



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

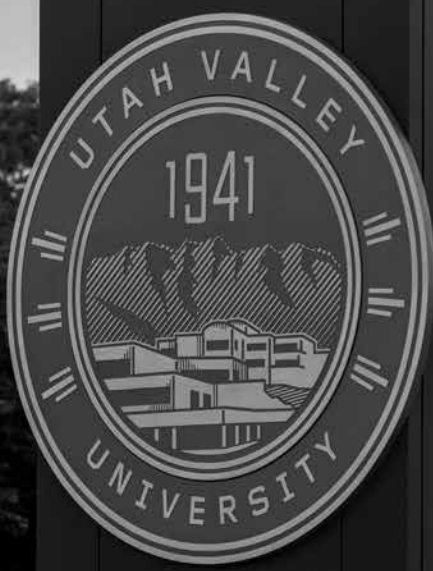
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COLLEGE *of* SCIENCE  
CONVOCATION

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SECOND OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR



# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

## Message From the Dean

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Congratulations on completing a degree from the College of Science. By completing a degree from our college, you have demonstrated to the world that you are intelligent and willing to work hard in the short term in order to benefit yourself, your family, and your society in the long term. Your degree has provided you with skills and abilities that will open doors to a variety of careers that will be rewarding to you and will provide benefits to others. Evidence shows that as a person with an advanced degree, you are now more likely than others to participate in civic society by voting and volunteering, and you are more likely to find happiness in your life.

For all of us who work in the College of Science and had a hand in your education, seeing you succeed is what gives us satisfaction in our jobs. I'm sure that there have been a few members of the College of Science who stand out as having been especially helpful to you and thus played a major role in your success. There might be a professor whose teaching you found to be especially motivational, an advisor who helped steer your path, or an administrative assistant who always made you feel welcome and helped you find the resources you needed. In the next few weeks, please take a few minutes to send each of these people a note of thanks. Hearing from you will mean more to them than you can imagine.

If there are any ways that we could have made your experience at UVU even better than it was, please let me know. While I take great pride in the quality of our faculty and staff and the resources provided to students, I know that there is always room for improvement, and I would love to hear your ideas.

I hope that you continue to think of yourself as a Wolverine throughout your life. You are likely to reach many milestones that are made possible by your UVU education. These milestones might include landing a dream job, graduating from medical school, or making a significant scientific discovery. When you have these successes, please think about the role that UVU played in your life and reach out to us to let us know about your successes.

I wish you the best,



Dr. Daniel Horns  
*Dean, UVU College of Science*



# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

10:30 am, May 2, 2024  
UCCU Center

Welcome and Comments ..... Daniel Horns, *Dean*

Valedictorian Address ..... Eliza Ballantyne  
*Bachelor of Science Physics*

Salutatorian Address ..... Kara Green  
*Bachelor of Science Outdoor Recreation*

Presentation of Graduates ..... Daniel Horns, *Dean*  
*Department Chairs, College of Science*

Reading of Names ..... Fern Caka, *Associate Dean and*  
*Taggart Archibald, Assistant Dean*

Closing Remarks ..... Daniel Horns, *Dean*

*Island Photography will be taking photos of each graduate multiple times during the convocation ceremony. Within 48 hours after the ceremony, graduates will receive a secure PIN to view photo proofs online.*

# VALEDICTORIAN

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## ELIZA BALLANTYNE

Bachelor of Science, *Physics*

*Student Excellence Award - Physics*

Eliza Ballantyne calls Orem, Utah, home. She attended high school at the Utah County Academy of Sciences. Ballantyne is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in physics and hopes to obtain her Ph.D. someday. While at UVU, she had the opportunity to present her research at SPIE Photonics West and complete an internship in Paris, France. Ballantyne is grateful for the connections she made with her fellow Wolverines and for the lack of judgement from her father after she ate gallons of ice cream right out of the bucket during finals week.

# SALUTATORIAN

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## KARA NICOLE GREEN

Bachelor of Science, *Outdoor Recreation Management*

*Student Excellence Award - Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation*

Kara Nicole Green, from West Jordan, Utah, attended Copper Hills High School. She's graduating with a Bachelor of Science in outdoor recreation management and a minor in environmental studies. While obtaining her degree, Green maintained a 4.0 GPA and was able to spend a summer working as a park ranger at Capitol Reef National Park. Her favorite part of attending UVU was learning in an environment with a diverse student body while being mentored by her professors. After graduation, Green has a job lined up as a park ranger at Cedar Breaks National Monument.





# OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

U.S.A.

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*The following students were recognized as being among the best of the College of Science. These students have performed exceptionally well in their classes and made other significant contributions. Some of the students have participated in research projects of regional or international importance; others played key roles in service-learning projects. Many took on leadership roles within their departments, helping classmates with assignments and mentoring lower-level students.*

*As a group, these outstanding students have raised the academic bar at UVU, helped us be more engaged with our community, and made UVU an even more prestigious institution.*



## KIMBERLYN ARGYLE

Bachelor of Science, *Biology, Biology*  
Student Excellence Award - *Biology*

Kimberlyn Argyle came to UVU from Kansas City, Missouri. A high school graduate from the American School of Correspondence, she is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biology. A non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Army National Guard, Argyle has spent much of her time at UVU on the Dean's List, presenting at conferences, and much more. She loves the engaged faculty and the limitless possibilities that UVU offers compared to other institutions. Kimberlyn plans to apply to medical school this June and hopes to someday specialize in trauma surgery to work for the U.S. Army Med Corps.



### JACOB MORA

Bachelor of Science, *Biology, Biology*  
*Student Excellence Award - Biology*

Jacob Mora is from Nibley, Utah, where he attended Ridgeline High School. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biology. During his sophomore year at UVU, Mora maintained a 4.0 and was awarded the S-STEM scholarship, which allowed him to choose a mentor and a research lab. He appreciates UVU's focus on its undergraduate programs, which maximizes opportunities available to students like him. Mora is applying to medical school this summer and, with the continuous support of his wife and baby, hopes to become a physician.



### BROCK J. SHEEHAN

Bachelor of Science, *Biotechnology, Biology*  
*Student Excellence Award - Biology*

Brock J. Sheehan attended Davis High School in his hometown of Kaysville, Utah. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biotechnology, Sheehan has maintained a 3.97 GPA while serving as the founder and coach of the UVU Special Olympics Unified Team. He considers the individualized attention from his professors and the variety of extracurricular activities he's participated in as the best parts of his time at UVU. As he looks toward the future, Sheehan hopes to apply to medical school to someday become a physician.



### **TOM VO**

Bachelor of Science, *Biotechnology, Biology*  
*Student Excellence Award – Biology*

Tom Vo is a first-generation student who hails from Provo, Utah, where he attended Provo High School. He is receiving a Bachelor of Science in biotechnology. During his transformative time at UVU, Vo received the STEM scholarship while maintaining his nail business. Vo refers to UVU as his “compass,” and explained that his time at UVU gave him access to incredible resources, networking opportunities, and growth toward his personal education goals. After graduation, he intends to pursue a career in healthcare and hopes to enhance the well-being of his community.



### **EUGENE LEUNG**

Bachelor of Science, *Chemistry, Chemistry*  
*Student Excellence Award – Chemistry*

Eugene Leung is from Hong Kong, China, and obtained his high school education at Freedom Prep Academy. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry with an emphasis in biochemistry. During his time at UVU, Leung served as the president of the Chemistry Club and received the NSF Pro-STEM Scholarship from 2022 to 2024. The variety of academic opportunities and a welcoming environment are what drew him to UVU and made his time here special. After graduation, Leung plans to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry.



### EZRA B. WYLIE

Bachelor of Science, *Chemistry, Chemistry*  
*Student Excellence Award – Chemistry*

Ezra B. Wylie calls Salt Lake City, Utah, home. It's there that he attended Mountain Heights Academy. Wylie is leaving UVU with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry with an emphasis in biochemistry. He made the Dean's List many times and presented his chemistry research at a myriad of conferences. Wylie is most fond of the unique community that exists in UVU's chemistry department and said that the department is "full of kind and intelligent faculty, which made all the difference in my education." Wylie hopes to further his education through a Ph.D. and beyond to become a professor.



### PARKER FARNWORTH

Bachelor of Science, *Geology, Earth Science*  
*Student Excellence Award, Earth Science*

Parker Farnworth is from Mapleton, Utah, and attended high school at Maple Mountain High School. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in geology and a Certificate of Proficiency in geographic information systems. Farnworth and classmate Veronica Richards were able to obtain over \$13,000 in grants to conduct research on prehistoric earthquake rupture scenarios and eventually traveled to San Francisco to present their research. He loved working with professors and peers to explore geology across the state. Farnworth hopes to gain work experience in geotechnical engineering before pursuing a master's degree and a Ph.D. in geology.



### EMMALINE SAUNDERS

Bachelor of Science, *Geology, Earth Science*  
*Student Excellence Award – Earth Science*

Emmaline Saunders is from Eagle Mountain, Utah, and graduated from the Lumen Scholar Institute. She will graduate from UVU in May of 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in geology. One of her greatest educational successes was when she was awarded a URSCA grant for her research. To Saunders, the best part of attending UVU was how invested her professors are in her future. She said she's always liked the professors for the classes she's taken. After she graduates, Saunders hopes to attend graduate school and eventually obtain her Ph.D. to secure a job in academia.

### ARYN MITTON

Bachelor of Science, *Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation*,  
*Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation*  
*Student Excellence Award – Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation*

Aryn Mitton hails from West Jordan, Utah, where she attended Copper Hills High School. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in exercise science and outdoor recreation. Mitton is proud of the opportunity she had to conduct research in advanced biomechanics and considers it her greatest educational success. She appreciates her professors for demonstrating professionalism while making learning fun and felt like they, her counselors, and classmates helped her succeed. Mitton plans to attend occupational therapy school in the fall and hopes to become an occupational therapist.



### THOMAS H. CLARK

Bachelor of Science, *Exercise Science, Exercise Science*

*Student Excellence Award – Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation*

Thomas H. Clark is from Lehi, Utah, and attended Westlake High School. He is receiving a Bachelor of Science in exercise science. Clark made the Dean's List during every semester of his four years at UVU. He was also able to publish his research in the International Journal of Exercise Sports Science. He enjoyed and thrived among the collective drive for success that fueled his UVU peers and professors. After graduation, Clark will attend Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine.



### TREVOR NIELSON

Bachelor of Science, *Exercise Science, Exercise Science*

*Student Excellence Award – Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation*

Trevor Nielson attended Springville High School in his hometown of Springville, Utah. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in exercise science. Nielson is graduating with a 3.9 cumulative GPA and was able to spend one of his semesters at UVU as an Anatomy Student Volunteer. His favorite aspect of UVU was the interactions students are able to have with their professors due to smaller class sizes. Nielson plans to attend Rocky Mountain University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the fall.



### NATE LOVETT

Bachelor of Science, *Mathematics, Mathematics*  
*Student Excellence Award - Mathematics*

Nate Lovett calls the deserts of Saint George, Utah, home but graduated from American Fork High School. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics with an emphasis in applied mathematics and a minor in computer science. Lovett acted as the Math Student Association president last year and has also been a lead tutor for the UVU Math Lab. He wished he went to UVU sooner because of the amazing “community of people pursuing their dreams” at UVU. Post-graduation, Lovett plans to work on personal projects and decide what he wants to pursue in graduate school.



### R. MITCHELL HUGHES

Bachelor of Science, *Statistics, Mathematics*  
*Student Excellence Award - Mathematics*

R. Mitchell Hughes is from Lehi, Utah, and a graduate of Skyridge High School. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in statistics, a minor in computer science and applied data analytics, and an Associate of Science in mathematics. Hughes was on the Dean's List every semester of his UVU career. Incredible professors and receiving a great education in a non-judgmental environment are what he considered the best parts of his time as a Wolverine. Hughes hopes to return to UVU to pursue a graduate certificate in AI and later go on to pursue a master's degree and beyond.



### DEREK HASKELL

Bachelor of Science, *Network Administration and Security, Information Systems & Technology*  
*Student Excellence Award – Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning*

Derek Haskell is from American Fork, Utah, and was awarded his GED by UVU. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in network administration and security. During his time at UVU, Haskell maintained an overall 4.0 GPA, earned three certifications, and participated in the UVU Cyber Security Club. His favorite aspect of attending UVU was working as a Math Mentor and having a flexible schedule. Haskell plans to work as a cyber security analyst after graduation and sees a possibility of pursuing a master's degree at UVU someday.



### HANNAH L. OLDROYD

Bachelor of Science, *Math Education, Mathematics*  
*Student Excellence Award – Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning*

Hannah L. Oldroyd came to UVU from Gainesville, Georgia, where she attended high school at Lakeview Academy. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in math education. Since fall of 2022, Oldroyd furthered her knowledge and helped other students as the team lead of the math mentor program at UVU. Her time in the math mentor program and her interactions with her professors made “feeling seen and understood” her favorite thing about attending UVU. After graduation, Oldroyd hopes to return to the Peach State to become a high school algebra teacher.





## **BENJAMIN MEIRA**

Bachelor of Science, *Physics, Physics*

*Student Excellence Award - Physics*

Hailing from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Benjamin Meira completed high school at Discovery Canyon Campus. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in physics and a minor in mathematics. Meira has been on the Dean's list since fall 2022 and received the Utah NASA Space Grant Scholarship in 2022, 2023, and 2024. When asked his favorite things about UVU, Meira shared his appreciation for UVU awakening his love of physics and reviving his passion for mathematics. Post-graduation, Meira plans to pursue a Ph.D. in physics after a gap year.



# DEAN'S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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## MICHAEL STEARNS

*Professor, Earth Science*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Scholarship*

Dr. Michael Stearns hails from Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is a professor of geology for the UVU Earth Science Department. Stearns holds a Bachelor of Science in geology from Eastern Michigan University, a master's degree in geology from the University of Utah, and a Ph.D. in earth science from UC Santa Barbara. Since joining UVU in 2017, he's been published in multiple academic journals and received the 2021 Faculty Senate Excellence Award. Stearns considers his earth science colleagues to be the best part of working at UVU. He and his wife, Brittany, have a daughter named Sloane.



## TYLER STANDIFIRD

*Associate Professor, Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Teaching*

Dr. Tyler Standifird hails from Highland, Utah, and is an associate professor of biomechanics at UVU. He holds a Ph.D. in kinesiology with an emphasis in biomechanics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Standifird is a consultant for SuperSpeed Golf, the director of research and science for Smart2Move, and a consultant for Titleist Golf. He is in awe of the work ethic of UVU students and is always impressed by their ability to balance. Standifird and his wife, Ashley, have six kids. He loves to play golf, dance while doing the dishes, and read.



### BONNIE ANDERSEN

Professor, Physics

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Service*

Dr. Bonnie Andersen is from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a physics professor who has been at UVU since 2008. She holds a Bachelor of Science in physics from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Utah. Andersen previously received the Dean's Award of Excellence for Service in 2015. She loves the opportunities UVU provides for growth and the support it provides both faculty and students. Andersen is the mother of two children and enjoys dancing, running, and gardening in her free time.



### BOSTON VICTORIA SWAN

Greenhouse Director, Biology

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Staff*

Boston Victoria Swan is from Mendon, Utah, and is the director of the UVU on-campus Greenhouse. Swan holds a Bachelor of Science in plant science and horticulture from Utah State University and a master's degree in horticulture and controlled environments from Iowa State University. Of her many contributions to UVU, she is most proud of constructing the GRIT Garden, which has donated 6600 pounds of fresh produce to students in need. Swan loves working with students and exercising her creative freedom. She is grateful for the support from her partner, Erik, and enjoys gardening and hiking in her spare time.



### ADAM JOHN FREDERICKSON

Adjunct Instructor, *Mathematics*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Adjunct Faculty*

Adam John Frederickson is from Orem, Utah, and is an adjunct mathematics instructor. He holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from UVU and a Master of Science in applied mathematics from the University of New Mexico. He holds the 2022 Adjunct Instructor Spot Award and the 2013 UVU Math Lab Tutor of the Year Award. Frederickson loves the challenge of figuring out how to present mathematical concepts to his students in unique, creative, and artistic ways. Outside of UVU, he loves landscape and urban photography, vector art, video games, cycling, and the NBA.



### JARED NUSINK

Lab Manager 1, *Biology*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Part-time staff*

Jared Nusink is from Springville, Utah, and holds the position of Lab Manager 1 for the UVU Biology Department. He has worked there since 2020. Nusink holds a Bachelor of Science from UVU and is currently enrolled at the University of Denver to obtain his master's degree in data science. Prior to UVU, Nusink worked as a lab analyst for Nelson Labs. He loves working with students as they gain hands-on experience in zoology and grow in their skills and experience. Nusink and his wife, Ashley, have a son named Emerson, and they are expecting another child this fall.

**MELISSA BRAITHWAITE**

Academic Advisor, *College of Science*

*College of Science Advisor Recognition*

Melissa Braithwaite is from Highland, Utah, and is an academic advisor for the UVU College of Science. She holds an associate degree as well as a bachelor's degree in university studies from UVU. Braithwaite additionally holds a master's degree in mental health & wellness from Grand Canyon University. She loves working with the unique student population at UVU and that the environment of UVU makes students feel seen. Braithwaite shared that she feels "honored" to help students through their academic journeys and feels "so proud when I see them walk across the stage."

# FACULTY SENATE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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## ASHLEY N. EGAN

Associate Professor, *Biology*  
*Faculty Senate Excellence Award*

Dr. Ashley N. Egan is from Lindon, Utah, and is an associate professor of biology at UVU. She holds a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry from Utah State University and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from Brigham Young University. Prior to teaching at UVU, Egan was a sabbatical research associate at Aarhus University and a research botanist at the Smithsonian Institution. She loves the opportunities at UVU that come with the exploration of experiential-based, high-impact learning pedagogies. An explorer at heart, Egan seeks new knowledge in all aspects of her life.



## KIRSTEN THORNHILL

Adjunct Professor, *Biology*  
*Faculty Senate Excellence Award*

Hailing from Hughson, California, Kirsten Thornhill is an adjunct biology professor at UVU. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in kinesiology exercise science from California State University, Stanislaus, a Master of Science in the same field from Point Loma Nazarene University, and a Ph.D. in health sciences from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Thornhill's favorite aspect of working at UVU is the friendly environment on campus. She's never felt intimidated and has felt supported during her time as a Wolverine. Thornhill keeps busy with her collection of over 200 plants and her two goldendoodles, Bruce and Chewy.

# PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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## JON ANDERSON

Associate Professor, *Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning*  
*Presidential Award of Excellence*

Jonathan Anderson, from Provo, Utah, began his career as a teaching and research assistant at Brigham Young University, followed by roles as an adjunct professor and lecturer of developmental mathematics at UVU before beginning his current position. He holds a Ph.D. in engineering education from Utah State University, a master's degree in electrical engineering and a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering from BYU, and an associate degree in science from Utah Valley State College (UVU). He has received accolades such as the Alan E. Hall Innovation Award and multiple Outstanding Teaching Awards and has published research on topics like engineering simulations and mathematical education. Anderson and his wife, Trenna, have been married for 22 years and have two children, DJ and Hailey. He enjoys listening to podcasts, reading fantasy and science fiction novels, and playing games with friends and family. He said the highlight of his career is witnessing the 'a-ha!' moment' when a student grasps a challenging mathematical concept.





## WEIHONG WANG

Associate Professor, *Earth Science*

*Presidential Award of Excellence*

Dr. Weihong Wang, from Provo, Utah, holds a bachelor's degree in geophysics from Jiangnan Petroleum University, a master's degree in geology from Iowa State University, and a doctorate in marine science from the University of South Carolina. She embarked on a postdoctoral research fellowship at Yale University before teaching in New Jersey for two years. Since 2012, Wang has been an integral part of UVU, earning tenure in 2018 and currently serving as the Department of Earth Science chair. Her dedication has been recognized with the Faculty Senate Excellence Award and the College of Science Dean's Award of Teaching Excellence. Wang's research, funded by prestigious National Science Foundation grants, focuses on crucial environmental issues from responsible research conduct to Utah Lake water quality. Wang's husband is her best friend and also a colleague at UVU. She enjoys spending time with her two children, running, skiing, traveling, cooking, and rock climbing. She loves collaborating with colleagues to "advance student learning and achievement, making UVU a supportive and enriching environment for the entire campus community!"



# DEPARTMENT CHAIRS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Dr. Heath Ogden, *Biology*  
Dr. Merrill Halling, *Chemistry*  
Dr. Weihong Wang, *Earth Science*  
Dr. Andrew Creer, *Exercise Science and  
Outdoor Recreation*  
Dr. Alan Parry, *Mathematics*  
Dr. Evelyn Porter, *Mathematical and  
Quantitative Reasoning*  
Dr. Joseph Jensen, *Physics*

## DEAN'S OFFICE STAFF

Dr. Daniel Horns, *Dean*  
Dr. Fern Caka, *Associate Dean*  
Dr. Jason Slack, *Associate Dean*  
Taggart Archibald, *Assistant Dean*  
Kerri Howlett, *Finance Manager*  
Veronica Augustine, *Administrative  
Assistant IV*  
Chris Gonzalez, *Marketing Coordinator*

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Monica Ferreyra  
Roxanne Moncada  
Shelby Bergeson  
Kinzie Greer  
Melissa Braithwaite  
Hunter Jaspersen  
Bobby Hughes  
Kamee Jordan  
Kirsten Paustenbaugh  
Katie Stevens  
JoAnna Johnson  
Carter Newel  
Landon Graff  
Rachel Messenger

*Your tax-deductible contribution to the College of Science, large or small, will make a significant difference in the lives of our students. Funding for student research, scholarships, and academic programs is vital to students' career preparations. To learn more about how you can have an impact, contact Jeremy Redd at (801) 863- 4420 or visit the UVU College of Science giving page at [uvu.edu/give/initiatives/college-of-science/](http://uvu.edu/give/initiatives/college-of-science/).*

