

# UVU magazine

## A CULTURAL EXCHANGE

*UVU program immerses  
student teachers in Navajo Nation*

PG. 24

ALSO INSIDE

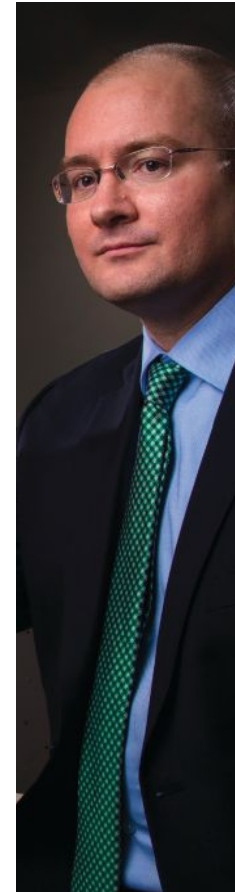
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to hike with President Holland  
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UVU magazine

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PUBLISHER  
 Kevin Walkenhorst  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
 Layton Shumway  
 ART DIRECTOR  
 Emily Weaver  
 STAFF WRITERS  
 Barbara Christiansen  
 Jay Wamsley  
 PHOTOGRAPHY  
 Jay Drowns  
 Hans Koepsell  
 August Miller  
 Alejandro Aroas  
 ILLUSTRATION & DESIGN  
 Brian T. Fogelberg '15  
 Dana Kendrick '17  
 Kaitlin Parsons '17  
 Shari Warnick  
 Kelsie Wilson '17  
 UVU MAGAZINE ONLINE  
[uvualumni.org/uvumagazine](http://uvualumni.org/uvumagazine)  
 PRODUCTION  
 University Marketing  
 & Communications  
 AD SALES  
 Amie Huntsman '09  
[uvumagazine@uvu.edu](mailto:uvumagazine@uvu.edu)  
 FEEDBACK  
[uvumagazine@uvu.edu](mailto:uvumagazine@uvu.edu)  
 801-863-8179

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**SUCCESS.** The way it gets measured varies by individual and organization. At Utah Valley University, our metric is what our students and graduates accomplish under the direction of talented faculty and staff. I am so pleased that yet another issue of UVU Magazine captures a fresh wave of stories highlighting just such student success.

UVU's Center for National Security Studies, the only such center in Utah, prepares students who want to serve the nation and world. In a divisive political atmosphere, one thing many do agree on these days is that protecting our national security is as challenging and vital as ever. I am pleased that we are leading out in educating future leaders for this field.

In February, I traveled to Arizona (south of the Four Corners area) with our School of Education. Six of our student-teachers were assigned there to work with Navajo children and become immersed in the culture. The UVU student-teachers spent six weeks living and working with the Navajo Nation, and had experiences that will undoubtedly impact their lives and teaching for years to come. At the same time, they provided needed instruction to an underserved community of impressive youth.

This is just one of the dozens of ways that UVU programs not only transform our own students, but also others out in the community.

In addition to these, you'll see how the UVU women's basketball team shines in the classroom and gets the community involved to make lasting connections. These connections help the athletes make the best of their time in school and prepare for life after basketball.

The success of our students—no matter their interest or pathway—drives us.

We continue to be so grateful for your support as we work to accomplish great things and create an even brighter future.

*Best,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew S. Holland". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Matthew S. Holland**  
President

## PRESIDENT HOLLAND HEADS TO OXFORD

President Matthew S. Holland has been named a Senior Associate at the University of Oxford (Pembroke College) for summer 2017. He will give several public lectures, prepare materials for the teaching he loves to do at UVU, and research and write on topics related to his academic areas of expertise – political philosophy and history, and higher education administration.

He has previously lectured at Oxford and last fall debuted several panels from the "Roots of Knowledge" exhibit at Christ's Church College at Oxford as part of the world tour of the windows prior to their installation.

The UVU Regents Policy encourages longer-serving presidents to pursue available opportunities for furthering their intellectual development and professional expertise.

President Holland will return in time to welcome the new freshman class at the start of the fall semester.

While he is gone, day-to-day, university-wide administrative responsibilities will be handled by Jeff Olson, senior vice president for academic affairs.





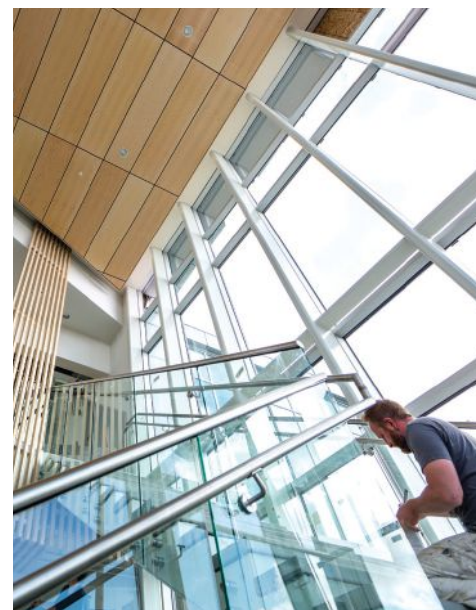
## UVU CUTS RIBBON ON AUTISM CENTER

A little more than a year after it broke ground, UVU cut a ribbon in early May to open the Cole Nellesen Building, which houses the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism.

It will be used for the community, families, future educators, and others in addressing a myriad practical issues. It houses preschool and elementary-level laboratory classrooms. The building will also be used by UVU's Passages program, which provides young adults with higher-functioning autism the opportunity to enroll in noncredit college-level classes designed to enhance the social and independent life skills necessary for them to be successful in a higher education setting.

UVU offers Utah's only minor in autism studies, which is in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences. The School of Education also established two demonstration classrooms in the facility to model effective instructional and support strategies for school professionals.

Melisa Nellesen and her husband, Keith, donated the initial gift for the center and named the building in honor of their son, Cole, who has autism spectrum disorder.



## NEW ATHLETIC VENUE NAMED FOR REBECCA D. LOCKHART

In honor of former Utah Speaker of the House Rebecca D. Lockhart's contributions to and long friendship with UVU, the institution has named a new athletic venue after her: the Rebecca D. Lockhart Arena.

The new Lockhart Arena is located in the Physical Education Building on UVU's Orem campus. It includes a nearly 2,000-seat venue, where the Wolverine wrestling and women's volleyball teams will compete. The arena also includes retractable bleachers with backs on all seats, a new athletic track surface, and new storage areas and restrooms. The venue will also be used for UVU commencement and convocation exercises and will be available to rent for community activities.

Lockhart, who died in 2015, was instrumental in helping UVU gain university status in 2008, and she led the efforts in the Legislature's appropriation of \$54 million for the University's new Classroom Building. She championed the acute equity initiative that resulted in \$21 million coming to UVU to correct a previous funding imbalance.



**UVU DEAN RECEIVES MENDEL MEMORIAL MEDAL IN CZECH REPUBLIC**

Daniel Fairbanks, dean of Utah Valley University's College of Science & Health, received the prestigious Mendel Memorial Medal at a ceremony on March 8 at the Moravian Museum in Brno, Czech Republic.

The Mendel Memorial Medal is awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution to furthering research and understanding on scientist Gregor Mendel, the founder of genetics studies. It was first awarded in 1965 at the Mendel Centennial Symposium in Brno and is the oldest and most prestigious of what are now several Mendel Medals. The organization that awards it is the Centrum Mendelianum, a division of the Moravian Museum.

Fairbanks also created a series of paintings, drawings, and sculpture titled "In Mendel's Footsteps: An Exhibition of the People, Places, and Scientific Research in the Life of Gregor Mendel."

**WOLVERINE MEN'S, WOMEN'S TEAMS FALL JUST SHORT IN WAC TOURNAMENT**

It was an "oh-so-close" postseason for both the men's and women's basketball teams this spring, each squad being edged by a single point in Western Athletic Tournament action.

The UVU women's team was seeded No. 6 going into the WAC Tournament and topped No. 3 Cal State Bakersfield in overtime in the opening round. But the ball did not bounce the Wolverines' way in the final half-minute against No. 2 seed Seattle, UVU falling 61-60 in the Orleans Arena, Las Vegas.

The women's team finished the season 8-22, 3-11 in the WAC. UVU only had six

players available for the conference tourney due to injuries. Britta Hall led the Wolverines in the final game with 17 points on 5-of-8 shooting from three-point range.

The men's team, meanwhile, also survived a quarterfinal WAC tourney matchup — topping Seattle 65-53 — only to fall to top-seeded Cal State Bakersfield in quadruple overtime 81-80.

UVU's men's team, however, was invited to participate in the College Basketball Invitational. The Wolverines picked up their first-ever national postseason tournament victory with a 74-49 win at Georgia Southern in the first

**NEW SPACE AT THANKSGIVING POINT OPENS**

UVU cut the ribbon for a suite of classrooms and offices at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi, Utah, in March.

The University's Office of Extended Studies will particularly utilize the new space, with executive MBA classes held at Thanksgiving Point, as well as general education and business courses offered during daytime and evening hours. A master's program in cybersecurity begins there this fall.

The space is 13,700 square feet, with five classrooms, 10 offices, and student study areas, and is located within walking distance of the Lehi UTA FrontRunner station.

"It will allow us to form closer partnerships with the working professionals of Silicon Slopes and the community of northern Utah Valley, especially non-traditional students," said UVU President Matthew S. Holland.





# SAVING UTAH LAKE

Research by  
undergrads may help  
reduce algal issues

By JAY WAMSLEY



VIDEOS and pictures depicting the algal bloom at Utah Lake during the summer of 2016 made news, but for several Utah Valley University students, those scenes sparked interest in water research that may make such events less likely in the future.

Students Serena Smith and Sydney Hoopes, under tutelage from earth sciences professors Weihong Wang and Eddy Cadet, are taking on an undergraduate research project to analyze and quantify trace metal and nutrient output into Utah Lake, specifically in the channel used to release and move effluent between the Orem waste water treatment plant and the lake.

The first phase is a year-long examination and analysis — they began in September of 2016 — of the waste water discharged by the treatment plant, Smith says, as one speculated trigger of algal bloom is excess phosphorous input from such treatment facilities. The Orem plant, she explains, releases 8 million gallons of effluent daily into Utah Lake, and is only one of seven such community-operated treatment plants surrounding the lake.

“Some of these other sources of possible pollutants are hard to measure,” Wang says. “Fertilizers and waste from agricultural areas are hard to measure, for example. Now we have this one channel going into the lake and we know exactly how to measure that. There are agricultural areas close by, and we could capture both. We are very excited for them to do this study. It’s good field work and good lab work.”

Smith says typically a day in the field requires an inflatable boat to allow the pair to work their way down the shallow two-mile channel toward the lake. The students sample several locations along the channel, including one very near the treatment plant and a fresh groundwater spring. The result will be water gathered in several Nalgene 250-milliliter bottles and soil samples in plastic bags, Smith says, and, yes, they do sink deep into silt “and sometimes get stuck for a while.” Water temperature, air temperature, pH levels, and dissolved oxygen levels are recorded on site, Smith explains, but the bulk of the analysis is done in the UVU earth sciences laboratory, utilizing as the final step a piece of equipment called an inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer.

“After going through the digestion process and the filtration process and finally the ICP-OES,” Hoopes says, “the result will tell us the concentration of trace metals and nutrients that are in there. What we are hoping to see, because it relates back to the wetlands cleaning out those metals, is that the farther down the channel we go, the less phosphorous we’ll see, and the less trace metal and nutrient concentration we’ll see.”

The study, Smith says, will also be evaluating the ability of wetlands and the phragmites that dominate them — examples being the so-called bull rushes and other reed-type plants — to clean up the effluent moving to the lake. These plants “are really amazing and adapt to their situation,” she says, and they have a natural ability to receive and remove trace metals and pollutants into their root systems and cellular structure.

Both with a plan to graduate in 2018, Smith and Hoopes say they feel fortunate that they are able to be so involved in important research as undergraduates. The idea, Hoopes says, came out of a class discussion of wetlands in a Geography 3700 class and lab, which included a tour of the Orem treatment facility.

Wang says this water study will also be sampling, comparing, and analyzing water taken from the UVU pond near the Brown-ing Administration Building and ponds at Sleepy Ridge Golf Course to monitor levels of fertilizer and other nutrients or trace metals that make their way into more urban water systems and, eventually, Utah Lake.

“A project like this, that is so local, is very vital to our community. We know that every summer we have algal blooms in the lake — we want to figure out what we can do to help with this issue. It is a very serious problem,” Wang notes. “We can test all the sources to Utah Lake, and then we can help the city to find some solutions ... to minimize the bloom. That’s the big picture of why we are doing this.”

**A project like this,  
that is so local, is very  
vital to our community.**

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# ONE NECK AT A TIME

UVU student sees way to tie cultures together through business plan

By JAY WAMSLEY



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY student Noel Lopez knows what the so-called “American Dream” feels like, and he’s forging that knowledge to touch people around the world “one neck at a time.”

Between going to marketing and business management classes at the Orem UVU campus, Lopez can look back and relate how he was taught life’s lessons as soon as he was old enough to help his family succeed. Lopez’s family immigrated from Mexico to the United States in 1990 — “my father often worked for \$2 an hour,” he remembers — and it wasn’t long until Noel was helping with the struggle.

Or Lopez can look ahead and continue to pursue his affinity for fashion, a desire to unite cultures, and a strong entrepreneurial understanding as he heads his new company The Town and Co.

The Town and Co. started with the premise that something as simple as a tie around a neck can assist in making cultural connections and provide instant camaraderie.

“Seeing a familiar country symbol on a stranger’s tie says ‘We have a connection, even though we don’t know each other yet,’” Lopez explains. “It is the ideal relationship icebreaker for anyone communicating internationally. Or for anyone who wants to recall a memory or honor a country they have an affinity for.”

Lopez was struck by the idea of ties reflecting a nation’s colors and symbols while serving as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Uruguay. He noted that some missionaries were wearing colors of Uruguay’s flag and logos from the national soccer team on their neckties.

“I went to a missionary reunion and

noticed several of the guys were still wearing that same tie,” Lopez says. “They attract attention, they open conversations, they make a connection.”

Lopez and The Town and Co. now produce neckwear with tie-ins to more than 20 countries. His neckwear is currently sold in 11 stores nationwide and available through the company’s website and Utah-based Deseret Book Company. He says he hopes to soon have his ties in airport gift shops around the country and various tourist centers. He is expanding his creative ties to reflect each state in the union — Utah’s icon is Delicate Arch — and perhaps individual companies and corporations.

“I want to touch and inspire people, one necktie at a time,” he says.

The 23-year-old sophomore says politicians, traveling salesmen, and government auxiliaries in Washington, D.C., are among his customers along with, of course, returned LDS missionaries.

“We get a lot of sales out of D.C.,” he said recently. “Also, the website brings in anywhere from 50 to 100 requests each week.”

His long-term and loftiest goal is to design a line of ties that will be featured in the Olympic games, similar to accessories designed by Ralph Lauren this past summer. A lot of creative thought goes into each design, he says, with most designs reflecting colors of a country’s flag and a recognizable icon — “I want the icon to pop out and start people talking together. I know people have a love of a country and most have a desire to talk to someone else about it.”

“I love fashion,” Lopez, who aims to graduate in 2018, says, “but that isn’t enough to run this

business. My Woodbury accounting classes help me understand how to balance and keep the books and my marketing school classes have taught me how to market successfully both nationally and internationally. You can have a passion like I do for fashion, but you also have to understand business.”

Paul Dishman, UVU marketing department chair at the Woodbury School of Business, said, “Noel’s keen marketing sense and disciplined enterprise approach has served him well. He is just one example of the numerous student entrepreneurs who have taken what they’ve learned at Woodbury and started their own successful businesses.”

Lopez says having a business on the side has affected positively how he studies at UVU. “I can apply my studies directly to what I’m doing. It really makes school fun and worth my attention, for sure,” he says.

Lopez credits watching his father’s work ethic for much of his success.

“Our family is the American dream, in my opinion,” he says. “We could have left, we could have abandoned our hopes, but my dad said, ‘Just keep going. It’s OK.’ Because of my parents, I have the opportunity I now have and, like my father, I’m just going to keep going.”

His father began as an agricultural worker, but today has his own concrete polishing company and builds custom homes. He recently sold his janitorial cleaning company that he owned and managed for 18 years in the Spokane, Washington, area.

“He taught us to be passionate and to work hard. We were always included in his business,” Lopez says. “You know, I’ve been working as long as I can remember.”

# MENTOR ON MENTOR

MENTOR PROGRAM  
GIVES BASKETBALL  
PLAYERS A  
CAREER PATH AND  
A FRIEND.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HANS KOEPEL

BY JAY WAMSLEY



**IN HER 22 YEARS** as head coach of the Utah Valley University women's basketball team, Cathy Nixon has won a lot of games — “350 or something like that,” she'll admit when pressed — but she has also produced a long list of successful students on the academic side of the ledger.

Which accomplishment is more worthy of a new trophy or recognition?

“It's a good question,” she responds, interviewed in her office in the UCCU Center, “but it's not a very hard question. The only lasting value that athletics has is who it makes us as people, who it helps us to become. The real value is the lessons we learn along the way about ourselves and our relationships with other people. The tools our student-athletes gain along with their degree is really what makes athletics valuable in any way.”

To that end, Nixon has instituted a mentoring program designed to pair her players with successful women, the goal being to advance the players' opportunities and likelihood of long-term success. As the players on her current roster battle classes, homework, decisions about majors, injuries, travel, and all that goes with being a member of a NCAA-level basketball program, Nixon says they now have an additional team of “incredible, talented professionals” who can lift and advise and show friendship.

And the result, she says, is not all just about getting more W's. This season, for example, Carin Clark, former CEO of MaritzCX, came to speak to the team, and the conversation was about more than shots, passes, and turnovers.

“She's the president of a major company, a Businesswoman of the Year, and has all sorts of accolades,” Nixon recalls. “She told the players her story and the things that have helped her professionally, and many of these things are the same things the girls are learning as student-athletes. There's a real carryover from what the girls are learning here to what happens in life. I can tell our girls that and they know it is coming from me as a basketball coach, but when someone from a different arena tells them, I think it has a little different impact on them.”

The list of mentors reads a bit like a Who's Who of role models. The mentor team includes Clark; Kimberly Houk, former news anchor and reporter; Nenevah Madsen, owner of HER Magazine and former NBC news reporter; Babata Sonnenberg, a local attorney and mother of six girls; U.S. Representative Mia Love; Darcy Van Orden, InterMountain Healthcare executive; Melani Huscroft, co-founder of Younique; and others.

“It's been pretty cool to see the relationships that have grown between them. Most of our

girls have spent time at their mentor's place of work. Each girl has her own personal mentor. That's been the most satisfying thing to me,” says Nixon. “The real connection is the people, and they have formed really strong bonds with the girls.”

Britta Hall, a sophomore guard from Tualatin, Oregon, says she sees her mentor-to-player relationship going beyond her time on the hardwood at UVU.

“I think it will always have an impact in my life,” Hall said. “I hope that I will still have relationships with these women, and that if

**THE ONLY LASTING VALUE THAT ATHLETICS HAS IS WHO IT MAKES US AS PEOPLE, WHO IT HELPS US TO BECOME. THE REAL VALUE IS THE LESSONS WE LEARN ALONG THE WAY ABOUT OURSELVES AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE.**

I need advice 10 years down the road I could turn to them and they are more than willing to give that advice and say, ‘Hey, this is what I did in this situation.’ More than anything I'll be eternally grateful for this opportunity we've had to be with them, because it opened my eyes and taught me that I can achieve any goal.”

Nixon explains that her introduction to the idea of a student-athlete mentor program came from Sean Warren, an executive with the Utah County technology firm DOMO, but also the father of a high school wrestler and a daughter who plays basketball. While attending a basketball camp at UVU, Warren and Nixon kicked around the idea of finding ways to assist the players by teaming them with successful businesswomen. Warren also helped form a similar mentor program with the UVU wrestling team.

“Coach Nixon and the girls are so busy with all the travel and school, they just don't have time to network,” Warren, who is also the only male mentor to the women's team, explains, “so that's what I do. It's purely about helping someone who has an ability to be successful, who just needs to be pointed in the right direction. That's the first step, to point them in the right direction.”

Warren says the mentors emphasize the need for “employable skills” to the players and notes that “we get them jobs but also get them involved in companies that can give back to UVU.”





**“IT’S BEEN PRETTY COOL TO SEE THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT HAVE GROWN BETWEEN THEM. MOST OF OUR GIRLS HAVE SPENT TIME AT THEIR MENTOR’S PLACE OF WORK. EACH GIRL HAS HER OWN PERSONAL MENTOR. THAT’S BEEN THE MOST SATISFYING THING TO ME,”**

Mariah Seals, a junior from Richmond, California, is the current starting point guard for the Wolverines and has the unique opportunity to be mentored by a UVU point guard from, well, a few years ago: Babata Sonnenberg, an attorney in Provo. Seals calls her interaction through the mentor program “a blessing” and says she knows other players from previous years who wish they would have had similar relationships.

“It’s done a lot for me,” Seals says, “because she has a lot of the same interests, as far as career goes, that I have, so when I talk to her about concerns I have and with her experience in the field, it’s a good thing to have. She knows the process of what it takes to get into the field and just having that person nearby with experience is a great thing to have.”

Sonnenberg echoes, saying the relationship is “a good match on Coach Nixon’s part,” as the pair have talked about getting into law school and other academic and career goals. Sonnenberg says her family benefits by knowing Seals, as well, and the role model she has become to her children.

“I love that my girls have someone to look

up to, also. They can see her out there playing, they can see her out there working hard and making strides in her own life. Here’s someone who my girls can look up to, someone who set a goal, has accomplished it, is setting a new path, someone that took the road less traveled and made a difference,” Sonnenberg says. “It’s such a good feeling to be back at that same court that you once played at and be a part of the program again. You are invested because of this person that you know personally, so it makes the game a lot more fun.”

Nixon has been with the Wolverines during their transition from a junior college level to Division I, playing in the Western Athletic Conference. In 2009-10, her team was honored by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) for having the best NCAA Division I team GPA in the nation, with a 3.630.

“We’ve been in the top 25 in the nation academically for almost every year of the last 10,” Nixon says, “We’ve been very successful academically. But I don’t have a wealth of connections professionally to get these girls internships and careers when they finish here.

“We kind of made our Dream Team list

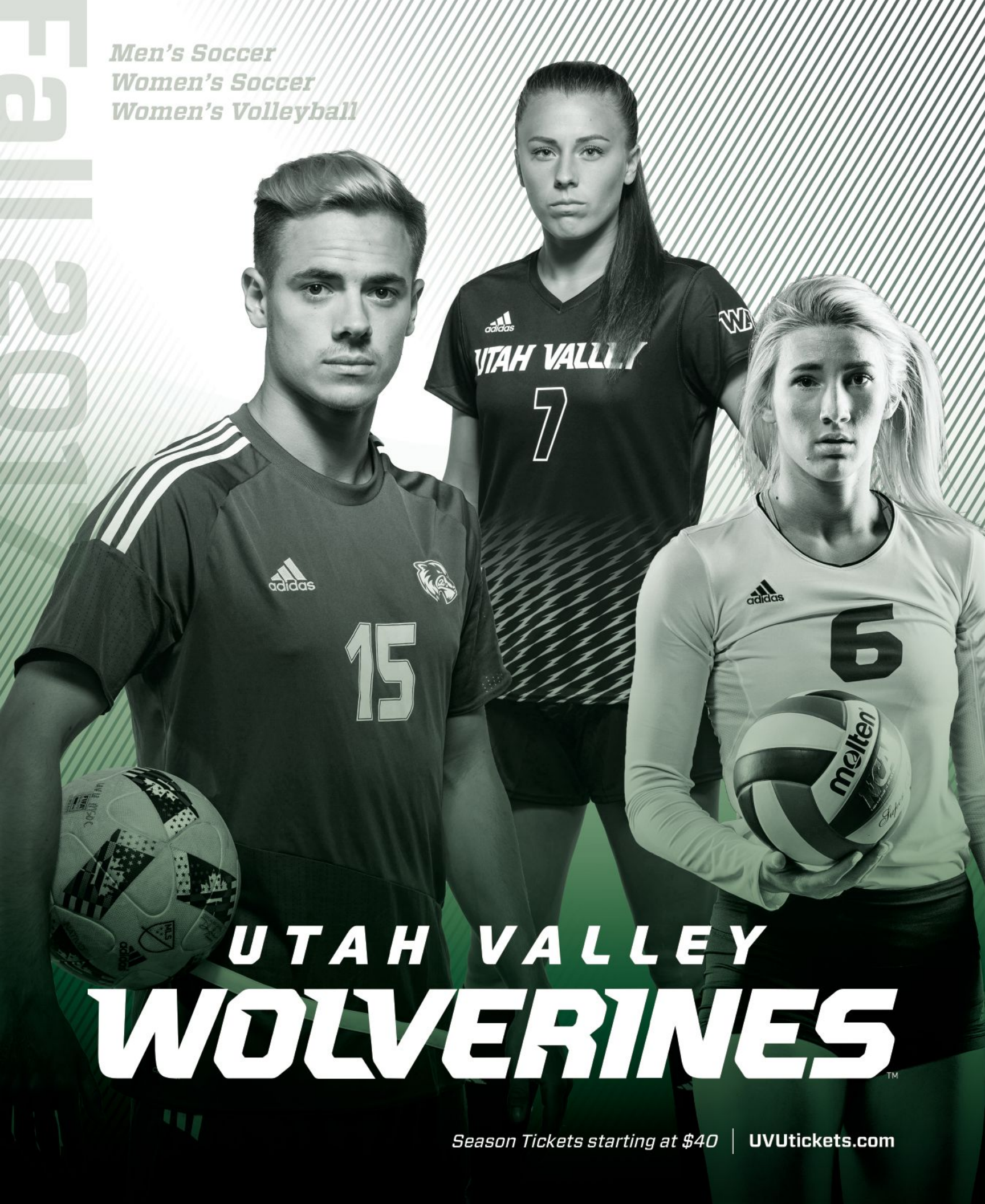
of influential women here in Utah Valley and we went out and introduced ourselves and invited them to be a part of it. And it has been so inspiring, because they say ‘Yes.’ These amazing, successful, powerful women share a passion of helping young people reach their goals and they have that instant connection. I really felt strongly that once these women met these athletes, they would fall in love with them. And that really has happened. They all have a good connection and I believe will be lifelong friends.”

Understandably, as mentors or players describe their feelings and the logistics of the mentor program, the conversation generally turns back to an appreciation for what Nixon does for her players to increase their chances for success on and off the court.

Kendall Parry, a sophomore guard from Gilbert, Arizona, puts it this way: “I think it is one of the smartest things a college coach can do for their program. She does the X’s and O’s — she knows all the things on the court, and that’s awesome. But that only lasts for so long, and we need help figuring out what we want to do in life. Setting this up for us and having the access we do is just perfect.” ■



*Men's Soccer  
Women's Soccer  
Women's Volleyball*



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What  
is  
she  
wearing?

*UVU alum RACHEL PARCELL  
has never been shy about turning  
heads in the fashion world.*

*By LAYTON SHUMWAY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY August Miller*





**RACHEL IS WEARING:**  
*lace top by Milly,  
cream skirt by Joanna August,  
and nude heels by Christian Louboutin.*

# I started getting comments asking where I got my shoes, or my top, or my lipstick.

When Rachel Parcell chose her outfit every day in high school, she tried to mimic the looks she saw in her favorite fashion magazines. But she knew she would turn a few heads — and not always in a good way.

“My friends told me later that they would talk among themselves about what embarrassing thing I would show up in at school the next day,” she says. “I laughed, because I’m a shy person, but I’m not shy with my fashion choices.”

Her confidence has paid off. Parcell now operates a fashion-focused online empire called Pink Peonies, with a blog, a website, and multiple social media accounts that draw millions of visitors each month. Parcell also started her own clothing line in 2016. And she says classes at Utah Valley University helped prepare her for a professional career in fashion.

## à CREATIVE outlet

Fashion was in Parcell’s blood from a young age. She took frequent childhood trips to stores like Nordstrom with her grandmother — “I have a very stylish grandma,” she says — and tried on shoes too big for her so they could look the same. By the time she reached high school, Parcell was reading fashion magazines daily and doing her best to recreate the outfits she saw.

Entrepreneurship ran in the family, too. Parcell says numerous members of her family, including her father and grandfather, owned their own businesses, and she always had that idea in the back of her mind. But as a UVU student in 2010, her creative energy was channeled in another direction: dance.

“From a young age, I always knew I wanted to have my own business,” she says. “The wheels were always turning. But when I was on the dance team, that took up a lot of my time.”

In 2011, Parcell registered for an advanced dance class at UVU. The class required a first-day audition, but with her experience, she figured she was a shoo-in. But the teacher never called her name, and Parcell was suddenly left with a hole in her schedule.

Already considering changing her major at the time, Parcell took the unexpected event as motivation to choose a new path.

“I’m a creative person, and dance was always my creative outlet,” Parcell says. “Suddenly I didn’t have that, so I wanted to add a creative class.”

She soon found an interest in graphic design, quickly taking UVU courses in Adobe software, design principles, and photography. Ideas began to percolate about how she could start her own design firm. But before she graduated, another opportunity presented itself.

## pink PEONIES

Parcell had already started blogging the previous year when she met her husband, Drew, in UVU’s Hall of Flags. The blog was mostly an online journal, sharing the couple’s experiences and family photos, but every so often, Parcell would post an image of her current favorite outfit.

As their wedding drew near — and Parcell took a prominent role in its planning and design — the event caught the eye of a local bridal magazine, which featured the Parcells on its cover in 2011.

The magazine article flooded her blog with new visitors. Only this time, unlike her high school classmates, they wanted to know what Parcell was wearing — and where to find it themselves.

“Even though I was just posting family photos, I started getting comments from all these women, asking where I got my shoes, or my top, or my lipstick,” Parcell says. “They were saying, ‘What is she wearing? That’s cute.’”

Local boutiques started noticing, too. As her audience grew, Parcell began receiving offers from clothiers to place ads and feature their wares on her site. It didn’t take her long to capitalize on the potential.

Sensing the opportunity, Parcell changed the title of her blog to Pink Peonies. And thus, a brand was born.

## don’t WAIT for it

As social media platforms like Instagram and Pinterest continued to grow, Parcell quickly realized she needed to use skills beyond her fashion sense to maintain her website. She credits her UVU education with giving her those skills.

“Without UVU, I don’t think I could have done any of it,” Parcell says. “Being a blogger, you have to wear so many hats. You have to be a writer, you have to be an editor, you have to be a stylist, you have to be a model, you have to be the photographer. I learned all of that from going to UVU, and I still use that in my blog every single day.”

Parcell’s husband, Drew, applied his UVU degree to the business as well, helping Rachel monetize and manage her audience while running his own businesses. And while they leverage social media to grow the Pink Peonies audience, Parcell controls the brand and has bigger plans in mind.

“I launched the clothing line last year, and now we want to go wholesale it,” Parcell says. “My ultimate dream is to have Nordstrom carry my fashion line.”

Whatever Parcell achieves next, she encourages current and future UVU students — especially young women — to dream big. Taking inspiration from her favorite Broadway musical, “Hamilton,” she tells them not to “wait for it.”




“I think sometimes women don’t give themselves enough credit,” Parcell says. “What do you have to lose? Don’t care what other people think. Go for it and be confident, and don’t wait for it.” ■

RACHEL IS WEARING:  
pink stiletto by Kurt Gieger,  
pale pink coat by Balmain  
and skinny jeans by Current Elliott.



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# SECURITY & SERVICE

UVU'S CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES, THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN UTAH, PREPARES AMERICA'S FUTURE LEADERS

BY LAYTON SHUMWAY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUGUST MILLER



## THE PHRASE “NATIONAL SECURITY” MIGHT MAKE PEOPLE THINK OF

military action, or keeping a country’s borders secure, or secret agents in dark suits and earpieces. But Utah Valley University’s Ryan Vogel sees things more broadly.

“National security is more than just use of military and national defense and counter-terrorism,” he says. “It encompasses things like climate change, epidemics and disease, international relations, diplomacy, and intelligence. National security is about things that present a challenge or threat to the United States.”

Vogel would know. After almost 10 years working in national security, much of it at the Pentagon as a senior policy advisor in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Vogel is now the director of UVU’s Center for National Security Studies. And he chose to leave government work to pursue a public service of a different kind: preparing tomorrow’s leaders to help keep America safe.

### A RISING NEED

Regardless of personal political affiliation, it’s probably safe to say that concerns about America’s security have never been greater. Consequently, the need for quality education in national security is higher than ever, too.

“National security issues are on the front page of the newspaper every day,” Vogel says. “And that is not going to change. In fact, it’s probably just going to accelerate over the years. We live in an extremely complex and internationalized world, where things that happen in far-off places have direct effects on us here in the United States.”

In order to teach students how to handle those effects, UVU’s Center for National Security Studies offers more than 40 courses covering a variety of topics, from domestic issues, like civil liberties and homeland security, to Middle Eastern politics and international law. The center also offers a certificate and a minor in national security studies, with more programs on the way.

And people are responding. Vogel says he’s had students transfer from every other university in Utah to study at UVU. “I even have high school students and their parents call me or email me and express interest and decide to come here,” he says.

It’s especially exciting for Vogel as a UVU alumnus. He originally intended to leave UVU after obtaining an associate degree in 1999, but he found himself drawn to the opportunities available on campus, especially student government. After serving as student body president, he graduated in 2004 as valedictorian, among many other honors.

“As an alum, it’s really gratifying to watch people transfer from other schools or decide in high school that UVU is where they want to go because of this program,” Vogel says.



MITCHELL RILEY IS  
A STUDENT IN RYAN  
VOGEL'S CLASS IN THE  
NATIONAL SECURITY  
PROGRAM AT UVU



# I HAVE LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO UNDERSTAND WHERE YOUR INFORMATION IS COMING FROM

## PREPARING FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

UVU national security students vary in focus and career goals, too. UVU senior Mitchell Riley has been serving in the Air Force ROTC and has been accepted for a prestigious internship at the Pentagon, working on nuclear policy under the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Riley says his national security classes have helped him prepare and increased his passion for a career in the military.

“The most valuable lesson I have learned is how important it is to understand where your information is coming from and what laws are in place that structure our national security decisions,” Riley says. “These have helped me be informed and understand why our decisions are made in a specific way.”

UVU senior Phillip Varney, who is serving an internship in Washington, D.C., in Rep. Chris Stewart’s office, says Vogel has helped turn his experience into hands-on training for a career as a foreign service officer.

“What Ryan has taught me most in our discussions is how this career track is more a lifestyle than a job,” Varney says. “The entrance exam is not something that you can simply study for, but rather it requires years of engaged study and involvement in the international community as well as current events.”

Savannah Mork is majoring in world politics at UVU, but she has added national security studies as a minor to help balance her skillset for a career in diplomacy.

“The NSS program has taught me how to think of divisive topics like detention in a very different way,” Mork says. “I’m learning just how complicated these topics can be, and it’s helping me put everything into a broader perspective that makes more sense.”

Maria Whitten is new to UVU and only recently began studying national security studies, but she now plans to minor in the subject and is serving on the center’s student advisory board. She says she’s grateful to be at a university where studying national security is an option.

“One day I hope to work for the FBI as an agent,” Whitten says. “When I chose to come to UVU this year, I chose it for the amazing faculty that teaches here. I could have never imagined the incredible opportunities that I have had so far and that I would get to meet so many people in the national security sector.”

Because of Vogel’s connections in Washington, national security professionals are regular visitors to UVU. Vogel says that serves multiple purposes — it gives UVU students a chance to learn from experts in the field, and it gives them a leg up with recruiters in the race for super-competitive jobs.

“I want the leading experts, practitioners in the field, the leading thinkers in this area, to come to UVU and talk about these issues,” Vogel says. “It’s a huge benefit for the students. It’s also a benefit for the community, because we’re having this critical, timely conversation here on campus.”

## THEORY AND PRACTICE

While national security is a broad topic with many different branches and career paths, Vogel says there's one thing in particular all of his students need to learn: how to write and speak persuasively.

That involves classroom exercises where students must research and prepare memos on a given topic, then explain and defend the memo in front of teachers and fellow students. It's an experience Vogel says most undergrads haven't had before, but it's critical to a career in national security.

"This is how it works in the real world," Vogel says. "They see that they have to take a strong position, but they have to be able to adapt to what their superiors want to know and where they're going with it. And if they're going the wrong direction, they need to be able to correct that, but in a respectful, professional way. They also need to be able to anticipate any counter-arguments or other issues. So it's a fun exercise. And it's oral as much as it is written. They need the ability to write it, and then they need the ability to orally defend it."

Vogel says his method is a blend of the theoretical discussions of graduate school and the more practical ones of law school — a balance he says is a perfect fit for UVU.

"If you go to another university, you might get more theory than you do practice," he says. "I like UVU's emphasis on engaged learning and real professional education. Because that's national security — it is a balance of theory and practice. You can't separate one from the other."

## MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Despite his years in government and politics, Vogel hasn't lost his optimism or his belief in the power of good government. He says Utahns are ideal contributors to the field of national security, due to high rates of foreign-language literacy and international experience, along with an educated and public-minded population.

"We need good people doing this," Vogel says. "We need good, thoughtful, well-prepared people to serve in this field. I think it's a great way for us to serve our country and to serve the greater international interest by having reasonable, educated, moral people in these situations."

And he says today's students, the sometimes-maligned "millennial" generation, are actually prepared to be the perfect public servants.

"I think there's a real desire to serve there," he says. "Millennials are looking for important things to do with their lives. I think there's a real opportunity for us as educators to take advantage of that mindset and that commitment, because this generation has a focus on doing meaningful public service." ■

I COULD  
HAVE NEVER  
IMAGINED THE INCREDIBLE  
OPPORTUNITIES THAT I  
HAVE HAD.

MARIA WHITTEN IS  
A STUDENT IN RYAN  
VOGEL'S CLASS IN THE  
NATIONAL SECURITY  
PROGRAM AT UVU





# THE FIELD OF NATIONAL SECURITY IS BROADER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

HERE'S A SAMPLE OF TOPICS COVERED BY UVU'S CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES, ALONG WITH POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS BASED ON THOSE TOPICS.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### **NSS 4600: NATIONAL SECURITY LAW**

Examines international, constitutional, and criminal law in national security situations

#### **POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

Lawyer  
FBI



## WAR ON TERROR

### **NSS475R: CURRENT TOPICS IN NATIONAL SECURITY**

Focuses on complex and topical issues, like the use of robotics in warfare or intelligence collection practices

#### **POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

CIA  
Intelligence operations and analysis



## WHAT IS OR ISN'T ALLOWED DURING WARTIME

### **NSS4210: THE LAW OF WAR**

Examines the laws that govern warfare

#### **POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

U.S. Armed Forces



## REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

### **NSS 301R: NATIONAL SECURITY AREA STUDIES**

Focuses on a different part of the world each year, like Israel/Palestine, Russia, or China

#### **POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

Diplomat  
Foreign policy adviser







# CULTURAL EXCHANGE

UVU PROGRAM  
IMMERSES STUDENT TEACHERS  
IN NAVAJO NATION

LEFT: JESSICA SHEFFIELD AND HER COOPERATING TEACHER COMPARE THOUGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS AFTER A DAY OF EDUCATION IN GANADO, ARIZONA.

**SNOW**blanketed much of the muddy Four Corners-area hillside on a Saturday morning in early February as six Utah Valley University student-teachers had one of the most dramatic experiences of their educational careers.

They were four weeks into a six-week program teaching Navajo students, in Ganado, Arizona. And in the Navajo tradition, meat comes on the hoof, not from the grocery store. On this Saturday morning, that meant butchering and cooking a sheep.

Some were initially apprehensive, but all were willing to give it a try. And it was definitely hands-on. The students removed the wool and skin from the meat, separated and cleaned the intestines, then made sausages from them, and performed many more chores.

"It was very eye-opening. I have never butchered a sheep before," third-grade student-teacher Jessica Sheffield says matter-of-factly. "You don't think about it when you get the meat from the grocery store."

"It is amazing to see how they cook, butcher and clean," says Helaman Orellana, who is a student-teacher for the eighth grade. "It feels like the more natural, original way of doing it. I never thought I would be doing something like this. This is a very unique experience to add to the student teaching, definitely a hands-on

»» — BY BARBARA CHRISTIANSEN PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY DROWNS

experience I will never forget. It associates learning with doing.”

Multicultural student teaching at UVU is not your typical student-teaching experience. The difference is not in the numbers but in the depth.

“I felt like it was the most cultural experience I have had here, not only seeing how they live but being a part of it,” says second-grade student-teacher Kristin Gardiner. “It made me feel really special they wanted me to help. That really bonded me to the other people even more.”

### **SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES**

Of course, the lives of Navajos in Ganado deal with more than sheep. The student-teachers quickly learned their charges face numerous challenging situations unknown in most of modern society. Half the students don’t have running water or electricity. Some of them bathe at the schools — an elementary, middle, and high school. Many rise at 4 a.m. for their chores before a 60- to 90-minute bus ride to school on unmaintained roads, a routine reversed after school, leaving little time for homework.

There is a high incidence of poverty and alcoholism, and nature can be harsh. Middle school principal Steve Wyble says he has had to inform several students of the death of a parent, occasionally the result

of freezing to death. About one in five students has internet access. If they are wondering whether a snowstorm is canceling school, someone starts up the family truck and listens to the radio for information.

Nevertheless, Wyble says he loves what he does.

“Being a principal on the reservation has been much easier than in regular public schools,” he says. “They are very family-oriented. A lot of their culture is geared toward education. They are well-behaved, generally. It is rare that a student has some problems with a teacher. They are taught to respect the stories of their elders. Once you as a teacher gain that trust, you can teach them anything they feel is relevant.”

The student-teachers noted many differences with the students from another culture. Yet despite those differences, there were more similarities than they expected.

“These students have different things they are dealing with,” says Stephanie Hansen, who is teaching first grade. “I hear stories I would never hear at home. But they are still students. They love their teacher. I have been loving their stories. I love sharing with them and experiencing the culture. I love when they open up and I feel they trust me.”

“From day one, I have appreciated the people and the culture and have realized this is a good experience,” says Gardiner. “I think I realized that any experience that is worthwhile is going to be hard. I think that is what makes it rewarding. I am growing as a person and as a teacher. The kids are the same here. They love to feel successful, appreciated. They want to have fun, be engaged. They have all different types of learners. Everything we learned in our classes at UVU has applied because those learning styles are present wherever you go.”

“What I have loved most about it is being able to understand your students, even if they do come from a different background,” Sheffield says. “You can find something that you can relate to with them and teach to that. We should teach to and for the students, not at them.”

Sixth-grade student-teacher Jennifer Palomino anticipated the Navajo students would be vastly different from those in her own culture.

“I think I came in thinking it was going to be this monster,” she says. “What I have realized is that challenges are different and sometimes unique, especially compared to Utah Valley, but at the end of the day they are the same as we are — focusing on relationships. They want a good-quality education. Being in a culture that is different from yours opens your eyes to a lot of things that you or the kids take for granted.

“Would I do it again? Oh, yeah. The biggest reward is those relationships with the students and the cooperating teachers. I feel I am in this unique opportunity. It is very different when you are here and living it.”

“It has been really awesome,” first-grade student-teacher Makenzie Lamb says. “There have been some tough times, but the school part has been just amazing. The kids are beyond adorable. The new things we have experienced, the new culture, and the new atmosphere and surroundings. It is exciting to be out of my element and experiencing a new way of life. Overall it has been an awesome learning experience.”

### **FEELING LIKE HOME**

The UVU student group also learned from each other. They saw one another both at school and during off hours and were able to share ideas and concerns. Several said they had known each other for years

**BELOW: NAVAJO COMMUNITY MEMBERS INSTRUCT UVU STUDENT TEACHERS IN THE FINE ART OF SHEEP BUTCHERING, PART OF THEIR NATIVE CULTURE.**







LEFT: NAVAJO STUDENTS WORK ON A NATIVE HAIR BUN FOR UVU STUDENT TEACHER JESSICA SHEFFIELD. BELOW: IN GANADO SCHOOLS, THE NAVAJO STUDENTS LEARN TO TRANSLATE FROM ONE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE TO ANOTHER.

»» — I WOULD DO THIS AGAIN IN A HEARTBEAT. IT REALLY IS THE EPITOME OF ENGAGED LEARNING, UVU'S METHODS IN ACTION.

but grew much closer during the six weeks they shared in Ganado.

The UVU students have appreciated the experience, but they aren't the only ones. It is the first time such a large number of student teachers has gone to Ganado. The regular faculty and students also enjoyed getting a peek at another culture, in addition to their knowledge about teaching. The student-teachers lived with host families who were involved with education in the area.

"It is really exciting to get that fresh perspective," says Jeanna Dowse, principal of Ganado Elementary School. "I have been impressed with the knowledge they have. It is a great opportunity for the students to meet them and experience their culture."

The student teachers took a class on multicultural experiences prior to heading to their assignment. Some of it was general; some was specifically geared to Navajo culture. They did individual research and wrote journal entries outlining their discoveries. They also learned about the various stages people go through when immersed in a different culture and how to overcome those. It starts with the honeymoon stage and progresses through "what am I doing here," eventually to the point where it feels like home.







## THIS PROGRAM HAS A TWO-FOLD MISSION – TO RECRUIT MORE NAVAJO STUDENTS TO BE TEACHERS AND HELP MANY OF OUR TRADITIONAL STUDENTS GET EXPOSURE TO NAVAJO NARRATIVES.

### CHANGING HEARTS

The relationship between UVU and the Navajo Nation began two years ago with 19 students and four faculty members going to Ganado for an alternative spring break — giving service instead of enjoying sun and sand on a beach somewhere. The short experience demonstrated there was a multicultural opportunity closer to home than other locales student teachers had visited, such as Peru, China, Tonga, and New Zealand.

“Our goal is to provide students who are aspiring to become teachers to have a broad contextual exposure to unique strategies,” says Parker Fawson, dean of the School of Education. “These are laboratory experiences for students who will apply what they learn in their own classrooms. We do have a Navajo population in our service region, and we are always looking for ways to share those cultures and individuals.”

“This program has a two-fold mission — to recruit more Navajo students to be teachers and help many of our traditional students get exposure to Navajo narratives,” says Kyle Reyes, assistant professor of secondary education and special assistant to the president for inclusion.

The student teachers shared an initial concern about those they taught. At first, they had a difficult time getting them to respond to questions and thought perhaps they needed to rephrase those to elicit quicker reactions. They discovered, however, that it is natural in the Navajo culture for people to think and measure their words before they speak. One benefit of this practice is the strengthening of relationships.

“In my courses at UVU and here, the most important thing is relationships with individuals, more than skills I have learned,” Gardiner says. “I am so glad I came. I would do this again in a heartbeat. I would suggest it to anyone. It really is the epitome of engaged learning, UVU’s methods in action. It works a lot better than anything else.”

Hansen says what she has learned through the multicultural experience will help her in her career, no matter whom she is teaching.

“I feel like teachers today have to know how to teach different students,” she says. “This experience has given me more insight how to reach students who have grown up differently from me, to be sensitive, to be able to teach a different group of students. It is important to be able to adapt and take home whatever is there.”

What they learned through the multicultural student teaching program will affect not only their future educational experiences but their lives and attitudes as well.

“It has changed my life,” Palomino says. “I feel like life is a lot simpler here. It has been making me re-evaluate the things from back home. I like the simplicity here. I will look at the things I dedicate time and energy to. I will crave the simpleness. Kids are not critical of each other. It has been really eye-opening. Simpleness is very unique to this area and these kids.” ■

ABOVE: STUDENT TEACHERS IN GANADO DEVELOPED A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR CHARGES. KRISTIN GARDINER GETS A HUG FORM ONE OF THE NAVAJO STUDENTS. BELOW: KRISTIN GARDINER HELPS A BOY WITH HIS READING. FOR MANY OF THE NAVAJO STUDENTS, ENGLISH IS A SECOND LANGUAGE.







# UVU HOMECOMING

COME HOME TO UVU



**SEPTEMBER 11-16**

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**MEN'S SOCCER MATCH**

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**and more!**

[uvu.edu/homecoming](http://uvu.edu/homecoming)

**UVU** UTAH VALLEY  
UNIVERSITY.

**OPENING PAGES**

*(moving clockwise): Rhett Nielson practices in Genola, Utah at the coach's arena. Kade Pitchford wrestles a steer at Eastern State University. Boot spurs on a fence between events at the Price Rodeo. Team members cleaning up at the practice facility in Elk Ridge, Utah.*



PHOTO BY JAY DROWNS  
PART OF LIFE FOR UVA RODEO TEAM

**THE UTAH VALLEY** University Rodeo Team has long been known in rodeo circles as a top-level, competitive student rodeo outfit. They have produced national finalists and professional rodeo athletes for more

**BOOTS AND BOOKS ARE PART OF LIFE FOR UVU RODEO TEAM.**

**THE UTAH VALLEY** University Rodeo Team has long been known in rodeo circles as a top-level, competitive student rodeo outfit. They have produced national finalists and professional rodeo athletes for more

than a decade without really having a place to call "home."











That may change soon, Rodeo Team coach Shane Draper says, if plans for a dedicated rodeo practice arena are finalized.

“For what we’ve got to offer and for what our situation is, we’ve done extremely well,” Draper says, noting that at least one team member has gone to the National Rodeo Finals every year since 2000. “But with the arena being built and with some of these other things starting to take effect, we are hoping to increase our program and make it even that much better.”

The arena is being planned for the Geneva property purchased by UVU for expansion across Interstate 15 from the main Orem campus. The space will be used for getting ready for 10 annual rodeos in which the team competes, one of which is sponsored by the UVU team.

Draper says the love of rodeo is a “deep, driving force that consumes every thought of our rodeo athletes. This team provides them the opportunity to get an excellent education while competing at the highest levels.”

**LEFT** (moving clockwise): Team members prepare before a bareback event. UVU Rodeo coach Shane Draper watches roping practice in Genola, Utah. Wyatt Caldwell at 5 a.m. steer wrestling practice in Lehi, Utah. Coach meeting on a Saturday morning in Price, Utah. Saxon Day and Wyatt Caldwell bring in steers to the arena in Heber, Utah. Sadie Fitzgerald carries the flag through Wasatch County Arena in Heber, Utah.





VERBATIM



# LIFELONG LEARNING

By Lesli Baker  
With Layton Shumway

Fulton Library director Lesli Baker explains how the new Roots of Knowledge windows are inspiring students and the community



*Editor's note: In November 2016, UVU unveiled Roots of Knowledge, a spectacular set of stained-glass windows depicting the search for knowledge throughout history. Since their installation, the windows have drawn thousands of visitors to the newly named Fulton Library on UVU's Orem campus.*

**A**s a librarian, lifelong learning is extremely important. And whether you're 8 years old, or 80, or 108, there are still things you can learn. We just need to take advantage of those opportunities to learn when we have them.

Having the Roots of Knowledge windows in the Fulton Library at UVU creates just such an opportunity. The windows give us a great launching point to learn more. I'm humbled by what I still need to learn — what I don't know — that I see in those windows. I think anyone will feel that way.

The study of knowledge shows us the difference that one person can make. One person can have an impact on the people who come after them. As the windows are structured chronologically, they depict the foundation of knowledge that each successive generation builds on — the roots that create the branches that bear fruit.

What can we do to help continue that process? What's our responsibility to help that process continue? We can't let it end. How do we continue to contribute, to make sure the next generation has the same opportunities and more, to bring even more knowledge into the world?

I'm excited to see UVU faculty incorporate Roots of Knowledge into their curriculum. I just heard the dance department is doing a show in January based on Roots of Knowledge. I had a professor from the English department tell me he wants to incorporate it after hearing one of our lectures. I think the more that we can build Roots of Knowledge into the curriculum, the more it can help meet those expectations and potential.

We're also working with UVU's School of Education to develop lesson plans and other curriculum support materials for elementary and high school students. The Utah Education Network is also working with students at other institutions to develop additional support materials. This will be a great way to bring Roots of Knowledge into the classroom both here at UVU and at local school. And our own UVU students will help facilitate that.

When I see students interact with Roots of Knowledge, I really see this sense of pride. They're just in awe of the beauty and the marvel and splendor. And they're so proud that it's here at their school, that they have this great opportunity to have something that no other university has. I hope it's inspiring them. And it doesn't have to stop with our students. We can share Roots of Knowledge with anyone who has the desire to learn more and to be inspired.

Reading history, to some, is boring — it's dates and numbers and dry information. But Roots of Knowledge allows you to see history in a new way and hear the stories behind it, so it comes to life, and it can have more meaning and more depth. You can develop more appreciation for what other people have discovered.

**The windows  
give us a great  
launching point  
to learn more.**



The Bingham Gallery, which houses the Roots of Knowledge windows, has become a hub for learning on UVU campus.



**Mechatronics combines several types of engineering in creating a new field**

# Greater than the Sum of its Parts

**By Barbara Christiansen  
Photography by Jay Drowns**

**Mechatronics engineering technology is a hybrid of other engineering disciplines, used to produce complex, computer-controlled electro-mechanical systems. A relatively new field, its mission is to prepare students to work as automation technicians or designers in the manufacturing sector.**

David Dunlop, assistant professor of mechatronics, explained the program and its origins to UVU Magazine.

**What is the definition of mechatronics?**

Mechatronics was coined originally in 1969 by Tetsuro Mori. It is an integrated engineering design approach that considers both the mechanical and electrical elements of a design simultaneously. Traditional engineering divides the design process into separate disciplines and only collaborates during determined stages. It requires a mechatronics professional to be familiar with all aspects of the system they are designing, which often includes computer programming, electronics, and mechanical components.





STEVE PRIBYL WIRES A CONTROL MODULE DURING AN EXERCISE IN THE MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

#### **Why is this important and useful in today's world?**

Today's world is focused on products that are optimized — compact, clean, efficient, reliable, and affordable. The mechatronics field is focused on meeting all of these goals in the shortest timeframe possible through an integrated approach. Our students develop a comprehensive understanding of multiple disciplines that can be applied in many industries. They can include manufacturing, robotics, product development, and process improvement.

#### **How long has UVU done mechatronics?**

The mechatronics program grew out of courses in the computer science program at UVU starting in fall 2007. A few years later it evolved into an associate degree program and has since become a full program with two degrees and resides in the engineering technology department of the College of Technology & Computing. Due to the nature of mechatronics being involved with multiple disciplines, there are often discussions regarding where a mechatronics program should reside within a college or university. Because it is unique in its approach and skillset, it should exist as an independent program as we have here at UVU.

#### **How has the program grown?**

Over the past few years there has been a drastic increase in the number of students enrolled in the mechatronics engineering technology program. Three years ago, there were 18 students in the associate program at UVU. Since then we have added a bachelor's degree which now has 20 students, and there are currently 59 students in the associate degree program.

#### **How does this reflect UVU's vocational roots?**

The program is focused on hands-on interaction with industrial hardware. The students who graduate from the program will generally be working for manufacturing companies. Our mission is to provide employable skills for our students and to meet the personnel needs of the companies in our service area. Our graduates may work as automation technologists, design technicians, programmable logic controller (PLC) programmers, as well as in many other aspects of implementing manufacturing systems. Students complete courses in PLC programming and architecture, materials, computer-aided design and drafting, electrical and mechanical components, pneumatics, and motor control. Students will also take courses in technical writing, physics, chemistry, and business to round out their professional profile.

#### **What do you see for the near and distant future of the field?**

Utah's demand for automated and robotic systems is increasing. This can be seen with home automation, factories that are fully automated to meet production demand and compete with international manufacturers, and even the increase of integrated systems in society from quadrotors to smart automobiles.



1  
KEVIN  
SMITH

### WOODBURY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

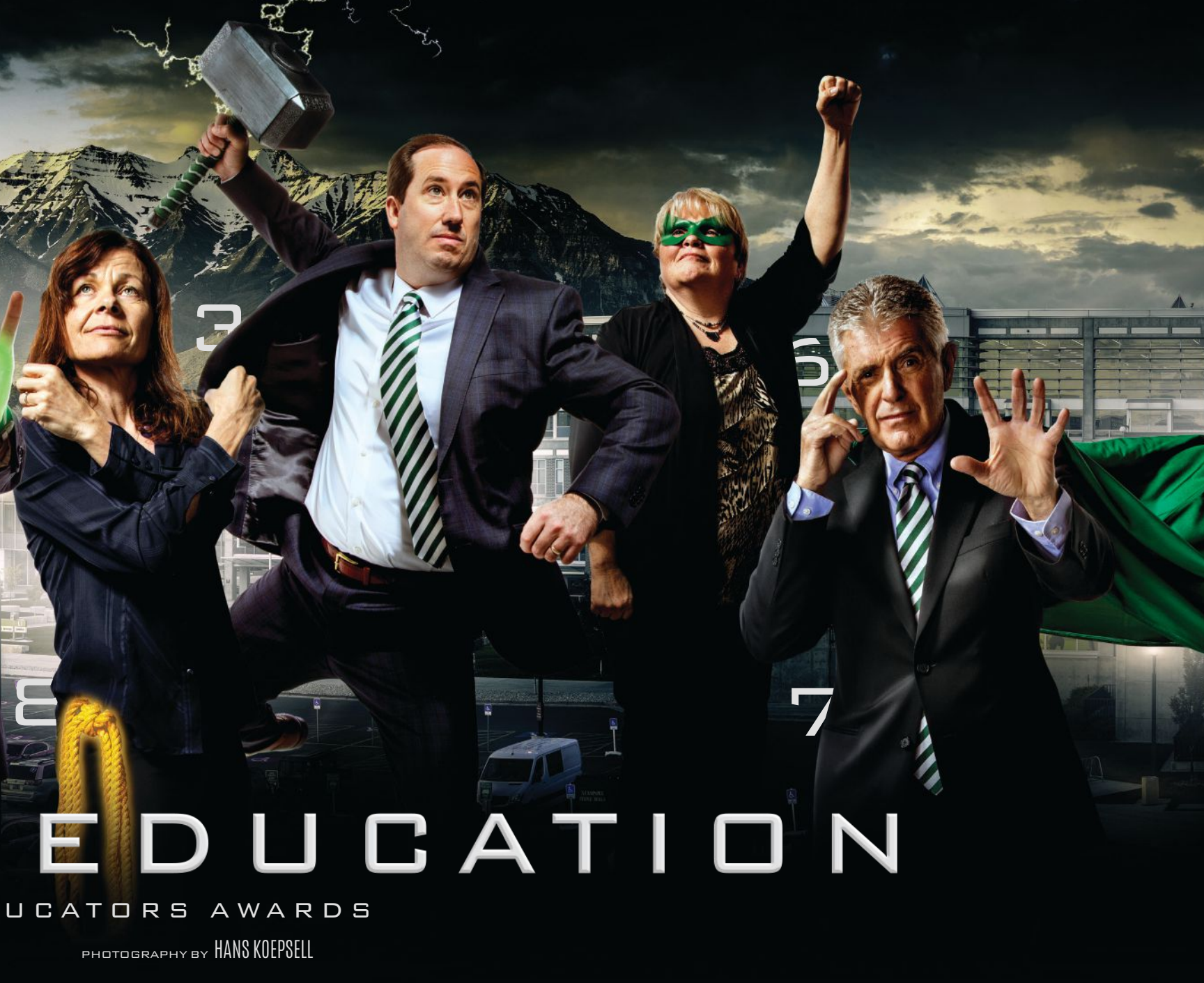
If Kevin Smith's students just learned the content of their coursework, he would consider himself a failure. "I love seeing the light bulb go on in their eyes," the associate professor of accounting says. "I help them achieve even more than they think they can achieve. I love being a part of the process. They become better thinkers, better users of information, and have a better idea of where they want to be in life. It is a magical opportunity that I get to teach these students and be part of their academic progress. This award means the most to me because it comes from the students."

2  
LORILYNN  
BRANDT

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Lorilynn Brandt, an associate professor in the School of Education, says she is lucky to get to teach the cream of the crop in the field. "My favorite thing is the students," she says. "I get to work with high quality students. I love seeing them go out into classrooms and changing the lives of young readers and young students. I love what I do. I love seeing them learn to love it, too, seeing the value of the impact they have. Teaching reading is life changing." She says she enjoys going to schools and bringing current examples of video clips and ideas to her students.





### COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE

**3**  
**STEP**  
**HEN**  
**WHY**  
**TE**

An associate professor in the communication department, Stephen Whyte has been at UVU eight years. Prior to that he worked in the communication and public relations industry on projects around the world. He loves teaching students on both ends of the spectrum – from incoming freshmen to seniors ready to begin their careers in the field. Of the many successes the students have had in prestigious competitions, he says, “It is hard to describe how I feel when I see them. It is fulfilling, exciting, encouraging and invigorating. We are just scratching the surface. The best is yet to come.”

### COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTING

**4**  
**TODD**  
**LOW**

Making education a fun experience is what seems to work for Todd Low, professor in the Automotive Technology Department. He teaches high performance engines and transmissions, which are his special interests, and it seems to transfer to the students. And his fun brings more enjoyment. “It is fun to see my students succeed,” he says. “I love cars. I love what I do. It is fun to share that passion with my students. When they grasp it and see all the cool stuff they can do, it is exciting.” He and a race team run the land speed El Camino raced by UVU at the Bonneville Salt Flats.

5  
TYLER  
STAN  
DIFI  
RD

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & HEALTH**

Tyler Standifird is an assistant professor of exercise science. Although he loves his subject, it is not the most important thing to him. "Ultimately it doesn't really matter what I am teaching," he says. "I love to share my life with the students." One class he teaches is biomechanics, which often creates struggles for students. "They end up spending time with me in my office and we develop relationships. My biggest thing is caring about the students and getting to know them. I make it a point to learn every name. They know I care about them and their success."

6  
LAU  
RIE  
HARR  
OP

**SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

In her fifth year of teaching at UVU, Laurie Harrop-Purser is an assistant professor, teaching theater, acting, and movement. She says she doesn't teach students, however. Instead, her concentration is on each student as an individual. "I want them to go out being good actors, but more important to me is that they love themselves, that they understand their worth and their ability to contribute to the profession," she says. "It is satisfying when actors accept whatever performance they just gave as the gift that it is. An actor's job is to tell a story and pull the audience into it so they believe it is real."

7  
KENN  
ETH  
CRO  
OK

**COLLEGE OF AVIATION & PUBLIC SERVICE**

Prior to teaching criminal justice for 10 years at UVU, Kenneth Crook spent 25 years as an FBI agent. "I am pretty confident about what I teach," he says. Nevertheless, it's not the subject matter but the students who come first. "I am all about interaction with the students. I try to get into their heads." He loves hearing from students who tell him about job offers and thank him for having faith in them so they could have faith in themselves. "Life is really good if you can influence one person," he says. "If you can touch a heart, life is better."

8  
COLL  
EEN  
BYE

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

Colleen Bye has taught developmental math since 2011. She understands everyone may not love math like she does, but everyone can improve their understanding. "The most important thing is to believe in yourself and that you can do it, as it is your perception of self that makes you successful," she says. It is important for students to see the relevance of math and how it applies to their lives, she adds. To that end, she teaches a quantitative reasoning course to help students separate fact from fiction, not be duped by marketing and political statements, and be more financially savvy.

**ALUMNI MESSAGE**



NOT too long ago, a friend of mine at the University told me the meaning of the term alma mater. I was surprised that I had never really understood its deeper meaning, especially when considering its significance.

The Latin phrase "alma mater" means "nurturing mother." It was originally used by the ancient Romans to describe their Goddesses. Then in the early eighteenth century it was used by Britain to refer to one's university. Since becoming aware of this meaning, I have asked people what feelings come to mind when they hear the phrase "alma mater."

The three most common responses include: pride in their school and the education they received, memories and relationships that were built through their college experience, or what the university provided them and the contributions they have made back to it.

As an alumni association, we encourage you to reconnect with your alma mater and rekindle those emotions from days gone by. Some of the ways you can do that are by attending a sporting event, music performance, or art exhibit on campus. You could connect with other alumni at one of our many upcoming alumni events, which include UVU Lagoon Day June 10, UVU night with the Salt Lake Bees July 14, UVU Homecoming September 11-16, or UVU night at the Loveland Living Aquarium October 23. You could also volunteer as a student mentor or give to student scholarships. More information is available on all these things on our website, [uvualumni.org](http://uvualumni.org).

As they have for me, I hope the words "alma mater" provide you with a new perspective on an old phrase and inspire you to reconnect with Utah Valley University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Walkenhorst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Kevin Walkenhorst**  
*Senior Director, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving*

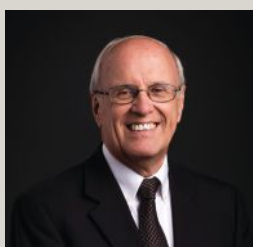


## NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS



### **KIRK CULLIMORE JR.**

Kirk Cullimore Jr. is a managing attorney at the Law Office of Kirk A. Cullimore (his father) in Sandy, Utah. He does property management representation, Fair Housing representation, collections, and legislative work and is the general counsel for the Gaming Board of Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Prior to that he was the managing partner at Brown & Cullimore in Norman, Oklahoma. He received a juris doctorate with honors from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, a bachelor of arts from Brigham Young University in 2000, and an associate degree from Utah Valley University in 1997.



### **IAN WILSON**

Ian Wilson has most recently been senior vice president of Academic Affairs of Utah Valley University and oversaw the University's academic programs, new program development, faculty hiring and development, budgets, academic outreach, and community partnerships. He has served on the UVU Board of Trustees and UVU's National Advisory Council. He has been UVU's vice president of institutional advancement and marketing and dean of the Woodbury School of Business. He has received the UVU Board of Trustees Award of Excellence and the Master Teacher Award from the University of Texas. He has been on the UVU Senior Executive Leadership Program and received the District Scouting Award.



### **RODRIGO P. SILVA**

Rodrigo Silva earned his executive MBA in August 2015 and a bachelor's degree in business in April 2013, both from UVU. He also earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from a university in Brazil. He has been director of sales and operations for Latin America at Jeunesse Global since May 2015, managing 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and overseeing eight country managers. His previous experience included work at Monavie in sales and operations for Latin American countries. Silva has also performed consulting projects.



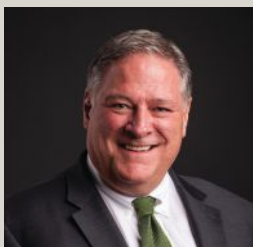
### **AKWASI FRIMPONG**

Akwasi Frimpong graduated cum laude from UVU in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He is the owner and CEO of Golden Events Management, with a focus on events planning, brand management, and direct sales. Golden Events offers wellness training and Olympic-level coaching for amateur and professional athletes. He was born in Ghana and moved to the Netherlands when he was 8. He dreamed of competing in the Olympics, but an injury put that on hold. At UVU he started running again and had record-breaking performances. He founded the first Ghana Bobsled and Skeleton Federation and hopes to compete in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.



### **ISAAC WESTWOOD**

Isaac Westwood graduated cum laude in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He is the president and co-founder of Simplus in Sandy, Utah. The company is a consulting and development firm that helps businesses innovate, integrate, and incorporate cloud solutions. He is co-founder of and has served as vice president of marketing for PcCareSupport. In 2015, Westwood was recognized by Utah Business magazine as one of "Forty Under 40." He considers himself a passionate entrepreneur who is constantly learning, seeking, and teaching. His degree in psychology allows him to better understand his employees, partners, and investors.



### **KEVIN WALKENHORST**

Kevin Walkenhorst has more than 25 years of experience in corporate communications, advertising, and marketing. Before coming to UVU in 2011 as assistant director of alumni relations, Kevin was with KLAS Enterprises as director of marketing, owner of Walkenhorst Associates, and director of communications at Covey Leadership Center/Franklin Covey. He has worked as account manager and media buyer at Hales Allen and Bennett Allen Advertising and as account and promotion manager at KTKK Radio. Walkenhorst has a bachelor's degree in communications from Brigham Young University. He is on the advisory board of the Thomas Jefferson Center. He is now the senior director of alumni relations and annual giving at UVU.

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**Sleepy Ridge Golf Course**  
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Individual Golfer \$150 • Corporate Team of four \$1,000  
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Jeff Kahn: 801-372-1077 [jkahn0@yahoo.com](mailto:jkahn0@yahoo.com)

Payments or donations can be made by visiting:  
[uvu.edu/veterans/puttsforpatriots](http://uvu.edu/veterans/puttsforpatriots)

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PRESTON BUTCHER**  
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**RYAN BUTCHER (FATHER).** Technical Specialist, Fellow at Parametric Technology Corporation. A.A.S. in Drafting and Design Technology, class of 1987.

**PRESTON BUTCHER (SON).** Automation Engineer, Autoliv. B.S. in Mechatronics Engineering Technology, class of 2017.

*"We found a unique experience at UVU. Learning in a more personal setting that offered us the possibility to find our ways to what we love."*

Share your story at [uvualumni.org](http://uvualumni.org)

