



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER  
2018

## Achieving the American Dream

*U to lead statewide challenge to strengthen Utah's middle class.*

*The best ideas will come from people working together in their own communities, using an interdisciplinary approach grounded in fact, data science, and diverse perspectives.*

– Eric Schmidt, Founder, Schmidt Futures

Do you have an idea that could reinvigorate your community's shrinking middle class?

University of Utah President Ruth V. Watkins, on May 24, announced a new statewide, presidential initiative called The American Dream Ideas Challenge, that will find, fund, and develop ideas to ensure a vibrant middle class in Utah. The university was selected by Schmidt Futures to be a part of the Alliance for the American Dream, a coalition of four research universities, including University of Wisconsin—Madison, Arizona State University, and Ohio State University. The U is tasked with increasing the net income of 10,000 middle-class Utah households by 10 percent by 2020. There is wide consensus that the path to opportunity and prosperity in America has eroded over the past 50 years, as evidenced by a decline in the share of middle-class households. The alliance believes that a healthier and more robust middle class will reduce income disparity and ensure upward economic mobility, enhancing opportunities for more Americans, and increasing our country's competitiveness. With this goal in mind, Utah's American Dream Ideas Challenge will fund the most compelling ideas to help foster access to and support for a thriving middle class.

The challenge is made possible by an initial contribution from Eric Schmidt of \$1.5 million to each participating university.

Schmidt is the founder of Schmidt Futures, the project's sponsor. He also is a technical advisor to Alphabet Inc., a member of its board of directors, and served as its former executive chairman. Alphabet Inc. is the parent company of Google.

The challenge is seeking creative proposals that focus on sustainable ways to expand access to and increase stability of the middle-class in Utah — whether through policy ideas or investable concepts for public benefit in the areas of health care, workforce development, education, transportation, housing, and support for families. These proposals can come from individuals, organizations, and entities serving communities throughout the State of Utah. The University is looking to engage a broad range of perspectives and encourages ideas from community members, government agencies or entities, nonprofits, business and thought leaders, as well as faculty, staff, and students from universities and colleges across the state.

With its history as the state's flagship university, the U is well positioned to lead the challenge and convene a multitude of campus and community leaders and innovators. "It's not just about targeting the middle class. It's about opening avenues to become part of the middle class," says Pam Perlich, the Gardner Policy Institute's director of demographics and a member of the alliance's executive leadership team.



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## Recent Major Gifts

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## American Dream *continued*

The first round of proposals is due August 30. In September, a community advisory board will select the top 10 ideas and each will receive \$10,000 for further refinement and development. In the second round, the top three ideas will be selected and each will receive \$30,000 to prepare for the national level competition. The top three ideas from Utah will compete with the top three ideas from the other alliance members, and Schmidt Futures will select three-to-four ideas to fund with up to \$1 million.

“America needs a strong middle class,” says Schmidt. “Our future depends on it.”

*Additional information is available online at [americandream.utah.edu](http://americandream.utah.edu).*

## The Rosenblatt Prize for Excellence

*Great efforts deserve reward and cultivation.*

In 1983 Utah philanthropists Joseph and Evelyn Rosenblatt established the University of Utah’s premier award—the annual Rosenblatt Prize for Excellence—to honor Joe’s parents, Nathan and Tillie Rosenblatt, on the centenary of their immigration to Utah and in recognition of their legacy of civic leadership and generosity.

Nathan Rosenblatt immigrated from Russia to Salt Lake City in the early 1880s—by himself—in search of personal and religious freedom. He started out as a pushcart vendor of dry goods to Utah miners and ended up building a thriving industrial machinery business. He and his wife, Tillie Sheinbaum Rosenblatt, had three sons—Joe, Simon, and Morris—who inherited their father’s business and developed it to become Eimco Corporation, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of mining and processing machinery.

This year, the \$40K endowed Rosenblatt Prize, which recognizes excellence by a member of the University of Utah faculty in teaching, research, or administrative efforts, was generously increased to \$50K by a grant from the Joseph and Evelyn Rosenblatt Charitable Fund and an endowment from the university, in order to maintain its contemporary importance and influence.

“I believe that our continuing presence tells the winner that the Rosenblatt Prize is more than the obelisk and the money,” says Norm Rosenblatt, a son of Joe and Evelyn. “It’s also a living legacy.”

The 2018 award—announced, as it is each year, at Commencement—was presented to Richard B. Brown, dean of the College of Engineering. Brown is known for his pioneering



Evelyn and Joseph Rosenblatt

research and commercialization of microprocessor circuits and solid-state chemical sensors, the applications of which range from drinking water to neurochemicals. Since he became dean in 2004, the number of engineering graduates has more than doubled and the number of freshmen has increased from 7 to 20 percent of the U’s total freshman class.

Brown received his doctorate from the U in electrical and computer engineering. “At my advisor’s recommendation, I marched at graduation here, which happened to be the first year the Rosenblatt Prize was given. (My advisor was a bit optimistic—it actually took me another full year to finish up.) I must admit that, at that time, I never imagined that I would have the privilege of serving as dean, and I certainly could not have imagined being honored with the Rosenblatt Prize.”

Following tradition, a dinner in Brown’s honor will be held this fall at Rosenblatt House, the family’s former home in Salt Lake City’s Federal Heights neighborhood, which Joe and Evelyn generously donated to the university in 1986 to serve as the residence for its presidents and their families. In addition, the Rosenblatt Fund is supporting the current renovation of the home.

Committed to their community, Joe and Evelyn, both U alumni, were generous with their assets, supporting additional campus initiatives as well as educational, artistic, cultural, and religious organizations throughout Utah. With the next generation now actively involved, the University of Utah continues to benefit from the generosity of the Rosenblatt legacy. The Rosenblatt Prize—a standard of excellence and an appreciation of achievement—is the affirmation: Great efforts deserve reward and cultivation.

# Celebrating the Past—Creating the Future

*J. Willard Marriott Library celebrates 50 years at the U*



Richard E. Marriott, representing the Marriott family; Alberta Comer, dean of the library; and U President Emeritus David W. Pershing celebrate the library's 50th birthday.

**T**he Marriott Library is marking an historic milestone this year—half a century on the University of Utah campus. A celebration at the library on March 2 attracted more than 200 campus and community members and featured remarks from outgoing U President David W. Pershing, Alberta Comer, dean of the library, and Saeed Shihab, vice president of the Associated Students of the U. Featured guest, Richard E. Marriott, chairman of the board for Host Hotels & Resorts, and representing the Marriott family, presented a \$5 million gift to the library from the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation. He shared some heart-warming stories about his family's roots in Utah and their history attending the U, and reminded everyone that “no one has more stories than the library.”

Spread over five years, the Marriott Foundation gift will provide \$2 million in expendable funds for building improvements, and \$3 million to create an endowed fund to support, in perpetuity, the library's greatest needs.

Improvements to the building will include installing a data visualization wall, adding new classrooms and active desks (recumbent bicycle and treadmill desks), and replacing worn furniture and carpet. New compact shelving on the first floor will create more space for study, research, and the construction of the Digital Matters Lab, while preserving the existing collection. The lab will increase access to 3D printing, audio and visual production studios, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and other interdisciplinary research and learning technologies.

Throughout these past 50 years, the Marriott family, through their foundation, has been generous supporters of the library. Alberta Comer says the generosity of the Marriott Foundation is unparalleled. “Their gift will be transformational in the future success of the library.”

## Katherine's Courtyard

The next time you're in the library, be sure to check out Katherine's Courtyard, a new and unique indoor/outdoor space in which to study, meet a friend, or enjoy a performance or exhibition. Access to the main floor of the two-level courtyard is from Mom's Café, where steep concrete walls evoke a feeling similar to being in a narrow slot canyon in southern Utah. On the second level, accessible through the Katherine W. Dumke Fine Arts & Architecture Library, located within the main library, or from the double sets of outdoor stairs, you'll end up eye-to-eye with the large, impressive steel chevron bracings, a construction element to stabilize the building. Open to the outdoors in the warmer months, and closed in with glass doors and radiant floor heating in winter, the upper level offers year-round meeting space and comfortable study areas.

“The courtyard continues our mission to facilitate creative expression and research within the arts,” says Luke Leither, assistant head of the fine arts library. “We hope it inspires visitors to embrace and share their creativity in innovative ways with new audiences.”

Katherine's Courtyard was made possible by a generous donation from Katherine Dumke prior to her passing in 2014. Her husband, Zeke, passed away in April. The gift has allowed the library to create a beautiful outdoor oasis for the community to enjoy. Come and visit!



Major Gifts continued

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# University of Utah Health Announces new Dr. Russell M. Nelson and Dantzel W. Nelson Presidential Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery

*Chair honors the medical legacy of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*

University of Utah Health announced, on June 15, the creation of a new endowed chair, The Dr. Russell M. Nelson and Dantzel W. Nelson Presidential Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery, to honor the legacy of a medical pioneer and global leader. Now president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Russell Nelson is a recognized pioneer in heart surgery who led the University's cardiothoracic program more than 60 years ago. Dantzel White Nelson, who graduated from the U in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in music, from the College of Fine Arts, was his first wife, who passed away in 2005. Craig H. Selzman, the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery's current leader, is the inaugural chair holder.



Dantzel W. and Dr. Russell M. Nelson

"President Nelson is today acknowledged as one of the world's most influential leaders of faith," said Ruth V. Watkins, president of the University of Utah. "Before his call to the church, he was a giant in the field of health science, an innovator who pioneered new technologies and methods, and an educator who trained generations of cardiac surgeons. With the creation of this chair, the university proudly recognizes his accomplishments and ensures that his intellectual inheritors are equipped to carry forward his vision."

Funding for the chair was made possible through the collective support of numerous donors in partnership with the University of Utah Hospital Foundation and University of Utah Health.

Nelson graduated from the University of Utah in 1945, where he also earned his medical degree in 1947. He did post-doctoral study at the University of Minnesota, where he and fellow researchers developed a heart-lung machine that in 1951 supported the first-ever human open-heart surgery. Returning to Utah, Nelson became the first surgeon to perform open-heart surgery in his home state using this innovative technology. Driven by a desire to pioneer health, he worked as a surgeon at LDS Hospital and served as a faculty member in surgery and director of the Thoracic Surgery Residency Program at the University of Utah School of Medicine for almost two decades, advancing the frontiers of cardiovascular surgery, training generations of cardiac surgeons, and saving countless lives.



Inaugural chair holder Dr. Craig H. Selzman with Dr. Russell M. Nelson

"It is hard to overstate President Nelson's contributions to his field, and deeply humbling to hold a chair named in his honor," said Dr. Selzman. "While technology and techniques have advanced, the mission and practice of our cardiothoracic program remains as he established it. We continue to build on the foundation he laid."

"It is an honor to be recognized by the University of Utah with this chair," said President Nelson. "I have great faith in Dr. Selzman and am impressed by his leadership of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. I hope that this chair will continue to add luster to the great record of the University of Utah, its medical school, and the department of surgery in particular."

# University of Utah Announces Creation of Jon M. Huntsman Presidential Chairs

*The twelve chairs, gifted by the Huntsman Family Foundation to the university, provide support for a broad array of health academic research, education, and clinical care.*



Six of 12 new faculty presidential chairs at the University of Utah join Karen Huntsman at the naming event on June 19. The faculty members selected have demonstrated excellence in research, clinical care, and career progression in health sciences.

**T**he University of Utah and the Huntsman Family Foundation announced, on June 19, the creation of twelve presidential faculty chairs in health sciences. The Jon M. Huntsman Presidential Chairs provide sweeping support to academic researchers, educators, and clinicians spanning a wide array of fields. The presidential chairs are named for the late businessman, philanthropist, and founder of the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

“The Huntsman Family’s commitment to the University of Utah is profound, and these chairs are yet another testament to their dedication to advancing health research, education, and compassionate care,” said U President Ruth V. Watkins. “They are particularly notable for the breadth of fields and subjects they support. In addition to the honor they confer, faculty across our health campus will have significant additional resources to pursue new research, extend care, and educate the next generation of health care providers. This is a powerful addition to the Huntsman’s legacy and marks a new chapter in our continued relationship with the family. On behalf of the faculty and the entire university community, we are incredibly grateful for these generous awards. There is a gift not just to faculty, but to patients, their families and caregivers, as well as our community, region, and nation.”

“Our family’s existing and steadfast commitment to cancer is well known and with that commitment is a vision to advance a broad array of health and medical research and clinical work at the University of Utah,” said Karen H. Huntsman, Chairwoman of the Huntsman Family Foundation.

Watkins announced that, in consultation with senior administration and the Huntsman family, she had appointed six faculty members as the inaugural chairholders, with six more to be named next year. The appointments began July 1, and will end June 30, 2023, with the possibility of a one-time additional five-year renewal option.

The faculty members selected have demonstrated excellence in research, clinical care, and career progression in health sciences. They reflect diverse academic disciplines, with appointments in dentistry, psychiatry, population health sciences, biomedical informatics, pulmonary medicine, and obstetrics gynecology.

## **THE JON M. HUNTSMAN PRESIDENTIAL CHAIRS** **The first six recipients include:**

Nathan G. Adams, DMD, MD  
Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry;  
Adjunct Professor, Division of Otolaryngology

Lowry A. Bushnell, MD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry

Wendy W. Chapman, PhD  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Biomedical Informatics

Angela Fagerlin, PhD  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Population Health Sciences

Robert Paine III, MD  
Professor and Chief of the Division of Respiratory, Critical  
Care and Occupational Pulmonary Medicine, Depart-  
ment of Internal Medicine

Howard T. Sharp, MD  
Professor, Division Chief, Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs,  
Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology

Major Gifts continued

- The Sam and Diane Stewart Family Foundation
- Joyce L. and Dwain H. Stufflebeam
- Dr. W.C. Swanson Family Foundation
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- Cortney L. Taylor
- The B.W. Bastian Foundation
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation
- Douglas Christensen Family Living Trust
- Colleen K. and Roger H. Thompson
- UBS Financial Services, Inc.
- University Federal Credit Union
- USG Corporation
- Wadsworth Brothers Construction Company
- I.J. and Jeanné Wagner Charitable Foundation
- WCF Mutual Insurance Company
- Wheeler Foundation
- Wheeler Machinery Company
- Ann and Brent L. Wilson
- Zions Management Services Company

## AT&T's ASPIRE Scholarships

### Bringing opportunities to first generation U students

Cesar Canul came to the University of Utah to study art and is preparing for a career as a graphic designer. A first-generation university student, he received an AT&T Aspire *First Step* scholarship last year—the scholarship's first year on campus—and hopes to be an example to his younger siblings and relatives who have yet to reach college. "Opportunities like these have the potential to change lives for the better," he says.

Amanda Wilson earned a bachelor of science degree in communication last fall and is beginning her career as a journalist. AT&T's Aspire *Next Step* scholarship allowed her to dedicate time to become the quality journalist she believes the world so desperately needs. She worked hard to maintain her 4.0 grade point average and says AT&T's confidence in her potential "is humbling and inspiring." She hopes one day to follow in their footsteps and contribute to the studies of future generations of students.

Canul and Wilson are two of 28 beneficiaries of AT&T's Aspire scholarship program, which has two components—*First Step* for first-year students, and *Next Step* for those close to graduating. The Aspire scholarships provide financial support for first generation college students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds in Utah's rural areas.

"AT&T is committed to help provide access to the education and training people need to get and keep good jobs," says Tara Thue, director of external and legislative affairs for AT&T. "Here in Utah we have the opportunity to find programs and organizations that fit within AT&T's Aspire initiative, which aims to help students graduate from high school and college and become ready for the workforce. The University of Utah provided a great opportunity for AT&T to support students right here in the Beehive state."

AT&T Aspire *First Step* scholarships recognize a student's potential and give them the opportunity to build their futures. Ten students, selected from the pool of ARUP Utah Promise students (incoming low-income freshmen) received \$1,000 in scholarship funding last school year. This impressive group of students will no doubt continue to do incredible things as they continue their U education and well after they graduate.

AT&T *Next Step* scholarships are completion scholarships that address a fundamental need in higher education—providing students with the extra boost of support they need to complete their college degree in a reasonable amount of time without taking a break. Wilson is one of 18 students who received \$500 scholarships during their final year in 2017-18.

"It is humbling to see students from all different backgrounds start and complete their degrees with the help of the AT&T *First Step* and *Next Step* scholarships," says Thue. "Students deserve the opportunity to learn the skills needed for a successful future, and it is clear that these scholarships in particular are impacting students and helping them reach their full potential. "We believe that every student deserves the chance to succeed," says Thue. "We hope our support helps continue to make this a reality at the University of Utah."



AT&T *Next Step* Scholarship recipient Amanda Wilson

# The Trevor James McMinn Presidential Endowed Chair in Mathematical Research

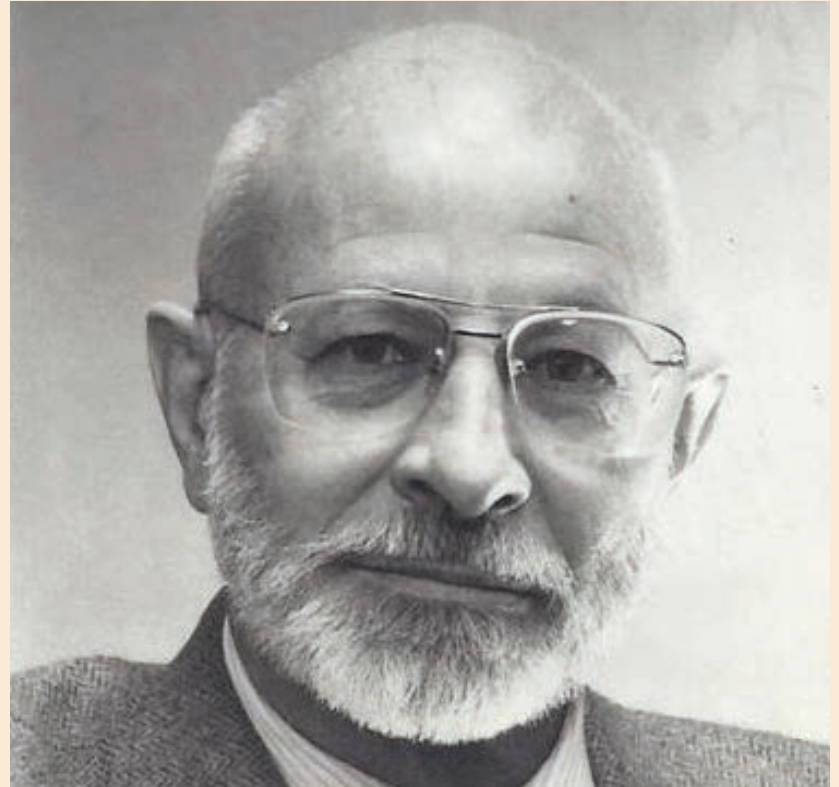
*He loved nature, traveling the world, being with his friends, hiking and skiing—he was a true gentleman, considerate of everyone and everything, and loved by all who knew him.*

This is how Trevor McMinn was described and remembered by his family and friends after his death on November 4, 2013. Born in Salt Lake City in 1921, McMinn was a U alum, graduating in 1942 with a bachelor of arts degree in physics from the College of Science. He went on to receive his doctorate in mathematics in 1955 from the University of California, Berkeley, with a specialization in mathematical logic under Tony Morse, a noted mathematician. After working six years at the University of Washington, he moved in 1963 to the Department of Mathematics at the University of Nevada, retiring in 1988 as professor emeritus. As part of his exceptional legacy, McMinn left a planned gift of \$1.3 million to establish an endowed chair in mathematics at the University of Utah. The McMinn Chair is a memorial to a great man. His generosity will make it possible for the Department of Mathematics to recognize its top researchers.

On November 16, 2017, U mathematics professor Christopher Hacon was named the inaugural recipient of the McMinn Presidential Endowed Chair of Mathematics, a five-year appointment/position.

Born in England and raised in Italy, Hacon has been interested in numbers since he was a boy and discovered how much he liked finding patterns and seeing relationships between numbers. Using a calculator, he would try to figure out how many seconds are in one year, or the cost of all the books in his house—a clear hint at what was to come.

Hacon arrived at the U as a postdoctoral scholar in 1998 and came back as a professor in 2002. He is particularly interested in objects that exist in more than three dimensions. He and his colleagues have applied studies of these objects to extend the “minimal model program”—a foundational principle of algebraic geometry—into higher dimensions. The American Mathematical Society has lauded their work as “a watershed in algebraic geometry.”



Trevor James McMinn

“The McMinn Endowed Chair allows us to further support and promote some of the world-class, groundbreaking mathematics research that is currently being undertaken in our department,” says Davar Khoshnevisan, chair of the U’s Department of Mathematics. “It is befitting that the first McMinn Presidential Endowed Chair of Mathematics has been awarded to Professor Hacon. He is an internationally recognized mathematical scientist of the highest caliber, whose work will motivate and deeply affect the next several generations of brilliant algebraic geometers.”

## About Christopher Hacon

Christopher Hacon has established himself as one of the world’s top mathematicians and has been recognized with a remarkable number of awards for his outstanding teaching and research. A partial list follows.

**2018 Elected to the National Academy of Sciences**

**2018 Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics (For algebraic geometry, funded by Yuri Milner and Mark Zuckerberg—the \$3 million prize is shared with James McKernan, of U.C. San Diego.)**

**2016 E.H. Moore Research Article Prize (American Mathematical Society)**

**2015 Distinguished Scholarly and Creative Research Award (The University of Utah’s highest prize for research)**

**2011 Antonio Feltrinelli Prize in Mathematics Mechanics and Applications (Italy’s top prize in mathematics, by the National Lincean Academy)**

**2009 Frank Nelson Cole Prize in Algebra (American Mathematical Society)**

**2007 Clay Research Award (Oxford-based Clay Mathematics Institute)**



# Cheese for a Cause

## Beehive Cheese sales benefit Red Butte Summer Concerts

Tim Welsh and Pat Ford, co-owners of Beehive Cheese, located in Weber County, have been dedicated supporters of Red Butte Garden since 2010 as sponsors of the Outdoor Summer Concert series. Over the years, their interest and involvement in the garden have grown. In 2013 Red Butte was honored to have Welsh join the Red Butte Garden Advisory Board. His enthusiasm and drive to help the garden succeed quickly blossomed. Shortly thereafter, Beehive Cheese and Roosters Brewing partnered to host a fundraising event at the garden called *The Birds and The Bees*, with all proceeds benefiting the greatest needs of the garden. Welsh's commitment and many contributions were recognized last year when the garden's advisory board elected him chair. Since then, he and Beehive Cheese have come up with a new and creative way to help the garden—*Cheese for a Cause*. Beginning in 2018, Beehive Cheese Company will donate 3 percent of the gross sales of Red Butte Hatch Chile cheese to Red Butte Garden. The cheese is available for purchase online at [www.beehivecheese.com](http://www.beehivecheese.com) or at any local Harmon's grocery store.



Photo by Derek Petersen



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Summer 2018

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