



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

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COLLEGE *of* HUMANITIES  
*and* SOCIAL SCIENCES  
CONVOCAATION

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THIRD OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR



# COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

## Message From the Dean

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Dear Graduating Class of 2024,

As the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Utah Valley University, I am thrilled to congratulate you on reaching this significant milestone in your academic journey. Your graduation symbolizes the culmination of your unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment to learning. Take pride in your achievements; they are a testament to your perseverance and passion for knowledge.

Equipped with the necessary skills and mindset, you are now prepared to excel in any path you choose, whether it involves furthering your education, embarking on a career, or pursuing your interests. Remember, education is a continuous process that extends beyond this momentous occasion. Embrace lifelong learning, seek new knowledge and experiences, and challenge yourself to continually grow and adapt.

We eagerly anticipate witnessing the remarkable accomplishments you will undoubtedly achieve. It has been an honor to be part of your educational journey, and we wish you nothing but success in all your future endeavors. Congratulations once again on your well-deserved triumph!

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven C. Clark  
*Dean, College of Humanities and Social Science*



# COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES CONVOCATION CEREMONY

**May 3, 2024, 2:00 pm**  
**UCCU Center**

Processional

Welcome ..... Dr. Steven C. Clark, Dean

Recognition of Outstanding Graduates ..... Dr. Deborah Marrott  
*Associate Dean*

Valedictorian Address ..... Abigail G. Johnson  
*Bachelor of Social Work*

Presentation of Graduates ..... Dr. Steven C. Clark, *Dean*  
Dr. Janet Colvin, *Associate Dean*  
Dr. Deborah Marrott, *Associate Dean*  
Candida Johnson, *Assistant Dean*

Reading of Graduate Names ..... Dr. Matt Draper, *Professor, Psychology*  
Dr. Kris Oldroyd, *Assistant Professor, Psychology*  
Dr. Ruen-chuan Ma, *Assistant Professor, English and Literature*  
Pierre Lamarch, *Professor, Philosophy and Humanities*

Closing Remarks ..... Dr. Steven C. Clark, *Dean*

Recessional

Please remain seated until graduates have exited the arena.



# VALEDICTORIAN

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*In Latin, valedictorian means “farewell sayer” and is considered one of the highest honors a student can achieve at the end of their academic career. This prestigious honor recognizes not only academic excellence by achieving a 4.0 GPA, earning a minimum of 90 credits at UVU, and receiving a bachelor’s degree in a CHSS discipline but also by the demonstration of leadership, character, and service to our college community.*



## ABIGAIL G. JOHNSON

*Bachelor of Social Work*

Abigail G. Johnson is from West Jordan, Utah, where her mom and others worked to homeschool her. Johnson is receiving a Bachelor of Social Work with a minor in music. During her time at UVU, she worked as a peer mentor with Wolverines Elevated and completed her practicum with the Division of Child and Family Services. Johnson loves that UVU offers a variety of opportunities to learn and apply that knowledge. After graduation, she intends to take a couple of years to gain experience before pursuing her Master of Social Work.

# OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

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*The outstanding graduate is nominated and chosen by the department faculty as the individual who best exemplifies excellence in their field of study and service. These students performed exceptionally throughout their academic careers and are examples to their classmates, faculty, and families.*



## ANNA BLASER

*Bachelor of Arts, Humanities*

*Outstanding Graduate - Philosophy and Humanities*

Anna Blaser is from Eagle Mountain, Utah, and graduated from Westlake High School. She is graduating from UVU with a Bachelor of Arts in humanities. Blaser has had many successes as a Wolverine, including being awarded a full-ride Presidential Scholarship in the fall of 2020, helping to prepare a paper and presentation for the 28th Annual Charles Dickens Society Symposium in Rochester, New York, and creating a pedagogical humanities website for her senior capstone project. She loves how UVU's welcoming environment has helped her connect with fellow students and professors. Blaser is open to wherever life takes her post-graduation and is eager to continue discovering her passions and sharing them with others.



## AMANDA HYDE FLINDERS

*Bachelor of Science, Applied Communication*

*Outstanding Graduate - Communication*

Amanda Hyde Flinders is from Orem, Utah, where she graduated from Mountain View High School. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in applied communication. During her time at UVU, Hyde Flinders acted as president of the Public Relations Student Society of America, was a research assistant at the UVU Social Impact Metric Lab, and performed an in-depth impact audit for the Sundance Institute. She loves the nontraditional student mentorship communication faculty provide to help students reach their goals. After graduation, Hyde Flinders hopes to do public relations work in healthcare.





### **RAELENE NAEGLE**

*Bachelor of Science, English and Literature*

*Outstanding Graduate – English and Literature*

Raelene Naegle attended Pleasant Grove High School in her hometown of Pleasant Grove, Utah. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in English and literature. Naegle has left her mark on UVU by making the dean's list and High Honor Roll and serving as editor-in-chief of *Essais*. She said she appreciates her incredible professors and loves the beautiful view of the mountains that she enjoyed while working at the UVU Fulton Library. After graduation, Naegle is considering graduate school or a study abroad program.



### **ZADIE JANE OBRAY**

*Bachelor of Science, History and Social Studies Education*

*Outstanding Graduate – History and Political Science*

Zadie Jane Obray hails from Woods Cross, Utah, and graduated from Woods Cross High School. She is leaving UVU with a Bachelor of Science in history and social studies education. With the support of her spouse, Zac, and the Ferrin family, Obray maintained a 4.0 GPA and was published in the *Crescat Scientia*. She loves the professors at UVU and appreciates their varying backgrounds. Obray has just accepted a job teaching eighth grade United States history at Elk Ridge Middle School in South Jordan, Utah.



### HOLLY AYN SLIVKOFF

*Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Studies*

*Outstanding Graduate – Languages and Cultures*

Holly Ayn Slivkoff attended Clovis North High School in Fresno, California, and is graduating with a bachelor's degree in integrated studies with minors in Russian studies and history. She said the best part of her UVU experience was interacting with the Russian department faculty. Her lifelong goal is to learn Russian to understand speeches, songs, and prayers in her Russian-speaking church. Outside of academics, Slivkoff is a membership director at The Ranches Golf Club. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, skiing, and playing tennis and she thanks her family and her boyfriend, Eli, who have supported her throughout her educational journey.



### LINDSEY WILCOX

*Bachelor of Science, Family Science; Associate of Social Science*

*Outstanding Graduate – Behavioral Science*

Lindsey Wilcox is from Cardston, Alberta, Canada, and graduated from Queen Creek American Leadership Academy High School. She maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA throughout college, volunteered with Mindset Family Therapy and The Refuge Utah, interned for UVU's Stronger Families Project, and served as the UVU Family Science Club president. She also presented at the 2023 Utah Council on Family Relations. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. Wilcox would like to thank her husband, Brayson, and her parents, siblings, and professors for their support throughout her education.

# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT RECOGNITION

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*The exceptional student recognition is for students who have distinguished themselves by achieving a 4.0 GPA, earning a minimum of 90 credits at UVU, and receiving positive recommendations from faculty, advisors, and mentors.*

Brennan Dale Beddoes, *Bachelor of Science, Psychology*  
Megan Nicole Charchenko, *Bachelor of Science, Applied Communication*  
Clara Soledad Esparza, *Bachelor of Science, Psychology*  
Alec Michael Jeppson, *Bachelor of Science, History and Social Sciences Education*  
Bryna Mckay Mahoney, *Bachelor of Science, Family Science*  
Claire Montgomery, *Bachelor of Science, Philosophy*  
Zadie Obray, *Bachelor of Science, History and Social Studies Education*  
Amber Jane Potts, *Bachelor of Science, Applied Communication*  
Brianna Morgan Short, *Bachelor of Science, Psychology*  
Kylie Lauren Smith, *Bachelor of Science, English*  
Cody Garret Walton, *Bachelor of Science, Psychology*  
Brinley Diane Wolverton, *Bachelor of Arts, Family Science*



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

BOT

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## CLAUDIA JORGENSEN

*Associate Professor, Behavioral Science*

*Board of Trustees Award of Excellence*

From Salt Lake City, Utah, Dr. Claudia Jorgensen joined the Wolverine family in 2013 as an assistant professor and is presently an associate professor in the behavioral science department. Jorgensen holds an associate degree in early childhood development from Oakland Community College, two bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology from the University of Michigan-Flint, and a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Florida State University. With an extensive collection of published academic work and multiple awards under her belt, including the 2023 UVU Single Academic Innovation Award, Jorgensen is dedicated to further studying her craft and providing students with a high-quality educational experience. The driving force behind her dedication is also her favorite aspect of working at UVU: the university's mission to create a welcoming environment for students, staff, and faculty. In her free time, Jorgensen loves to spend time outdoors or coloring and doing puzzles with her husband, Hans Jorgensen, and their two children, Aiden and Amelia.

# FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

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*The following faculty and staff from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences received awards this year for their exemplary work.*



## JORDAN ALLEN

*Assistant Professor, Communication  
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Jordan Allen is from Butte, Montana, and is an assistant professor of communication at UVU. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a master's degree and Ph.D. in interpersonal and family communication from the University of Montana and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Allen has dedicated her career to researching how to navigate and improve difficult conversations in personal and professional contexts. Her favorite part of teaching at UVU is building relationships with dedicated and curious students. She expressed that "helping students articulate and answer questions about the world around them is a true joy."

## TREVOR MORRIS

*Program Manager, Faculty Development  
Adjunct Instructor, Behavioral Science  
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Trevor Morris is from Springville, Utah, and is a program manager of faculty development and an adjunct instructor of behavioral science. He holds a Bachelor of Science in behavioral sciences from UVU and a Master of Science in psychology from Palo Alto University. He is currently working to earn his Ph.D. in learning and cognition from the University of Utah. Morris researches the cognitive aspects of learning and the integration of artificial intelligence in education. His favorite aspect of working at UVU is seeing faculty and students succeed and grow.



### CHRISTA ALBRECHT-CRANE

*Professor, English*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Faculty Service*

Christa Albrecht-Crane is an English professor who has been teaching at UVU since 2001 in areas including composition studies, critical theory, and cultural studies. She holds a B.A. in American studies from Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, Germany, an M.A. in American studies from Washington State University, and a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Technical Communication from Michigan Technological University. Albrecht-Crane has published numerous articles and book chapters and co-edited an essay collection. She received UVU's Faculty Excellence Award in 2005 and 2020, and the Dean's Award for Scholarly Research in 2011. In her view, the best thing about teaching at UVU is mentoring underprivileged students at a public, open-enrollment university.



### RACHEL AROCHO

*Assistant Professor, Family Science*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Teaching*

Dr. Rachel Arocho is from Vernal, Utah, and received a bachelor's degree in family, consumer, and human development from Utah State University Uintah Basin Regional Campus, and a master's degree in human development and family science and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Arocho was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before joining UVU, where she has received two Flexible Teaching Awards. Arocho enjoys teaching and mentoring UVU students and learning new things from them. In her spare time, she loves playing video games with her husband, reading science fiction, and enjoying time with her dog, Chico.



### STEVEN M. SYLVESTER

*Associate Professor, Political Science*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Scholarship*

Dr. Steven M. Sylvester is from Fairfield, California, and earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in political science from California State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Sylvester serves in various capacities at UVU as an associate professor, vice chair of the Institutional Review Board, and director of the Master of Public Administration Program. His award-winning articles on anti-vaccine policy and the opioid epidemic have been published in highly regarded journals, and he received the Presidential Fellowship for Faculty Scholarship from UVU. Articles in his extensive portfolio of scholarship have been cited over 1,000 times in the past five years, making him one of the most cited scholars in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Sylvester enjoys skiing, golfing, working out, traveling, and attending Broadway shows with his wife.



### JOLENE ARNOFF

*Assistant to the Dean*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Staff*

Jolene Arnoff, from Placentia, California, has worked in UVU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences since 2009. She earned a degree in university studies and has previously worked for large and small organizations, including a semiconductor manufacturer, a private high school, and a helicopter company. She said the best part of working at UVU is her colleagues, who provide invaluable expertise, encouragement, and friendship. Arnoff and her husband have three children and five granddaughters. In her spare time, she loves to travel, read, do puzzles, and work in her yard.





**STEPHANIE VASQUEZ**

*Administrative Assistant, Languages and Cultures  
PACE Distinguished Employee Award*



**TRACI DAY**

*Program Coordinator, Stronger Families Project  
PACE Distinguished Employee Award*



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# ENGAGED LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

*Students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences have traveled for research, creative and scholarly work, meetings, conferences, and multicultural experiences across the United States to expand their knowledge beyond the classroom. They have represented themselves well and made UVU proud!*

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Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl  
Association of Writers and Writing Programs  
Conference on Community-Engaged Scholarship and Teaching  
Council on Social Work Education  
Gallaudet University  
National Conference on Undergraduate Research  
National Council of Teachers of English  
National Public Relations Student Society  
Pacific Sociological Association Conference  
Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society Regional Conference  
Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting  
Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies  
Rocky Mountain Psychological Association  
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference  
United Nations 68th Annual Commission on the Status of Women  
Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research  
Utah Council of Teachers of English  
UVU Capitol Reef Field Station  
UVU Conference on Mental Health  
UVU For the Love of Reading Conference

*In addition, students from the college will be traveling internationally this summer in education abroad programs to France, United Kingdom, China, Cuba, Japan, Brazil, Germany, Greece, and Italy.*



# UTAH CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

*Modeled after the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, UCUR is a celebration of academic, professional, and personal achievements for undergraduate research projects and creative endeavors. Each year, UCUR brings together students from all over the state to present their research. Work from the following CHSS students and mentors was selected for presentation at this year's conference.*

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Daniel Adams	Tatiana Leroy	Maren Neild	Ethan Reese
Matthew Hovorka	Preston Stobart	Anna Trollmann	Caden Weaver
Gregory Skinner	Savannah Brady	Brittain Corbet	Alyssa Elizalde
Asmaa Alsharif	Corin Marsh	Emma Newman	Megan Ritter
Genna Howard	Brittney Stockholm	Nathan Twitchell	Martin
Adam Smith	Ismael Cabadas	Mikelle Dahl	Madison Webster
Brandon Barlow	Nicholas Martin	Carlie Oyler	Rain Evans
Maria Hyde Silva	Enoch Thackeray	Benjamin VanDreew	Kacey Rowe
Michelle Stanley	Amy Chevriert	Carter Darger	Sage Wettstein
Reagan Bartholomew	Jessica McOmber	Joshua Parmley	Madison Farrer
Noah James	Michaela Thackeray	Victoria Vazquez	Natalia Rubio
Abbi Stark	Spencer Clark	Kristin Davenport	Hailey White
Josef Becker	Jared Medlyn	Cicilee Petersen	Alley Fausett
Amanda Kanno	Anna Titcomb	Caden Walker	Alyssa Sawyer
Davis	Grant Cole	Patrick Davies	Scott Wiltbank
Brandie Statham	Hugo Moreno	McKayla Pittman	Rebekah Hakala
Danielle Black	Julie Toomey	Logan Walker	Monica Sanchez
Melissa Lee	Max Colledge	Amelia Doman	Alex Wilson
Taelyn Stinson	Jennifer Mortensen	Leif Ravnsen	Lauren Hammond
Moroni Black	Nick Top	Vitaliy Walker	David Schloesser
	Kate Coneyes	Matthew Drachman	Derek Wolfgramm

## FACULTY MENTORS:

Scott Abbott	Jerry Petersen	Robert Burton	Claudia Jorgensen
Connie Ericksen	Russ Bailey	Rick McDonald	Todd Spencer
Julie Nelson	Kelsey Hixon Bowles	Steven Sylvester	Robert Burton
Baktybek Abdrisaev	Kaicee Postler	Matt Draper	Rick McDonald
Dylan Hansen	Malisa Brooks	Kal Munis	Steven Sylvester
Kristina Oldroyd		James Taylor	Matt Draper
Chris Anderson	Cameron John	Allison Ensign	Kal Munis
Jessica C. Hill	Jennifer Shubert	Stevie M. Munz	James Taylor
Acacia Overono	Brandon Burr	Yi Yin Cameron John	Allison Ensign
Rachel Arocho	Claudia Jorgensen	Jennifer Shubert	Stevie M. Munz
Kent Hinkson	Todd Spencer	Brandon Burr	Yi Yin

# DEAN SUITE, DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, ACADEMIC ADVISORS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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## CHSS DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Deborah Marrott, *Behavioral Science*  
David Morin, *Communication*  
Brian Whaley, *English and Literature*  
Jay DeSart, *History and Political Science*  
Bryan Eldredge, *Languages and Cultures*  
Joshua Hilst, *Literacies and Composition*  
Pierre Lamarche, *Philosophy and  
Humanities*

## CHSS ACADEMIC ADVISING STAFF

Robbin Anthony  
Natalie Boone  
Jared Haskell  
Melissa Kingsolver  
April Kirk  
Erik Koller  
Cindy Lau  
Sarah Lindsey  
John Macfarlane  
Tina Ostler  
Gae Robinson  
Natalie Shelley  
Tyler Svedin  
Mallory Thomas  
Melissa Uriarte  
Rocky Williamson  
Breana Briceno

## CHSS DEAN'S ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jolene Arnoff, *Assistant to the Dean*  
Madeline Brenchley, *Coordinator,  
Instructional Support*  
Janet Colvin, *Associate Dean*  
Melissa Davis, *Administrative Assistant*  
Rebecca Green, *Graphic Designer*  
Julia Hoffman, *Web Developer*  
Candida Johnson, *Assistant Dean*  
Benjamin Lopez, *IT Services*  
Deborah Marrott, *Associate Dean*  
Luke Montgomery, *IT Services*  
Jeremy Redd, *Development Director*  
Shannon Rogers, *Administrative Assistant*

## CHSS DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Tanica Armstrong, *Dept. of History and Political Science*

Donna Bott, *Dept. of Behavioral Science*

Michael Carter, *Dept. of English and Literature*

Traci Day, *Stronger Families Project*

Lori Duke, *Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Program*

Joshua Dunkley, *Dept. of Philosophy and Humanities*

Jackeline Garcia, *UVU Community Mental Health Clinic*

Manina Johnson, *Dept. of Behavioral Science*

Skye Kaiser, *UVU Community Mental Health Clinic*

Bev Kent, *Dept. of Behavioral Science*

James Krause, *Language Teaching Lab*

Derek Larsen, *UVU Community Mental Health Clinic*

Betsy Lybbert, *Dept. of English and Literature*

Christine Madden, *Master of Social Work Program*

Jordan Makin, *Communication Teaching Lab*

Savannah Marker, *Dept. of Philosophy and Humanities*

Emma Mecham, *UVU Community Mental Health Clinic*

Rebecca Sills, *Master of Social Work Program Advisor*

Kristin Smith, *Dept. of Communication*

Stephanie Vasquez, *Dept. of Languages and Cultures*

Kyler Wakefield, *Master of Social Work Program*

*Your financial contributions can make a real difference by supporting scholarships, student research, student internships, and academic programs in UVU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. For information on how you can help, please contact Jeremy Redd at [jredd@uvu.edu](mailto:jredd@uvu.edu). All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

