



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

SCHOOL *of the* ARTS  
CONVOCATION

MAY 6, 2022



# SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## Message From the Dean

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In the arts, success is not the product of an isolated breakthrough or single moment of inspiration; instead, it is carefully and meticulously crafted through vision, perseverance, and courage. It is the result of a deep investment of time, resources, and energy. It is the recognition that disappointment and momentary defeat play a vital role in the journey to refinement.

Like the construction of a great and noble building, success is forged by the careful placement of individual elements both large and small: the countless hours spent practicing, designing, creating, writing, memorizing, and performing, and the steady accrual of class days, workdays, study days, and credit hours. “For the great doesn’t happen through impulse alone,” noted expressionist painter Vincent van Gogh, but it “is a succession of little things that are brought together.”

Today we celebrate the persistence, determination, resourcefulness, innovation, and imagination of our incredible graduates of the 2021-2022 season. On behalf of the School of the Arts, we extend our jubilant and heartfelt congratulations to those completing programs in art & design, dance, music, and the theatrical arts.

Congratulations, graduates, on your tremendous achievement! As you celebrate the fruits of your hard work and sacrifice, we wish you continued success in all your endeavors, wherever life takes you. We are so proud of you! The past few years have not been easy, although the events of the world have underscored the importance of community, humanity, culture, and the arts. As you dream new dreams and chart new mountains to scale, never forget the power of the arts to inspire, encourage, teach, and heal.

In celebration,

Courtney R. Davis  
Dean  
School of the Arts

# VALEDICTORIANS

V

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## BRITTANNA ROBERTS

Bachelor of Science, *Art Education*

Brittanna Roberts is from Midway, Utah. While at UVU, she earned a 3.98 GPA, a score of 58 on the “educative” Teacher Performance Assessment (EdTPA), and had her artwork accepted into an internationally juried art show called Bound and Unbound VI at the University of South Dakota. She was the Fall 2021 Visual Arts Presentation winner in the UVU Showcase of Undergraduate Scholarly and Creative Works, and the Spring 2021 winner of the American Association of University Women Award with her painting “Celebrating Women – Vibrant and Equal.” After graduation, she plans to look for a job teaching drawing, painting, or printmaking at a high school for five to ten years. She has plans to continue her education and get a master’s degree. “UVU has been a great starting point for me, as I have made many great connections with students, professors, and mentors,” said Brittanna.



## AUBREY FISHER

Associate of Science, *Dance*

Aubrey Fisher, from Provo, Utah, maintained a high GPA and was a recipient of the Exemplary Merit scholarship. She danced on Synergy Dance Company, which allowed her to experience an upper-level team experience and work with new directors. “The best part about attending UVU is the overwhelming amount of support that is felt here and the acceptance of everyone,” Aubrey says. “There is a place for everyone, and you do not feel pressured to meet unrealistic standards.” After graduation, Aubrey will continue at UVU and major in both dance education and modern dance. Within the next five years, she hopes to be working as a dance teacher and performing with professional companies. She might eventually pursue a degree within other fields of study or enroll in other courses to continue learning and allow herself to become a more capable instructor.

# STUDENT AWARDS

S.A.S

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## LEGRANDE LOLO

Bachelor of Fine Arts, *Dance*  
*Dean's Award of Excellence for Students*

LeGrande Lolo is originally from Apia, Samoa, and attended school at LDS Church College Pesega in Pesega, Samoa. While at UVU, he helped found and choreograph for Atlas Dance Collective, attended American College Dance Association (ACDA) two years in a row, served as co-assistant to directors, choreographed for Synergy Dance Company, and presented work at UASAL and SCULPT. He also served as rehearsal assistant to Virginie Mécène in restaging Martha Graham's historic work *Steps in the Street*. After graduation and before pursuing a master's degree, LeGrande will work with dance companies in the area and pursue somatic certifications. His five-year goal is to dance with companies in Europe and travel nationally or internationally to perform.



## KIRBY BOLICK

Bachelor of Fine Arts, *Art & Design*  
*Outstanding Student in Art & Design*

Kirby Bolick hails from Valencia, California, and attended William S Hart High School in Newhall, California. He's most proud of his BFA show where he addressed the sensitive topic of suicide with an elegant, emotional, and potent approach through original photography, installation sculpture, and poetry. He was able to sell several of his art pieces to gallery attendants. He and his wife, Sarah, have four children, two of whom were born while Kirby attended UVU. "Truly commit yourself to your time here," Kirby recommends to future graduates. "If I hadn't committed myself to getting every drop of goodness out of my education, I would have missed priceless knowledge." Currently, Kirby works with a company as their internal photographer, and he plans to stay with them for the next little while as he builds his freelance clientele. Afterward, he plans to own his own studio for commercial products, portraits, and campaign work for larger companies and private clients.



### JESSICA KETCHUM-LEE

Bachelor of Science, *Dance Education*  
*Outstanding Student in Dance*

Jessica Ketchum-Lee, from Magna, Utah, graduated from Hunter High School. While attending UVU, she completed her student teaching, received her national teaching certification, and received a Utah teaching license. She served as assistant to the director for UVU's Synergy Dance Company and as assistant to the director during the 2021 Senior Capstone performance. She was selected to present various research papers and choreographic pieces at four undergraduate research conferences and to work with professional dance companies Repertory Dance Theater and Diavolo. She graduated with a 3.9 GPA, *summa cum laude*. After graduation, Jessica plans to teach dance at a local high school and accredited dance studio. "I would tell future graduates to take advantage of all of the opportunities that present themselves," she says. "Really commit to learning and experiencing as much as you can, because UVU has so much to offer."



### KAITLIN BOOTH

Bachelor of Arts in Cello Performance, *Music*  
*Outstanding Student in Music*

Kaitlin Booth is from Eagle Mountain, Utah, and graduated from Westlake High School. Kaitlin's performance history started at the age of 11 when she first started playing the cello. At UVU, she had the opportunity to perform with incredible groups such as Jason Alexander and Time for Three, and played in the pit orchestra for UVU's professional production of *La Bohème*. She won the UVU Concerto Competition, performed a solo concerto with an orchestra, and loved working with her two private teachers, Dr. Cheung Chau and Walter Haman. After graduation, she plans to continue working as a gigging musician doing studio work, weddings, chamber ensembles, orchestra groups, and whatever else comes her way. Currently, she owns her own business teaching cello lessons, which she will continue to do after graduation. Booth enjoys working on her jazz piano chops, learning new instruments, arranging sacred music, hiking, eating sushi, doing yoga, and, most of all, spending time with her husband, Preston.



## JOSH NEEDLES

Bachelor of Fine Arts, *Theatre Arts*

*Outstanding Student in Theatre*

Josh Needles is from Meridian, Idaho, and graduated from Rocky Mountain High School. While at UVU, he got involved as much as possible, including performing in UVU theatrical productions. He also joined the Theatrical Arts Guild (TAG) council at UVU, where he helped originate the Chris Clark Award and the TAG Spotlight Series, and wrote a play which was produced in UVU's Short Attention Span Theatre. He was nominated for Irene Ryan awards and advanced to finals at the KCACTF competition, performed with Sundance Summer Theatre in their production of *Mamma Mia!*, and was featured in a Hallmark Christmas movie. Josh says that he learned how to be a more empathic and understanding human being in his time at UVU. After graduation, he plans to work as an actor for a while, get a master's degree, and possibly teach at a university. "I wouldn't have gotten through my degree without my family and friends."

# STUDENT MERIT AWARDS

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**STEPHANIE BARNES**

*Award of Merit, Ballet*

**GRACE KNOX**

*Award of Merit, Ballroom*

**JADYN NELMS**

*Award of Merit, Modern Dance*

**CIERRA PUGMIRE**

*Award of Merit, Theatre Arts Education*

**MIRANDA RICHARDS**

*Award of Merit, Design & Production*

**KAT HAWLEY COOK**

*Award of Merit, Musical Theatre*

**MALLORY THOMAS**

*Award of Merit, Theatre Studies*

**ALEX COBERLEY**

*Award of Merit, Art History*

**TANNER PEREZ**

*Award of Merit, Graphic Design*

**KRISTEN O'DELL**

*Award of Merit, Illustration*

**MICHAEL CHURCHILL**

*Award of Merit, Painting & Drawing*

**ALICIA GOODRICH**

*Award of Merit, Art & Design*

**LANCE MERRELL**

*Award of Merit, Music*

**ALEC LOWE**

*Award of Merit, Commercial Music*

**JENNY TRIPP**

*Award of Merit, Music Education*



# FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

F&S.

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## HILARY DEMSKE

Associate Professor, Music

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Faculty*

Hilary Demske is from Coppell, Texas. She earned a Bachelor of Music in piano performance at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, and an artist diploma (Meisterklasse diploma) in piano performance from the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, Germany. Hilary received a Master of Music in piano performance from The Juilliard School in 2006 and a doctorate of musical arts from The University of Michigan in 2009. She has been a lecturer at the State University of New York-Fredonia, and started as an assistant professor at UVU in 2009, becoming an associate professor in 2015. In 2021, she won the Steinway & Sons Top Teacher Award and composed and released a Navona Records CD original arrangement of Franz Schubert's Winterreise, "Journey for One: A Winterreise Fantasy for solo piano," which received acclaim from Gramophone Magazine. Hilary performs internationally and believes her graduates have limitless possibilities ahead as they more deeply and broadly pursue the arts.



## PETER LEONARD

Lighting Manager, School of the Arts  
Dean's Award of Excellence for Staff

Peter Leonard, originally from Portland, Oregon, has designed over 300 productions for theatre and dance companies nationwide. He received a Perry Award nomination in April 2003 for lighting *Children of Eden*, produced by MOC Musicals. At UVU, he has designed lighting for multiple productions, including the acclaimed 2022 production of *La Bohème*. As lighting manager, Peter leads a team of part-time theatrical electricians in executing the lighting for The Noorda productions and Sundance summer musicals. Before joining UVU to open The Noorda Center, Peter designed shows at University of North Carolina and taught lighting design at CU Boulder. Some of his highlights include lighting the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, NY City Center, Sadler's Wells (London), and Movimentos Festival (Wolfsburg, Germany). His work with playwright and performer Vienna Carroll on *Singin' Wid a Sword in Ma Han* helped the original musical earn the Audience Favorite Award in the NYC Fringe in 2009. To UVU graduates, he says, "Follow your dreams! Who knows where they might take you?"



## TRINITY JOHNSON

Box Office Staff, *The Noorda Center for the Performing Arts*  
*Dean's Award of Excellence for Staff*

Trinity Johnson, from Payson, Utah, is a junior at UVU in the Department of Theatrical Arts for Stage & Screen. She's attending school on the Presidential Scholarship, is a student in the Honors Program, and has a current GPA of 3.9. Since starting school here, Trinity has worked at the Blair Family Box Office, acted in several short films, and directed four episodes for the JSK Stories Web Series "An Open Letter to Isabella Beck." Johnson graduated from high school as the Theatre Sterling Scholar. "Working as an usher in the Box Office allows me to participate in many of the wonderful shows here at UVU," says Trinity. "The work environment is positive and my coworkers are great. I enjoy my shifts and there is always something to smile about (even when it's just the little snacks we get from VIP events)." In her spare time, Trinity enjoys watching Star Trek and baking (she is the unofficially officially designated Blair Family Box Office Birthday Treat Person). She has three younger siblings and a Boston Terrier.



## CHERYLYN WORTHEN

Associate Professor, Music

*Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Cherilyn Worthen, from Chicago, Illinois, holds choral conducting and music education degrees from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in music education from the University of Utah. She directs the Choir School for the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square and is an active guest conductor and clinician throughout the nation for school, church, and community choirs. Her research has been featured at domestic and international conferences including NafME, ACDA, and the 2016 and 2018 Oxford Conducting Institute. She also serves as the Utah chapter president of the American Choral Directors Association. Cherilyn is proud of her work with the UVU Women's Choir, who premiered a piece called "Flight," arranged by Ryan Murphy, at the 2020 ACDA Western Division Conference. She is the inaugural recipient of the Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill Fellowship from the UVU Women's Center to support a project featuring women students and faculty in performance of newly commissioned works. She loves traveling, baking, and spending time with her 18 nieces and nephews.



## CHRISTOPHER HOLMES

Adjunct Professor, Music

*Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Christopher Holmes obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in opera at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, a master's degree from Temple University, taught voice at Texas State University, and performed throughout the country. He returned to his hometown of Provo, Utah, to teach voice at BYU for three years and has taught at UVU for 12 years. With over 35 operatic credits, Christopher has been featured by companies such as Austin Lyric Opera, Central City Opera, Eugene Opera, Opera Idaho, and Phoenix Opera. He recently played Marcello in *La Bohème* in The Noorda's first professional opera. Christopher made his Italian debut in the role of Don Giovanni as a guest artist of Opera Orvieto. He is a parent to three children with his wife, Erin Kramer Holmes. Christopher's favorite part about teaching at UVU is being introduced to the unique talents of so many students and having the gratifying honor and experience of helping them to refine their abilities.

# DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, ACADEMIC ADVISORS, AND OFFICE STAFF

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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Travis Lovell, *Art & Design*

Monica Campbell, *Dance*

Thomas Keck, *Music*

John Newman, *Theatrical Arts for Stage & Screen*

## ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Andrea Calaway

Kristy Giles

Deanna Pitts

Clark Slater

John-David Sorensen

## DEAN'S OFFICE STAFF

Courtney R. Davis, *Dean*

W. James Godfrey, *Associate Dean*

Alex Malone, *Executive Director, The Noorda  
Center for the Performing Arts*

Karen Watson, *Assistant to the Dean – Finance  
Manager*

Erika Stone, *Director of Marketing*

Jennifer McCole, *Administrative Support*

*Your financial contributions can make a real difference by supporting scholarships, performances, and exhibitions in UVU's School of the Arts. For information on how you can help, please contact Dan Dimond at 801-863-5112 or [DDimond@uvu.edu](mailto:DDimond@uvu.edu). All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

