After years of planning and construction, the University of Utah dedicated the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts and Education Complex in February. Named for the late arts advocate and renowned philanthropist, the $37.5 million interdisciplinary facility for arts and education was made possible by a $12.5 million donation from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation, the largest donation in support of arts and education in University history.

“The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts and Education Complex is truly a culmination of the vision my mother had of bringing together the arts and education to improve the learning experience for Utah students,” says Ann Crocker, president of the Sorenson Legacy Foundation. “We lost my mother last year, but I know she would have been unbelievably proud to know her legacy is being carried forward.”

Home to the College of Education and Tanner Dance Program, the complex has been designed to serve as the nation’s premier academic hub of evidence-based K-12 arts integration research, training, practice, and advocacy. This unique and unprecedented collaboration aligns with the Sorenson Legacy Foundation’s long-time support of bringing arts-integrated instruction to Utah, and will focus on academic research; interdisciplinary teacher training; professional development for teachers and education leaders; programming for schools, youth, and families; and community involvement and leadership.
New Facility Cont.

Within the complex, the interdisciplinary work of the College of Education and the College of Fine Arts is focused on the ongoing development of teaching models in which the arts—particularly visual art, theater, music and dance—are used to teach multiple subjects. As the resident arts group within the new facility, the nationally recognized Tanner Dance Program brings a 75-year legacy of providing dance and arts instruction for children and adults as well as professional development for teachers.

Features of the 110,000-square-foot facility include seven classrooms with distance education capabilities, a demonstration space for the latest techniques and approaches for integrated curriculum models, 27 conference and project rooms, six dance studios, a black box theater, an art studio, and a costume fabrication shop. The building is also home to a 200-seat, multi-functional space capable of being configured as a theater, auditorium, or conference space, which has been named the Art Works for Kids Auditorium. A model classroom will also make it possible for researchers and educators to observe and demonstrate the latest techniques and approaches for integrated curriculum models.

Studies have shown that integrating the arts with core educational subjects can increase test scores, self-esteem, and student engagement while decreasing behavior problems. Similarly, this new building will provide university and community leaders the opportunity to explore and measure the positive impact the arts can have on education for children.

“As far as I am aware, never before has an undertaking as deliberate or elaborate as this new interdisciplinary complex been attempted, and it is incredibly exciting to be part of it,” says Raymond Tymas-Jones, associate vice president for the arts and dean of the College of Fine Arts. “Utah has a long history of supporting arts-integrated education efforts, and those good works will continue in perpetuity at this new complex.”

The nature of this arts and education endeavor is unprecedented, making it an exciting addition to the University of Utah campus. Not only is the building a fitting tribute to the late Mrs. Sorenson and her vision for arts and education in Utah, it has the potential to profoundly impact arts-integrated education on a national scale.
A Presidential Endowed Chair for Psychiatry

The Department of Psychiatry has received a generous gift from alumnus John T. Hopkin BS’65 MD’68 to fund the department’s first endowed chair. The John Taggart Hopkin, M.D. Presidential Endowed Chair in Psychiatry will fund research to improve the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. “I hope it will lead to a better understanding of autism. It’s my hope that some real progress can be made in the definition, diagnosis, and treatment of the disorder,” says Dr. Hopkin.

Dr. Hopkin’s career began when he took a summer job at the Wyoming State Mental Hospital while in medical school at the U. His assignment was to review and update patient records, many of which did not have clear diagnoses. “I became fascinated with the problem of diagnosis in psychiatry and once I made the commitment, I took it up with a vengeance,” he says.

After completing his residency, Dr. Hopkin spent most of his career in California teaching, designing clinical programs, and holding several chief psychiatric positions. As a junior faculty member at the University of California, Davis, he was inpatient chief and chief of emergency psychiatry service. When UC Davis contracted to deliver all the public mental health services in Sacramento County, Dr. Hopkin became the director of the Division of Mental Health Services. At San Francisco General Hospital, Dr. Hopkin’s focus shifted to the development of a treatment program for those suffering with AIDS as well as those who were at risk of contracting the disease. He recalls that “the AIDS patient issues were very special, not only their personal terror, but the political and social issues were huge.” He later became director of clinical services at the University of San Francisco’s Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, a teaching and research hospital, which “was a very difficult time because of the changes in both the practice of psychiatry and the delivery of healthcare in general, as the economics of the whole thing became an issue and managed care was introduced.”

Fifteen years ago, Dr. Hopkin moved back to Utah to return to what was most important to him—working with people in the community and finding new ways to treat them. “This led to a very interesting experience at Valley Mental Health that I truly treasure: the development of a clinic and a culturally appropriate treatment model for refugees.” The program recruited trusted members from refugee communities to work in the clinic. These individuals helped to establish a level of trust among the refugee population, which was necessary for them to feel comfortable coming to the clinic for treatment. The successful program is still in use today, providing important services for local refugee families.

Currently retired, Dr. Hopkin enjoys spending time on his rural Utah ranch, but that has not stopped him from helping those with limited or no access to mental health care. He continues to consult with family practitioners who work hard to deliver the best patient care possible, often with limited capabilities in psychiatric diagnosis and therapy. Of particular interest are adults whose issues have never been diagnosed or treated. Many of these individuals are on the autism spectrum. Of this work he says, “I only see families; I don’t see individual patients because with this type of thing everyone needs to be on the same page. It’s fundamentally rewarding.”

No matter where his work has taken him, Dr. Hopkin has been compelled to solve medical mysteries and find answers for patients. Dr. William McMahon, chair of the U’s Department of Psychiatry, is elated about this historic moment for the department. “The gift of a presidential endowed chair for autism will bestow far-reaching benefits on our research program,” he says. “John’s generosity will enhance our commitment to better understand and treat individuals with autism spectrum disorders.” Dr. Hopkin believes that to be successful in medicine or anything else in life, you have to “do what you love—being committed to a cause that is larger than you.” That lifelong philosophy, put into practice, will leave a lasting impact on the field of psychiatry.
Since 2010, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Distinguished Scholarships have been the most prestigious and significant undergraduate awards at the University of Utah, providing generous financial support and a highly-enriched academic program in the Honors College. This four-year program, created with a $1.2 million grant from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, has furthered the University's success in attracting and retaining some of the most promising students from high schools throughout Utah.

Rising with distinction through the Eccles Scholars Program, 100 students have now become part of this impressive group, building close ties to their scholarship peers, distinguished faculty, community mentors, and Honors College staff who form the team dedicated to their success. Many residing on the same floor of the Donna Garff Marriott Honors Residential Scholars Community housing, the Eccles Scholars participate in key honors programs and seminars, think tanks, scholars groups, special courses, and a senior retreat. Each and every Eccles Scholar to date has become active in campus life, including student government, presidential ambassadorships, mentorship programs, and research.

Typifying the outstanding caliber of the Eccles Scholars are students such as senior Tianna Tu, recipient of a 2014 esteemed national Truman Scholarship for post-graduate study. Tianna put her experience into action last summer in her rural hometown, building a high school mentorship program encouraging students to achieve their higher education goals.

Eccles Scholar Matt Kirkegaard has also been recognized nationally with a Morris K. Udall Award for his commitment to environment-related projects and careers. Matt plans to participate this year as an intern with the U.S. Agency for International Development, responding to the humanitarian needs of the South Sudanese people.

Theresa Kraus has translated her scholarship opportunities into leadership of the Honors Think Tank on Privacy and Transparency, leading to presentations on the topic to local government organizations and businesses. Her 2013 internship at Goldman Sachs in Salt Lake City prompted the company to offer her full-time employment in New York City after she graduates this spring.

The first Eccles Distinguished Scholar graduate, Marianne Carpenter, inspired her fellow scholars with drive and optimism. She is now pursuing graduate study in computer science at Carnegie Mellon University, and will work at Price Waterhouse Coopers in Boston this summer.

“Every time I’m with the Eccles Scholars, I’m dazzled by their intellect, diversity of interests, and amazing achievements,” says Lisa Eccles, Eccles Foundation president and chief operating officer. “Each and every one of these students is already making an impact in innovative ways, and we have been so pleased to partner with the U in launching this program.”

Sylvia Torti, dean of the Honors College, says “We hope this program will serve as a template, inspiring others to help us recruit and retain even more top scholars through scholarship and enrichment programs such as this.”

Adds Eccles, “It’s been such a pleasure to have the opportunity to invest in the excellence and potential of these students. We know the scholarship support they’re receiving today will pay enormous dividends in the future!”

John F. Kennedy said, “To those whom much is given, much is expected.” I have tried to live up to those words since receiving the U’s Eccles Distinguished Scholarship. The impact of this award on myself and my fellow scholars cannot be overstated. We’ve benefitted from unparalleled mentorship and internships. Friends in the program are managing political campaigns, conducting cutting-edge research, and taking an active role in public service initiatives. All of us are doing our utmost to repay the confidence and investment in our education this represents ... and we hope our collective impact as Eccles Scholars may serve our society and the world.

—Matthew Kirkegaard
Eccles Distinguished Scholar Class of ‘15
Four New NAC Members Announced

The University of Utah's National Advisory Council includes a distinguished volunteer corps of prominent University alumni and friends. The council was established in 1968 and serves the University through its advice and involvement in areas ranging from alumni programs and fund raising to legislative relations and student affairs. The University is pleased to announce four new members who will begin their terms in May 2014.

Randy Dryer BS'73 JD'76 is an attorney with Parsons Behle & Latimer in Salt Lake City. With expertise in media and Internet law, he represents clients throughout Utah and the U.S. He was elected president of the Utah Bar in 1992, named its Lawyer of the Year in 2010, and has been listed in Best Lawyers in America each year since 1993. As a U student, Randy served as ASUU president, and later as president of the U’s Student Bar Association. He has taught on the boards of University Hospital, S.J. Quinney College of Law, and the Alumni Association, and was a member of the U’s Board of Trustees for 17 noncontiguous years. Currently, he is a member of the Together We Reach President’s Campaign Cabinet Executive Committee, the Natural History Museum of Utah Friends Board, and the Board of Advisors for Undergraduate Advancement. A Presidential Honors Professor, he teaches in the law school and the Honors College. He and his wife, Kathy JD’79 have three children and live in Salt Lake City.

Muffy Mead-Ferro is the author of the best-selling books, Confessions of a Slacker Mom and Confessions of a Slacker Wife, both published by Da Cappo Press. Her most recent book is titled Head Come Off by Accident published by TwoDot. She has been featured on Oprah, The Today Show, and Talk of the Nation, and in publications including The Atlantic and The London Times.

Muffy was born into a fourth-generation cattle-ranching family that has been raising Herefords in Wyoming since the turn of the last century. In 2006, she received the University of Wyoming’s College of Agriculture Legacy Award. Muffy is a trustee of the M. Lazy M. Foundation, and has served on the boards of Salt Lake City’s Artspace and the Utah Heritage Foundation. At the U, Muffy has been a member of the advisory board of Red Butte Garden and currently serves on the associates board of the Natural History Museum of Utah.

Muffy and her husband Michael have two children and reside in Salt Lake City and Alta, Wyoming, where she operates a cattle ranch. She is the sister of Wyoming governor Matt Mead, and the granddaughter of former Wyoming governor and U.S. senator Clifford P. Mead.

Jeanne M. Novak BS’81 PhD’87 is chief executive officer and principal consultant of CBR International Corporation, a pharmaceutical and biotech consulting and drug development firm she founded in 1999. With offices in Boulder, Denver, San Diego, Bethesda, and Berlin, Germany, CBR International Corp.” provides to clients around the world high-level strategic product and clinical development consulting for pharma, biotech, and medical device industries.

Previously, Jeanne worked as a staff scientist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Frederick, Maryland, developing vaccines. She has served as a senior reviewer for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on countless vaccines, therapeutic products, Investigational New Drugs, and license applications. She was a credentialed FDA investigator and advisor to the commissioner. She also worked as a senior strategist at Quintiles, the largest provider of biopharmaceutical development and commercial outsourcing services in the world.

Jeanne lives in Boulder, Colorado. She received a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1981 and a doctorate in experimental pathology (cell biology) in 1987, both from the University of Utah.

David A. Petersen is chief executive officer of the O.C. Tanner Company in Salt Lake City. Founded in 1927, the company develops employee recognition and rewards programs that “help companies appreciate people who do great work.” The company also is known for its jewelry stores in Salt Lake City and Park City.

Joining O.C. Tanner in 1983 as a marketing analyst, David became its president and chief executive officer in 2008. He has worked in many areas of the company, including marketing, supply chain, information technology, sales, and client relations.

David has degrees from Brigham Young University, Thunderbird School of Global Management, and Harvard Business School. Active in the community, he currently serves on the boards of the Tanner Lectures on Human Values, the Utah Symphony/Utah Opera, American Cancer Hope Lodge, and the U’s College of Humanities Partnership.

He and his wife Teri Lynn Earl have four children and six grandchildren, with a healthy mix of Utes and Cougars among them. In addition to his family, Dave’s passion is working with O.C. Tanner colleagues worldwide to help other companies build better workplace cultures.

Major Gifts continued

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Questar Educational Foundation
R & R Partners, Inc.
Janet Beck and Taylor R. Randall
Ray Quinnin & Nebeker
Miller Foundation Gifts Support Campus Programs for Kids

Recent generous gifts from both the Larry H. and Gail Miller Family Foundation and the Larry H. Miller Charities (Larry H. Miller Philanthropy) to several different campus programs benefitting kids are enriching the lives of thousands of Utah children and their families, truly inspiring future generations.

“The Miller family believes in the importance of education and providing opportunities for children to learn,” says Jay Francis, executive vice president of corporate affairs and Miller Family Philanthropy. “They have a long-standing history of support for the University of Utah and its various programs and this is another example of their belief in giving back to the communities where we do business.”

A recent Miller Philanthropy grant supports KUED’s Ready to Learn initiative, which builds on the strength of PBS children’s programs, making it possible to provide a number of community activities to involve parents as learning partners with their children. Designed to empower children to succeed in school as well as in life, free family education nights—50 this year, reaching approximately 8,000 children and 5,000 parents and caregivers—are being held at 20 Title 1 elementary schools and four Head Starts in Salt Lake County. Learning activities focus on media literacy and education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—the STEM disciplines. Afterward, the kids leave with a free book related to the evening’s activities.

“What a fantastic evening. Thanks so much for your support. I am hearing stories from volunteers and teachers about parents reading with their children…and just having a marvelous time.”

—KUED Ready to Learn participant

Art in a Box recently was presented at Parkside Elementary, a Title 1 school in Murray, Utah, where 45 percent of the students receive free school lunch and its minority enrollment is about 35 percent. “Many of our kids come from humble circumstances,” says Parkside teacher. “But they are filled with imagination. Art is one of the beautiful gifts in life that transcends wealth and class.” With field trips and arts programs slowly disappearing from public schools, she adds her thanks to the museum for prioritizing beauty, joy, and imagination—and for believing such things remain important.

“Generous support and encouragement from the Miller family helps us bring the magic of the museum’s collection to students and teachers statewide, exposing students to visual art at an early age and building sustainable visual arts education capacity in classrooms in every school district in Utah,” says Gretchen Dietrich, the museum’s executive director.

In addition to the Ready to Learn and Art in a Box programs, Larry H. Miller Philanthropy also is supporting a substance abuse treatment program for young people under the age of 18 through the Department of Psychiatry, and the Go Giflz Community Initiative, a mentoring program that supports and encourages underserved and primarily minority girls in grades six through 12 to pursue higher education, through the Women’s Resource Center.
Rocky Mountain Power Provides Funds for Burn Center Operating Room

Step inside the University of Utah Hospital’s Burn Center and you will readily recognize that this medical specialty is different from any other in the hospital. Earlier this year, the Burn Center, which provides the most comprehensive care for burn patients in the Intermountain West, opened its doors to a newly-remodeled and expanded unit that now has 15 beds, a state-of-the-art therapy facility, and a new operating room. The center has always offered exceptional care, and now it has a facility that matches its abilities by providing a comfortable and compassionate healing environment.

As fundraising efforts for the expansion project began, many grateful patients and community supporters helped make the additional space a reality. Rich Walje, chief executive officer of Rocky Mountain Power toured the Burn Center before and after it was remodeled. On one particular visit, he expressed his appreciation to the many doctors, nurses, and health care professionals who provide care to burn patients. A former lineman himself, Walje took the opportunity to share a powerful message about safety in the electrical power business because severe burns can result from contact with power lines and electrical equipment. When presented with plans to expand the unit, he was one of the first to step up and offer support. The generous gift from Rocky Mountain Power and the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation provided funds for the center’s operating room and continues to support burn education seminars and outreach efforts in our community. In announcing the gift to employees, Walje said, “I am asking each and every one of you to make the commitment to your families and your co-workers that none of our employees will ever have to see the plaque outside the operating room as a patient of the Burn Center.”

The unique and highly specialized field of burn care offered at University Hospital is the reason patients from throughout Utah and as far away as Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Nevada come here for treatment. The Burn Center incorporates a team approach to provide patients with the most comprehensive therapy and the latest advances in burn care. The physicians and nurses have special training in caring for all aspects of burn injuries. Combined with the expertise of the physical and occupational therapists, social workers, registered dieticians, registered and certified respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and other staff, the Burn Center offers the most comprehensive and collaborative program not only in Utah, but in the Intermountain West.

Employees and patients of the Burn Center greatly appreciate the participation of community partners like Rocky Mountain Power in offering an amazing experience to patients who require burn treatment.
Red Butte Garden Gears Up for 2014 Outdoor Concert Series

It’s time to get your Red Butte Garden membership and check redbuttegarden.org for concert updates. The concert series has grown into a regional favorite for audiences as well as for the bands that play. The series was the brainchild of garden philanthropist Ezekiel R. Dumke, Jr., who suggested in an advisory board meeting back in the late 1980s that the garden needed an amphitheater to use as a source for new revenue. He was, of course, right. Concert revenue makes many garden programs possible. Thanks to the sponsors who have supported us over the years. This year’s major sponsors include: Wells Fargo, Digital Financial Group, Fidelity Investments, and Beehive Cheese. Supporting sponsors include Coda Technologies, George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, The Group Real Estate, Magleby & Greenwood, PermaPlate, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah, Richards Brandt Miller Nelson, and Summit Sotheby’s International Realty.

Editor’s note: The name of NAC Utah Promise Scholar Brittany Bates was misspelled in the winter 2013-14 issue of REACH.