



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

HOW STUDENTS ARE MAKING AN IMPACT



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ABOUT THE REPORT

"Student Innovation at the U" is an annual publication celebrating student innovation and impact at the University of Utah. A digital version is available at lassonde.utah.edu/studentinnovation2022. This publication is produced by the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, an interdisciplinary division of the David Eccles School of Business and the hub for student entrepreneurs and innovators at the U. Learn about the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute at lassonde.utah.edu.

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Have a question? Want copies? Want to nominate a student to be featured in the next edition? Or want to be a contributor? We want to hear from you! Contact editor Thad Kelling at

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involved, and improve Utah and the world.

Students at the U receive an inspiring academic experience in a community-based environment where belonging and success go hand-in-hand. They get the opportunity to apply what they are learning in our many labs, centers, institutes, initiatives, and clubs. Our students embrace the U's entrepreneurial spirit by launching new products and companies every year, and these efforts are one of the reasons why we are ranked as one of the top-10 schools in the nation for entrepreneurship.

You can look through this publication to find out more about what our students are creating. You will read about and experiences to help write them.

I am always impressed when I see what our students are achieving, and I hope you are, too. They are making an impact before they have even graduated, and I can't wait to see what they accomplish when they do. After reading about our amazing students, I invite you to get involved in any way you can. See the resource directory in the back of this publication for a list of programs and opportunities to get engaged.

— Taylor Randall, president, University of Utah

1. TECHNOLOGY



Isaac Sesi, the founder of Sesi Technologies, is one of this year's founders in the Master of Business Creation program and is currently based in Ghana. His agritech company provides affordable technology solutions to African farmers that helps them reduce losses, maximize productivity, and increase their income.

Sesi studied electrical engineering at the Kwame Nkrumah' University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, for his undergraduate degree and stayed there as a research engineer. He broke ground on his product and founded his company to commercialize the output of his research.

Sesi's product, GrainMate, helps farmers salvage over 30% of grains that are lost post-harvest by measuring moisture levels of maize, wheat, rice, and more. If the grains being sold aren't dried enough before they're stored, the moist grains can develop harmful toxins and contaminate an entire batch.

Other solutions tend to be more expensive and inaccessible for farmers in Ghana. "A few unique challenges

that I face as an African entrepreneur is how sometimes very basic infrastructure services are unreliable such as access to electricity and access to good internet connectivity," Sesi said. Farmers who lose post-harvest grains face lower incomes and less productivity.

"Our purpose is to create and live in a world where poverty and hunger does not exist, and we're doing this by empowering African farmers with affordable technology solutions," Sesi said.

Sesi Technologies is taking the agribusiness world by storm and offers a variety of technology solutions at affordable prices, including the GrainMate Moisture Meter, GrainMate Warehouse Monitor, and AgroMarket platforms to help farmers manage post-harvest grains.

— by Kristina Guzman





A NEW ANTI-HACKING SOLUTION

Hayley Tankersley and Braxton Chappell are both electrical engineering majors at the University of Utah whose senior project is developing a new type of anti-hacking software.

Hackers attempt to exploit the systems that carry our sensitive information; one common method to do so is through a side-channel attack (SCA). A SCA is an attack that uses information from the implementation — physical parameters — of a computer system. These types of attacks must be done on the device itself, but because it is physical, the software cannot do anything to protect its information.

Tankersley and Chappell are combating this type of attack by testing different ways to trick power analyzers by moving logic gates and changing how the data is processed.

The duo took on the project in Armin Tajailli's lab, after alumni Alex Krebs. "We

are not the first to tackle this problem" Chappell said. However, their goals and methods are different. "Other people focus on accuracy, which is a lot of computing power and simulation time to get results," Tankersley said. "We are looking to answer the lower level 'is this even secure?' quickly."

In its final form, the team hopes to integrate their software with Cadence, a circuit designing software and simulator. This way, engineers can build and simulate their circuit and then export it to the anti-hacking software to validate the security of their system.

After the completion of this project, Tankersley will graduate and begin work at Hill Air Force Base as a software engineer, and Chappell will continue on to earn his master's degree in electrical engineering and the University of Utah.

— by Julia Dominesey

SAVING BRIDGES FROM EARTHQUAKES

Over 1,000 earthquakes occur each year in and around Utah, and Ijan Dangol wanted to make that statistic less intimidating for Utah's infrastructure. While finishing his Ph.D. in civil engineering at the University of Utah, Dangol focused his work on making bridge structures more earthquake resilient.

A friend and colleague from Dangol's undergrad in Nepal recommended he come to the U to pursue his graduate degree. After arriving at the U, he chose to work on earthquakeresilient bridges with his professor, Chris Pantelides, because he liked the concept of accelerated bridge construction (ABC). ABC drastically lowers construction time by fabricating a single system, comprised of different, assembled structural elements.

Dangol proposed the new bridge design by adding a

buckling restrained brace to the post-tensioned bridge bents. This brace dissipates energy, preventing earthquakes from destroying the bridge components. Dangol and his group overcame challenges to fulfill the requirements set by the UDOT and FHWA.

Structural firms, FHWA, and highway engineers will all benefit from Dangol's work in the future. Dangol is currently in his home country of Nepal, where he hopes to implement his new bridge design as well. "I am trying to implement my thesis work in my country," he said. "I know it will be a challenge because there are no highly sophisticated designs and equipment, but I am excited to be working toward its implementation over the next 10 years."

— by Julia Dominesey







A medicinal chemical in hemp that does not cause a high, CBD (or cannabidiol) has recently gained traction after its nationwide legalization in 2018 with many companies emerging into the market. One of them is Acrely Farms, a company in the Master of Business Creation program this year at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business.

Acrely Farms was co-founded by Britney Beardmore and Sarah Duke in Utah. Their company focuses on small-batch, hand-crafted CBD products that aim to relieve inflammation and reduce anxiety in individuals. Their products range from body oils to bath salts, all intended to help relieve physical pain and help calm the mind.

Acrely Farms started as a hobby farm project. After working for large-scale production agriculture companies, Duke became involved in organic vegetable production, and she decided to include hemp in her crop rotation after its legalization in Utah in 2018. Beardmore's background in medical-imaging research sparked her interest in the

medicinal benefits of CBD, and she quickly found a multitude of studies proving the positive health and wellness effects from hemp and CBD.

They launched their products at the end of 2020, initially intending to share with their friends and family and throughout the community. After gaining traction in the community, they began reaching out to local high-end spas and boutique shops to sell their product. As Acrely Farms grew, they realized they needed help in order to successfully scale, so they decided to apply to the MBC program.

Through the MBC, the team has been able to collaborate with both faculty mentors and other founders to improve their business. Since neither of them had prior business experience, they feel this program has allowed them to obtain skills they never imagined they needed that will help them with Acrely and any future business ventures.

— by Julia Dominesey





ary Allen

HEIRLOOM-QUALITY LEATHER PRODUCTS

Affordable, quality leather products can be extremely hard to come by, but University of Utah student and business administration major Giovanni Bastone has a solution. He is the founder of Highborn Leather, which focuses on creating heirloom-quality leather products at a price that won't break the bank. He is growing the company with support from the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute.

Bastone's journey started after he decided to guit his job in the service industry and pursue something in a more creative field. Already an artist, he searched for something that could expand his skills. One day he walked into a local Salt Lake City leather shop, located near the restaurant where worked, and was offered a paid apprenticeship. After working at the shop for a few years, he decided he needed more creative freedom. As a business student at the University of Utah, he wanted to make use of his education and set out to make his own

mark in the leather industry. Bastone left his job at the leather shop and founded his own leather company, Highborn Leather, in May 2021.

The Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute and its Company Launch program have been especially helpful in getting Bastone's business started. "I decided to join Lassonde because I knew it was a very special place where entrepreneurs came to go through the trial and error process," he said.

Bastone is grateful for the equipment in the Make Space at Lassonde Studios. He and his partner, Ted Leaman, have a workshop where they make the majority of their products. The equipment in the Make Space at Lassonde is also integral to their operation, allowing Bastone to work on products and prototypes while he is in his Company Launch office. The laser printer and arbor press tend to be his go-to tools.

— by Grey Chapman

PERSONAL CARE POWERED BY GIRLS

In a world where female hair and personal-care products focus on looks rather than functionality and accomplishment, University of Utah business student Sadie Bowler saw a need for a change.

That's how SadieB Personal Care was born — a startup powered by girls with a mission to create products to empower girls.

Bowler has been passionate about hair from a young age, doing hair for weddings and dances since she was 14. This led her to constantly try new products, always on a search to find the perfect ones for her everyday use.

"I came up with the idea for SadieB on a camping trip," Bowler recalled. "There was some discussion over my current favorite products, and it led to the realization that none of the products out there really connected to or spoke to girls. I wasn't able to connect with any of the brand messages or missions out there."

After some thought and planning, Bowler and her team decided to launch a set of products that would be useful and speak to girls — a mission statement that she hadn't been able to find elsewhere.

"We started with the products and came up with different personas, focusing on girls' abilities and activities, rather than looks they might be trying to achieve. We came up with four lines of personal care products, all based around different personas," she said. "The athlete, the go-getter, the adventurer, and the creator."

This entrepreneurial path Bowler began on eventually led her to the Lassonde Founders program at the University of Utah's Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, where she's now been able to facilitate relationships with other people with a passion like herself.

— by Mary Allen





David Wime

SAVING THE PLANET ONE DROP AT A TIME

University of Utah engineering students Ahmed Elnashar, Mahmoud Elmehlawy, and Victor Leao-David wanted to create a safer, greener, and more efficient chemical industry. They chose to focus on ethanol, a sustainable fuel produced from corn, and sought to decrease the energy required to distill it from water. With the support of the university's engineering department, they have modeled their process of fuel production to conduct ethanol distillations on a lab scale.

Based on initial estimations, their research can reduce fuel consumption by 30%, which might lead to cut down the annual carbon dioxide emissions by 50,000 metric tons. The trio is working to develop their startup, Azeotrop, which aims to implement their technology within the energy sector on a global scale.

Elnashar and Elmehlawy

see the impact of their research as two-fold within its environmental aspirations and the savings it will provide to fuel production companies. Their shared vision was brought together by their complementary skill-sets with Elmehlawy executing computations and Elnashar conducting distillations in the lab.

When they felt ready to use their patent-pending technology to create a startup, their team was joined by fellow student Leao-David. Currently, they are working to optimize their research and establish the foundations for Azeotrop through the Engineering Entrepreneurship program.

"The research will have no impact if it stays inside the lab," Elnashar said. "In order to do these great things, we need to bring our work's application into the real world."

— by Brianna Bernhardt

ADVANCING NUCLEAR RESEARCH

University of Utah nuclear engineering Ph.D. candidate Codey Olsen is a passionate engineer, in it for the science and advancement of his field. From the moment you start talking to Olson, you could tell this is what he lives and breathes for, and probably what he's thinking about all day. He has a strong background in physics, mathematics, and coding.

After doing his undergrad at Wartburg College in Waverly, lowa, to study physics and mathematics, he was inspired by professor Luther Mcdonald to come to the U. He has been working with a radioactive source that had been underground since the 1960s. Olson and his team pulled it out in mid-2021 and ran simulations and designed a shield to protect students and faculty.

The radioactive source they used is a 60-year-old unused plutonium beryllium neutron source. Neutrons are emitted after alpha particles from the plutonium are absorbed into the beryllium, producing a

spectrum of energies. Since the source is radioactive and dangerous to have around, they simulated the source of radiation codes to see if it changed at all. It was believed to be basically dead, but there was no information about it since it had been buried underground for so long. It increased in radioactivity some, but not substantially. This left Olson and his team to make two key decisions for the shield — choosing the material and the shape of the shield. They ended up making a 55-gallon drum filled with plastic. After undergoing radiation training and how to handle the source, they made final decisions on the shielding and built it.

Olson's project has been accepted for publication, and he is currently awaiting a response from the Health Physics Journal. His work has also been presented at national conferences, such as the American Nuclear Society.

— by David Wimert



part of his life, and he wanted that to continue and to share those experiences with his new adventure companion.

Taking dogs to the mountains is like taking kids to Disneyland — they obviously belong there. But he quickly found there was no easy way to accommodate Ollie sleeping at night without either making a mess of the gear inside the tent or making him sleep outside.

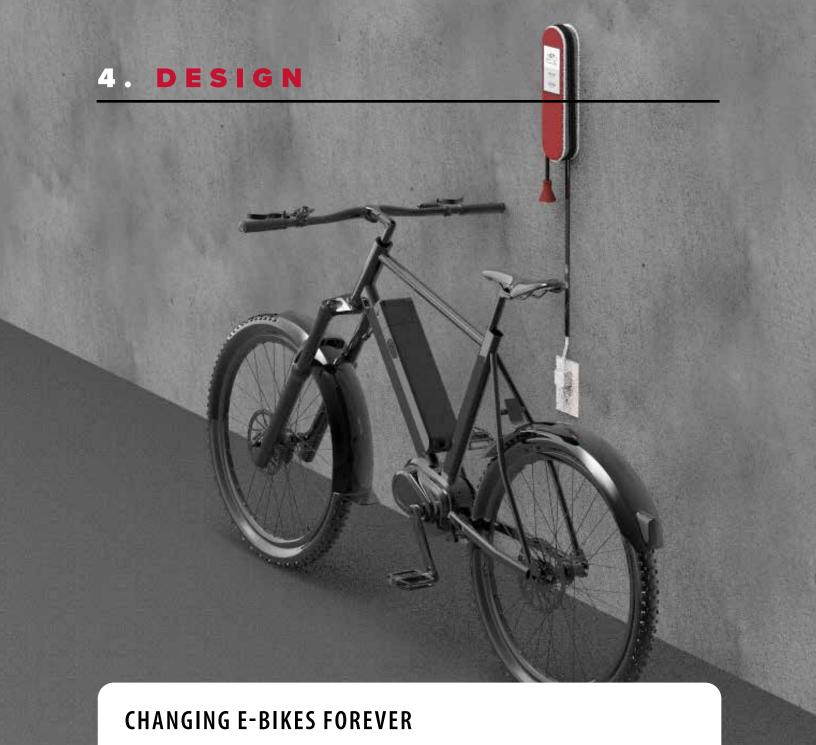
"After months and months and fruitlessly searching for a solution, we were so frustrated that my wife was planning to buy some fabric and make a custom solution," King said. "From there the idea was born."

To solve this problem, they created the Kings Peak tent, which they are promoting as the world's first backpacking with us, and we have all slept so much better with our own space and knowing he is safe and protected."

Scott worked through the Hours with Experts program at the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute for legal support and advice while developing the first prototype.

He said, "The Hours with Experts program has been invaluable for us, understanding how to protect our intellectual property while not violating any existing patents was very intimidating, but through this program, we received the help we needed. All for free."

— by Report Staff



While in the University of Utah's Multi-Disciplinary program in the College of Architecture + Planning, Dakota Janes created OnePlug as part of his senior design project. It is a universal magnetic e-bike charging plug that aims to standardize charge plugs for electric bicycles. Janes got the idea while working at a bike shop.

The use of electric bikes has increased over the last 4-5 years, and demand has grown even more during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, there are multiple proprietary plugs for a variety of different e-bikes which are varied by different e-bike classes. "In the bike world, we have 200 different manufacturers," Janes said. One unified plug would present an opportunity of having charging stations for e-bikes in bigger cities or commuting areas, which would make operating an e-bike more accessible and more

convenient. OnePlug magnetically connects to the bike, providing a QI charging universal plug. Eventually, bike racks could provide wireless charging while electromagnetically locking e-bikes into place providing a safe place to leave your bike to charge.

This e-bike plug uses a copper coil to create an oscillating magnetic field, which can create a current in one or more receiver antennas. The design is magnetic so the charger and port stick together and center properly to provide the most charge. This project has inspired Janes to pursue a career in the cycling industry as a product designer to help and define better standards within the industry.

— by Kristina Guzman



Kassie John is a senior at the University of Utah studying platform design through the Multi-Disciplinary Design Program under the College of Architecture + Planning. She's a digital designer who specializes in illustration and social impact design. Her project, the Indigenous Womxnhood Series, started in summer 2020 as a digital art series that inspires community and connection in Native American art. There is little Native American representation in popular culture, and it does not illustrate powerful or relatable images of what it's like to be indigenous.

She wants to show the different phases of being an indigenous woman in a way that communicates a feeling of sisterhood and camaraderie that doesn't romanticize the indigenous experience. She's telling the stories of real people in her community through her art so people can see it and identify with it.

John's art highlights what people often overlook or wouldn't know about her indigenous culture, such as the Two-Spirit identity, a representation of one construct of LGBTQIA+ and non-binary people. She's also highlighted notable figures, like Maria Tallchief, America's first major prima ballerina.

By reaching out to others and asking them about their experiences, she creates art her sisters and others can recognize in themselves. She hopes to continue her project as these stories keep evolving as she talks with her peers. "They're community leaders," John said. "They're people that I look up to." This is a story that keeps building on itself as she learns more about womanhood and indigeneity.

— by Kristina Guzman

5. COMMUNITY



David Wimert



ulia Dominese

PROVIDING WATER TO THE NAVAJO RESERVATION

Master of social work students at the University of Utah, Alannah Clay, Jessie Welch-Stockton, and Mimi Landeros are the voices of those who don't have one.

After finding out about the Navajo Tribe Reservation water crisis, they decided to help. In their Change Project, they partnered with the DigDeep organization to help the Navajo nation through this crisis. One-third of its population does not have access to running water, a huge disparity in a pandemic. The mission of this project was to bring clean water and indoor plumbing to homes on the Navajo Tribe Reservation. To achieve this, the trio powered through setbacks and came up with innovative solutions to help problem-solve, while creating promotional materials to fund raise, as well as connecting Dig Deep to community stakeholders.

"For as long as I can remember, I've wanted to do it," Welch- Stockton said. "It's a unique opportunity to really make a difference, get to know someone and to advocate for them and their cause, to hear people, and to project their voices."

Without any federal assistance provided to bringing clean water to the Navajo nation, those living on reservation land are on their own or dependent on nonprofit supports. This means that this project is ever so important, and the reservation relies on this support.

Dig Deep leaders are part of the tribe and helped to build community connections, as well as assisted in creating jobs for the community, and taught members how to implement water and plumbing.

In spring 2022, the team hopes to partner with the Utah Natural History Museum to establish a display of the plumbing equipment that DigDeep installs in homes on the reservation to bring residents fresh water. They hope that future social work students continue the project and that the project doesn't die with them.

— by David Wimert

MENTAL-HEALTH CARE FOR MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Laura Tiburcio-Santos is tackling an under-valued problem in underrepresented communities: mentalhealth. After immigrating to the United States in 2013, Tiburcio-Santos faced her own mental-health crisis as a result of culture shock and assimilation pressures. After learning how to navigate American culture and multiple attempts to find adequate self-help groups, Tiburcio-Santos realized the importance of providing immigrants with culturally competent mental-health services.

Prior to joining the U,
Tiburcio-Santos helped run
defense campaigns and was
an advocate of immigrants'
rights at Communities
United. She then joined the
University of Utah's College
of Social Work in 2018. Her
mission became to bring the
conversation of mental health
to people going through
the process of immigration
to avoid what she had
experienced.

"Once people come here, they have to learn the language, the system, and how the culture works," she said. "That takes a toll on your physical, mental health, and overall well-being. That's why it's important to find culturally competent services — because it makes a huge difference."

During her studies, she was able to conduct research with Teresa Molina for the program evaluation for the case management certificate to work on the design of the study and gather literature to be presented to the IRB. Additionally, Tiburcio-Santos volunteered for Communities United and frequently visited the Mexican consulate to talk to individuals being processed about their mental health.

Tiburcio-Santos volunteers at the Latino Behavioral Health Services (LBHS) while pursuing her master's in social work at the University of Utah. LBHS provides individuals with programs and services, and helps link them to organizations that can fulfill their needs.

— by Julia Dominesey



an MRI scanner is acquiring images. The absence of magnetic parts is necessary to prevent the motor from becoming a dangerous projectile near the strong magnetic field of an

"What excites me about this research is there are no magnetic components in this motor, and yet it can still produce motion to control robotic systems," Hofstetter

By removing the magnetic parts from his motor, his invention uses the superconducting magnetic field of the MRI scanner to produce controlled motion. Hofstetter believes this technology will enable the precision of robotics to be combined with the real-time, 3D visualization capabilities provided by the MRI. His goal is to improve patient care by

the components of an MRI could interact with a separate assembly to act as a motor.

For more than a year Hofstetter has worked to develop his prototypes, using an assembly of permanent magnets in his garage to simulate the magnetic field of an MRI. Despite the challenges of going from an early stage foundational technology to clinical use, Hofstetter's vision for his work pushes him to continue forging forward.

"That is what inspires me — this technology will be important, and I can see a lot of potential uses for it. I am working to overcome some of the technical hurdles so that it becomes a reality," he said.

— by Brianna Bernhardt



Sarah Hood, a mechanical engineering Ph.D. student at the U, has found passion in engineering at the intersection of humans and technology. Through her research, she has helped develop a novel robotic-leg prosthesis that will enable users to perform tasks such as walking and climbing stairs on a much more dynamic and personalized level.

One of the difficulties of creating this prosthetic technology is developing prosthetics that work across the variability of human movement. When implemented effectively, this technology will improve mobility and quality of life for those with above-knee amputation. Hood began working in the lab when it was only six months old, with one individual from the community who was willing to test the device. Now, the lab works with over 20 people from the community willing to test the devices to further their development.

Beyond the technological feats she is working on, Hood places a high priority on the human element of her research. "I'm very much not the stereotypical engineer — I'm an extrovert, I like being around people, and so I loved this part of the field because I get to work on a robot, and I can see the change that I'm making," she said. "I get to work with the end-user to see if the changes I'm making will actually make a difference in the long run."

Going forward, Hood plans to finish her Ph.D. and continue working in the U's lab led by professor Tommaso Lenzi to help get the prosthetic device on the market in the next five years. She said, "This is where technology is going, and this is where powered prosthetics are going."

— by Gracie Tidwell



CHANGING THE CULTURE

Being a nurse is hard. Being a nurse of color can be even harder, according to Minerva Martinez-Lopez, a nursing Ph.D. student and a nurse at the University of Utah. To help, she developed an Anti-Racist Training module for nursing faculty to educate them on how to appropriately support nursing students of color when they are encountered with a racist patient or act during clinical rotations.

The module was released in early 2022. It is 32 minutes long and was sent to all College of Nursing faculty as a part of a quality improvement project. Martinez-Lopez developed a script for a video along with a framework called "Framework for Responding to Racist Patients" in a learning module. The video contained scenarios on the wrong and right things to do when student nurses and faculty are dealing with a racist patient during clinicals.

Martinez wants to keep nurses safe, patients accountable and students supported and protected in these instances. The intent was to provide faculty better

tools to support people of color in a clinical setting in the event of a racist patient act.
She plans on a manuscript for publication in an academic journal next. Support for her work includes a Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant.

Martinez is a firstgeneration immigrant from Mexico, from the Oaxaca Mixtec region. She got into health care from personal experience, because she saw very few nurses of color after immigrating, and as a 5-year-old, had to translate Spanish to English in hospitals to help her family, which was daunting as a child. She became passionate for working in health care for people of low income and especially people of color who struggle with health care.

Martinez got her bachelor's degree at the U in nursing and started her doctorate in 2019 as a family nurse practitioner. She is currently pursuing a doctor of nursing, with a specialization in family medicine, and graduating in spring 2022.

— by Report Staff



AN ULTRA-PORTABLE ASTHMA INHALER

If you're not a person with asthma, you probably don't think very often about inhalers. If you use one, however, you understand the unseen annoyances. Most importantly, you've probably dealt with a crucial choice: do I bring my inhaler and risk losing it because of how hard it is to store, or leave it behind and risk an attack?

Luckily, University of Utah medical student co-founders Teryn Holeman and Brian Parker are helping eradicate that impossible choice. With their streamlined, ultraportable redesign of the inhaler, this medical tool has become more accessible than ever.

"It just started with noticing a problem," Parker said. "We did a ton of market research and found that something like 90% of people with asthma want something different, a little smaller, a little more convenient."

uAir is following a 510(k) pathway through the FDA, meaning that the mechanism

of a device is changing, and not the medicine inside. Instead of a bulky inhaler that's palm sized, uAir's patent-pending design is roughly the size of a car key-fob. It also deviates from the traditional shape, now becoming a straight and vertical dispenser.

"The change from the 'L' shape is intentional to improve the device and medicine too," Parker said.

In addition to a much more portable design, uAir inhaler also offers smaller doses per inhaler. This allows asthmatics to have multiple inhalers, improving accessibility after market research determined a demand; where a prescriber could only give one 200-puff inhaler to a patient now can become five 40-puff inhalers. Multiple inhalers means multiple locations, which means a higher likelihood of an inhaler being around for an attack.

— by Alexis Perno



"Rise Up started just out of my own story growing up; I wasn't able to afford ballet classes and was given a scholarship," Bertelsen said. "That totally changed my life because I could pursue ballet, and it really grew me as a person and I just loved it."

And so, Rise Up was born — a nonprofit working to ensure finances never keep a child from dancing and prove that a "human first, dancer second" mentality still produces talented dancers. However, after a few years of running the school, Bertelsen found that her business model was not sustainable. With no background in business, Bertelsen sought support in the Master of Business Creation (MBC) program at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business. She wasn't just one of the first graduates from the program — she was more equipped to run her business, and Rise Up has

"I have changed and grown immensely through the program and their continued support and guidance, and I think I've also grown a lot in my confidence," Bertelsen said. "This past year coming out of the program has been such a different experience because I'm prepared to advocate for myself and to tackle some things that I just felt pretty nervous about even trying before the program."

Rise Up was a bit different than the rest of the founders in her MBC cohort — she was the only non-profit organization. Rise Up runs on a school lunch model, meaning that if students qualify for free and reduced lunch, their tuition fees are automatically waived.

"We just want to see kids thrive," Bertelsen said.

— by Alexis Perno



BRINGING SOCIAL AWARENESS TO THEATER

While pursuing a degree in theater, Francesca Hsieh left a continuing impact at the University of Utah by creating BIPOC Artists for Awareness, a program that continues to grow and improve the community even after her graduation.

BIPOC Artists for Awareness is a community within the Department of Theatre designed to bring awareness to social issues and implement change within the community. "It became a way for us all to be in community together and to talk about issues we had and things we wanted to be different," Hsieh said. This program allows students of color to have a support system and a network of people who have had similar experiences. At the end of her senior year, Hsieh received the 2021 Ivory Prize for Excellence in Student Leadership. This prize includes a cash award for the recipient

as well as a donation to their cause.

In addition to starting BIPOC Artists for Awareness, Hsieh also started Open Door Productions, a program that helps students write and direct their own shows. "We started Open Door as a way to get some student productions up and running because students need organizational tools to have access to make productions happen," Hsieh said. Open Door Productions has allowed for multiple full scale student productions to come to life, both virtually and in person.

Hsieh now lives in London and is getting a master's degree in theater directing from Royal Holloway, University of London. She is looking forward to working in the theater career field and making waves postgraduation.

— by Gracie Tidwell



THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

Reilly Jensen is an archaeologist, researcher, and illustrator, who is currently studying in the Community-Based Arts Education Graduate Program at the University of Utah. Having grown up in southern Utah, she has a passion for preserving heritage and cultural landscapes, as well as the exploration of stories that haven't been historically preserved or recorded.

Jensen's project is a collaborative effort with the Sema Hadithi Foundation (a non-profit organization dedicated to researching and sharing stories of Black history in Utah). Known as The Buffalo Soldiers research group, Jensen works with other artists, historians, and archaeologists to investigate archaeological records and other historical accounts to piece together the stories and experiences from these soldiers in the 1880's in the newly-formed state of Utah. The project is a graphic novel used to share their research in hopes that it raises questions about Utah's intersectional history.

The future of the project is in the hands of the board of directors at the Sema Hadithi Foundation. "I've pushed for this work to be a call-to-action for my colleagues working in heritage, preservation, and history in Utah, but also an invitation to others who can share their past and help create and document their own histories and experiences," Jensen said. Her ultimate hope is that the foundation successfully brings attention to the untold intersectional histories of Utah.

Here is a link to the foundation's website, with more information about a project and a chance to donate to its cause: semahadithi.org/buffalosoldiers-graphic-novel.

— by Mary Allen



bricks up the hill to the Institute grounds, Hale created a temporary structure overlooking the hospital where his mother received treatment.

Stepping into this structure allowed the onlooker to experience the difficulties Hale has faced as one of his mother's caretakers during her treatment for metastatic breast cancer. The Huntsman Cancer Institute is currently working with Hale, who hopes to build a permanent recreation of his work so its impact can continue.

Hale began his installation with the intent to complete the project alone. However, the installation soon showed him the open up about."

Hale said the physical effort of transporting over 2,000 pounds of material transformed his artwork into a personal healing process. Sharing his installation with others is what opened his awareness to the possibilities of communal healing. "The Caregivers Window" has taken experiential art beyond expectations to a new realm of interrelation for those battling cancer and their loved ones.

— by Brianna Bernhardt





to assist in her innovation, Schiffman has worked to develop an ultraviolet-detecting wearable sensor for skin cancer prevention.

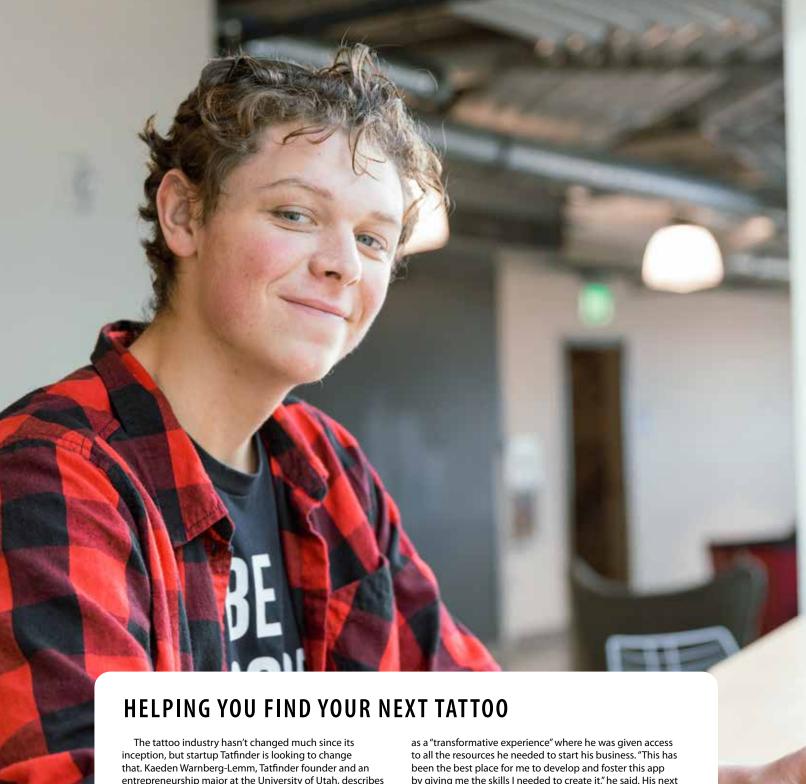
The project is called UV Sense, and its goal is to help young people with special concern for skin cancer stay safe from over exposure with the sensor. The technology works in conjunction with an app, which is customizable to its user using the Fitzpatrick Skin Type Rating. The UV sensor accumulates energy from the sun and connects with the app that will inform its user if they are at risk for over-exposure to

Schiffman's reason for starting this project is simple: with

Her product is currently in the testing process, but the project will likely be on the market by summer of 2023. Schiffman's goal is to have her product on the market as soon as possible, while keeping it affordable and accessible for users. She hopes to one day sell this technology to pursue other ventures of interest.

Schiffman has received support from the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute for UV Sense, including a grant from the Get Seeded program.

— by Mary Allen



The tattoo industry hasn't changed much since its inception, but startup Tatfinder is looking to change that. Kaeden Warnberg-Lemm, Tatfinder founder and an entrepreneurship major at the University of Utah, describes their app as a decision-based optimization algorithm that matches users with tattoo artists based on their style, personal values, and location. Warnberg-Lemm hopes that this artist-driven company will make the tattoo industry more accessible, innovative, and connected.

Originally from Minnesota, Warnberg-Lemm grew up in an entrepreneurial household. His parents encouraged creative thinking and instilled values of independence in him from a young age. This fostered his interest in innovation, which he continues to nurture at the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute. Warnberg-Lemm said, "If you are a student entrepreneur looking to start a business in college, Lassonde is the place to be."

Warnberg-Lemm described coming to Lassonde Studios

as a "transformative experience" where he was given access to all the resources he needed to start his business. "This has been the best place for me to develop and foster this app by giving me the skills I needed to create it," he said. His next step toward launching a beta app with the Salt Lake City tattoo community is building the digital structure of Tatfinder. Warnberg-Lemm has collaborated with a user-interface designer and is looking for partners to help him code and program the app.

The connections Warnberg-Lemm has made through the Lassonde Founders program have been invaluable. Lassonde Founders work together in teams through a four-year program to find, identify, and creatively solve problems through entrepreneurship. "The Lassonde Founders program is cool because it brings together a community of people with a passion for entrepreneurship," Warnberg-Lemm said.

— by Brianna Bernhardt





AN EMPATHETIC PRODUCTIVITY APP

Jared Collett, an entrepreneurship major at the University of Utah, wants to help students like himself make goals, get things done, and de-stress with the Mura app, a productivity wellness planner.

"Students are at the most pivotal, stressful times of their lives," Collett said. "All the while, they're relentlessly bombarded in this information age with contradictory viewpoints, principles, and how-to's. Our world is saturated with distraction and an overemphasis on entertainment and leisure."

As Collett began his college career, he noted that his peers struggled to plan, prioritize, and focus on the tasks at hand. As the semesters went on, his concern for the wellbeing and mental health of students, especially seniors in high school and undergraduates at universities, mounted.

Collett decided to find an answer for those struggling. He spent most of his time learning about neuroscience,

trying to connect dots between physical, mental, and emotional health. With his nose in the books, he learned one big lesson: it all comes back to productivity.

"There is a psychological link between mental health and productivity, which is often ignored and uncultivated," he said. "Students, specifically, are not yet fully developed nor matured in the arts and acts of habit making and breaking, creative exploration, and mindfulness. I'm designing an app to effectively support one's productivity pursuits for a healthier life."

With the productivity angle narrowed down, Collett still had a lot of work to do. Plenty of websites, stores, and other apps had tried and failed to help faltering students get back on their feet or cross more off their to-do lists.
Collett needed to figure out a new way to help struggling students get things done and start feeling better.

— by Jacqueline Mumford

RESUSCITECH MEETS WITH TIM COOK

Founders in the Master of Business Creation (MBC) program at the David Eccles School of Business had the meeting of a lifetime during the Silicon Slopes Summit in Salt Lake City in 2021.

Abbie Kohler and Greg Fine, co-founders of ResusciTech, were selected to be one of only a handful of companies that got the opportunity to pitch their products to Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple and keynote speaker at the summit.

They learned about the opportunity from their MBC mentors a week earlier and rushed to prepare for the meeting.

During the meeting, they showed Cook their app for teaching people CPR, and afterward, Cook said he was impressed and highlighted their company during his opening remarks to the general audience at the summit

"I think it deserves the name 'Silicon Slopes' to put it very crisply," Cook said of Utah. "What I look for when I go to places is are there

people who want to change the world, people that get up in the morning and think about their passion and work all day to try to get the job done, and this morning, or earlier today, I met with four developers, and I see that, I sense that. One was focused on teaching people CPR. They are called ResusciTech - maybe they are in the audience right now — a fabulous application of an app that focuses on making sure the depth and frequency are correct, so they are really trying to do something that really changes things, that helps people."

The Resusitech team was also happy with the meeting and said it was everything they hoped and more.

"It went really well,"
Kohler said. "It was more of
a conversation than a pitch,
which wasn't what we were
expecting. He is a very friendly
person, so it was nice. His
energy was very calming, so it
wasn't very nerve-racking."

— by Thad Kelling



simple materials, like fabric paint and secondhand clothing, has now become Hall's official introduction to the world of entrepreneurship: Dayzsy Customs.

"Dayzsy Customs is my company, made for customizing clothing, tote bags, shoes ... whatever I can get my hands on," Hall said. "I get clothing from secondhand stores and revamp them by painting or drawing on them."

Dayzsy Customs wasn't born as a business idea and was instead a simple hobby for Hall, in the beginning. Pieces she created were for her own use, until she began to pick up on a public desire for unique items like the ones she was wearing.

"I started customizing clothes and wearing them out, and

Hall's mission goes deeper than just creating new pieces, however, and she has made it her goal to help people gain confidence and individuality through their clothing.

"I think it can be hard to find clothes that are different and fit my own taste," Hall said. "So many people want their own style and don't know what to wear. I think giving unique pieces can give people confidence ... it can be a conversation starter."

- by Mary Allen



you can wear long after breakfast as the sun moves west throughout the day. They can be worn from the bedroom to the boardroom and everything in between.

Price spent a few years working in the fashion industry in New York City, where she learned that people look their best when they feel comfortable and feel their best when they know they look good. If Price and Connolly could wrap comfort and style into one product, they knew that they were onto something.

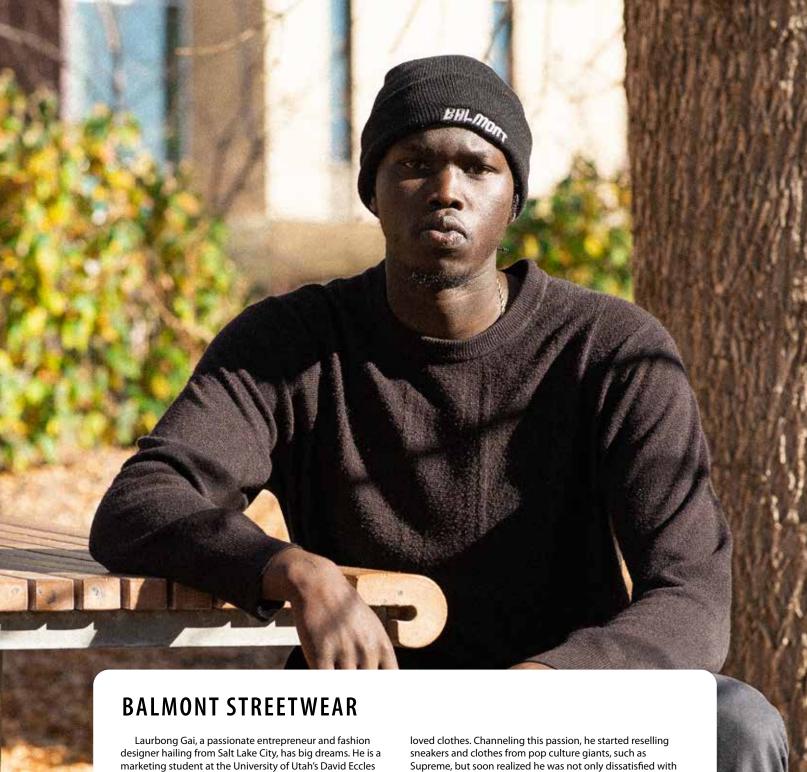
While athleisure has been on the rise for many athletic brands, there's a new trend on the horizon: nap leisure.

for a night in.

"I think pajamas are so great right now as we see this movement toward comfort and style being prioritized and really being able to focus on nap leisure as a comfortable fashion-forward movement," Connolly said.

Price and Connolly are excited for the future of West of Breakfast as they set their marketing plan into action. They also plan on expanding their product lines in new areas within fashion.

— by Kristina Guzman



School of Business and the founder of Balmont, a streetwear company and evolving fashion brand with a carefully designed product. Balmont stands out from other clothing brands because of the company's collections and drops each season, with timeless designs sourcing from sustainable fabrics.

Being born and raised in Salt Lake City is the fuel that drives this fashion brand's fire and makes it deeply personal

At the heart of the brand's story and message is Balmont Avenue, the street Gai grew up on, and he wants to represent and bring the DNA of his upbringing into the culture and growing arts scene in Salt Lake City.

It all started with a passion for fashion. Gai has always

Supreme, but soon realized he was not only dissatisfied with it but being called to do something else.

Drawing inspiration from Virgil Abloh's Off White transition to Louis Vuitton and how he continuously reinvents himself and shapes fashion culture by remixing different elements, Gai decided to throw himself into the fashion world and tell his story, or his autobiography, as he calls it, through his clothes.

The dream turned reality after he attended multiple pop-up shops throughout Salt Lake City and decided to do his own at the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute's Lassonde Studios, where he hosted a meetup to launch one of his signature collections in fall 2021.

- by David Wimert



O. SOFTWARE

Joel Zae, a founder in the Master of Business Creation program at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business, is turning his balloon side-hustle into a full-time party planning business. His idea, Party Pipeline, serves as an online marketplace where party planners can find and book local, trendy entertainment vendors.

"A lot of my current clients use my business as a service," Zae said. "We do balloon art, face painting, caricatures, photo booths, magic, and henna tattoos. One problem that I saw is that a lot of these party planners didn't know who the local vendors were. I saw that they needed a marketplace where they could search all the local vendors, check their availability, and then book them all through one site. It saves them a ton

of hassle in planning their party."

Party Pipeline services a wide range of parties from corporate events to kids' parties and will even expand into

bachelor, bachelorette parties, and more. Zae said, "Long term, I would definitely like to be to the go-to party planning website so that any time anyone thinks about planning a party or an event, the first thing they think to go to is the Party Pipeline marketplace."

Zae grew up in Denver. His family struggled financially and Zae learned to make balloon animals for tips. Those tips bridged the gap between him, his family, and the streets. He continued balloon artistry through college by doing restaurants and corporate events before graduating with an undergraduate degree in accounting from Brigham Young University. "Because I started at a young age doing balloon animals, balloon animals is now second nature," Zae said.

— by Kristina Guzman

MARKETPLACE FOR ENTERTAINMENT VENDORS



amille Bagnani



Thad Kelling

EMPOWERING HOTELIERS WITH DATA SCIENCE

Co-founders Viral Shah and Dhaval Chokshi are empowering hoteliers with their startup HelloGM, which provides a single interface to see data from disparate property management systems easily compiled, analyzed, and utilized. A datascience-focused endeavor, the pair grew the company as members of the Master of Business Creation program at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business. They graduated from the program in May 2021 and are positioned for growth.

HelloGM brings hoteliers success through accessibility. "Our idea is any business should not be left behind in the competition of data science just because of the financial constraints that small businesses have," Shah said. A desktop and mobile friendly interface allows hotel managers to conveniently view dashboard features that track revenue, occupancy, and the average daily rate of their hotels. "We know in this era of

information technology, data is everywhere. We work on bettering our product so the data we collect can be used to help hoteliers maximize their profits," Shah said.

Shah and Chokshi are excited for the future of HelloGM, which is looking bright in the light of their new destination resort client. "This resort is a unique opportunity for us because it is a resort with hotels, spas, market, and restaurants. What we are working with them today is to get the data from these different systems together in one place," Chokshi said. This shows promise for the future versatility of their product, which they hope will become an industry standard. "Our far-reaching goal is to become a de facto data analysis platform that businesses of any scale can depend on for their analytics needs," explained Chokshi.

— by Brianna Bernhardt

MAKING NFTS MORE ACCESSIBLE

NFT, short for non-fungible token, has become an elusive buzzword in the midst of the rising world of the metaverse, blockchain, and all things considered "web3." Tim Nielsen and his company Cloutchain want to make NFTs accessible for everyone by creating a platform for both fans and creators to engage using NFTs to drive the connection. Nielsen is growing his company in the Master of Business Creation (MBC) program at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business.

"We didn't design Cloutchain around one specific type of creator. We really wanted this to be accessible to bring this really cool technology that we saw potential in to as many people as possible," said Nielsen on who he sees using this platform.

On the Cloutchain platform, creators can easily design cards, which are backed by NFTs that are unique to each creator, memorializing important achievements, moments, art pieces and more. Fans can then purchase these cards, unlocking access to content both online and in-person. Cloutchain allows creators to gain more control over the business aspect of their image, content, and career and allows fans to more easily connect with their favorite creators, musicians, and athletes.

Nielsen started this company due to his personal experience and interest in economics, finance, and blockchain. He wanted to start a business that would make this emerging technology accessible and interesting to everyone. Right now, the world of NFTs can be an "insiders club" where newcomers can easily be taken advantage of, and in many cases, there exists a lack of genuine community engagement. Cloutchain provides an easy-to-use fan engagement platform where creators and fans alike need no technical knowledge to successfully enter the world of NFTs.

— by Julia Dominesey

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

- **ArtsBridge:** An interdisciplinary arts education outreach program. artsbridge.utah.edu
- **ArtsForce:** A two-day conference for art students to learn about how to share their creative work. artsforceutah.com
- **Arts Entrepreneur**: Connect with your peers, learn the value of your skills, and explore connections between the arts and entrepreneurship. lassonde.utah.edu/art
- **Associated Student of the University of Utah (ASUU):** A student-led organization that provides resources and services to students, hosts events and programs, and advocates for students with university administrators. asuu.utah.edu
- **Bench to Bedside:** A competition for medical, engineering, and business students to collaborate to develop or improve a medical device. bit.ly/UUb2b
- **Bennion Center:** Program with a mission to mobilize people to strengthen communities through learning, scholarship, and advocacy. bennioncenter.org
- **bioDesign:** Teams of engineering students work with clinicians to develop prototypes and test medical devices. <u>biodesign.</u> <u>utah.edu</u>
- **bioInnovate:** Graduate program providing a comprehensive biomedical, device-design training program. bioinnovate.utah.edu
- **bioWorld:** A two-semester course enabling students to develop a business plan for a medical-device in a developing country. bioworld.utah.edu
- **BlockU Program:** Take full advantage of your time at the U by enrolling in courses organized thematically to maximize your learning. blocku.utah.edu
- **Business Scholars:** An experiential program for high-achieving students offered by the David Eccles School of Business. eccles.utah.edu/scholars
- **Company Launch:** Apply for dedicated office space and customized support at Lassonde Studios through this program. lassonde.utah.edu/launch
- **Eccles Global:** Students engage in worldwide business education that instills the skill set students need to compete internationally with classes taught by Eccles School faculty in classes around the globe. eccles.link/eccles-global
- **Elevate U Program:** Student athletes learn brand management, creative marketing, leadership, and character development in partnership with the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute. utahutes.com/elevate

- **Entertainment Arts & Engineering:** Interdisciplinary program where students design and develop video games. eae.utah.edu
- **Food Entrepreneur:** Learn about food entrepreneurship, what it takes to open a restaurant, and more. Lassonde.utah.edu/food
- **The Gapp Lab:** A student game-development center for health and education-related video games and apps. <u>library.med.</u> utah.edu/synapse/gapp
- **Get Seeded:** Pitch your business idea to your peers to receive seed funding for your venture. lassonde.utah.edu/getseeded
- Global Entrepreneurship Program: Travel the world while taking classes in entrepreneurship and completing internships in this program from the David Eccles School of Business. eccles.utah.edu/global-entp
- **Global Public Health:** Promotes health and medical development, leading to measurable improvements. globalhealth.utah.edu
- **Goff Strategic Leadership Center:** Committed to developing strategic leaders by engaging with students across campus and the business community to share insights and build practical skills. eccles.utah.edu/goff
- High School Utah Entrepreneur Challenge: A statewide business idea competition for all students ages 14-18. \$30,000 in cash and scholarships are available. lassonde.utah.edu/hsuec
- **Hinckley Internship Programs:** Internship opportunities are available to students interested in politics. hinckley.utah.edu
- **Honors Praxis Labs:** Students work together to find original solutions to problems our society faces, while a faculty mentor guides the work of each group. honors.utah.edu/praxis-labs
- **Hours with Experts:** Sign up to meet with an expert in fields including law, business, design, and engineering. lassonde.utah.edu/experthours
- Kahlert Initiative on Technology: Prepares students to be digitally literate regardless of degree. KIT offers a Digital Literacy Certificate program that allows you to learn cutting-edge technology from industry experts in an easy-to-understand format. eccles.link/kit
- **Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute:** The hub for student entrepreneurs and innovators at the University of Utah. Its many programs and opportunities are open to all students. lassonde.utah.edu

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

- **Lassonde Founders:** A select community of active undergraduate entrepreneurs who live, create, and launch together while receiving generous support, mentorship, and scholarships. lassonde.utah.edu/founders
- **Lassonde New Venture Development Center:** Graduate students are paired with inventors and entrepreneurs for fall and spring semester preparing a business plan. lassonde.utah.edu/new-venture-development
- **Lassonde Studios:** The home for student entrepreneurs and innovators. All students welcome to live, create, and launch here. <u>lassonde.utah.edu/studios</u>
- **Lassonde+X:** An introductory program for undergraduate students from all majors (X) to learn the entrepreneurial mindset, explore and practice entrepreneurship, and build skills to succeed in the future. eccles.utah.edu/lassondex
- **Learning Abroad/Global Engagement:** Students participate in hundreds of programs all over the world based on their interests and career goals. learningabroad.utah.edu
- LGBT Resource Center Emerging Student Leadership
 Program: A leadership program for LGBTQIA+ students to
 explore leadership from an intersectional perspective and
 build community with other students invested in creating
 positive change. lgbt.utah.edu/lgbtrc_programs/ESLP.php
- **Make Program:** Learn how to use prototyping tools and see your idea come to life at Lassonde Studios. <u>lassonde.utah.</u> edu/make
- **Meetups:** Join the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute at a meetup event or host one to meet people and learn about the community. lassonde.utah.edu/meetups
- New Leadership Academy Fellows Program: Students receive leadership coaching and learn about equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives within complex institutions. diversity. utah.edu/nla
- **My U Signature Experience (MUSE):** A database of research, leadership, community engagement, scholarships, and internship opportunities across campus. muse.utah.edu
- Opportunity Quest: A business-model summary competition for students across the state, addressing the executive-summary stage of business development. lassonde.utah.edu/oq
- **Sorenson Impact Center:** Marshals capital for social good, empowers data-driven programs, breaks down silos across sectors, and equips the next generation of leaders with social purpose. sorensonimpact.com

- **Student Investment Fund:** Get hands-on investment experience in this unique program from the David Eccles School of Business. eccles.utah.edu/student-investment-fund
- Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund Program (SCIF):
 Innovative and motivated students are awarded grants
 to team up with a faculty or staff member to bring about
 sustainable changes for the campus. sustainability.utah.edu/
- **Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR):** Students are paired with faculty members and work closely with them in research experiences. our.utah.edu
- **University Venture Fund:** Students work with entrepreneurs and investors to learn about investments and see how successful companies are managed. uventurefund.com
- **Utah Center for Financial Services:** Help innovate financial services, guide regulatory issues, and examine and support the deployment of new financial products and services. eccles.utah.edu/utah-center-for-financial-services
- **Utah Entrepreneur Challenge:** One of the largest businessmodel competitions in the nation. Students across Utah develop full, comprehensive business models. \$60,000 in prizes are available. <u>lassonde.utah.edu/uec</u>
- **Utah Real Estate Challenge:** Real-estate development competition for undergraduate and graduate students throughout Utah. eccles.utah.edu/ivory-boyer-real-estate-center/utah-real-estate-challenge
- Utah Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR):
 Provides undergrad students with an intensive 10-week
 research experience under the mentorship of a faculty
 member. our.utah.edu/spur
- Workshops: Attend regular workshops at the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute to learn new skills. <u>lassonde.utah.edu/workshops</u>

Submit a Listing: Do you want to add a listing to this resource directory? We want to hear from you. Email us at lassonde@utah.edu.

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