



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

SMITH COLLEGE *of*
ENGINEERING *and*
TECHNOLOGY
CONVOCATION

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SECOND OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR



SMITH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Message From the Dean

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Dear Graduates,

As Dean of the Smith College of Engineering and Technology, it is with great pride and excitement that I extend my warmest congratulations to you all on this momentous occasion. Today marks a significant milestone in your academic journey. One that has been marked by dedication, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Whether you are a mechanical engineer, a culinary chef, or specializing in any other field within our diverse college, your achievements have contributed immensely to the rich tapestry of our institution, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, I want to assure you that the skills and knowledge you have acquired here at the Smith College of Engineering and Technology have equipped you well for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Whether you choose to pursue further studies, enter the workforce, or blaze a trail of your own entrepreneurial endeavors, always remember the strong foundation upon which you stand. Your creativity, innovation, and ingenuity will undoubtedly shape the world in remarkable ways, and I have every confidence that you will excel in whatever path you choose to pursue.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that your journey with us does not end here. As alumni of Utah Valley University, you will forever remain a cherished part of our community. Our doors will always be open to welcome you back, whether for further education, collaboration on projects, or simply to reconnect with old friends and mentors. Wherever your ambitions take you, remember that you have a home here at UVU and in CET. Congratulations once again, and may your future be filled with boundless success, fulfillment, and joy.

Warm regards,

Dr. J. Kelly Flanagan

Dean

Smith College of Engineering and Technology



SMITH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

8:00 am, Thursday, May 2, 2024
UCCU Center

Processional

Welcome Keith Mulbery, *Associate Dean*

UVU Executive Attendee Kyle Reyes, *VP Institutional Advancement*
Marilyn Meyers, *VP People and Culture*
Rasha Qudisat, *CO Engagement and Effectiveness*

Student Senator Address..... Gavin McLaren
Bachelor of Science, Technology Management

Valedictorian Address..... Zachary Ward
Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering

Dean's Address..... Kelly Flanagan, *Dean*

Presentation of Graduates..... Anne Arendt-Bunds, *Associate Dean*

Graduate Callers Thor Anderson, *Digital Media*
Ben Willardson, *Engineering*
Amanda Bordelon, *Engineering*
Jenny MacKenzie, *Digital Media*

Closing Remarks Kelly Flanagan, *Dean*

Recessional

Please join the Smith College of Engineering and Technology at a reception honoring our graduates from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm in parking lot L13.

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



VALEDICTORIANS

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ZACHARY JAMES WARD

Valedictorian Bachelor

Zachary James Ward is from American Fork, Utah, and attended American Fork High School. He earned UVU concurrent enrollment credit while still in high school and is a Presidential Scholarship recipient. While at UVU, Ward published a journal article about machine learning in MDPI Machines, received an award for his work on deep learning at the 2022 Intermountain Engineering, Technology, and Computing Conference, and presented papers about machine learning at several academic conferences in Utah. Ward plans to work for the Air Force as a civilian engineer after graduation. He enjoys programming, reading, and road biking.



LEONARDO MOLINEROS

Valedictorian Associate

Leonardo Molineros is from Santiago, Chile, and attended Liceo Salesiano Manuel Arriarán Barros before coming to UVU. He is receiving an associate degree in information technology. Molineros said UVU helped him make the professional connections necessary to succeed. He most enjoyed his computer forensic classes, the cybersecurity club, and rock climbing at the Student Life & Wellness Center. He plans to further his education with additional certifications and possibly a master's degree.

STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

S.A.

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The following students were recognized at an awards luncheon in early April as being among the best in the Smith College of Engineering & Technology. These students have performed exceptionally well in their classes and have been examples to their classmates and faculty. Many participated in competitions and engaged learning, representing the university throughout the world. They were leaders within their departments, helping and mentoring classmates.

As a group, these students have raised the academic bar in the Smith College of Engineering & Technology. They help us be more engaged within the community and industry, bringing UVU to the attention of nations.



HAILEY PACKARD

Student Excellence, Architecture and Engineering Design

Hailey Packard is from Pocatello, Idaho, and attended Pocatello High School. She is receiving a bachelor's degree in architecture and engineering design. Packard said she fell in love with architecture and its ability to integrate creativity and logic into a real-world product. While at UVU, Packard won second place at the state level of the SkillsUSA competition and served as the chapter president of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art (ICAA). As an older student with children, Packard said she is forever grateful to her family for their support and patience during her studies.



ADAM BUNKER

Student Excellence, Aviation Management

Adam Bunker is originally from Monticello, Utah, and attended Monticello High School. He is receiving a bachelor's degree in aviation management. Bunker said his UVU experience showed him that Utah is at the cutting edge of aviation and taught him how to network well. Adam is also an NCAA Academic All-American in track and field, earning All-WAC Academic Team honors five times. In the future, Bunker plans to run a software company that produces airport management software while pursuing a master's degree at UVU.



KYRA RISENMAY

Student Excellence, Culinary Arts

Kyra Risenmay is from Kennewick, Washington, and attended Pullman High School before coming to UVU. She is receiving an associate degree in culinary arts. Risenmay said UVU's culinary arts program inspired her to pursue her passion in the kitchen with a reasonable tuition cost. She has an internship this summer in Asheville, North Carolina, at the Biltmore Estate in their baking and pastry internship program. In five years, Risenmay hopes to establish and expand a pastry business, selling at local farmer's markets and through social media. Kyra loves spending time with family, playing tennis and pickleball, and has a passion for wheel-thrown pottery.



PAUGATA NATALINA MATEAKI

Student Excellence, Software Engineering

Paugata Natalina Mateaki is from Vineyard, Utah, and attended Timpview High School. She is receiving a bachelor's degree in software engineering. She said she has a deep appreciation for all her professors at UVU, especially the opportunity to work as one of two research assistants under Dr. JP Tang, gaining hands-on experience in processing and analyzing data through sentiment analysis techniques. Mateaki plans to continue attending UVU to pursue a master's degree. Her husband and her four-year-old daughter have both been her number-one supporters and motivators throughout this journey.



KELTON HARTVIGSEN

Student Excellence, Construction Management

Kelton Hartvigsen is from Springville, Utah, and attended Springville High School. He is receiving a bachelor's degree in construction management. Hartvigsen said his proudest achievement is graduating in just two years, along with maintaining a 3.86 GPA and making the Dean's List every semester. Hartvigsen has already secured a professional position as a construction scheduler. He dedicates his success to his incredible wife, Katelynn, and their beautiful baby boy, Rhett.



TANNER MAHOVSKY

Student Excellence, Digital Audio

Originally from Grand Junction, Colorado, Tanner Mahovsky attended Fruita Monument High School. He is receiving a bachelor's degree in digital audio, with a minor in music and a certificate in digital media. After two years of studying music at another institution, Mahovsky transferred to UVU to study the more technical aspects of sound. He has served as the digital audio program's studio manager, spending hundreds of hours helping teach the next generation of UVU graduates. After graduation, Mahovsky hopes to work in the video game industry as a technical sound designer. He is a huge fan of houseplants and has a pet skink named Toffee.



MASON DAVIS

Student Excellence, Computer Engineering

Mason Davis is from Cedar Hills, Utah, and attended Lone Peak High School. He is receiving a bachelor's degree in computer engineering with a minor in computer science. During his junior year, Davis had the opportunity to join a research project with Dr. Mohammad Shekaramiz tackling the detection of forest fires using machine learning. He is proudest of being published twice as an undergraduate. Davis hopes to continue applying what he has learned and explore teaching in the future. He said the best part of attending UVU is the professors because they care about students and want to see them succeed.



DAY RODRIGUEZ

Student Excellence, Civil Engineering

Day Rodriguez is originally from Veracruz, Mexico, and attended Provo High School. She is receiving a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Rodriguez was encouraged to study at UVU after participating in a high school leadership club. She said her UVU experience has changed her life, providing her with opportunities for multiple different internships, including with Rio Tinto Kennecott and with UVU's Presidential Intern Program. In 2021, she served as the student senator for the Smith College of Engineering. She also served as the president of the UVU chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Rodriguez plans to move to Chicago to continue her career in engineering after graduation.



JAYDEN KAY PETERSON

Student Excellence, Automation and Electrical Technology

Jayden Kay Peterson is from Orem, Utah, and was home-schooled prior to taking classes at UVU. She is receiving an associate degree in automation and electrical technology. Peterson began taking concurrent enrollment classes from UVU during her homeschool experience. In 2023, she competed in SkillsUSA and won a gold medal at the state level and a bronze medal at nationals in industrial motor control. She has also been on the Dean's List for two years straight. Peterson plans to start working as an automation technician after graduation. She married the love of her life, Mitchell, in 2024. Peterson enjoys being active and has completed five Spartan obstacle course races.



ERIC PINCKNEY

Student Excellence, Systems and Network Administration

Eric Pinckney is from Lehi, Utah, and attended Lehi High School. He is receiving a bachelor's degree in systems and network administration. Pinckney said he most appreciated the straightforward and applicable nature of UVU's classes — he would learn something in class and be able to apply it to his job the next day. He is proudest of balancing his studies with full-time work and family duties and is grateful for UVU's flexibility and willingness to work with his requests as he navigated his undergraduate education. Pinckney plans to follow his career wherever it takes him and eventually return to a management position somewhere in Silicon Slopes.



GAVIN MCLAREN

Student Excellence, Technology Management

Gavin McLaren is receiving a bachelor's degree in technology management, an associate degree in information systems and technology, and several Certificates of Proficiency. He also previously received his GED at UVU. McLaren has served in many capacities within the Smith College of Engineering, including as a department representative and as this year's CET student senator, actively working with both his peers and administration to create an even better UVU experience. McLaren says he chose to study at UVU because he liked what he saw within the technology program offerings and felt that he would have the freedom to pursue what was important for him and have the support to succeed.

HUNTER WALKER

Student Excellence, Transportation Technologies

Hunter Walker, a native of Lindon, Utah, is currently immersed in the study of transportation technology, driven by the ambition to become proficient in working on vehicles while indulging his love for driving and automotive maintenance. Embracing the supportive atmosphere of UVU, Walker appreciates the institution's openness and ease of access, which have facilitated his academic journey. Eager to progress in his career, Walker aims to climb the ranks within his workplace, dedicated to refining his skills and evolving into a highly skilled technician. Walker is committed to realizing his aspirations and excelling in the field of transportation technology.

GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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SHAYDAN WALKER

*Graduate Student Excellence, Engineering and Technology
Management (MS-ETM)*

Shaydan Walker is from Tooele, Utah, and attended Tooele High School. He is receiving a master's degree in engineering and technology management. Walker previously received a bachelor's degree from Southern Utah University in engineering technology. He currently works for Precision Property Measurements in a leadership position, which drove him to pursue further education at UVU. Walker said he has most enjoyed the immediate application of lessons from various classes to his current work life. He plans to continue developing his management skills and eventually start his own business. Walker enjoys golf, football, basketball, and moments with friends, family, and his two dogs.



KEVIN HALES

Student Excellence, Cybersecurity

Kevin Hales is from Lehi, Utah, and attended Spanish Fork High School. He is receiving a master's degree in cybersecurity. Hales, his wife Claudia, and his four children have all attended and graduated from UVU in some capacity. He says the culture, individualized attention, and strength of the cybersecurity program were all determining factors in attending UVU for his graduate studies. Hales has authored several Cisco Certification Series books, and when not stuck behind a keyboard, he loves spending time traveling or being outdoors with his family. His hobbies include mountain biking, hiking, camping, and HAM radio.



DANIEL ANTONIO RAZO

Student Excellence, Computer Science

Daniel Antonio Razo is from Chula Vista, California, and attended Bonita Vista High School before coming to UVU. He is receiving a master's degree in computer science. Razo said he enjoyed the smaller-sized classes at UVU, which allowed him to make good connections and friendships with professors. After graduation, he plans to pursue a doctoral degree, work full-time as a data scientist, or work composing music for video games. Razo is grateful for the support of his closest friends and family, especially his mother. He enjoys writing music, dancing, and cooking.



UTAH VALLEY

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FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

F&S

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TODD PALMER

*Assistant to the Dean, Operations and Finance
Staff Award of Excellence*

Todd Palmer is from Lindon, Utah, and holds an associate degree in business management from UVU along with a bachelor's degree in agriculture systems and technology from Utah State University. He served in numerous positions before UVU, including as CFO/COO for Apex Youth Centers. Palmer was named Salt Lake Magazine's Landscape Designer of the Year and has served on the state fundraising committee for Utah's Human Rights Coalition for five years. Palmer said he cherishes the relationship he has with faculty, staff, and students at UVU. He enjoys helping them achieve success in their pursuits.



BRENDON BALL

*Student Employee
Staff Award of Excellence*

Brendon Ball is a dedicated student at UVU, currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science while also serving as the computer science student representative. Ball finds immense joy in the camaraderie and collaboration among his CET coworkers, which fuels his passion for helping make UVU a better place for all students. Beyond academics, Ball's ultimate priority post-graduation is to excel in his role as a father, emphasizing the importance of family above all else. He extends heartfelt gratitude to his fellow representatives, Senator McLaren, and esteemed professors Dr. Rudolph, Dr. Arendt, and Dr. Harrison, whose support and guidance have been invaluable throughout his academic journey.



L. RODAYNE ESMAY

Professor, Digital Media

Dean's Award of Excellence for Teaching

L. Rodayne Esmay is originally from South Jordan, Utah, and holds a master's degree from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University. Prior to UVU, he spent 19 years as a tech industry professional, specializing in digital multimedia design and animation. Esmay has received multiple awards, including Multimedia Instructor of the Year from the Utah State Office of Education and the UVU Trustee Award for Teaching Excellence. Esmay is the father of five amazing kids, two of whom received degrees from UVU.



ZACHERY TAYLOR

*Associate Professor/Department Chair, Transportation Technologies
Service Excellence Award*

Zachery Taylor is from Spanish Fork, Utah, and has earned a master's degree in education from Southern Utah University and a bachelor's degree in technology management from UVU. At a young age, Taylor was fascinated by cars and trucks. He has held numerous teaching positions in collision repair at the high school and university level, including 10 years teaching at Spanish Fork High School. Taylor has served as a SkillsUSA advisor for collision repair technology and automotive refinishing technology since 2007 and has coached and mentored more than 30 students who have placed at state and national competitions. He loves hunting and fishing in the beautiful mountains near UVU.



ARMEN ILIKCHYAN

*Associate Professor, Technology Management
Service Excellence Award*

Dr. Armen Ilikchyan earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Saint-Petersburg State Institute of Technology in Russia in 2001. He also holds a master's degree in industrial technologies from Bowling Green State University and a Ph.D. in technology management from Indiana State University. He has had a broad range of experiences in the IT industry, having worked in tech support, system administration, and corporate sales management, giving him a unique perspective on the intersection between technology and business. Ilikchyan said the most rewarding aspect of working at UVU is the opportunity to engage with students from a wide range of backgrounds and interests.



MOHAMMAD SHEKARAMIZ

*Assistant Professor, Engineering
Scholarship Excellence Award*

Dr. Mohammad Shekaramiz is from Orem, Utah, and holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Utah State University. Since joining UVU, he has published eight peer-reviewed journal papers and 20 peer-reviewed conference papers, mostly with UVU undergraduate students, and developed the Machine Learning and Drone Lab at UVU. In 2023 Shekaramiz received the Faculty Senate Faculty Excellence Award for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. He said the best part of working at UVU is working closely with undergraduate students, boosting their knowledge, and seeing their growth. He enjoys playing pool, table tennis, and cards.

**KHALED SHAABAN***Professor, Engineering**Faculty Senate, Faculty Excellence Award*

Dr. Khaled Shaaban is originally from Egypt and holds master and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering from the University of Central Florida. He has received numerous teaching awards, including the Outstanding Teaching Award and the Excellence in Teaching Award at Qatar University and various awards at UVU, including the Senior Fellow of Higher Education Academy, Service-Learning Super Star Teaching Award, and SPOT Teaching Award. His scholarly contributions have significantly advanced knowledge in the field of transportation engineering, particularly in areas such as active transportation, driver behavior, and sustainable transportation practices. Shaaban said the most rewarding aspect of his role at UVU is the chance to enrich the learning journey of engineering students.



CET DEPARTMENT CHAIRS/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Architecture Engineering Design

Sid Smith, *Department Chair*

Natalie Baldwin, *Admin III*

Construction Technologies

Robert Warcup, *Department Chair*

Tracy Eubanks, *Admin III*

Computer Science

George Rudolph, *Department Chair*

Terry Hill, *Admin III*

Culinary Arts Institute

Troy Wilson, *Department Chair*

Marsha Peterson, *Admin III*

Mary Schumacher, *Admin III*

Digital Media

Kim Brown, *Department Chair*

Kim Shaw, *Admin III*

Engineering Department

Mohammad Masoum, *Department Chair*

Emily Demke, *Admin III*

Engineering Technology

Diana Lundahl, *Department Chair*

Debi Tait, *Admin III*

Information Systems & Technology

Jan Bentley, *Department Chair*

Cheryl Levi, *Admin III*

Technology Management

Susan Thackeray, *Department Chair*

Kellie Johnson, *Admin III*

Transportation Technology

Zac Taylor, *Department Chair*

Katreena Davis, *Admin III*

CET DEAN'S OFFICE STAFF

Kelly Flanagan, *Dean*

Keith Mulbery, *Associate Dean*

Anne Arendt-Bunds, *Associate Dean*

Lauren Hopkinson, *Administrative Assistant*

Todd Palmer, *Assistant Dean Finance and Operations*

Barclay Burns, *Assistant Dean Special Projects*

Stefan Harlan, *Assistant Dean Advancement*

Stacie Brown, *Internship Coordinator*

Maddison Eborn, *Marketing and Communications Manager*

Owen Miller, *STEM Outreach Coordinator*

Julie Marr, *Admin III*

CET ADVISEMENT CENTER

Julie Harps, *Director*
Nixan Davis, *Admin II*
Arlene Padilla Arenaz, *Academic Advisor II*
Becca Brimhall, *Academic Advisor II*
Dave Oakeson, *Academic Advisor II*
Jessica Yakiwchuk, *Academic Advisor II*
Vanessa Alton, *Academic Advisor I*
Kameron Barkle, *Academic Advisor I*
Elizabeth Beesley, *Academic Advisor I*
Dianna Bunker, *Academic Advisor I*
Arcadia Chomjak, *Academic Advisor I*
Lindsey Cracraft, *Academic Advisor I*
Shandi Erickson, *Academic Advisor I*
Lizzie Miller, *Academic Advisor I*
Joyce Porter, *Academic Advisor I*
Marilyn Riddle, *Academic Advisor I*
Swan Saunders, *Academic Advisor I*
Megan Stanley, *Academic Advisor I*
Jordan Miller, *Peer Advisor*
Ezra Mintz-Fernandez, *Assistant Director*
J Waterreus, *Counselor*
Candace Hill, *Counselor*
Joanah Judd, *Counselor*

CET INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Merrill Oveson, *Director*
Trevor Durham, *Technician III*
Chad Tyler, *Technician III*
Andrew Stewart, *Systems Administrator II*
Blake Riding, *Technician III*
Derek Lamb, *Technician III*
Cooper Hopkins, *Systems Specialist I*
Brittany Bierk, *Support Technician I*
Erik Donadel, *Support Technician I*
Cameron Hancock, *Support Technician II*
Jonathan Fimbo, *Support Technician I*
Jacob Jex, *Afternoon Admin*
Mira Bushman, *Morning Admin*
Kevin Van Noy, *Custodian*

Your financial contribution can make a real difference by supporting scholarships, student research, student internships, academic programs, and more in UVU's Smith College of Engineering and Technology. For information on how you can help, please contact Stefan Harlan at stefan.harlan@uuu.edu. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

