Message from Michele

A week ago, University of Utah student Ryan Price spoke at a get-together between the Bennion Center and the Alumni Association. Ryan, who expects to graduate in May with a degree in physics, has already been accepted to a graduate program in medical physics and is waiting to hear from other schools. His long-term goal is oncology radiation research. Ryan hopes to improve the technology that now exists to target the delivery of radioactive material directly to cancer cells while minimizing harm to the remaining healthy cells in the body. Ryan is not only accomplished academically, but he has also learned the power of volunteerism through the Bennion Center at the U.

Initially Ryan got involved with the Bennion Center because it seemed like the right thing to do and it would enhance his résumé, but his motivation soon changed. As a sophomore, Ryan was volunteering at the Children’s Center, which helps preschool kids, ages 2 to 5, who suffer from severe emotional and/or physical abuse. One afternoon, Ryan was working at the center with a young girl. She asked if he would play make-believe. Ryan was to be the “dad tiger,” and she would be the “baby tiger.”

He agreed to the role play, and suddenly the little girl started yelling at him: “Why don’t you love me? Why don’t you care about me? How come you never came home? I waited up for you and you never came!”

Ryan has told this story hundreds of times but still gets teary-eyed when he recalls the impact it had on his life. It was the moment when he learned the importance of being a community volunteer, when he first realized that he could truly help someone. Since then, Ryan has spent hundreds of hours volunteering, including service as the co-director of the student board for the Bennion Center this past year. When he graduates, Ryan will not only take away the book knowledge he has gained at the U, but he’ll also take away life lessons. According to Ryan, “volunteering gives you a purpose and fulfillment.” He further said, “You get your degree from the University, but a lot of your learning and what drives you come from your engagement with service and with the community.” (See The Daily Utah Chronicle, November 2, 2010.)

On May 6, 2011, Ryan and more than 7,000 other University of Utah students will become alumni. In their hands, the future looks promising.

Michele Mattsson

BEEHIVE BOARD

The Beehive Board will induct 16 new members into the Beehive Honor Society on Tuesday, April 19. Dean of Students and Beehive member Annie Nebeker Christiansen will be the guest speaker. We would like to thank David O’Leary for his leadership as Beehive president this year and welcome Josh Bradley as new incoming president of the Beehive Honor Society.

EMERITUS ALUMNI BOARD

The Emeritus Alumni Board is currently working on the selection of new board members and planned to select from the nominees in their April 6 board meeting. Several Emeritus board members and their guests joined with the Alumni Association Board and the Bennion Center for a tour, dinner, and play at Pioneer Memorial Theatre on March 28. We express our thanks to Linda Dunn for organizing such a wonderful and informative event. The final board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 4, which will include a training session for the current board as well as the newly selected Emeritus Alumni Board members. In addition, the EAB will host a luncheon that day to honor those going off the board. EAB President John Bennion will be turning the gavel over to Carolyn Kump, next year’s president. The EAB will also be inviting the new cohort members for the Bryant Project scholarships along with the two Emeritus scholars.

—Joanne Beardshall,  
Staff Representative
STUDENT ALUMNI BOARD

SAB will hold a board meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at 5 p.m., when the newly selected board members for the 2011-12 year will be introduced.

The year-end board event will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 6 p.m. (current board members only) at the Alumni House. We’ll have food, play some games, and present year-end awards.

The new SAB Executive Committee is: Sam Haslam, president; Danielle McConkie, Sarah Black, Megan Folsom, and Cameron King, vice presidents. SAB members will be involved with Project Youth on Thursday, April 28, when sixth-grade students from local schools will be attending various presentations across campus, followed by a “Power Rally” featuring Coach Kyle Whittingham.

SAB members will be visiting local high schools during the month of April and delivering U Books to students who have received a scholarship offer from the U.

—John Fackler, Director, Alumni Relations

YOUNG ALUMNI BOARD

We have selected Senator Luz Robles as the recipient of this year’s Par Excellence Award, which, along with all of the other scholarship awards, will be given out at this year’s Spring Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Rice-Eccles Stadium Tower. Thanks to the Scholarships and Awards Selection Committee members who spent time reviewing applications and selecting this year’s scholarship recipients: Julie Nelson (chair), Mary Nicole Barber, Chris Bosley, Matt Broadbent, Jeff Hodlmair, and Danny Owen.

We are in the midst of selecting new members for three-year terms on the Young Alumni Board. Thanks to Membership Committee members for their efforts in recruiting and selecting new board members: Dan Johnson (chair), Chiao-ih Hui, and Mitch Maio.

The Young Alumni Board will participate in the MS Walk on April 30 at 10 a.m., at The Gateway. We hope to make a strong showing of board members, friends, and family donning their red for the U and supporting this great cause. Thanks to Andrew Sjoblom for organizing the Young Alumni Board’s participation in this event.

We are already starting to fundraise and plan for the 5K race for Homecoming weekend on October 1st. More information and details to follow in the coming months. Thanks to Chiao-ih Hui and Ryan Jones, who are co-chairing the event.

—Addie Maudsley, President, YAB

YA Speaker and Networking Series

“U of U Football in the Pac-12 – Let the Real Football Begin!”

Mark your calendar to attend the next Speaker and Networking Series event, coming on Wednesday, May 25. Networking and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m., and guest speaker Coach Whittingham will speak at 12:15 p.m. An optional tour of the football facility will begin after the presentation. This is a free benefit for Alumni members. Lunch will be provided.

Career Pathways Series: “Career Opportunities in the Nonprofits Sector”

The Young Alumni Board, in partnership with Career Services, had a full house at the first Career Pathways Series event. Current students and young alumni joined us for a successful evening of networking with nonprofit professionals.
Student Alumni Board members with SAB coordinator John Fackler at the gala.

L to R: Alumni Vice President Rex Thornton, Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Bob Bennett, and Alumni President Michele Mattson

L to R: YAB members Jeff and Cami Hodlmair and Caroline and Matt Klein

L to R: YAB members Julie Davidson, vice president; Addie Maudsley, president; Andrew Sjbolom; and Tim Conde, vice president

Thank you to all of the board members who supported Founders Day 2011!

Table of Student Alumni Board members and SAB coordinator John Fackler