DIGGING UP ANCIENT PERU
WITH DR. HAAGEN KLAUS

ALSO INSIDE
UVU’S 1ST MBA COHORT \ PG. 32
UVU CROWNS MISS UTAH \ PG. 38
The Adventures of Bob...cont.

MAN...WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR SOME UP FRONT PARKING.

LOOK AT THAT! HER PLATE SHOWS THAT SHE SUPPORTS UVU SCHOLARSHIPS.

THAT PLATE WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOUR CAR!

UVU

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Utah

UCU

UVU

employee of the month

employee of the month

UVU

Bob, you are a hard worker, you are supporting scholarships at UVU, you are an exemplary employee. We are so lucky to have you.

I WENT TO UVU TOO.

How did you get your license plate?

I WENT TO UVUALUMNI.ORG.

NICE UVU PLATE BOB!

THANKS. IT GOES WELL WITH MY REISSUED UVU DIPLOMA.

DELIVERY FOR A MR. BOB.

ORDER YOUR UVU PLATE TODAY!

www.uvualumni.org/uvuplate

*Purchase of the plate does not guarantee Employee of the Month, though people may think you are a nice person. See your employer for details.
MEN'S BASKETBALL
2010-11 Home Schedule

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THIS SEASON. BE A PART OF THE ACTION!
FUEL THE FIGHT & PACK THE STANDS!

WWW.WOLVERINEGREEN.COM

BEST IN THE WEST
The Alumni Center is home to UVU’s Development & Alumni Division, as well as alumni and friends. The Alumni Center features an elegant, expansive main building, a smaller dwelling occupied by University Marketing & Communications, and immaculate grounds with mature trees and a gazebo. Located on the southeast corner of campus, across from the Extended Education building on 1200 South, the Alumni Center hosts gatherings for campus groups and alumni and can be rented for weddings or other formal events.

PHOTO BY WESTON COLTON
TO MAKE UVU MAGAZINE THE BEST PUBLICATION POSSIBLE, PLEASE HELP US ENHANCE YOUR MAGAZINE EXPERIENCE BY TAKING A SHORT SURVEY AT: uvualumni.org/magazinesurvey

ON THE COVER
UVU’s Haagen Klaus leads a 30-year project that gives anthropology students a chance to get their hands into ancient history in Peru.

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After an unlikely journey to UVU, Akwasi Frimpong has his eyes on a university education and the 2012 Olympics.

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UVU’s first cohort of MBA students bring a diversity of perspectives and enthusiasm to spare.

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Former Miss UVU Christina Lowe is the first alumna to win the Miss Utah crown and represent the Beehive State at the famed Miss America pageant.
UVU Mourns Two Who Died in November Training Flight Accident

UVU HELD A MEMORIAL SERVICE ON Nov. 30 in honor of the aviation instructor and student who were killed during a routine training flight. Jamie Bennee, a 34-year-old certified flight instructor, and David Whitney, a 25-year-old aviation student, died when their Diamond DA 20 aircraft crashed near Wilson Elementary School in Payson, Utah.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and acquaintances of our friends whose lives were cut short, as well as to their colleagues in the aviation science department,” says President Matthew S. Holland.

It was the first fatal accident involving a UVU aircraft in the history of UVU’s aviation program, which includes nearly 400,000 flight hours.

Enrollment Tops 32,000

TAH’S YOUNGEST UNIVERSITY IS ALSO now one of the state’s largest after a 12th consecutive semester of enrollment growth. UVU’s total enrollment grew to 32,670 for fall 2010, putting the University in the company of Utah’s largest institutions of higher learning. UVU added nearly 4,000 students compared to the previous year and crested the 30,000 enrollment mark for the first time.

Over the past four years alone, UVU’s enrollment has grown by about 38 percent, or roughly 9,000 students. In addition to new students, UVU’s enrollment growth was bolstered by and uptick in continuing students, which is up 12 percent over last year. Students from minority populations are also up at UVU. Enrollment of African American students is up 37 percent, Hispanics up 17 percent, Native Americans up 8 percent and Pacific Islanders up 5 percent.
University Partners with Utah Community Credit Union on Naming of Events Center

Beginning on Aug. 30, Utah Valley University’s events center became known as — for at least the next decade — the UCCU Center. UVU officials inked a 10-year, $2.5 million naming rights agreement with Utah Community Credit Union and celebrated the two institutions’ continuing partnership during a brief news conference.

The naming rights opportunity was made possible after the original donor of the McKay Events Center contacted the University earlier and generously requested that the McKay named be transferred to UVU’s Education Building in order to free up a naming rights sponsorship for a new source of private funding. In wobbly economic times, the funding provides much-needed resources for one of Utah’s fastest growing public universities.

Founded in 1955, UCCU is a Utah Valley-based full service banking organization that has in excess of 106,000 members, 18 branches in three counties (including one on campus in the Sorensen Student Center), and assets totaling $730 million.

Steinway Celebration, Featuring The Five Browns, Extols UVU’s All-Steinway Status

To thank donors, friends of the University and the campus community, UVU President Matthew S. Holland hosted a night of world-class piano performances on Sept. 10 in recognition of UVU acquiring All-Steinway School status in the past year.

Among the guest artists were the internationally renowned Utah quintet, The Five Browns, and Hilary Demske, a Juilliard School-trained classical contemporary recording artist and a faculty member in UVU’s music department.

Through generous contributions totaling more than $1 million, UVU was able to upgrade most of its pianos to concert quality Steinway & Sons grand pianos, a rare and prestigious benchmark for slightly over 100 universities and colleges in the nation. The designation is also a reflection of UVU’s commitment to excellence in arts and culture.

Theater’s "Antigone" Sets Attendance Record

Prior to the start of the 2010-2011 academic year, UVU President Matthew S. Holland challenged incoming freshman to read “Antigone” and then meet at his home to discuss the mythological classic. In October, the UVU theater department broke attendance records with a stage adaptation of the Greek tragedy.

On Oct. 11, the outdoor production of Antigone garnered an audience of 524, and the aggregate attendance for all four days in which the play was shown totaled 1,707. Part of the reason was increased interest due to the play’s connection to the president’s reading challenge, and part of it was due to the outdoor venue, which could accommodate more than any indoor theatrical space at UVU. The Ragan Theatre, UVU’s largest performance stage, has 402 seats. The play received warm praise from the record crowd.

In connection with President Holland’s freshman reading challenge, UVU’s production of "Antigone" set attendance records.
UVU Partners with Community to Establish On-Campus Student Food Pantry

In a recessed economy, some falling on hard times need a bit of extra help when it comes to food security — even students. For that purpose, UVU’s Volunteer & Service Learning Center recently joined forces with Community Action Services Food Bank in Provo to set up an on-campus food pantry resource for students.

From its location in the Losee Center for Student Success, organizers held a ribbon cutting for the UVU food pantry on Sept. 17. By opening its own food pantry, UVU hopes to decrease hunger and increase healthy eating choices among its student population. UVU students doing a service-learning project identified the need for an on-campus food pantry by asking fellow students what services they wanted on campus.

“We are excited to partner with Community Action Services Food Bank and provide this service to our students,” said Alexis Palmer, director of UVU’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Center. “Not only will the food pantry provide food, but also other community resources that students might not know about.”

University Commemorates Life of Famed Utah Artist Arnold Friberg

Here’s a new work of art in UVU’s collection, and the bronze bust’s subject couldn’t be a more widely revered and gifted artist.

UVU President Matthew S. Holland, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and Elder Robert D. Hales of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints joined dignitaries and others guests in unveiling the bust of late artist and illustrator Arnold Friberg during a Sept. 16 gala at the UVU Library.

The bust was commissioned by UVU and crafted by noted Western sculptor Ed Fraughton, a close friend of Friberg’s. Fraughton and others said the evening was not only a lifetime tribute to the celebrated illustrator, but also his wife, Heidi, and family members who were special guests at the event.

Perhaps most famous for his 1975 “Prayer at Valley Forge” depiction of the American Revolution’s Gen. George Washington, Friberg possesses a portfolio that is as diverse as it is deep. His other notable works include a series of paintings depicting scenes in The Book of Mormon for the LDS Church, a set of calendars of Canadian Mounties, and a commission to paint a series of some of college football’s most spectacular moments. Hollywood director Cecil B. DeMille used a series of paintings he commissioned by Friberg as the conceptual art to create the look and feel of his classic 1956 epic, “The Ten Commandments.”

UVU Vice President Honored with Prestigious Award for Administration

ORY L. DUCKWORTH, UTAH VALLEY University’s vice president for student affairs, was awarded the Eileen Tosney Award for Distinguished Service on Nov. 5 in Washington, D.C., by the American Association of University Administrators.

For the past seven years, Duckworth has earned a reputation at the University and within the state higher education system for being innovative, creative and possessing an extensive understanding of the role of effective administration. Among his accomplishments are the significant expansion of UVU athletics in gaining Division I status, creating the Losee Center for Student Success and developing a multi-year enrollment marketing strategy that helped UVU meet its enrollment goals.

“Cory is a modest individual. He doesn’t seek awards, although he is constantly nominating members of his staff for various awards,” says Michelle Taylor, Duckworth’s associate vice president for student services and enrollment, who submitted the nomination. “He deserves to be recognized for his outstanding leadership service.”
Join the fun

Kid’s Night
Monday January 24th
Activity Center
6:00 pm

Alumni Center Breakfast
Wednesday January 26th
Alumni Center
8:00 - 10:00 am

Alumni Pre-game Party
Saturday January 29th
UCCU Center
6:00 pm

Homecoming Game
Saturday January 29th
UCCU Center
7:00 PM

uvualumni.org/homecoming
The Noorda Regional Theatre Center for Children & Youth was made possible by Tye and the late Ray Noorda, who made the largest single one-time donation ever to UVU in connection with the facility. The theater is located on the east side of the Gunther Technology building and includes a high-tech black box theater that provides an intimate setting for the theater’s productions and a space for children and youth to discover the performing arts. The center is one of five structures selected by the Utah chapter of the Architect’s Institute Association for a “best design” award.
Thanks in large part to the generosity of Hal Wing, of Little Giant Ladders fame, UVU has a new home for its track and field athletes. Completed in 2010, the Hal Wing Track & Field facility is the result of more than six years of planning and fundraising for the $1.5 million complex. UVU athletes were extremely competitive prior to the facility’s completion, and they were excited about the advantage they would have with a place to practice and compete on campus. In fact, when it was announced that Wing’s donation would make the project possible, many of the athletes broke down in tears.
Students to Share the Stories of the Middle East

There is a stillness about UVU senior Aaron Wood as he speaks in soft, humble tones about his groundbreaking work. He’s a peaceful man talking of peace in the Middle East. And listening to him, one can believe it just may be possible.

“My desire is to work toward meaningful change for those villagers,” Wood says, referring to the many Palestinian refugees scattered in camps or villages throughout the West Bank, Jordan and Israel.

Wood is majoring in Integrated Studies with emphases in social science and peace and justice studies. His engaged learning work is unique, in that it has become his focus and his passion, not just an experience for school.

As an intern with UVU’s Peace and Justice Studies honors integrated program in December 2009, he helped lay the groundwork for a Middle East study abroad program set to start summer semester of 2011, so there UVU students can understand the full meaning of peace and justice outside of the classroom. Faculty and students in the program will spend two weeks in Jordan and two weeks in the West Bank and Israel, taking university courses and serving with non-government organizations in villages there.

His work set the stage for this summer’s visit by professors Laura Hamblin, John MacFarlane, and Lars Eggersten, all members of the Peace and Justice Studies Executive Committee. The UVU faculty visited institutional and organizational leaders in Syria, Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank. Wood accompanied them, along with four other integrated studies students.

“UVU is committed to global ethical engagement. Taking students to the Middle East where they will engage people who are intimately involved in, and knowledgeable about, the problems and solutions in those places, seems to be the very epitome of engaged learning,” says Michael Minch, director of the Peace and Justice Studies program. “Our students are, and will be, learning peace-building skills from people who are experts. What could be more important?”

After the visit, Aaron and his wife, Luma Al-Awajneh, also a senior in Peace and Justice Studies, stayed on. The couple went back to Luma’s childhood residence and lived among the 150,000 Palestinian refugees in the Baqa’a refugee camp north of Amman, Jordan, for the rest of the summer.

Their goal, sponsored by a UVU Presidential Grant, was to learn from the villagers who must live and function amid the area’s political conflicts. Aaron and Luma hope to gather the villagers who must live and function amid the area’s political conflicts. Aaron and Luma hope to gather the villagers’ oral histories, record them and publish them in a book or article. The Woods used their most recent school break in December to continue this work.

Aaron feels the insights from the villagers who must eke out a living in a war zone will be essential for those worldwide who are studying the region and trying to resolve its conflicts.

“I’ve spent time learning from the people how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict affects them daily. I’ve learned firsthand how negotiations are conducted, and what the strategies are,” he says. Aaron’s engaged learning has become engaged “doing.” He and Luma plan to return to the Middle East after attending graduate school.

“I want to continue working with non-profits and work toward meaningful change in the Middle East,” Aaron says. His wife agrees.

“I think I’ve always been interested in this field. Living in the refugee camp prepared me. My life has been going in this direction since I was a child,” Luma says in her quiet accent.
PRSSA Scores High in First Try

ara Taylor Johnson graduated in April 2010, and because of her UVU education and her experience at a national public relations competition, she was immediately hired to direct and create a new division for the Provo company Property Solutions International, the 136th fastest growing company in America according to Inc 500. In just her first few months, she’s developed business plans, Web content and marketing materials, and created social media platforms for the company.

“I have used the skills I learned from the UVU PR program and the Bateman competition in every task I’ve been asked to do,” Johnson says.

The Bateman competition is a yearly event put on by the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), in which roughly 100 collegiate chapters compete to create a viable PR campaign for an actual client. The 2010 client was the U.S. Census Bureau. The teams had to plan and execute a campaign that encouraged the college-age population to fill out their census forms.

Though it was UVU’s first year in the competition, the team landed in the top 20.

“We’re excited about the recognition this brings the school as well as how many of our students have been able to use their work in the competition to further their career in PR,” says Farah Chase-Dunn, PRSSA adviser.

Chad Waite ’10 is a fellow Bateman teammate who also was immediately hired by Property Solutions at graduation. He credits his hands-on experiences at UVU. “School is so often about planning and ‘theoretical’ problems, but this gave me good experience in the actual process of executing a plan. You exit this school actually knowing how to use these tools,” he says.

For the 2011 competition, the UVU PRSSA has culled two Bateman Teams. The challenge is to build brand awareness and expand outreach for Ally Financial. The teams must find a way to educate low- to moderate-income individuals, households and communities on the resources available for financial education.

In the spirit of engaged learning, UVU’s Art & Visual Communications department was given an assignment in a graphic design course for students to lay out an article in this publication. See the spread chosen by instructors, designed by Amanda Boshard (pictured), on page 38.
DURING THE FALL 2010 SEMESTER, UVU added nearly 4,000 students compared to the previous year, which accounted for almost half of the growth for the entire state higher education system in terms of total headcount. UVU’s enrollment is now 32,670, marking the first time the institution has crested the 30,000 mark and making Utah’s youngest university one of the state’s largest, as well. UVU’s astronomical growth has been impacted, to some extent, by the sluggish economy — people return to the classroom when prospects are limited. But current growth has been fueled more by choice than by circumstance. As a university, UVU can offer more things to more people and, as a result, students are voting with their feet.

UVU’s total enrollment for fall 2010, an increase of 3,905 from 2009, and 5,974 from 2008.

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UVU’s budget-related full-time equivalent enrollment.

The number of graduate students at UVU, including the 42 who started classes in the new MBA program recently.

UVU currently has three master degrees: education, nursing and business administration.

DEMOGRAPHICS: ETHNICITY

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DATA SOURCES:

UVU DATA COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & INFORMATION
http://www.uvu.edu/iri/
Q&A: Marc Archambault UVU Vice President of Development & Alumni

By Ashley Bott

In August, Utah Valley University welcomed Marc Archambault as the new vice president for development and alumni. His extensive background in higher education development — including assignments at University of Houston, Purdue University and Harvey Mudd Liberal Arts College — allow him to see the potential and facilitate the possibilities for ongoing success at Utah’s youngest university.

You were most recently at Harvey Mudd Liberal Arts College in California. Compare and contrast it with UVU.

I think, to people’s surprise, there are a striking number of similarities between my assignment at Harvey Mudd and UVU. Harvey Mudd is an elite, engineering-based institution with 700 students. Their alumni tend to identify themselves with the character of the institution in different eras, just like here. Some people still think of [UVU] as that little technical college or trade school. They don’t realize we have grown or they don’t quite yet see themselves as a UVU graduate even though it is the same institution. There are also some really big differences. I felt I could only do so much to change the world working with only 700 students. The chance to come here and work with 30,000 students or more and make a big difference in their lives is why I am here. That is an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference.

What has surprised you most about relocating to Utah?

The thing that has surprised me most is the extraordinary level of pride in UVU that my wife and I have encountered since we have been here. I expected it to be high, based on what I saw while I was interviewing and what I learned about the school, but it is through the roof. The school pride exceeds my wildest imaginations.

Utah Valley University is continuing to undergo a transition from state college to be one of the largest universities in Utah. How do you see yourself, in your role as vice president of alumni and development, contributing to that process?

I think that a great deal of this change is going to have to do with funding. To reach our potential as a university, there are a tremendous number of infrastructure elements that we lack. There are going to be vastly more personnel needed to meet the student needs. The students are going to need more classrooms and new labs to take on new majors. That means that private money has to fill the gaps and lead us forward.

How will you reach out to the UVU community?

The challenges and opportunities that face higher education fundraising are dramatically different than they have been in the past. The old ways probably won’t be good enough to succeed in the future because they were intended to work in a different world, different economy, different institution, and a different need for the community. Not only is the community and state counting on us to succeed, there are challengers all around us: a difficult economy, potential competition from other institutions, and other philanthropies that have needs besides us. We are going to have to be pretty clever about what we do.

What can UVU do to increase the involvement of its alumni community?

Ultimately, it is about the students. We need to make sure alumni spend time with our students. We need to involve them more as volunteers. I think that if you have meaningful assignments for people that they feel make a difference, they are going to be very engaged. I just think it is a matter of giving them an opportunity to help.

What do you see as your main contribution to UVU?

I hope our signature contribution is that people remember the great buildings that go up, the scholarships that we create, the endowments that we build and the unrestricted giving we provide for the president to work his magic. I don’t want them to remember the fundraisers or all the hard work that we put in. It is about the students, the faculty, the institution and the community. I hope they forget us. I hope they look around and see amazing things and remember that they did it and we just helped them. I want people to achieve their philanthropic dreams of helping students.

What do you like the UVU community to know about you?

I would like them to know that the power of philanthropy is what is going to make the University succeed. I would like to be part of the community, and I hope to meet like-minded people who want to contribute. Let’s share what we can do.

What would you like UVU to do to increase the involvement of its alumni community?

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UNEARTHING THE TEMPLE OF THE MOON

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL RIGERT | PHOTOS BY JACOB SCOTT
Perhaps similar to scenes depicted in Hollywood movies about the Mayans or Aztecs, Indian Muchik subjects of the Sicán elites were killed in ritual violence, sometimes by the slitting of the throat or more often, poisoning, strangulation, or being buried alive. According to the Sicán religion, the sacrificial offerings, whose bodies were then ritually buried above their dead leaders near the vertical tombs in the necropolis, were believed to be essential to the continuation of life.

And bones aren’t the only clues that Ericksen and her fellow UVU anthropology students are uncovering of the once-mighty society of the Sicán, which in their ancient tongue means “house or temple of the moon.” Since Japanese-American anthropologist Izumi Shimada’s groundbreaking findings beginning in the late 1970s, he and the museum he founded have unearthed a veritable treasure trove of precious burial artifacts, including gold. Religious symbolism depicted on the Sicán funeral masks worn by the dead elite incorporated considerable quantities of gold, as did the deceased leader’s clothing into which thin pieces of the metal were woven. Also buried with the nobles were ceremonial copper tumi knives, jewelry, ceramics and other emblems of material wealth to assist the person into the world of the ancestors.

But despite the presence of this ancient burial bounty — vast quantities of which have been heavily looted during the centuries since the heyday of the Middle Sicán Period (roughly A.D. 900) — the objects of the greatest worth to anthropologists and archaeologists like UVU’s Haagen Klaus, an assistant professor of anthropology, are the well-preserved mummified human remains and skeletons themselves.

Through the burgeoning field of “bioarchaeology,” anthropologists like Klaus are studying and analyzing individual human remains from the royal tombs to learn an eye-popping plethora of information about the individual, and by extension, Sicán life and society.

To that end, Klaus created a 30-year biohistory study in 2003. Each summer since Klaus joined the faculty of UVU in 2008, he and a handful of his UVU anthropology students, like Ericksen, journey to Peru for an in-depth, total immersion (Spanish language skills required) field experience. They’re laboring at the tomb sites and in the lab to learn more about what it meant to be a part of the Sicán kingdom. Currently, Klaus’s project covers three sites, with each containing multiple digs.
“We’re trying to understand the Sicán civilization from every angle possible,” he says. “Inferring and understanding the cultural behavior and its significance in the story of human civilization is what we’re all about here.”

**THE LAMBAYEQUE VALLEY BIOHISTORY PROJECT**

Ericksen’s brushstrokes are deliberate but efficient. She scrapes away dried clay residue and sand, revealing pieces of aged Sicán ceramics at the excavation site of a royal tomb at Huaca Las Ventanas pyramid. Participating in Klaus’s Peruvian bioarchaeology experience this past summer, she is part of a sizable team of Peruvian and American anthropologists’ efforts to recover and preserve this people’s past.

“It’s really fascinating to imagine that there’s a history of an entire culture — and that individuals that make up that culture — somewhere in the ground, waiting to be discovered,” Ericksen said, a nontraditional student in her 40s forging a new career. “And then you have the mystery of trying to put the story together from the artifacts that you find.”

During his years as a graduate student working excavation sites alongside his mentor and Sicán discoverer Shimada, Klaus became mesmerized by the area’s past cultures. He continued to return to Peru after completing his doctoral work at The Ohio State University to begin the current phase of the Lambayeque Valley Biohistory Project. Klaus’s project fills the unique role of focusing on “the biology side of the house,” as he explains it. They’re gleaning facts about the society’s patterns of health, physical activity, diet, DNA, and genetic interaction patterns. Essentially, they’re solving mysteries about the Sicán through the people’s biology.

The students’ sleuthing begins as they excavate artifacts that include human remains at the burial sites. After bringing them to the project’s home base, the Museo Nacional Sicán in Ferreñafe, the students carefully examine and catalog every bone and tooth of individual remains, searching for biological and non-biological traumatic or forensic indicators that reconstruct that person’s life and society.

Employing a variety of techniques, bioarchaeological science is able to show how culture and behavior shape biology, from the structure of DNA, to changes in bone chemistry that can track where people lived during their lives, to patterns of health and disease. Many aspects of a person’s life, from before they were born to old age, are imprinted in the bones and teeth. Bioarchaeologists have learned how to read these telltale signs and use them to once again breathe life into long-dead cultures. From their analyses Klaus and his students can determine a person’s approximate age-at-death, sex, social caste, and detailed reconstructions of diet and economy. And based upon physical evidence related to health, they can determine how an individual perished, especially in the case of human sacrifice victims. That information is then added to a museum computer database where the clues are used to link together pieces of the puzzle into a more complete framework.

“Context is everything,” says Joe Luce, a UVU senior anthropology major from California who has spent two summers in Peru working with Klaus. The refrain is a familiar mantra of their professor’s, and a key to comprehending the connection between individual minute archaeological findings and the greater story of what it means or says about Sicán and societies that followed.

For the first 15 years, the project’s emphasis is on the Middle and Late pre-
Hispanic Periods, including when the Sicán were overthrown around A.D. 1100 by their exponentially more numerous ethnic Muchik commoners. Soon afterward, a different empire, the Chimú, took over, and not long after that, the Inca governed the area. This work surrounds excavation sites both at the Pomac Forest and at the Middle Sicán to Inca Period site of Chotuna near the present-day city of Lambayeque. It was at this location in 2009 that Klaus and colleagues from the Museo Arqueológico Brüning made international headlines (including attention from National Geographic) when they discovered the remains of 33 human sacrifice victims at Huaca Norte.

One of Klaus’s more significant findings thus far during the project has been deciphering the evolving patterns of Sicán human sacrifice. He and colleagues have found evidence at several sites, including Chotuna, to indicate that the practice changed over the years from utilizing male warriors as victims to sacrificing women and children. The Huaca Norte discoveries of human sacrifice by Klaus, his students and local Peruvian anthropologists from 2008–2010 provide documentation of decapitation, chest openings, and possibly, the removal of hearts from the human remains of sacrifice victims. To explain why the practice of human sacrifice were altered is one of the many questions they hope to answer.

The other thrust of Klaus’s Lambayeque Valley research is a brand-new field in Andean archaeology — the study of Colonial Period sites on the valley’s coast established after Francisco Pizarro and his Spanish conquistadors arrived in Peru in 1532. From 2009–2011 this research includes a series of ruined Colonial Era Christian churches and cemeteries in the shoreline ghost town of Eten. Digs this past fall at Eten have yielded a large number of mummies and skeletons, Klaus says. While excavations there are ongoing, preliminary results indicate the Muchik people living in Eten 400 years ago were far healthier than their neighbors. The community somehow “escaped” the negative consequences of conquest and preserved part of the Muchik and Sicán heritages.

“We’re trying to understand the biological, the cultural and the genetic effects of European conquest, because we have no idea what happened here. We don’t know if this was a cultural disaster, we don’t know if it was a biological disaster. We don’t know how, or if, the people adapted to European conquest,” Klaus says.

LEARNING BY DOING

Ericksen, whether excavating artifacts atop Huaca Las Ventanas or analyzing human remains back at the lab at the Sicán Museum, is directly applying the knowledge she gained from anatomy and biological anthropology classes at UVU to engage in real-life bioarchaeology.

“I think we’re getting a tremendously broad spectrum of education about what it takes to be a working archaeologist, a field archaeologist,” she says.

In August, Klaus’s students were finalizing the analysis of human remains from the early Colonial church and cemetery in Eten. One skull had unmitakable and unhealed gash marks on the forehead above the left eye socket, likely from multiple sword blows, says Klaus, and perhaps at the hand of a Spanish conquistador.

Marisa McKane, a UVU anthropology student from Sandy, Utah, studied as her first burial project remains that have come to be known Integrated Studies senior, slowly removed the hardened adobe residue was what they believe is
the largely intact remains of a native woman from the Middle Sicán era. She was buried on the top of a sealed tomb that Klaus and students are currently excavating with the Sicán Museum.

“As time went on, we became more and more independent. I can’t even count how many burials I’ve [analyzed]. Probably over 100 just by myself,” McKane says.

During the Peru field experience, Bentley says she’s developed strong professional relationships with Klaus, her classmates and with the Peruvian and international researchers they’ve worked alongside. The bioarchaeology they’ve been involved with has affected the residents of the Lambayeque both as a society and personally, she says.

“You get to talk to taxi drivers who know who your director is, because they’re famous down here. Archaeology has given [the people] an identity that they didn’t have before ... It was kind of stripped away by the colonization of Spain but is being rediscovered through scientific archaeology.”

Klaus calls the hands-on, get-your-hands-dirty involvement of UVU students in his biohistory study in Peru one of the most natural elements of his professional academic career. His field school in Ferreñafe, he says, was specifically designed for UVU students to participate in research through teaching, and vice versa. Rather than simply tasking his students with largely inconsequential intern-type duties and assignments, Klaus has his students working side-by-side with him as peers and colleagues, he says. Two of his students, Luce and Bentley, are currently crafting senior theses regarding conclusions of their anthropological contributions to the Lambayeque Valley Biohistory Project.

“As I watch this, one of the most satisfying things that, as a professor, I can ever experience is that you see them literally own it. It becomes part of them, it becomes part of their work,” he says. Klaus adds that “owning it” extends far beyond the fact that his students will be co-authors on the resulting papers, presentations or book chapters of their exploration.

“It becomes something much more internalized. It becomes a fundamental experience where it’s not just academic, but it’s engagement,” Klaus says. “It is expanding, broadening and deepening one’s horizons on life and time, history, and human existence.”

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© THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE HUACA RODILLONA, FACING NORTH
A cool new space for the coolest things.
UVU JUNIOR & TRACK STAR AKWASI FRIMPONG has a message, one that he learned 17 years ago from his grandmother and that he wants to share with as many people as possible. He uses this advice daily on the road to his dream of competing in the 2012 Olympics.

“You can achieve a lot with little resources as long as you keep believing in yourself,” he says with passion and excitement in his eyes.
Akwasi Frimpong had a unique journey to UVU. Now, he’s vying for a shot at the Olympics.
In late 2004, an ankle injury derailed his Olympic dreams. Because he was an undocumented immigrant, no doctor would treat him. Finally, physiotherapist Michael Davidson, who had been following his story, offered his services for one euro. He treated Frimpong, but it took three long years before he was fully recovered.

Still, once the physical recovery was complete, the mental part was not. Frimpong had lost some of his speed, and the toll of being a nomad was wearying.

About that time, he met some study-abroad students from Utah and heard about running opportunities here. He sent his athletic profile to UVU Track Coach Scott Houle. He was offered a scholarship to UVU, as well as scholarships from UCLA, Arizona State University and others.

“The best offer, school system-wise and scholarship-wise came from UVU. I am in the best environment for engaged learning and to practice on a high level,” Frimpong says. “Utah is also really pretty and child-friendly, and I love that kind of environment.”

He has become an essential part of UVU’s track team. Herunsthete100-meter, the 200-meter and 4X100 meter relay. In May 2010, Frimpong helped the relay team break the school record during the 2010 Great West Championships, with a time of 41.05 seconds. This earned them the silver medal.

“Akwasí’s a hard worker, has great goals, and a strong desire and work ethic. He’s a natural leader,” Houle says.

Because of the opportunity to train at UVU, Frimpong has renewed his Olympic dream to represent the Netherlands in 2012. But first, Frimpong must run the 200-meter in 20.40 seconds and the 100-meter in 10.2 seconds to qualify. Before his ankle injury, he ran the 100-meter at 10.32
seconds (hand timed), but after, he’s had to work backward from 11 seconds — a huge stretch for a sprinter. He’s now running the 100 meters in 10.66 seconds. He has up until two months before the Olympics to qualify, but he has to run the qualifying times in two different Olympic qualification races.

To also be a part of the Olympic relay team, he must be ranked as one of the top six 100 meter runners in the Netherlands. Last year, he was ranked 70th.

“But with the help of UVU coaches I made No. 6 on the Dutch ranking list,” Frimpong says. “The Dutch National coach has shown interest, and he talked to me this summer when I was in the Netherlands. If I can keep up with my progress, he would like me to be part of the Dutch 4X100 meter relay team in summer 2011, and start practicing for the Olympics.”

The strategies he is learning from UVU sprint coach Paul Smith are working.

“I came here to clean my head, I knew it was important for me. And I’ve gotten this in the USA,” Frimpong says. “I wanted to give up, but Coach Smith helped me to start believing in myself again. I know I’m going to make it to the Olympics, I know I am.”

Smith says his chances of improving are good. “We’re just trying to keep him healthy and work up to that point (the Olympics) and help him succeed there,” Smith says.

Before that though, he wants to be an example of his grandmother’s advice.

As the subject of a recent Dutch documentary film, “The Theory of the Rabbit,” he showed others how much you can do by believing in yourself, acquiring self-discipline and lifetime persistence. He details his own journey on his website www.akwasifrimpong.com.

Frimpong currently works for Neways, and is studying for a bachelor’s degree in business management. After graduation, he hopes to continue working for Neways in its corporate office here or in its head office in Europe.

He’s also now setting up a foundation that will help kids who believe in themselves but have few resources. He says his UVU business education is helping him get this started and keep it successful.

“I was surrounded by good people. I was just this neighborhood kid, but the reason people helped me was because they saw I was giving all I had, and I just needed a little push,” Frimpong says.

Every person that has helped him over the years expected only one thing: a promise to work hard and succeed. And he has kept those promises.

AKWASI TIMELINE:

1986....... Born in Ghana
1995....... Moved to the Netherlands as undocumented immigrant
2001....... Started running
2002....... Started training under former Olympian Sammy Monsels
2003....... Named Dutch Junior National Champ in 200-meter sprint
2004....... Started Johan Cruyff College
2005....... Broke left ankle
2007....... Named Johan Cruyff Student of the Year, received Dutch National Permit
2008....... Received passport, moved to Utah, started at UVU
2010....... Broke UVU record in 4X100 meter relay
2010....... Dutch national film premier of “The Theory of the Rabbit,” a seven-year documentary of Frimpong’s journey
Rick Killpack will probably never leave Utah — not permanently, at least. Born in Utah County, Killpack attended Springville High before studying information systems at Brigham Young University. He started working at Novell in 1991 and, with the exception of a brief period when he sold online stock data in the mid-90s, he has been with the famed Utah County software giant ever since.

For Killpack, life in Utah is panacea. He loves the area and can’t get enough of the outdoors — camping, fishing, hiking and the like. With such a sturdy grounding in Utah, Killpack is also understandably interested in the economic and social vitality of the place he calls home. So it should come as no surprise that he has kept a close eye on Utah Valley University’s evolution over the years. The institution was a community college when Killpack...
studied at BYU, and in the two decades since that time it has grown into a state college offering baccalaureate degrees and now one of the state’s largest universities offering high-demand graduate degrees.

When the move to university status became official in July 2008, Killpack knew it would only be a matter of time before the newly minted university launched a master’s degree in business administration. That intrigued Killpack even further. For one, he thought such a program would provide a lift to the state’s economic development agenda. More personally, he was thinking of going back to the classroom to pursue an MBA himself.

“I toyed with studying at Thunderbird,” Killpack says, referring to the renowned international management school in Arizona. “I decided to apply for UVU’s MBA because I wanted to be part of a new program and help build the business climate where I am.”

Killpack is one of 42 students in UVU’s first MBA cohort, which began classes during the fall 2010 semester. The program, which holds classes on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, attracted a blend of seasoned professionals and ambitious young people to its first cohort, which is a group of students who move through a program together. For all their diversity, UVU’s new MBA students share a few common traits: a penchant for speaking their minds, and an appreciation for UVU’s emphasis on engaged learning.

MAKING THE LEAP

It was July 17, 2009, barely a year since UVU made the leap to university status. The Board of Regents, the state’s governing body for higher education, was holding one of its regular meetings on UVU’s campus, and a collection of faculty and administrators from the UVU Woodbury School of Business sat in as the regents took up the agenda item of whether or not to approve UVU’s third graduate program following education and nursing.

For decades, when UVU was a community college offering only general studies and technical training, Utah State University offered extension programs for upper-division business courses at UVU’s Orem campus. When UVU began offering full bachelor’s programs in the early 1990s, USU focused its efforts in Utah County on graduate studies, a niche still unfilled by then-UVSC, by offering a full weekend MBA program at UVU. Given that history, UVU patterned its MBA program, in large measure, after USU’s. That made the transition as seamless as possible as USU phased out its presence in the area and UVU took over the role of providing high-demand graduate programs like the new MBA.

The MBA proposal before the regents had all the practical advantages of USU’s program — including similar admission standards — but included UVU’s emphasis on engaged learning in the curriculum. UVU’s business school, which is the largest in Utah’s higher education system, also had the credibility of accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The demand for an MBA program in the region was easy to see, and it was a no-brainer to let the region’s new teaching university take full responsibility for administering such a program.

“When UVSC became a university, it was natural that we’d offer an MBA,” says Ian Wilson, who was interim dean of the Woodbury School of Business at the time. “Having this program speaks volumes about the reputation of the school of business. It’s an important program for UVU — it’s a reflection of the excellent things that have been going on here for quite some time. It’s also an important program for the community.”

With approval by the Board of Regents, the MBA program was set to begin its first classes during the fall 2010 semester, with plans for an initial cohort of about 40 students. To head the two-year part-time program, UVU administrators pulled Taggart Frost out of retirement. A respected expert in organizational behavior, Frost had recently returned to Utah — where he studied as an undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. student at Brigham Young University — to settle into retired life after serving most recently on the
faculty at the University of Northern Iowa. Despite the call of retirement, Frost was captivated by the opportunity to help launch an MBA program, and the concept of UVU’s pragmatic approach to teaching business was appealing. He was in.

Soon, Wilson was named UVU’s vice president for academic affairs, and Norman Wright was tapped to assume the role as dean of the Woodbury School of Business. A Utah native who grew up in Orem near UVU, Wright brought a wealth of international experience, most recently as dean of the business school at Al Faisal University in Saudi Arabia.

“I think what appealed most to me about UVU’s MBA program was the regional focus,” Wright says. “While we’ll certainly have students from around the country and world, I love the idea that the program’s primary focus is preparing the students of this area to better serve the communities in which we live. That’s an important role in the broader economic and social development strategy for this state.”

THE FIRST COHORT

Kristen Pratt Canales got involved in international social work immediately after graduating from BYU in 2003. Just before graduation that year, she was offered a position as a Hispanic outreach coordinator for United Way of Utah County. It was a perfect fit.

After several years, Pratt Canales felt compelled to return to graduate school. She thought a master’s degree in social work would make her even more effective in her role, so she started investigating programs and settled her attention on one in Washington. Then she received a promotion.

“When the United Way made me a director, it really changed my focus and my point of view on what I needed out of graduate school,” she says. “Non-profits need help, in general, in administration. Most people who go into non-profits don’t have business degrees.”

Serendipitously, her change of direction came about the same time that UVU began advertising its MBA program. The publicity, which centered around the program’s focus on engaged learning, struck a chord.

“I just loved that about UVU — the focus on engagement,” she says. “I think it makes a good learning environment, as well as being good for the community.”

The concept of combining traditional academics with practical, hands-on learning was a common selling point for those in UVU’s first cohort. Gary Taylor, an entrepreneur who owns a game shop in Orem, had been thinking about graduate school for some time. A customer told him about UVU’s program, and Taylor
researched it before applying in the winter of 2010.

“Personally, I get more out of learning that includes a practical component,” he says. “The theory is critical, but it helps me if there’s some kind of practical application.”

Killpack, Pratt Canales and Taylor were three of nearly 100 applicants in the initial pool. From that group, the program’s admissions committee selected 42 members for the MBA’s first cohort. Their ages ranged from 24 to 60, and they came from all walks of life. Some, like the aforementioned trio, wanted to pursue the program’s management track. Others applied hoping to pursue an accounting track that also provides the necessary training for students to sit for the certified public accountant (CPA) exam.

“We looked at the whole individual,” Frost says. “It turned out to be a very diverse group, with the students bringing a variety of perspectives, which really enriches the experience for everyone involved.”

CLASS IS IN SESSION

When classes started on September 10, 2010, Pratt Canales was due to give birth any day. The previous year, she had spent considerable time completing the prerequisite courses she needed to apply for the MBA program, but a week before the February application deadline she learned she was pregnant with her first child. She was excited about becoming a mother but questioned whether she could move forward with her plans for graduate school. Still, she had put in so much time and commitment already. She polled friends and family.

“The consensus was to do it now,” she says. “They all said, ‘It’s now or never.’ I agreed and went ahead with it, knowing that it could cause a bump in the road when classes started in the fall.”

On Friday night, Sept. 10, a nine-months-pregnant Pratt Canales joined her 41 fellow students for the first-ever MBA course at UVU — business ethics and social responsibility, taught by Associate Professor of Management Susan Madsen. The next morning, the group reconvened for a course on managing individuals and groups, taught by Assistant Professor of Management Jeff Peterson. Each class was four hours long and part of the program’s 10-week schedule. Despite the long class blocks, there was no shortage of energy from the students and faculty.

“In a four-hour class nobody got bored or restless, which is saying a lot. Everyone was just so eager to share their perspectives, so there were such interesting discussions,” Pratt Canales says.

On Sept. 29, Pratt Canales and her husband welcomed their baby girl, Cielo, into the world. She missed one weekend of classes, but the timing proved to be nearly perfect, as two of the semester breaks fell around the delivery. Plus, the program’s group structure allowed her to know where to go to get caught up.
At the beginning of the program, we were put into groups and those groups stay pretty much intact through the whole two-year program,” she says. “My group was awesome when the baby came. They kept me up to speed. I really feel dedicated to my group.”

One of the first assignments gave the students an early introduction to engaged learning. In the course of teaching the philosophical aspects of business ethics, Madsen assigned her class to go into the community and interview business leaders about how ethical questions play out in real business situations. The project demonstrated how even the ultra-theoretical aspects of business, such as ethics, play out in very practical ways for decision-makers. The project’s results were discussed by the group, and lessons were pulled out that may help guide the students in their current and future roles as business leaders.

“That project showed me that engaged learning makes things real,” Killpack said. “We had to ask the question, ‘How can I apply this not only in the business aspect, but also to make the community better?’”

That kind of response to a class project is music to the ears of UVU faculty, Madsen says.

“We came here, as faculty, because we love to teach,” says Madsen. “UVU, in general, has extremely high-quality teachers because we’re a teaching institution. That dynamic — combined with good, diverse groups of students who like a lively discussion — is absolutely great for an MBA class like this.”

Throughout the MBA program, the engaged learning model will be born out in three ways, Peterson says. First, students will be asked to learn relevant theory and understand the prevailing research in areas ranging from accounting to management to marketing. Second, instructors will add practical context through case analysis and projects. Last, the program’s capstone course requires all students to apply their knowledge and skills through a project with a local business or non-profit organization.

“Obviously, we’re really focused on this idea of learning not only by traditional academic study, but also by doing. These students, who are so talented already, will be very, very capable when they graduate.”

— JEFF PETERSON, Professor

Obviously, we’re really focused on this idea of learning not only by traditional academic study, but also by doing. These students, who are so talented already, will be very, very capable when they graduate.

INSIDE THE NEW Digs

Thanks to the generosity of the Woodbury family, the Woodbury School of Business was able to renovate the business building prior to the MBA program’s first classes. The renovation created a new aesthetic to the building’s interior and created three state-of-the-art classrooms, including one with a digital stock “ticker tape” around the room’s perimeter. “We wanted to make these rooms the very best for learning along the Wasatch Front and beyond,” says MBA Director Taggart Frost.
I have had numbers on my mind lately, including the number 58. At UVU, tuition pays 58 percent of the total cost to provide a quality education to our excellent students. The rest is paid for from other sources, including state funding and donors like Bill Pope, one of our dear friends, donors and alumni board members, who passed away this past December.

Here are a few more numbers to consider:

- 32,670: UVU’s enrollment for the fall 2010 semester
- $2,144: Tuition and fees per semester
- 1,693: The number of full-time scholarships at UVU
- 140,000: The number of UVU alumni since 1984
- 298: The number of alumni donors in 2010
- $123,294: The amount donated by alumni in 2010
- $25: The price of one family fast food meal, or the yearly donation toward a UVU scholarship and license plate
- 168: The number of license plates needed to fund one full-time scholarship

Bill may be gone, but he won’t be forgotten. He leaves behind a great legacy of service and support at UVU. Bill is a great example of someone who understood the value of helping others. This year, 23 students received scholarships because of Bill and Margaret Pope’s generosity.

Someone helped pay for your education; perhaps it’s time to consider giving a little something back by helping a current UVU student. Visit UVUalumni.org or call the Alumni Office for more information about how you can make a difference at UVU.

Sincerely,

Jeri L. Allphin, Alumni Director

Right now, most students are only thinking about the next test or paper due. But the UVU Alumni Relations office is thinking further ahead and encouraging students to do the same! “We’re laying the foundation early, so students can be more connected and involved as alumni,” says Jeri Allphin, director of alumni relations. “Research has found that the most involved alumni start as involved students.”

Allphin shared with this year’s incoming freshman the expectation for them to wear their UVU green, participate in school events, and give something back.

“Only about 58 percent of the money to pay for each student’s education comes from tuition, so each student is helped with his/her education every year. Hopefully they will turn around and help someone else,” Allphin says.

The alumni office will educate students about these topics during “Tuition Runs Out Day” on January 19, 2011. That date is about 55 percent of the way through the school year. From that point on, full-time students are attending classes for “free” because the average tuition contribution will have been met.

“This event is all about raising awareness on campus. We benefit greatly from the generosity of donors and alumni,” says Nicki Gilbert, alumni student program manager.

The Student Alumni organization is also giving students more opportunities to connect with alumni. Networking Night is an event that is held each semester for students and alumni to network on a professional level.

“This year we will be providing training on what networking is and how to use it as a student and as a professional. Following that we will have an opportunity for students and alumni to use the skills they were just taught, to

Understanding the Student-Alumni Connection
expand their networks,” Gilbert says. “We have additional ideas and plans to connect students and alumni that we are excited to implement in the next year. If alumni are interested in connecting with students, we would love to hear from them.”

Every Wednesday from 8 to 10 a.m. the student alumni also host a breakfast at the Alumni Center. The breakfast features green pancakes and ice cream, sausage, muffins, bagels, yogurt and fruit. It is free for members of student alumni and for anyone who owns a UVU license plate. All of the activities are meant to get students involved in the UVU community now, and to continue that involvement actively in the future.

Two current students are good examples of this goal. Richard Portwood is the UVU student body president and sits on the alumni board. Parker Donat is president of the student alumni board, and also sits on the alumni board.

As a board member, Portwood, a junior studying economics from Park City, Utah, hopes to “provide meaningful student experiences which will create loyalty and pride for UVU, create future alumni and elevate the image of UVU.” He also feels it’s his duty to share a well-informed student perspective with all of the board’s issues.

He’s also very dedicated to the connection between his fellow students and alumni.

“The link between students and alumni begins the moment a student sets foot on campus to begin his or her education — or maybe even earlier when they receive their first communication from UVU,” Portwood says. “Everything a student experiences at UVU should provide lasting connections to the university after graduation. Whether it be an outstanding faculty member, a unique extracurricular activity they were involved in, an engaged learning experience, or an impactful lesson they learned, a student is creating a future link to the university after he or she graduates.”

Portwood hopes to continue his education even further after graduation. In addition to all things UVU, he loves running, skiing, photography — anything outdoors.

Donat, a junior in integrated studies with emphases in public relations and digital media from Bountiful, Utah, hopes to create a more loyal and philanthropy-based student body at UVU through his work on the board.

“If students get more involved now, future campus events and philanthropic efforts will be more successful. The result will be a stronger, more unified UVU family,” Donat says.

He also feels students should understand their link with alumni.

“Alumni were students at one time. They have walked the halls and taken some of the same classes,” Donat says. “The students are the future alumni of our university. Students who get involved with student alumni will be more active alumni in the future.”
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The stereotypical image of a beauty queen is pervasive, if perhaps unfair. Many people think of Miss America as a trembling debutante, clutching a bouquet with one hand and a glittering crown with the other, smiling until her bleached teeth are dry. Those millions of people have not yet met Miss Utah 2010, Christina Lowe. “I know how to work hard. I’m the most stubborn person you’ll ever meet,” says Lowe, an international relations major at Utah Valley University. “I just want to do something about everything.”

As the first UVU student ever to compete for Miss America, Lowe will proudly represent both her home state and her university in Las Vegas at the national competition in January 2011. Lowe was crowned Miss Utah in June 2010, after winning the preliminary rounds in talent and lifestyle and fitness. Lowe, however, has bigger fish to fry than winning a crown and smiling on national television. “What I really came to love about pageants were the service platforms,” she says. “I feel like pageants represent well-rounded women who have grace and poise and who are interested in the world around them. I don’t feel like I’m doing Miss America because I’m just another pretty face and I want a crown. I really feel like I’m a strong, genuine person.”

As Miss Utah, Lowe serves as an ambassador for the Children’s Miracle Network and acts as spokesperson for the Child Protection Registry, an organization committed to protecting Utah children from adult-oriented solicitations. Lowe is also heavily involved with the American Israel Public Affairs...
Committee (AIPAC), and returned from a visit to Israel just a week before competing for Miss Utah. Her official platform is concerned with civic engagement, trying to inspire a sense of personal responsibility for community, national, and world issues in people. She visits schools with the goal of educating kids about voting, flag etiquette, and the Constitution.

“I feel like by volunteering, I can show people by example. I’m involved just like I’m encouraging them to be involved.”

“I have a lot to say. I want to do more than just live,” she says. “I want to make other people realize that they have more to offer.”

Raised in a family of eight kids, Lowe was instilled with the idea that anything worth having was worth working for. She began training in voice when she was 10 years old. After winning a handful of local pageants and graduating from high school, she decided to go out for Miss Wasatch County in 2007 and snatched the title, which included a one-year scholarship to UVU. Though she had initially been attending the University of Utah on a music scholarship, Lowe decided to transfer and take advantage of the offer at UVU. She became involved with student government and won the Miss UVU crown in 2008.

“I didn’t originally plan to come to UVU, and I admit that it was hard to adjust at first,” Lowe says. “But I feel like it made me self-actualize in a way. My professors challenged me, and it pushed me to realize who I am and what I have to offer. I served on student government and I got to travel to Thailand and Israel, and I don’t know if I would have found such amazing opportunities at another university. People at UVU are going places, I tell you.”

Lowe decided to use her talents to further her platform and to fund her education, taking part in the Miss Utah pageant in 2008. Though she came in as third runner-up, she recouped and won Miss Utah County 2009 on her way to capturing the Miss Utah crown. Since winning the state title, Lowe’s schedule has been booked, including speaking engagements for the Children’s Miracle Network and appearances for Meadowgold, one of her sponsors. But no matter where she travels, she knows that preparing for the Miss America pageant is of the utmost importance, and she concentrates on every single aspect of her presentation. From working out, to speaking with her personal image consultant, to keeping abreast of current events and making certain she can answer any question thrown at her, Lowe is certain she’ll be ready to walk on the Las Vegas stage.

“You only get to do Miss America once. After that, you’re done. One shot. I want to go there and do my best. I want to leave it all on the stage. I really want to show everyone who Christina Lowe is.”
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