of new beginning for our farmers and ranchers, it also marks a new beginning in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Graduates are now venturing into the professional world to put their hard-earned skills to the test. Congratulations on your achievement and welcome to the CAAS alumni association.

Although graduation is often seen as the culmination of the college experience, I invite you to reflect on the generosity and dedication of those who paved the way for you and the exceptional programs offered within our great college. We, the CAAS

Alumni Council, wish to establish a scholarship fund for this purpose — one that will not only represent our pride in CAAS but also what it offers to individuals and the professional community.

As a proud Aggie alum and president of the Alumni Council, I invite all CAAS alumni to help fund this scholarship. Aggie generosity generated more than \$1 million for USU scholarships through the Utah Aggie license plates program last year. CAAS graduates have a wonderful legacy that is the foundation of USU. Let's see what we can do to help the next generation who will carry the CAAS banner!

If you would
like to donate



to the CAAS Alumni Council Scholarship, visit usu.edu/giving, select "Other" and specify the scholarship name, or you can send a check to:

CAAS Development Office
4800 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-4800

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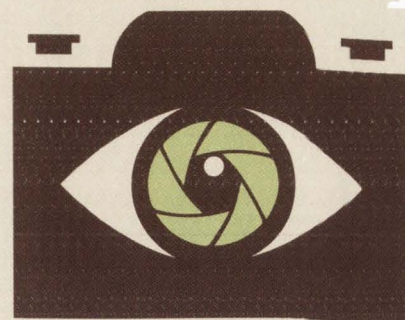
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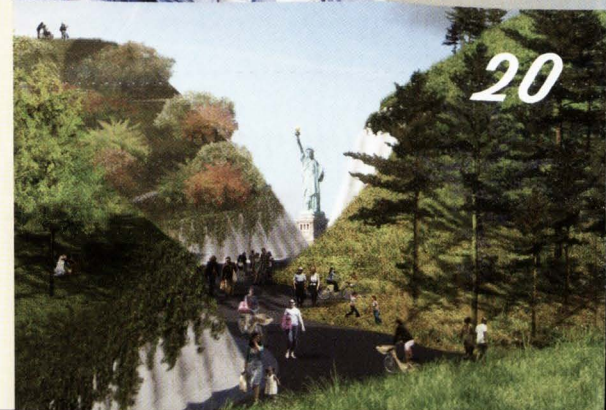
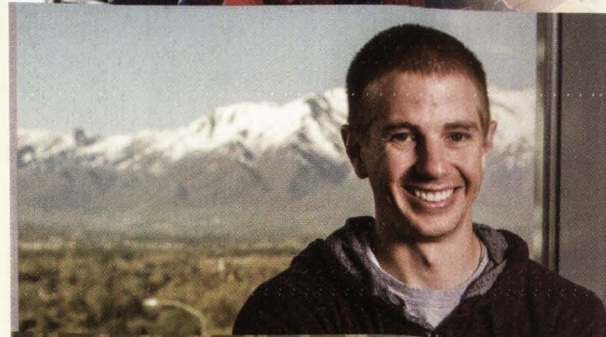
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Submit story ideas, comments and unsubscribe requests to lauren.staples@usu.edu or 4800 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-4800.

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UtahState
University

by the numbers

IN FEBRUARY 2014

we polled our students to find out if they work as hard as we thought they do.

Turns out,

They Do.



1 IN 5 of those who indicated they have a job hold

TWO OR MORE JOBS.



(Students must take 12 credits to be considered full-time students.)



in pictures



MOTHERLY LOVE

For most, graduation weekend conjures overwhelming feelings of joy, relief and excitement for both students and parents. For Hannah Woehlecke and her mom Lisa, their experience wasn't any different.

Our most popular picture in our graduation album on Facebook features the Woehleckes sharing a tender moment after the college's convocation ceremony on May 3.



/UTAHSTATEAG



(From left to right) Carson Lindley stands next to his poster; A close-up of Lindley's winning courtyard design.

LAEP Student Redesigns Popular USU Courtyard

BY ALLIE JEPPSON JURKATIS

The Chase Fine Arts Center Courtyard will soon be receiving a new look, thanks to a student designer announced in January. Carson Lindley, an undergraduate studying landscape architecture, was announced as the winner and received a \$1,750 prize for his efforts.

"When we design spaces on campus, we should make sure we take advantage of all of the brain power we have here," Sean Michael, department head for landscape architecture and environmental planning, said.

The Fine Arts Courtyard Design Competition, hosted by CAAS and the Caine College of the Arts, began in November with 34 submissions of potential designs for the well-used and well-known space.

The winning design features multi-functional pieces including an area for social gatherings and outdoor dining. Inspired by the existing materials, Lindley's design intent was to "create a healthy balance of contemporary style while maintaining a respect for the history of the site."

Although the cash prize was a nice incentive, Devon Gibby, a member of the third-place partnership, said the true value was in the real-world experience gained through this process.

"I knew that it would be good experience designing a real site," he said. "It's a site that I'm very familiar with, having gone to class here, and I thought it would be not only fun, but a good portfolio booster."

Kris Kvarfordt, an LAEP adjunct professor and competition co-coordinator, agreed saying, "I think that by going the extra mile and submitting for the competition has been a portfolio piece for those people involved that they can take and say 'this is above and beyond.'"

WINNER: CARSON LINDLEY

2ND PLACE: ABRAM SORENSEN

3RD PLACE: SETH KING & DEVON GIBBY

4TH PLACE: STEPHEN PEADEN

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

CHRIS BINDER, NICHOLAS DECKER

Dean Earns Governor's Medal

BY ALLIE
JEPPSON JURKATIS

Ken White, a leader in science and the new leader of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, USU Extension and the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, received the Governor's Medal for Science and Technology in January. White was chosen for the award by the Governor's Office of Economic Development for a demonstrated history of promoting the development of science and technology.

"I'm honored and humbled to receive the Governor's Medal for Science and Technology," White said. "This is an acknowledgement of a body of my work that also acknowledges several colleagues and students who have been instrumental participants in these achievements. Receiving this award is also a recognition of their contributions, not just mine."

White was awarded in the academia category for creating an internationally recognized research program along with his role in establishing the Utah State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

New Interim Department Head Named

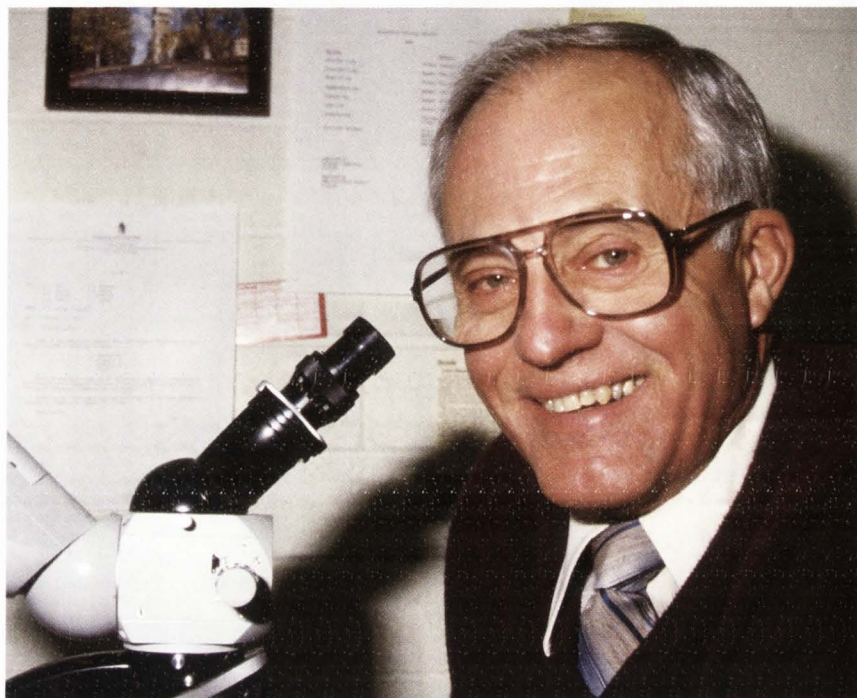
BY ALLIE
JEPPSON JURKATIS

Plant science professor Paul Johnson was named as the interim department head for the Department of Plants, Soils and Climate after former department head Teryl Roper was selected as the new director of the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education center.

"This new position will be a challenge, but I look forward to being part of our department in making a plan for the future in terms of teaching, research and extension in agriculture – both rural and urban," Johnson said.

Johnson has been a PSC faculty member since 1998 and has focused his research on the development of stress tolerant and sustainable turfgrass for the Intermountain West.

"I study the plants we trample on," Johnson said. "Those on parks, sports fields, lawns and golf courses. It's frequently taken for granted, but it is essential for many of our daily activities."



Former Professor Ross A. Smart Passes Away at 87

BY TIFFANY ADAMS

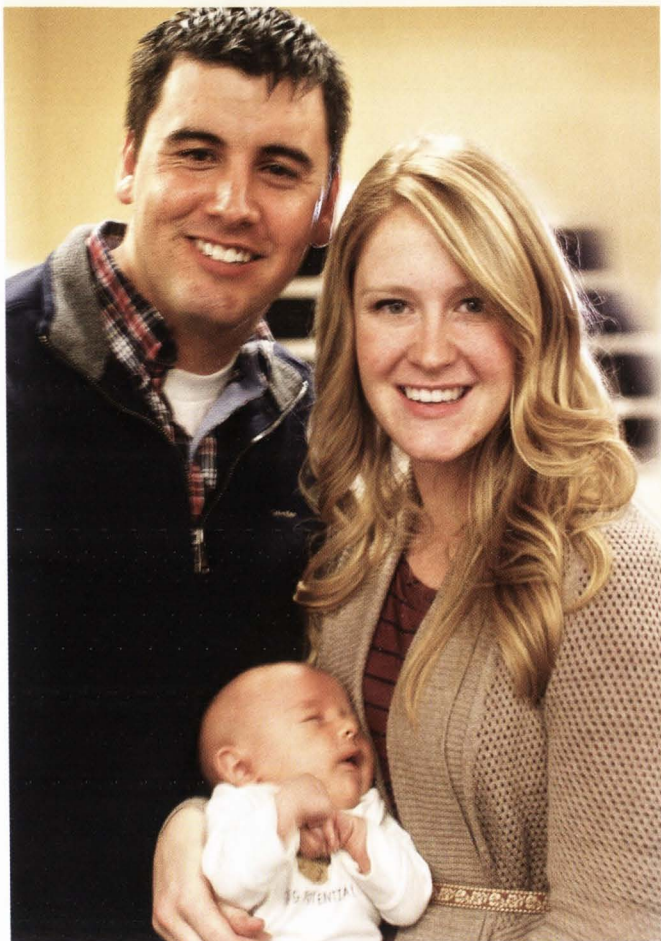
In Memoriam

Former Utah State University faculty member Ross A. Smart, 87, passed away on March 14 after a life marked with significant service to his family, church and profession.

A faculty member for more than four decades, colleagues and students recognized him as the Mortar Board Top Professor in 1992. He received the Outstanding Research Award in turkey disease from the Utah Turkey Marketing Board in 1984, the Distinguished Service award from the Veterinary Medical Association in 1992 and the College of Agriculture Distinguished Professor award in 1993.

Additionally, the Ross A. Smart Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory was named after him and houses the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, a cooperative effort between USU and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to help safeguard animal and human health and the agricultural economy.

In his memory, the family asks that donations be made to the Ross A. and Darlene Smart Scholarship in the School of Veterinary Medicine at USU.



Chili Cook-Off Benefits Injured Student

BY MCCARTY HATFIELD

College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences student ambassadors hosted the 7th annual Chili Cook-Off on Feb. 22 in partnership with Utah State University's Dining Services.

More than 200 people and 21 contestants attended the event and while the proceeds are usually donated to the Cache Valley Food Pantry, this year's earnings went to Dallin Wengert and his family.

Wengert was involved in a traffic accident in May 2013 near the Animal Science Farm and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Although this resulted in nine months of therapy, Wengert is recovering successfully and hopes to return to USU in the fall of 2014 as a full-time student in the animal, dairy and veterinary sciences program.



(From left to right) Dallin Wengert, his wife Amy and their son Clay were the beneficiaries of the college's annual Chili Cook-Off; attendees of the event enjoyed homemade chili made by faculty, staff, students and alumni.

USU Continues Partnership with Case IH, Valley Implement

BY MCCARTY HATFIELD & SARAH DUWE

The Titensor family, who owns and manages Case IH dealership at Valley Implement in Logan, Utah, recently signed a 10-year master agreement with USU to provide agricultural equipment to the university's 11 research farms.

"As a third-generation graduate of Utah State University, I am pleased that we can support the university in this way," said Fred Titensor, Valley Implement Manager. "Many of our employees are also graduates, so having this partnership not only prepares students for the future of agriculture, it helps train my future staff."

Valley Implement delivered the first Case IH equipment to the university's research farms in 2005. The success of that scenario was so mutually beneficial that they decided to create the recent, longer-standing agreement.



Patricia Lardie from CASE IH and Ken White sign the equipment master agreement.

Aggie Creamery Teaches Elementary Students about STEM

BY ALLIE JEPPSON JURKATIS

Aggie Ice Cream was well received by the children of Woodruff Elementary School during their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Night. The Aggie Creamery employees, however, did more than just provide sweet refreshments; they demonstrated the important role that STEM plays in the making of Aggie Ice Cream.

During the event, presentations were made to groups of children and adults on the topics of food safety, pasteurization, homogeni-

zation, product formulation, sales tracking and freezing of Aggie Ice Cream.

"We use the principles of food science, technology, engineering and math everyday in the production of cheese, milk, yogurt and, of course, ice cream," said Aggie Creamery Manager David Irish. "You can't just make these dairy products without some high-level knowledge of STEM."

ASTE Professor Returns from 18th Trip to Thailand in 15 Years

BY ALLIE JEPPSON JURKATIS

Upon returning as the keynote speaker for the International Conference on Learning Innovation in Science and Technology in Chiang Mai, Thailand, professor Ed Reeve completed his 18th trip to the country in the last 15 years.

In that time, he has traveled to Thailand for a number of different reasons including service as an international technical literacy consultant, a Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Senior Specialist, and he has worked with Thailand's government on various projects.

Currently, he is working with several institutions in developing STEM-related curricula.

Reeve noted that traveling to Thailand personally makes him a better teacher and researcher at USU.

"You get introduced to new cultures, new technologies, new ways of doing things," he said.

Not only that, but it also helps students at Utah State as well, he added.

"You can provide a global perspective to the students that helps better prepare them to live in the 21st century," he said.

(From left to right) Ed Reeve stands with Thai children during one of his trips to the Asian country; a Thai child plays with a magnifying glass.

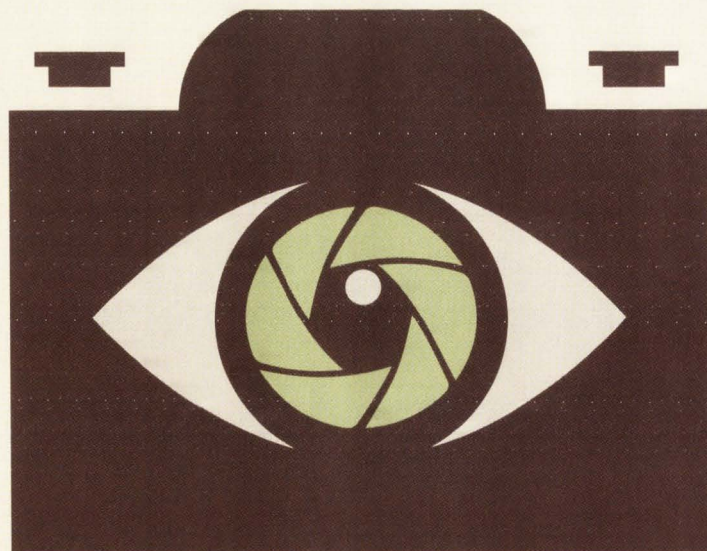




Hull graduated cum laude in May after receiving encouragement from a friend.

Visions of
SUCCESS

by Tiffany Adams



Kevin Hull grew up on the west side of the Wellsville Mountains in Tremonton, Utah, watching his grandfathers operate farms and raise livestock. One of his grandfathers had “the largest pear orchard this side of the Mississippi” according to Hull, while the other grandfather worked with cattle before modern machinery became the popular norm.

“I had a grandpa who was a dairy farmer [and] milked by hand,” Hull said. This grandfather eventually moved in with Hull and his parents, never retiring his love of the Simmental cows he so carefully and diligently raised.

“We brought five to seven head of his precious Simmentals...to our house...so he could look out and see those cows,” Hull said. “He was one who had that love of agriculture.”

It was that love of agriculture instilled early on in addition to a long line of instrumental teachers, that would lead Hull to pursue a degree in agricultural education, but not before an unexpected diagnosis changed Hull’s life forever.

UNEXPECTED DIAGNOSIS

At the age of six, Hull’s teacher noticed something out of the ordinary. Doris Roche, the first of many influential teachers, noticed Hull had pink eye.

“We wondered how I would have gotten pink eye because it wasn’t going around,” Hull said. “She said, ‘Maybe you should go see your eye doctor.’”

The family’s doctor told Hull and his parents that Hull had pars planitis,

a rare disease affecting only one other person in Box Elder County.

“He actually lived down the road from us,” Hull laughed.

Despite the humorous coincidence of living so near the only other known patient in the county, there was nothing funny about the disease. Pars planitis, or the inflammation of the pars plana, a small portion of the eye contributing to the production of fluid needed to nourish the lens and the cornea, would strip Hull of most of his vision.

bleak. Hull’s doctor took quick action to stop the inflammation, giving Hull cortisone shots in the back of his eyes.

“I’m glad they did it because they stopped it so that I have the vision that I have; if not it would have totally destroyed my eyes,” Hull said.

As he got older, his vision slowly left him. He was forced to wear glasses throughout childhood, a common occurrence for many. Uncommon, however, was the extent to which his eyes eventually deteriorated.

“I have the **CAMERA,**
but I don’t have the **FILM.”**



It is difficult to grasp fully the state of Hull’s vision. He even has a difficult time describing it.

“I don’t know how to explain it,” Hull said. “My mom often times will say, ‘I’d like to be in the back of your eyes to see what you can see.’”

While only Hull knows the true state of his vision, he has found an easy way to explain his visual impairment: “I have the camera, but I don’t have the film.”

Although the diagnosis seemed grim at first, it wasn’t completely

ENCOURAGING WORDS

Before leaving for a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hull attended Utah State University for a year. In making the leap from high school to college, Hull didn’t initially get the results for which he had hoped.

“There were a couple of classes I actually failed,” he said.

Returning home from New Zealand two years later, Hull said, his vision took a downward turn.



"I had to give up driving, because I didn't want to hurt myself or anyone else," he said.

That realization combined with his first collegiate experience years before left Hull doubting his ability to return to college. Deciding to opt for a job in retail, Hull worked while farming on the side instead of returning to USU.

Eventually, Hull realized he wanted to do something more.

"I had been thinking about it for awhile," he said. "But I didn't know if I could handle it."

A friend from church reached out to him giving Hull the extra boost of encouragement he needed.

"She called me on the phone and said, 'Something's been telling me that there are bigger and better things you're supposed to do,'" Hull said.

After receiving those reassuring words, Hull made the decision to fulfill his goal of earning the bachelor's degree he sought several years earlier.

Once back at Utah State, his doubt didn't immediately retreat.

"For a period of time, I was second guessing myself," Hull said.

Soon, however, those moments of doubt passed.

"Just like everything I've done in my life, if you put your mind to it and try to make it work, it usually works out for you," Hull said. "It's been amazing how things have fallen into place."

After overcoming his initial doubt, Hull decided to focus on agricultural education, the "agricultural" coming from his early established love of agriculture and "education" coming from his family's strong tie to education. Hull's father, a teacher in the public school system for 42 years, and Hull's brother, a former lawyer

"They said, 'You can do

ANYTHING YOU WANT
even though **DO IT**
you might **DIFFEREN**
have to

who went into special education after becoming disillusioned with his initial career, gave Hull the inspiration to follow in familial footsteps.

Additionally, many of Hull's former teachers made positive and lasting impressions on him, teachers like Hull's second grade teachers, the Darringtons who, according to Hull, "made learning fun." During the summer, Hull would go to their house to receive continued instruction during the break.

"They were willing to offer that extra time during the summer, and it was fun," Hull said.

Hull also credits the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences' structure for facilitating his easier-than-expected transition back into college life.

"Classes are smaller, and a professor has more one-on-one time," he said. "They have students and don't just see them as a number."

Once in CAAS, Hull's professors, through their actions, helped assure him that he made the right choice in coming back to school.

"There was a professor named Rudy Tarpley who was really willing and really eager," Hull said. "He made it enjoyable. He made the choice to come back to school, in my mind, a good choice."

Tarpley wasn't the only professor who helped Hull during his return to higher education. Hull gladly acknowledges that many of his professors have had a response similar to Tarpley's.



Before earning his degree, Hull student taught in Tremonton, Utah.

“Oftentimes you don’t have everything you need, but you have the things you know you can use to make whatever the situation is work,” Hull said. “You can apply that to every area of life, school, family, so on and so forth.”

Hull also credits his parents with helping him realize at an early age that he could pursue whatever avenue he chose.

“They said, ‘You can do anything you want even though you might have to do it differently,’” Hull said.

That sentiment has long been instilled in Hull: “I try to do my best. I’m a perfectionist.”

TLY.”

ADJUSTING TO OVERCOME

Even with encouragement and support, Hull still must adapt to the college’s learning environment to fit his abilities. Relying on the help of technology, Hull maximizes the resources available to assist him in his studies. He uses voice recorders to take notes in class and screen readers to view websites.

Screen readers, software applications that read website content aloud, don’t always work as smoothly as advertised, according to Hull.

“Sometimes technology fights with the screen reader,” Hull said.

In that case, Hull needs to bring someone else in to read the information off the computer. For class work, Hull relies on his memorization skills.

“For some reason, I’ve always had the ability to memorize really easily,” he said. “I’ve used that...to overcome my challenges.”

Hull, a recent USU alumnus who graduated cum laude, credits much of his success to his agricultural roots. Teaching him diligence and creativity, Hull believes his background in agriculture translated into his success in the classroom.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Graduating this past May, Hull plans to teach in the fall, hopefully in a district in Cache Valley.

Hull also wants to pursue his love of farming. Currently, starting his farming operation on a small scale, Hull is slowly learning to manage his own land and the responsibilities that come along with it. Hull envisions incorporating his family history into his future livestock brand. Hoping to use part of his grandfather’s brand, Hull wants to keep his grandfather’s memory from becoming a forgotten piece of history.

“There’s a lot of significance in what I do,” Hull said. “It’s a way to keep those who have inspired me alive.”

Hull admits that while his career options are not definite, his ultimate plans for the future are simple: Spread the story of agriculture.

“I’ve had experiences in classes,” Hull said, “that have put that fire in my belly about how the story of agriculture needs to be told.”

– Kevin Hull

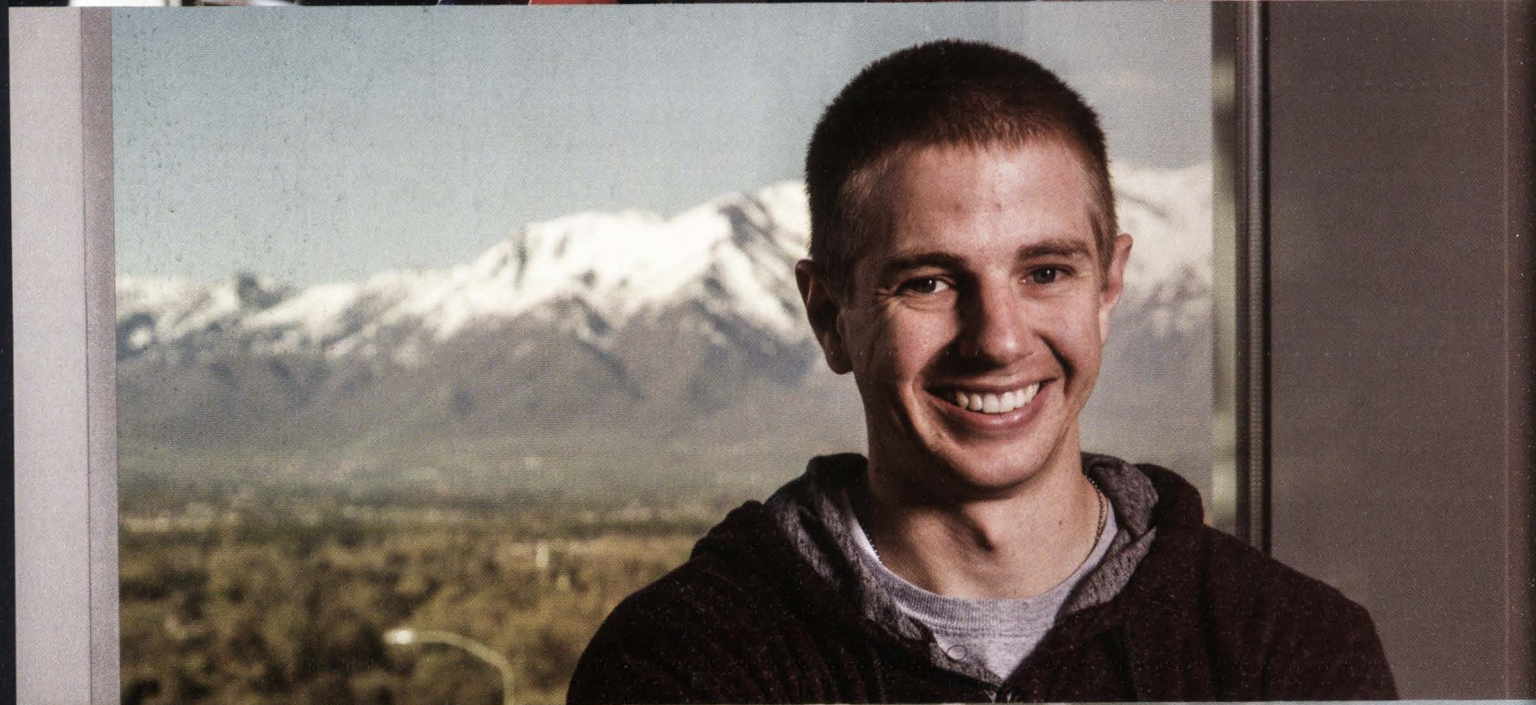
“Most professors that I’ve had are...willing to accommodate and, in a way, bend over backward and do whatever they can to help me out,” he said.

However, one of Hull’s professors adamantly disagrees.

“I have had to make almost no concessions for him,” said Ralph Whitesides, a professor in the plants, soils and climate department. “He is pretty much beyond amazing.”

Illustrating his point, Whitesides spoke of Hull’s ability to identify seeds by touch rather than sight for a class assignment. Going above and beyond for class projects while also adapting to his limitations, Hull made a lasting impression on Whitesides.

“He is one of the most outstanding and amazing students I’ve had,” Whitesides said.



“SOMETHING
I WAS
MEANT
TO DO”

BY TIFFANY ADAMS

When Jake Newman was a child envisioning his career, he knew the military was in his future.

“I always felt like it was something I was meant to do,” he said.

Currently over four years into his Army Reserve contract, Newman credits the military for leading him to his current academic pursuits at Utah State University. Newman, a dietetics major, works as a diet technician in the Army Reserve, a job that he described as half way between a cook and a dietitian.

“It got me interested in the field, and I thought to myself, ‘I can see myself becoming a dietitian,’” Newman said.

Now in school pursuing his bachelor’s degree, Jake thinks that the military helped prepare him in a few ways, namely by teaching him material that he is now being taught at Utah State University.

“A lot of my training to become a diet tech was basically my first two years here,” he said.

Additionally, the military helped develop his leadership skills, applicable to the university setting.

“The Army doesn’t just prepare you to know how to, in my case in a medical unit, medically take care of people,” Newman said. “They teach you a lot of study habits and a lot of leadership skills... They teach you to be an overall better person.”

LIFE WITH CIVILIANS

But being a member of the military often comes with sacrifices, something Peter Wiedmeier understands.

Wiedmeier, a soldier in the Army and a farm boy from Providence, Utah, has been in the military since 2008 and was deployed to Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012. Only married for six weeks before being deployed, he describes his time overseas simply: "It was really hot. It was hard."

Returning home after a yearlong deployment, Wiedmeier admits it was difficult adjusting to life surrounded by civilians.

"I didn't think it would be that much of a different world, but being active duty military where you're around soldiers 24/7 to being around just civilians 24/7 is quite different," he said.

Bill Kay, a Navy veteran, echoes Wiedmeier's sentiments.

"When you get out, you're used to doing things a certain way, and the normal American public doesn't do business that way," Kay said. "You can lose patience with people. I did, and I've heard that from some other vets as well."

Kay enrolled at USU after serving in the military for five years. After leaving the military, Kay worked for five years in the oil fields in Wyoming. In hindsight, Kay realizes that although working on oil rigs was a natural transition because of his experience working long hours and through holidays, it might not have been the healthiest environment for him.

"The military life can burn you out, but they balance out the stress in a number of ways," he explained. "They provide recreational activities. They give you time off. They generally do their best to make sure you stay mentally and physically healthy, and they produce some quality people this way."

"BESIDES THE OBVIOUS BENEFIT OF EARNING A DEGREE, I GET TO STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR A CHANGE...I'M LEARNING HOW TO BE A FOCUSED, EFFECTIVE HUMAN BEING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY." — BILL KAY

But as Kay discovered, other employers might not be as gracious. Although they might pay well, Kay said, many employers seeking former military members don't care about an individual's well-being.

"There's nobody there to keep you healthy anymore, and the stress adds up," he said. "You can turn into a dog after a while."

According to Kay, that's what happened to him. Looking back, he wishes he enrolled in school immediately after leaving the military saying that at USU he is surrounded by "nice, reasonable people all day."

"I feel like the university has rescued me from the pound, and the military has paid the adoption fee," Kay said.

LESSONS LEARNED

Now pursuing his food science degree, Kay thinks that although the military might have made him take school more seriously, he doesn't think that his experience has completely aided his academic pursuits.

"Military life is a specialized skillset that requires the ability to power through things, but college life is a very different and specialized skillset," he said.

This specialized skillset learned in the Navy, in Kay's experience, has made it difficult to commit things to memory. He explained that when he worked on aircraft, it was drilled

into him not to memorize things, but to consult a manual always.

"The idea was that they didn't want anyone to cause a catastrophe because they couldn't remember some technical specification correctly," Kay said. "It taught me to go after good information, but it also trained me to not commit specific details to memory, which is sort of a necessary skill in college."

Newman agrees with Kay, saying the military at times makes school more difficult. Having to drill once a month, the regular trainings often put a strain on Newman's studies.

"It puts a lot of pressure to have to get homework done earlier," he said.

In addition, he noted that in order for he and his wife, Anna, to stay financially solvent, he works two part-time jobs in addition to being a full-time student and a diet technician for the Army Reserve.

"It's a lot," he admitted.

However Wiedmeier, an animal, dairy and veterinary sciences major, disagrees saying that the attention to detail ingrained in him thanks to his military service has been a positive thing.

"In the military, in certain jobs, it's life or death for you or your buddies," Wiedmeier said. "You have to pay attention to details. It gets ingrained in you."

He also notes that the discipline the military taught him has helped his academic pursuits.

"My experience coming back to school has been good. I definitely think the military made me take school more seriously than I would have," he said.

ANY QUESTIONS?

However, while he believes his military service has played a significant role in his schooling, it is not a regular conversation topic between him and his classmates.

"I've had some people ask me what I did before college and I said I was in the military, and they say, 'Oh that's cool,' and leave it at that," Wiedmeier said.

As someone who doesn't enjoy talking to other people about his military experiences, this doesn't bother Wiedmeier.

"My wife always seems super eager to share it with people, but it makes me crazy a little bit," he laughed.

But Wiedmeier does think that one of the reasons people don't really ask questions is because of Cache Valley's lack of a strong military presence.

Kay recounted similar experiences of people not wanting to go into details of their military experience.

"Nobody really asks questions about the military, which is strange," Kay said. "I thought there would be more interest. People really seem to approach the subject with caution."

But Kay doesn't think it's related to students' being uncomfortable with the military.

"People here have always been very supportive," he added.

However, Kay does think that the unfamiliarity with the military might also contribute to the lack of discussion, noting that military experience might seem puzzling.

"I think that the type of experience vets have is maybe a little confusing," he said.

However, Newman noticed responses vary depending on with whom he is speaking.

"If somebody else had past experience in the military, they are able to relate and understand," he said. "But if someone has had no experience, they don't understand what the military is, not just what the military does, but who they are and the values they have. I relate it to becoming a parent. You don't know what it is like until you actually have a child."

THE FUTURE

All three are anticipating graduation in the next one or two years, and just like their opinions about the military and its influence, they have different plans for the future.

Wiedmeier plans to attend veterinary school after completing his bachelor's degree. He hopes to become an Army veterinarian "if it all works out correctly."

Newman doesn't plan to reenlist once the terms of his contract are completed. After meeting his wife a year into his contract, he realizes the strain a yearlong deployment can have on a family and doesn't think it is a path he wants to take. However, he hasn't completely ruled out the possibility of reenlisting.

"Right now, I'm thinking I won't reenlist," he said, "But we'll see when we come to that bridge."

Kay, who has been out of the military for several years, is enjoying the time he has left at USU. Although he will finish his degree in four years, he said he is in no rush to leave.

"Besides the obvious benefit of earning a degree, I get to stay in one place for a change," Kay said. "I get to learn how to sleep again, and I'm learning how to be a focused, effective human being for the 21st century."

JAKE NEWMAN

From: American Fork, UT
Branch: Army Reserve
Years in service: 4+
Major: Dietetics
Work plans:
Registered dietitian

PETER WIEDMEIER

From: Providence, UT
Branch: Army
Years in service: 6+
Major: ADVS
Work plans:
Army veterinarian

BILL KAY

From: Utah County
Branch: Navy
Years in service: 5
Major: Food Science
Work plans:
Food manufacturing

A rendering of the new facility at the Sam Skaggs Family Equine Education Center provided by Axis Architects.



EQUINE CENTER NEARS

Completion

THE FINAL PHASE of development at the Sam Skaggs Family Equine Education Center was launched May 13 with a groundbreaking ceremony. Funded with donations from The ALSAM Foundation, the new addition will include two new classrooms, faculty offices and a new tack room.

“Being in the state of Utah, equine sciences and horses are such a critical part,” said Ron Cutshall, president of The ALSAM Foundation. “The more facilities there are to help the students learn, the better off the students are going to be.”

Currently, the equine education center covers 26 acres including an indoor arena and a 2,400-square-foot barn. In addition to the donation for the new classrooms, funding from The ALSAM Foundation helped in building all of the present facilities with the exception of the indoor arena.

Founded in 1986 by L.S. and Aline W. Skaggs, The ALSAM Foundation aims to support education, medical research and organizations affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, primarily through donations.

Cutshall said the donation to the equine education center was one that interested the group because of the Skaggs family’s long-time involvement with riding and handling horses on their ranch. However, the organization was also interested in the educational benefits it will provide to the students as well, he said.

“In any kind of education, the hands-on approach is where people learn the best,” Cutshall said. “It sinks in, and they remember it better. With the equine facilities there, students can certainly have a hands-on approach to equine education and that’s where the benefit really comes.” —AJ

why I give

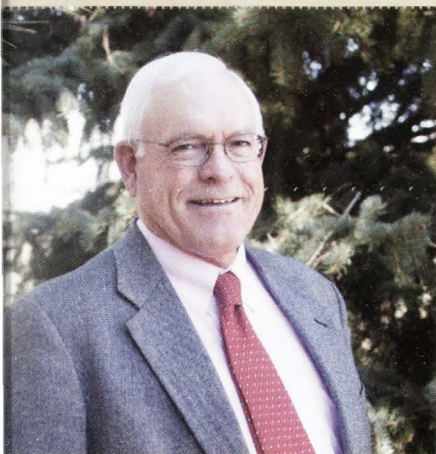


"I wish I could take credit for the idea of establishing a scholarship, but Dr. Sharon Wilson presented the idea to our management team. It was immediately clear that giving to the newly established School of Veterinary Medicine at Utah State University was an ideal manifestation of our mission statement:

Advancing the art and science of veterinary medicine.

We are thrilled to support the next generation of veterinarians."

- DR. DAVID W. GARDINER, ANIMAL REFERENCE PATHOLOGY, LLC



"Primarily, I do it because I believe that education and learning will help

provide a better future for all.

When I was a beginning student at USU, I received a small scholarship and that scholarship helped motivate me to go the distance to earn my degree. I hope by giving to current students they will endure to reach their goals as well."

- CHARLES HOLMGREN

"We both graduated from USU and this has had a very positive influence on our lives. We give back to USU because we want to see it have the same

impact on the lives of others."

ALAN & JANET LUKE



LAEP *Alumna* Designs Landmark NYC Island

BY ALLIE JEPSON JURKATIS



Clockwise from the top: An accessible path takes visitors to Outlook Hill, an 80-foot overlook of the New York City Harbor made of repurposed, demolished buildings; a section of the park's 10-acre grove features a hammock grove and bike paths; the redesign of the island features a plaza for art, food and music; patrons will have the opportunity to play on one of the island's two baseball fields with a view of the Statue of Liberty in the background.

As a principal for the international urban landscape architecture company West 8, alumna Jamie Maslyn Larson is currently helping with a major landscape architecture project in New York City.

Larson is the principal-in-charge of redesigning Governors Island, a 172-acre island in the heart of New York Harbor, and works with sub consultants, in-house designers and the community in making sure that their ideas are heard and implemented into the design, she said.

"The centerpiece of the initiative is to bring New Yorkers back to its wa-

terfront in fun ways with parks and pathways," Larson said.

A six-acre plaza with art and water features, a hammock grove with 1,500 new trees, two turf ball fields, historic renovation and 10 acres of hills with a view of the Statue of Liberty are just some of the things currently under construction as phase one of the project.

Although work on Governors Island will continue at least through Spring 2015, Larson said finally seeing some green is an indescribable feeling.

"To actually see the effect of having the quality of the botanics and

the brightness, it was euphoric," she said.

Although Logan, Utah and New York City are very different places, Larson said she learned essential principles of landscape architecture during her schooling that helped her to succeed in any setting.

"I think fundamentally what I learned in my education at Utah State University was to delve deeply into a particular setting, dissecting the issues and problems around any particular site," she said.

Check out the full fly-through video at bit.ly/NYCGovIsland.

alumni corner



ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Kim S. Christy, '89

BY LAUREN STAPLES

From his grandmother's cattle ranch to his aunt and uncle's farm, Salt Lake City native Kim Christy's agricultural ties run deep.

As Christy's relationship with his wife Pam grew at USU, so did his love for agriculture. He served on USU's livestock judging team and spent summers working on a cattle ranch.

In 1989, Christy received a master's degree in agricultural economics. He has since worked at the Utah Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and at the Utah Farm Bureau, and now serves as deputy director of the Utah

School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

"I've learned firsthand that people engaged in agriculture are truly the salt of the earth," he said.

Christy says his service on the Alumni Council has magnified his fond memories as a student. He believes the council helps graduates remember what their college experience has done or will do for them, not only professionally but personally as well.

"The college's offerings were great way back when I attended, but I marvel at how the resources and quality

of the institution are even stronger today," he said. "It has been a great opportunity to give back a little of what I gained."

Christy said he and his wife are ecstatic that their fourth child of five has "seen the light" and gone to USU. They hope their youngest will carry on the Aggie tradition as well.

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

CALLING ALL ALUMNI HALL OF HONOR

Nominees!

The CAAS Alumni Council is once again accepting nominations for the Alumni Hall of Honor Award. The deadline to apply is **June 27, 2014**.

This award recognizes alumni who have brought honor to both themselves and the college and has been awarded since 1999.

If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself for the 2014 Alumni Hall of Honor Award, applications and full nomination instructions and requirements are at bit.ly/HallofHonor. Please contact Lauren Staples (lauren.staples@usu.edu or 435-797-2205).

FINDING MORE EFFECTIVE
TREATMENTS FOR

West Nile Virus

BY
JOHN MORREY



FARMERS, RANCHERS AND ANYONE ELSE

spending time outdoors are at risk of being bitten by a mosquito carrying West Nile virus. The infection is mild in most people, and less than 10 percent of people infected with the virus will develop a neurological disease.

Even though the percentage is low, statistics really don't matter if you or a family member become afflicted with West Nile neurological disease.

More than eight years ago with funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, I decided to ask the hard question, "How does West Nile virus cause neurological disease, such as limb weakness, paralysis or death?"

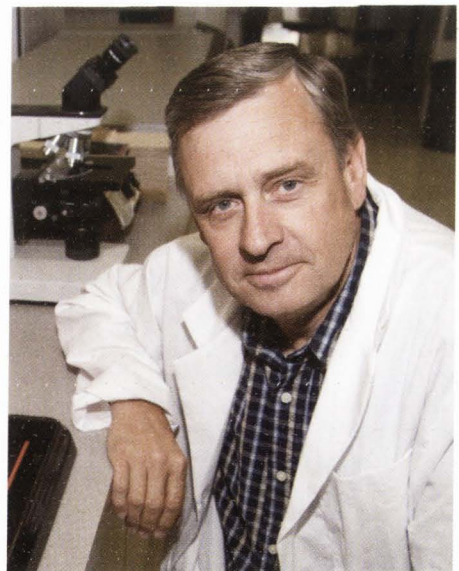
The question was difficult to answer because most scientists investigating viral infections of the brain do not have the neurological expertise or proper instruments. But without an answer, treatments for the neurological disease could not be produced. As a solution, I hired two neuroscientists, Venkatraman Siddharthan and Hong Wang, to help me answer the question.

Our research team constructed neurological instrumentation specifically for this project with the help of Neil Motter in my laboratory and students with engineering backgrounds. With the power of neuroscience and within the Laboratory

Animal Research Center in ADVS, they determined that West Nile virus infects motor neurons in the spinal cord causing weakness or paralysis of legs. The virus can also infect specific regions in the brainstem and cause memory loss. However, the physiological reason as to why a small number of infected individuals die from West Nile virus or other brain-infecting viruses was still unknown.

By the process of eliminating other possible causes of death, our team discovered that death was caused by a failure of neurological functions controlling breathing or respiration. Now that we know the reason for fatal West Nile neurological disease, we are trying to identify suitable treatments.

Although this research began as a search for an answer to how West Nile causes neurological disease, it has now branched into research about how to treat more effectively, a more difficult but equally important question.



John Morrey is the director of the Institute for Antiviral Research and a professor in the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences.

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