A year ago, Utah State journalism Professor Matthew LaPlante traveled to Ethiopia and brought back heart-wrenching stories of tribal traditions of infanticide. This time, LaPlante took three Aggie journalism students with him to follow up on stories of life in the impoverished East African nation.

LaPlante and his fellow journalists—students MacKinzie Hamilton, Danielle Manley and Dale Nichols—will talk about their trip and what they found in the first Morris Media & Society Lecture of the year, “Ethiopia: Telling stories in the land of hope & heartbreak.”

The event, a panel discussion with photos of their experiences, will be Wednesday, Oct. 3, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in the new Agriculture Building auditorium, Room 101, on the USU campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Among the stories the USU team has already reported: LaPlante’s Aug. 8 story in The Washington Post on Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who had been sick and missing all summer. LaPlante’s reporting was prophetic, as Zenawi died three weeks later.

Manley also has already published her first story from the Africa trip—a piece on ThePostGame.com about the country’s famed distance runners, “Running In Ethiopia: Olympic Dreams, Empty Pockets,” about how distance running represents a way out of poverty for tens of thousands of people in that desperately poor country.

The Aggie Africa reporting team will talk about these and other stories they uncovered during their time in Ethiopia, and reflect on how just telling these stories can make a difference.