

Student Spotlight: Matthew Crump | College of Engineering

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Meet Matthew Crump, a grad student in our civil and environmental program with an emphasis in transportation engineering. Matthew is from Riverton, Utah, and he enjoys almost anything outdoors: fly fishing, hiking, hunting, backpacking, and mountain biking. Above all, Matthew wants people to know he is an open book: "I love talking to people about my experience at USU and if anyone wants to know more about civil engineering, and specifically transportation engineering, then please reach out to me! I would be glad to chat with anyone and share some advice."



Matthew graduated with his bachelor's in civil engineering in May 2020. He's now working on a master's of transportation engineering under the direction of Dr. Patrick Singleton.

Q: Why did you choose to attend USU?

A: Every single person I talked to about USU loved their time here. They loved the education, the location, and the whole experience USU offers. If I wear my USU shirt somewhere, I am inevitably going to hear "Go Aggies!"

Q: You're a grad student, so tell us about your research.

A: I am currently performing research on siting active transportation infrastructure on canal corridors. The Utah Department of Transportation has sponsored the research to better understand how local governments, canal companies, and engineering firms can work together to establish trails within canal corridors across the state.

Q: What's an idea or quote you live by?

A: Life is to be enjoyed, not just endured. This is especially applicable to college students. If you are just enduring your time at USU to get a degree and leave, then you are missing out on so much!

Q: Have you done any internships?

A: I have had three internships during my time as a student. One at ESI Engineering, one at AECOM, and another at Cache Landmark Engineering. Each of these internships gave me unique experiences that I value a lot. My first internship involved survey work and construction observation, which provided important real-world experience on how things are built. Even though it might be hard standing out in the sun all day, I think every engineer should spend time watching designs become reality. My second and third internships helped push me toward transportation engineering for graduate school. I think it's essential to get real design experience before deciding on a graduate program.



Matthew with his wife in Bryce Canyon.

Q: What's your dream job?

A: Public works director

Q: What is the best thing you've read in the past month?

A: "Rhythm of War" by Brandon Sanderson. Easily the best book I have read in years!

Q: What's your favorite place to you've been to?

A: Half Dome Summit in Yosemite National Park

Q: Favorite band?

A: REO Speedwagon

Q: Favorite Food?

A: Chocolate chip pumpkin bread

Q: What topic do you wish more people would learn about?

A: The transportation infrastructure all around them (of course) and how important it is for their livelihood.

Q: What is your advice to first-year grad students or to people thinking about grad school in engineering?

A: It is essential to develop a good relationship with your major professor. If you are an undergraduate student thinking about pursuing a graduate degree, then go to talk a professor that can tell you more about that field of study. Make an effort to meet all of the professors you could potentially work with. Even if you don't do research, they will talk through how you feel and whether or not that field of study fits you. I wish I had been introduced to Patrick Singleton (my major professor) earlier because he has been the perfect mentor and instilled in me a love for transportation work.

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