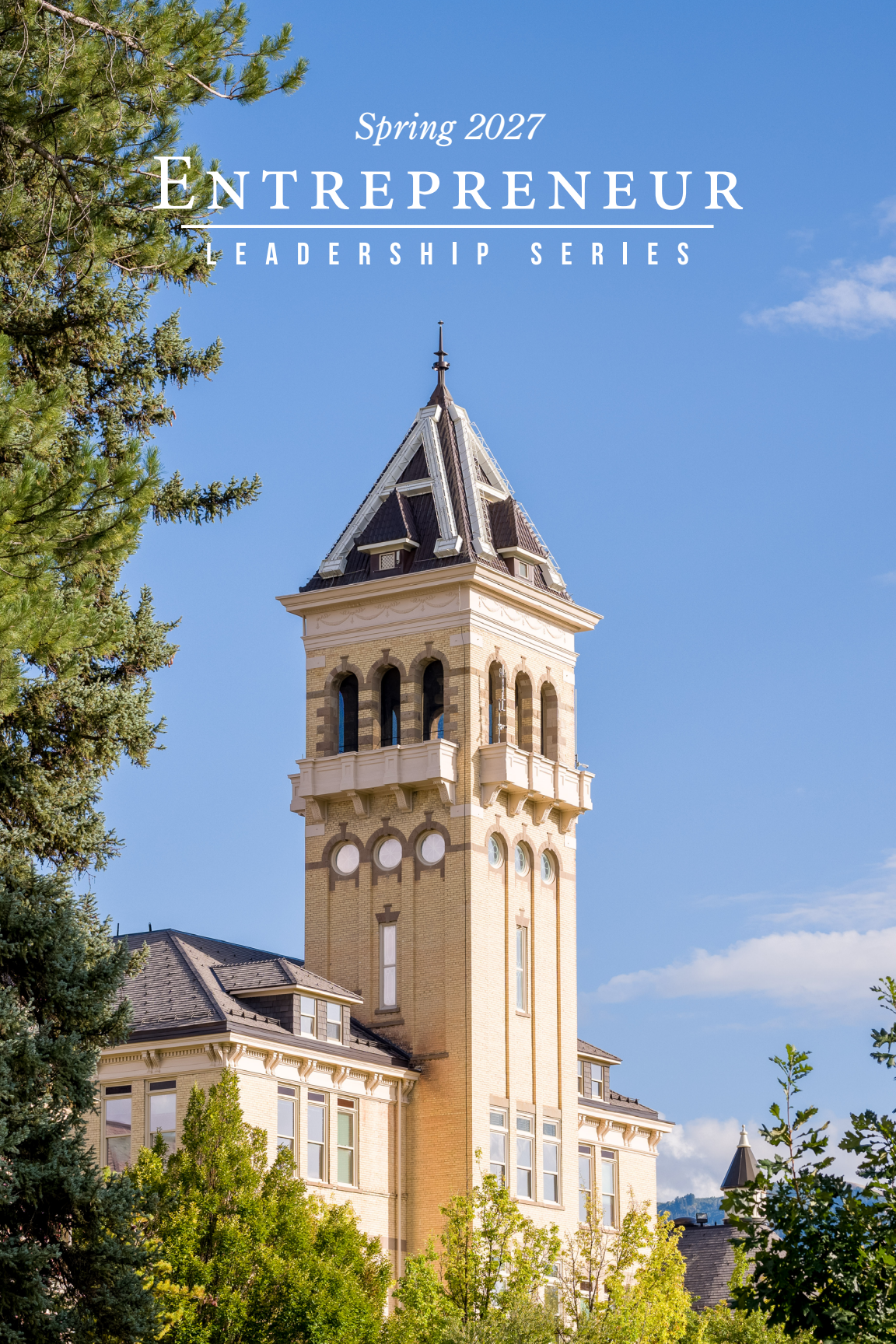
Spring 2027

ENTREPRENEUR

LEADERSHIP SERIES



THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS

January 13
Orientation to Series
Mike Glauser, Program Director

January 20
Jaycee Carroll
CEO of River Meadow Ranch Wagyu

January 27
Lindsay Schiess
Keynote Speaker focusing on Mental Well-Being

February 3
Derek Miner
Partner at Lemonade Stand and Build then Bless

February 10
Bronco Mendenhall
Head Coach of USU Football

February 17
Dan Clark
Founder, CEO, and Keynote Speaker

February 24
Eden & Jeremy Jones
Owners of Herm's Inn and Iron Gate Catering

March 17
Jacob McNeil
Founder of Cover Zero

March 24
Toby Tanser
CEO & Founder of Shoe4Africa

March 31
Daphne Blanchard
Title

April 7
Shark Tank Night
Various Students, Entrepreneurs

April 14
Tyler Tolson,
Entrepreneur of the Year
Founder & CEO of Denik

SHARK TANK NIGHT April 8



WHAT WE DO HERE...

The Entrepreneurship Center

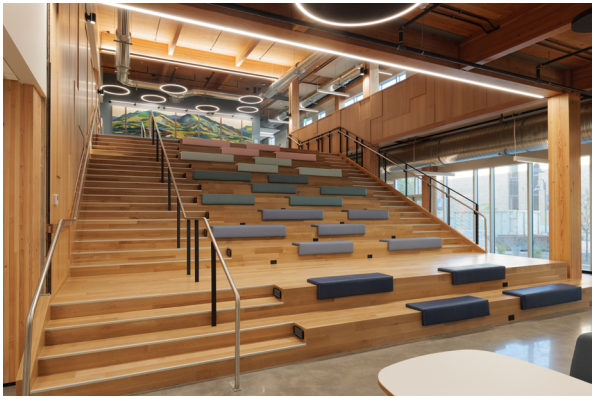
Prepares students to become entrepreneurial leaders by blending innovative curriculum with transformative real-world learning experiences. Through the Entrepreneurship Minor, E Club, and Entrepreneur Leadership Series, students gain practical experience and mentorship from accomplished entrepreneurs, business professionals, and peers—building their skills and confidence to launch and lead successful ventures.

SEED Program

Helps aspiring entrepreneurs in developing nations succeed through three initiatives: teaching, mentoring, and resource support. Our students deliver practical instruction in business-building fundamentals, provide personalized mentorship throughout the entrepreneurial journey, and assist in securing critical resources. Together, these experiences give families the tools and confidence they need to grow successful companies and improve the quality of their lives.

Entrepreneurship Minor

Prepares students across all majors to think and act as entrepreneurial leaders. In four courses, students gain a deep understanding of the entrepreneurial process, access valuable resources and networks, and develop the skills to create innovative solutions. Empowers students to launch new ventures and apply entrepreneurial practices.



SEED
SMALL ENTERPRISE EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Spring 2026
ENTREPRENEUR
LEADERSHIP SERIES

LEADERSHIP SERIES

INTRODUCTORY ORIENTATION

JAN 13



The Jon M. Huntsman School of Business Center for Entrepreneurship hosts its annual Spring Speaker Series, bringing distinguished founders and visionary leaders directly to campus. Every Wednesday night, prominent entrepreneurs visit Logan to engage directly with students, faculty, and local business leaders, offering real-world perspectives on innovation, leadership, and venture growth. Each presentation begins at 6:00 p.m. in the University Inn & Conference Center Auditorium and is open to the community. To ensure complete accessibility for audiences across Utah, every session is broadcast live to Utah State University regional campuses statewide. Full video recordings are also archived on the Center for Entrepreneurship website for convenient on-demand viewing at any time. Attendees gain direct access to experienced executives and successful startup founders, along with actionable guidance on launching, scaling, and managing modern business ventures. This distinguished series reflects the Huntsman School's ongoing commitment to cultivating entrepreneurial leadership, inspiring the next generation of innovators, and supporting economic development throughout the region. Whether you are actively launching a business, exploring a new startup concept, or simply eager to learn from industry experts, these weekly Wednesday sessions provide essential lessons in building and sustaining success.

Lifetime entrepreneur, innovator, teacher, mentor and Center director

Jaycee Carroll is the all-time leading scorer in Utah State basketball history with 2,522 points

Jaycee Carroll is a former professional basketball player, best known for his scoring prowess and longevity in the profession. He grew up in Laramie, Wyoming, where he played high school basketball at Evanston High School. He was named Wyoming Gatorade Player of the Year in both his junior and senior years.

During his senior year he set the Wyoming state record for points per game at 39.4, averaging 9.1 rebounds and 3.6 steals, Jaycee played for Utah State University from 2004 to 2008 and quickly became the Aggies' all-time scoring leader, holding 9 school records. He holds the second-highest 3-point field goal percentage in NCAA Division I history.

After college, Jaycee went on to play professionally in Europe. He played for Teramo, Gran Canaria, and then 10 years for Real Madrid where he became a top scorer and leader, earning multiple honors. During his tenure, Real Madrid won the Spanish Super Cup six times and the Euro League Championship twice.

After retiring, Jayce used all the skills he learned in basketball – goal setting, discipline, persistence, teambuilding – to start and grow two successful businesses: River Meadow Ranch Wagyu, a premium Wagyu beef production company, where he raises high-quality A5-grade Wagyu cattle, and Three Seasons Wealth, a wealth management firm that provides private wealth investment strategies and services to entrepreneurs, athletes, and high net worth individuals. Jaycee is a remarkable role model for Utah State.



JAYCEE CAROLL

CEO, RIVER MEADOW RANCH WAGYU

JAN 20

Next Meters provides humanitarian help internationally

Lindsay Schiess is a keynote speaker, professor at the University of Utah, licensed clinical social worker, and founder of Rise With Purpose. Drawing from years of clinical practice, graduate-level teaching, and thousands of conversations with leaders, teams, and individuals, she helps organizations build emotional resilience so people can navigate pressure, uncertainty, and change without losing themselves.

Known for her engaging presentations, Lindsay blends psychology, neuroscience, compelling stories, humor, and meaningful audience interaction to transform research into practical tools that audiences can immediately apply. Lindsay earned her master's degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Utah and is the host of the Therapy Utah Podcast. She is a frequent guest on leadership podcasts and professional platforms, where she shares practical insights on resilience, leadership, and human behavior.

Throughout her career, Lindsay has helped thousands of individuals, leaders, and organizations strengthen communication, navigate change, and build healthier, more resilient cultures.

As a wife and mother of four, she believes families are life's greatest classroom—where we learn to love, grow, apologize, and begin again. She believes deeply in the goodness of people and the remarkable capacity we all have to heal, grow, and show up for one another.



LINDSAY SCHIESS
KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOCUSING ON MENTAL WELL-BEING

JAN 27

DEREK MINER

PARTNER, LEMONADE STAND,
BUILD THEN BLESS

FEB 3



Derek is a seasoned entrepreneur with an impressive track record of founding, scaling, and leading innovative ventures. Before finishing college, he was part of the early management team at ah-ha.com, supporting its acquisition and public offering. He then co-founded OrangeSoda.com, growing it into one of Utah's fastest-growing online marketing agencies before its acquisition by Fortune 1000 company Deluxe Corporation. Throughout his career, he has forged strategic partnerships with major global brands, including American Express, Delta Airlines, and Jiffy Lube. Currently, Derek is a partner at Lemonade Stand, a full-service marketing agency, and Build Then Bless, a social impact platform recognized as a 2025 Silicon Slopes "Community Champion." Recognized as one of Utah's top 100 founders, Derek is a five-time Inc. 500/5000 recipient and an honoree of the UVU Foundation's Community Engagement Award. Beyond his executive leadership, he actively contributes as an angel investor, business mentor, speaker, and former committee volunteer for the Mountain West Capital Network. Outside of work, Derek enjoys cycling, skiing, playing drums, and spending time outdoors with his family. He feels especially fortunate to speak at Utah State University alongside two of his children who currently attend campus.

Danny owns 37 Jimmy Johns locations across multiple states

BRONCO MENDENHALL

HEAD COACH, USU FOOTBALL

FEB 10



Bronco Mendenhall is the head football coach at Utah State University and a veteran collegiate coach with 34 years of experience, including 19 seasons as a head coach. Throughout his career, he has led 17 teams to bowl eligibility, earned 146 career wins, and coached more than 138 players who have signed NFL contracts.

Before joining Utah State, Bronco served as head coach at New Mexico, Virginia, and BYU. During 11 seasons at BYU, he led the Cougars to 11 consecutive bowl games, five 10-win seasons, and two Mountain West championships. At Virginia, he led the Cavaliers to five straight bowl-eligible seasons and the program's first-ever Orange Bowl appearance.

A Utah native, Bronco began his playing career at Snow College, where he was an All-American and team captain on the 1985 national championship team, before playing at Oregon State.

Throughout his coaching career, he has emphasized success both on the field and in the classroom, including helping Utah State achieve the highest team GPA in program history during his first year with the Aggies.

Heather created the Impact Lounge at Sundance Film Festival

Dr. Barbour is currently working on over 400 acres to help animals

Dan is a distinguished alumnus of the University of Utah, where he earned his degree in psychology, laying the groundwork for a lifelong career dedicated to understanding the human spirit. As a respected University Professor, compelling Podcast Host, and acclaimed New York Times Best-Selling Author, he has penned an extraordinary collection of 35 books. Most notably, Dan served as a primary contributing author to the globally renowned Chicken Soup for the Soul series, touching millions of lives with his heartfelt narratives.

Among his many acclaimed works, Dan's famous story, "Puppies For Sale," captured the hearts of audiences worldwide and was ultimately adapted into a memorable short film produced at Paramount Studios, starring the legendary Academy Award-winning actor Jack Lemmon. Widely recognized as a true master storyteller, Dan's inspirational writings have achieved massive global reach, with over 50 million books published in more than 40 languages across the globe. His wisdom and engaging perspective have made him a sought-after guest on prominent media platforms, featuring in over 500 television and radio programs, including high-profile appearances on Oprah, The Glenn Beck Program, NPR, and international broadcasts with Voice of America/ Radio Free Europe.

Throughout his expansive career, Dan's central teaching revolves around a single, powerful philosophy: to relentlessly focus on what matters most, which is ultimately that which lasts the longest. He continually reminds his audiences, readers, and students that the true goal of a purposeful life is not merely to live forever, but to create something meaningful that will endure long after we are gone.



DAN CLARK

FOUNDER, CEO, SPEAKER

FEB 17

Director of USU's Bingham Entrepreneurship Center

Eden and Jeremy are innovative, forward-thinking entrepreneurs with a rich, versatile background spanning business strategy, high-level hospitality, and food service management. Eden brings a sharp, highly analytical approach to operations, beautifully complemented by her extensive expertise in human resources, exceptional interpersonal communication skills, and an unwavering commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth.

Together, Eden and Jeremy have cultivated deep, hands-on experience across the entire culinary and service landscape—ranging from complex catering operations to their ownership and active operation of Herm's Inn. Situated in Logan, Utah, Herm's Inn is a historic and beloved Cache Valley landmark, renowned for its hearty, made-from-scratch breakfast and lunch menus, timeless charm, and warm, welcoming neighborhood atmosphere.

Through every business endeavor, Eden and Jeremy seamlessly blend their distinct individual talents in leadership, organizational strategy, and service. Their shared entrepreneurial path reflects a unified, passionate commitment to creating unforgettable guest experiences, cultivating strong and resilient business practices, and making a lasting, meaningful impact on the vibrant local community they proudly serve.



EDEN & JEREMY JONES

OWNER, HERM'S INN & IRON GATE CATERING

FEB 24

JACOB MCNEIL
FOUNDER, COVER ZERO

MAR 17



Jacob McNeil is the founder of Cover Zero, a platform that helps football coaches turn data into game plans. From an early age, Jacob has been focused on sports, including his first job at Utah State as an intern with the Athletics Department. A USU alumnus — BS Accounting, 2015 and Master of Accounting, 2016 — Jacob spent the next decade in Houston in the energy industry. Despite loving the work, the allure of sports never faded. As he observed how collegiate and high school programs handled play-by-play data, an issue emerged: coaches were losing hours preparing irrelevant reports. Cover Zero was built to provide advanced, predictive analysis in minutes. Today it serves more than 500 football programs across more than 30 states, from high school to Division I. Jacob believes sports bring out the best in us. Done the right way, organized sport builds discipline, leadership, courage, creativity, empathy, and problem-solving—the traits student-athletes need after the final whistle. He sees no more important time than now to steward amateur sports toward these attributes. After ten years in Texas, Jacob recently moved home to Utah with his wife, Cambric, and their three children to be closer to family. In his spare time, he coaches his kids' sports teams. He dreams of having the chance to appear on Jeopardy and The Amazing Race one day.

Innovator in the Dental Industry

TOBY TANSER

CEO, FOUNDER SHOE4AFRICA

MAR 24



Justin Haskell began his career in the life insurance field where he realized that Medicare plan solutions and final expense benefits were a growing need for people across the country. He decided to start Maximum Senior Benefits (MSB), a national company that focused on offering these benefits, while also offering peace of mind in the process. For over a decade, MSB has hired competitive, passionate sales professionals who seek to offer comfortable, tailored solutions to individuals and their families. Justin's story starts well before that in the small town of Elk Ridge, Utah. He spent his whole childhood there, attending Payson High School and graduating in 1998. After high school, Justin served a Latter-Day Saint mission in the Dominican Republic. After that, he attended Utah State University, majoring in International Studies with minors in International Business, Portuguese, and French. After graduating, Justin joined Best Buddies International, a non-profit designed to help people with disabilities.

While working for Best Buddies International, Justin moved all over the country, from California to Florida, finally settling in Utah and running Best Buddies' Utah operation. While doing that, Justin discovered a love for business and entrepreneurship. That's when he went back to school and earned his MBA. He started Maximum Senior Benefits soon thereafter. Justin currently resides in Elk Ridge, Utah with his wife, Leslie, and their five children.

Founder of national firm
Maximum Senior Benefits

Oversees Salt Lake Bees, Megaplex Theatres, and Big League Utah

Daphne Blanchard has spent her career building businesses and social enterprises across borders,believing that entrepreneurship is a powerful tool to fuel self-sufficiency and address pressing global challenges. Since 1999, when she became the first female sales representative for Pro Look Sports, she has launched and led ventures in diverse industries and communities. These include designing an educational system for a factory in Tijuana, developing social enterprises in Ecuador, and co-owning a yellow dragon fruit farm in the Amazon region. Through her company, Zelano International, Daphne also oversees ZConnect (a global outsourcing initiative), Neeyo Green Clean (a Latin American service company), and international product sourcing. In addition, she directs Kovê International, working alongside community leaders in Ecuador to provide construction projects, medical trainings and clinics, immigrant services, and educational scholarships. Today, Daphne serves as a Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Director of the Bingham Entrepreneurship Center at Utah State University's Uintah Basin campus. She holds a master's degree in International Relations from the University of San Diego, where she specialized in economic development in Latin America. Her combined experience in education, business, and non-profit leadership equips her to collaborate across sectors, expand markets, and create meaningful social impact. After several years living in South America, she is excited to be paddleboarding and biking in Utah's mountains again



DAPHNE BLANCHARD

SPORTS EXECUTIVE

MAR 31

TYLER TOLSON
FOUNDER, CEO DENIK

APR 14



Tyler Tolson is the CEO and Founder of Denik, a company he started as a full-time student at Utah State University in 2011. Denik is a custom notebook and lifestyle product company that uses a portion of its funds to build schools and support artists. In 2022 the company was named to the Utah Business FAST 50 - "the 50 Fastest Growing Companies in Utah", and to the Inc 5000 list of America's fastest growing companies. The company has blossomed into a multi-million dollar brand and serves customers like Nordstrom, Urban Outfitters, and Target in over 16,000 retail locations in North America. Denik also produces custom notebooks for brands like Nike, Disney, Google, and TikTok. The Denik community has funded and built 6 schools to date- 1 in Laos, 1 in Guatemala, 1 in Ghana, 1 in Nicaragua, and 2 in Mali, Africa.

Tyler has been named as "Young Emerging Leader" by the Leader to Leader Institute in New York, and was selected as "Top 40 Under 40" leaders in the Gift and Stationery Industry. During the last twelve years he has taught and trained audiences of various capacities, and has consulted entrepreneurs, students, and artists at all stages of business. However, Tyler's greatest accomplishment is marrying the girl of his dreams and raising his 6 rockstar kids.

Tyler Tolson is our Huntsman Entrepreneur of the Year for 2026

SHARK TANK

APRIL 8

Marissa Barlow is an entrepreneur and co-founder of Nani Swimwear, which she started at age 15 after struggling to find appropriate swimwear for a family vacation. Bootstrapping the business to $11 million in revenue, she built a brand focused on creating high-quality, modest, and fashion-forward swimsuits. Recognized on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list, Marissa and Nani Swimwear are dedicated to empowering women everywhere to seek adventure and live a “nani” life through thoughtfully designed collections.





Danny Clark is the Co-founder and CEO of D&D Enterprises, overseeing 37 Jimmy John’s locations and investing in Viva Chicken, Outdoor Elements, and real estate ventures. As Board Chair of Roots Charter High School in West Valley City, he leads initiatives in education and community development. Above all, Danny is dedicated to his family, sharing his life with his wife, Mary Clark, and their four children—three daughters and one son.

Amy Rees Anderson is the Founder and Managing Partner of REES Capital, a Mentoring and Angel Investing Firm. She is also an author and serves as a contributor to Forbes and the Huffington Post. Anderson also recently founded the IPOP Foundation, a charity focused on helping educate and mentor entrepreneurs. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award and Utah Business CEO of the Year Award.





Travis M. Kunz, a Utah State University accounting alumnus, is the founding partner of Travis M. Kunz, CPA, P.C. in Preston, Idaho. A licensed CPA, CFE, CGMA, and Enrolled Agent, he specializes in individual and business taxation, tax strategy, and small business advising. Deeply committed to his community, Travis is a former Preston City Council member. He and his wife, Kamille, lead a multi-generational, devoted USU Aggie family.



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