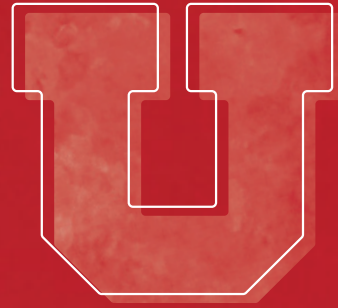


STUDENT  
INNOVATION  
@ THE



2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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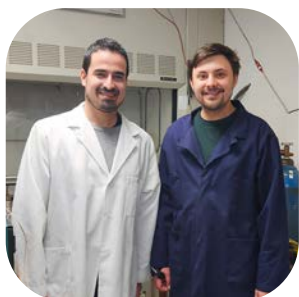
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# ABOUT THE REPORT

“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/studentinnovation2024](https://lassonde.utah.edu/studentinnovation2024). 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](https://lassonde.utah.edu).

This publication is managed by staff at the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, including:

**Troy D’Ambrosio** — executive director, Lassonde Institute; assistant dean, David Eccles School of Business  
**Kathy Hajeb** — director, Lassonde Institute; associate professor (lecturer), David Eccles School of Business  
**Thad Kelling** — marketing director, Lassonde Institute  
**Despina Giannopoulos** — marketing coordinator, Lassonde Institute

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS



**Gracie Tidwell, assistant editor, writer, and photographer** — Gracie is a senior at the University of Utah. She is majoring in marketing and minoring in psychology. Gracie is from Heber, Utah, and enjoys hiking, skiing, and travelling.



**Tom Glasmann, writer and photographer** — Tom is a theater, games, and English student at the University of Utah. Passionate about telling stories and performing, Tom is an entertainer at heart. In addition to this, he is known around campus for his fun, eccentric personality, and his surplus of business cards.



**Mary Allen, writer and photographer** — Mary is an undergraduate student from Salt Lake City studying graphic design. In addition to her work with the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, she is also involved at the MUSS Board and the Daily Utah Chronicle. Her passions lie in the arts, sports, and outdoors.



**Ella James, writer** — Ella is studying marketing and information systems at the University of Utah. She coaches girls’ high school and girls’ club volleyball as well. Originally, she is from England and grew up there and lived in Switzerland and Germany. She moved to the U.S. when she was 10 years old. She loves to travel and recently got married and traveled all over Europe for her honeymoon.



**Sean Andrews, writer and photographer** — Sean is studying marketing at the University of Utah. He grew up in Reno, Nevada. Sean’s favorite things include skiing and rock climbing.



**David Kale, writer and photographer** — David, a Lassonde Studios resident and community member, is pursuing a degree in operations and supply chain. Outside of the classroom, he finds joy in writing musicals, practicing photography and cinematography, and learning any new skill he can.



**Abigail Cheney, writer and photographer** — Originally from Connecticut, Abigail came to the University of Utah for their esteemed entrepreneurship and marketing programs. She is passionate about startups and entrepreneurial exploration. Her enthusiasm aligns with writing and additional artistic endeavors.



**Lauren Nusbaum, writer and photographer** — Lauren is from Los Angeles and moved to Utah for skiing, but stayed for a major in strategic communications. She uses her communications major and arts technology minor to further her passions of digital design and photography. Instagram: [@just\\_lauren](https://www.instagram.com/just_lauren).



**Vyana Dang, writer and photographer** — Vyana studied marketing and minored in design at the University of Utah. She has a strong passion for the outdoors, but when she is not surfing at her hometown waves or skiing at her favorite resorts in Utah, she is exploring new food restaurants or attempting new recipes. Here is a link that covers her favorite food spots in Salt Lake or from her hometown in Newport Beach: [dangerouslydelicious.me](https://dangerouslydelicious.me).



**Elle Williams, photographer** — Elle is a business student at the University of Utah. She started her own photography business and also does freelance work for the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute. She has a passion for capturing beauty and stories through her work. When she is not working or doing schoolwork, she is snowboarding, climbing, or doing anything outdoors.

## CONTACT US

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 the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute at [lassonde@utah.edu](mailto:lassonde@utah.edu) or [801-587-3836](tel:801-587-3836).

# WELCOME



## President's Message

Welcome to the 2024 edition of "Student Innovation at the U." Inside this annual publication, you will learn about one of the most exciting things happening at the University of Utah: our students' transformation into changemakers who generate real-world impact through their creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. I hope you find their stories as inspiring as I do.

This report shows the unmatched student experience we offer at the University of Utah. Students embark on world-class educations in our many degree programs, learning from leading experts in their fields. Outside of class, students encounter unparalleled opportunities to engage with our large and growing number of institutes, centers, and initiatives, where they gain rich experiences before they graduate.

On the following pages are examples of students turning bold ideas into

tangible solutions. You'll meet diverse students from across campus who are improving everything from computational photography to ski wax. Their innovative concepts may differ, but these students all share a passion for extending their education beyond the classroom into the realms of research, product creation, social impact, and entrepreneurship.

I invite you to turn the page and see for yourself. Then, I encourage you to get involved. To our students, I challenge you to pursue your ideas and see how far your vision can take you. To our faculty and community members, please continue to inspire our students and fuel their aspirations. I know we can accomplish great things, and I can't wait to see what's next.

— Taylor Randall, president, University of Utah

David Kale

## Changing Lives with Bionics

In the realm of mechanical engineering, where innovation meets human need, Kai Pruyn stands out as a beacon of progress. As a first-year Ph.D. student under the mentorship of Tommaso Lenzi at the HGN Lab for Bionic Engineering, Pruyn is at the forefront of developing technology that promises to transform lives. Her work on hip and ankle exoskeletons for stroke patients represents a major leap forward in rehabilitative care, offering newfound hope for enhanced mobility.

Pruyn's journey into bionic engineering began with a passion for powered prosthetics, fueled by an undergraduate research experience aimed at supporting women in STEM. This early exposure to research ignited a curiosity that evolved into a dedicated career path. Pruyn's projects focus on using powered exoskeletons/assistive devices to improve mobility for stroke survivors, easing their day-to-day challenges.

What makes Pruyn's work remarkable is not just the scientific innovation but the tangible impact on individuals. "There's an

older gentleman that I work with a lot who has had a stroke. He does a happy dance every time he comes in because he's so excited to use the exoskeleton, which brings me so much joy. It really breathes life into the research that we get to do," Pruyn said. It's these human stories, woven through the fabric of technical achievement, that underscore the transformative potential of Pruyn's work.

Facing the future, Pruyn remains committed to pushing the bounds of bionic engineering. Whether her path leads her to academia or industry, her dedication to leveraging technology for the betterment of human mobility shines brightly. As she continues her Ph.D. journey, one thing is clear: Pruyn is not just engineering devices; she's engineering hope.

— by David Kale

## Where Accessibility Meets Snacking

Oaty Toaty is a gluten-free granola company working to turn around the bland, processed, low-quality reputation behind allergen-friendly foods. The brand is dedicated to providing fun, high-quality, and tasty snacks for those with dietary restrictions. Oaty Toaty was founded by Abby Cheney, a sophomore studying marketing at the University of Utah.

At age 11, Cheney was diagnosed with Celiac disease, which immediately limited the scope of snacks that she was able to enjoy. She noticed that gluten-free snack options were often overprocessed, tasteless, and lacked creativity.

“When you have an allergy, it’s hard to find food that works for you and tastes good,” Cheney said. “I wanted to make a snack that was easy to take on the go but was also good for you.”

With that in mind, Cheney decided to start coming up with her own line of gluten-free granola. It became an instant hit with her family, and she decided that she wanted to go further with it.

Cheney was then led to the University of Utah and Lassonde Founders — a residential student-entrepreneur program —

which helped her take the next steps to get Oaty Toaty off the ground.

Since the beginning of her time at Lassonde, Cheney has been able to develop her original granola recipe into an allergen-friendly brand that maintains quality and personality. Oaty Toaty currently carries three flavors: Blue Voodoo, Coco Loco, and PB&J. Cheney aspires to start selling her product in pop-up shops around Utah, as well as health stores and other supermarkets.

“I appreciate entrepreneurship because you’re always learning something new,” Cheney said. “This can make it challenging at times, but you get to grow throughout the process — and so do your customers. I feel like everyone deserves to enjoy snacking, and that’s not something people with allergies always get to do. That’s why I wanted to create an inclusive snack for everyone to enjoy.”

— by Mary Allen



Sean Andrews

## Accessibility in Movie Screenings

In an interconnected world where diversity is celebrated, language barriers still persist, even in the realm of entertainment. For movie enthusiasts, the thrill of watching films on the big screen can be dampened by a significant limitation — the language in which movies are presented. Most movie theaters predominantly show films in a single language, usually English, often leaving nonnative speakers feeling excluded.

However, University of Utah mechanical engineering student Christian Langell is on a mission to change this narrative through his startup, ET Soundworks.

ET Soundworks is working to create Bluetooth public broadcast transmitters capable of delivering high-definition audio in multiple languages. This innovative solution has the potential to redefine the

way we experience movies in theaters.

What sets ET Soundworks apart from others in the audio technology industry is their unyielding focus on customer empathy.

Langell said, “One of the core values of my company is empathy. Many startups focus solely on profits, but we’re committed to helping people.”

ET Soundworks is currently working closely with movie theater executives and conducting customer discovery to understand the real needs and challenges faced by theaters and nonnative English-speaking audiences.

While ET Soundworks’ primary focus is currently on movie theaters, the technology’s potential extends far beyond the big screen. Language accessibility can be applied to public events, United Nations talks, concerts, and more.

— by Sean Andrews



Abigail Cheney

## Advocating for Change

Sydney Kincart is a political science student leading disability advocacy. She came to the University of Utah to pursue disability studies in conjunction with political science.

Kincart has reshaped the Disability Law Center’s Community Lobbying and Advocacy Training Program, creating resources to strengthen advocacy training and engagement. The Disabled Rights Action Committee and National Federation of the Blind of Utah use her work to aid advocacy efforts.

“I had awesome examples of public service my whole life, especially my aunt,” Kincart said. “Awareness of her disability connected me to the disability community at a young age.”

Kincart hopes disability advocacy becomes a bigger focus. “Even though it’s something 1 in 4 people experience, there just is not

a lot of awareness about how it is impacted by policy,” Kincart said.

Participating in Gender on the Hill, a legislative politics class taught at the state capitol, provided Kincart with hands-on advocacy experience. “I was able to either play a role in stopping bills if they were something I was against or helping move them forward,” she said. She helped pass bills such as contraception for inmates, period products in schools, and making Juneteenth a holiday in Utah.

Kincart highlighted the importance of mentorship. “I feel really lucky to be leaving college with the support of Professor Zamora, other professors, and the Disability Law Center,” she said. “Find someone willing to advocate for you and help support you in making changes.”

— by Abigail Cheney

# 2

## RESEARCH



### Nondestructive Rail Monitoring

Yuning Wu is a structural engineering graduate from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Utah.

Now working at Stantec as a civil engineer, his graduate research focused on improving railroad infrastructure in Utah. He contributed greatly toward the first realtime rail track monitoring system on the Utah Transit Authority's FrontRunner track.

"My research focused on the nondestructive testing and structural health monitoring of civil infrastructures," Wu said. "The rail track is the most vital for the economy because of transportation and the shipment of things."

Wu's research focused on a testing method that is nondestructive and nondisruptive, enabling the monitoring of thermal stress and rail temperatures without disrupting traffic or modifying the track.

Monitoring and controlling the structural integrity of rail tracks is crucial due to the risk of thermal buckling, which is the primary cause of derailments.

"We tried to develop a machine learning algorithm that can utilize the data we have collected to predict the thermal stress," Wu said.

In November 2021, Wu and his team went to Vineyard, Utah, to install the rail track monitoring system on the FrontRunner track. "We need to keep the system working 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Wu said.

The system is used to collect data to test and compare the accuracy of their algorithm. For the past few years, they have collected enough data to verify their algorithm and correctly assume the status of the rail track with minimal error.

— by Lauren Nusbaum



### Increasing Seismic Resilience

Emily Williamson, a recent civil and environmental Ph.D. graduate from the University of Utah, is working to increase sustainability and seismic resilience in the construction of new structures.

Williamson's research focused on developing a mass timber buckling restrained braced frame, which can be used in buildings located in seismic regions.

"I am really interested in seismic resilience in buildings and sustainability," Williamson said. "Being able to build buildings with wood and wood systems increases the sustainability, as wood is a sustainable resource."

Currently, mass timber buildings use either a steel-braced buckling restrained frame or concrete shear walls as their main lateral force-resisting system. The brace Williamson tested has a steel-yielding core, which elongates and compresses as the building shakes, but

uses a mass timber casing. The mass timber casing around the steel core helps control the buckling of the core so it can have a more balanced response to tension and compression and dissipate the energy more effectively.

These buildings are more sustainable because timber is a renewable resource and is manufactured at a lower energy intensity than materials like concrete and steel. Additionally, mass timber buildings offer building envelopes that significantly reduce energy consumption and are inherently fire-resistant.

Williamson's innovation builds on research developed by a previous graduate student, Colton Murphy. She is currently assisting her former advisor, Chris Pantelides, and the current graduate student in his lab as a consultant on the next phase of this project.

— by Despina Giannopoulos





## ARTS

*Gracie Tidwell*

# Transcending Culture Through Art

Depicting the immigrant experience through his enchanting magical realism paintings and multimedia portraiture, Pablo Ayala expresses his intersectional identities through his artwork. His Mexican/American heritage, status as an undocumented immigrant, and double majors in art and biomedical engineering all contribute to his unique perspective.

Ayala's latest series personifies the Latin American cultural identity while allowing him to explore and expand on the internal conflict of being an immigrant in the landscape of Utah. "I hope to add to the discussion of sharing challenges concerning coming to terms with intersectional cultural identities as an immigrant with a yearning for a lost connection to heritage in a Western-centric country," Ayala said of the collection. In addition to this series, Ayala is an active member of the Artes de Mexico en Utah organization and serves on the Board for Cultural Transformation at the Utah Museum of Fine

Arts. Ayala has art on display at the Finch Lane Gallery and has had a residency at the Leonardo Museum.

Exploring the connection between art and science is one of Ayala's research goals. Ayala set up an exhibition revolving around art that captures the immigrant experience at the Finch Lane Gallery. To measure the impact of the art, he connected heart rate monitors to attendees and found that people with undocumented immigrant backgrounds responded strongly to the imagery depicted in the exhibit and had an improved response to stress after viewing the art on display.

Moving forward, Ayala plans to continue his research on art as a means of therapy. He is currently applying to medical schools across the country with a goal of earning an M.D. Ph.D. Ayala strives to continue amplifying immigrant voices as he looks toward his continued education and career.

— by *Gracie Tidwell*



## Your Average Bear

Become the sneakiest bear in the forest in “Your Average Bear,” a video game developed by undergraduate students at the University of Utah. The game was part of the Entertainment Arts and Engineering program’s capstone course, where students form teams to develop a game from start to finish.

“Your Average Bear” is a stealth comedy game about a black bear trying to sneak food away from campers. Using an animal-exclusive food-delivery app, UBear Eats, the bear delivers the stolen food to other animals in the forest.

The idea was originally pitched by Josh Poll, one of the game’s animators and artists. He wanted to combine real-life scenarios with the classic stealth games he is passionate about.

“There are all of these videos on social media of bears getting into trouble,” said Devyn Hogan-Duffy, a 2D artist and UI/UX designer for the game. “We often see things from a human perspective, but we wanted to see what it would look like from the bear’s perspective.”

While many stealth games are on the serious side, “Your Average Bear” takes a more lighthearted approach. The bear uses unconventional methods to evade the humans, like hiding behind comically small tree branches and throwing rocks at beehives to create distractions. The game also includes a closet where the player can cycle through silly accessories and costumes for the bear, such as a ranger hat or a cartoon robber.

“The attention to detail we gave when working on the project is something I really appreciate not only about the game itself but about our team,” Hogan-Duffy said. “It was a joy to work on, and I am very happy that I landed on the project and group that I did.”

The game launched on Steam in April 2023. Although the team is focused on other ventures, Hogan-Duffy said there’s always a chance for more bear antics.

— by *Despina Giannopoulos*



Sean Andrews

## Keeping the U in Tune

Keeping pianos in tune is no small task. It requires a specific skill set and a deep understanding of how to adjust and fine-tune each piano's individual sound. Lassonde Studios resident Alon Meir has these skills and started his own piano tuning business. Alon Meir Piano Tuning services pianos throughout Salt Lake, including the piano on the first floor of Lassonde.

Meir's inspiration to start a piano tuning business began when he realized how expensive it was to have his own piano tuned. "I was already so far into it and so convinced that I could learn to tune pianos that I just decided that I'm going to do this," he said. "The amount of hours I had to put into it, it kind of had to become a business," he added.

Running a business while being a student can be challenging. Still, Meir explains that owning a service-based business

like his makes it easier to balance both.

"It's really convenient, actually, with this business because I'm the only employee and the owner. All of my work is shaped around my schedule," he said.

Meir acknowledges that the piano technician industry is unique and there isn't much room to stand out. However, he said having a website and a Google business page has been a hit with his clients. "A good 10-15% of my clients have told me their piano tuner just retired or passed away, and there aren't a lot of people learning trades like this anymore," he added.

Meir's passion, skill, and innovative approach to business have made him stand out in the industry. Whether you're a professional pianist or a casual player, finding a reliable and skilled piano tuner like Meir is essential to keep your instrument sounding its best.

— by Sean Andrews



Despina Giannopoulos

## From Boot Camp to Novel Writing

Waking up at 4:30 a.m. every morning to write is not an easy feat, but University of Utah student Matthew Mitchell was up for the challenge. Mitchell recently completed the yearlong honors novel writing workshop taught by Professor Michael Gills, where students commit to a rigorous writing schedule to complete a full length novel.

Mitchell is a United States Marine Corps veteran studying computer science and philosophy of science at the University of Utah. He had always thought about writing a novel and thought the class would be both a challenge and a break from the monotony of school.

Over two semesters, Mitchell completed a 250-page manuscript based on his experience in boot camp. The novel starts with Mitchell signing up for boot camp and ends with him graduating, with time jumps showing what led him to join and what the fallout was

once he was out, exploring the contradiction between what was simultaneously the best and worst time of his life.

"It's therapeutic to write about your past as if you're a character in a book," Mitchell said.

The course requires that students write two pages a day, completing an original novel by year's end. Mitchell said his biggest accomplishment in the workshop was just making it through.

"When I started the course, writing ten pages a week was easy," he said. "By the end, it was hard to write anything at all."

Though he has set aside the project for now, he hopes to revisit his manuscript in the future.

"Eventually, I think this idea could turn into a series," he said. "There are so many stories I didn't get to tell."

— by Despina Giannopoulos



Tom Glasmann



## The Power of Play

Lauren Carn is a junior in the theater teaching program at the University of Utah. She has been named an Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher for her research on the intersection of mental health and participation in the arts.

She served as a judge in "Healing Out Loud," a film project that focused on reducing the stigma surrounding mental health. Carn also uses her writing to communicate important messages about mental health. Some of her works include "Ollie Does NOT Love Science" and "Consolation Prize."

"Ollie Does NOT Love Science" is a book written alongside her friend, Maria Jensen, a fellow theater teaching student. This book is about a student who uses

their performing arts skills to cope with their fears surrounding a science fair.

"Consolation Prize" is a play written by Carn. It was part of a staged reading by Open Door Productions and modified to fit a broader audience. She looked at core standards within the Utah education system and refined the play to take it into schools and use it as an example of using the arts to improve mental health.

The research she has done so far has focused primarily on youth, but she plans to expand her work to include all ages. She believes that there is importance in making art because it's fun, rather than striving for perfection. "It's OK to create art to just create art," she said.

— by Tom Glasmann

## Western Contemporary Art

Pursuing a master's in business isn't often a high priority for professional artists. But when Colter May, contemporary western artist and founder of Colter May LLC, heard about University of Utah's Master of Business Creation (MBC) program he was intrigued. "I hoped this program would help me continue the momentum I had built as an artist while gaining strong business skills to ultimately lead to a thriving art career," he said. As the first professional painter to be admitted into the MBC program, he was excited to see that the program could be tailored to fit the needs of an artist.

May's art is inspired by his Montana roots and his love for the native land and animals of the west, which he developed through hunting, fishing, and hiking in the Bridger Mountains as a child. As he and his family have lived in and traveled throughout the west, his passion for the region has only grown. It is not uncommon to find him teaching his kids how to spot camouflaged animals or practicing his elk call. His

vibrant sunsets and dynamic wildlife reflect his sense of discovery and wonder, and he hopes to bring this energy into the homes and businesses of his clients.

In his artist statement, May expresses, "Ultimately, my goal as an artist is to serve as an artistic bridge between past and present, tradition and innovation, and to inspire others to explore the West with the same sense of wonder and curiosity that has defined this region for generations." This passion for the American West is apparent in his work. However, he recognized the challenge of communicating this passion in business terms and developing the systems to bring his work to more people. This led him to choose the MBC program, which offers flexibility to allow him to remain in the studio while learning valuable business skills beyond the brush and easel.

"I selected the online MBC program because I knew I wanted to remain in the studio," he said. "The flexibility that it offers has been really helpful to me."



# 4 COMMUNITY

*Gracie Tidwell*

## Black in Business

When business students Nyayeek Deng, Jhareil Hutchinson, Emmanuel Okongo, Degoal Moses, and Abukar Hassan noticed there wasn't a community for Black business students, they decided to create one. Black in Business is a student organization formed in 2023 to bring a voice to the David Eccles School of Business about the Black student body, expose Black business students to business opportunities locally and nationally, and tell stories about the success and experiences of Black business leaders to current Black business students.

Black in Business aims to create a space where Black students can grow professionally and create a network — especially for first generation students who may not have access to a professional network through their family. The student organization hosts monthly events and workshops where business and non-business majors can gather to learn professional skills and enjoy the community. They have hosted a resume workshop with Morgan Stanley and learned from a variety of guest speakers.

The impact of having a sense of community has been transformative within the Eccles School and beyond. Both the

founders and the members feel the impact of having a place to connect, share experiences, and grow their skills. They have felt support from the community, including the Eccles School and local businesses. Black in Business defines success for their group as increasing their reach and increasing attendance to events, and are seeing the fruits of their labor as they receive positive feedback from students and outreach from businesses who want to support events.

Deng, CEO of Black in Business, has grown personally and professionally through her experience as a founding member of the student organization. For other students considering starting their own student group, Deng offers this advice: "Always ask for help. Nobody is opposed to helping you, and everyone here wants to see you grow. There are people who really care to hear what students think and want to help students. You just have to start."

— by *Gracie Tidwell*



## Exploring Toxic Stress

How do childhood adversities impact health in adulthood? This is a question that Mackaully Parada, a second-year doctoral student at the University of Utah College of Social Work, is determined to answer. Formerly working as a licensed clinical social worker in a medical setting, Parada's patients ranged from youth facing chronic illnesses to geriatric patients. She found a special interest in working with pediatric patients, which inspired her to pursue research around social determinants of health and investigate life-course implications of childhood conditions on adult health outcomes.

Specifically, Parada is interested in the phenomenon of toxic stress. Toxic stress can occur when a child experiences repeated or prolonged adversity without sufficient protective input from supportive adult caregivers. Experiencing toxic stress in childhood is linked to health issues throughout adulthood, including cancer. Parada is studying the long-term health consequences associated with toxic stress, with an emphasis on the ways through which maladaptive behaviors in

youth translate into disease in adulthood.

Parada has submitted several papers for publication, including a systematic review on how toxic stress has been operationalized in research. Through her research, she realized that both the definition of toxic stress and the methods used to study it were inconsistent across studies. Starting with recommendations for measurement and standardization, she aims to use her research to develop more precise interventions that target and address the unique needs of children living in overwhelmingly stressful conditions.

Parada plans to stay on the trajectory of improving youth development and planning, advancing the understanding of toxic stress along the way. Reflecting on her doctoral experience thus far, Parada advised, "As with most great things in life, if you're waiting for the perfect time to start, you're likely going to miss it. The world needs change-makers right now who aren't afraid to ask new questions in the pursuit of a better future for the next generation."

— by *Gracie Tidwell*



## Pioneering Legal Aid

The Pro Bono Initiative Prison Legal Site, directed by law students Audreauna Lowry and Skye McBride, represents a pivotal advancement in providing legal aid within the Utah State Correctional Facility. Founded in October 2023, this initiative has been instrumental in offering otherwise unavailable civil legal services and information to incarcerated individuals.

Under the mentorship of Pro Bono Initiative director, Caisa Royer, the project has flourished. Lowry highlighted, "This would never have been possible without Royer. She's the soul behind this project." The collaboration with attorney and student volunteers not only delivers essential legal aid but also significantly contributes to the educational growth of law students. Through the program, students conduct in-person intakes

with incarcerated clients and identify their individual legal needs. Students might also research the issues and compile legal resources or observe attorney consultations for clients with more complicated legal issues such as immigration.

While the program has achieved notable successes, Lowry and McBride were quick to note the ongoing challenges and gaps in providing comprehensive legal access to this community. "We're working hard, but we still have far to go in ensuring access to justice for all," they said, underlining the initiative's ongoing commitment to bridge these gaps.

Lowry and McBride also expressed gratitude for the community support, noting, "We're thankful for all the peers and people that have helped and volunteered. We have a good community."

— by *David Kale*



Gracie Tidwell

## Simplifying the Recycling Process

Logan Cook, a recent entrepreneurship graduate from the University of Utah, always felt inclined to create. While pursuing his degree, he noticed a problem with recyclable items ending up in landfills and decided to use his creativity to come up with a solution.

Cook's business, Loop, aims to help the planet by keeping recyclables out of landfills.

Normal recycling requires that customers separate items into glass, metal, plastic, and compost. If done incorrectly, one wrong item can contaminate the entire bin and cause everything to end up in a landfill. In comes Loop: a convenient and comprehensive recycling solution.

The way Loop works is simple. For \$19.99/month, customers receive an 18-gallon Loop recycling bin and place all recyclable items inside — no separating required. Contracted drivers pick up the bins and take them back to Loop's facility for sorting. Loop then takes the separated items to their respective recycling facilities, ensuring nothing ends up in the landfill.

Loop's mission is to break down barriers for the everyday recycler, helping the environment along the way. The simplicity of placing all recyclables in one bin allows everyone to recycle effectively, regardless of their knowledge of recycling. Cook is constantly looking for creative ways to help the environment. "If you're going to recycle, you might as well do it right," he said.

Beyond residential clients, Loop also innovatively services nine Megaplex theaters. In collaboration with Recyclops, Loop takes the leftover popcorn and pizza from the theaters and brings them to cattle farms and food pantries, in addition to servicing their regular recycling. A focus on innovation, convenience, and problem-solving sets Loop apart from the competition.

Looking forward, Cook wants to expand the operating area of Loop to include the entire Salt Lake City region. He also wants to expand the range of items they accept. Between the current impact Loop is making and Cook's plans, Loop will certainly be a name to watch out for.

— by Gracie Tidwell



## Innovating Access to Clean Water

Pure Solutions is working to make water purity testing more accessible for everyone to ensure that they are drinking safe water.

The company was co-founded by Vivek Anandh, Adrian Suchayo, and David Sun. Anandh and Suchayo are students at the University of Utah, and Sun is attending Yale.

Their device utilizes a probe that can be placed into a sample of water and will measure various parameters to determine if the sample is within optimal quality and safety standards.

The founders' motivation for starting Pure Solutions began when Anandh's family moved to their new home in Utah and faced water quality issues.

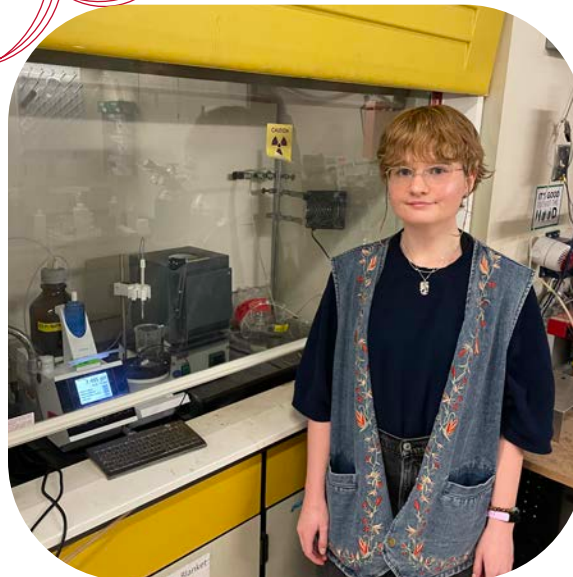
"We first noticed there was a problem when a white film appeared on the dishes and utensils that we would put in the dishwasher," Anandh said. "We quickly became concerned and hired a water

testing professional for a few hundred dollars. He informed us that our house had some of the hardest water that he had seen in his career and that prolonged consumption could have led to serious health effects. I realized that if my family hadn't been financially stable, we wouldn't have been able to hire that professional help — not everyone can."

Their device is aimed at supporting those in communities that are more likely to be subjected to contaminated water. It is reusable and promises greater quality and accuracy in its testing results, while still being competitively low in price.

"Our goal is to create a future where pure water is accessible to everyone, not just a luxury for few to enjoy," Anandh said.

— by *Mary Allen*



Tom Glasmann

## The Stabilization of Salt

Allison Harward is a senior studying chemical engineering at the University of Utah. She has co-authored four papers and given several conference presentations. Her research focuses on using molten salt for sustainable nuclear energy.

One important use of molten salt is in the process of nuclear recycling. It is used as the fluid in an electrorefiner that separates uranium from spent fuel rods. This makes it possible to reuse the uranium as fuel for nuclear reactors.

The problem with this process is that the molten salt's composition changes over time from processing spent fuel. Ultimately, the salt has a high melting point and must be disposed of. This salt is hygroscopic, meaning it tends to absorb water from the air to the point of forming a liquid salt solution, which is very corrosive and can readily corrode its container and leak into the environment. Given the radioactivity of the salt, this would be highly detrimental to the environment.

Harward has worked on a team of researchers that include her advisor, Professor Michael Simpson, and scientists from Idaho National Laboratory. She has taken an innovative approach to stabilizing the element, by utilizing a microporous material known as Zeolite 4A. Zeolite 4A has a crystalline structure that works to make it act as a sponge for salts such as those used for uranium electrorefining. Various chemical exchanges occur between the molten salt and Zeolite 4A, making the molten salt less hygroscopic.

Ultimately, this salt still needs to be disposed of. "This intermediate waste form is a safer version of the molten salt, and it has less risk of corrosion. It isn't a final waste form, as it requires further processing, but it is a better alternative," she said.

Although she is in her final semester, she plans to continue her work after graduation.

— by *Tom Glasmann*





## Financial Innovation for Global Health

Born and raised in Ghana and a 2023 CNN Hero, Osei Boateng is improving global health by simplifying how people pay for healthcare with his startup OneHealth+. He is growing the business in the Master of Business Creation (MBC) program at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business.

OneHealth+ is a digital platform that offers a "healthpass" for people to pay for their healthcare or someone else's from anywhere in the world. Powered by blockchain technology, the platform is designed to provide transparency, security, and efficiency in healthcare payments.

"By moving away from traditional payment methods, we are eliminating the common issues associated with them," said Boateng, who joined the MBC program after receiving a biology degree and a master's degree in healthcare administration from Cornell University. "Our platform is committed to making quality healthcare services accessible to everyone, and our digital healthpass is a key component of this mission."

Boateng's inspiration for OneHealth+ stems from personal experiences in rural Ghana, where health disparities were

stark. Witnessing community members embark on challenging journeys for healthcare, Boateng decided to take action.

"My goal with OneHealth+ is ambitious yet essential: to eliminate financial barriers to timely healthcare access, ensuring that everyone can receive the care they need when they need it," Boateng said. "The vision behind OneHealth+ is grounded in the belief that every life deserves equitable access to prompt, high-quality healthcare."

OneHealth+ is not just a startup; it's a transformative force in the healthcare industry, addressing crucial issues of accessibility and financing, Boateng said. As he continues his entrepreneurial journey, guided by the principles of equity and quality, he wants OneHealth+ to stand as a beacon of hope for a healthier, more accessible future in healthcare.

— by Ella James

## Making Health Data More Inclusive

Bella Tukuafu Johnson, a founder in the University of Utah's Master of Business Creation program, is reshaping the landscape of clinical research through her startup, Kalo Clinical Research. It helps pharmaceutical companies make better medicine by including diverse and underrepresented communities in their studies.

"We hope to stand as a beacon to all clinical research sites in our industry for equity and inclusion of all people as we improve medicine and health for humanity as a whole," Johnson said.

What sets Kalo Clinical Research apart is its commitment to inclusivity within clinical trials. Johnson's company overcomes the common barriers that have hindered access in the past by establishing research sites in underrepresented communities, ensuring a diverse representation that larger networks often struggle to achieve.

Born and raised in Punalu'u, Hawaii, amidst a supportive family, Johnson's journey led her to Brigham Young University and then to the University of Utah, where she worked in health research for over 20 years. Unexpectedly thrust into

entrepreneurship, she acquired and transformed a struggling clinical research company into the thriving entity that is Kalo Clinical Research today.

In 2022, Kalo Clinical Research relocated its research clinic from an affluent area in Salt Lake City to the heart of West Valley City, Utah, creating immediate geographical support for those who didn't know clinical trials were even an option, garnering widespread community support.

Looking ahead, Kalo Clinical Research aspires to be a leading example of equity and inclusion in the clinical research industry.

"In the realm of social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion, it is so exciting to represent hope and progress with tangible steps and real evidence that we are making a difference," Johnson said. She envisions expanding to build additional sites in other historically underrepresented populations, ensuring that access to clinical trials is not a barrier to participation and inclusion.

— by *Ella James*



Mary Allen

## A Better Catheter for Neurosurgery

Advancements in the world of medical technology are saving and improving lives every single day, but issues with current procedures cannot guarantee that patients will receive perfect care. That's why there are medical innovators working around the clock to solve these issues, with a recent example being the SoundPass team at the University of Utah.

Founded by medical students Matt Findlay, Travis Hotchkiss, Jordan Johnson and Kyril Cole, SoundPass aims to vastly improve how external ventricular drains are placed during neurosurgery.

Findlay explained that following trauma or other pathologies, patients can have swelling within their brain that requires immediate drainage. This is standardly accomplished

through the placement of a catheter into the right lateral ventricle of the brain, however, due to the urgency of this procedure, image guidance is usually not possible. Therefore, this procedure is most often performed blindly. Numerous attempts are often required, causing additional unnecessary damage to patient brains.

SoundPass adds an imaging component to this procedure by using an ultrasound-tipped stylet inside the lumen of the EVD catheter to give the surgeon visibility when performing this procedure. They hope that with the real-time visualization of the ventricle, patient morbidity and mortality associated with this procedure will decrease.

— by Mary Allen



Vyana Dang

## Tech-Enabled Cardiac Imaging

Mark Ibrahim, a former student in the University of Utah's Master of Business Creation program, is a cardiologist with specialized training in multimodality cardiovascular imaging and an interest in medical informatics.

Now, he can add "entrepreneur" to his many credentials as the founder of CardiaSpace, a tech-enabled telehealth company specializing in advanced cardiac imaging.

Ibrahim pursued his advanced cardiac imaging fellowship training at the University of Utah's School of Medicine, where he was also the co-director of the advanced cardiac imaging program.

His passion for leveraging technology in healthcare led him to start CardiaSpace. The company focuses on enabling hospitals and radiology imaging centers to perform contemporary

advanced cardiac diagnostics. They do so by setting up refined cardiac imaging protocols on the facility's eligible scanners, securely transferring images to their HIPAA-compliant server, and providing a timely interpretation of the studies utilizing a proprietary automated workflow that assists the reading physicians in the image analysis and reporting process.

Ibrahim hopes to position CardiaSpace as the predominant tech-enabled telehealth for advanced cardiac imaging across the nation. CardiaSpace's team wants every patient to have access to the best cardiac diagnostics regardless of geography or the limited local expertise in certain areas.

— by Vyana Dang

# 7

## OUTDOOR GEAR



### Plant-Based Ski & Snowboard Wax

Erik Smith, the founder of Board Budder, a company specializing in 100% plant-based snowboard and ski wax, is not just creating a product: he's pioneering a movement toward sustainable and eco-friendly practices in the snow sports industry. He is working toward this goal and growing his business in the Master of Business Creation program at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business.

Board Budder is more than plant-based snowboard and ski wax; it's a commitment to revolutionize the industry. Smith and his team offer ski and snowboard accessories alongside their eco-friendly wax.

"Traditionally, ski wax contains non-biodegradable or toxic chemicals such as paraffin wax, a byproduct of oil refining, and fluorocarbon, a compound linked to serious health complications," Smith said. "We hope to offer an alternative, plant-based product that eliminates health risks and reduces the ski industry's environmental impact while promoting the fun of skiing and snowboarding — the ultimate reason we love

to get out on the slopes. We want to help everybody shred responsibly."

The genesis of Board Budder was sparked by Park City's announcement of new regulations on certain chemicals in ski wax. Motivated by a love for the sport and a commitment to sustainability, Smith sought to develop an alternative wax that aligns with environmental goals while maintaining the thrill of skiing and snowboarding.

Smith envisions expanding Board Budder's presence across the United States and securing a spot on the shelves of major outdoor retail stores. The ambitious plan includes breaking into the surf and skate industry and fostering a community of enthusiasts dedicated to preserving board sports.

Board Budder isn't just about wax; it's a symbol of conscious consumerism and a step towards ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy the thrill of the slopes sustainably.

— by Ella James



Despina Giannopoulos

## Keeping Your Stickers Safe

For many people, the stickers on their water bottles are valuable. Whether they have sentimental value or are part of a collection that took time to curate, keeping these stickers pristine is crucial — and challenging.

Luckily, recent University of Utah entrepreneurship graduate James Craft has a solution. While pursuing his degree he founded Sticker Armor, a company making clear protective sleeves to preserve the outside of a water bottle from everyday use.

The idea for Sticker Armor came after the outside of several of his favorite water bottles were ruined on a canyoneering trip.

“Utah slot canyons aren’t exactly smooth,” Craft said. “I had my water bottles strapped to the outside of my backpack, and they were destroyed.”

He saw that his friends were having the same issue

and were disappointed when their favorite stickers were damaged, so he started to look for a solution.

The sleeve acts like a screen protector for your phone, absorbing the scratches that would otherwise damage your stickers. It is made of a clear plastic that uses heat to shrink to the outside of the bottle. Because the material is non-adhesive, the stickers are preserved even after the sleeve is removed.

Sticker Armor offers sleeves for Hydro Flask and Nalgene bottles, but Craft wants to expand. He also plans to ramp up advertising and hopes to get Sticker Armor into outdoor retail stores like REI. Then, he wants to move on to different projects.

“There’s a lot more to do,” Craft said. “I have a lot of ideas.”

— by *Despina Giannopoulos*



Gracie Tidwell

## Gear Made for Adventure

Skiing, camping, fishing, hiking — you name it, and Logan Going probably does it. A born-and-raised outdoor enthusiast from Oregon, the University of Utah business student is turning his passion for the outdoors into an enterprising startup, Going Outdoors.

Going’s business seeks to solve problems with outdoor activities that he himself experiences. His first product is an innovative ski mask that’s specifically designed with both comfort and functionality in mind. During his frequent ski adventures, Going became irritated with typical ski masks that exposed too much of his face, resulting in sunburns. But the mask became uncomfortable and too hot when he pulled it up over his mouth and nose.

Going knew there had to be a better way to design ski masks that kept the skier’s face warm and comfortable while still allowing enough airflow through the mask.

He collected different fabric materials from thrift stores and taught himself to sew in the Make Space at Lassonde Studios. At first, he couldn’t even sew a straight line, but 15 prototypes later, he created the final design. Going tested it himself on the slopes and gained valuable feedback from other skiers and boarders on the mountain.

Now that he has his first product designed, Going is working on securing an LLC, setting up his website, and getting his first batch of products manufactured. He plans on starting small by selling at the University of Utah, taking advantage of the school’s avid outdoor sports community. From there, Going wants to expand statewide and eventually nationwide. He has no shortage of ideas for the future, ranging from an expanded ski gear line to sun sweatshirts, rain gear, and beyond.

— by *Gracie Tidwell*



Gracie Tidwell

## Beard Oil Made with Real Ingredients

When Gary Urry, a medical laboratory major at the University of Utah, noticed a lack of facial hair products made without synthetic ingredients, he decided to craft his own solution. After taking an organic chemistry class while working towards his undergraduate degree, Urry felt inspired to start experimenting with better ingredients. His company, Beast and Baron, creates premium beard oils and facial hair products made with all-natural ingredients. Beast and Baron's good-for-you beard products are making a splash in the facial hair care industry in Utah.

All of Beast and Baron's products are crafted with real, simple ingredients. Urry creates each product himself in small batches. He offers unique products that come in a variety of scents like Rocky Mountain Pine, Trapper's Leather, Pacific NW Coffee, and Desert Sagebrush. Some of his products include beard balm, mustache wax, and beard oil. He creates all of his products using a base of natural ingredients like beeswax and jojoba oil. Then, he experiments by adding creative ingredients and scents. This differs from the ingredients used by most other facial hair

products that contain synthetic ingredients and filler oils to increase profit margins. Beast and Baron also differs from the competition because all products are handmade, ensuring the best ingredients and quality. Urry has perfected the ingredient ratios for his current products and is always crafting new innovative scents and products for Beast and Baron.

Urry feels motivated by the creative process of crafting his products and the other aspects of running his own business. He enjoys being an entrepreneur because he is able to have full control of his products from start to finish. Through running Beast and Baron, Urry has learned about everything from packaging design and branding to product creation.

In the future, Urry would like to expand Beast and Baron's product line to include a wider range of products. He also wants to expand beyond products that are only for those with facial hair by offering products crafted for everybody.

— by Gracie Tidwell

## Crafting Sustainable Jewelry

Brie Wahlstrom, a University of Utah student studying strategic communications, is turning heads in the world of jewelry with her brand WHAT iF. With a passion for creativity and sustainability, Wahlstrom is redefining the art of jewelry making while advocating for ethical practices.

It all started with a spark of curiosity. When Wahlstrom first got laid off from her job during the coronavirus pandemic, she tried to become a silversmith. Failure after failure, Wahlstrom learned the intricacies of being a silversmith. Recognizing her talent and eagerness to learn, her teacher provided her with extra tools to fuel her passion. Fast forward to today, and Wahlstrom has transformed her love for jewelry making into a thriving business. With determination and a touch of creativity, she was ready to kickstart her entrepreneurial journey.

But WHAT iF is more than just a business — it's a brand with a purpose. Wahlstrom is committed to sustainability in an industry plagued by unethical practices. From sourcing ethically produced stones to incorporating recycled materials, Wahlstrom

ensures that every piece leaves a minimal footprint on the planet. Her goal is to create a fully sustainable jewelry company that sets an example for others in the industry.

Unique designs are at the heart of WHAT iF. Wahlstrom's creative process begins with finding the perfect stone that captures her imagination. She infuses her creations with a distinct flair, drawing inspiration from her surroundings, personal experiences, and diverse cultures. No two pieces are alike, making each item a one-of-a-kind treasure for her customers.

With her eye-catching designs, unwavering commitment to sustainability, and dedication to customer satisfaction, Wahlstrom is carving a niche for herself in the jewelry industry. WHAT iF is more than just a jewelry brand — it's a testament to the power of combining creativity, sustainability, and entrepreneurship to make a positive impact on the world.

— by David Kale



Elle Williams

## Redefining Personal Care for Gen Z Girls

A University of Utah student startup powered by girls, SadieB Personal Care recently launched eight hair shampoos and conditioners in 507 Target stores and the Target website.

Co-founder and CEO Sadie Bowler is pursuing a marketing degree at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business. She began working on SadieB with her sister Abby when she was a junior in high school when her passion for hair merged with a growing consciousness of the damage being done by the messaging in the beauty industry. During her freshman year of college, she launched the company with 16 products — including shampoos, conditioners, body washes and body sprays — with support from the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute.

"Having our products in Target feels unreal," Bowler said. "This is exactly what

our vision was, and the fact that it happened so quickly is blowing our minds. We hope that we can show girls that they are capable of anything and that lifting up women is so powerful. That is evident through our story, and we are thrilled to have our product and message so accessible to girls."

Bowler hopes that SadieB will become the number one personal care brand for girls. She also wants to make a real difference in the mental health crisis girls are facing by providing resources and actionable steps for preventative mental health care.

"Every day, I have to consciously decide to be kind to myself, let myself make mistakes, learn quickly, and take care of my mental hygiene," Bowler said. "I need the SadieB message just as much as any other girl."

— by *Despina Giannopoulos*



Despina Giannopoulos

## Fighting to End Fashion Waste

When Kaitlyn Oliva learned how fashion negatively impacts the environment, she saw an opportunity to make a change. Oliva is the founder of Pressed, a subscription-based service that provides high-quality, comfortable, and eco-friendly clothing.

Oliva is working on Pressed as a founder in the Lassonde Founders program at the University of Utah's Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, a residential program for active undergraduate entrepreneurs that want to launch or grow a company. Her experience in the program has been pivotal in starting her own business.

"I wasn't really sure what the Founders program was at first, but I thought 'why not?'" she said. "It has been really helpful in starting my business. It's great being able to lean on the mentors and learn from their

experiences. I know they're always there if I have any questions, even random ones."

Pressed started as a high school project where Oliva upcycled gently used jeans into pencil bags that she then donated to low-income elementary schools. That grew into presenting to elementary schools about sustainability, and Oliva knew she wanted to do more.

By upcycling thrifted clothing and using biodegradable packaging, Pressed aims to be 100% sustainable. Oliva hopes to bring awareness to how clothing choices can contribute to fashion waste and pollution. She also wants to make sure we are improving and heading in the right direction for the well-being of future generations.

— by *Despina Giannopoulos*





# TECHNOLOGY

*Abigail Cheney*

## Fueling Future Space Missions

University of Utah students are engineering future space mission technology. At the 2023 NASA Breakthrough, Innovative, and Game-Changing (BIG) Idea Challenge, a graduate team led by Collin Andersen and John Otero won the Artemis Award, the highest honor. Every year, this challenge targets problems on the moon, the 2023 theme being Lunar Forge: extracting materials and building using lunar rock.

The winning report, "Production of Steel from Lunar Regolith Through Carbonyl Iron Refining," developed a device equipping astronauts with metal in space. "When it comes to sending a rocket into space, over 90% of the weight is fuel," Andersen said. Space for equipment and metal is limited.

The team created a two-chamber device to pressurize iron out of moon soil. "In a single, compact step, you extract, purify, and

turn iron into a powder suitable for 3D printing," Andersen said. "This can help replace equipment and fix damaged parts."

"What is the next step?" said Otero. "NASA or other companies can take this idea, make it on a bigger scale, and then hopefully one day it will be on a lunar mission."

The team was honored to win the Artemis Award and the chance to compete against brilliant space innovations nationwide. Mentored by Professor Hong Sohn and the Utah Space Consortium, the team is composed of Andersen, Otero, Olivia Dale, Christian Norman, Cole Walker, Jason Sheets, Talon Townsend, Juliana Ortiz, Olivia Slane, Jordan Contreras, and Jarom Chamberlin.

— *by Abigail Cheney*

## Improving Truck Driver Recruiting

Blendyd Studios is a company focused on bringing high-tech, mobile-first, automated solutions to truck driver recruitment. According to CEO Morgan Williams, "We are transforming the industry by making hiring fast, easy, and streamlined."

The company automates manual tasks in recruitment processes, leveraging automated and customized text messaging to make the candidate experience more seamless, and integrating with a company's existing email and scheduling tech stack to make the process more efficient for candidates and recruiters. Additionally, the company has a data dashboard that helps recruiters track and prioritize candidates, so they don't waste time on those that aren't qualified or interested in the roles.

Williams is confident that Blendyd Studios has the opportunity to help the trucking industry transition into the

future. She noted, "The trucking industry heavily relies on talent. There is currently a shortage of 80,000 drivers, which is expected to double in the next decade."

Blendyd Studios is positioning itself to solve the immediate issues and wants to shepherd the trucking industry into the future with its technology. Blendyd Studios wants to ensure that the trucking industry can access untapped talent pools such as Gen Z, millennials, and women. With mobile-first tech, the company has the opportunity to do this.

— *by Sean Andrews*



## A Convenient Home for Your AirPods

Dolly and Phil Casper, a husband and wife team who graduated from the Master of Business Creation program at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business, are the co-founders of STOHZ.

Their product, called the STOHZ PIN, is a small, lightweight AirPods holder that people can attach to themselves, like a magnetic nametag. This holder also uses strong magnets to secure the AirPods without the need for a lid. It's designed to be a place where you can conveniently stow your AirPods while you're on the go without the hassle of a large, cumbersome case.

"We see our device working in several different environments such as gym-goers, travelers, businesspeople on the go, and busy college students who may need to quickly and continually transition between their sound and

their surroundings," Phil said. "We've even discussed the product with our middle-school-aged sons, whose friends think wearing STOHZ could be drip."

Dolly's idea for STOHZ came from her constantly misplacing her AirPods because she didn't have pockets. She also found the case cumbersome when trying to answer a call quickly.

"Dolly's a creative, and she'll often come to me with her ideas, but I'm kind of a realist," Phil said. "But this idea stuck out to me as one that could really go somewhere."

Dolly began with a variety of different prototypes, her first being a simple magnet to test the feasibility of the idea. From there, the Caspers have worked with product designers and tech professionals to develop what has eventually become their signature product.



David Kale

## Thermal and Visual Imaging

At the forefront of technological innovation, Emma Wadsworth, an electrical and computer engineering major, is transforming the way we integrate thermal and visual imaging. Her project aims to develop a machine learning model that can seamlessly translate between thermal (infrared) and RGB (visual) images, a critical advancement for applications ranging from autonomous navigation to environmental monitoring.

Wadsworth embarked on this journey from a simple class project, driven by curiosity and a passion for unexplored territories in imaging technology. "It started in a class," she said. "I devoted far more hours than were probably reasonable, and I kind of fell in love."

The crux of Wadsworth's work addresses a significant challenge: the limitations of thermal imaging, such as lower resolution and

the high cost of thermal cameras.

Navigating the complexities of research, Wadsworth acknowledges the lack of a predefined path. "There's not a blueprint already for how to do most research problems," she said. "It's the most interesting and difficult part of it because that's not something they teach you in school." This statement not only reflects the challenges she faced but also her determination to contribute meaningful advancements to the field.

Emma Wadsworth's project not only offers a promising leap forward in the capabilities of machine learning and image processing but also sets the stage for future innovations in how we perceive and utilize imaging technology across various spectrums.

— by David Kale

# RESOURCE DIRECTORY

**ArtsBridge:** An interdisciplinary arts education outreach program. [artsbridge.utah.edu](https://artsbridge.utah.edu)

**ArtsForce:** A two-day conference for art students to learn about how to share their creative work. [artsforceutah.com](https://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](https://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. [asu.utah.edu](https://asu.utah.edu)

**Bench to Bedside:** A competition for medical, engineering, and business students to collaborate to develop or improve a medical device. [bit.ly/utah-b2b](https://bit.ly/utah-b2b)

**Bennion Center:** Program with a mission to mobilize people to strengthen communities through learning, scholarship, and advocacy. [bennioncenter.org](https://bennioncenter.org)

**Company Launch:** Apply for dedicated office space and customized support at Lassonde Studios through this program. [lassonde.utah.edu/launch](https://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](https://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](https://utahutes.com/elevate)

**Entertainment Arts & Engineering:** Interdisciplinary program where students design and develop video games. [games.utah.edu](https://games.utah.edu)

**Food Entrepreneur:** Learn about food entrepreneurship, what it takes to open a restaurant, and more. [lassonde.utah.edu/food](https://lassonde.utah.edu/food)

**The Gapp Lab:** A student game-development center for health and education-related video games and apps. [library.med.utah.edu/synapse/gapp](https://library.med.utah.edu/synapse/gapp)

**Get Seeded:** Pitch your business idea to your peers to receive seed funding for your venture. [lassonde.utah.edu/getseeded](https://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](https://eccles.utah.edu/global-entp)

**Global Public Health:** Promotes health and medical development, leading to measurable improvements. [globalhealth.utah.edu](https://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](https://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](https://lassonde.utah.edu/hsuec)

**Hinckley Internship Programs:** Internship opportunities are available to students interested in politics. [hinckley.utah.edu](https://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](https://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](https://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.utah.edu/kahlert](https://eccles.utah.edu/kahlert)

**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](https://lassonde.utah.edu)

**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](https://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](https://lassonde.utah.edu/new-venture-development)

**Lassonde Studios:** The home for student entrepreneurs and innovators. All students welcome to live, create, and launch here. [lassonde.utah.edu/studios](https://lassonde.utah.edu/studios)

**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](https://eccles.utah.edu/lassondex)

# RESOURCE DIRECTORY (CONT.)

**Learning Abroad/Global Engagement:** Students participate in hundreds of programs all over the world based on their interests and career goals. [learningabroad.utah.edu](https://learningabroad.utah.edu)

**LGBT Resource Center Intersectional Leadership Academy:** 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](https://lgbt.utah.edu/lgbtrc_programs/ESLP.php)

**Impact & Prosperity Epicenter:** The home to a diverse group of students and professionals driven by a shared vision and mission for the betterment of people and the planet. [epicenter.utah.edu](https://epicenter.utah.edu)

**Make Program:** Learn how to use prototyping tools and see your idea come to life at Lassonde Studios. [lassonde.utah.edu/make](https://lassonde.utah.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](https://lassonde.utah.edu/meetups)

**New Leadership Academy Fellows Program:** Students receive leadership coaching and learn about equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives within complex institutions. [nla.utah.edu](https://nla.utah.edu)

**My U Signature Experience (MUSE):** A database of research, leadership, community engagement, scholarships, and internship opportunities across campus. [muse.utah.edu](https://muse.utah.edu)

**Sorenson Impact Institute:** Marshals capital for social good, empowers data-driven programs, breaks down silos across sectors, and equips the next generation of leaders with social purpose. [sorensonimpactinstitute.com](https://sorensonimpactinstitute.com)

**Stena Center for Financial Technology:** Brings together education and industry to accelerate financial and technological innovation that supports students, research, and industry to expand and strengthen the fintech ecosystem. [stena.utah.edu](https://stena.utah.edu)

**Student Affairs:** Encourages U students to participate in the creation of their own campus culture. [studentaffairs.utah.edu](https://studentaffairs.utah.edu)

**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](https://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/scif](https://sustainability.utah.edu/scif)

**Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR):** Students are paired with faculty members and work closely with them in research experiences. [our.utah.edu](https://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](https://uventurefund.com)

**Utah Entrepreneur Challenge:** One of the largest business-model competitions in the nation. Students across Utah develop full, comprehensive business models. \$100,000 in prizes are available. [lassonde.utah.edu/uec](https://lassonde.utah.edu/uec)

**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](https://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](https://our.utah.edu/spur)

**Wilkes Center for Climate Change:** Provides students with transformative, integrative, and cutting-edge science, education, entrepreneurship, and practical solutions to tackle climate change in Utah, the United States, and the globe. [wilkescenter.utah.edu](https://wilkescenter.utah.edu)

**Workshops:** Attend regular workshops at the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute to learn new skills. [lassonde.utah.edu/workshops](https://lassonde.utah.edu/workshops)

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