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## Utah State Home to 'Golden' Scholars



USU's 2008 Goldwater Scholars. (left to right) Jodie Barker-Tvedtnes (scholarship recipient), Sydney Chamberlin (honorable mention), Cody Tramp (honorable mention) and Tamara Jeppson (scholarship recipient).

Utah State University students Tamara Jeppson and Jodie Barker-Tvedtnes were named 2008 Goldwater Scholars by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Aggies Sydney Chamberlin and Cody Tramp were awarded honorable mentions in the prestigious competition.

“For the first time in the university’s history, all of the candidates we submitted were accepted for awards,” says Joyce Kinkead, USU associate vice president for research. “We’re very proud of these outstanding students.”

In addition to this year’s award recipients, Utah State boasts nine Goldwater Scholars and two honorable mention recipients from previous years. The scholar award includes a two-year scholarship of up to \$7,500 per year.

“I applaud the accomplishments of these young scholars,” says Mary S. Hubbard, dean of USU’s College of Science. “This is a testament to the fantastic research mentorship provided to these students by faculty at USU. These awards confirm that our students are prepared to compete with the best nationwide.”

**Jeppson**, a graduate of Bear River High School in Garland, Utah, is majoring in geology and physics. With faculty mentor Jim Evans, she is studying how earthquake energy is partitioned along the San Andreas Fault.

Jeppson completed an internship in applied geophysics at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory last summer. Following graduation from USU, she plans to pursue a doctorate in geophysics, conduct research and teach at the university level.

Salt Lake City native **Barker-Tvedtnes** was named a Goldwater Honorable Mention recipient in 2007. She is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in physics with a minor in classics.

This past summer, Barker-Tvedtnes attended the Polar Aeronomy Radio

Science Summer School in Alaska, where she conducted research on noctilucent clouds with faculty mentor Mike Taylor. She plans to continue her studies at the graduate level and conduct research in upper atmospheric physics at a government or academic institution.

**Chamberlin**, a physics, mathematics and political science major from South Jordan, Utah, achieved the rank of cadet colonel in the Civil Air Patrol. She received the patrol's highest honor, the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, in 2007.

While at USU, Chamberlin earned a scholarship for summer study at Germany's Friedrich Schiller University. She plans to pursue a doctorate in mathematical physics and an academic career.

Lander, Wyo., native **Cody Tramp** is a sophomore majoring in molecular biology and biochemistry. The USU Undergraduate Research Fellow is pursuing four ongoing research projects.

Tramp's goals include earning a doctorate in molecular and cellular biology. He plans to conduct research in stem cell biology and work in a national research laboratory.

USU's honorees are among 321 award recipients selected from a field of 1,035 math, science and engineering students nominated by colleges and universities nationwide. The Goldwater Scholar program was established by Congress in 1986 to foster academic excellence in science, engineering and mathematics in the nation's universities.

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