On the morning of August 24, University of Utah leaders joined Utah’s economic leaders, community members, and the media for the unveiling of the newly renovated Enos A. Wall Mansion and the revealing of its new name. To the excitement of the crowd, the covering that shrouded the building’s façade was removed revealing that the historic mansion had been renamed as the Thomas S. Monson Center, after the current president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and U alum.

The gathering was attended by many notable leaders who allocated resources and funds to the realization of the structure’s extensive transformation. The University of Utah gives heartfelt thanks to the donors who graciously contributed funds to the building’s renovation, including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Roger and Sara Boyer, Kem C. Gardner, Clark & Christine Ivory Foundation, Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Sorenson Legacy Foundation, Zions Bank, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation, KSL Broadcast Group, Deseret News, and American Express.

Located in the heart of Salt Lake City at 411 East South Temple, the Thomas S. Monson Center will act as the hub of economic conversation and play a significant role in the implementation of essential economic policies throughout the entire Beehive State.

The mansion is the new home of the University of Utah’s center for applied economic policy research and the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, which helps business executives and community heads make informed decisions through well-researched economic, demographic, and public policy data. The institute is housed on the second floor, while the first floor has been restored to its original dining room and parlor and the third has been reestablished as a grand ballroom for community events.

The historic building will bring together economists, business leaders, civic authorities, and policymakers to discuss and solidify plans to solve issues relevant to Utah. It also will promote partnerships between academic scholars and the private sector on research and strategies to refine and enhance long-term economic policies. In addition, the center will be a gathering place for special community events, providing an opportunity for more people to enjoy and appreciate its history and elegance.

The beautiful 50,000-square-foot mansion was designed by noted architect Richard K. A. Kletting, who also designed the Utah State Capitol. Enos A. Wall purchased the property in 1904 and transformed it into a Renaissance villa. The LDS Church then purchased the home in 1961 and donated it to the University of Utah in 2014. The University of Utah is forever grateful to the donors and builders who made this significant renovation possible.
Law School Dean Runs 100 Miles to Support Scholarships, Legal Education

After months of training, Robert Adler, dean of the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, completed a 100-mile ultra marathon last spring to support law school education. In connection with the 100/100 Initiative, the school launched an ongoing fundraising campaign to support student scholarships. So far the effort has generated more than $140,000 in contributions.

Bob, who turned 60 in December and celebrated by climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, ran the Zion 100 Mile course in southern Utah on April 8, to bring awareness to his goal to reach 100 percent bar passage and 100 percent professional employment placement among the U’s law school graduates. He came up with the idea to do the run when he realized that the perseverance it takes to make it through a race of that length is symbolic of the grit and determination it takes to also make it through law school. “It struck me as a perfect metaphor,” says Bob. “If you persist in something, you can do it. If you set a goal, and keep trying, there are no limits to what you can do.”

The 100/100 initiative builds on the law school’s already high bar passage rate of 90 percent and professional employment rate of 92 percent last year—numbers that are significantly higher than other national averages across the country among law students.

Through the initiative, Bob says the law school will find a practicing lawyer to mentor every law student. Students will also have access to new incubator programs and rural lawyer placement to help graduates connect with employment opportunities in underserved communities. In addition, an intensive student/faculty learning opportunity through one-on-one or small group work will expand. Affordability is also part of the 100/100 goal, so students can focus on studying and graduate with less debt.

The day before Bob set out to complete his ambitious goal, law students and other members of the U community organized a relay loop around campus—a Spirit Run—to show support. Students also paced Adler during part of his race through rain and mud in southern Utah.

“What excites me about the 100-100 Initiative is that it embodies S.J. Quinney’s effort to adapt to the needs of future law students,” says Will Edwards, a first-year law student who ran with Bob during the race. “…It is injurious to the profession when graduates are burdened with high student debt, lack practical lawyering skills, or can’t find professional work. That the school has a concrete plan to address the issues facing today’s law students makes me proud I chose to come to S.J. Quinney. The fact that Dean Adler took on the daunting challenge of running a 100-mile race to promote the school’s initiative speaks to his willingness to go above and beyond for S.J. Quinney’s students.”

Law dean Bob Adler trains last fall for his 100-mile run in April, raising funds to enhance support for law students.
Hannah Durkee, recipient of a Questar Scholarship, graduated from the University of Utah in 2013 with an honors bachelor's degree in geoscience from the College of Mines and Earth Sciences. She recently completed her master's degree in geology at Colorado School of Mines and is currently employed as an exploration and development geologist for oil and gas company, EOG Resources.

Hannah’s appreciation of receiving a Questar Scholarship is typical of the more than 200 University of Utah students who have received scholarships provided by Questar Corporation’s Education Foundation since 1991.

Questar is an integrated natural gas-focused energy company with core operations in the Rocky Mountains, and part of its mission is “to provide a culture that brings out the best in our people” and “to contribute to a better quality of life in our communities.”

One way it fulfills that mission is through its support of a wide range of academic disciplines and programs at the University of Utah—support that has been ongoing for the past 50 years. “Questar has always believed in the value and importance of education,” says Debra Hoyt, director of community relations and corporate giving for Questar. “Helping students achieve their personal academic goals not only strengthens the fabric of our communities, but also contributes to the economic development of our state.”

Through its Education Foundation, Questar provides scholarships to undergraduate students who are majoring in engineering, geology and geophysics, and business disciplines. In addition to acknowledging academic merit, the scholarship also is awarded to many first-generation students who often have demonstrated financial need. Examples include a single mother of three who is studying mining engineering; a marketing student who is married, working full time, and pursuing honors grades; and a current metallurgical engineering student who received the Questar Scholarship early in her major which, she says, “gave me encouragement that someone outside of the University believes in me.” Since then, she has been a top student, earned some of the most prestigious scholarships offered for her major, and has been offered lucrative internships.

In addition to scholarships, Questar Corporation provides support to many campus areas including the College of Engineering, David Eccles School of Business, S.J. Quinney College of Law, and Pioneer Theatre Company.

Questar Arts Foundation is a principal sponsor of the theatre’s productions, such as last season’s Cowgirls, and plays an important role in providing Broadway-quality theatre in Utah. Its generous financial contributions help create the sets and costumes seen on stage and support the outstanding actors and talented theatre artists who make each show possible.

The Questar Corporation Student Study Space, located in the southwest corner on the fifth floor in the new S.J. Quinney College of Law building, provides an awe-inspiring view of the Salt Lake Valley, sure to stimulate the minds of the hard working and brainy law students using the space.

It was announced in February that Questar Corporation will combine with Virginia-based Dominion, one of the nation’s largest producers and transporters of energy. Once the merger is complete, Questar will be known as Dominion Questar Corporation and become the company’s western region headquarters. Colleen Larkin Bell, Questar vice president and general counsel, who received a bachelor’s degree in 1982 and a juris doctorate in 1988 from the U, will become Dominion Questar vice president and general manager of Dominion Questar Gas.

The University of Utah values its half-century partnership with Questar and looks forward to continuing to work together, sharing in Questar’s mission, “to contribute to a better quality of life in our communities,” and through Questar’s support, providing the best in higher education to our students.

By awarding me with the Questar Scholarship, you have helped lighten my financial burden so that I can focus on school instead of working to pay rent, tuition, and student loans. I have been on the dean’s list for the last three years, and I attribute that success to the amount of time I have been able to dedicate to school because of the financial assistance I have been so lucky to receive.

Hannah Durkee HSG’13, Geology
The Development Office recently received an unsolicited gift from U alum and former U staff member Jane Smith* with the following note attached:

I am a former employee (and student) of the University. While employed there I was given the opportunity to enroll in classes and eventually earned my B.A. degree. This has been a great satisfaction to me for many years, and as I have considered the support of my supervisors and the University as a whole, I wish to express my thanks for the University in some small way. Therefore, I am enclosing a check for its use. If there is some program or organization for the development of staff members, I would like this to be added to its budget and used to assist University staff. It is not much, but is a token of my gratitude and appreciation for what I received there. Thank You.

One of the benefits Jane received while working at the U was the opportunity to participate in its tuition reduction program, where eligible employees and their families receive a 50 percent break on education costs. Encouraged by her U colleagues to return to school to get her degree, it was her access to reduced tuition that made it possible. “I’m interested in a lot of different things so it took me a while to figure out what I wanted to study,” she says. She took classes—on her lunch hour—for 15 years and eventually graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history from the College of Humanities.

Today, in keeping with Jane’s wishes, her gift will support the University’s Staff Scholarship Fund, which was established in 2003 to provide assistance to U staff members who have been in a benefitted position for at least two years. Managed by Staff Council, the fund awards up to five staff scholarships of $500 each year.

Saolo Manumaleuga Utu, a student recruitment and admissions advisor in the College of Architecture + Planning, is a recent recipient of a staff scholarship. “I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support,” she writes. “This fall I will begin the Master of International Affairs and Global Enterprise Program with hopes of developing equitable and sustainable policies in the South Pacific. The financial assistance you provided this summer has helped me in paying the educational expenses for the final prerequisite to begin the program, and has allowed me to concentrate more of my time for studying. Thank you again for your generosity and support.”

Just as U students who receive scholarships often show their appreciation later in life by giving back to the U, Jane is showing her gratitude for the opportunities she received as a U employee through her gift to benefit staff. “People need to realize that the U can’t run without staff,” she says.

We agree. And a big thanks to Jane for her generosity. It is not often that donors consider the needs of staff members, so we find this gift especially thoughtful.

*Jane Smith is not her real name. She would like to remain anonymous.
At 19, Harry Iticovici was just beginning his journey to a career in medicine that would eventually lead him to the University of Utah. But his first step was not heading to college—it was fleeing his home in Bucharest.

In 1941, Harry was urged by his parents to leave Romania. Two years into World War II, Bucharest was occupied by German forces and Harry’s only option after graduating secondary school was the work camps. Jews were no longer safe in Romania. Harry boarded a small race boat, along with 12 other passengers, and headed for Palestine. It’s no surprise their journey was fraught with trials. Days into their voyage, they were shipwrecked off the coast of Turkey and stranded there for four weeks, until the Jewish community paid for their rescue and had them, once again, on their way. Days later the crew made a stop in Beirut, were denied passage, and rerouted to Cyprus, where they were immediately quarantined for 10 days and then sent to live in a refugee camp for more than a year.

Harry endured camp, due in large part to the Jewish community there. He took English classes, performed in plays, and was able to write letters asking for help. His luck changed for the better when he received notice that one of his letters had been answered. He was going to study at an American university back in Beirut.

In Beirut, Harry spent more than two years studying science and medicine while working as a translator for professors and the local news radio. But during the winter semester of 1948, he was told his studies would be coming to an immediate halt. The president of the university called Harry and the other six Jewish students into his office and told them that he could not guarantee their safety in the school and that they should leave. The government had requested that the school find a way to remove the foreign Jewish students.

One of Harry’s professors, impressed with his work, wrote to a colleague, Maxwell Wintrobe, at Johns Hopkins University, to ask for his help in finding a place for Harry at the school. Wintrobe was Jewish and, due to the anti-Semitism he experienced in Boston, had just accepted a position as the first chair of the Department of Medicine at a school in the West—the University of Utah. Wintrobe invited Harry to join him at the U, and in 1950, Harry graduated from the U’s School of Medicine. After just a few years in medical practice, he had repaid the loans given to him by Jewish families in Baltimore and Salt Lake City.

The most important connection Harry made in his life was with a U alum he met a few years after graduating. Dr. Grace Renee Ferguson was a psychiatrist completing her training at New York Hospital when the two met. Both U alums, but never having met while in Utah, this chance meeting turned into something more than collegial—Harry and Grace were married for 52 years.

Harry passed away in late 2015 after 50 years as a thoracic surgeon. Upon his death, he bequeathed his entire estate, half to the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and the remaining half to his and his wife’s alma mater—the University of Utah School of Medicine. The Grace Renee Ferguson and Harry N. Iticovici Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund in the School of Medicine was established to benefit medical students in need of financial support and who, without assistance, would be unable to attend medical school. The first scholarship will be offered fall 2018.
In 2010, University Neighborhood Partners (UNP), a department of the University of Utah tasked with increasing access to higher education for Salt Lake City’s west side residents, received a $5,000 donation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation to help fund a new program for refugees and immigrants arriving in Salt Lake City. The New American Academic Network, known as NAAN, connects these refugees and immigrants with higher education and vocational training, creating opportunities for them to advance their careers. This is a critically important service because often the only thing standing between refugees or immigrants and the career they have trained for is the fee for required tests or the stipend for an internship.

That same year, a young man named Ali Thamer arrived in Utah as a refugee. He had earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and had worked as a project manager, but was unable to work as an engineer in the United States because his credentials were from the University of Kufa in Iraq. He was referred to the NAAN program and, with UNP’s support, was admitted to the University of Utah as a non-matriculated student in the School of Engineering graduate program for the 2010 fall semester.

“The challenge in my situation was that the people in the University do not know how to deal with my case as a refugee,” says Ali. “Without that help I got from NAAN, I think that I will not be able to go through the process in such a short time.”

In spring 2011, Ali was admitted as a matriculated student to graduate school. He also was connected through NAAN to an internship opportunity with a local engineering and consulting firm—one of the best in its field. He graduated in spring 2014 with a master’s degree in mechanical engineering and is now employed at the firm he interned with, preparing to become a licensed engineer. He is still involved with NAAN and serves as a mentor to other newly-arriving individuals who are seeking higher education.

Fast forward to 2016, and the foundation continues to generously support NAAN each year. For many individuals, the help from NAAN is making the difference between a lifetime of working for a minimum wage and lifelong employment as a skilled physician, engineer, or other professional.

“I think my dreams came true because America is the land of dreams, and here in America there are opportunities for you to become what you want to be, but you need to use them.”
Rare Audubon Prints Donated to the J. Willard Marriott Library

For more than 100 years the water color paintings and prints of naturalist John J. Audubon have captivated the public and scientific community. Recently, 13 of his oversized, hand-colored prints were donated to the University of Utah’s J. Willard Marriott Library by Lonnie and Shannon Paulos. The lithographs, original watercolor drawings by Audubon and several of his assistants, originally appeared in Audubon’s books in the 19th century.

“Audubon’s technique was a departure from the norm of his day and his studies, hunting experience, and artistic skills allowed him to convey the details of the birds and mammals of North America to the general public,” says Lonnie. “The use of stone lithography was a new process at the time and lent itself to exacting details and reproductions.”

The stunning pieces feature 12 prints of mammals from Audubon’s imperial folio, The Quadrupeds of North America (1845-1848), which he produced with his two sons and naturalist John Bachman, and one print from his earlier landmark book The Birds of North America (1827-1838), one of the most famous and highly valued publications in American history. At one time, the oversized first edition held the record for the highest price of a printed book sold at auction, at over $11 million.

“Very few complete sets are still available in their original bound form and most have been separated, trimmed, or folded and then sold independently for tens of thousands of dollars,” says Lonnie. “Our set donated to the Marriott Library represents North American large game mammals. All are in excellent condition and have been part of our library for many years. It is with great pride and joy that we now share these pieces with naturalists, students, and the general public.”

The generous donation increases the library’s Audubon holdings significantly. “It brings together many of the most iconic images from the Quadrupeds, with each plate professionally presented in museum-style frames,” says Todd Samuelson, assistant dean for special collections. The framing refers to the advantage of showing the full page floated within the mat, allowing observers to see the complete sheet of paper, including the description and acknowledgements printed below the image. “These images are justifiably famous as they belong to one of the great scientific and artistic endeavors of the 19th century,” says Samuelson. “They are a milestone in natural history and book production and a tribute to the history of America and the West.”

A public exhibition of the works, as well as other natural history materials from Marriott Library’s Special Collections, runs through September 9, in the Special Collections Reading Room on level 4.
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We’ve moved!
The Development Office has moved to the former law school building, (Bldg. 73). Please note our new address:
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332 S. 1400 East, Suite 150 | Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0300 | 801-581-7200

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