

UTAH STATE

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RAISED TO DO **HARD THINGS**

As the possibility that Spencer Cox '98 was going to be elected Utah's 18th governor began to look more and more probable during the fall of 2020, he and his wife, **ABBY COX '98**, turned some of their attention towards what she might want her primary focus to be as the state's next First Lady. She didn't have one focus. She had four.



Photo by Levi Sim.

Photo Essay: Not Left Behind

Alison Layton used to love to go on hikes. But after she was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, it became impossible to keep going for long. What didn't change was her desire. Fortunately, the Layton family knew where to go for help: **the Utah Assistive Technology Program** at Utah State University.



Not Done Trying

Kyndal McKenzie '21 cruised through Shrinking Steps and Shattered Panes, over the Broken Bridge, and maneuvered across Ring Chaser before slipping on the Final Frontier and plunging into the cold water below during her rookie run on *NBC's American Ninja Warrior*. She's ready to try again.

Photo by Levi Sim.

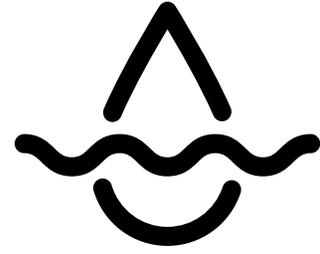
Photo by Levi Sim.



Campus Scene — Nothing to Waste

Rustling leaves

followed by the satisfying snap of an apple popping off a branch. That is the sound of **Utah State University's gleaning team** during peak harvest.



Measure to Manage: Water Solutions Begin with Better Data

Given the West's increased focus on water conservation, experts on the front lines of our water worries say we've left out an important part of the discussion: huge swaths of data about water supply and demand are missing. **Utah State University researchers** are working to change that.

Image by Liz Lord '04.



Sparking STEM Interest

The Kane County Best Friends Animal Society approached 15-year-old Kellen Cotter to see if he would design a prosthetic beak for a wounded bird in their care. He created a model of the beak to 3D print using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills he recently sharpened in a **4-H youth development program**. "And it worked as good as new!" Cotter says.



Photo by Levi Sim.

Catching up to Climate Change

If plants were a bit more ambulatory, **Peter Adler** and **Michael Stemkovski** might find their work to be a bit less urgent. But, of course, they aren't. And it's the tedious immobility of plants that these researchers find most fascinating as they investigate how a changing climate is transforming vegetation across landscapes in the West.

Photo by Levi Sim.



DIY Life: Make a Scene

“Think about the creative process as a quest,” advises **Patrick Larsen, '99**, the founder of the set design company Studio Bound. “We’re searching for the Holy Grail. Searching for something that’s not been seen or done before. And in that quest, the process is the journey itself.”

Photo by Levi Sim.



Turning Grief into Good

The first part of July 1, 2016 was filled with joy for the Cook family. **Julie Cook, '14**, drove to Providence to join her family for a Fourth of July weekend in Island Park, Idaho. Hours later she was dead. The Cook family has worked to spin their grief into something good.

The Next Big CRISPR Breakthrough?

In the last decade, gene editing made possible by CRISPR technologies has profoundly altered the course of medicine. And in many ways, scientists like **Ryan Jackson, '05, Ph.D. '12**, assistant professor of biochemistry at Utah State University, are just getting started.

A Note from Noelle: Make a Difference

Letter from the Editor: Transformation is Hard