

UVU magazine

1/54 Autism.

pg. 20

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ON THE COVER: AUTISM

One in 54 children in Utah is diagnosed with autism, the second-highest rate in the country. UVU is committed to providing support to students and the community.

Cover photos by Nathaniel Ray Edwards / Cover design by Ann Chen



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A New Year for UVU

PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER



The 2014 fall semester concluded a remarkable year for our students, faculty, and staff. We are thrilled at the number of students who have selected UVU as their higher education institution of choice. In the coming years, we anticipate once again becoming Utah's largest university. To accommodate this expected growth, the UVU community is working thoughtfully and strategically for our current and future students.

In the last issue of this magazine, we showcased an exciting expansion endeavor: our acquisition of 225 acres of land at the former Geneva Steel mill in Vineyard, Utah. This site will be transformed into an educational oasis with additional academic facilities, space for public-private partnerships, parking, and various athletic facilities.

In April 2014, we were fortunate to provide our student community an engaging facility with the opening of the Student Life & Wellness Center. This incredible new space includes more than 170,000 square feet and four stories designed to engage our students' minds, bodies, and spirits. In December, we also opened our state-of-the-art Classroom Building with 244,000 additional square feet specifically built to provide the best learning environment for our students.

The expansion of UVU is extraordinary. As our student population grows, we are also targeting spaces on campus that require additional attention. The arts facilities are currently at the top of the institution's priority list for expansion and improvement. Students and faculty in the fine arts departments are receiving national recognition for their achievements. We are committed to providing facilities that match their level of expertise and talent. For this reason, we are launching a major campaign to raise public and private support to make this project a reality. Visit uvu.edu/imagine for more information and to contribute.

As we look forward to another year together, I invite you to imagine the possibilities of what we can accomplish in 2015 and beyond. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Holland
President

Scholarship Ball Honors UVU's Best and Brightest

PHOTO BY NATHANIEL RAY EDWARDS



BRYCE OLSEN, A PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, SHARES HIS STORY AT THE 2014 PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP BALL.

Fifty of the most accomplished students attending Utah Valley University were honored at the 2014 President's Scholarship Ball held in October.

"These students could have chosen to attend almost any educational institution they wanted. And they chose UVU," said President Matthew S. Holland at the event. "Even more importantly, they continue to choose UVU."

The Scholarship Ball is Utah County's premier gala event and the University's primary means of generating new scholarship support for UVU students. All 700 tickets to this year's ball sold out a month in advance of the event, and the event raised more than \$235,000. The proceeds from the ball will provide 50 scholarships for undergraduate students as well as additional funds for students seeking master degrees. In the 24 years since the first President's Scholarship Ball, 750 students have benefited from donors' generosity.

Learning from the Best in the World

UVU culinary arts students can say they are learning from one of the world's best chefs. Chef Peter Sproul, co-director of the University's Culinary Art Institute, won a silver medal at The Culinary World Cup, held in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

Also known as Expogast, the competition was held over seven days in late November and included national and regional culinary teams and 250 individual chefs from 37 countries. Sproul competed in the individual culinary arts division, preparing a four-course festive menu and a finger-foods menu for seven people.

"To stand on that stage and receive a silver medal, surrounded by colleagues from around the world, at my first international competition was amazing and a true testament of how far we at the institute have come as a culinary program." (See related story on p. 8)

The Culinary World Cup, sponsored by the World Association of Chefs Societies, is held every four years. A certified executive chef, Sproul has been at UVU since 2007 and was the owner and executive chef at the Chef's Table in Orem. For seven years he was the executive chef at the Colony Club on Park Avenue in New York City.



PHOTO BY JAY DROWINS

CHEF PETER SPROUL WON A SILVER MEDAL AT THE CULINARY WORLD CUP IN LUXEMBOURG, HIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

Classroom Building Adds Much-Needed Space



PHOTO BY NATHANIEL RAY EDWARDS

Utah Valley University officials cut the ribbon on the University's newest facility, the 244,000-square-foot Classroom Building, in December.

"This state-of-the-art structure will provide students with the requisite learning environment that will lead to their lifelong success outside of the classroom," said President Matthew S. Holland.

The facility — funded during the 2013 legislative session behind the leadership of House Speaker Becky Lockhart — will deliver much-needed physical learning space for students and faculty at space-strapped UVU, which is projected to have more than 40,000 students by 2020.

The Classroom Building will provide study and learning spaces, including more than 3,000 additional classroom seats per hour. The facility will feature 34 classrooms ranging in size from 35 to 175 seats, a 1,000-seat auditorium that can be divided into three sections, and experiential teaching classrooms.

Students Place Second in National Adobe Competition



PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

FROM LEFT: SCOTT TWITCHELL, TYLER LARRABEE, AND BLAKE MCCLARY WON SECOND PLACE AT THE 2014 ADOBE DIGITAL ANALYTICS COMPETITION.

A three-member interdisciplinary team from Utah Valley University beat more than 50 teams from around the country to advance to the final round of the Adobe Digital Analytics Competition, where they finished second. UVU was the only undergraduate team to compete.

Student teams performed an analysis on an Adobe client's website, then presented their findings and made recommendations. Team members were Blake McClary, a marketing major, and Scott Twitchell and Tyler Larrabee, both majoring in information systems.

"No UVU team has made it to the finals of this competition before," said Twitchell. "UVU is all about taking what we learn in the classroom and applying it to real-life situations. We were well-prepared for the opportunity to move past the theoretical level and analyze the data then propose solutions to an actual client."

The team defeated teams from Stanford, MIT, and Berkeley to advance to the national competition, where it outperformed the University of Utah, University of Chicago, and Brigham Young University.

UVU Receives Grants Totaling \$3.1 Million

Utah Valley University has been awarded a \$2.2 million Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen its engaged learning opportunities and its completion rates. The University also received a \$900,000 academic grant from the NCAA to support UVU Athletics' academic outreach and programs.

UVU's Office of Engaged Learning will oversee the Title III grant over the next six years, which will be used to fund the "Strengthening Engagement and Com-

pletion" project at the University. The project will focus on innovative academic programs, primarily in enhancing engaged learning opportunities and scholarly activities for students. Funding will also be used to fortify academic advising.

The NCAA grant, a multi-year Accelerating Academic Success Program grant, will help the University provide an environment that supports education and enhances the ability of student-athletes to earn a degree.

SMARTLab Debuts Cutting-Edge Technology

Featuring advanced technology and resources for businesses of all sizes, the Vivint Sales and Marketing Applied Research Test (SMART) Lab opened in November at Utah Valley University.

The SMARTLab, part of a partnership between UVU and Vivint, is the only facility of its kind in the western United States and features technology and tools for marketing and sales research and training.

"We spent two years investigating various technologies that are cutting-edge in market research, before we brought all of these things together in one facility," said Paul Dishman, executive director of the SMARTLab and chair of the marketing department. "No one else in Utah is doing this."



PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

The SMARTLab includes advanced eye-tracking technology for advertising, package design, usability, and website testing; galvanic skin response and EEG technologies that can pinpoint reactions people have to various forms of marketing stimuli; state-of-the-art focus group and observation rooms; and facial coding analysis to provide salespeople with unbiased responses concerning the probable interpretation of their verbal and non-verbal communication cues.

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A Taste OF Art

A passion for teaching and food fuels the Culinary Arts Institute, one of UVU's most successful programs

by Melinda R. Colton
photography by August Miller

When Chelsea Escobar was a little girl, she looked forward to Saturdays. That was the day she and her grandmother baked cookies and then enjoyed them at their weekly tea party.

The sophomore from Nampa, Idaho, originally studied fashion design but has since rechanneled that creativity to culinary arts at Utah Valley University. She quickly became addicted to the fast pace of cooking after taking a few foundational cooking courses.

"I love making things look beautiful, so my art background has really helped me in culinary arts," she says.

She will graduate with her associate degree in May and is eager to get more industry experience. Her ultimate goal is to operate her own bed and breakfast.

Escobar's story is similar to many students enrolled in the Culinary Arts Institute, one of UVU's most successful associate degree programs. Nearly 300 students are on a waiting list to get in.

The intense program, now in its third decade, is one of the best-valued programs in the country. One of its strengths is professors who are experienced chefs in their own right.

Department co-chairs Todd Leonard and Peter Sproul bring a wealth of industry experience to the program. Leonard has been an executive chef at several Utah restaurants and has an infectious passion for cooking that spills over to his classes. Sproul, a certified executive chef, came to Utah from New York for a quieter lifestyle. That all changed when he started teaching and discovered a new passion.

From day one, the kitchen becomes their students' classroom. The students learn their trade by running restaurants, Canyon Park Café, a daily luncheon service, and Restaurant Forte (named after Greg Forte, who co-founded the culinary program with Wes Bidders), an elegant reservation-only dining experience.



Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake

with strawberry glaze and pistachio cream

With more than 500 students enrolled in the program at any given time, the recipe for success is two-fold: 20–25 hours a week of actual hands-on prepping and cooking and an additional 30–40 hours of homework. Part of the curriculum also requires a specific number of catering hours, as well as internships. In addition to becoming world-class chefs, students learn everything from setting tables to plating to doing dishes.

UVU's program provides students with depth and diversity, says Sproul. "The rigor we provide them translates into everything they will be doing. We provide an environment that is as realistic as possible."

In addition to the invaluable experience, the program keeps students in-

formed of the latest trends in their field. "The industry is constantly evolving. We stay ahead of the curve to prepare our students for their future," says Leonard.

Chefs Leonard and Sproul are quick to point out the culinary arts students don't just learn how to feed people. They are taught that cooking is a skill — and an art.

"Once our students learn the foundation of cooking, then we encourage them to make it their own. It's culinary 'arts' because it truly is a representation of what comes from inside the chef. All our students are chefs in waiting," says Leonard.

Like an artist with a paper and pencil, the student chefs learn how to compose a plate with the right color and deeper taste and flavors.

"Food that is cooked and presented properly will speak for itself. We teach the students to see it in their mind and then draw it on their plate," says Leonard.

The end results of the program speak for themselves as well. UVU culinary arts alumni have appeared on television programs such as "Cupcake Wars" and "Cake Boss," and many work as five-star chefs in some of the country's finest restaurants.

"I love the orchestration of the kitchen," Leonard says. "At the end of the block, I love seeing how much the students have learned. What was once chaos truly becomes art."

UVU Graduate Wins Young Chef Competition

Lyn Wells '14 is just one of UVU's many culinary arts alumni success stories. In October, she won the rigorous Ment'or Young Chef Competition in Beverly Hills.

The 2013 American Culinary Federation Western Regional Student Chef of the Year, Wells completed her associate degree in culinary arts in 2011 and a bachelor's degree in hospitality management in 2014.

"I grew up in the industry," says Wells, whose parents own a restaurant in Wellington, Utah. "My older brother attended UVU's Culinary Arts Institute first, and I followed in his footsteps. I wouldn't be who or where I am without this program."

The Los Angeles competition was the second in the series of four Young Chef Competitions taking place across the country. Wells competed at Chef Thomas Keller's acclaimed Bouchon Beverly Hills. She received a \$15,000 award and the chance to study under Chef Keller at world-famous restaurant The French Laundry in Napa Valley, Calif.

In addition, Wells apprenticed for Chef Peter Sproul in November as he competed at the Culinary World Cup held in Luxembourg, where he won a silver medal.

"I'm never going to know it all. But that's what I enjoy — I'll constantly be a student of my craft," she says.

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Engaged in Meaningful Work

UVU's Office of New Urban Mechanics provides engaged learning while building local government

The Office of New Urban Mechanics was developed at Utah Valley University to provide students with unique engaged learning opportunities while also building the community by helping local government reinvent itself.

In partnership with the city of Boston, the city of Philadelphia, and 23 cities throughout the UVU service region, UVU students like Christopher Wiltsie help cities pilot new programs or concepts.

Wiltsie, a double major in history and political science from Exeter, Calif., is leading an ONUM project to rebrand the city of Payson, Utah, and conducting a benchmarking project for Provo.

“Provo is ranked as having some of the highest volunteerism in the country, so officials wanted to determine how to better take advantage of that resource,” he says. “These opportunities have helped me confirm a deep interest in educational technology, educational psychology, and the implications of how the learning process works and is implemented.”

ONUM, in partnership with Downtown Provo, Inc., hosted PlayStreet Provo last summer in an effort to add greater vitality to downtown Provo. Wiltsie and other students organized the day of free food, games, and activities as part of a national movement to encourage more families to



PHOTO BY JAY DROWNS

CHRISTOPHER WILTSIE IS CONDUCTING A BENCHMARKING PROGRAM FOR PROVO AS PART OF UVU'S OFFICE OF NEW URBAN MECHANICS.

downtown Provo can become more accessible for families.

“Since joining ONUM I have a better

legitimacy in the Provo community to better affect change,” he says. “ONUM has allowed me to do real work that actually affects people and communities.”

Wiltsie, who graduated in December, is applying to graduate schools in the United Kingdom and plans to earn a master’s degree in public administration. His ideal career path is to return to Utah County and coordinate between local governments and minority groups to ensure they have a voice.

"ONUM HAS ALLOWED ME TO DO REAL WORK THAT ACTUALLY AFFECTS PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES."

spend time downtown. During the event, student researchers spoke with attendees to gain insight as to how

idea of how I can further my goals. It has given me practical skills and in many ways has given me the first seeds of

– Melinda R. Colton



PHOTO BY KIM RAFF

ROSELY ZAMORA OBSERVES THE 2014 UTAH LEGISLATIVE SESSION AS AN INTERN TO BECOME MORE AWARE OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICS.

Perseverance Pays Off

Political science major gains insight into political process as legislative intern

Rosely Zamora has one especially compelling reason to get her degree: her three-year-old daughter. She wants Arihanna to know she is capable of achieving anything she wants. That perseverance has served her well as a political science major at Utah Valley University preparing to graduate with honors this spring.

But Zamora's passion extends beyond the classroom. For the past year she has been a court-appointed advocate for foster children, which prompted her to learn how laws are made. While taking a theory of government class, she was given the opportunity to intern during the 2014 Utah Legislative Session for Rep. Lynn Hemmingway of Salt Lake City.

"My professors did an outstanding job of preparing me for the internship," says

Zamora. "There were a lot of bills that were directly related to children. This gave me the chance to translate political theory into legislative reality."

During the session, she attended committee meetings, assisted with press conferences, wrote scripts and talking points, and spoke with constituents.

"Every time I drive by the Capitol I think about all the amazing things I learned in that building during those short 45 days that will impact so many lives," she says. "I learned that potential legislation is brought forward by legislators who have concerned families who see something that needs to be fixed."

The internship taught Zamora to be persistent and passionate about a cause she believes in. She hopes to use this knowledge and dedication to help

women who have experienced domestic abuse and children who are in foster care. "I want to be their advocate and help them know their rights and resources."

Since the internship, she has become more aware of local and national politics. She recently participated in the Utah Colleges Exit Poll, which educated her about how polls work and how they can be effective tools in political science.

Upon graduation she will take the GRE and apply to graduate schools in the United States and abroad. She plans to earn a master's degree in public policy and continue to show her daughter her commitment to education.

— Melinda R. Colton

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$$\cos(x) = \frac{e^{ix} + e^{-ix}}{2}$$

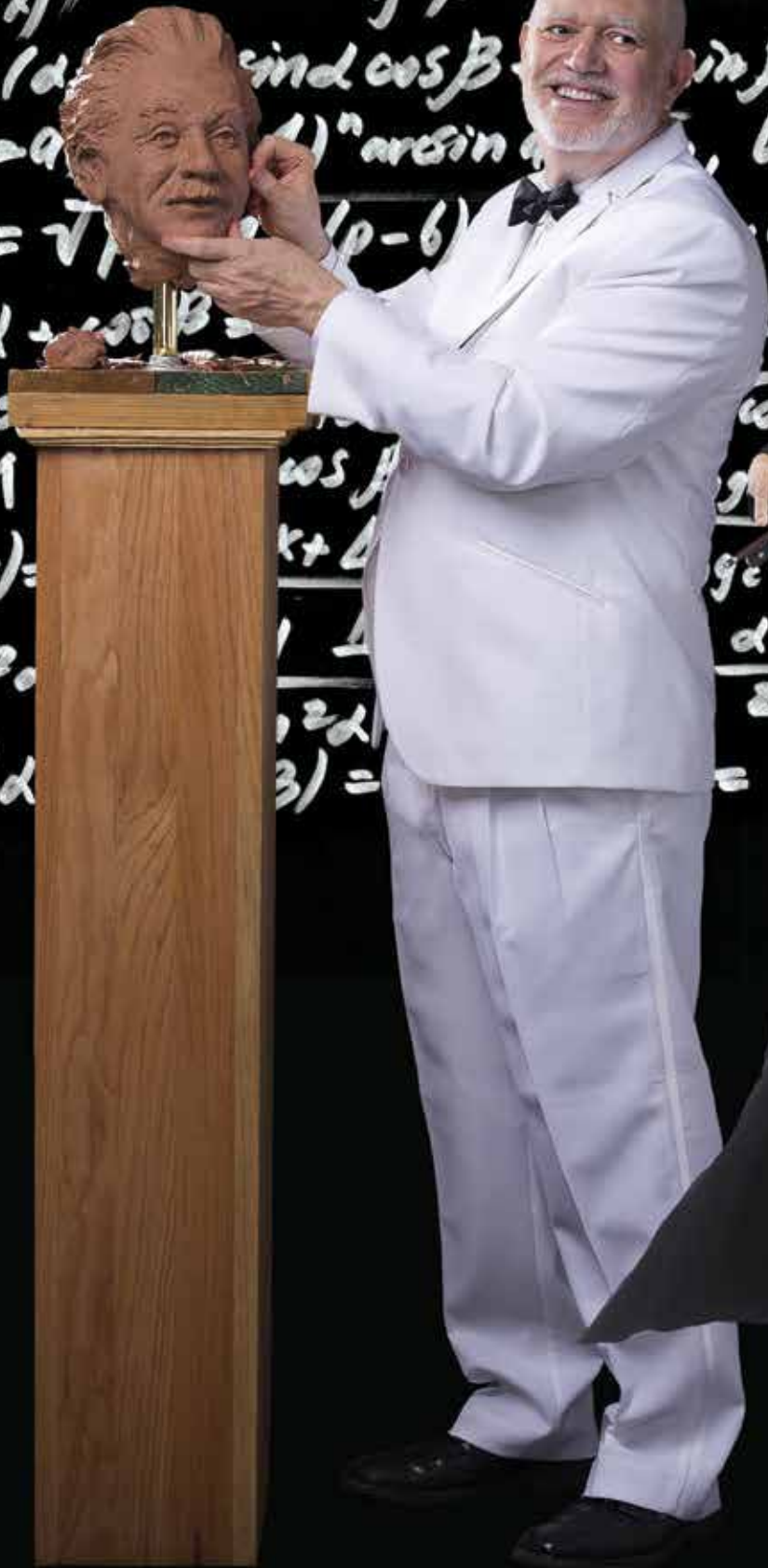
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Perfect Harmony

Daniel and Donna Fairbanks blend fine arts and science in their professional and personal lives

If you think science and the arts are incompatible, one conversation with Daniel and Donna Fairbanks will change your mind.

Daniel is the dean of UVU's College of Science & Health and holds a doctorate in genetics from the University of Arizona, but he is also an accomplished sculptor and visual artist. Donna is the chair of the UVU Department of Music, received a doctorate in violin performance from the University of Arizona, and has spent 30 years in higher education and administration. The two have been blending their areas of expertise through three decades of marriage and educational experience, using their unique perspectives to benefit each other and the UVU students they teach.

Q: How did your scientific and artistic experiences affect you growing up?

DANIEL: I come from a family of four generations of artists. I also grew up on an old farm, a good 20 acres or so of land that was completely surrounded by nature. So while my friends were off playing Little League Baseball or soccer in the summers, I was hiding behind a clump of grass, watching animals come to the pond and sketching them.

So I've always had that fascination with nature, and the scientist in me wants to delve into what's going on there and understand it in detail. And then the artist side of me looks at the beauty of it all and how we can creatively express that. To me, there's really no boundary between the two.

DONNA: The visual art world is one that I was not familiar with at all, and science was my worst subject in school. But I loved math, and music is incredibly mathematical. Creativity in music only works after you've done all the analytical work and experimentation.

Q: How has your connection to your spouse's work changed your perspective on your own?

DONNA: It's fun to pull from each other's disciplines. It's very holistic. In music appreciation, we're constantly referring to paintings and sculptures and how they impacted the music of the time. And I would not know as much about visual arts as I do without my association with Daniel. I've learned a lot about human anatomy with his expertise, how body parts work and muscles work, and all of that is something I can also use in private violin instruction.

DANIEL: Being married to Donna is fascinating because she opens an entirely new world to me. I get insight into the backstage world of music and meet musicians and attend performances I wouldn't normally be able to

attend if we didn't have that connection. And I've learned that when the students become passionate about what they're studying, they become much more motivated to buckle down and do the hard work. If you can bring that fascination and that passion into it, then it becomes infectious and the students respond really well. I kind of envy Donna because that's really what she does when she's teaching.

Q: What do you say to those who see science and art as opposed or who treat one or the other as less important?

DANIEL: It's only been in very recent years that the best scientists are not also the best artists. This idea that you have to specialize in a sub-discipline of the sciences or the arts causes some people to become so encapsulated in their own area that they lose that creativity they need to be successful. I would much rather be operated on by a surgeon who had been taking piano lessons from the time he or she was a child, rather than someone who was just focused on the science and the math to get into medical school.

DONNA: We talk a lot about what we call transferrable skills. For example, musicians learn a great deal of discipline, a great deal of concentration, the ability to present themselves in front of an audience with confidence — all of those things can be transferred beautifully to other disciplines. They help create educated, whole students who are ready to use several skills that can work together, whether they continue to pursue opportunities in music or decide to go into something else.

Q: How is UVU helping to integrate science and art as part of an engaged learning experience?

DONNA: The interdisciplinary cooperation here at UVU is extraordinary. It's a unique strength. Every year, we have more and more interactions between the various disciplines in our artistic productions. We integrate dance, we integrate theater, we have projects that cross disciplines, and we integrate digital media and media arts during our concerts, too.

DANIEL: The people who find the most success as scientists and engineers and mathematicians and technologists are the ones who can take the creativity that they've learned experiencing the arts and apply it to their careers. And for a campus that has grown so quickly, UVU has an amazing amount of synergy. I think it's a real, honest part of this institution. When we're talking about bringing the arts and the sciences together, I can't think of an institution that does it better.

PORTRAITS OF HEROES

UVU PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS CAPTURE THE STORIES OF THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE UTAH VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

DAVE ROGERS IS A VETERAN AND IS OVER THE SEARCH AND RESCUE FLEET.



Utah Valley University's photography program trains students to create compelling imagery that tells a compelling story. The Utah County Search and Rescue team helps complete strangers in great need, often sacrificing their time, creature comforts, and personal safety to little fanfare or recognition. This year, the two teamed up to tell the story of the unsung heroes of the search and rescue team.

Students in the UVU Photography Club attended monthly trainings, capturing what team members do in training and on rescues. The opportunity to join the rescuers in the field, as well as taking portraits of individual members, exposed students to a wide variety of photographic approaches and styles while also allowing them to share an otherwise untold story with the community.

BRYAN IRVING IS THE SEARCH AND RESCUE
TEAM'S SWIFTWATER SERGEANT.



LEFT PAGE: RICK SUCHOSKI PHOTOGRAPHS SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS TRAINING TO FOLLOW TRACKS AT UTAH LAKE NEAR HOBBLE CREEK.

RIGHT PAGE: MISSY RUSSELL CAPTURES COLD-WATER TRAINING CONDUCTED BY SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS AT UTAH LAKE STATE PARK.





DANIEL TODD IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UTAH COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE.



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BY EASTMAN KODAK
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Originally developed during WWII for aerial photography, the camera used by UVU's photography students is a single lens reflex camera. The photographer looks at the ground-glass through a rigid hood extending from the top of the camera. This particular camera has been modified several times.

LINDSEY MYERS HAS BEEN WITH THE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM FOR 10 YEARS AND IS THE NEW MEMBER MEDICAL ADVISER.



LEFT PAGE: TRAVIS LOVELL, AREA COORDINATOR FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAPHS SWIFT-WATER TRAINING IN THE PROVO RIVER.

RIGHT PAGE: MARIE TEEMANT FOLLOWS SEARCH AND RESCUE MEMBERS DURING SNOW TRAINING AT THE ASPEN GROVE TRAILHEAD.







ONE

in

FIFTY-FOUR

UVU's Autism Initiative supports community members, working professionals, students, and individuals with autism

by Kaitlyn Tolman

photography by Nathaniel Ray Edwards

Utah is known for many things: the greatest snow on earth, five national parks, the annual Sundance Film Festival, and fry sauce, to name a few. The state also ranks high in a lesser-known statistic: one in 54 Utah children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. In an effort to bring more awareness to this issue, Utah Valley University has worked hard to become a regional hub for autism resources. To do this, the University has made providing educational opportunities for individuals with autism and their families, as well as academic programs to train and certify professionals, a top priority.

Putting the Pieces Together: *An Autism Conference*

“People started noticing an influx of autism in Utah around six years ago,” says Teresa Cardon, director of UVU’s Autism Studies program. “It kept coming up in conversations with community members, and the University knew it had to do something to meet this community need.”

So in 2010, based on community interest in the topic, UVU’s annual Mental Health Symposium offered a 90-minute session on autism, describing the

disorder and how it manifests itself. The response to that single session was overwhelming.

“People left that session inspired. They kept telling us that they needed more information,” agrees Toni Harris, chair of the conference planning committee. “One session was not enough. They wanted us to give them everything we had.”

UVU rose to the challenge and created the Autism Conference the next year. That first conference reached capacity with more than 400 conference-goers attending 40 concurrent sessions – including a legal rights workshop, reports on highly technical genetic research, and

54

The Autism Spectrum

Autism is referred to as a spectrum disorder because it affects each individual differently and at varying degrees: when you've met a person with autism, you've met one person with autism. It is impossible to understand or appreciate the diversity of the disorder based on a single individual.

A complex neurological disorder that impacts the development of social interaction, communication skills, and behavior, autism nationally affects one in every 68 children.

sessions dedicated to teaching basic life skills to individuals with autism. Key-note speaker JaLynn Prince, founder and president of Madison House Foundation, which benefits individuals with autism as they transition to adulthood, discussed the changes in awareness, educational opportunities, and services for those diagnosed with ASD.

The conference, which is held every April as part of Autism Awareness Month, has gained a dedicated following of community members, professionals, educators, and students. As a regional leader in the field, UVU has hosted experts from around the country, including genetic researcher Valerie Hu and author David Finch, to present their research and expertise.

"I've attended the conference the last two years, and both times I left with ideas of ways to better support my students," says Brylie Muhlestein, a senior at UVU who has worked for six years as a special education paraprofessional in life skills classrooms. "I leave with pages of notes of new things I've learned and things I would like to implement."

In conjunction with the conference, the University hosts an autism awareness fair for families with members on the spectrum. The event attracts as many as 500 attendees and 100 volunteers and includes sensory activities such as sudsy foam pits, as well as free T-shirts and tickets to a UVU men's baseball game. The baseball game begins with a balloon launch, the national anthem sung by adults with ASD from the Scenic View Academy Choir, and a first pitch thrown by a child with ASD.

"A lot of people tell us that the conference has changed their lives," says Harris. "It gives them hope. They realize that an ASD diagnosis is not the end of every aspiration they had for their child; it could be the beginning of every aspiration they have."

2015 Autism Conference

The University's 2015 Autism Conference will be held

Friday, April 3

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sorensen Student Center

Peter Gerhardt, director of education at the McCarton School in New York City and chairman of the Scientific Council for the Organization for Autism Research, will be the keynote speaker.

To register for the conference, visit uvu.edu/chss/autism/index.html.

Training the Trainers: *Autism Studies*

As the conference grew in size and reputation, UVU recognized the need to create a dedicated autism program to train the professionals that will work with those diagnosed with ASD within the community. The University reached out to community members for input and began a conversation about what an autism curriculum would include.

Based on those conversations, and under the direction of Cardon, who joined UVU as the sole full-time autism faculty member three years ago, the autism studies minor and autism certificate program officially launched in fall 2013. What began with seven students has, in just two years, increased to 50 students and is expected to add another 25 each semester.



UVU is going to become the cornerstone for autism education in Utah. It's engaged learning at its finest."

— TERESA CARDON

"This program is a result of UVU being responsive to community need," Cardon says. "UVU is going to become the cornerstone for autism education in Utah. It's engaged learning at its finest."

In addition to its dedication to engaged learning, the autism program is distinctive for a number of reasons — including its incredibly personal nature.

"I'd say about 40 percent of the students in the program have a personal connection to autism," says Cardon, who herself has a brother on the spectrum. "Everyone is here because they want to do something about it."

The minor requires 225 internship

hours and five courses, two of which include service learning with both children and adults with autism so students are exposed to the variety of work in the field and can determine what they are most interested in.

"When I learned from Dr. Cardon that there was a minor for autism studies, I immediately had my heart set on it," says Muhlestein. "I ended up delaying my graduation in order to finish everything, but I wouldn't do it any differently. I have learned so much to help the people I work with and feel like I can help them succeed because of the knowledge I've gained from the program."

Another unique asset of autism studies is its interdisciplinary nature: the program resides within the Department of Behavioral Science, but students from education, business, communication, social work, psychology, and a variety of other departments across campus take autism classes. The idea is to train everyone, regardless of their future occupation — educators, caregivers, first responders, lawyers, doctors, business owners — to work more effectively with individuals on the spectrum.

"I love what's happening at UVU. I absolutely believe in it," Cardon says. "If anyone can do it, UVU can."



Closing the Gap: *The Passages Program*

In addition to training future professionals, UVU recognized the need to help individuals with ASD in the present. The Passages program was developed last April specifically for college-age individuals on the spectrum.

“There are so many individuals out there who have so many strengths, but they are falling through the cracks,” says Laurie Bowen, coordinator of Passages. “To be part of a program that helps them is extremely inspiring to me.”

The program has four parts: an on-campus class that helps individuals with ASD navigate the university experience; a social skills class that creates experiential learning activities; social activities, such as horseback riding and laser tag, every other Saturday; and a class for parents of students with ASD. The program also includes neurotypical allies to help those with ASD through each part of the Passages experience.

“As an ally, my focus is on becoming someone who they can come to for help and advice as they navigate the challenges of college and the stresses of life,” says Meera Andersen, a senior

at UVU studying behavioral science. “I can’t effectively help them unless I understand them and their needs.”

Bowen estimates that there are about 300 individuals at UVU on the spectrum, each one of whom needs a different kind of support.

“We weren’t sure what we were getting into,” she admits, “but the response has been immense. In just weeks, the things we were hoping would happen eventually — maybe in a year or so — are already happening. The students are socializing and progressing and spreading their wings. They are starting to advocate for one another, which encourages them to self-advocate as well.”

As the program continues to expand its resources for participants, autism faculty members hope to also train other faculty and staff on how to more effectively interact with program participants and other individuals with ASD.

“What we can accomplish together is pretty amazing,” says Harris. “Our students are proud to be part of this university because of the tangible difference we are making.”

“I was excited when I first joined the program, and I still feel excited to be part of it,” adds Andersen, “especially when I get to see, first-hand, the impact it’s having on the students. There’s nothing better than seeing them make progress toward their goals.”

A Dedicated Center

As the University continues to expand its program offerings for those with ASD, their family members, and those who work with them, additional resources will be needed. To accommodate the community need, UVU is planning a 10,000-square-foot two-story center that would include classrooms for UVU autism studies students, sensory rooms, seminar rooms, and more. The Autism Resource Committee, chaired by Keith Nellesen, has begun generating private funds, volunteers, and support for the center.

Visit supportuvu.org for more information and to accelerate the center’s capacity to provide more resources for the community.



Family Fun Fair

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014



Thank you for attending the 5th annual Family Fun Fair during Homecoming Week!

We hope to see you all again next year!



UVU
ALUMNI





PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

by Michaëlle Cadet

EDITOR'S NOTE: Michaëlle Cadet is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology at UVU. For the past year she has explored innovative methods of detecting breast cancer.

When I heard the words “breast cancer research,” I assumed that it involved a tremendous amount of specialized knowledge in complicated subjects such as molecular or cell biology. As a sophomore studying biology at Utah Valley University, that was the first thought that crossed my mind when I heard about a team on campus that was conducting breast cancer research.

Because I had not previously taken advanced biology classes, I didn't think I would be qualified to participate in the sort of research that team was pursuing. But then I registered for Physics I with Professor Timothy Doyle — and everything changed.

One day in class, Professor Doyle gave a presentation about his work on cancer and introduced his perspective, which was far different from anything I had heard before. He was using physics to detect the presence of cancer! I was excited about his work and decided I wanted to be a part of it. So after completing Physics II, I joined the team — as a far less-experienced junior than I had imagined I would need to be in order to participate in such groundbreaking work.

Those first few months I was trained how to use a high-frequency ultrasound instrument used to detect cancer, then the real work began. My research partner, Andrea Quiroz,

We wrote an abstract describing our research and preliminary results and submitted it to the Acoustical Society of America. We were invited to present our findings at the 166th meeting in San Francisco, Calif., and the abstract was published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. We continued experimenting and wrote a second abstract, which we submitted to the Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Professor Doyle and another UVU physics professor, Cyril Slezak, then arranged a collaborative study at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute in Vienna, Austria. During spring semester 2014, I traveled to Austria and participated in a study to quantify the most effective imaging method for monitoring tissue regeneration. I had the opportunity to rub shoulders with international scientists and research teams, and together we worked diligently to complete the project.

"I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT THIS EXPERIENCE HAS CHANGED MY LIFE."

and I were assigned our own project: use the ultrasound instrument to observe the complexity of different tissues in the reproductive organs of dogs, hoping to draw a parallel with human reproductive organs.

While working on our project, we went to Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City to do testing for a blind study the team was performing on breast cancer tumors and the surrounding margins. My involvement in this research led me to win a prestigious scholarship from the National Science Foundation.

We completed our project near the end of the term, and after giving a presentation on the results of our studies and writing a report for the NSF, I was assigned a new project. This time, my goal was to determine if our high-frequency instrument could detect and differentiate between the levels of angiogenesis (the process through which new blood vessels form from pre-existing vessels) in tissue. In order to begin testing, with the help of Professor Doyle, Andrea and I created phantoms that mimicked human tissue. The results were very promising, and I was motivated to continue experimenting, knowing that my research could have a real impact on cancer patients.

Between tests and experiments, my team and I were able to visit various historical sites and tour the University of Vienna and the Vienna General Hospital. On our return to the United States, we continued our research and submitted an abstract that we then presented at the 167th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Providence, R.I.

As the summer began, I continued conducting testing at the Huntsman Cancer Institute and American Fork Hospital. I have been a member of the research team for more than a year now and can honestly say that this experience has changed my life. I have had the opportunity to apply what I learned in class and contribute to the discovery of new, cutting-edge technology that could greatly aid in the battle against cancer.

I never expected to have the opportunity to work on research that would have such real-world implications, much less publish and present my findings, all as an undergrad. But that's what makes UVU unique. Transferring to UVU has taught me that it is not enough to simply go to class and absorb information with the sole intent to pass exams. True learning is active learning, studying, and applying the information to real-life circumstances. This is the epitome of engaged learning.



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY DOYLE

CADET ASSISTS RESEARCHERS AT THE LUDWIG BOLTZMANN INSTITUTE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

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OF



HEARING DIVERSE VOICES

Utah Valley University's Interreligious Engagement Initiative provides students with essential experiences and skills needed to thrive in a diverse but inclusive world

by Kellene Ricks Adams | photography by August Miller

When Brian Birch, director of the Utah Valley University Center for the Study of Ethics and the University's Religious Studies program, took a group of students to a leadership workshop last summer, the group stood out.

"UVU is a large state university with a large concentration of students who belong to one faith, with a large percentage of those students having an international, intercultural experience with other religions," says Birch. "In addition, our administration and faculty are committed to the idea of religious inclusion. Those circumstances are a gold mine for organizations working to promote interfaith awareness and cooperation, especially among students."

In fact, it was precisely those characteristics that sparked a dialogue between the University and the Interfaith Youth Core, led by founder Eboo Patel, a member of President Barack Obama's inaugural Barack Obama's Inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. That dialogue led to UVU's current involvement with the group — a growing national organization of interfaith leaders who are building a movement of people from all faiths and traditions dedicated to working together to change the world, with college campuses being a main focus of their efforts.

The University's involvement with IFYC is only one of several success stories that have resulted from the school's Interreligious Engagement Initiative. The initiative outlines four specific areas of focus (an Interfaith Student Council, academic programming, community partnerships, and the opening of a long-awaited Reflection Center) that shape the University as an inclusive institution where people of all faiths, or those outside of religious communities, will be welcome and feel comfortable.

THE INTERFAITH STUDENT COUNCIL

The Interfaith Student Council supports and facilitates activities for students from a variety of backgrounds, religions, and faiths. The council is composed of student representatives from UVU religious clubs and associations with the aim of collaborating on projects that encourage religious awareness and inclusion.

"Knowing how to interact with people of different beliefs is essential," observes Jordan Stark, president of the Interfaith Student Council and a junior majoring in marketing. "You can't live

opportunities and benefits that the initiative presents," Stark observes. "Our challenge is not just to create awareness but also to create relationships between the different faith coalitions on campus and increase understanding."

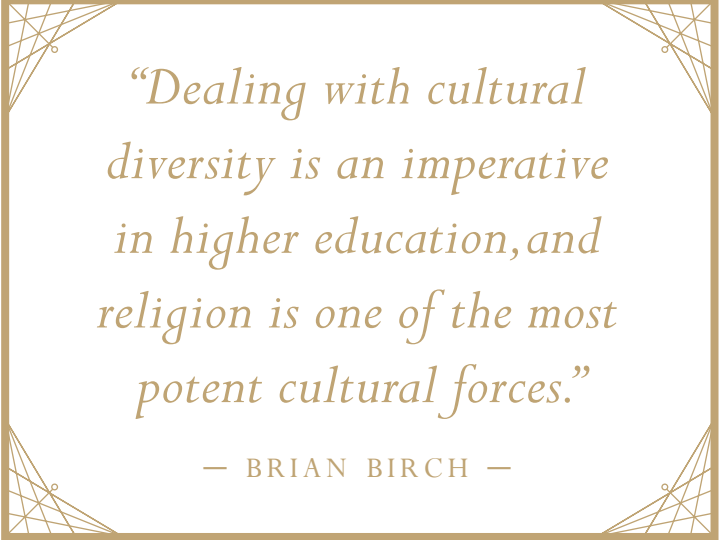
ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

"Dealing with cultural diversity is an imperative in higher education," says Birch, "and religion is one of the most potent cultural forces. For nearly 20 years, UVU has cultivated the academic exploration of religious diversity and diplomacy. Our location and mission provide unique opportunities to facilitate dialogue among a variety of religious communities on our campus and in our region. We welcome a diversity of voices in exploring ideas that shape our culture and provide meaning as part of the human experience."

With that in mind, UVU's Interreligious Engagement Initiative includes academic programming aimed at helping students understand a variety of cultures and perspectives in a welcoming and inclusive learning environment.

It starts in the classroom, where University professors teach unbiased curriculum and facilitate stimulating discussion, regardless of their personal beliefs or religious affiliations. Brooke Swallow, a member of the Interfaith Student Council and a senior majoring in behavioral science with an emphasis in sociology, experienced this first-hand.

"I grew up in Utah but attended the University of Nebraska before returning to finish my degree at UVU," she explains. "My professors at UVU were conscious of making sure the curriculum and discussions were balanced, fair, and unbiased."



"Dealing with cultural diversity is an imperative in higher education, and religion is one of the most potent cultural forces."

— BRIAN BIRCH —

in today's society and expect to get along without being able to consider other people's thoughts and actions and the reasons they do what they do. The council helps students gain a greater understanding of others' faiths."

Stark, who grew up in California then moved to Utah as a teenager, notes that there's a different feel on a campus where students and administration care about inclusion. "At UVU, I feel like people are working toward understanding each other and creating a unity," he says. "The council is part of making that happen."

Currently the council is focused on raising student awareness. "I don't think a lot of students understand the



“Learning how to talk about our differences and include each other and get along is so important to our education and preparation for the future.”

— BROOKE SWALLOW —

Outside the classroom, over the past 15 years UVU has hosted more than 70 conferences, lectures, workshops, and symposia dedicated to exploring issues related to religious diversity and dialogue. A variety of nationally and internationally recognized scholars and religious leaders have been involved in these events, which range from annual religion and humanities conferences to screenings of pivotal religious films.

In addition, the University is actively involved in building partnerships with other universities, foundations, and nonprofit organizations. For instance, Alexis Palmer, associate vice president of student life, recently attended an Interfaith Youth Core conference, which included a host of institutions that are making interfaith dialogue a central part of what they do. As a follow-up, IFYC is coming to UVU this spring to provide valuable training for students and staff in interfaith discussion and dialogue.

The University’s most recent project includes student involvement in the 2015 Parliament of the World’s Religions, held in Salt Lake City next October. The parliament is the largest interfaith gathering in the world, with an estimated 8,000 attendees expected. Birch was recently invited to serve on the Parliament Board of Trustees to work with universities

around the world in building interreligious programming.

This academic focus on educating students is essential, notes Swallow, who participated in a study abroad program to Northern Ireland.

“I saw 30-foot walls still separating neighbors,” she says, “despite the fact that the peacekeeping process had been going on for 18 years. But it’s the cross-community dialogue finally happening between Catholics and Protestants on a grassroots level that is how the healing is really happening. Learning how to talk about our differences and include each other and get along is so important to our education and preparation for the future.”

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The University is also committed to partnering with local organizations to provide opportunities for students to increase their understanding of religious diversity. Currently, UVU has partnerships with the following organizations:

◇ Bradley Center for Grieving Children & Families facilitates age-based peer group support for those suffering from the loss of a loved one. UVU’s

Community and Continuing Education program works in partnership with the Bradley Center to provide this support and counseling.

- ◇ The Foundation for Religious Diplomacy works to build trust between religious communities through the healthy exchange of ideas and convictions. UVU co-sponsors events with FRD and provides student internships to help the foundation conduct research and dialogue.
- ◇ Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy hosts international educators, scholars, journalists, religious leaders, and others in collaboration with the Visitor Leader Program sponsored by the U.S. State Department. UVU hosts groups with a focus on religious diversity and how religion functions in higher education. Recent events include meetings with visitors from Syria, Indonesia, and Iraq.
- ◇ Utah Valley Interfaith is a student-led club that provides information on local religious communities and facilitates charitable service activities across the region. Linda Walton is the adviser to this club, which works to provide a place for UVU students — as well as students from anywhere in the valley — to meet on a regular basis to discuss their beliefs. The club plans meetings and activities twice a

ROSE PETALS AND SUGAR

During the Reflection Center ribbon-cutting, Eboo Patel recalled the legend of a Hindu maharajah who, upon discovering that a Sufi community had moved into the area, sent a full glass of milk to the Sufi sheik, indicating that the area was full and new people were not welcome. The legend differs in the sheik's response: he either placed a rose petal in the glass or stirred sugar into the milk, indicating the group's desire to simply add sweetness and beauty to the area.

"I can probably count on one hand the public universities . . . who come anywhere close to the kind of commitment that you're making here," Patel said. "It is when diversity is welcome, when you expect the people around you to add beauty and sweetness, that you get a cupful of milk with sugar inside rather than salt, that you get roses on top rather than thorns. You've made that proactive decision that will continue to bear fruit for your university, the community, for the state of Utah, for the nation, and for the world."



month and invites 38 different faith groups throughout Utah Valley.

"When you're in college, you're determining what kind of an adult you're going to be," says Walton. "You're figuring out your major and your career and thinking about who you're going to marry and what political party you're going to affiliate with. Figuring out your religious affiliation is a natural part of this experience."

THE REFLECTION CENTER

"The Reflection Center is designed to accommodate students, faculty, and staff from a diversity of perspectives and faith traditions," says Palmer. "The center provides a space for the UVU community to gather for meditation, prayer, and reflection. And in addition to providing quiet space, the center will host reading groups, lectures, workshops, and other activities related to its mission."

The idea for the Reflection Center, which opened in the Student Life & Wellness Center in April, has been almost 15 years in the making.

"Most campuses have a designated space for prayer, but we wanted a facility that would accommodate not only religious expression but also interfaith interaction, dialogue, and academic pursuits," Birch says.

The center is symbolic of the University's commitment to encouraging dialogue and interaction between students of different faiths and creating bridges of understanding.

"We are a microcosm of the world at large," concludes Palmer. "Students who come to UVU are exposed to new ideas and religious systems, and we want our campus to be a place where people can come and express who they are and be comfortable, while also being comfortable with learning about others and accepting different beliefs and religions."



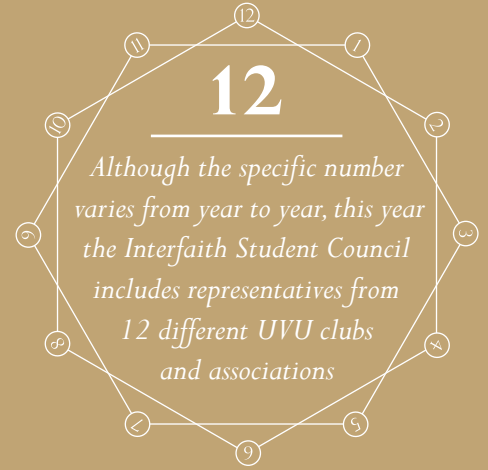
REFLECTING ON INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING

Utah Valley University facilitates dialogue across religious and secular perspectives

50
77

UVU's diverse student body includes students from all 50 states and 77 countries.

*The Reflection Center has **3** rooms*



Although the specific number varies from year to year, this year the Interfaith Student Council includes representatives from 12 different UVU clubs and associations

- Atheist Club
- Baptist Campus Ministries
- Catholic Student Club
- Chi Alpha
- Hindu Club
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Latter-day Saint Student Association
- Muslim Student Association
- Saudi Student Association
- Spiritual But Not Religious
- Utah Valley Interfaith Club
- UVU Pagan Club



EIGHTY-FIVE

UVU has a student population estimated to be at least 85 percent LDS.

70

Over the past 15 years, UVU has hosted more than 70 conferences, lectures, workshops, and symposia dedicated to exploring issues related to religious diversity and dialogue.



Isaac Halasima in front of Towne Cinemas in American Fork. Halasima saw his first movie, "Goonies" here, and it was here that he was first inspired to make and direct movies.



DIRECTING DRAGONS

TOWNE CINEMAS

— Film director Isaac Halasima has gone from UVU student to global stardom with Imagine Dragons.

— You know UVU alumnus **Isaac Halasima's** work, even if you've never heard his name before.

The “Believe” chant that fans sing at Real Salt Lake soccer games? Halasima directed that promotional video for the team, along with several commercials. Been to a Utah Jazz game in the past two years? That’s his video on the arena’s big screen before tipoff. And have you heard the song “Demons,” by local-band-turned-megastars Imagine Dragons? The tune spent 12 weeks in the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100. The music video was nominated for Best Rock Video of 2014 by MTV. And Halasima directed it.

by Layton Shumway

photography by
Nathaniel Ray Edwards

“I remember being a kid, telling my mom and my friends that someday I would be on MTV,” Halasima says. “When ‘Demons’ got nominated for an MTV Video Music Award, I was just like, ‘I told you! It took me 10 years, but I told you!’”

Achieving that dream took years of dedication, skill, and an indomitable work ethic — qualities Halasima learned and displayed at UVU and beyond.

UTAH VALLEY ROOTS

Halasima grew up in Provo and Pleasant Grove, and his mother, Kaye, was a UVU student when he was born. She instilled a love of the arts in her son, who showed early talent in dance, music, and drama.

As a teenager, Halasima helped provide for his family with money from acting jobs, and he started working at KSL TV while still a high-school student. Even then, Halasima began developing the competitive spirit and desire that would define his work.

“I would watch every sports video from other high schools that I could find, because I wanted to be better,” Halasima says. “I would hide from the janitors in the school until they locked up, and I’d just sit there and work all night.”

Halasima chose to focus on video directing and editing while in high school, and accepted a scholarship to UVU in 1998. While there, he created three different television programs for UVU TV and worked with a who’s who of future Utah broadcasters, including Jeremiah Jensen (KSL), Dave Noriega (KSL), Morgan Vance (KSTU), and future Imagine Dragons video partner Matt Eastin.

“Isaac’s the most talented person I’ve ever known,” Jensen says. “Without him I wouldn’t have my job today.”

“What we had in the UVU newsroom that made the difference is we had crazy work ethics,” Halasima says. “And we were all committed to each other. We all felt like we were in it together.”

CONQUERING ‘DEMONS’

Halasima continued working at KSL during his time at UVU, eventually becoming the station’s head sports edi-

tor. But he knew he eventually wanted to get back to more creative work. After almost a decade of work at the Salt Lake City TV station, Halasima left to join an independent production company, starting freelance work along the way.

That’s when his work caught the eye of executives at Real Salt Lake, who hired him to do several commercials in 2008. The following season, Halasima had a specific idea in mind for a commercial campaign, but RSL had a limited budget for music to go with the video. A team staffer contacted the manager of Imagine Dragons, a local band composed mostly of Utah County residents at the time.

“One of the RSL guys handed me a disc and said, ‘Here, how about these guys? They’re local; they’ll let us play anything,’” Halasima says. “That was the first time I used an Imagine Dragons song in a video, but I became a fan instantly.”

Halasima maintained a close relationship with the band over the next few years as they rose in popularity, and he worked with Eastin on local music-video project the Occidental Saloon and BYUtv’s “Audio-Files” in the meantime. In 2011, Imagine Dragons signed with Interscope Records and began work on their next album, “Night Visions.” After seeing an Imagine Dragons music video Halasima had done with the Occidental Saloon, Interscope hired him to live with the band for a month and create a documentary to support the new album.

The final product “blew Interscope away,” Halasima says. “They didn’t expect it to look as good as it did. They went nuts. It gave them a lot of faith in me.”

That faith led to Interscope choosing Halasima to direct the video for “Demons,” the fourth single from “Night Visions.” The video combines live Imagine Dragons concert footage with images of people struggling with various personal issues, ending with a dedication to a teenage fan of the band who died in 2013 from cancer.

The “Demons” video debuted on May 7, 2013, and has since amassed more than 172 million views on YouTube, winning international nominations and

awards along the way and leading to a boom in business for Halasima.

“Everything has taken off because of Imagine Dragons,” he says. “I’ve gotten way more clients, and I’ve got an investor in a feature-length script I wrote. After the ‘Demons’ video, I feel like I’m finally worth it as a director.”

But even as Halasima moves on to bigger things, Halasima says he wants to stay true to his Utah roots.

“They made me shoot the ‘Demons’ video in Las Vegas, but I flew the actors down from Utah,” Halasima says. “And for my feature film, we’re going to use UVU students to help with all production. Anything we can do here in Utah, we’re going to do.”

No matter what happens, Halasima says, he wants UVU students to find their passion and believe they can achieve anything.

“I want UVU students to see that they can make it,” he says. “I don’t want them to think about Isaac Halasima. I want them to think, ‘That’s my school. That’s my home.’”



On location in front of a live audience, the Imagine Dragons “Demons” music video was directed by Halasima. Image features Dan Reynolds, lead singer of Imagine Dragons.

A Culture of Giving

Award-winning campaign encourages students to leave their mark

by Melinda R. Colton

Giving feels good. And it also makes people happier. That's the premise Utah Valley University is using to cultivate a culture of giving among its students.

Student to Student (S2S), developed in 2013, is a fundraising campaign that encourages students to donate to other students.

"We hope they learn why giving matters," says Justin Ferrell, director of annual giving. "If they give now, they will be more apt to give to various causes later on."

"Philanthropy is a choice," says Kevin Walkenhorst, assistant director of alumni relations. "We feel a responsibility to help alumni understand what it means to be UVU alumni—it's not just being engaged in spirited ways; it's also engaging in giving."

The campaign was the idea of UVU's Student Philanthropy Council, a group of students representing different organizations across campus. Student volunteers spend a week each year asking their fellow students, via giving stations, class presentations, and phone calls, to donate to need-based scholarships.

Debbie Hirschak Weidmer, a public and community health major from Orem, is a recipient of an S2S scholarship. "Scholarships are much more than money! Scholarships mean someone believes in me when it's hard to believe in myself," she says. "Scholarships are motivation to succeed when I want to give up. Scholarships create a UVU community of support, love, and friendship, and encourage me to give too."

Students who give \$5 or more receive an S2S loyalty pin. If they give every year for four years, they become a member

of the S2S Loyalty Society and can wear a four-year giving pin on their stole during graduation.

The S2S campaign won a 2014 Council for the Advancement of Secondary Education regional honor. Not only was UVU the sole Utah school to earn an award, it was also the only non-California university to win.

Last year's inaugural S2S campaign generated 742 student gifts, which in turn triggered a generous match provided

by other contributors. More than 600 of the student donors were members of UVU's graduating class. Nearly \$34,000 was raised, a new record for student giving.


"We hope students learn that small donations can make a large impact," says Walkenhorst. "Whether it's \$1 or \$100, every gift has the potential of impacting another student's education and future."

This year's S2S campaign is March 23–28. Contributions can be made at uvu.edu/S2S.

Student to Student Quick Info


S2S

Be the Difference




More than 600 of the student donors were members of UVU's graduating class

Giving means Receiving




Give \$5 or more
Loyalty pin

Give 4 years in a row




Four-year pin for graduation stole

Giving on the Rise




A record-breaking \$34,000 was raised last year

S2S Campaign Recognition



2014 Council for Advancement of Secondary Education regional honor



The only Utah school and the only non-California school to win

GET INVOLVED, GET CONNECTED

UVU'S STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*teaches students how to
'stop being boring'*

by Kellene Ricks Adams

Being a student at Utah Valley University is anything but boring — that's the message the University's Student Alumni Association is sending to UVU students.

"Statistics show that when students become engaged with their university as students, they are more likely to become loyal and involved alumni," says Kevin Walkenhorst, assistant director of alumni relations and adviser to the student association. "So our goal is to create that engagement, that connection, with our students."

Established in 1992, the Student Alumni Association was charged with five objectives: build loyalty on campus, educate students on what it means to be alumni, connect students and alumni, encourage students to contribute, and create professional leaders.

Through the years, enrollment numbers varied; in 2012, only 30 students joined the student association. Walkenhorst

knew it was time to ramp up the association's efforts, so he challenged the student board, which oversees the association's activities, to raise awareness and raise numbers. As a result, the students came up with the "Stop Being Boring" campaign.

"The campaign has been very successful," Walkenhorst observes. "It grabs people's attention, and once we have their attention, we have an opportunity to explain what it means to be engaged and make a difference on campus."

In 2013, 161 students joined the association, and in 2014, 276 students joined. For a one-time fee of \$20, association members receive a swag bag, invitations to members-only events, and all the benefits regular alumni members receive — including savings on auto and home insurance, travel deals, networking and career resources, and UVU Magazine.

The Student Alumni Association is led by 21 student leaders, who are each assigned to work in one of five areas: alumni relations (plan events that facilitate networking), student



PHOTO BY NATHANIEL RAY EDWARDS



PHOTO BY JAY DROWNS



PHOTO BY NATHANIEL RAY EDWARDS

PHOTOS: FOUNDERS DAY (TOP), FOOD DRIVE (BOTTOM LEFT), FAMILY FUN FAIR (BOTTOM RIGHT)

relations (plan campuswide events to facilitate student-to-student connections), traditions (instill UVU pride in students), philanthropy (establish a habit of giving back to the University as a student), and membership (encourage students to join the association). The student leaders volunteer their time and efforts; no monetary reimbursement or scholarships are provided.

“We started the Stop Being Boring campaign in 2013 and then decided to continue it this year because it was such a hit,” observes Student Alumni Association president Zach Dearing, a senior majoring in public relations and marketing. “When we started, people didn’t even know the association existed. The campaign has been great to instill school pride and get students involved.”

The association plans at least two events a month, with many of the activities encouraging philanthropy. The fall semester’s activities included tailgates, a haunted house, a

“ULTIMATELY, WE JUST WANT TO HELP STUDENTS HAVE A GREAT EXPERIENCE HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY.”

— Kevin Walkenhorst

Hunger Games event, and online giving, which have resulted in an estimated \$4,500 being raised for Valley United Against Hunger. Winter semester’s activities will focus on the S2S (Student-to-Student) Giving Campaign.

“Ultimately, we just want to help students have a great experience here at the University,” Walkenhorst says. “When we say ‘stop being boring,’ we’re really saying ‘get involved, get connected, make a difference.’ When we can make that happen, we are doing our job.”

Any student with 24 or more credits is eligible to join the Student Alumni Association. For more information, visit uvualumni.org/studentalumni.

New Alumni Board Members



DRUSILLA HUFFAKER

Drusilla Huffaker graduated with honors from Utah Valley University with a bachelor's degree in business management and has accumulated an impressive résumé in business and sales management. As an entrepreneur, she developed and cultivated a successful textile leasing firm and established and branded a mortgage business startup. As a global accounts manager at Blendtec, she has initiated and closed deals with Costco, Sam's Club, QVC, The Shopping Channel, and the Home Shopping Network, almost doubling sales in a single year.



KELLY SOBOTKA

Kelly Sobotka graduated from Utah Valley University in December 1999 with a bachelor's of science in business administration and a minor in communications. He put that education to good use at IntegraCore, helping grow the million-dollar third-party logistics company into a \$100-million organization and becoming a partner along the way. Sobotka also serves on the Highland City Planning Commission and has served as a board member for the Better Business Bureau of Utah and the Direct Selling Management Association. He has a passion for learning and looks forward to sharing that passion as he serves on the UVU Alumni Board.



XIOAMENG NANCY ZHANG MCLEAN

A graduate of Utah Valley University, Xioameng Nancy Zhang McLean received a degree in multimedia communications technology in 2006, earning a spot on the National Dean's List during her junior and senior years. McLean served an internship in Gov. Huntsman's office before starting work as the assistant director over international business development for CR England, a global transportation company. Currently she works as an operations and Internet marketing communications specialist for Meridian International School. McLean is also a regular guest lecturer, popular public speaker, and advocate for international students.

The Compound Effect



If I offered you either \$1 million in cash right now or a single penny that doubled in value every day for 31 days, which would you choose?

I learned in my finance class at UVU that choosing the penny would net \$10,737,418.24 by day 31, thanks to the compound effect. I also learned that it takes time to see the value of the compound effect — which requires patience and faith. For example, if we compared bank accounts on day 27, the penny account would hold only \$671,088.64, still short of \$1 million. The real benefit

would start to show in the last four days of our investment.

In this issue of UVU Magazine, we have featured the S2S Giving Campaign, in which we ask students to support scholarships for other students (see p. 37). We're asking for "pennies," knowing that these gifts will grow over time as students participate in this tradition and learn the value of giving back.

The compound effect applies to building a strong alumni giving program. Schools with large endowments receive the majority of their financial support from their alumni — and have built these endowments over decades of giving. Almost all major gifts came from donors who started with small gifts and increased them over time.

But the compound effect applies to more

than money — it also applies to creating a generous and giving spirit. The more you give, the more you want to give and the better you feel about making a difference for someone else.

The next time you receive a call from the UVU Telefund, remember how the compound effect works with even small gifts. You don't need to give \$1 million to make a big difference. Pennies truly can grow to millions.

Jeri Allphin
Senior Director
Alumni Relations & Annual Giving

Welcome to the new **uvualumni.org**

Coming early 2015





I am UVU

ADAM TERRY. Proprietor of Waffle Love. B.S. Business Management, class of 2009.

"Learning from professors at UVU who were passionate about what they were teaching and who treated me as an individual inspired me to share my passion as an entrepreneur and my love for these excellent waffles!"

Share your story at uvualumni.org