About the U

The University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah. Founded in 1850, it serves over 25,000 undergraduate students and over 7,500 graduate students from across the U.S. and the world. With over 72 major subjects at the undergraduate level and more than 90 major fields of study at the graduate level, including law and medicine, the University prepares students to live and compete in the global workplace. Known for its proximity to seven world-class ski resorts within 40 minutes of campus, the U encourages an active, holistic lifestyle, innovation and collaborative thinking to engage students, faculty and business leaders.

Strategic Plan

The University of Utah’s Strategic Plan June 2012 outlines seven core commitments, including Student Success and Engagement, Research and Teaching Excellence, Diversity, the Pursuit and Practice of Sustainability, a Collective Global Vision and Strategy, Building Community, and a Broadened Sense of Leadership. The Marriott Library is actively engaged in responding to these core commitments through its many programs and services.

Presidential Priorities

David W. Pershing was officially inaugurated October 25th 2012 as the 15th president of the University of Utah. In his inaugural address, President Pershing emphasized student success and engagement and encouraged University employees to maintain and provide additional transformative experiences for students while building on success in the areas of research, innovation, and athletics.

Imagine U

On January 1, 2013, the University of Utah launched a new institutional marketing campaign, Imagine U. The campaign is the culmination of a year of research, which
included surveys and focus groups to determine the right message to describe the creativity and innovation of students and employees at the University. There are six Key Supporting Messages:

The University of Utah
- Is a tier-one teaching and research institution.
- Offers an extraordinary collaborative learning experience.
- Combines the energy of a world-class research institution and a cutting-edge health sciences center.
- Prepares graduates to enter a competitive workforce.
- Offers a unique and inspiring environment to work and play.
- Is engaged with the community where we live and work.

Technology and Commercialization

The University of Utah is top in the country for creating start-up companies from University research, according to a ranking by the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

Forbes magazine’s recent ranking of the “Best States for Business” pointed to “an educated labor force” as a big reason Utah came in at number one. The U supplies many of the employees for companies that keep expanding their operations in Utah, such as Goldman Sachs, Adobe, Omniture, Oracle, Ebay and many others.

Commitment to Diversity

The University of Utah is deeply committed to enhancing the success of diverse faculty, students, and staff, as part of our broader goal to enrich the educational experiences and success of all members of our University community. The campus offers services to support our diverse faculty, staff, and student body through the Women’s Resource Center, LGBT Resource Center, American Indian Resource Center, Center for Ethnic Student Affairs, International Center, Center for Disability Services, and Veterans’ Support Center. Curriculum offerings encourage students to engage in a broader world-view through courses and programs such as Diversity Scholars, Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, and an ever growing Language and Literatures Department, which teaches over 20 different languages.

Sustainability

The University of Utah has a plan to be carbon neutral by 2050. In fall 2010, the University released its Energy and Environmental Stewardship Initiative: 2010 Climate Action Plan detailing our long-range plans to make the campus even more environmentally friendly. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently ranked the University of Utah fourth in the nation for green power purchases.
Healthcare

University of Utah Health Care was recently ranked first in the nation in a prestigious national study. The University Health System Consortium’s 2010 Quality and Accountability Study compared 98 of the nation’s top academic medical centers and ranked them based on core quality measures, patient safety indicators, mortality rates, re-admission rates, and patient satisfaction scores.

Location

Salt Lake City is home to a population of 189,000, while the greater Salt Lake metropolitan area has a population of more than 1,145,000. Here can be found a rich and diverse set of recreational and cultural activities. As well as boasting quick access to numerous year-round outdoor activities and natural beauty, the city is full of opportunities for cultural and social engagement. A short overview of the city’s offerings reveals more than ten museums, dozens of art galleries and a monthly gallery stroll, the Utah Symphony – Utah Opera, multiple professional theatre and dance companies, an active music scene, and a host of cultural and arts festivals. Sports fans will find professional basketball, baseball, hockey, and soccer teams.

Salt Lake City boasts a number of public transportation options. Built in time for the 2002 Winter Olympics, the TRAX light rail system serves the entire Salt Lake valley, with a line to the airport opening in April 2013. Utah Transit Authority (UTA) bus routes are especially plentiful to the University and run frequently. In winter, routes are added to deliver skiers and snowboarders to seven resorts. FrontRunner, a commuter rail service, recently completed its 89-mile link between Salt Lake City and the metropolitan areas of Ogden to the north and Provo to the south. University of Utah employees can use their UCards to ride on all three systems for free, which makes commuting to campus an easy, inexpensive option. Additionally, bikes are allowed on all buses and trains, and bike lanes and trails are being added every year throughout the city, resulting in the League of American Bicyclists naming Salt Lake City as a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community.

There are a wide variety of restaurant offerings in Salt Lake City and nearby suburbs including excellent international cuisine. Some local favorites include the Red Iguana (Mexican), Bombay House (Indian), Bambara (American), Café Molise, Squatters Brew
Pub, Takashi (Sushi), Siegfried’s Deli, Copper Onion (European) and Eba (Tapas) just to name a few.

Utah is home to five national parks and many National Monuments and National Forests all of which are within driving distance of Salt Lake City. Neighboring states offer access to Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, and the Grand Canyon. Local ski resorts have excellent downhill and cross country skiing, snowshoe and snowboarding options.

All of these many cultural and recreational activities, combined with the unrivaled beauty of Utah’s outdoors, make Salt Lake City an amazing place to live.

The Marriott Library

History

The current facility for the University of Utah J. Willard Marriott Library was constructed and opened in 1968. At that time, the library housed over one million volumes and provided seating for three thousand students. Wallace Stegner, who was a distinguished alumnus and former professor of the University of Utah and who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1972, provided the keynote address for the dedication of the Marriott Library on May 18, 1968.

In 1969, the University Library was named in honor of J. Willard Marriott, Sr., who contributed $1 million for library collections. J. Willard and his wife, Alice Sheets Marriott, were both alumni of the University. Mr. Marriott delivered a brief speech to rededicate the building on August 16, 1969.

In 1996, the Marriott Library was expanded from 278,000 square feet to 488,000 square feet. The new space contained over thirty-two miles of shelving and a large multimedia center. The building was rededicated on October 2, 1996. Dr. Karen Lawrence, then a professor of English at the University who became president of Sarah Lawrence College in 2007, was the keynote speaker.

In 2000, the Marriott Library commenced the multimillion-dollar Renovation-Innovation Capital Campaign to fund major building-wide renovations. Renovation began June 1, 2005 and concluded June 30, 2009. The building remained open to patrons throughout the entire project. The 2009 renovation increased interior space within the library to 516,000 net square feet.
A rededication ceremony for the renovated Marriott Library was held October 26, 2009. The program included a keynote address by Former First Lady Laura W. Bush and comments by J. Willard Marriott, Jr., Chairman and CEO of Marriott International. In the years since the rededication additional improvements have been added—most notably the spacious Faculty Center, which opened in January 2013. Located on the ground floor of the library next to the increasingly popular Mom’s Café, the Faculty Center includes the Digital Scholarship Lab, Teaching and Learning Technologies, and the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. The center houses state of the art audio and video studios, and a number of well-equipped teaching and learning spaces.

Librarians and Staff

The many successes of the Marriott Library are a reflection of a talented and high achieving group of librarians and staff committed to providing the best services possible. There are a total of 46 faculty librarians and 139 full-time staff who comprise the employees of the Marriott Library along with 165 part-time employees. The Marriott Library has a dedication to student success and engagement and thus hosts internships in collaboration with My University Signature Experience (MUSE) along with Library and Information Schools across the country. The Marriott Library continues to reshape its service models and infrastructure to best fit the changing needs of users. Investment in librarians and staff through professional development activities has enabled them to actively engage, remain agile, and contribute expertise to the campus and broader academic community.