



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING
2016

The Crocker Science Center Breaking Ground on Scientific Innovation

On a cool spring morning on March 31, the University community and invited guests assembled on Presidents Circle in front of the George Thomas Building for a ceremony to mark the beginning of the building's transformation into the Gary and Ann Crocker Science Center.

The gathering was hosted by University of Utah President David W. Pershing and Henry S. White, dean of the College of Science, and was attended by Gary and Ann Crocker, lead donors to the project, and other notable Utah business and civic leaders, contributors, and friends.

With the Crocker's generous \$10 million gift, and additional contributions to the project from Kirk Ririe and Mary Jane O'Connor-Ririe, Harris Simmons and Amanda Pahnke Simmons, Dinesh and Kalpana Patel, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Sorenson Legacy Foundation, ARUP Laboratories, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, the Lawrence T. & Janet T. Dee Foundation, The Semnani Family Foundation, Orbital ATK, Grandeur Peak Global Advisors and Zions Bank, the new center will become a hub for scientific and mathematical instruction and innovation to benefit Utah and the nation.

"We believe in helping the U stay at the forefront of scientific discovery and supporting it as an impressive international leader in science, math, and technology," says Gary. "The new center will be a great asset to our state as it will house premium laboratories, innovative research, and superior learning opportunities for students from all four departments within the College of Science."

Gary has an entrepreneurial legacy in all three branches of the life sciences industry—medical devices, diagnostics, and pharmaceuticals. He founded Research Medical, which became the world's largest manufacturer of open-heart surgery catheters; Theratech, a leading transdermal drug patch provider; and was founding director of Interleukin Genetics.

For the past 10 years he has been chairman of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, a cancer research firm considered one of the top five private biotechnology companies in the nation. In recognition of these achievements, Gary has received the Utah Entrepreneur of the Year award twice and is a member of the College of Science Hall of Fame.

Ann Crocker, who received a bachelor's degree from the U in 1974, serves as a board member of the Utah Shakespeare Festival and the Sorenson Legacy Foundation, and is a longtime supporter and donor to the Utah Youth Village.

During construction of the center, the building will undergo a considerable facelift—including renovation, expansion, and a comprehensive seismic upgrade—while keeping its unique façade and prominent architectural features, including the central double stairway and the second floor reading room with its impressive vaulted ceiling. The \$55 million Crocker Science Center project will be completed by fall 2017.



U President David W. Pershing joins Gary and Ann Crocker, and Henry S. White, dean of the College of Science, to celebrate the long-awaited start of construction on the Crocker Science Center.

Recent Major Gifts

We thank the following supporters for their generous gifts received between January 1, 2016 and March 31, 2016.

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Father Rick Gets It

In another life, Rick Lawson might have been a school teacher. Instead, the unassuming representative of one of Utah’s most prominent families is shoring up education at the University of Utah with scholarships, funding for buildings, and endowed faculty chairs—from the College of Nursing to the law school. The 70-year-old great-grandson of David Eccles is steward of a family legacy that continues to resonate across campus.

“I have been blessed with having been given much,” Lawson says. “It is always a pleasure to be able to reach out and help support institutions that train students to offer the best they can.”

Born and raised in Salt Lake City, Lawson graduated from St. Mark’s School (now Rowland Hall) before pursuing a bachelor’s degree in theology at Hobart College in up-state New York. In 1965, he studied at Leicester University in England, graduating with a degree in English. A few years later, at Oxford, he studied theology and was ordained a priest in the Church of England.

In 1990, he returned to Salt Lake City and served first as canon and then dean of St. Mark’s Cathedral. Now retired from the Episcopal Diocese and the lead representative of his family’s foundations—his grandparents’, the S.J. and Jessie Quinney; his mother’s, the Janet Q. Lawson; and his own, the Frederick Q. Lawson—“Father Rick” has directed critical funds from each to support U students and teachers from health sciences to law.

Since 2001, Eccles family foundations have provided \$3.5 million to renovate and update the College of Nursing building. Lawson also has taken a personal stake in nursing students’ education for more than a decade, providing \$100,000 annually in scholarships for Lawson “fellows.”

Meanwhile, the university’s law school is named for his grandfather, S.J. Quinney, after the family provided a \$25 million endowment in 1997. Last year, Lawson and the foundations he serves on announced \$3 million in endowed funds focused on faculty recruitment and retention at the College of Nursing.

“The gift to the College of Nursing is the most recent in a history of decades of support from the family for areas across campus that have enriched the student experience, advanced research and improved the quality of life for the people of Utah,” says Fred Esplin, vice president for development at the U.

Lawson’s gifts have been strategic—tailored to the needs of the particular college and defined in a way that makes dispersing the funds most effective.

Dinny Trabert, director of development at the college, says Lawson’s targeted gifts will help build momentum to combat a looming nursing faculty shortage in Utah. “He understands our challenges,” she says. “We don’t have to start from square one talking about the nursing faculty shortage. He gets it.”



Father Rick Lawson, now retired from the Episcopal Diocese in Salt Lake City, serves as lead representative of his family’s foundations.

Donors Expand Access to Special Collections

Recent private gifts to the Marriott Library's Special Collections have significantly elevated its research potential by expanding access to and awareness of three of its newest collections—an enlightening example of how private donations are benefitting not only students and faculty at the U, but the wider community as well.

Kristen Ries & C. Maggie Snyder HIV/AIDS Archive

When the HIV/AIDS epidemic was flaring in the 1980s and medical professionals were shying away from treating those affected, Dr. Kristen Ries and her physician assistant and now wife, Maggie Snyder, reached out to provide them with care, the first medical providers in Utah to do so. Recognizing the invaluable role they played, and determined to ensure that this piece of Utah history is preserved, friends and colleagues of Kristen and Maggie established the Ries/Snyder archive in Special Collections. Major donors to the project include Michael R. and Donna G. Weinholtz, Jane A. Marquardt, the Bruce W. Bastian Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Utah. The archive includes oral histories of their lives; their work at Holy Cross Hospital, the Division of Infectious Diseases at the U's School of Medicine, and the University Hospital Clinics; and their extensive collection of photos and documents, which now are being digitized and archived in the library. The library is currently collecting and soliciting more oral histories and materials of others involved in the struggle against HIV/AIDS in Utah, thereby preserving this significant and heroic chapter in Utah's history.



Dr. Kristen Ries and physician assistant Maggie Snyder were pioneers in caring for Utah's HIV/AIDS patients in the 1980s. A new archive preserves the history of their courageous work.

Japanese American Railroad Workers Collection and Exhibition

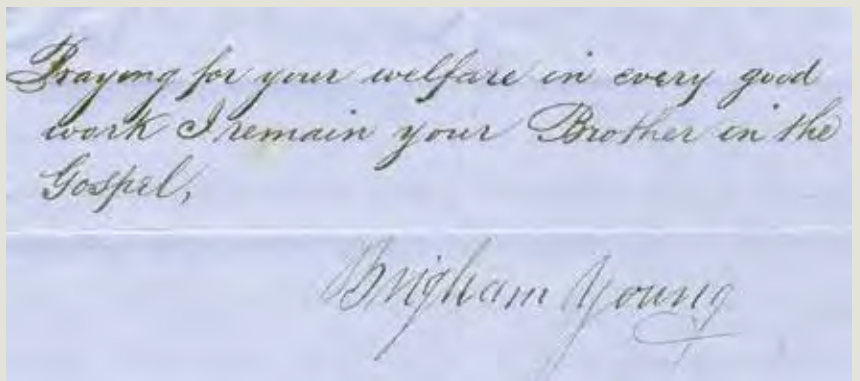
A recent gift to Special Collections from the Union Pacific Foundation is increasing awareness and impact of the Mitsugi M. Kasai Memorial Japanese American Archive, which includes photographs, personal papers, and oral histories of Japanese American railroad workers. Japanese American history is deeply rooted in the railroad industry, as early Japanese immigrants constructed many of the major rail lines in the West, including those of the Union Pacific Corporation. The collection provides important context to a culture and industry that was pivotal in shaping the American West—and one that is quickly disappearing. As most first-generation Japanese American railroad workers are no longer living and their children are aging, collections are being split-up, forgotten, and even discarded. Preserving these stories and making them available online, and also available as travelling exhibitions in the community, will ensure that the history of the participants in the early days of the railroad industry will be accessible to posterity and preserved indefinitely.



Union Pacific Roadmaster (in leather chair) with his section foremen gathered together in Salt Lake City for an annual meeting in 1934.

The Brailsford Papers

In 2015 Kenneth and Linda Brailsford made a donation to Special Collections of several original handwritten documents signed by Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and other leaders involved in the early years of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The papers date from 1839 through the end of the 19th century. Valued at more than \$3 million, the Brailsford Papers mark the single most valuable collection ever contributed to the library. Nearly all 13 archival documents are in perfect condition. The earliest examples include a paper signed in 1839 by both Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum that notes the sale of a property for a home in Nauvoo. A second example, dated 1859, is a four page letter to early church officials in Missouri and New York from Brigham Young detailing instructions for bringing 100,000 members of the church from England and Europe to the United States and the logistics of their westward migration.



Early document signed by LDS leader Brigham Young is part of the Brailsford Papers, recently donated to Marriott Library's Special Collections.

The University appreciates the generosity and forward thinking of these individual donors who recognize the value and significance of preserving historic documents so they may be shared and appreciated by all.

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Esther Fujimoto Memorialized with Fellowship in Biology

University of Utah researcher Esther Fujimoto unexpectedly and tragically died in August 2011 when a boat propeller hit her while she was swimming in Pineview Reservoir. With a lifelong passion for swimming, it was an ironic way for her life to end. She was just 49 years old.

Esther was a senior laboratory specialist at the U, working to discover a breast cancer gene and researching cerebral palsy. An accomplished scientist, her professional work was published in a number of noted scientific journals. Her true passion was biological research.

Devastated by her untimely death, and wishing to honor her in a meaningful way, Esther's sister Denice, along with her sister and two brothers, established the Esther Fujimoto Memorial Graduate Fellowship in Molecular Biology. The fellowship provides funds for a graduate student to do research in Esther's same field of study—a way for her efforts in biology to continue through someone else's work.

“The fellowship means a great deal to us,” says Denice. “In the year and a half since the fund was started, both my brother and nephew got married and requested that, rather than wedding gifts, contributions be made to Esther's memorial fund.”

The family's initial gift was enhanced by additional donations from the Department of Biology and the College of Science, and the first scholarship—\$10,000 for one academic year—was awarded last fall to Shrinivasan Raghuraman, a graduate research assistant in biology.

Originally from South India and fluent in English and Hindi, Shrinivasan's research involves cataloging different types of brain cells that are found in the nervous system. His current project focuses on investigating the changes that take place in these cell types when a pathological chronic pain state is established.

“Receiving the Fujimoto fellowship boosted my confidence and now I am able to spend more time focusing on my research without worrying about financial support,” says Shrinivasan. “I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Fujimoto family for their encouragement and support. The fellowship has opened many opportunities [for me] to interact with distinguished neuroscientists, which is essential for a graduate trainee, and I am grateful for these experiences. I hope to provide a similar atmosphere and training to future generations.”

“By providing this fellowship, we hope the student who receives it makes important discoveries in biology, either in the short-term or the long-term,” says Denice. “I also hope to inspire others, who have the means, to contribute to a similar project that reflects their passion.”

The Esther Fujimoto Fellowship is an outstanding example of how one family found a meaningful way to honor one of their own, while also benefitting a deserving student in pursuit of a great education at the U.



Esther Fujimoto at work in her lab.



Graduate student Shrinivasan Raghuraman is the first recipient of the Fujimoto Fellowship.

Major Gift from Eccles Family Leads Way for Alumni House Expansion

Thanks to a generous gift from the Spencer F. and Cleone P. Eccles Family Foundation, the University of Utah Alumni Association is well on its way to realizing a much-anticipated transformation of its 36-year-old Alumni House into a more spacious, multi-functional facility. The renovation will nearly double the size of the building and triple its current capacity to serve the University community and its alumni. The redesigned facility will be named to honor the life and memory of Cleone Peterson Eccles, who was an active U alumna, benefactor, and volunteer leader. Cleone, who lost her battle with cancer in 2013, was a former vice president of the Alumni Association and a 10-year member of the University's Board of Trustees. She also served her alma mater for many years through her service on the boards of KUED, the College of Nursing, and Red Butte Garden.

"Beginning with our U student days, when Cleone and I first met, our family's affection for our alma mater and our interest in its progress and success has never wavered," says Spencer F. Eccles, who received a bachelor's degree from the U in 1956. "The Alumni Association has been at the heart of our involvement in many ways." Today, the Eccles family tradition of active service at the U is carried on by their four children, all alumni, including Hope Eccles, Lisa Eccles, Katie Eccles Burnett, and Spencer Peterson Eccles.

In the 1970s, Spence led the successful campaign to raise funds for the current alumni house, which has served the University well for more than 35 years. "This gift brings the ongoing, generous involvement of the Spence and Cleone Eccles family 'full circle' with our Alumni Association and will continue to benefit our wider University community and alumni throughout the world," says John Ashton, executive director of the Alumni Association.

With an additional 17,000 square feet, the transformed alumni headquarters—already a popular gathering place in the heart of campus—will showcase enhanced programs and activities for alumni, students, faculty, The Muss, other campus organizations, and the wider community. "Our family is enthusiastic about the opportunities this offers the association's staff and volunteers to engage today's students and alumni worldwide in innovative new ways," says Katie Eccles Burnett, former Young Alumni Board president. "The lifelong love and loyalty to the University among our alumni, continually strengthened by the Alumni Association, keeps the heartbeat of our alma mater strong and vibrant for the future.

To date, the Alumni Association has raised more than \$8.1 million toward the fundraising goal of \$10 million, which includes the lead gift of \$4 million from the Eccles family. Now in the public phase of the campaign, the association extends its sincere thanks to the Eccles family and additional generous donors who have committed early gifts to the project, including the O.C. Tanner Charitable Trust, Kem and Carolyn Gardner, the Zeke and Kay Dumke family, the Sorenson Legacy Foundation, Jeff and Helen Cardon, among others.

Construction will begin this summer and the building will reopen in time for fall 2017 Homecoming activities. "We are deeply grateful to the Eccles family for this generous commitment to the University, its students, and alumni," says Michele Mattsson, chair of the U's Board of Trustees and the Alumni House Transformation Committee. "We are so pleased to pay tribute to Cleone's legacy of service and generosity in this way. Spence and Cleone's leadership helped make the original Alumni House a reality. Now, three decades later, their family is once again leading the way."



Cleone Peterson Eccles, for whom the new Alumni House will be named.

Major Gifts continued

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* Deceased donors (listed if the University of Utah continues to receive support from their foundations, trusts, or estates).

U Welcomes New Members to National Advisory Council

The University of Utah's National Advisory Council is comprised of a distinguished volunteer corps of prominent alumni and friends. Established in 1968, the council serves the University through its advice and involvement in areas ranging from alumni programs and fundraising to legislative relations and student affairs. Four new members will begin their terms in May.

Bonnie Jean Beesley



Bonnie Jean served as a member of the Utah State Board of Regents from 2003 to 2015, including terms as vice-chair and chair. As a regent, she associated closely with the University. She was instrumental in two presidential searches and was a member

of the Regents' Resource and Review Team assigned to the U. Bonnie Jean previously served as chair of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, as well as seven years on the Salt Lake Community College Board of Trustees, including five years as its chair. A graduate of the U, Bonnie Jean studied linguistics in the College of Humanities. She is the president of Heritage Holding Corporation and is active in other business and community organizations. She and her husband, Brent, have seven children.

Christine M. Durham



Christine is an associate justice on the Utah Supreme Court. Appointed in 1982, she served as chief justice and chair of the Utah Judicial Council from 2002 to 2012. She has been an adjunct professor at the U's S. J. Quinney College of Law,

and served as a member of the advisory board for the Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers Project of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System. She was chair of the American Bar Association Council on Legal Education and chair of the board of directors for University of the People, an accredited tuition-free online global university. Christine received a bachelor's degree with honors from Wellesley College and a juris doctorate from Duke University, where she is an emeritus member of the board of trustees. She has received honorary degrees from four Utah universities and has been recognized nationally for her work in judicial education and efforts to improve the administration of justice. She and her husband, George, have five children.

Dan Lofgren



Dan is founder, president, and chief executive officer of Cowboy Partners & Cowboy Properties, and is active in real estate investment, development, and management throughout the Western U.S. He is a member of the Granite School

District Board of Education, a member and former chair of the executive committee of Envision Utah, a member of the executive committee of Pioneer Memorial Theatre, and serves on the governing boards of several other community and philanthropic organizations. He chaired the Salt Lake County Housing Authority, the Utah Quality Growth Commission, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle Affordable Housing Advisory Council, and served as vice-chair of the Utah Housing Corporation. Dan is a 1978 graduate of the U. He and his wife, Deena, are the parents of four children—all U graduates—two of whom have competed in Utah athletics.

Andrew Valdez



Andy recently retired as Utah Third District Juvenile Court Judge for Salt Lake County, after being appointed in 1993 by then Governor Michael O. Leavitt. Andy has served as a public defender, a member of the Judge Advocate General's

Corps, and trial counsel with the Legal Defenders Association Felony and Homicide Division. He has served as chair of the statewide Youth Parole Authority, on the Utah Sentencing Commission, the Board of Trustees for Primary Children's Medical Center, the Juvenile Justice Task Force, the Board of Juvenile Court Judges, the Judicial Council, and the advisory board of the National Youth Gang Center. With a lifelong passion for tennis, he developed a tennis-based mentoring program for troubled youth. Andy received a juris doctorate from the U's S.J. Quinney College of Law. He and his wife, Joyce, have four children.

Job's Crossing Provides Safe Access to Campus

It took just one college class—an introductory course in chemical engineering—for Jason Job to realize his destiny. “I took that first class and I was hooked,” says Jason, who would go on to earn his bachelor’s in chemical engineering at the University of Utah in 1997. “When I saw how chemistry worked and how it could change things, I knew this was it.”

Thanks to his experiences attending the U—which led to his first engineering job and later starting his own industrial engineering and construction firm, Job Industrial Services—Jason felt compelled to return the favor to the very university that helped launch his career.

Job (pronounced Jōb, as in the biblical figure) decided to give back to the university’s College of Engineering by donating a leadership gift to the college’s new pedestrian walkway that connects the newly-refurbished Rio Tinto Kennecott Mechanical Engineering Building to the rest of campus. The walkway is now officially known as “Job’s Crossing.” In addition to his continuing philanthropy, Jason also is an active member of the college’s Engineering National Advisory Council.

“The reason I contributed to it is because of the education I received at the U and the help they [professors] gave me in getting my first job. I am very grateful,” he said. “It’s time to give back to the sources that helped me.”

The 114-foot-long Job’s Crossing spans North Campus Drive, providing a safer more ADA-accessible route for students and faculty. In addition to the bridge, the area also includes a sheltered bus stop and a new snow-melt system. The walkway, which was completed last fall, improves pedestrian safety while also increasing traffic flow along 100 South and North Campus Drive.

“I can’t image the building without the bridge. Not only is it aesthetically pleasing to look at, but it also provides an essential connection to the campus,” says Tim Ameel, chairman of the U’s Department of Mechanical Engineering. “We have estimated the number of crossings each weekday to be in the thousands. The bridge provides a safe way to cross the highway and also minimizes traffic backups that would impede emergency vehicle transit to the hospital and the general public moving to and from campus.”

Jason credits a number of his chemical engineering professors for carving a path to a successful career, especially professor JoAnn Lighty, who helped him get his first engineering job after he graduated at the former Sandy-based company, Centry Constructors & Engineers.



U alum Jason Job’s leadership gift to the College of Engineering’s new walkway was his way to thank those who helped him when he was a student at the U.

“It was a good experience,” Job said about attending the U. “I got to meet some good people. A few of the professors made strong impressions on me and gave me the help I needed so I could have a great career.”



Looking west from campus along the new walkway



Job’s Crossing spans North Campus Drive near the intersection at 100 South.

Burton Foundation and Miller Charities Give the Power of Dance

Thanks to generous support from the R. Harold Burton Foundation and Larry H. Miller Charities, Tanner Dance's Side-by-Side Residency Program served 19 schools and 81 classrooms during the 2015-2016 school year. Side-by-Side brings artists into elementary classrooms to teach Utah State Dance Core Curriculum/National Standards in Dance to students and their teachers. Experienced dance specialists integrate students' current curriculum into creative dance instruction. Gifts from the two foundations support Title I schools that are not able to raise the matching funds themselves. Accompanied by a live musician, the students and teachers create pieces that they perform for their families at the end of the session. Evaluations have shown that the Side-By-Side Program increases overall academic achievement in school, develops student communication abilities and empathy for peers, and encourages healthy lifestyles in students. As major sponsors of the program, the R. Harold Burton Foundation and Larry H. Miller Charities have helped make it possible for approximately 4,500 Utah students each week to experience the power and joy of dance.



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