

UVU magazine

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 is a sign of UVU's ambition

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AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY, we have made a commitment to being the nation's best open admissions platform for student success. In every corner of our campus, you will see our students thriving in their educational and extracurricular pursuits. Academically, we have opened many wonderful new worlds of professional opportunity through new programs. From master degrees in cybersecurity and computer science to an associate degree in automotive power sports to our recently approved bachelor degrees in mechanical, electrical, and civil engineering, we are ensuring our students graduate with high industry relevance and job preparedness.

Student success doesn't just exist in the classroom, however. It can be found on the soccer fields, volleyball courts, wrestling mats, and track that are home to UVU Wolverine Athletics. In November, I had the great privilege of traveling with more than 100 Wolverine fans and support staff to watch the UVU men's basketball team play at the University of Kentucky and Duke University in back-to-back games — what ESPN called the "toughest 24 hours in college basketball history." Coach Mark Pope, himself a former NCAA champion, is also helping our student-athletes achieve success beyond the court by teaching and modeling hard work, strength of character, and respectful collaboration.

Several stories in this issue reflect another UVU core theme: Inclusion. The Utah Women & Leadership Project and UVU's Women's Success Center have championed women's issues in education, while UVU's Returning Wolverine program provides opportunities for former students to overcome life's challenges and come back to UVU to earn their degrees. UVU was proud to provide the venue for the LoveLoud music festival in support of our LGBTQ+ community. And our Strategic Inclusion Plan, now in its third year, is making tremendous progress in preparing all students and employees for success in an increasingly complex, diverse, and globalized society.

These stories— and the success of every single UVU student — demonstrate that we are making tangible progress in advancing our mission. Thank you for your continued support.

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*

KYLE A. REYES NAMED NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Utah Valley University has named Kyle A. Reyes as vice president for student affairs, effective in November. Reyes replaces Michelle Taylor, who left UVU in August after 23 years of impressive service to accept a position as the president of The Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago.

"Dr. Reyes is an exceptionally talented leader with an enormous commitment to student success, which is the heart of the UVU mission," President Matthew S. Holland said. "While he has a special gift for reaching those from underserved and underrepresented populations, he will undoubtedly connect with and inspire anyone interested in making UVU a national leader in student access, affinity, and accomplishment."

Prior to this new assignment, Reyes served as UVU's chief diversity officer and special assistant to the president for inclusion. He developed and implemented UVU's nationally-recognized campus-wide strategic inclusion and diversity plan. Over the past three years, Reyes was also an assistant professor in the School of Education. He taught courses on multicultural understanding and family and community partnerships and published academic articles on multicultural identities in educational spaces. This past spring, Reyes led intercultural immersive student teaching programs in the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

"I feel deeply honored to be given this opportunity to continue my passionate advocacy for students," Reyes says. "UVU is an institution committed to student success and the division of student affairs provides critical services, co-curricular engagement opportunities, leadership development, and navigational supports to help students achieve academic and personal goals."



PRESIDENT MATTHEW S. HOLLAND CALLED AS LDS MISSION PRESIDENT, TO LEAVE UVU IN JUNE

President Matthew S. Holland has been called to serve as a mission president for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints starting in July. He will continue to serve as UVU president through early June. The LDS Church has said the Hollands will preside over an English-speaking mission and will announce the location later in the year.

“Serving at UVU during the past nine years has been a signal honor and daily joy,” Holland says. “The experience of building a thriving university around a community college has been one of the great causes in higher education and I couldn’t be more pleased about the impact this powerful, dual-mission model has had in making a quality, college degree more affordable, accessible, and relevant. At the same time, I absolutely cherish my faith and am so honored and grateful for this unexpected privilege to serve in this new ecclesiastical role.”

President Holland was appointed the sixth president of Utah Valley University in 2009. Under his leadership, the institution completed its transition to a full-fledged university, now with more than 37,000 students (headcount), making it the largest university in the state. During his tenure, academic offerings expanded to 44 certificate programs, 62 associate degrees, 84 bachelor degrees, three graduate certificates, and eight master degrees.

Elaine Dalton, chair of the UVU Board of Trustees says, “Matt Holland’s vision for engaged learning and student success has propelled UVU into the national and international spotlight. His ability to work with people in a cooperative and synergistic way has garnered immense community support and trust. As a board of trustees, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to President Holland for his leadership that has helped all of us see and work for UVU’s true potential. We will remain committed to the upward trajectory President Holland has envisioned and established.”



NUVI BASKETBALL CENTER OPENS

Utah Valley University cut the ribbon in September on the NUVI Basketball Center, a new practice and conditioning facility to house its men's and women's basketball teams. The 14,500-square-foot facility was funded entirely by private donations and sponsorships totaling approximately \$4.4 million, including a lead donation from NUVI chairman and CEO Keith Nellesen.

"The NUVI Basketball Center is one of the best practice facilities in the WAC," said UVU athletic director Vince Otoupal. "It will help our basketball programs continue to pursue success both on the court and in the classroom. The facility changes the way our student-athletes and coaches approach their craft and will make our programs better. We are excited about our continuing partnership with NUVI and the Nellesens, with the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism, Cole Nellesen Autism Building, the NUVI Social Media Command Center, and now this amazing basketball facility. UVU is better because of our partnership with NUVI."

The new facility includes 8,000 square feet of court space, named the Ryan Toolson Practice Court, and nine basketball standards, with "game-day atmosphere" graphics to match the UCCU Center environment. The new Travis Hansen Strength and Conditioning Center includes roughly 1,300 square feet, with custom-made 9-foot high racks, dumbbells up to 125 pounds, and an array of power and conditioning tools. The room opens up directly onto the Ryan Toolson Practice Court.

UVU REMAINS LARGEST UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE

Utah Valley University officials have released data from the Utah System of Higher Education that indicate that UVU is, for the third straight year, the largest public university in Utah. UVU's total headcount was 37,282 for the 2017 fall semester, an increase of more than 6.5 percent over one year ago.

Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment is 25,037, up more than 5.5 percent. Forty-five percent of the student body are females. Students from historically under-represented populations such as Hawaiian natives, Pacific Islanders, Latinos, and Asians increased as well.

"This growth shows UVU's responsiveness to the increasing population of Utah County, but that's only part of the story," says UVU President Matthew S. Holland. "We take these numbers as a testament of our ability to meet the growing needs of our service region and the success of our dual-model mission and focus on engaged learning."





UVU, NUVI PARTNER TO OPEN NEW SOCIAL MEDIA COMMAND CENTER

In response to the increasing need for today's students to acquire skills and fluency in social media, Utah Valley University, in partnership with NUVI, opened the NUVI Social Media Command Center — a new facility on UVU's Orem campus that provides students with engaged learning experiences and hands-on training in a professional environment.

"Social media has become an integral part of the modern workplace," says UVU Vice President of University Relations Cameron Martin. "These are some of the most essential skills our students can learn to prepare for a 24/7, always-connected world. We're proud to provide this important resource for our students' success."

The SMCC features 12 55-inch high-definition monitors, arranged into three groups of four to enable 4K image resolution. Each screen can also display images independently via wireless connection, so any web-enabled device in the room can project and share images on the monitors. This main display wall is augmented by two 85-inch 4K monitors on opposite walls and a 75-inch SMART kapp iQ interactive display, along with rolling desks and seating capacity for 30 students, creating a collaborative space unlike any on UVU campus.

The SMCC is located adjacent to UVU's University Marketing & Communications offices to allow interaction between students and professional staff. Students will acquire essential skills through class study and work on campaigns for UVU and external clients, preparing them for internships and careers in today's technology-driven business world. The SMCC will be equipped with NUVI's Social Marketing Suite, along with other software tools, such as Facebook Power Editor, Google Analytics, Meltwater, TrackMaven, Optimizely, RiteTag, Hashtagify, and more. These will help make the SMCC the new hub for social media marketing, analysis, and content creation at UVU.

UVU BASEBALL FIELD AND STADIUM NAMED UCCU BALLPARK

Utah Valley University's baseball field and stadium were renamed in December, reflecting a new level of support by Utah Community Credit Union — the venue is now called UCCU Ballpark. All stadium signage on and off campus will be updated to reflect this change. The renaming is part of a \$5.5 million gift UCCU donated to support UVU athletics and other programs.

President Holland and Jeffrey L. Sermon, chief executive officer of Utah Community Credit Union, jointly announced the name change at a frigid press event on the ballfield where Sermon threw the ceremonial first pitch.

"As UCCU and UVU have grown over the decades, we've grown closer, helping each other better serve this community we share together," Sermon said.

The Orem-based credit union obtained the naming rights of the ballpark, which sits at a prominent junction on I-15 and University Parkway, for 10 years. "The naming of the UCCU Ballpark reflects our proud partnership with UVU, which has been serving and supporting the families of this community for over 70 years," said Bret VanAUSDal, UCCU executive vice president.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES THREE NEW ENGINEERING DEGREES

Three new engineering degrees were approved by the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees in October. University officials anticipate a high demand for these new engineering programs to meet the critical shortage of engineers in Utah.

The new Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering will join the already existing ABET accredited Computer Engineering degree to form a solid nucleus of engineering opportunities for UVU students.

The new engineering programs are set to begin in fall 2018 pending approval of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The new degrees will serve the nearly 500 UVU students currently enrolled in pre-engineering, as well as future incoming students.



OFF AND RUNNING

UVU exercise science student Amy Nelson breaks down the biomechanics of running shoes

By JAY WAMSLEY



WHEN Amy Nelson heard the idea from her biomechanics professor, she knew it was the kind of research topic she could really run with.

And others could run with it — or as a result of it — as well.

A senior in exercise science at Utah Valley University, Nelson is an avid runner — “I like to keep active” — logging about 12-15 miles per week. She and her professor and every other runner in the world know the importance of shoes in the running experience. A chance to gather data on several types of shoes, especially the newer highly cushioned thicker-soled shoes, sounded especially interesting.

“There are basically three different shoe types,” Nelson explains. “We are looking at a standard running shoe, the barefoot or minimalist running shoe, and then the highly cushioned running shoe with the big soles.

“All of a sudden, these max-cushion shoes come out and everyone is wanting to run in them and no one has ever looked at their data. There’s never been research done on how these new shoes affect your running gait and how they change the biomechanics of running. It’s a new trend and they are popular, and there’s not very much data on them, so that’s why it is kind of a big deal.”

Nelson said her undergraduate research team narrowed its focus to the Hoka brand of running shoe, a popular standard for the highly cushioned category. And while Nelson’s team’s research looked at pressure points or torque points in the knee and hip, the main focus of examination is the ankle of the runner while using these shoes.

“We have this really cool setup in our biomechanics lab,” Nelson says. “We have these motion-sensitive cameras, but they only pick up the reflective markers that we have on our runners. We have 16 cameras placed all across the room, and they are directed toward our treadmill, which is a huge treadmill. It’s a great tool to use, because it picks up the force, the force that is generated when running, whether level or uphill or downhill.

“The runners have reflective markers all over them, and the cameras pick them up, and we can see them on our computer screen. From there, we can see

them run and the force plates and vectors that come into play. We then plug it into a visual 3-D program, and from there it will pull out these force moments and we can pick up the values in their gait. We take those numbers and compare them to different people, different shoe values, and come up with our data.”

Nelson is quick to point out that this level of research is unusual for an undergraduate class. The Advanced Biomechanics 4600 class has tackled other hands-on research topics, including how loaded backpacks affect students and examinations of pronating shoes.

“It’s been great to do this as an undergraduate. I’m doing graduate student work right now,” Nelson says. “The research I am doing, no one is offering. Other schools just don’t let their undergraduate students do research like this. I get to use top equipment, I get to learn and be hands-on. That’s why I’ve enjoyed it so much because I have been able to be fully engaged in this environment and I’ve come to really enjoy it. It’s cool.”

Before the class and her hands-on research, Nelson was leaning toward advancing into a graduate program as a physician’s assistant, but is now considering a master’s degree or even a doctorate in biomechanics. “This is my first real introduction into the biomechanics world. I have enjoyed it so much, so now I have two options to decide from.”

Nelson has noted, and her professors confirm, that besides the hands-on topics she is involved with, the equipment in the UVU exercise science department is top-level. Many graduate-level programs do not have the equipment Nelson and her classmates have been able to use as undergraduates.

Nelson says, “Our department at UVU has provided great opportunity for that, it’s been awesome. I love this program. It gives you the tools, the top equipment to use, and now you get to question things and learn about new things you’d never really thought about. We have great equipment here. It’s been really a great opportunity.

“Students are so engaged in this program. Who would have thought that my little project would have taken off like this?”

Taken off running, it would seem. ■

“The research I am doing, no one is offering. Other schools just don’t let undergraduate students do research like this.”



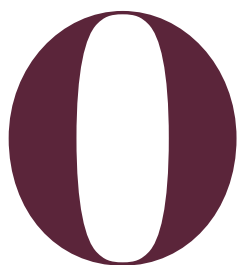
Graduating Women, Transforming Lives



UVU WOMEN'S SUCCESS CENTER,
UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP PROJECT
HELP WOMEN FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL

*By Barbara Christiansen
Photography by Hans Koepsell*





ne of Utah Valley University's core themes is student success. With that in mind, UVU created two partner programs: the Women's Success Center (WSC) and the Utah Women & Leadership Project (UWLP). While the programs are

separate entities, they work together to address women's issues in education. The Women's Success Center focuses on retaining female students and helping them earn their degrees. Its motto is "Graduating Women, Transforming Lives." The UWLP works to strengthen the impact of Utah girls and women through informing, engaging, and developing their voices, confidence, influence, and leadership.

WOMEN'S SUCCESS CENTER

The WSC began as the Women's Resource Center primarily focusing on assisting single parents, homemakers, and students with multiple risk factors. UVU President Matthew S. Holland created the Women's Success Center in 2011 with an expansive mission to empower traditional female students while continuing services for non-traditional students.

The WSC provides support to prospective and current UVU students through their efforts to recruit, retain, and graduate female students. Assisting students with FAFSA applications, providing scholarships for students in need, and engaging students in meaningful experiences at UVU are central components of WSC efforts. The center also provides success coaching to support those who need a safe space to discuss problems and potential solutions. The WSC's student group, the Women of UVU Association, offers leadership, mentoring, and volunteer opportunities to expand women's horizons. In addition to direct student services, the Wee Care Center provides child care services for the children of students.

Tara Ivie was named the director of the Women's Success Center in October, succeeding previous director Anne Wairepo. Ivie was previously assistant director of UVU's Office of First-Year Experience and Student Retention.

"I chose a career in higher education because I passionately believe that educating women is the best way to effect change in a society," Ivie says.

Staff members of the Women's Success Center have shared stories of some of the students who have earned their degrees even while facing various hardships and obstacles. They include both traditional students and some who have come back to school when they are older.

Rosie Peña is from Peru and was sent to work in the Canary Islands at a young age. She is reticent to speak about her early years, other than to say they were difficult. Peña came to Utah where she learned English. At UVU she planned to study nursing, but decided information systems would be her major.

She used tutors in every class for which they were available. She worked hard to gain an internship with the university's web development department.

Although she doesn't focus on her difficult past, she still remembers her roots, and sometimes expresses that connection through salsa dancing.

"I will never forget where I came from," she says. "It was a very humble place. We can learn from every hard time the good things to take with us."

Peña says what she has done is available to all.

"I know that anybody can do anything they put as a goal if they don't focus on the past," she says.



TARA IVIE

"I passionately believe that educating women is the best way to effect change in a society."

UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP PROJECT

UVU undertook the goal to help women facing challenges succeed with the Women & Education Initiative, which began in 2009, and the Utah Women & Leadership Project, which officially started in 2013.

"We started with a one-year goal to release four research and policy briefs," says Susan Madsen, the project's director. She had been asked numerous times how Utah compared with the nation regarding women in fields including politics, non-profits, education, and business.

After the research in those areas, the group enlarged its focus to include events and resources, followed by additional research. Their efforts now reach beyond UVU and its students, offering help and encouragement to women in the area, state, nation, and even around the world.

"We are leading social change," Madsen says. "The research has been



ROSIE PEÑA

“I know that anybody can do anything they put as a goal if they don’t focus on the past.”

the foundation to help people understand where we are currently, why things need to change, and how they need to change.”

And changing they are — for instance, Provo residents elected Michelle Kaufusi, the city’s first female mayor, in November.

“It is working,” Madsen says. “Things move slowly, but they are starting to change.”

That change has been started in part by the workshops and events the UWLP has put on for students and the public. Topics include how various groups of women can strengthen their impact, understanding and appreciating anger, creating and growing small businesses, how to write for the popular press, why men should care about strengthening women, confidence, body image, communication, toxic perfectionism, running for political office, and professional interactions.



SUSAN MADSEN

“Organizations can benefit when men and women work together.”

The events have been popular, with local attendance at each nearing 1,000. Attendees come from throughout the region. In addition, many events are streamed live and watched by people around the world, encouraging them to create their own similar events to help women in their locales.

Madsen has also presented at the State Department and American Association of University Women and advised other national groups. She has spoken in India, Greece, Croatia, Belgium, South Africa, Austria, Argentina, Spain, Slovenia, and at a conference at the House of Commons in England.

“Good things are happening,” Madsen says. “We are the hub of research. We help people and organizations get the resources they need so they design their own programs, resources, and events. For example,



JANAE MOSS

“Surround yourself with people and keep in touch with those who cheer for each other.”

we support and provide research and resources for women’s groups, networks, and organizations throughout the state.”

It takes passion and planning to find time for UWLP in addition to her regular duties in UVU’s Woodbury School of Business, but Madsen says she feels it is almost like a calling. UVU provides one staff member and other part-time employees, and researchers are funded by grants and donations.

Despite being an advocate for women to become leaders, Madsen doesn’t often call herself a feminist within Utah because of the negative connotation with some in the state. However, she says she is a feminist because she believes in the basics of feminism, that women and men should be treated and respected as equals and that there should not be discrimination based on gender.

“I believe men and women need to work together,” she says. “We should bring them together and everyone should have support. I don’t spend my time complaining about or attacking men. I work to help men understand how organizations can benefit when men and women work together, combining their talents into one to make a better future.”

Janae Moss is one who has been influenced by the UWLP. She and her husband, John, started a business and have acquired several other related businesses, expanding their reach. Moss is the founder of the

Parent Advocacy Council, a non-profit group, and is on the board of directors of the United Way of Utah County. The couple has six daughters and a son. Life is busy.

Moss has the experience and the personal knowledge to be a leader. Yet she has found it desirable to have the education to go with her other skills. Contact with Madsen prompted Moss to come back to UVU to complete her education. Moss had been attending a three-month leadership development program from the UWLP.

“She started challenging different women to find different ways to be involved,” Moss says of Madsen. “I was busy, but I felt like it was a tap on the shoulder. We see strength in other people and challenge them, let them know what we see in them. We freely share the beauty we see in others.”

Moss shares her philosophy of bringing harmony into her life to help determine what she needs to do on a particular day. She says she would encourage women to do the same, because they are worth it.

“It is worth it for you to learn a little bit every day,” she says. “Take time to do whatever you feel you really need. Surround yourself with people and keep in touch with those who cheer for each other.”

“It’s not ‘either/or,’ it’s ‘and,’ ” Madsen says. “You can be a mom and finish college. It’s an integration of different parts of our lives.” ■

TYING INTO THE REAL WORLD

NOEL LOPEZ, *Student*
Woodbury School of Business
The Town + Co, *Founder*

From first generation student to creating a
global business. Watch Noel's story on facebook.

ENGAGED LEARNING

UVU™



#TOUGHEST

24

BY LAYTON SHUMWAY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY DROWNS

**WOLVERINES'
'TOUGHEST
24 HOURS
IN COLLEGE
BASKETBALL
HISTORY'
A SIGN OF
UVU'S
AMBITION**

U

**TAH
VALLEY
UNIVERSITY
MEN'S
BASKETBALL
COACH MARK POPE
DOES NOT
BELIEVE IN
MORAL
VICTORIES.**

Last November, Pope sat in the media room at Rupp Arena, where, in 1996, he played on a University of Kentucky team that won an NCAA national championship. Minutes earlier, his Wolverines led the fifth-ranked Kentucky Wildcats by nine points at halftime, before eventually losing 73-63. The performance shocked the Kentucky faithful, and it made it easier to believe Pope when he explained that he did not schedule the toughest 24 hours in college basketball history just to lose, or to grab media attention, or to collect a paycheck. His goals run deeper than that.

"I'm not a big moral victory guy," Pope says. "We're trying to win. We understand this is hard. And we might be way ahead of ourselves thinking that we can roll into this great arena and play against this great team and win. But that's what we think."

In its 75-plus years of existence, UVU has made a name for itself by identifying the needs of its students and community and taking those challenges head-on. But the university's explosive growth hasn't always been reflected in its athletic programs. It takes more than just a boom in student enrollment to bring on-court success.

Pope's solution: Act like you belong anyway — even if the scoreboard says differently. Because that experience will only make you stronger.

That's what led Pope and the UVU men's basketball program to schedule games at Kentucky and top-ranked Duke in back-to-back nights. And the team, the university, and its supporters will benefit from those "toughest 24 hours in college basketball history" for years to come.

Crooked-Path Guys

For a team like UVU, from a relatively small conference like the Western Athletic Conference, this sort of scheduling is unthinkable. It's common practice for larger programs to invite less-established teams to play early in the season; they're even compensated financially for traveling. But it usually takes years of planning and relationship building. And to do it in back-to-back nights has literally never been done by a program UVU's size.

Fortunately for the Wolverines, they had a couple of king-size, 6-foot-10 advantages in Pope and UVU assistant coach Chris Burgess, who played at Duke for two seasons. Their connections at their alma maters helped make the trip possible.

"If I would've even brought up a conversation like this two years ago, I'd have been thrown off campus," UVU athletic director Vince Otoupal says. "This doesn't happen. Nobody's doing this. It takes someone like Coach Pope, that kind of creativity, to even think of it and to be able to execute it. (Kentucky head coach John) Calipari and Coach K (Duke legend Mike Krzyzewski), they don't call third-year coaches back."

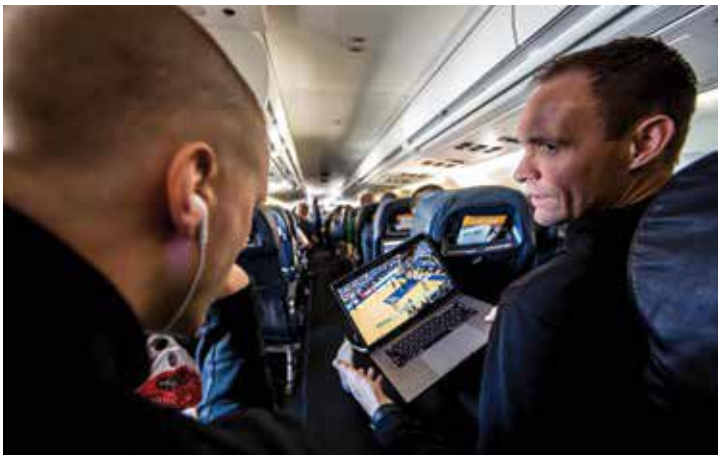
Ever self-effacing, Pope admits the idea could have backfired spectacularly. But he says he believed in UVU and especially in his team.

"It takes a pretty moronic coach to think, 'Hey, let's go test ourselves this way,' but this is where we're trying to go, and we're trying to go there fast," Pope says. "And I have a lot of faith in my team, and I'm excited about what we have a chance to grow into."

Part of the reason he has that much faith, Pope says, is because he knows what his players have already been through. Fourteen of the 16 players on this year's men's basketball roster have transferred from other programs, either at the junior college or university level. That

THE HECTIC SCHEDULE WAS FUN FOR FANS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT HOLLAND, BUT IT FORCED UVU COACHES TO WATCH FILM AND PLAN STRATEGY ON AIRPLANES AND BUS RIDES; QUIET MOMENTS WERE RARE. "I HAVEN'T LOST A LOT IN THIS BUILDING," POPE SAID OF RUPP ARENA.





includes eight players from other Utah institutions.

Pope calls them his “crooked-path guys.” And he says he knew games against opponents like Kentucky and Duke wouldn’t intimidate them.

“None of my guys are the chosen ones or the blue bloods,” Pope says. “That’s not who we are. We’re crooked-path guys with big-time chips on our shoulders. We’ve already been knocked down, and we got back up. At the end of the day, these guys are going to be champions, because they know how to get back up over and over again.”

A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP

While the Wolverines prepared for the “#Toughest24” on the court, UVU staff and administrators worked to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience for donors and supporters of UVU athletics. With the encouragement and participation of UVU President Matthew S. Holland – himself a Duke graduate school alumnus – nearly 100 UVU supporters gave donations to the athletic program to help make the trip possible. In return, they received seats on the team’s chartered flight out of the Provo Airport, tickets to both games, hotel accommodations in Lexington, Kentucky, and Durham, North Carolina, and unique tours of the Kentucky and Duke basketball facilities.

And they made their presence felt, even in the cavernous Rupp Arena at Kentucky, which seats 23,500 people. During the first half of the UVU-Kentucky game, when the Wolverines sprang out to a surprising lead, multiple chants of “U-TAH VA-LLEY” rang through the stunned silence of the home fans.

“Our donors are starting to feel like they’re part of it,” said Scott Cooksey, UVU vice president for development and alumni relations. “Instead of ‘the team at UVU,’ they’re starting to refer to it as ‘our team.’ And when we’re

dealing with people who aren’t alumni, that’s a big change.”

Before President Holland led the supporters through a tour of the Duke Gardens prior to the basketball game, he invited former UVU President William A. Sederburg, who currently resides in North Carolina, to speak on the institution’s growth. Sederburg was instrumental, both as UVU president and later as commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education, in leading UVU’s transition from a state college to a university.

“This kind of athletic development is so phenomenal,” Sederburg told the supporters. “I remember, when [former UVU athletic director] Mike Jacobsen came into the office and said, ‘We’re going to go from community college ball right to Division I,’ I thought the man was crazy. And now to be here at Duke, and to have played Kentucky so well, is phenomenal.”

The UVU party also got a taste of what coaches Pope and Burgess had meant to their respective universities. Kentucky fans greeted Pope so warmly as his name was announced in the arena that Wildcats coach John Calipari joked they must like Pope more than himself. One Kentucky fan at dinner the previous night told a story about seeing Pope near campus back in 1996 and being so star-struck that he could only think to blurt out, “You’re a great role model for kids!” as Pope drove past. And during pregame shootaround at Duke’s Cameron Indoor Stadium, former Blue Devil and NBA veteran Shane Battier came to visit his former teammate Burgess and chat with the UVU team.

“It’s the first time we’ve ever engaged donors this way,” Cooksey says, “giving them a first-hand experience, not just traveling with the team, but a whole weekend at two iconic basketball universities. No one’s done this before anywhere in the NCAA.”

UVU DONORS ENJOYED THE UNIQUE ATMOSPHERES AT KENTUCKY AND DUKE, INCLUDING TOURS OF CAMPUS FACILITIES AND COURTSIDE SEATS. THE WOLVERINE PLAYERS GOT A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE, ESPECIALLY IN FRONT OF DUKE’S STUDENT SECTION.





**WE
WANTED
TO SEE
WHAT
THE
BEST
LOOKED
LIKE
AND
FELT
LIKE.**

as Duke's raucous student section is known, were making their displeasure felt.

But Duke's superior execution began to take over. Having clearly watched the previous night's game, the Blue Devils switched to a zone and let talented freshman big man Wendell Carter Jr. roam the paint at will on defense, racking up blocks. On the offensive side, freshman Marvin Bagley III was impossible to stop in the low post, and Duke's shooters were far more accurate than Kentucky's had been.

By halftime, Duke led 48-33, and the margin only grew from there. The lone bright spot for the Wolverines was senior center Akolda Manyang, who posted an impressive stat line of 17 points, 12 rebounds, six assists, and one steal.

While Pope maintains he doesn't believe in moral victories, and he was disappointed at the margin of defeat, he says he got what he was hoping for out of the toughest 24 hours in college basketball history.

"We wanted to go see what the best looked like and felt like, and we wanted to see it in a really concentrated period of time," Pope says. "And I think we got a really good vision of that."

The real measure of success, Pope says, is not just how his team performed on this trip, but how it will help them improve throughout the season. One of the most difficult things for teams like UVU is that, when they reach the NCAA Tournament in March, they are seeded against top-tier schools like Kentucky and Duke. That can become overwhelming quickly.

With the experience the Wolverines now have, Pope says, they will know exactly what it feels like to play that kind of game. And they'll have the confidence to know they belong.

"I think we felt like we were able to stand toe-to-toe," Pope says. "We have a very good understanding now of what these elite teams are like and what we want to work toward in the next five months. And I think all of our guys, deep in their core, believe that we can get there." ■

POPE SAYS HE HOPES THE TRIP WILL UNITE HIS PLAYERS AND PREPARE THEM FOR THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF COMPETITION. "THESE GUYS ARE GOING TO BE CHAMPIONS," HE SAYS.

Toe to Toe

While the UVU fans enjoyed the unique trip, the Wolverine players stayed focused on the games, which presented two different challenges. All five Kentucky starters were freshmen – just months removed from high school ball. Duke featured its own trio of talented freshmen, along with more experienced leaders like senior Grayson Allen. Kentucky's Rupp Arena is overwhelmingly large, while Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium is one of the oldest and most compact in college basketball, with students close enough to touch opposing players. Both opposing coaches, Kentucky's Calipari and Duke's Krzyzewski, are legends.

But as Pope predicted, the Wolverines were not intimidated. Beyond a few cell phone videos and quietly awed comments as they entered the venues, the players were all business. And their preparation didn't take long to pay off.

Against Kentucky, UVU took an early lead as Kentucky struggled to score. The Wildcats' inexperience was evident as UVU outworked them on the offensive glass. Balanced scoring from the Wolverines' Kenneth Ogbe and Jake Toolson helped UVU to a 34-25 halftime lead. Suddenly the impossible seemed within reach.

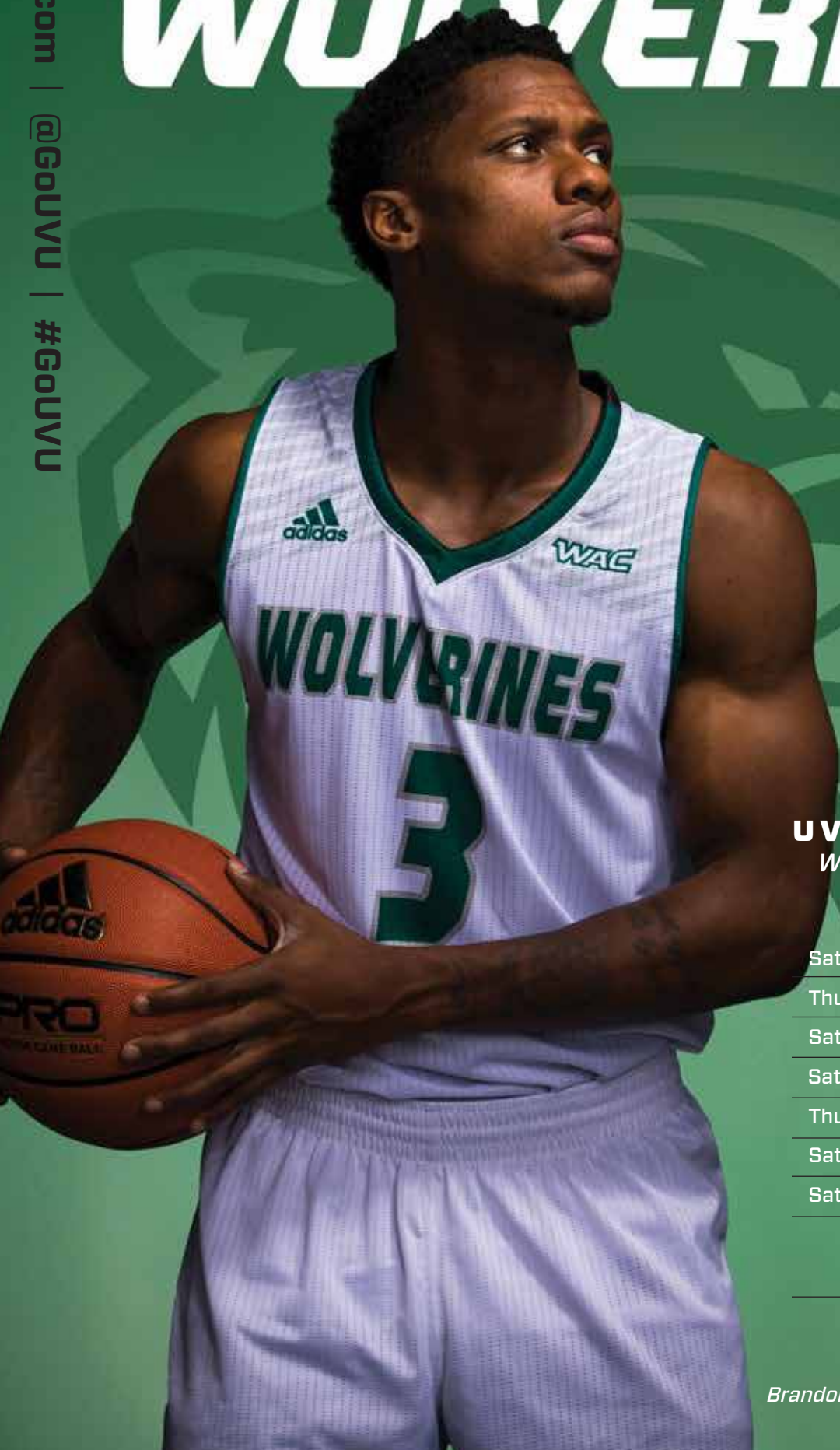
But the Wildcats adjusted, switching to a 2-3 zone defense that had UVU rattled. Unable to penetrate the zone, the Wolverines committed multiple turnovers, which led to lightning-quick Kentucky fast breaks. A mere five minutes into the second half, the Wildcats took a 43-37 lead, one they would never relinquish – although the Wolverines kept the final score close and the home fans uncomfortable to the end.

Less than an hour after the Kentucky game ended, the UVU team and traveling party were on a flight from Lexington to Raleigh, getting to bed in Durham well after midnight. The next day's challenge would be even tougher.

The Wolverines started the game against Duke similarly, with excellent defense and timely rebounding. UVU led 17-15 with 11:38 left in the first half, and the "Cameron Crazyes,"



UTAH VALLEY WOLVERINES™



UVU MEN'S BASKETBALL

*Western Athletic Conference Games
(Home Games)*

Sat. Jan. 6	CSU Bakersfield	7 pm
Thurs. Jan. 11	UMKC	7 pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Chicago State	7 pm
Sat. Jan. 27	GCU	3 pm
Thurs. Feb. 15	New Mexico State	7 pm
Sat. Feb. 17	UT Rio Grande Valley	7 pm
Sat. Mar. 3	Seattle	7 pm

WAC Tournament
Las Vegas, Nevada - March 7-10

GoUVU.com/Tickets

Brandon Randolph, Senior



a DiFFeREnT PaTH

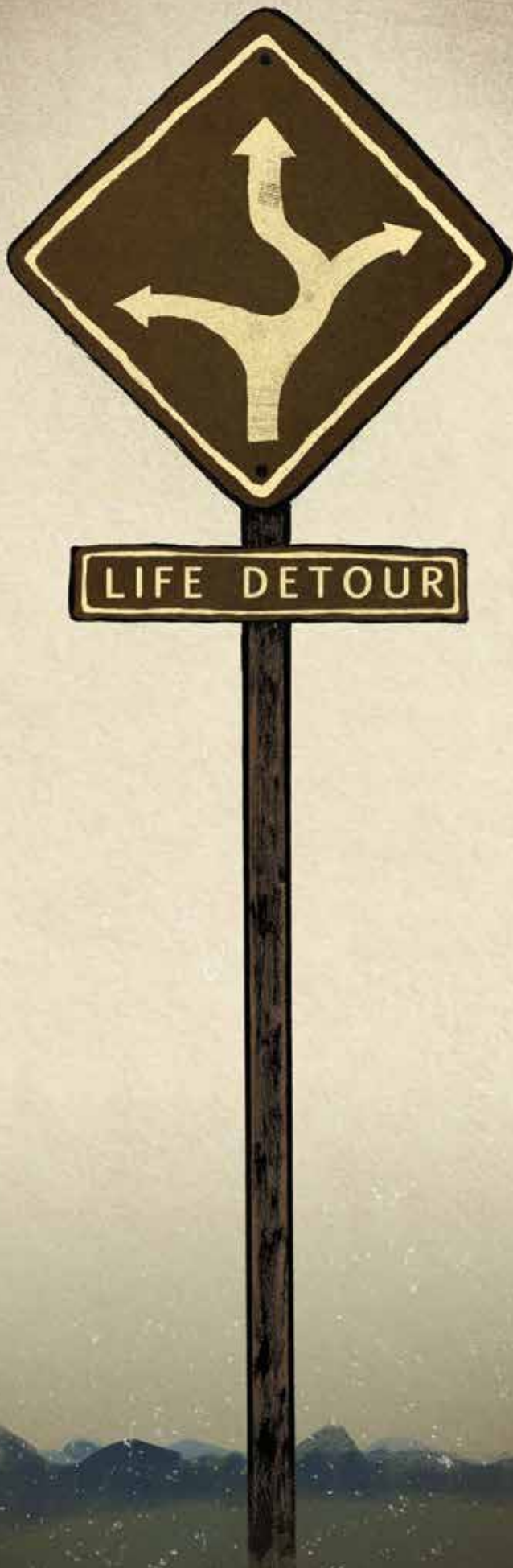
UVU's Returning Wolverine

program helps students

overcome roadblocks

to complete

degrees.



Pink slip. Corporate restructuring. Downsizing. Re-examining our resources.

These are phrases that those dependent on a regular paycheck don't enjoy hearing, especially when those euphemisms are pointed at them.

Joshua Felix had those phrases pointed directly at him — yes, he can remember the exact day — Aug. 3, 2016.

"I was working for a company providing product and technical support, making around \$75,000 a year, so school was not on my radar, as I was doing well enough," Felix, who had attended Utah Valley State College during its transition into Utah Valley University, remembers. "However, that all changed when the company had an all-hands meeting letting us know that they would be doing some corporate restructuring, refocusing resources, and as such all of us in the meeting were no longer needed.

"Needless to say, I suddenly had time on my hands, and finding a new career might take a while. I had previous experiences where I was told by several companies that they would hire me on the spot if only I had a degree. So, I had to start planning how to pay for my mortgage and provide for my wife and nine kids."

The next day, Felix, 42, says, pink turned to green as he received an email from UVU inviting him back to finish what he had not quite completed.

Utah, as it turns out, is in the top five states nationally with working adults who have some college credit — sometimes a lot of it — but no degree. Tara Ivie, who served as assistant director of UVU's office of First-Year Experience and Student Retention, worries about these people.

"We know we have a specific service region," Ivie says, "and we felt we needed to reach out and help them finish their degrees. We know students completing their college education opens up opportunity, provides financial stability, and improves outcomes in everything from health, to divorce rates, to child success in school — so much is related to the person's education level. So, proactive outreach to help students complete their degrees was initiated by our office in Fall 2016."

"Happily

I am gainfully

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from achieving

my goals."

Just in time for Joshua Felix.

"My records were reactivated and an appointment was set up for me to talk to an academic counselor to get me back on track to graduation," Felix says. "I told my counselor that I would give UVU one semester and go from there. She came back with multiple options ... in order to graduate." Felix says he chose an option that allowed him to pick an internship that might translate into a job. "I had the awesome opportunity to work with UVU's internship group and was given 30 to 40 job leads, but right then all of the fall internships had already been filled."

Utilizing grant money that Felix learned about, thanks to information from UVU's Returning Wolverine program, he eventually completed his degree and put a traumatic pink slip in his rear-view mirror.

"I am also grateful to the Student Retention department for the Returning Wolverine grant, which helped relieve some of the pressure I was feeling in regard to providing for my family," Felix says. "In the end, I was able to find employment with the University of Utah Hospital Radiology department, and they were willing to work with me to fulfill the requirements of the internship. So, happily I am gainfully employed in a promising career, and I know that my previous lack of a degree will not keep me from achieving my goals."

Ivie says the Returning Wolverine program is, at its core, deeply woven within the major pillars and mission of the university.

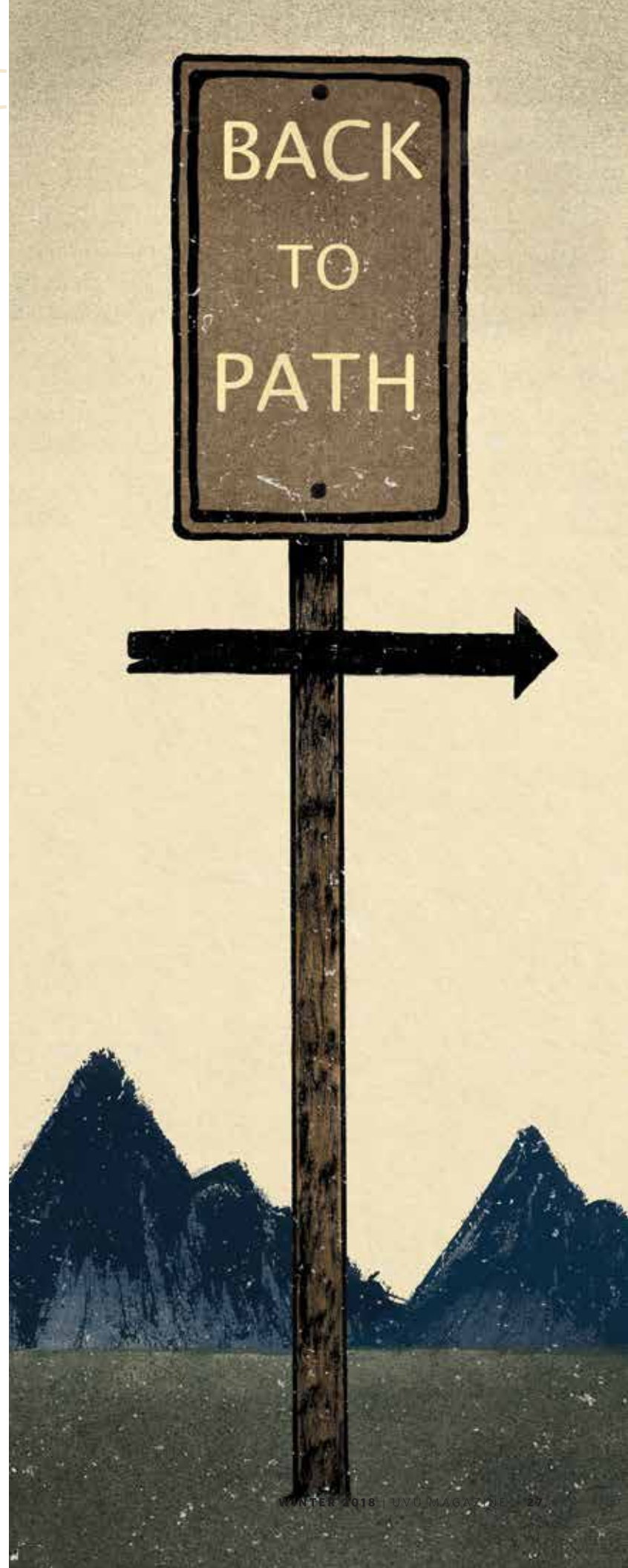
"UVU prides itself on being a top-notch open-access platform for education. If we take that seriously," she says, "it means we need to meet students where they are; to help them understand the value of their education, provide the opportunity for them to get it, and then facilitate that process. Students may choose to stop out of school, not understanding long-term repercussions. We know from the higher education data we see, those students will wind up coming back. And Returning Wolverine has proven that."

"We've got these students who are successful in their fields and doing well, but they end up hitting a ceiling because they can't advance any further until they get that degree, that credential, to back up their professional experience. I think at a fundamental level, it is just the right thing to do."

Noemy Medina, program manager in the First-Year Experience and Student Retention office, says UVU has a unique student population, with identifiable traits that add to the need to seek out Wolverines to return and graduate.

"My perception is that on this campus, students marry at a younger age," Medina says. "And they start families at a younger age, and I think that can put pressure on families to work full time ... And if you're working, you might get the opportunity for a promotion or to work full time instead of part time, and that's where we see students taking that on. They stop and drop out of school. But then usually something happens in their life that requires them to come back and finish their degree. That's where we've been able to help many students."

Ivie also suggests that another characteristic of UVU students is that



“they are very debt-averse, so we have a lot of students who want to work to avoid debt. That means they are taking a semester, two semesters, three semesters off to save money, just to come back to school.” She says she believes that is not financially efficient, as the money lost from not having a degree is actually more than what is gained by stepping aside from education pursuits.

“The longer it takes them to graduate, the more that degree is going to cost them,” Ivie says, “and they are delaying the potential income that would be theirs after they graduate. That’s why UVU established a lot of resources to help students, like the Money Management Resource Center, to identify and help students figure out how to make their budgets work so they can use their money more wisely, so they can complete a degree more efficiently, and graduate, and move on to those other things in life — whether that is family, work, or other priorities.”

For Ris Ratliff, fashioning a program “just for me” was the perfect answer to help her return and graduate with a degree in university studies.

Ratliff had made several attempts at enjoying college, first at UVU, then a period at Dixie State, then UVU again, but found searching for her niche incredibly frustrating. She readily admits that the one passion she had in life was being a full-time nanny, something she did for many years, both as a single woman and while married, but she couldn’t find that same passion for much of her coursework.

“I changed my major so many times trying to find the right fit,” she says. “I ended up nannying for a family in American Fork while going to UVU. I was a ballroom dance major, premed, nursing, photography, I tried education again, tried so many different things trying to find that right fit. I felt like I already knew what I wanted to do, but I was slugging along, taking out student loans, taking 15-18 credits a semester, changing my major, trying to find that right fit. I was feeling incredibly unhappy with school.”

The Ratliff family made the decision to take employment in Las Vegas with Ris being a nanny “to a family I dearly loved.” For four years, she was employed in Las Vegas and New Jersey. To get her husband back into school to

“I feel proud
of myself for
finally finishing,
to be able to say
‘I finished and I
finally did it’ —
it feels so good
to have accom-
plished that.”

complete his degree in graphic design and to concentrate on her family plans, Ratliff returned to Orem.

“But I wasn’t going to waste money on school,” Ratliff remembers. “I didn’t really need a degree to keep nannying. It wasn’t necessary — my experience spoke for itself, but I was so close, literally only a semester away ... That’s when we found the university studies degree. And the reason I even looked at that was because I got an email from UVU and information about the grant they offered. If I would have had to pay for school, I wouldn’t have gone. I reached out, and they told me I was a perfect candidate for this.”

Working with a counselor, Ratliff fashioned her own pathway to her diploma. She worked out a schedule with her remaining needed credits and got a bachelor’s degree in university studies.

“I applied for the grant and got into the university studies program,” Ratliff says. “It’s so wonderful and helps so many people. With the credits I already had, I was able to create a bachelor’s degree with the remaining classes in things I was passionate about, like childcare. So I fashioned my own little degree and I loved school. I loved the classes I took — applied parenting, early childhood education, and child psychology, and it was wonderful. I also did an internship at Timpanogos Regional Hospital in the NICU and Well-Baby Nursery, and it was amazing. The internship services team was amazing to work with and found what was literally the perfect internship for me.

“I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in April with close to 200 credits — and I’m really good at Jeopardy because I know a little bit about a lot of things. But there is no way I would have considered going back to school without the Returning Wolverine grant.”

While Ratliff emphasizes that her future employment may not be dependent on having a degree, “I feel proud of myself for finally finishing, to be able to say ‘I finished and I finally did it’ — it feels so good to have accomplished that.”

Ratliff said initially she thought walking in Commencement as a 32-year-old might “feel silly,” but now says, “it feels so nice. It feels nice to be celebrated for your hard work, because getting a bachelor’s degree is hard work. It’s good to celebrate and know UVU is proud of you ... I hope more people apply because it is life changing.”

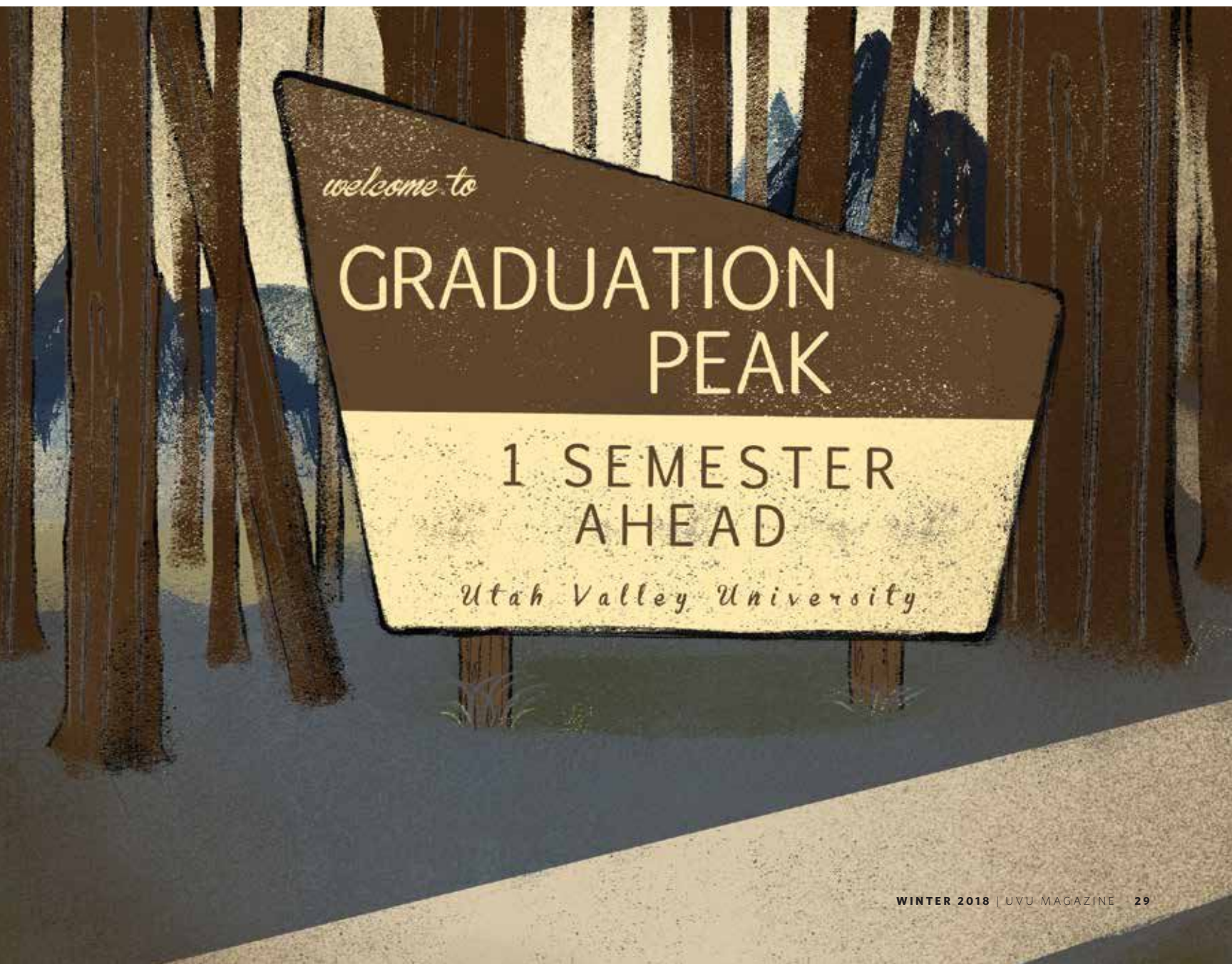
Ivie says the grant money for this special group of students — set aside from both internal funds and state funding — is made available to the vast majority of those who apply, and the amount is based on the number of credit hours being taken each semester.

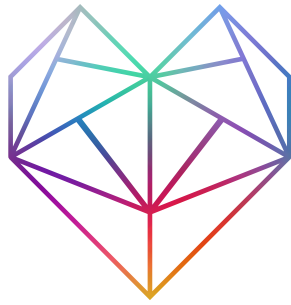
Medina says retention mentors are assigned to each Returning Wolverine to reinforce their decision and to help them integrate back into their studies.

“We reassure them that they are not the only ones that are coming back. They are not going to come back and only see 18-year-olds straight out of high school — there are going to be other students like them in the classroom, and it’s OK,” she says. “It’s OK that you stopped, but it’s not OK that you not finish this degree. And another common thing that happens is that they really want their degree. They don’t like the feeling that they started something and didn’t finish it.”

“It’s impressive how excited they get when they see UVU reaching out,” Medina continues. “They know that the institution genuinely cares about them. There’s that realization that what you do matters to us, so let’s help you come back, let’s help you get where you want to go. It’s not just the student who’s investing in their education – the institution invests in their education, too. Seeing that empowerment of the student and how excited they are to return and graduate has been really rewarding.” ■

“It’s not just the student who’s investing in their education – the institution invests in their education, too.”





LOVELLOUD

PHOTOS BY:

AUGUST MILLER
JAY DROWNS
HANS KOESELL
KIM RAFF
MARCELA OLSEN
SAVANNAH CUTLER

LOVELLOUD
FEST DRAWS
CROWDS
TO BENEFIT
CONCERT

The LoveLoud Festival at UVU's Brent Brown Ballpark in August was an event not to be readily forgotten. And many hope it won't be.

Created by Dan Reynolds, frontman of Grammy-winning Imagine Dragons, LoveLoud drew 17,000 fans to the ballpark for the six-hour benefit concert. Reynolds said he plans for it to be an annual event.

The focus was to show support for the local LGBTQ community. The fest's official website said the show was created to "help ignite the relevant and vital conversation of what it means to unconditionally love, understand, accept and support LGBTQ+ youth in an effort to keep families together." The fest's proceeds went to support affected youth with unsupporting homes and families.

Neon Trees was a co-headliner and the two groups were joined by Krewella, Nicholas Petricca of Walk the Moon, Joshua James, and Reynolds' wife Aja Volkman. Inspirational and motivational speakers interspersed their messages with the music.







EMOTIONS WERE STRONG THROUGHOUT THE EVENING, ESPECIALLY WHEN FESTIVAL DIRECTOR LANCE LOWRY (TOP) TOOK THE STAGE TO REMEMBER HIS BROTHER, WHO DIED EARLIER IN 2017.



REYNOLDS POSED FOR PHOTOS WITH ATTENDEES AND LEADERS OF LGBT ORGANIZATIONS. "I WAS TAUGHT FROM A YOUNG AGE THAT IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD, YOU START WITH YOUR COMMUNITY," HE SAYS.





MANY LOVELOUD PERFORMERS HAVE HISTORY IN UTAH COUNTY, INCLUDING NEON TREES MEMBERS TYLER GLENN (TOP) AND ELAINE BRADLEY (CENTER RIGHT) AND IMAGINE DRAGONS GUITARIST WAYNE SERMON (RIGHT).





LOVELOUD ORGANIZERS WANTED TO MAKE THE FESTIVAL A WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL — INCLUDING CHILDREN — AND PERFORMERS FROM DIFFERENT GROUPS JOINED TOGETHER ON STAGE FOR SEVERAL SONGS.



BRIDGING

Since its inception as a vocational school in the World War II era, Utah Valley University has striven to provide educational opportunities to everyone. Inclusion isn't just one of the university's core themes — it's part of the institution's legacy. UVU Vice President for Student Affairs Kyle Reyes, who developed and implemented the University's strategic inclusion plan, explains how UVU is keeping that legacy active and responsive to students' needs.

more bridge-building, less divisive, focusing on taking action. Diversity by itself acknowledges that there's this big beautiful diverse world. But inclusion starts to ask the question, "What do we do with that diversity?" Diversity is the mix; inclusion is the actions we take with that mixture.

Now more than ever, we need graduates of higher education who can build bridges of understanding, who can talk in a civil manner across differences, and who can recognize their own biases, assumptions, and privileges, so that we can support people who have been underserved, underrepresented, or historically disenfranchised.

Q: How do you educate people on the need for inclusion?

A: I invite people to consider the benefits of developing intercultural competencies or greater

awareness, understanding, and skills about difference. People need to understand

that their lenses, or the ways they view the world, come from somewhere. In other words, in order to develop a more inclusive approach to life, one has to analyze their own perspectives in relation to diverse individuals around them. I try not to attack anyone's specific identity. I try to simply ask the question, "Have you considered? Have you considered unpacking, thinking about, critically reflecting on the opportunities you've been afforded?"

I think far too often people assume, when we talk about inclusion and diversity, that we're only talking about race, or maybe gender. But at UVU, we talk about anybody who's historically underrepresented in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, socioeconomic status, parental education level, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion and spirituality, worldview — the list goes on and on. I believe that UVU's strategic inclusion plan is one of the most comprehensive in the entire nation, because I've looked at other plans, and they limit their focus to racial representation. But it's so much broader than that.

Q: What are some significant actions UVU has taken in its inclusion efforts?

A: We introduced our Strategic Inclusion Plan in 2014, and we've made progress on 34 of the 36 action steps in that plan. For any university, that's a huge step, just to have a structure in place, because that means there's actual commitment to these issues.

We've done a tremendous job in terms of our physical spaces. UVU has created the Barbara Barrington Jones Wee Care Center, a new Veteran Success Center, the Women's Success Center, an LGBT Center, the Center for Global and Intercultural Engagement, an ecumenical Reflection Center, the Melisa

Nellesen Center for Autism, a food pantry, and more. All of these are deliberate steps toward creating a supportive and safe campus environment.

Just this past year, we launched a Foundations of Inclusion workshop series for faculty, staff, and administrators. This is a series of workshops on various topics and at different levels to help our employees develop greater intercultural competencies. The response has been tremendous with most workshop sessions filling within the first few weeks.

I also think we've done an amazing job in our multicultural student outreach. We have a nationally recognized Latino Initiative. We have a regionally recognized Native American Initiative. We have a growing People of the Pacific Initiative. We've launched an African-American mentorship program. In terms of our programs that serve communities of color, we have had some of the most robust programs in the region. And it's actually showing in our results and our enrollment.

BRIDGE

BY Layton Shumway
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Savannah Cutler

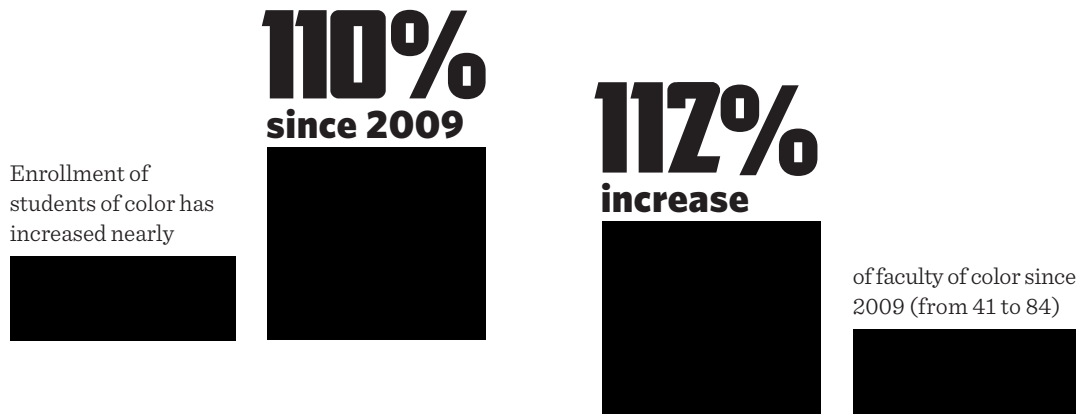


DCES

When it comes to organizations, cultural change takes time. And a lot of times, we don't see cultural changes when we're in the middle of them. But I think we're going to look back and be surprised at how much these programs have helped. And I will say it started with President Holland. He could have chosen any number of keywords. People weren't expecting him to focus on inclusion. But he has been relentless. When I go to speak at other conferences or other universities, people always ask me, "How do you do this work when your president hasn't bought in?" And I just tell them, "You can't." You cannot be effective in this work until your president and the rest of the leadership has bought in. I just feel grateful that we've been able to do what we have, because of that leadership. At the end of the day, all of our inclusion efforts are meant to help our students and employees feel a sense of safety, support, and belonging at UVU. ■

Understanding inclusion with UVU chief diversity officer Kyle Reyes





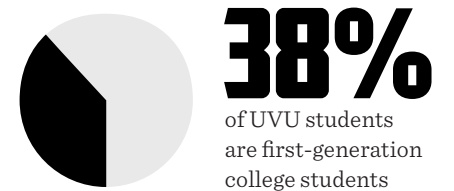
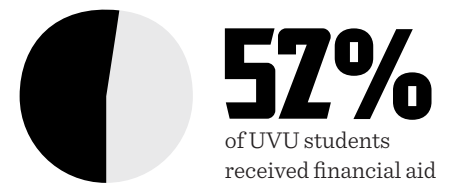
INCLUSION

Utah Valley University introduced its Strategic Inclusion Plan in 2014, and thanks to the efforts of our faculty, staff, and students, amazing progress has been made. Here are a few numbers that demonstrate UVU's commitment to inclusion.

All 50 states and 74 different countries are represented in UVU's student body



3 million dollars invested in UVU's Strategic Inclusion Plan since its launch in 2014



UTAH VALLEY



OFFICIAL GAME DAY GEAR

UVU BOOKSTORE

Your Campus. Your Needs. Your Store.

UVU golfer, MBA student Monica Yeates uses strength, spirit to overcome illness

It was not the kind of present that Monica Yeates would have picked for her 21st birthday. It certainly wasn't the typical wish that accompanies the blowing out of candles and awkward singing by family members.

Instead, the UVU student and member of the Wolverine women's golf team was in a doctor's office in the Mayo Clinic in 2016, learning that she was inflicted with neuro-myelitis optica, or NMO, a rare autoimmune disease that often leaves victims blind and wheelchair-bound.

While it may sound like a depressing birthday gift, Yeates decided to take a different approach.

"I was like, 'You know what? I don't know what is going to happen in the future, but I feel confident that things are going to work out the way they are supposed to,'" she remembers. "I know now there are people who have this disease who are doing really well. Obviously there are some who aren't doing well, but there was that hope that I will be one of those who would do well."

It's that optimism that inspired Yeates' mentor, UVU women's golf coach Sue Nyhus, to nominate Yeates for the 2017 Women's Golf Coaches Association Kim Moore Spirit Award. The award, designed to highlight the nation's top example of sportsmanship and inspiration to golfers, was announced in May, with a special tribute to Yeates broadcast on the Golf Channel, as part of its NCAA Women's Golf Championship coverage.

Yeates says she had "no idea about the award" until Nyhus tipped her off at an end-of-the-year awards banquet with UVU Athletics. "It was the day of my graduation," Yeates recalls. "She was like, 'I've got some big news for you."





OUT OF THE ROUGH

by Jay Wamsley
Photography by
Jay Drowns

You won this national award and you're going to be recognized on the Golf Channel.' Yeah, it was my coach that did it all."

The award is named after Kim Moore, who played for the University of Indianapolis and persevered through many physical challenges to be a positive example to her teammates. The purpose of continuing the award by golf coaches nationally is to honor a student-athlete who exemplifies a great spirit toward the game of golf and is a role model for her team in facing challenges.

Face them, Yeates did indeed.

It began in May of 2015 when she noticed an area of sensitivity on the right side of her abdomen. Yeates says she could "feel her clothes touching her body there" and it felt painful and strange. She says she just "lived through it" and then began to suffer significant back pain, "where any

time I would sit or lie down, it was painful." She avoided sitting or lying down because of the pain, described as "a significant soreness, almost a throbbing."

"Then one day I was on the course — we were playing 18, and partway through I started dragging my feet," she says. "My feet and legs felt weaker than normal. I thought, 'This is weird.' And we decided to cut our round short and I was grateful for that. Over the next couple of days, my legs just started to feel like Jell-O and I was losing feeling and there was increasing feelings of numbness."

That numbness, she says, started spreading, affecting her midsection: "One night I couldn't go to the bathroom — I had no feeling or sensation and I was wobbly and from there I ended up going to the ER and that is when it all began.

THINGS ARE GOING TO WORK OUT

"I was then hospitalized. I got super-numb from my chest down and couldn't walk while I was in there, holding on to people's arms on both sides to get around anywhere. While I was there, I did test after test after test, and they kept coming back as inconclusive."

Yeates says those four days suggested to her mind that she might have something she would have to deal with the rest of her life, while she says she was also "hoping for something that they could fix, make me better and get back to normal living. After being there for four days, they discharged me and basically said, 'Good

luck. We don't know what it is. Hope it gets better.'" Teammate Carly

Dehlin remembers feeling equally baffled about Yeates's condition and what to do to help.

"It was super-difficult, because we didn't know exactly how we could help," Dehlin says. "Monica didn't know what was wrong at first, so it made it hard for everyone to understand what was happening and what this meant for Monica. All we really could do was let her know we were thinking about her and supporting her throughout her challenges."

The initial hospital stay was followed by months of physical therapy. Yeates admits that she was extremely weak as she strived with a therapist to get sensation and strength back in her extremities. Looking back, Yeates describes herself as "a frail, fragile, old grandma, because that is essentially what I was."

"I'm so grateful that God has a timing for things," Yeates says, "because all this was a month after I had finished my semester, about a month after I had finished the WAC tournament, so it gave me time to recover because it happened at the beginning of summer. I was taking only one class at the time. That was nice."

Yeates says she started making incremental improvement, gaining strength and "retraining my mind to be able to do basic things, like walking." She said it took about five months before she could run again. Thanks to near-continuous work with her physical therapist, things were looking up.

"I was starting to get back to where I wanted to be, had just played my first 18 holes of golf with my team," she says. "I was thinking, 'I am going to be able to do this with my team.' And I had played really well that day, and I couldn't believe it, with everything that happened. It was right then that all of a sudden I had a spot in my vision. I didn't think that it correlated with the other stuff, but it didn't go away, and over the course of about a week, I was looking through a cloud in my left eye.

"That was scary, more scary for me —losing my vision—because at least I could see before."

Research her father had done on Yeates's medical condition led him at this point to review a lab result and he noticed a level, a marker for NMO, which should have been 5 or below, but was noted to be 80 in Monica's most recent test. It was worked out with insurance providers to get Yeates to the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Ariz., where she received her diagnosis.

"It was on my birthday that I got the official diagnosis, so I will always be able to remember when I was diagnosed — makes it easy for me," she says. "The neurologist I met with there was very optimistic, a lot more optimistic than I initially was when I was hospitalized and no one knew what it was, and I was being told it might be multiple sclerosis and all of that."

Again, her teammates were at her side and watching Yeates as she worked to improve.

Dehlin, who was with Yeates the first day she began feeling numbness in her legs, said, "The fact that Monica worked hard enough to be able to compete again as a college golfer is incredible. She completely beat the odds and came back stronger than before. She never complained about being in pain and continually worked hard to regain her strength."

Yeates was told there are about 4,000 people in the United States currently diagnosed with NMO. No one knows the "why" of the disease, she says, but the problems do seem to center on what are known as B cells. Yeates has infusion treatments twice every six months. She says there are currently 14 other patients who come to a specialized infusion center in Salt Lake City to receive similar treatments for NMO.

"The infusion takes about six to seven hours," she explains. "It really depletes my B





I WANTED TO CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

cells and for about a week I take things super-easy. When I work myself too much after the infusion, I feel super-sick, so I've learned to take it easy for a week."

While monitoring her health and getting stronger each week, Yeates found herself hit with another personal challenge. While experiencing a zip line tour at a nearby mountain resort with several members of her extended family, an aunt, visiting from out of state, was tragically killed when a large tree branch broke and fell into her path while experiencing the downward trek of the zip line. Yeates accompanied her uncle to the emergency room of the local hospital and says she still feels the pain of that day.

"Really hard to deal with, hard to deal with seeing everyone else in so much pain," she says, "seeing my uncle phone all his kids. Hard to see everyone suffer so much."

Through all of these unusual circumstances, Nyhus says she has seen "strength, enthusiasm, and positive attitude" expressed by Yeates. "The new term of 'grit' says it all for me. Monica's optimistic perseverance makes all the difference."

"I am honored to know Monica Yeates," Nyhus said in May, when the award was announced. "She has handled many challenges with honor, dignity, and great poise. She has remained positive about herself and others, and for that I am so very proud of her."

Dehlin: "She inspires everyone that, no matter what challenges or difficulties you are going through, there is always something positive to take away from the experience. Monica always looks for the positives in everything she is going through and always is building others up."

Dehlin and Yeates are both currently in the UVU Masters of Business Administration program at the Orem campus. Yeates, who will graduate in May with an emphasis in management, is currently evaluating internship

opportunities and hopes to have something lined up by the time she graduates. She says she hopes to stay in Utah to allow for medical follow-up and support from her family. Plus, she wants to follow her younger brother, a freshman, who was just named to the UVU men's golf team.

Yeates remembers considering the concept of being an inspiration to others when she saw an award given at a UVU Athletics banquet early in her golf team experience.

"It's kind of interesting that at the end of my sophomore year, right before things started to take a downturn ... I remember thinking to myself, 'I don't care what kind of award I might receive from my career here, but I hope I'm having a positive impact on people; I hope I am an inspiration to someone,'" Yeates says. "I have met people who curse God — they'll be upset about their trials, and just have that as an excuse not to live life to its fullest. I decided I wanted to be happy and do my best and hopefully change someone's life." ■

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VOTING WOMEN DOLLARS

I am incredibly excited about the growth at the Woodbury School of Business, although I am not an alumnus. I am in awe of what has taken place at this dynamic school in recent years. That Utah Valley University now houses the largest business school in the state is nothing short of amazing.

As business people who have hired graduates of other top universities in addition to UVU, we are finding a certain level of ‘hungriness’ and a ‘scrappiness’ in those coming from UVU. They are well prepared, but not entitled. They earnestly want to learn and add value to an organization. The UVU graduates make wonderful employees and future leaders in the organizations for which they work. They continue to strive for success and do not become complacent. Our organization has hired and promoted many very capable employees from UVU, and we are delighted with the product coming out of the Woodbury School of Business.

The business building at UVU is bursting at the seams. It is in our

interest, as a community, to respond and create a place where we can adequately foster learning among our business students. We have an opportunity to make this building a ‘world-class facility’. The Woodbury School students deserve that, and the community we serve also deserves that. There are two principal ways in which to help the students in the near term — first by creating the environment in which they learn, and second, increasing the talent level we are able to bring to the business school. A great facility will help us continue to attract exceptional talent — both in terms of educators and in future students.

We are aiming for more than just

James and Andrea Clarke are proud supporters of Utah Valley University and donors to the Woodbury School of Business. James Clarke outlined some of the couple’s reasons for their support.

“sticks and bricks.” We hope that laboratories, adequate study group and lecture spaces become part of this project. The new facility should capture the imagination and inspire a whole new class of business leaders. This facility will be a place they can call home — to which they will want generations to return.

Naturally, UVU’s alumni base is substantially smaller than those of more established institutions. The university will continue to reach out to alumni

and the community as it seeks funding and support. The hope is that a new business building will help accommodate the job growth taking place within the state and its business sector. We would argue that no other university in the entire region is doing as much to serve the businesses and job growth of this state.

The reputation of UVU is catching up with the wonderful education offered to the students. We are delighted by the growth of the campus, but mostly by the increased quality

BY
BARBARA
CHRISTIANSEN

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of education offered at UVU today and into the future.

I serve as chairman of the UVU Foundation Board of Trustees and Andrea chairs the Women’s Success Center Advisory Board. We see a very bright future for the Foundation, which raises funds for UVU initiatives including scholarships, buildings, and special programs. Serving at UVU has become the most gratifying work we do in education. We are building serious momentum to see our endowment grow and continue to serve future generations.

Donations will help provide the campus buildings and academic programs needed to keep pace with our growth. Perhaps what is most gratifying is that we are also building facilities to help students who would most likely not be able to attend a university were it not for the UVU’s mission.

As UVU’s budget

is substantially smaller than those of many other universities its size, it is clear that UVU is able to do a great deal with very little. That attitude has yielded a whole generation of hungry, scrappy, and hard-working graduates. Our educators focus on educating individuals and that is what allows our graduates to flourish.

Andrea and I donated to the Woodbury School of Business campaign not only to help the school build a new building, but also as a way of voting with our pocketbooks. We sincerely believe there is no place on the planet where investment dollars (and we truly see this as an investment) make a greater difference than at UVU.

We have allocated our efforts and resources to UVU in hopes they might inspire our colleagues and the legislature to add to and continue their support. UVU is “our” university, whether we have attended it or not.

While Andrea and I were not UVU students in our youth, if a bright UVU student were to invent a time machine, we believe we would both choose to return to a UVU education. Harvard studied at Harvard and Oxford — we believe it is truly that good. ■



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It's been said that you can't argue with facts. At Utah Valley University, our Institutional Research and Information Department (IRI) provides data to help us plan, measure, and evaluate the mission and goals of the University and its community.

The Alumni Survey is administered annually to the previous year's graduating class, and every three, five, and 10 years thereafter. Here are some fun facts about you and your alma mater:

95% of our alumni said their overall experience at UVU was excellent or good

87% said if they could make their college choice over again they would still attend UVU

83% of our alumni live in Utah, and 58% live in Utah County

Our University has **219,791** living alumni

These facts are important because they tell us about your experience and connections with the University. It's our goal as an alumni association to enrich the lives of our UVU alumni by connecting old friends, making opportunities for new memories, and strengthening the bonds between you and your alma mater.

We would appreciate your suggestions on how we can improve your experience and enhance your connections to the University. Please take some time to let us know at alumni@uvu.edu.

Sincerely,

Kevin Walkenhorst

Senior Director, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving

uvu.edu/supportuvu/ways-to-give



NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER — Tammie Dearing

The UVU Alumni Association welcomed Tammie Dearing as a new member in 2017. She will serve a three-year term working on assignments that may include committees to plan and promote events and oversee finances, legislative affairs, and scholarships.

Tammie Dearing accepted wholeheartedly when she was asked to serve on the Alumni Board. "Of course. It is my pleasure to serve," she recalls as her response. She said she appreciates the connections Utah Valley University has with the community and that she wants to help UVU be connected even more with its surrounding community and its residents.

"UVU loves the community and the students, which makes it a wonderful place to be," she said. Her family is living examples of that. Her husband is currently attending to finish a degree. All of their children and daughters-in-law have attended UVU.

"We are a family that bleeds green," she says. "I am all about UVU."

Dearing appreciates the fact that UVU has mastered the skills in bringing in great people to teach the students what they need to be successful in their careers and in life.

"I had to be a part of that," she says.

She is the one exception in her family to being a UVU alumnus, but she plans on that changing. With a degree in nursing from Weber State University, she plans on pursuing her education to become a nurse practitioner through UVU.

THE LEAD PROGRAM

In collaboration with a variety of campus organizations, The Center for the Advancement of Leadership (CAL) offers leadership development opportunities for people hoping to build a better world. They are best known for their nationally recognized leadership development program for university students: The LEAD Program. The LEAD program serves as a 1-2 year leadership certification program. Students customize their certification with any field of study or area of interest and are connected to service opportunities, mentors, resources, and coursework. Potential scholarship opportunities are available for LEAD students.

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"As a Mexican-American, UVU helped me feel welcome and included, that has fueled my confidence and my career. Additionally, the relationships and opportunities for engaged learning helped me find my passions and cultivate my skills. I am proud to be a wolverine and will forever bleed green. I am UVU."

Share your story at uvualumni.org

