

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY PARENT

news



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Fall 2015

Wolverine Pride

Have you taken the pledge?

UVU is hardwired to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles with pluck and ingenuity. It is in our genes. We've been doing it ever since our inception in 1941, and look where we are today" said Matthew Holland, President of Utah Valley University.

Wolverine Pride engages the spirit in all of us to support and to benefit from the affinity we have with Utah Valley University as parents, students and alumni. We show our pride by supporting school sponsored events such as concerts, plays, athletic events and academic and college sponsored conferences; and by wearing UVU apparel on and off campus, with pride!

Take the pledge! "As a UVU fan, I hereby pledge to wear UVU colors with honor, to support

UVU events with enthusiasm and to encourage others to do the same." The purpose of the Pledge is to enhance the atmosphere of pride at UVU and to celebrate its many accomplishments and outstanding programs.

A strong sense of community and engagement helps raise graduation rates, builds stronger unity, and fosters an environment of support and common purpose for students and parents. We're all in this together! To take the pledge, visit our website wolverinepride.uvu.edu/pledge/.

Another way you can show your wolverine pride is by enrolling your child in the UVU Kids Club. This club is a fun a free way kids ages 4 to 14 are invited to join us on campus at sporting events, arts events, and other special

opportunities. Benefits from joining the kids club include: a t-shirt and lanyard, admission to all home games, discounts to Noorda Summer Camp, and much more! To learn more, visit our website www.uvu alumni.org.



Article adapted from the Wolverine Pride website www.uvu.edu/wolverinepride.

Semester Events & Deadlines

Thursday & Friday
October 15 & 16
Fall Break

Monday - Friday
November 23 - 27
Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, December 11
Classes End

Monday - Thursday
December 14 - 17
Final Exams

Thursday, December 17
Fall Semester Ends

Retention Mentors

Reaching Out to Students with Personalized Support

Seeking to foster a more personal connection with freshmen, Utah Valley's Office of Student Success & Retention launched the Retention Mentor program. Retention Mentors provide personalized support by reaching out to students who have been identified at risk for failing a class. Additionally, some of the mentors are dedicated to providing support for specific populations who benefit from extra support at all times throughout the academic calendar year.

Through phone calls, emails, and one-on-one visits, our mentors help at-risk

students identify resources and develop strategies that will lead to semester success, and progress toward graduation.



“UVU’s Retention Mentor team is a staff of current and former students who understand the challenges students face and are passionate about helping! They serve as friendly, knowledgeable, and accessible resources for all UVU students and have a breadth of resources to help them succeed.” stated Tara Ivie, Assistant Director of Student Retention at Utah Valley University.

Within one year of implementing the Retention Mentor program Utah Valley has boosted freshmen retention from 41 to 55 percent - those 14 additional percentage points representing an increase of 34 percent.

The winner of the Models of Efficiency Award, the UVU Retention Mentors continue to provide support and assistance to students. If your student needs additional help in accessing available campus resources, contact a Retention Mentor at 801.863.8920 or email them at success@uvu.edu.

Article adapted from the UVU Retention Mentor website, <http://www.uvu.edu/retention/info/retentionmentors.html>

Math Refresher

Free Online Course to Help Students Succeed

For the third year in a row, UVU is offering a free online math refresher course designed to help students who haven’t recently taken any math courses prepare for placement exams and meet graduation requirements.

“Anybody can go online and find math content,” said Keith White, an associate professor in developmental math, “but this course includes assessment tools to help students identify their specific needs. Based on those assessments, students are guided to certain refresher tools, which are customized for each student. We also have chat hours and discussion boards.”

White created the course three years ago, along with John Anderson, a colleague in developmental math. The first year, approximately 1,400 people signed up for the course; last year that number rose to more than 2,000. “We anticipate quite a few more this year,” White said.

“Our end goal is simply to help students successfully complete math courses,” continued White, who also pointed out that it was important to keep the course free, online, and with no enrollment limit. “We wanted to remove any barriers to people signing up. The more students we have sign up, the more people we help. When a student is successful in math, they tend to be more successful in school generally. And that’s just an extension of our mission at the University—helping our students experience success.”

Article adapted from the UVU press release, *Free Online Math Refresher Course Designed to Help Students Succeed in Math*.

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY PARENT news

A Newsletter for Parents
of UVU Students

Published Each Semester

www.uvu.edu/parents

To Unsubscribe click [HERE](#)

Articles adapted from: www.wolverinegreen.com, [UVU Alumni Magazine](http://www.uvu.edu), and www.uvu.edu. Photos Complements of UVU Marketing and Communications

UVU Expands New Classroom Building

Utah Valley University has added another building to its ever-growing campus. Construction on the new \$54 million building began in June 2013 and finished January 2015.

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

The facility has delivered much-needed physical learning space for students and faculty at space-strapped UVU, which is projected to have more than 40,000 students by 2020 and become the largest public institution of higher learning in the state.

The Classroom Building provides study and learning spaces, including more than 3,000 classroom seats and 34 classrooms ranging in size from 35 to 175 seats. Furthermore, there is also a 1,000-seat auditorium that can be divided into three sections.

Unique features of the new building include its innovative horseshoe-shaped rooms and three classrooms that will use experimental teaching methods. Furthermore, a multipurpose space on the fifth floor provides spectacular views of Utah Valley.



Article adapted from the UVU press release, *UVU Officials to Cut Ribbon New Classroom Building*; photo courtesy of UVU Marketing.

Career Development Center

Exploring and Preparing for Professional Pursuits

The Career Development Center (CDC) helps to develop individual career success and employment potential by fostering community, national, and global relationships. Their services engage students and alumni in exploring and preparing for professional pursuits with the express purpose of empowering them to achieve their unique life goals. There are many exiting programs to help your student succeed.

Career Excursions

Career Excursions are a great opportunity for students who have already declared a major to explore the career options available to them. Excursions are provided by employers who donate their time and effort to provide students with information and experiences within their occupation and industry. For more information or to register for a Career Excursion visit the following link, [Career Excursion](#).

Internships

The UVU Internship Office provides resources to students looking for internship opportunities. Internship Services not only meets with employers to create and post internship opportunities, but they also meet with students and assist in the application process of preparing cover letters, resumes, and honing interview skills. To learn more about available internship, visit www.uvu.edu/internships.

National Student Exchange

The National Student Exchange (NSE) program provides students with the opportunity to study for up to one calendar year at another NSE member university. With over 200 to choose from, your student will be able to customize a campus with the right combination of courses, facilities, and environment to meet their personal interest and academic needs.

Spending time at another campus will allow them to grow academically and personally. Students will develop a greater appreciation for the different regions, cultures, and people represented at that campus. As they consider the possibilities, notice that NSE extends beyond the borders of the United States to include U.S. territories as well as some Canadian provinces. This program is not only fun and exciting, but could look great on a resume! To see whether the National Student Exchange program is a good fit for your student, visit www.uvu.edu/nse/.

For more information regarding the Career Development Center or any programs mentioned above, you can call 801.863.6364, email them at careerdevelopmentcenter@uvu.edu, or visit their website at www.uvu.edu/cdc or call 801.863.6364.

Article adapted from the Career Development Center website, www.uvu.edu/cdc.

World Champions

UVU Dancers Win World Championship at International Ballroom Dancing Competition

The Utah Valley University Ballroom Dance Company is one of the largest and most prestigious public collegiate ballroom dance programs in the United States. The company consists of the touring team, a backup tour team and two backup training teams.

Over the last several years, the UVU Ballroom Dance Company has grown into a premiere performance company. The team captured the nation's attention in 2010 when they stormed onto the set of the popular ABC competitive dance show, *Dancing with the Stars*. After wowing the judges and wooing the nation's voting audience, UVU ran away with the coveted Mirror Ball trophy as the champions of the show's first-ever collegiate competition.

To continue in their tradition of excellence, UVU's Ballroom Dance Tour Team won the British Ballroom Formation Dancing Championship at the Blackpool Dance Festival, held May 21-29 in Blackpool, England. The 30-member dance team also took third place in the festival's Latin Formation Dancing Championship. Tour team members also competed in the Amateur Ballroom and Latin individual events.

"Words cannot express how proud I am of the company," said Paul Winkelman, a professor in the Dance Department and director of the Ballroom Dance Tour Team. "They have worked hard for months preparing for this event, which is the Olympics of ballroom dancing. The ballroom

and Latin formation pieces they danced required a high level of technique as well as artistry because the couples must move with precision and unity, as if they were one."



In addition to competing at the festival, team members rehearsed, worked on costumes, and performed their numbers in different communities as part of their England tour.

"The hard work and dedication of these dancers demonstrates a high level of individual excellence," Winkelman said. "Formation dancing is difficult to master. It takes time, energy, and dedication. I've watched these dancers work through fatigue and sickness, deal with frustration, develop problem-solving skills, and give more even when they felt like they had nothing left to give. These students are amazing individuals."

Winkelman noted that the Blackpool Dance Festival, which is held in the Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, is the world's first and arguably most prestigious international dance competition. The nine-day competition attracts more than 20,000 competitors and spectators from more than 60 countries all over the world.

"Dancing at the Blackpool Festival for most of these individuals is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Winkelman said, "and is a great indication of how the UVU ballroom dance program is growing. The level of dancers coming to the University is extremely exciting." The UVU Ballroom Dance Company has won four world titles at the Open British Championships held in Blackpool, England putting UVU in an elite category for collegiate dance teams.



UVU Ballroom Dance Company in Blackpool, England.

Article adapted from UVU Ballroom Dance Company website; article and photo adapted from the UVU Press Release, *UVU Dancers Named World Champions at International Ballroom Dancing Competition*.