



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

COLLEGE *of* ENGINEERING
and TECHNOLOGY
CONVOCATION

MAY 6, 2022



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Message From the Dean

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Dear Graduates, Family, and Friends,

Today I, along with your family, friends, professors, and colleagues, congratulate you on your graduation from the College of Engineering and Technology at Utah Valley University. It is truly an honor to celebrate this very special occasion with you.

Like all things that are worthy of your time and effort, earning a college degree is one of life's greatest achievements. As you reflect on your years at UVU, no doubt you experienced a variety of ups and downs. Disappointments and failures come to us all in some form or another. I encourage you to embrace these disappointments when they come and learn from them. As you do this, life has a way of showing clarity and beauty because of these experiences.

Even though disappointment comes to us all, I encourage you to have hope in the future — hope in your future. You are walking today as a CET UVU graduate. You have hope for a wonderful career ahead of you. Some of you may hope for a family. Others will hope for success in helping and serving others in your community. Hope is a wonderful verb and when you possess hope, all of life's potential disappointments don't seem so bad. Hope is what UVU Wolverines showcase to the world.

I also would like to congratulate you on choosing degrees and career paths that enable you to become problem solvers in our world. You are prepared with a good grasp of fundamentals, innovation, and ethics, and a good understanding of the global issues that affect us all. What sets you apart from many other graduates in the nation this spring is your hands-on education with a focus on real-world solutions. In the College of Engineering and Technology, we love to build, design, construct, and everything in between. As a graduate of this fine college, I ask of you — what can be done next? What will your mark be on the world? How will you change the world for good? What will you do for the next generation after you? Each of us has a responsibility to leave things better than we found them, so what will be your mark and legacy?

I encourage you to help others in addition to helping yourself. As a CET UVU graduate, people will look to you for leadership. Give it freely. As a UVU graduate, people will look to your hard work. Always do that. And, as a UVU graduate, people will look to you as a good example to the world around you. Be that ... Be a Wolverine ... always!

Congratulations on this well-deserved achievement. Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Afsaneh Minaie
Interim Dean
College of Engineering and Technology

MAY 6, 2022

VALEDICTORIANS

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TU PHAN

Bachelor of Science, *Electrical Engineering*

Tu Phan is from Vietnam and attended the Le Quy Don Gifted High School in Da Nang, Vietnam, before attending UVU. Tu plans to receive a Ph.D. and work for Hill Air Force Base in Utah. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has been on the Department of Engineering dean's list every semester at UVU. Phan has loved the dedication and willingness her professors have had in helping students. "Once you have found what you like," she says, "just go for it." In her spare time, Tu has started to learn how to play the piano.



JEREMY MICHAEL GOFF

Associate of Applied Science, *Information Systems and Technology*

Jeremy Goff was born in Denver, Colorado, but he grew up in Orem, Utah. Prior to attending UVU, he was completely homeschooled. He is graduating with a 4.0 GPA, an associate degree in applied science, and a Bachelor of Science in information systems and technology. While at UVU, Jeremy participated in the Elijah Interfaith Institute, where he helped host the former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Frank Griswold, among others. "My favorite part of UVU is the diversity," Jeremy says. "At UVU I have had fellow students of all ages, nationalities, ethnicities, religions, and political views. Truly UVU is open and welcoming to everyone, and I love the perspectives and insights everyone brings." Jeremy currently lives in American Fork, Utah, with his wife, Emily, and their daughter, Victoria.

STUDENT AWARDS

S.A.

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DENO PADILLA

Associate of Applied Science, *Engineering Design Technology*
Award of Excellence in Architecture and Engineering Design

Deno Padilla graduated from Payson High School before coming to UVU. She plans to continue in different drafting positions until graduating with an associate degree in drafting. In five years she sees herself working with a drafting company that has civil projects. She says the training she has received at UVU has given her a leg up in the job search. "I really enjoy the skills and opportunities I have had to grow at UVU," she says.



ADAM SCHADE

Bachelor of Science, *Professional Pilot*
Award of Excellence in Aviation

Adam Schade graduated from Maple Mountain High School before coming to UVU. He plans to continue flight instruction until he receives his ATP minimums before going to SkyWest Airlines. In five years, he hopes to see himself flying for United Airlines. He scored a perfect 7/7 on his first time pass on check rides and has loved flying airplanes to amazing places while here at UVU. Adam loves that his degree was structured around earning the professional certifications he needed to enter his field and that he's been able to gain real-world experiences that apply directly to his career.



AVA R. DECKER

Bachelor of Science, *Computer Science*
Student Award of Excellence in Computer Science

A native of Orem, Utah, Ava Decker attended Timpanogos High School and worked for a year at Microsoft before coming to UVU. Ava has loved UVU's welcoming environment and working so closely with her professors. She says that the classes at UVU have given her exposure to areas she likely would not have discovered on her own. Following graduation, she plans to work directly with hardware. "Don't let your schooling get in the way of your education," Ava says. "Push yourself to be truly satisfied with what you learn and find what you're passionate about."



TIMOTHY JOSHUA SEYSTER

Bachelor of Science, *Construction Management*
Student Award of Excellence in Construction Technologies

Tim Seyster is from Wenatchee, Washington, and graduated from Eastmont High School before attending UVU to earn a bachelor's degree in construction management. Tim says that UVU has some of the best faculty, staff, and students he's ever met. He is excited to enter the construction industry in his hometown. Following graduation, he hopes to start his own business in construction. "I would like to thank my very supportive parents for all the assistance and confidence to go back to school and receive my degree," he says. "I would also like to thank my fiancée, Berta, for all her love and support during my college career."



LINDSAY PECK

Associate of Applied Science, *Culinary Arts*
Student Award of Excellence in Culinary Arts

Lindsay Peck is from Avon, Utah, and attended Mountain Crest High School before coming to UVU. She earned an associate degree in culinary arts, and she's currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in food science. She hopes to leverage her culinary, food chemistry, and biology knowledge to grow her own produce and use it to create commercial food products that are sustainable, nutritious, and delicious. Lindsay has worked as a cook at The Lakehouse at Deer Creek and will be competing at the American Culinary Federation Student Chef competition in July 2022. She has enjoyed working alongside UVU's exceptional teachers and staff. When she's not cooking, she can be found camping, rock climbing, ballet dancing, or reading a good book.



SARA RUNYAN

Bachelor of Science, *Digital Audio*
Student Award of Excellence in Digital Media

Sara Runyan is from Folsom, California, and graduated from Folsom High School before coming to UVU. She decided to transfer to UVU after discovering the digital audio program and says that she just couldn't turn down the opportunity to learn about audio engineering in so many different entertainment industries. Now that she's earned her degree in digital audio, Sara hopes to attend the University of Utah to earn a master's degree in entertainment arts and engineering and become a sound specialist in the video game industry. Sara says UVU gave her a safe environment where she could develop her skills while creating lasting connections with classmates, professors, and advisors. "I have to give a quick shout-out to my mom," she says. "I would not be where I am today if she let me quit playing violin. Music was the start of my journey to finding this career path. I found my passion thanks to her."



TAYLOR SEIPEL

Bachelor of Science, *Civil Engineering*
Student Award of Excellence in Engineering

Taylor Seipel is from Rocky Ridge, Utah, and graduated from Juab High School before attending UVU. Taylor says that UVU not only gave her a good education, but a practical, hands-on as well. During her time at UVU, she has already secured employment at Horrocks Engineers. She plans on earning a master's degree and is working toward getting her professional engineer's license in five years. "I'm very grateful for my husband, who has given me so much support while going to school," Taylor says.



AUSTIN RICHARD ANDERSON

Bachelor of Science, *Technology Management*
Student Award of Excellence in Technology Management

Austin Anderson is from Monroe, Utah, and graduated from South Sevier High School. He transferred to UVU to pursue a degree in business/marketing education. Despite work, family obligations, COVID-19, and other personal barriers, Austin was able to graduate from UVU with a 4.0 GPA and become a recipient of the Student Award of Excellence. He was offered a full-time teaching position at Mountain Ridge High School in Herriman, something he credits to an internship set up by UVU. "I am beyond excited to share what I have learned at UVU with future generations," he says. Austin and his wife, Savannah, have a one-year-old son named Callaway.

DANIEL MONREAL

Bachelor of Science, *Technology Management*
Student Award of Excellence in Technology Management

Daniel Monreal is from Orem, Utah, and graduated from Orem High School before attending UVU. Some of Daniel's favorite experiences at UVU have been his time on the UVU Race Team. Following graduation, he plans to pursue an MBA and grow his business in the food industry. "[UVU] provides an environment that leads to success," he says. Daniel credits his wife, Kaitlin, for supporting him the entire time he attended school.



RICHARD (BLAKE) JACKSON

Associate of Science, *Automotive Technology*
Student Award of Excellence in Transportation Technologies

Blake Jackson is from Orem, Utah, and attended Orem High School before coming to UVU. While attending school, he has learned more about his field of interest and improved the quality of his work. He says that he has learned far more at UVU than at the previous university he attended and that he appreciated that learning was the main focus of the department. "UVU gives students a great education at a great cost," he says. "It is the perfect environment for real learning." Following graduation, Blake plans to grow his current business and his family – he and his spouse have a baby on the way.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

F&S

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ARLENE ARENAZ

Academic Advisor, *Computer Science*
Staff Award of Excellence

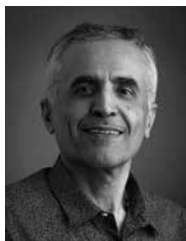
Arlene Padilla Arenaz is from Salt Lake City, Utah, and is currently serving as an academic advisor in the computer science department at UVU. She has a wide range of experience in academic and financial advising in both business and higher education. She served as the president of the Toastmasters International Speaking Club, PAL Chapter, and loves to travel, attend concerts, and spend time with her six grandchildren. “You are never too old to follow your dreams,” she says.



KELLIE M. JOHNSON

Administrative Assistant, *Technology Management*
Staff Award of Excellence

Kellie M. Johnson is the administrative assistant of the technology management department at UVU. Originally from northern California, Kellie is a proud United States Air Force brat with deep roots in Utah. She has a passion for education (especially at UVU), a love of travel, and recently learned to re-ride a bicycle after almost 40 years of being off the saddle. Kellie enjoys going to movies, concerts, and museums, but could easily stay home with her cats and read a good book or go for a swim on her own. “I have loved UVU since the day I started my education here in 1996,” she says. “While continuing to grow as a university, UVU has kept the sense of a small college in its attitude toward students. It is my honor to work at this university.”



ABOLFAZL (MASOOD) AMIN

Associate Professor, *Engineering*
Faculty Award of Excellence for Service

Dr. Masood Amin has been with UVU for 32 years and started as one of only two professors teaching engineering courses back in 2002. He holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Brigham Young University. Over the course of his teaching career, he has developed 12 engineering courses and taught 21 different courses. He has served as a publication reviewer and session chair at many ASEE conferences and authored many conference papers. Masood established the student chapter of American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME, in 2020 and says the highlight of his teaching career has been supervising a team of students who won two consecutive championship titles at the ASME-sponsored IAM3D Drone Competition. “Don’t give up, do your best, and success will be next,” he says.



EMILY HEDRICK

Assistant Professor, *Digital Media*
Faculty Award of Excellence for Service

Emily Hedrick is from Santa Barbara, California, and is an assistant professor in the digital media web developer and design program. She transferred to UVU (then Utah Valley State College) from Southern Utah University, where she got her start in digital media. She was one of the first graduates of the digital media department in 2009 and says she’s a “forever-proud Wolverine.” Emily also worked for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a producer and completed her graduate studies at Arizona State University. When she isn’t teaching, Emily is either traveling or dreaming about traveling. To her UVU graduates, she invokes Ted Lasso, encouraging them to “Be curious, not judgmental.”



OWEN PETERSON

Assistant Professor, *Digital Media*
Faculty Award of Excellence for Teaching

Owen Peterson, of Richfield, Utah, is an assistant professor of digital audio at Utah Valley University and has taught classes on game sound, production and post-production sound for film and television, music production techniques, and audio mixing. He is an active member of the Motion Picture Sound Editors (MPSE) and still works regularly in the industry as a freelance sound designer, composer, and production sound professional. Recently, he has worked on television programs and movies such as, “Love, Death, and Robots,” “Sonic the Hedgehog,” “Deidra & Laney Rob a Train,” “The Devil Inside,” and “Everything Must Go.” He and his wife, Mandie, have three children: Cairo, Livvy, and Eva.



M. TYLER BIRD

Associate Professor, *Engineering Technology*
Faculty Award of Excellence for Teaching

M. Tyler Bird, from Kemmerer, Wyoming, is an associate professor in the engineering technology department at UVU and has been a trailblazer of curriculum in the position he started in 2015. He previously served as chair of the engineering technology department and has industry experience working as an electrical controls engineer. He is a licensed professional engineer in Utah and Georgia. Tyler says the best part about teaching is watching his students grow and gain confidence in themselves while developing valuable skills. He and his wife, Nola, have five children.



TODD LEONARD

Associate Professor, Culinary Arts
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence

Chef Todd Leonard found his passion through cooking his whole life! As a senior instructor for the UVU Culinary Institute, his passion expands as he shares his love of cooking with the students. He always puts his students and class time first, and it shows in his many successes. Chef Todd was the USA National Chef of the Year in 2018-19 and has coached two of his students to become National Student Chefs of the Year as well. Chef Todd shines in the industry as he mentors his students in local eateries and places them in high-profile positions.



KYLE MERRILL

Professor in Residence, *Technology Management*
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence

Kyle J. Merrill, M.S., from Corvallis, Oregon, is a professional in residence in the Department of Technology Management and coordinator of the Master of Science in Engineering and Technology Management program. Prior to joining UVU, Kyle served as engineering manager for 18 years for different divisions of Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP Inc.) in the U.S. and abroad. Most recently he led engineering for a division of HP's large-format inkjet printing group in Barcelona, Spain, where he managed a combined staff of more than 80 engineers and contractors. Kyle's experience in engineering management, research and development, product development, manufacturing, and quality improvement informs his teaching and gives students a wealth of real-world insights. Kyle holds two U.S. patents and M.S. and B.S. degrees in statistics from Brigham Young University. When not teaching, Kyle and his wife, Kate, enjoy spending time with family, traveling, exploring the outdoors, biking/running/walking, gardening, and reading good books.



SAUL MONTAÑO

*Adjunct Instructor, Automotive Technology
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Saul Montaña was born in La Paz, Bolivia. He currently serves as an automotive technology professor. Saul came to the United States in 1977 and enrolled at Brigham Young University to study geology and play for the university's soccer team. He worked for the federal government for 32 years, retiring in 2016. He also attended Utah Valley University from 2005-2007, studying automotive technology. Saul began teaching at UVU in 2015 and says that this is the greatest job he has ever had because he is able to help students understand and reach their potential. He believes strongly that education opens the doors to freedom.

