



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

COLLEGE *of* HEALTH
and PUBLIC SERVICE
CONVOCATION

MAY 6, 2022



COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

Message From the Dean

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Dear College of Health and Public Service Graduates,

Congratulations on your significant accomplishments. You have excelled during a challenging time in our history and should wear your graduation cap and gown proudly. In many ways, your story is just beginning. You've spent the last several years focusing on your education, and now you are entering a new phase of your life.

Our graduates come from a wide range of programs, including criminal justice, dental hygiene, emergency services, nursing, respiratory therapy, and public health. Yet you all share a common core of values, including the will to serve your community.

Thank you for choosing UVU. You are now part of our outstanding alumni group. Please stay in contact. I wish you happiness in your life and success in your future endeavors.

Cheryl Hanewicz
Dean
College of Health and Public Service

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SAMANTHA NOBUHARA

Associate of Science, *Nursing*

Samantha K. Nobuhara is a native of Mapleton, Utah, and attended Maple Mountain High School. She is receiving an associate degree in nursing. She was attracted to UVU because of its diversity and the amazing things she heard about UVU's teachers. She was impressed by the university's nursing program and has been grateful to work alongside the front-line healthcare workers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. "It has been so humbling for me," Samantha says. "I'm proud I will be able to be a coworker to the amazing nurses I've met." She says the best part about attending UVU has been the teachers. "I love that they all care so much about our success and are so passionate about what they teach." Samantha has also served as a representative for the Student Nursing Association, and she plans to continue her education to become a nurse practitioner. She is also getting married this semester.



A. BRYTON NELSON

Bachelor of Arts, *National Security Studies*

Bryton Nelson is from American Fork, Utah, and attended American Fork High School. He is receiving a bachelor's degree in national security studies, with minors in Spanish and German. Bryton says the national security studies program at UVU helped him realize that he had a passion for public service. During his time at UVU, Bryton was able to meet many prestigious individuals and travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Security Studies Summer Seminar. He says one unique benefit UVU offered was obtaining education directly from former practitioners in the national security field. "My professors treated and respected me as an adult and were willing to help me at any given time," he says. "They were all very humble and helpful at all times." Bryton has been accepted to several graduate schools in Washington, D.C., and plans to work in the U.S. intelligence community.



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**CITY OF
FIRE RESCUE**

STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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JUSTINE S. ROE

Bachelor of Science, *Dental Hygiene*

Student Excellence Award in Allied Health, Dental Hygiene

Justine Roe is from Billings, Montana, and attended Skyview High School in Billings. She is receiving a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. Justine's father attended UVU when it was known as Utah Valley Community College. She says he had a great experience and studying dental hygiene at UVU has always been her goal. "I have really enjoyed how hands-on my education has been," Justine says. "We get practical hands-on experience cleaning teeth in UVU's dental hygiene clinic. We also have a unique opportunity to participate in an outreach program where we help underserved populations in the community." Justine plans on working as a dental hygienist in a clinical setting, then branching out into teaching, research, or public health. Justine would like to thank her fiancé, Logan, who spent many hours in the dental chair as her patient each semester.



JENNIFER JORDAN

Bachelor of Science, *Respiratory Therapy*

Student Excellence Award in Allied Health, Respiratory Therapy

A native of Blackfoot, Idaho, Jennifer Jordan attended Blackfoot High School. Jordan has juggled raising three teenagers and maintaining a home-school life balance while attending UVU. “I’ve made lifelong friends,” she says. “My program was unique in that I was with the same people for every class. I look forward to calling many of my classmates colleagues.” Jordan’s experience was especially unique because of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the need for respiratory therapists meant she could work as an apprentice while still in school. “The skills we were learning in class were put to use before graduation,” she says. “We were able to ask real questions and get in-depth guidance from professors who had extensive experience in the field.” Jennifer plans to continue working in the respiratory field and is interested in working in small, rural hospitals. She is married with three children and is proud to have accomplished a major life goal while her children are old enough to remember it.



BEN BIESINGER

Associate of Applied Science, *Emergency Services*
Student Excellence Award in Emergency Services

Ben Biesinger is from Walnut Creek, California, and attended Northgate High School. He is receiving an associate degree in emergency services. Ben is currently a firefighter with Unified Fire Authority (UFA) and a member of the Utah Army National Guard, both of which he calls his “dream jobs.” He previously earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Brigham Young University but decided to return to school in his late 30s. His fire department sponsored him to attend UVU’s paramedic program, which he says was one of his ultimate career goals. Ben’s future career and education goals include additional certifications and trainings offered by UFA and the Army. He says he plans to continue working with UFA “for as long as I can pull a hose and carry an axe.” Ben credits his wife for pushing and supporting him in his career and education. They have five children.



HALEY ORROCK

Bachelor of Science, *Criminal Justice*

Student Excellence Award in Criminal Justice

Haley Orrock is originally from Gilbert, Arizona, and attended Lone Peak High School in Highland, Utah. She is receiving a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Haley says attending UVU is a "family tradition – everyone in my family are very proud Wolverines!" She has especially appreciated the forensic science program for its many hands-on experiences and supportive faculty. "I love everything about UVU," Haley says. "I love how open and accepting the school is of everyone, I love how caring the professors are, and I love how many experiences the program provides for me. It's more than just a school – it's a Wolverine community!" Haley was a teaching assistant for UVU's anatomy program and completed an internship with a medical examiner's office, assisting at crime scenes and autopsies. She is currently hoping to join the workforce at the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner, working as a medicolegal death investigator. Haley and her husband, Dakota, love dogs, going to the movies, and traveling anywhere.



MELISSA STRASBURG

Master of Public Service

Student Excellence Award in Public Service

Melissa Strasburg is from Saratoga Springs, Utah, and attended Orem High School. She is receiving a master's degree in public service. Melissa says learning is her passion — she has been taking classes from UVU since it was known as Utah Valley State College. She made the dean's list for four semesters while working a full-time job and raising a child. She also wrote and published a fictional novel while completing her undergraduate degree. "The best thing about UVU is the people," she says. "My professors have been fantastic. They introduced me to new possibilities and helped me determine goals that I would have seen as impossible without them." Melissa plans to work in public service at the federal level, but she is also considering law school. "I truly believe that education has opened doors for me that otherwise would have remained locked," she says. Melissa has an awesome son and a beautiful granddaughter. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, blogging, cooking, kickboxing, and traveling.



TIANA ARGYLE PRESTWICH

Bachelor of Science, *School Health Education*
Student Excellence Award in Public Health

A native of Santaquin, Utah, Tiana Argyle Prestwich attended Payson High School before coming to UVU. She is receiving a bachelor's degree in school health education with a minor in community health. She is currently working in what she calls her "dream job" as a health teacher at Spanish Fork Junior High School, where she completed an internship before being hired full time. Tiana says she fell in love with the look and feel of UVU during a campus tour as a high schooler. She says the wonderful professors and student diversity were her favorite things about attending UVU. She hopes to continue her education with a master's degree and eventually become a full-time college professor, hopefully at UVU, where she already serves as an adjunct professor. Tiana is married, and in December 2021 the family welcomed a baby boy. She and her husband enjoy hiking, hunting, fishing, creating things in the woodshop, and gardening together.



MATTHEW MADRUGA

Bachelor of Science, *Nursing*
Student Excellence Award in Nursing

A native of Alpine, Utah, Matthew Madruga attended Lone Peak High School. He is receiving a bachelor's degree in nursing. Matthew's sister is a UVU alumna and preceded him in UVU's nursing program. She highly recommended that Matthew attend UVU due to the outstanding professors, in-depth education, and opportunity to develop critical thinking skills. "I am pleased to say that I have found and received all of these things from UVU," Matthew says. He points to the people skills he learned at UVU as something that prepared him for a successful career. "As a result, I now understand how to interact with people from different cultures, how to use therapeutic communication skills, and how to get to the roots of individuals' concerns," he says. Matthew's favorite hobby is jumping rope, a skill he picked up during the COVID-19 pandemic. He is also "passionate about smoothies" and says the car wash is his "happy place."

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

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FRANCINE BENCH JENSEN

Associate Professor, Nursing

Faculty Award of Excellence

Francine Bench Jensen is from Platteville, Wisconsin, and currently serves as an associate professor of nursing at UVU. She earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Brigham Young University, an associate degree in nursing from Piedmont Virginia Community College, and a master's degree in nursing from George Mason University. Francine is a registered nurse, and she has served as a program coordinator in the UVU Department of Nursing since 2016. Over the last two years, she has administered the COVID-19 response, screenings, and communication in the Department of Nursing. She says she is proud that UVU has remained open for education during this challenging time and maintained strong relationships with clinical partners. "Working at UVU allows me to teach and interact with students who have a variety of life experiences," Francine says. "This is important to me as an educator in nursing as we prepare to treat community members. Working with my colleagues in the Department of Nursing continually enriches my teaching practice and shapes me into a better person."



STEVEN D. ALLRED

Professor, *Emergency Services*
Award of Excellence for Service

Steven D. Allred is from Highland, Utah, and is a professor of emergency services at UVU. He is also a professor of emergency care at UVU and serves as the paramedic program director. He received an associate degree in fire science from UVU, an associate degree in emergency care and rescue from Weber State University, a bachelor's degree in public emergency services management from UVU, and a master's degree in education from Utah State University. Steven served 21 years with the Orem Fire Department; his career there allowed him to become a police officer, working both patrol and with SWAT. He also worked for Intermountain Health Care as a paramedic in the emergency room at Utah Valley for 30 years. "My favorite part of working at UVU is seeing students enter a career I still am passionate about," Steven says. "Seeing graduates become great providers, leaders, and chief officers in health care in our service area is very rewarding to me." Steven and his wife, Diane, have six married children and 13 grandchildren, and his favorite way to spend time is watching them grow, play sports, or just be cousins.



KELLY ROSE

Assistant Professor, *Respiratory Therapy*
Director of Clinical Education, *Allied Health*
Award of Excellence for Engagement

Kelly Rose is from Mesa, Arizona, and currently works as an assistant professor of respiratory therapy. She is also the Director of Clinical Education for Allied Health. Kelly came to Utah in 2006 after working as a respiratory therapist in the United States Air Force. After obtaining her bachelor's and master's degrees, she worked in various Utah hospitals. In 2013, Kelly began teaching and it's been her passion ever since. She taught at Stevens-Henager College and Weber State before coming to UVU in 2017. Together with Max Eskelson, she was instrumental in starting the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy program. Kelly and her husband enjoy watching movies and traveling with their two wonderful teenage daughters.



THOMAS STURTEVANT

Associate Dean, *College of Health and Public Service*
Dean's Special Recognition Award

Thomas Sturtevant is the associate dean for the College of Health and Public Service. Thomas received a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee; a master's degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and a doctorate in education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He is also a U.S. Air Force veteran. With over 40 years of experience, Thomas has a unique blend of emergency response and educational expertise with accomplishments in degree program development and administration, curriculum development, and accreditation and certification management. Thomas is a published author, has assessed several foreign emergency response training and certification programs, and served on the Board of Directors and Committee on Accreditation for the National Professional Qualifications System. He is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) and a member of the Institute of Fire Engineers (MIFire). Thomas says the best thing about working at UVU is working with amazing faculty, staff, and students.



LORI MARSHALL

Managing Editor, *Utah Fire & Rescue Academy*
Award of Excellence for Staff

Lori Marshall is a native of Spanish Fork, Utah, and currently serves as the managing editor for the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy (UFRA). She graduated with an associate degree from UVU and a bachelor's degree in business management with an emphasis in organizational behavior from Brigham Young University. Before coming to UVU, Lori worked for a non-profit organization, worked briefly in human resources, and was employed as a business consultant for the Department of Workforce Services. Lori began at UFRA working in the certification department. For the past seven years, she has served as the managing editor of UFRA's magazine, a firefighter training magazine distributed statewide. In addition, she manages the UFRA website and social media accounts, and has worked on projects promoting firefighter mental wellness. Lori is honored to serve Utah's firefighters. She greatly admires the work and sacrifices they make every day. She enjoys being outdoors, reading, and spending time with her husband and two children.



MERILEE LARSEN

Assistant Professor, *Public Health*
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence

Merilee Larsen is from American Fork, Utah, and serves as an assistant professor of public health at UVU. She received a bachelor's degree in community health from UVU, and master's and doctoral degrees in public health from Loma Linda University. Merilee received the Adjunct Faculty of Excellence award from UVU in 2010 and the Alumni Outstanding Educator of the Year award in 2018. "The students will always be the best part of the job," she says of her time at UVU. "They come with such great attitudes, hopes, and dreams. I love to be a part of their learning journey." Merilee has also taught for the University of Utah, the Utah Highway Patrol, and in the private industry. She has more than 15 years of professional experience working for the Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. In her spare time, Merilee teaches yoga and has done so for over 20 years. She is married and has two boys, Jagger and Bowie. They love to travel and spend time outdoors, and she loves to run, read, snorkel, and do yoga.



DIANNE MCADAMS-JONES

Professor, Nursing

Black Academic Excellence Award



MELINDA BARBER

Assistant Professor, *Public Health*
Student Advocate Award



MARY KENT

Director, *Open Source Intelligence Center*
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence

Mary Kent, a native of Orem, Utah, is currently serving as the director of the UVU National Security Studies Open Source Intelligence Center. Before coming to UVU, Mary worked at the Utah Statewide Information and Analysis Center as a senior intelligence analyst. She is a certified Department of Homeland Security analyst and has specialized in open source, narcotics, organized crime, and human trafficking intelligence. Mary also worked as a victim's advocate for the Provo Police Department where she assisted victims of crime. As an Army veteran, Mary obtained her master's degree in national security and terrorism studies from the American Military University and is currently working on a Ph.D. in criminology from the University of Stirling, Scotland. In her private time, she enjoys traveling all over the world, and has been to nine countries and counting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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AMIE HOUGHTON

Assistant Professor, *Criminal Justice; Program Director, Forensic Investigations*

Amie Houghton is from Cedar Fort, Utah, and is an assistant professor and director of the forensic investigations program at UVU. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Arizona State University and a master's degree in forensic science with a specialization in crime scene investigations from George Washington University. Prior to working at UVU, Amie was a special agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). During her 11 years with NCIS, she conducted felony-level criminal investigations for the Department of the Navy. Amie's major focus has been to restructure and design UVU's degree program to create a competitive nationally accredited program under the Forensic Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). She was extensively involved in creating the national curriculum guidelines for crime scene investigation degree programs. Due to Amie's efforts, UVU was asked to be a pilot for the accreditation of UVU's forensic investigation emphasis. Amie married her husband, Jeff Houghton, in 2016. Through him, she has the honor of being a mother to three children (and their spouses) and a grandmother of eight grandchildren. They love to travel, play hard, and work hard.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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JEANNETTE VARGAS GERMAN

Lab Manager, *Emergency Services*

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Jeannette Vargas German is the lab manager for the Emergency Services program at UVU. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo, and two bachelor's degrees from UVU, in behavioral science and emergency services administration. Before joining UVU, Jeannette started her professional career at Brugal & Company in the Dominican Republic, where she was a recruitment and selection coordinator and registration and control coordinator. Jeannette has held a variety of administrative support positions at UVU, and has earned multiple Staff Excellence Awards at UVU, as well as the Champion of Inclusion Award in 2019. "The most remarkable aspect of working at UVU is working with students and empowering them to achieve their educational goals of obtaining a college education," Jeannette says. "UVU offers opportunities for employees to grow professionally, and it is a place where the true meaning of inclusion is reflected." Jeannette has been married to her husband, Edward, for 19 years. They have three children: Edward Jr. (16), Yanelli (15), and Angelina (13).



GREG JACKSON

Associate Professor, *Criminal Justice*

Greg Jackson is originally from Rancho Cucamonga, California, and is serving as a professor of integrated studies and national security studies at UVU. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in French studies from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Utah. Greg is the creator, host, and head writer of the U.S. history podcast "History That Doesn't Suck," which regularly trends among the top 10 history podcasts and top 200 across all categories in the United States. Greg earned the Faculty of the Year award in 2021 and the Dean's Award of Excellence for teaching in 2020. "The best thing about UVU is our grit," Greg says. "We have students and faculty who aren't afraid to try new things, step outside the lines, and outwork anyone. That's exactly the kind of crowd I like to run in." Greg is married to UVU Associate Dean of Health Sue Jackson, and they have three children. He enjoys serving his community as a Lehi City Planning Commissioner and Boy Scouts of America merit badge counselor. He also enjoys half marathons, cycling, rock climbing, and playing guitar.



PUMP INTAKE



PUMP DISCHARGE

