



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

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# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CONVOCATION

MAY 6, 2022



# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## Message From the Dean

1

Dear Graduate,

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on this important day as you finish one chapter in your life and begin another. All of us will never forget the challenging and unprecedented pandemic years that you have survived as a student, but you made it! I commend you on your grit, resilience, and determination. These attributes will serve you well as you seek out your next adventure.

I hope you found your education here at UVU earning a University College degree or certificate to be both challenging and rewarding. That's the way it should be, and you will find that same pattern in life. I hope you can attend our drive-thru convocation. Some students like it better than the traditional ceremony wherein a lot of people like me do a lot of talking. Our convocation event this year again will focus on just you for a moment and allow for great pictures!

I wish you a life full of continued learning. Please remember to thank those people in your life who have made this day possible. In my life, anything I have accomplished wouldn't have been possible without the support of my family, friends, and colleagues. I suspect the same is true for you. If so, be generous in giving thanks.

Now that you have achieved this milestone in your life, you will find great satisfaction in helping others make and achieve their goals. I encourage you to pay it forward.

It has been an honor and privilege to have you be part of University College, and I hope you will remember us fondly now that you are part of the UVU alumni group. I certainly am personally proud of your accomplishments. Please claim the pride that you so richly deserve today as we celebrate.

With confidence in your bright future,

Dr. Forrest G. Williams  
Dean  
University College

# VALEDICTORIANS

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2



## ZOIE BLACK

Associate in Science, *University Studies*

A native of Highland, Utah, Zoie Black attended Lone Peak High School before coming to UVU. At first, Zoie says she had a hard time deciding what she wanted to do with her life, but by taking many different classes in various departments, she was able to explore different fields. “I have learned so much about myself and my interests and feel prepared for my next steps because of the real-life experience I received during my program,” she says. Zoie is grateful for the sense of community at UVU and the great academic and social atmosphere. She maintained a 4.0 GPA and played for UVU’s club tennis team for several years. She says she plans to join a marketing team after graduation to continue learning the principles of a successful business. In the future, she hopes to apply the knowledge and skills gained at UVU to start her own business. “It has always been my dream to start a health wellness business to help people live more fulfilling lives,” she says.



## MICHELYN OUSTRICH

Bachelor of Science, *University Studies*

Michelyn Oustrich graduated from Rubidoux High School in Riverside, California, and now calls Lehi, Utah, her home. She is receiving a bachelor's degree in university studies from UVU. Michelyn first attended UVU in 1992 but did not complete a degree. When she returned in 2020, she was delighted to have a class taught by Ron Hammond, one of the first UVU professors she had in 1992. "I believe Professor Hammond is retiring this year, and it is a bit poetic that we are both finishing our UVU journey at the same time," she says. Michelyn has earned a 3.95 GPA and has already begun work as an office manager at a software company. She is considering further education but enjoying work for now. "One of the most valuable skills I have learned as a student at UVU is how to think critically and articulate my point of view," she says. "These skills will not only help me in a business environment but also as a citizen of the world." Michelyn says she could not have achieved her educational goal of earning a bachelor's degree without the support of her loving husband and five children.

# FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

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4



## LINDSEY GERBER

Associate Professor, *Developmental Math*  
*Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Lindsey Gerber is a native of McKinney, Texas, and currently holds the position of assistant department chair of Developmental Mathematics at UVU. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics education from Tarleton State University and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from Texas State University-San Marcos. She has taught at UVU for nearly nine years and received tenure in 2019. "I became a professor to teach, and UVU is a university focused on teaching," Lindsey says. "The one reason why teaching is so important to me is that I love to see my students transform as learners. It is a great feeling when that light bulb in their head goes off and they understand the math concepts I am teaching." Lindsey earned the UVU Dean's Faculty Service Award in 2019. She and her husband, Justin, have three children under the age of five, which limits her time for hobbies.



## ERIKA JOHNSON

*Assistant Professor, Literacies and Composition  
Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Erika Johnson is from El Paso, Texas, and is currently an assistant professor of Literacies and Composition at UVU. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and American literature, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies from The University of Texas at El Paso. During her graduate studies, Erika's work as a writing tutor and as a police records specialist for the El Paso Police Department inspired her to pursue the study of rhetoric. She went on to earn her doctoral degree in rhetoric and a graduate certificate in multicultural women's and gender studies from Texas Woman's University. As a member of the UVU Literacies and Composition department's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee, Erika helps to educate faculty, staff, and students on recognizing and addressing microaggressions in the classroom, honoring multilingualism, and adding to the department's DEI lexicon. Erika loves all things sci-fi. Her advice to UVU graduates is to value and embrace justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.



## THERESA HAUG-BELVIN

Assistant Professor, *Student Leadership and Success Studies*  
*Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Theresa Haug-Belvin is from Bonne Terre, Missouri, and is currently an assistant professor of Student Leadership and Success Studies at UVU. She earned a bachelor's degree in education with an emphasis in social studies/secondary education and a master's degree in administration with an emphasis in public administration from Southeast Missouri State University. She earned a doctorate in education with an educational leadership emphasis from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Theresa joined the Department of Student Leadership & Success Studies at UVU in the fall of 2019 and is the faculty director of the UVU Mentor Program. "Working with curious, motivated, and creative students has been the best part of working at UVU," Theresa says. "I am fortunate enough to teach courses in leadership and mentoring where I get to see students take what they learn and apply it to their own lives to become better people." Theresa lives in Saratoga Springs with her husband, Paul. They have one son, Isaac, who is 13 years old, and a seven-year-old Chihuahua named Paco who is benevolent enough to let them live in his house. Together, they like to hike, bike, and kayak.





## SERENA BUSS

Adjunct Instructor, *Mathematics*  
*Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

A native of Orem, Utah, Serena Buss is currently an adjunct instructor and math mentor program coordinator at UVU. She received an associate degree in performing and fine arts from Ricks College, a bachelor's degree in business management from Brigham Young University, and a master's degree in public administration from Brigham Young University. Serena is passionate about assisting students in their educational journeys – she believes we can all learn from each other. She has been an adjunct instructor at UVU since 2009. “I love that UVU is focused on students, inclusion, and diversity,” Serena says. She loves the outdoors, woodworking and home improvement projects, traveling, and making music. She plays the violin, guitar, banjo, piano, mandolin, and anything else she can get her hands on. Serena raised two amazing boys as a single parent and is a champion of the underdog and the LGBTQIA+ community. Her advice to UVU's graduating class is: “Grit is a skill you develop when you do what needs to be done, even when you don't feel like it. Take advantage of opportunities to learn, grow, and develop – even if it is difficult!”



## MELISSA GOODSELL DAVIS

Adjunct Instructor, *Literacies and Composition*  
*Faculty Senate Award of Excellence*

Melissa Davis hails from Alpine, Utah, and is currently working as an adjunct professor of Literacies and Composition at UVU. She earned a bachelor's degree in English with an emphasis in literary studies, and a master's degree in English, both from Utah State University. Melissa began teaching composition courses both face-to-face and online for Utah State University in 2002. She also worked in the Writing Center at Utah State University to help guide students through the writing process. She has taught a variety of courses for four different universities and currently teaches as an adjunct professor at both UVU and Brigham Young University-Idaho. "My favorite thing about working at UVU is the students," Melissa says. "I have learned so much from them as I have watched them navigate really challenging things in their lives and also witnessed some of their successes. I have seen a lot of determination, courage, kindness, inclusiveness, and empathy." Melissa has been married to her spouse, John, for 21 years. Together, they have four children. Some of her hobbies are traveling, playing the fiddle, and being outdoors.



## CALLEY MAROTTA

Assistant Professor, *Literacies and Composition*  
*Dean's Award of Excellence for Inclusion*

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Calley Marotta is an assistant professor of Literacies and Composition at UVU. She received a bachelor's degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master's degree in humanities from the University of Chicago, and a master's degree in teaching from Pace University. Calley began her career as a K-12 special education teacher in New York City public schools, and she has since taught writing in college composition, writing centers, and community contexts. Her teaching values students' everyday literacy practices and centers on writing and linguistic justice. Her research, which has most recently focused on race, literacy, and labor, uses participatory and ethnographically inspired methods to position writers' lived experiences as valuable knowledge. Calley is grateful to her teachers: the writers who participated in her dissertation study and are employed as university custodial staff; the Testimonio Group writers; the students, families, and communities at PS57 and Bushwick Elementary; the writings of feminist/womanist scholars like Tara Yosso, Audre Lorde, and Gloria Anzaldúa; and her mentors — especially Elena Garcia at UVU. Calley would like to thank Ryan and Ella for being her partners in all things.



## DARIN ECKTON

Associate Professor, *Student Leadership and Success Studies*  
*Dean's Award of Excellence in Scholarship*

A native of Redlands, California, Darin Eckton is an associate professor and the chair of the Department of Student Leadership and Success Studies at UVU. He received a bachelor's degree in Spanish teaching, a master's degree in sociology, and a doctorate in education from Brigham Young University. Darin has a student-centered perspective, having spent over two decades in both student and academic affairs advising, teaching, and administration at four different institutions. Darin loves to design curricula and learning experiences that help students make the connection between theory and practice by way of innovative projects, research, and practical skill-building. He is married to Dr. Betsy Eckton, a retired educator, and they have six children. Darin enjoys participating in Ironman triathlons and marathons. He says his favorite thing about UVU is working closely with students, empowering them to succeed in life and helping them become meaningful contributors to the world.



## **BENJAMIN JOHNSON**

*Associate Professor, Student Leadership and Success Studies  
Dean's Award of Excellence for Service*

Benjamin Johnson calls both Santa Barbara, California, and Provo, Utah, home. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Student Leadership and Success Studies. Benjamin received bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Brigham Young University, along with a minor in computers and humanities. He earned an additional master's degree in education and a doctorate in educational philosophy and psychology (Educational Policy & Leadership) from The Ohio State University. He became a Faculty Innovation Fellow after completing the Teaching and Learning Studio for Design Thinking at Stanford University. Benjamin is also a Senior Fellow in the Higher Education Academy. He served as an outreach coordinator in the Walter E. Dennis Learning Center at The Ohio State University before joining UVU in 2013. Benjamin loves helping students from all backgrounds develop and enhance their academic strengths. He believes the greatest aspect of working at UVU is watching students work hard to improve their prospects for the future. Benjamin enjoys hiking, ultimate frisbee, Dutch Golden Age paintings, trying out his Dutch and French language skills, spending time with his family and friends, and working with great students.



## LUCY CASTRO

Coordinator, *English Language Learning*  
*Dean's Award of Excellence for Staff*

Hailing from Orem, Utah, Lucy Castro is the operations coordinator for the Department of English Language Learning at UVU. She received a bachelor's degree in international studies from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in business administration from Utah State University. Lucy is an administrative professional with over 25 years of experience in private business, nonprofit, and higher education sectors. Her duties have spanned from startup mentoring programs for local schools to the administration of the UVU summer STEM program known as UVU PREP. Lucy received the Student Affairs Vice Presidential Award of Excellence in 2017. She has worked alongside leaders who have greatly shaped her career perspectives and have motivated her to be a lifelong learner. Lucy says working at UVU fuels her passion for personal educational enrichment and continuous growth. Lucy's daily professional goals are to continuously improve and learn something new every day.



## KRISTEN HORNBERGER

Coordinator, *Math Lab*

*Dean's Award of Excellence for Staff*

Kristen Hornberger is from Orem, Utah, and is currently a coordinator for the UVU Math Lab. She double majored as an undergrad and earned bachelor's degrees in mathematics and criminal justice from UVU and a master's degree in education from Utah State University. After graduating from UVU, Kristen worked as a high school math teacher at Hunter High School in West Valley, Utah, and then at Spanish Fork High School in Spanish Fork, Utah. She loved working with the students at both schools. As Math Lab coordinator, Hornberger hires, trains, and supervises up to 70 student and paraprofessional employees each semester. "I love the work that I do and being a part of helping students succeed in their math courses and finish their degrees," Kristen says. "It's a privilege to work with the amazing students and student employees." Kristen and her husband, David, are parents of two beautiful children and one ridiculous dog. She loves to run and has completed multiple 5K and 10K races, half marathons, and marathons.

# UNIVERSITY STUDIES

## Capstone/Internship Projects

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14

*The bachelor's degree in University Studies is designed to meet the academic and professional objectives of learners whose needs are not addressed through existing degree programs. Candidates for the degree focus on intellectual skills and integrative knowledge by enrolling in general disciplinary courses and specialized knowledge courses, and by completing a capstone or internship experience that further prepares them for their chosen professions or graduate school admission.*

### CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Linda Perfile, *Time for Dinner*  
Andrew Pehrson, *Excellent Business Solutions*  
Tyler McKinnon, *Tangible Fiction*  
Tim Steinmann, *Ceramic Studio Artist Career*  
Kira Smalls, *Promoting Veganism in Utah*  
Cassie Bean, *Fall Risk Prevention for Older Adults*  
Savannah Hanson, *Pop-up Healthcare for Title I Students and Their Families*

### INTERNSHIP PROJECTS

Jessica Ludlam, *Michele Reyes Photography*  
Johnathon Baker, *Brent Brown Toyota*  
Cameron Poulton, *Amazon*  
Samuel Nifong, *Orem City of Public Works*  
Rachel Violand, *Classy Tailoring Studio*  
Brennan Butikofer, *UVU Executive Events*  
Blake Reynolds, *UVU Asian Initiative*  
Devon Durfy, *Bamboo HR*  
Blake Lamb, *Vinli Inc.*  
Kevin Franson, *Divvy*  
Sarah Bertola, *Widow We Do Now*



# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## Employee List

15

### DEAN'S OFFICE STAFF

Forrest G. Williams, *Ed.D., Dean*  
Deborah Marrott, *Ph.D., Associate Dean*  
Christopher Sutherland, *MA, Assistant Dean*  
Cindy Wilkinson, *Administrative Assistant*  
Jim Demary, *Development Director*  
Jan Christensen, *Assistant to the Dean*  
Jordan Kratochvil, *IT Support Administrator*  
Joshua Kratochvil, *IT Systems Specialist*

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ADVISEMENT CENTER

Adam Black, *Director*  
Brienne Malone, *Pre-Health*  
Chad Ostler, *Assistant Director*  
Dana Walker, *Pre-Nursing*  
Denise Fullmer, *Pre-Health*  
Douglas Watson, *Pre-Health*  
Emily Hill, *Pre-Health*  
Heather Bullock, *Pre-Health*  
Jeannine Rushing, *Pre-Health*  
Kris Swanger, *Office Manager*  
Melissa Eiche, *Pre-Health*

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Kristen Nuesmeyer, *Director*  
Emily Argyle, *Counselor*  
Dyan Gordon, *Administrative Assistant*  
Giovana Alisa, *Counselor*  
Marianna Henry, *Counselor*  
Lisa Williamson, *Counselor*

### DEVELOPMENTAL MATHEMATICS

Evelyn Porter, *Department Chair*  
Lindsey Gerber, *Assistant Department Chair*  
Benjamin Moulton, *Professor*  
Clayton Brown, *Associate Professor*  
Darren Wiberg, *Associate Professor*  
David Dean, *Associate Professor*  
Ellen Lehet, *Assistant Professor*  
Cameron Van Wagoner, *Administrative Assistant*  
Eunmi Joung, *Assistant Professor*  
Hazel McKenna, *Professor*  
Jae Song, *Associate Professor*  
Jane Loftus, *Associate Professor*  
John Jarvis, *Associate Professor*  
Jonathan Anderson, *Associate Professor*  
Keith White, *Professor*  
Kuo-Liang Chang, *Associate Professor*  
Max Aeschbacher, *Associate Professor*  
Ofa Ioane, *Associate Professor*  
Roxanne Brinkerhoff, *Associate Professor*  
Thomas Mgonja, *Associate Professor*

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Jim Pettersson, *Department Chair*  
Brooke Bailey, *Lecturer*  
Gayla Amosa, *Student and Faculty Services Coordinator*  
Heidi Condie, *Associate Professor*  
Kevin Eyraud, *Associate Professor*  
Lucy Castro, *Operations Coordinator*

## LITERACIES AND COMPOSITION

Jacqueline Preston, *Department Chair*  
 Benjamin Goodwin, *Professional in Residence*  
 Calley Marotta, *Assistant Professor*  
 Chitralkha Duttagupta, *Associate Professor*  
 Elena Garcia, *Associate Professor*  
 Erika Johnson, *Assistant Professor*  
 Joshua Hilst, *Associate Professor*  
 Kelsey Hixson-Bowles, *Assistant Professor*  
 Sariah Langinbelik, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Melinda Bender, *Professor*  
 Thomas Henry, *Associate Professor*

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP & SUCCESS STUDIES

Darin Eckton, *Department Chair*  
 Angus Macfarlane, *Program Manager*  
 Benjamin Johnson, *Associate Professor*  
 Beth Reid, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Chris Goslin, *Associate Professor*  
 Cynthia Wong, *Associate Professor*  
 Douglas Gardner, *Associate Professor*  
 Lisa Lambert, *Associate Professor*  
 Marinda Ashman, *Associate Professor*  
 Marni Sanft, *Associate Professor*  
 Mike Jensen, *Associate Professor*  
 Renée Borns, *Associate Professor*  
 Stacy Waddoups, *Associate Professor*  
 Tiffany Yoast, *Professional in Residence*  
 Theresa Haug-Belvin, *Assistant Professor*

## TUTORING SERVICES

Leigh Ann Copas, *Director, Writing Center*  
 Nathan James, *Director, Math Lab*  
 Skyler Meeks, *Director, Academic Tutoring*  
 Aubrey Ryan, *Supplemental Instruction  
 Coordinator, Academic Tutoring*  
 Kelsey Hixson-Bowles, *Faculty Director,  
 Writing Center*  
 Kristen Hornberger, *Coordinator, Math Lab*  
 Daren Hodson, *Peer Tutoring Coordinator,  
 Academic Tutoring*  
 Lisa Bell, *Coordinator, Writing Center*

## UVUSA REPRESENTATIVE

Jose Rodriguez, *University College Senator*

