

UVU magazine



ALSO INSIDE \\
\\

GLOBAL CITIZENS OF UVU \\
\\ PG. 20

DUBWARS \\
\\ PG. 16

IN PURSUIT OF OLYMPIC GOLD

*AS UVU ALUMNI COMPETE IN THIS YEAR'S OLYMPICS, THE UVU COMMUNITY HAS
A ROOTING INTEREST IN THE SOCHI GAMES \\
\\ PG. 26*



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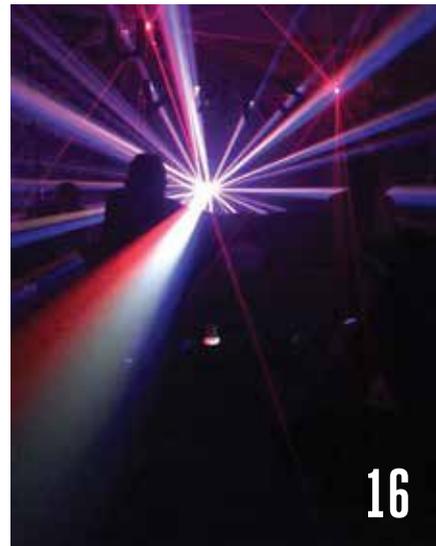
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ON THE COVER: UVU'S GOLD HOPEFULS

Noelle Pikus-Pace celebrates with her fans after a successful race. Read the story of UVU's Olympians competing this February in "In Pursuit of Olympic Gold" on pg. 26. *Cover photo by Jac Scott.*



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The School of the Arts makes it a priority to hire expertly trained faculty to help build up its arts programs and encourage its students to new heights.

UVU's Community Commitment



PHOTO BY JAC SCOTT

As friends and graduates of Utah Valley University, you understand that UVU is a committed community partner. Because the University plays a unique role as a regional state university, we are working to engage our communities in mutually beneficial collaboration and serve as a portal of civic engagement and weave a legacy of engagement for our students — enhancing both their academic and personal education.

UVU continues to host workshops and educational events on topics most relevant and important to our community. As part of our educational commitment, the University successfully established new conferences, such as the inaugural Conference on Religious Freedom, and built on previous years' efforts with the third annual Conference on Autism, second annual ADHD Conference, sixth annual Arts in Education Conference and many more.

We've also made an effort to engage the youngest members of our community in innovative ways. UVU recently hosted a math scavenger hunt for local sixth graders to demonstrate the universal relevance of math. We also hosted the 27th annual Expanding Your Horizons conference for girls in grades sixth through 12th, which encourages girls to pursue education and careers in STEM fields.

This is just a small sampling of the ways UVU engages the community throughout the year. The year ahead is especially exciting with multiple UVU alumni in the mix for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. Best wishes and good luck to Noelle Pikus-Pace (USA skeleton), Chris Fogt (USA bobsled) and Akwasi Frimpong (second alternate, Dutch bobsled). UVU will be cheering for you.

Best wishes for a happy and successful 2014, and as always, I look forward to working hand in hand with you, our biggest supporters, to continue advancing the noble work of this great institution and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew S. Holland". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Matthew S. Holland
President

Gov. Herbert Visits UVU to Announce Budget Proposal

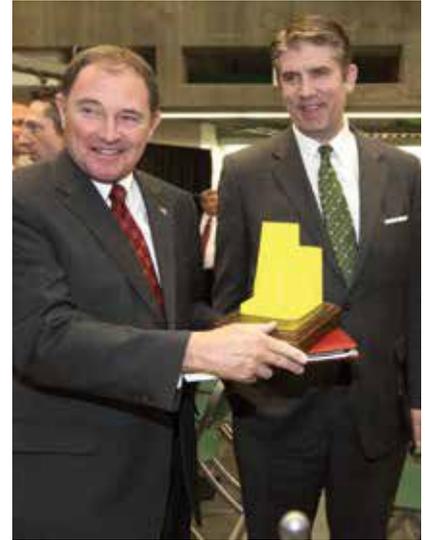


PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert unveiled his \$13.3 billion proposed budget for the 2015 fiscal year at a special event at Utah Valley University in December. The proposal includes \$104 million in new money for the state's colleges and universities, with \$19.3 million allotted for student equity funding.

Herbert's budget recommendations are geared to help move Utah toward its key goal: 66 percent of adult Utahns acquiring a certificate or degree by 2020. As a broad point of access to higher education and a robust provider of STEM-related programs, UVU plays a vital role in helping the state reach this goal, which Herbert sees as an economic necessity.

Following his budget announcement, Herbert took a tour of UVU's technology facilities, interacted with students and observed demonstrations of several innovative student projects, including those made using a 3-D printer.

UVU Ballroom Dance Team Represents US at Prestigious Festival in China

In September, UVU's Ballroom Dance Company was invited to perform at the China Ninth International Folk Art Festival, sponsored by the largest and most prestigious arts organization in the country, the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles.

Fourteen other countries were represented at the event, which is held only once every three years due to its grand scale.

During the 13 days of the festival, the Ballroom Dance Company's Tour Team performed in a variety of settings — from formal concerts for high-ranking dignitaries to performances for children at schools, for local citizens in parks and for general audiences in various theaters.

During the festival's opening ceremony, the team performed a western hoedown for a sold-out crowd of 40,000 people. The event was televised to China's citizens in October.

"The tour gave students an unmatched opportunity for global engagement and experiential learning that fostered personal growth and built real-world capabilities in a challenging setting," said Paul Winkelman, director of the Ballroom Dance Company. "It was a striking example of what can happen when organizations and people come together to accomplish shared goals and to make the world a better place."



MEMBERS OF UVU'S BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY POSE FOR PICTURES WITH AUDIENCE MEMBERS AFTER A PERFORMANCE IN CHINA.

UVU Welcomes Three New Trustees

UVU welcomed three new Trustees to its Board in September. Elaine S. Dalton's experience includes serving as general Young Women president for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, member of the Board of Trustees for the Church Education System and member of the 2012 Governor's Commission for the Education of Women.

Fidel A. Montero is the principal of Alta High School, one of Utah's largest high schools, where his areas of emphasis include comprehensive school reform, systems development and quantitative analysis.

Duff Thompson was named to the Board following 20 years of service on a number of corporate boards, including the boards of three organizations: Qualtrics, LLC; Remedy Informatics; and Cypher, LLC.



LEFT TO RIGHT: ELAINE S. DALTON, FIDEL A. MONTERO AND DUFF THOMPSON

UVU Spotlights Mexico in 2013–2014

The UVU Center for Global & Intercultural Engagement has selected Mexico for its fourth annual Global Spotlight, which in past years has highlighted Brazil and China. Weekly lectures, presentations, panel discussions and debates will be scheduled throughout the school year as well as musical concerts, art exhibits and dance performances — all intended to showcase the country's history and culture.

"As part of this endeavor, UVU students, faculty and staff, as well as community members and local leaders are collaborating with Mexican leaders to focus on Mexico and develop stronger partnerships for trade, commerce and cultural understanding throughout the academic year," said Baldomero Lago, senior director of International & Multicultural Studies at UVU.

UVU Scholarship Ball Highlights Engaged Learning

An evening of world-class entertainment, gourmet food and fascinating speakers made UVU's 2013 President's Scholarship Ball a resounding success.

This year's ball spotlighted the legacy of engaged learning at UVU and recognized 50 of the brightest and most deserving students at the University.

"We are extremely grateful for your generous contributions," UVU President Matthew S. Holland told donors, alumni and friends of UVU in attendance at the ball. "Our primary objective is student success, and your commitment and dedication to helping the University provide meaningful, ongoing scholarship opportunities to our students are key to that goal."

All the proceeds from the event are directed to UVU's Presidential Scholarship Program, making it possible for more students to obtain an excellent university education.



PHOTO BY JAC SCOTT

PRESIDENT MATTHEW S. HOLLAND AND PAIGE HOLLAND WITH GOVERNOR GARY R. AND JEANETTE HERBERT.

UVU-Partnered High School Ranked No. 1 in State

In September, the Utah County Academy of Sciences, a STEM charter school that partners with Utah Valley University to allow students to earn an associate of science degree by the time they graduate high school, was

named the top high school in the state academically for 2012-2013 by the Utah State Office of Education.

"Our partnership with UVU has allowed us to create a challenging, college-level experience unlike any other in the state," said Clark Baron, executive principal at UCAS. "Our location on UVU's main campus, the quality of our master teachers, the rigor of our college-level curriculum, our collaboration with the STEM colleges at UVU and our students' access to additional resources at the University have all contributed to our success as a school."

UVU Partners with SkyWest Airlines



PHOTO COURTESY SKYWEST AIRLINES

At an event celebrating its 25th anniversary in September, UVU's School of Aviation Sciences announced a bridge program with SkyWest Airlines.

The partnership means UVU's aviation program will now offer students direct and formal mentorship by SkyWest pilots. Students will also be guaranteed an interview with SkyWest upon graduation, and if they are hired, they will receive a date-of-hire from when they entered the UVU program.

Additionally, because SkyWest is a partner of the world's largest airlines, the bridge program offers a link to network carriers like American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines.

"The end goal of a university education is to prepare students for rewarding careers and help them make an immediate contribution to the workforce," said Wayne Dornan, dean of the College of Aviation and Public Services. "The bridge program with SkyWest provides a perfect stepping point to a career in aviation."

UVU alumni days

FAMILY FUN FAIR

& COLOR ME RAD 5K

September 28, 2013

Thank you for attending the
4th Annual Family Fun Fair

We hope to see you all again
next year!



LEFT COLUMN: Renee Kalanuvalu with the grand prize, an iPad Mini; Alumni Board members Curtis Bateman, Curtis Morley and Curtis Blair; UVU's Green Man Group

MIDDLE COLUMN: Jim Cardall, 2013 Alumni Awards recipient, and UVU's famous green pancakes; face painting by Painted Party; Liberty Mutual bicycle rodeo winner

RIGHT COLUMN: Color Me Rad's Scott Ward and 5k participants; UVU Nursing program; UVU Career Passport photo booth



UVU
ALUMNI



BROTHERS'

BOND

BY LAYTON SHUMWAY // PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

UVU WRESTLING STARS AND TWIN BROTHERS JADE AND VAL RAUSER SUPPORT EACH OTHER ON AND OFF THE MAT

When you grow up in a place like Townsend, Mont. — population: 1,878 — you rely on your family for entertainment.

For twin brothers and Utah Valley University sophomores Jade and Val Rauser, that meant spending a lot of time hunting, fishing and camping together. It also meant following the footsteps of their father, Kurt, a high school wrestling coach, onto the mat.

“We started wrestling when we were 3,” Val says. “It was kind of all we did; there wasn’t much else to do.”

More than 15 years later, Jade and Val are doing plenty: they’re key members of a UVU wrestling team that’s turning heads from Townsend to Orem to the NCAA championships.

Both brothers have earned national rankings. Both have upset opponents from bigger schools. And while they’ve fought through their share of adversity, their brightest days are ahead.

Early on, the Rausers caught the eye of UVU wrestling coach Greg Williams, a friend of their father’s. But Williams says the boys were so good — Jade posted an undefeated 175-0 record in high school, and Val was a two-time Greco National Champion — that he wasn’t sure they would consider a lesser-known program like UVU.

“Before I was even coaching here, I knew they’d be something special,” Williams says. “But most kids at their level aren’t looking to go to a program that hasn’t established itself yet.”

While big-name teams like Minnesota, Arizona State and Oregon State tried to lure the Rausers, their father went to Williams first, noting the coach’s skill and experience working with youth.

“He said, ‘How come you’re not recruiting my boys?’” Williams recalls. “I told him I wasn’t sure we had a shot at them, as good as they are. He said they’d be happy coming to a place like this. And they fit right in.”

Part of that is due to the range of outdoor options in the Orem area, Val says. With plenty of hunting and fishing nearby, the transition has been easy for the Rausers.

On top of that, coming from such a small hometown, the boys liked the idea of making a name for themselves at UVU.

“We’re underdogs,” Val says. “The high school we went to wasn’t very big, but we worked hard to get to a different level than most. We want to do the same thing at an up-and-coming school like UVU.”

It didn’t take long for the brothers to make an impact. In their first season at UVU, Jade and Val helped UVU to a huge upset win over Arizona State. Both brothers pinned their opponents in less than three minutes, turning a 15-6 deficit in the match into an 18-15 lead that the Wolverines never relinquished.

“They’re both super talented,” Williams says of the Rausers. “Their styles are a little different, but they both bring a lot to our program.”

While Jade and Val are identical twins, they’re far from identical in everything

had to stay off the mat.

“A lot of people don’t get the opportunity to go to school with their brothers and sisters,” he says. “Without Jade, it wouldn’t be the same. I’ve always got someone here with me.”

Val will sit out this year to fully recover — when he returns, he’ll wrestle at 141 pounds instead of 133 in hopes that his body will be able to maintain that weight more easily.

Jade, meanwhile, is looking to build on his stellar freshman performance. When the season began in November he was ranked 13th in his weight classification nationally by college wrestling pollster InterMat. And Williams predicts even bigger things for both boys.

“Jade has a couple of kinks to work out, but when he gets that down, he will be one of the very best in the country,” Williams says. “Once Val gets healthy,

“WE’RE UNDERDOGS. WE WORKED HARD TO GET TO A DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN MOST. WE WANT TO DO THE SAME THING AT AN UP-AND-COMING SCHOOL LIKE UVU.”

they do. Val is majoring in public relations, while Jade recently decided to study psychology. Val says he’s the more outgoing one, while Jade prefers to avoid confrontation. (“Which is funny, because he’s like the biggest tough guy in wrestling ever,” Val says.)

And while Jade reached the NCAA championships in 2013 — a first for a UVU freshman — and placed sixth in his weight there, Val had his season cut short by ulcerative colitis, a debilitating disease that made it almost impossible to make his weight division.

“Your body’s already not used to cutting weight,” Val says, “so trying to do it while you’re sick is ten times worse. I ended up getting pneumonia and mono and had to have my appendix taken out.”

Val credits his brother’s constant support with keeping his spirits up while he

we expect that people are going to see great things from both of them.”

Even with only one Rauser on the mat, Williams is thrilled to have Jade and Val as Wolverines. He says their presence has already helped UVU recruit other talented high school wrestlers.

“When we hear from other kids we’re recruiting, they say, ‘I heard you got the Rauser boys.’ It does so much for our program,” Williams says. “They’re just great kids. Everyone on our team loves them.”



COLORS OF CARING

The children of UVU students have a colorful new place to call home on campus

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUGUST MILLER, JAC SCOTT & MARIA CORONA-TALIERCIO

Thanks in large part to a \$2 million lead donation from the Barbara Barrington Jones Family Foundation, Utah Valley University opened its new, expanded Wee Care Center in September, which has doubled in capacity with more space, more classrooms and the ability to accommodate up to 120 children at a time.

“With these enhanced services, UVU students — particularly underserved students with children — will have access to safe, flexible, quality child care on campus,” President Holland said at the Wee Care Center ribbon cutting.

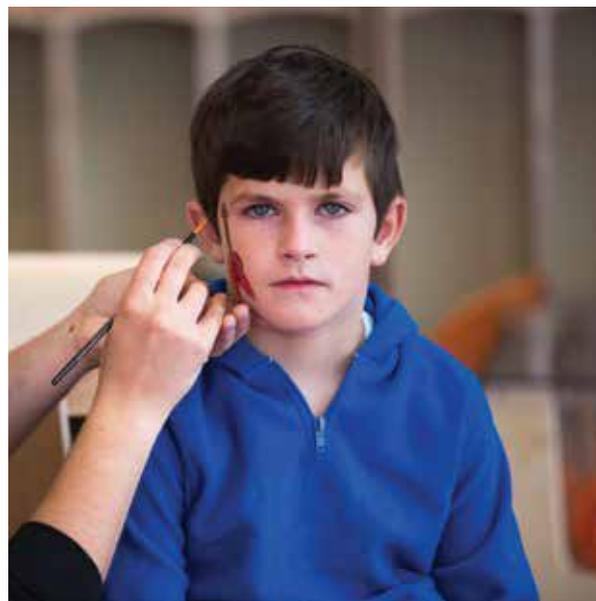
WITH EIGHT CLASSROOMS, A KITCHEN AND MULTI-PURPOSE AREA, STAFF OFFICES AND TWO AGE-APPROPRIATE PLAYGROUNDS, THE WEE CARE CENTER IS A UNIQUE PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN AND PLAY.







PRIVATE FUNDS SUPPORTED THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION COST OF THE NEW WEE CARE CENTER WITH MORE THAN 100 BENEFACTORS CONTRIBUTING, INCLUDING BARBARA BARRINGTON JONES (BOTTOM CENTER PHOTO), AFTER WHOM THE NEW CENTER IS NAMED.



EACH AREA OF THE CENTER IS COLOR-COORDINATED BY AGE GROUP, ALLOWING 45 SQUARE FEET FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHILD ACROSS THE TWO-STORY BUILDING.



Choose Your Own Adventure:

A personalized approach to a required course

“You know how you have that nightmare where you’re falling? Or you’re trying to run but your legs won’t move?” asks Maria Groves, Utah Valley University adjunct instructor of earth sciences in the College of Science & Health. “Well, my nightmare is students falling asleep in my class.”

And she’s not just referring to drooping eyelids in the actual classroom. Groves does everything she can to make her earth science classes — general education requirements for graduation — meaningful and applicable to students from every background and discipline on campus.

“My first semester teaching at UVU, I organized my lectures right out of the textbook,” she explains. “It was easy. All I had to do was show up and run the slides. I thought if I asked good questions and showed cool pictures, the students would be as interested as I was. But after

only two weeks, I noticed my class was really dwindling.”

Groves understood the diminished attendance when she recalled her own experience as an undergrad in a required science class, sitting in the dark with 1,000 other students and no interaction with the professor as he droned on about whatever slide was on the screen. “Why bother coming to class when you can look at slides and read a textbook on your own?” she points out.

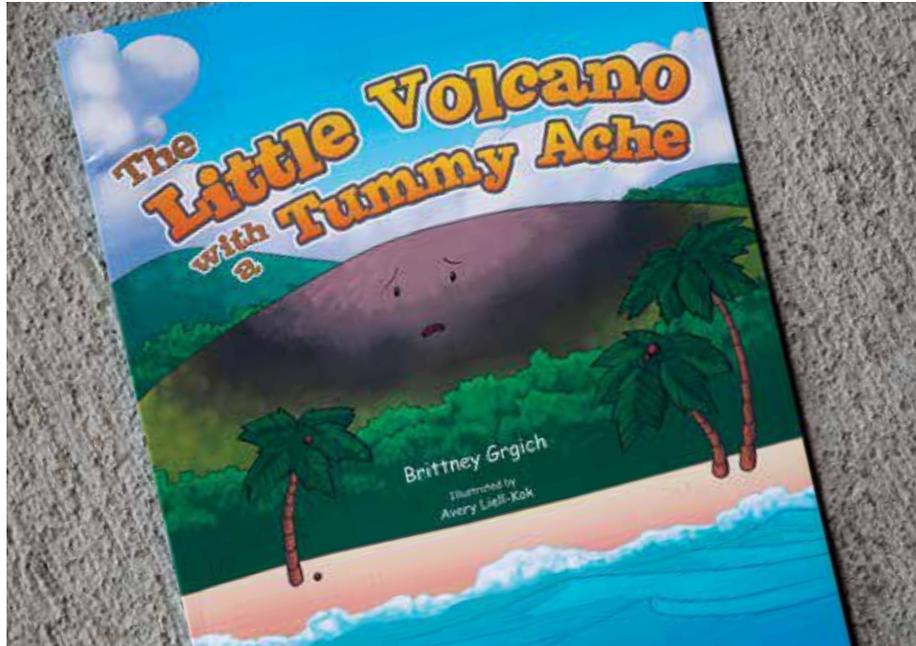
So she threw the ball back in the students’ court, changing her approach from teacher-based lecturing to student-based learning. Not only has student enthusiasm made a complete turnaround, but Groves’ fellow instructors have taken notice as well. Daniel Horns, associate dean of the College of Science & Health, describes Groves as “a master at getting her students engaged in the learning process.”

She takes extra measures to get to know her students at the beginning of each semester, analyzing their interests

and learning styles and grouping them together by major so she can cater the subject matter to their specific disciplines.

“I expected the class to be just another general ed class, but I was pleasantly surprised to find how relevant geology was to me and my interests,” says Brittani Casady, a senior pursuing a bachelor of fine arts with an emphasis in graphic design. “Although I took her class as a freshman, I still remember how fun, creative and yet challenging it was. Maria had a way of making learning fun and engaging everyone’s interest by making the topic applicable to what we were each majoring in and going to school for.”

Each semester, Groves gives her students the option of completing a final project that relates to the curriculum in their major. They don’t choose from a menu of acceptable projects; rather, they refer to their own interests, find a link to what they’ve studied in class and submit a proposal.



LEFT TO RIGHT: UVU ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR MARIA GROVES; GROVES AND BRITTANI CASADY, A GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENT WHO TOOK GROVES' EARTH SCIENCE CLASS; "THE LITTLE VOLCANO WITH A TUMMY ACHE," A PROJECT CREATED BY ENGLISH MAJOR BRITTNEY GRGICH FOR GROVES' CLASS; A BEAR SCULPTED BY CASADY TO COMBINE HER KNOWLEDGE OF ART AND GEOLOGY.

The final project must contain key concepts from every topic covered throughout the semester, with the addition of a new concept from the student's unique perspective. Groves explains, "If, for example, they choose to do a project on Tornado Alley and the current year's tornadoes, they must hit upon all the topics briefly, such as Earth's varied radiation budget, air masses, fronts, air stability, cloud types, precipitation formation, mid-latitude cyclones, properties of air and water, and levels of the atmosphere. They can then talk about their specific interest such as the location of Tornado Alley or the economic impacts of the area. They turn in some amazing projects — I never see the same thing twice."

Brittney Grgich, an English major with an emphasis in creative writing, struggled to come up with a viable final project, and Groves suggested Grgich could write a children's book about some aspect of geology. "Thus was born 'The Little Volcano with a Tummy Ache,'" relates Horns. With Groves' encouragement, Grgich turned her final paper into a now-published-and-selling children's book, a unique bullet point for her résumé.

A music major in Groves' Introduction to Geology class researched the resonant properties of geological formations in the Luray Caverns of Virginia, where an organ utilizes the vibrations of the stalactites to create beautiful music in nature's underground cathedral (it's called the Great Stalacpipe). A culinary arts major baked, constructed and decorated a cake

made of dense potato bread and used different colored frosting and icing to show fault lines, liquefactions and other geological hazards in the region.

Casady created a series of watercolor paintings to turn in along with her report on the geological features of Yellowstone National Park. And to show her understanding of indigenous animal life and different types of rock, she sculpted a bear out of a soft stone she had learned about in the class.

"I really appreciated being given the choice to do a project like this," says Casady. "I gained so much more from the final. We also had to include a presentation for the class. The best part was seeing so many different projects and the direction each individual decided to take the criteria."

As Casady's graduation from UVU approaches, she recalls Groves' class as one of the first where she realized the instructor cared as much about her success as she did. "Maria didn't give us busy work. She provided hands-on assignments to teach us and make it fun and engaging."

Groves strives to give each student such a meaningful experience, whether or not earth sciences are their passion. "Learning is not about regurgitating the textbook or even what you find online," says Groves. "It's about understanding the subject and applying it in a way that's valuable to you as an individual."



DUB

BY LAYTON SHUMWAY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIA CORONA-TALIERCIO

WARS

LEFT TO RIGHT: UVU STUDENTS BEN HALE, SAM SAWYER AND MICHAEL CHUGG, MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING "DUBWARS"



\\ DUB WARS \\

UVU's digital media department breaks new ground in the gaming world

Like many good ideas, “DubWars” was born from failure.

A team of students from UVU's digital media department had been hard at work on a video game called “Cape Chronicles,” which they hoped to debut in March 2012 with the launch of a brand-new home gaming console called OUYA.

The only hitch? When the team got its hands on the OUYA prototype hardware, the game wouldn't run.

“There were too many problems, so we had to scrap the game and start over,” says senior Joe Albrethsen, creative architect for UVU student-run game studio MURA Interactive. “We had a design meeting where we pitched a bunch of new ideas, and one of them was a game featuring dubstep” — a popular genre of electronic music.

From that pitch meeting, and after a lot of hard work, 100-hour work weeks and collaboration, the game “DubWars” was born: an arcade-style shooter where lasers, rockets and explosions blast in time with dubstep songs.

While students have been making games at UVU for years, “DubWars” is the first commercial video game to come from UVU's digital media program. That's due to a unique collaboration between the five-person student team — Albrethsen, artist Ben Hale, programmer Michael Chugg, lead designer Sam Sawyer, and visual effects artist Evan Phillips — and UVU faculty and staff, who facilitated the project.

“DubWars” debuted with the OUYA console in June, and game reviewers quickly labeled it one of the best titles on the young platform. Rodayne Esmay, professor of gaming and animation, says the game's success is due to the hard work of the student design team and a partnership between several UVU departments that will lay the groundwork for similar projects in the future.

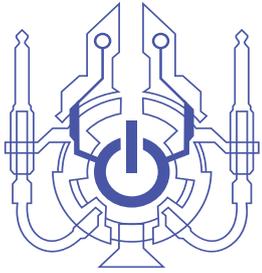
“We were able to work through the technology commercialization process with [director of UVU Technology Commercialization Center] Kent Millington and the UVU Business Resource Center,” Esmay says. “That helped us form some partnerships that will last a long time.”

In addition, UVU faculty members have put the “DubWars” student team in touch with a variety of industry professionals, organizing site visits to local game studios and getting feedback on their project.

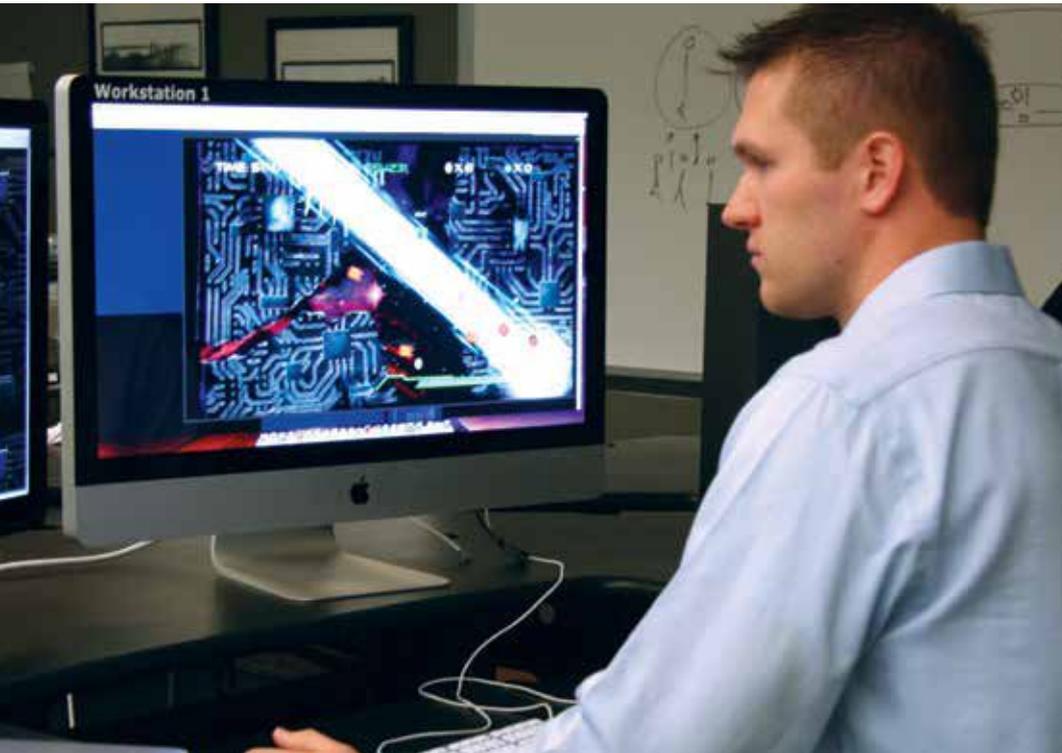
Those resources have been invaluable, Sawyer says.

“If our professors don't know the answer to something, or even if they do, they'll say, ‘Oh, I've got a friend who works at this company who would know that a lot better,’” Sawyer says.

“What I love about UVU is that there are a lot of instructors who take engaged learning seriously, and they push it in their teaching,” Albrethsen adds. “They're not overbearing. They don't



“What they’ve accomplished here far transcends what they do in the classroom.”



JOE ALBRETHSEN, CREATIVE ARCHITECT FOR UVU STUDENT-RUN GAME STUDIO MURA INTERACTIVE, TESTS A TIMING FUNCTION OF “DUBWARS” IN UVU’S DIGITAL MEDIA LAB.

say, ‘In order to be successful, you must do A, B and C.’ They’re much more supportive and encouraging.”

That support has helped “DubWars” become far more than just a student project. In June, video game hardware manufacturer Nyko invited the “DubWars” team to the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles. Attendees got hands-on time with the game, and the team made more professional contacts and increased “DubWars” vis-

ibility among industry professionals and media.

In order to leverage their opportunities, though, the “DubWars” team has had to put in plenty of work. Albrethsen recalls one week in particular when he spent 141 hours on the project, barely leaving the team’s workroom in the Computer Science Building.

“What they’ve accomplished here far transcends what they do in the classroom,” Esmay says. “At this point, it’s

hard to count it as a classroom project any more, because the number of hours and the dedication they’ve put into it far exceeds what you’d expect for a class.”

But that hard work is already paying off. Esmay says employers have already started inquiring about his students.

“They could probably start professional jobs tomorrow,” Esmay says. “I think they’re going to have a lot of choices because of experiences like this.”

“It’s a different experience; it’s real-world experience,” Albrethsen says. “I could have a 30-second demo reel on my résumé, or I could say I completed an entire game from start to finish. That’s really been the incentive that has driven me.”

While most members of the “DubWars” team are seniors at UVU, Esmay says the team has blazed a trail for the rest of the digital media department to follow.

“We’re set up structurally so that this project can become a road map for others,” Esmay says. “There are so many students in the class behind them that have watched their success.”

And the team isn’t done yet. They’re already looking forward to creating new games and pushing their skills further.

“There’s a really good team synergy,” Hale says. “Everyone is working together, solving problems, and bouncing ideas off each other. I don’t think we could’ve gotten as far as we have if we hadn’t had such good teamwork.”

“They blow me away,” Esmay adds. “I walk in there, and they’ll say, ‘Here, come take a look at this.’ They’re doing things I’ve never seen before. I don’t think they know how revolutionary it is.”



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With the added Live Interactive Video courses offered day and evening through Distance Education, students can now complete 3 associate degree programs at UVU North, UVU South, and the Wasatch Campus starting Fall 2013.

UVU ... bringing engaged learning even closer to where you live!

UVU EXTENDED
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Becoming Global Citizens

**UVU students and alumni discover the
importance and beauty of becoming
engaged global citizens**

by Heather Wrigley and Kaitlyn Tolman
photography by Jac Scott



Lindsay Hadley '06 is tired. It's the day after the second annual Global Citizen Festival, an event aimed at increasing awareness of extreme poverty and inspiring individuals around the world to take action. The evening prior, all of Hadley's hard work as the festival's executive producer was put to the test when 60,000 people gathered on the Great Lawn of New York City's Central Park in support of the festival's message and mission.

Hadley, who studied sociology at UVU and has done boots-on-the-ground work with local communities in dozens of countries, is one of a growing number of alumni who are facilitating global engaged learning experiences for UVU students — like Tyler Brklacich (pronounced burr-CLAY-sitch) '15.

Last night Brklacich put his book smarts and classroom experience to the ultimate test, working side by side with Hadley as her executive assistant to make the festival a success. An international studies major, Brklacich has already worked professionally with several large nonprofits and has volunteered internationally, helping organize multiple successful campaigns and raising thousands of dollars. Thanks to alumni like Hadley, Brklacich is one of many students involved in the cycle of engagement, which begins the moment freshmen step foot on campus.

Regardless of the timing, though — whether a student engages as a freshman, senior or even as an alumnus — all international experiences help students expand their horizons, experience new cultures and apply what they learn in the classroom throughout the world.

Aiding Amputees in Guatemala

In 2012, sophomore Taylor Colvin was looking for a way to round out his résumé for medical school when he heard about Mobility Mission in one of his exercise science classes.

“I joined the club thinking, ‘This will be an excellent little mark on my résumé,’” he says.

He spent the year raising funds and awareness for the organization’s two-week trip to Guatemala, where students would be making and fitting their innovative low-cost prosthetic legs for amputees. His résumé was getting the boost it needed, but Colvin’s heart wasn’t in it.

All that changed in summer 2013 when Colvin arrived in Guatemala and saw first-hand the impact his work could have.

“It wasn’t until then that I realized it is about so much more than me and my résumé,” he says. “I was actually helping real individuals improve their lives. Now, my résumé is just a perk; my focus is those individuals I’m helping.”

Each year since it was founded, Mobility Mission (formerly the International Service Abroad Club) has been able to learn from the previous year’s efforts and increase its impact.

“Our mission is to reduce the psychological, physical and economic burden associated with the loss of limb,” Mobility Mission adviser Julie Baker Bagley says. “Mobility Mission provides students from every major the opportunity to achieve their educational and professional goals as they serve globally.”

In 2012, 10 volunteers created prosthetics for 15 amputees. The 17 volunteers in 2013 tripled their impact, providing prosthetics for 46 individuals. In addition to increasing the number of patients it helps each year, the organization hopes to expand its reach into Samoa, Mexico

and Nepal, which all have a high demand for prosthetic devices.

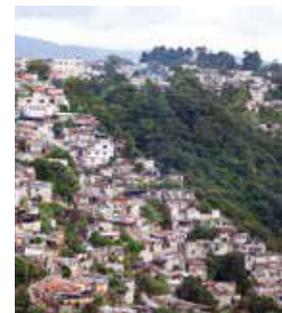
Part of the organization’s engagement model is to ensure that every student actively participates in creating and fitting the prosthetics. Each volunteer is trained on a specific aspect of manufacturing the



prosthetic and works with one or two individuals to ensure the prosthetic is made to their specifications.

A large part of what made Colvin’s experience a success and encouraged him to continue serving after he graduates was interacting with the individuals he was helping.

“Getting to know them personally made all the difference,” he says. “When you are able to relate to the people you are helping, it gives you empathy and the desire to keep giving and the motivation to do better.”



ABOVE: TAYLOR COLVIN, A VOLUNTEER WITH UVU'S MOBILITY MISSION, FIT AN AMPUTEE WITH ONE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S INNOVATIVE PROSTHETIC LEGS.

RIGHT: LIZ JAREMA AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS FROM UVU HELPED BUILD AND STOCK LIBRARIES AT SCHOOLS IN FIJI.

Practicing Health in Peru

In March, thanks in part to a \$12,000 grant provided through the UVU Foundation, students from UVU's Department of Public & Community Health spent 10 days in Peru, teaching basic hygiene to individuals in remote villages and holding health fairs for public health students and professionals at local colleges.

Following a three-hour bus ride to Pampahuaylla, students set up eight stations where residents of all ages learned about dental care and disease prevention, received vision and scoliosis examinations and participated in educational activities.

"I know that this experience has changed my life and my teaching," wrote Melinda Barber, a community health major who helped prepare several of the lessons and activities. "I have developed a deeper passion for education and hope that someday I can return to Peru to teach and, more importantly, to learn."

For more photos and extended coverage, download the new UVU Mag App in the iTunes store.

Read students' reactions from this trip at reachoutandlearninterns.blogspot.com/2013/06/this-page-recognizes-valuable-work-of.html.

Building Literacy in Fiji

Growing up in Bua, Fiji, Elizabeth Jarema learned to read and speak English without the help of books.

It wasn't until her senior year of high school that she discovered what a library was. It was love at first sight.

"During lunch and recess, I would sit between the shelves of books and look out the big windows at the sky, and I thought if I just continued reading, my thinking could go beyond my little village, beyond the capital, beyond the islands," she says. "I thought I could know as much as the distance from me to the sky, and if I could read it, then why not get out and experience it."

Nearly two decades later, Jarema can say she has experience.

In April she will graduate from UVU with a bachelor's degree in behavioral science, a minor in peace and justice studies and a résumé that includes two international service trips she organized.

"UVU really emphasizes engaged learning throughout the educational experience, both in the classroom and in the real world," Jarema says.

Staff at the UVU Volunteer & Service-Learning Center helped Jarema write the proposal, connect with businesses and plan the trip, and in May 2013, Jarema and 21 other students traveled to Fiji to turn classroom space at Bua College, a school for students ages 13-18, into a library.

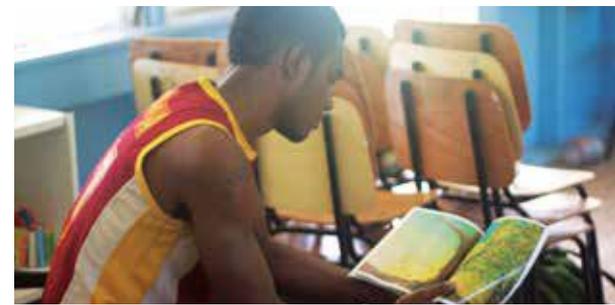
Local high school carpentry students built bookshelves, while UVU students varnished, renovated and painted. UVU alumnus Chuck Richards '11, director of WorldWide Book Drive in Orem, donated the 3,000 books that now line the library shelves.

While there, Jarema visited the site of her 2011 service trip, where she and 22 other students spent 14 days renovating

the crumbling elementary school Jarema attended as a child — building a school library and stocking it with 10 computers and 6,000 books.

"The students were much more confident," she says. "The faculty said it was the library that had made such a difference."

Bua is the poorest province in Fiji. Historically, less than half of all students in the area graduate high school, and



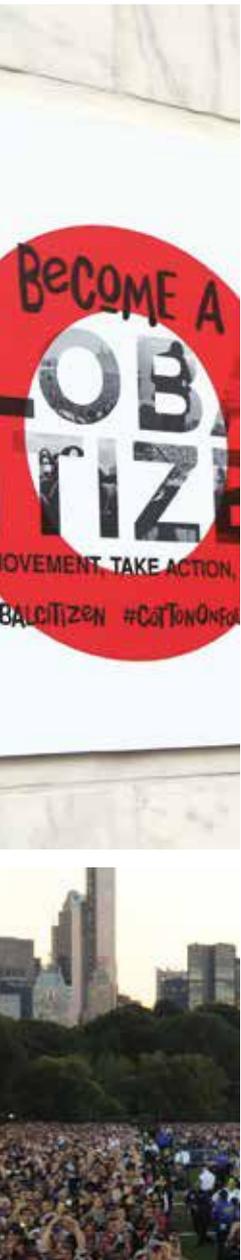
95 percent of students stay in the area and have children who attend the same school they did.

"When I came to UVU and realized all the opportunities I had missed as a child, I didn't want the kids in school now to experience the same lack of confidence I did," Jarema says. "I wanted them to have more opportunities to go on in their schooling or come to UVU. I feel like maybe that's why I came here — to stop that cycle."

Today, UVU flags and pennants hang from the walls of both libraries, a reminder to students who look up that they can experience everything they read about and more.

"Every time I learn something, I want to give back, to make a change. If we see something that needs to change, why turn your back and think that someone else will fix it," she says. "My time at UVU has taught me that."

Stemming the Tide of Poverty in the World



Lindsay Hadley makes magic happen every day. That's because she lives by her own philosophy: "If you genuinely have love for others, you can make magic happen."

"The biggest gap between humans is overcome by love," she continues. "Service is a way for us to create common ground with each other."

The 30-something has been passionate about creating common ground since she was 11, when she organized a "Trash-Basher's Club" and successfully campaigned for the first recycling bin in her community.

Two decades later, Hadley is still making magic happen.

It's the day before the second annual Global Citizen Festival put on by Global Poverty Project, an international education and advocacy organization aimed at ending extreme poverty by increasing the number of people taking action. And Hadley, as executive producer of the festival, is in the middle of it all.

She could talk about her passion for hours, but right now she has only 30 minutes before she has to run to her next meeting. So she provides a crash course in what makes her tick while Stevie Wonder rehearses in the background.

With Central Park as a backdrop, the elaborate stage is alive with activity as staff prepare for Stevie, Kings of Leon, Alicia Keys, John Mayer and dozens of international organizations and advocates such as Bono, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Liberia's president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Crown Princess Mary of Den-

mark — not to mention the 60,000 people expected to attend. Each of those attendees completed several advocacy efforts — from sharing information on social media sites to signing petitions — to get their ticket to the free concert.

As chief development officer for Global Poverty Project, Hadley is responsible for fundraising and coordinating strategic partnerships, which included bringing in the artists and producers for the festival and raising \$7 million to put on the event.

Her hard work has given Hadley a quiet but contagious confidence that visibly affects those around her.

“It’s hard for me to believe in myself, but it’s so easy to believe in the people around me. It’s easy for me to believe in others,” she says with sincerity, “and the amazing things they will do. And when you believe in the people around you, they’ll believe in you and support you. Together we can do the impossible. That’s how I’ve been able to accomplish the things I have.”

And Hadley has been able to accomplish a lot since she left UVU in 2006. After studying sociology and focusing on human behavior and social interaction, Hadley traveled to dozens of countries where she organized development projects and built wells, schools, libraries, latrines — and common ground. Working directly with local communities, she says, allowed her to relate to those she was helping and understand their individual power and capacity.

Despite all her success, Hadley has some interesting advice for others: “Hurry up and fail. Fail, then pick yourself up and realize that this is not about you. Your failures will become part of the journey to your success.”

Hadley’s own journey hinged on her failures. Frustrated after having put on what she considered a failure of a benefit concert for an organization she worked with, Hadley took the bold step of cold calling Bill Fold, co-founder and executive producer of the annual music festival Coachella. Fold not only took her call, he

also gave her advice and introduced her to some influential contacts in the entertainment industry. He later joined her as a producer of the Global Citizen Festival, which gave it additional cachet with the artists they were asking to participate in the festival.

“I could do nothing for him, yet he was so generous with his time,” she recalls. “Now, years later, we are creating some pretty special things together. He never anticipated that; he just wanted to help me. I hope to always be like that for others.”

UVU student Tyler Brklacich would

“The biggest gap between humans is overcome by love. Service is a way for us to create common ground with each other.”

argue that Hadley is already having the same kind of impact on others that Fold had on her.

A junior studying international studies with plans to join the Peace Corps and attend law school, Brklacich squirms with enthusiasm when he talks about the impact Hadley has had on his life.

“She’s so inspiring,” Brklacich says. “She’s an example of what our graduates can do. She was one of us not that long ago, walking these same halls, and now she’s out there making a real difference in the world.”

Prior to her work with Global Poverty Project, Hadley worked with Child Rescue, a Utah-based nonprofit organization that combats child slavery and human trafficking. While working with Child Rescue, Hadley hosted a documentary screening on campus that got Brklacich’s attention.

After viewing the film, Brklacich got an internship with Child Rescue, which quickly turned into a part-time job. When Hadley started working with Global Poverty Project, she hired Brklacich as her executive assistant. And then she asked him to find her more interns from UVU.

“All our best interns come from UVU,” Hadley explains. “They are passionate and engaged and really motivated to do their best.”

Brklacich says he was born with an inner passion to advocate for others, and thanks to Hadley’s example, he’s been able to channel his devotion effectively. “Without her, I would still be oblivious to what I am capable of accomplishing,” he says, shaking his head. “I’ve been able to forget myself and realize that the world is so much bigger than me.” And because he’s experienced firsthand what a difference a

great mentor can make, Brklacich hopes to continue that cycle after he graduates.

“If not for Lindsay, I wouldn’t be where I am,” he continues. “And the people that I’ve been able to help might not have gotten the help they needed. That’s why it’s so important for us to build connections with our alumni. We need to engage our students now to be engaged alumni, not just UVU graduates.”

But it’s not just Hadley or the work that he is doing with her and Global Poverty Project that Brklacich is passionate about. As the student body vice president of academics, he recognizes the power of the engagement model that UVU embraces.

“Experience gives you a different view on the world,” he says. “Personal understanding really changes your outlook, and thanks to UVU and dedicated faculty and alumni that’s the kind of hands-on experience I’m getting.”

IN PURSUIT OF OLYMPIC GOLD



BY MEGAN K. LAURIE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAC SCOTT



OLYMPIC ATHLETES

are as unique and varied as the extreme sports they compete in. Each one has a different story to tell, many times overcoming injury, illness, tragedy, emotional distress and monetary challenges, all while pushing their bodies to perform at a level reserved for the elite few.

It is not an easy path, but one they all agree is worth it. The ultimate goal for any Olympian is that gold medal.

As the world gears up for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, Utah Valley University once again has more than just a passing interest in the games. With two alumni competing this year and a third as an alternate, the UVU community has a good reason to watch the games and cheer on their own.



Chris Fogt '08 from Alpine, Utah, is no stranger to tough competition. An athlete all his life, Fogt ran track and field at UVU — where he was team captain for two years and set six school records. He also completed ROTC and commissioned into the Army as a second lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Branch.

But after graduating with his bachelor's degree in business management, Fogt didn't want athletic competition to fade into the background of his life.

Having heard about skeleton and bobsled from fellow UVU track and field athlete Noelle Pikus-Pace while still in school, Fogt began exploring his options. During his senior year at UVU, Fogt was noticed by the U.S. national bobsled team and was picked up as an alternate during his first year of bobsled competition.

In 2010, Fogt qualified for the U.S. Olympic team and competed in Vancouver, British Columbia, but not without disappointment. In a final bid for a medal, Fogt's team, USA-2, lost control of the bobsled and crashed, landing them in last place.

"When people find out you competed in the Olympics they inevitably ask, 'How'd you finish?' and I have to tell them we crashed," he says. "That's been tough. I have eight kids in my family, and they were all there to watch me compete. With ev-

**"THIS TIME
I WANT TO
COME HOME
WITH A
MEDAL."**

everyone watching, I finished last place. It's a huge letdown. I'm looking forward to changing the outcome in Sochi."

Fogt is well on his way to redemption. Fogt nabbed the U.S. National Push Championship title and has been selected to compete on the four-man USA-1 bobsled team, also known as "The Night Train" — the highest-ranking team and the team that won gold in Vancouver in 2010. Out of eight U.S. sleds, Fogt will be competing at the Olympics with the best bobsled athletes in the country.

This is impressive on its own, but what is even more impressive is that Fogt returned to competition after a one-year deployment in Iraq following the 2010 games.

"I basically had to start at square one," Fogt says. "I got home and a month later we had push champs, a competition for anyone who wants to join the team. Needless to say, I needed more time." For the next year and a half, Fogt trained harder than ever, and it has paid off in a big way.

"After my experience in Vancouver, I feel like I am prepared to handle all that competing at the Olympics entails," Fogt says. "It won't be as overwhelming. The pressure and level of competition won't be as daunting. This time, I want to come home with a medal."

COME BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

**"I NEVER
KNEW HOW
STRONG
I COULD BE
PHYSICALLY
AND MENTALLY
UNTIL I HAD
HIT ROCK
BOTTOM"**

Since beginning the sport of skeleton in 2001, Noelle Pikus-Pace '05 has proven herself one of the best sliders in the world — all while going to school, raising a family and overcoming physical setbacks. Pikus-Pace graduated from UVU with a bachelor's degree in community health and physical education at the height of her budding skeleton career. She was competing at the top of her game and was preparing for the 2006 Olympics when the unthinkable happened.

At the end of a run, she and a few teammates were waiting near the bottom of a bobsled track. A sled barreled down the hill, veered off the tracks and struck Pikus-Pace, resulting in a compound fracture of her lower right leg. The accident caused her to miss the first half of the 2005–2006 season, and she did not qualify for the Olympics.

Not one to let tragedy get the best of her, Pikus-Pace was determined to fully recover. In the 2006–2007 season, Pikus-Pace claimed the World Championship title and finished second overall in World Cup standings.

"To say the least, it was overwhelming to come back full force from something that devastating," Pikus-Pace says. "I felt unstoppable. It's one of the peaks of my career because I never knew how strong I could be physically and mentally until I had hit rock bottom. Coming back from that injury forced me to dig deep and think about what I wanted and how I was going to get it. With help from my family and friends, I was able to push myself beyond what I thought I could do."

After taking a break from skeleton to have her first child, Pikus-Pace returned to training

and qualified for the 2010 Olympic games in Vancouver. She placed fourth — just shy of a medal — and announced her retirement from the sport.

"I felt the time was right to focus on my family," she says. "Although skeleton is a sport I love and am blessed to be good at, I knew that I was only getting older. At the end of the day, it's just a sport, and my family was my top priority."

In 2012, however, Pikus-Pace endured a personal tragedy that changed everything: "I was pregnant with our third child. I was really looking forward to growing our family. But at 18 weeks, I had a miscarriage. None of the doctors knew why it happened. It was devastating and it left a void in my heart."

Knowing she needed something to help her heal from this experience, Pi-

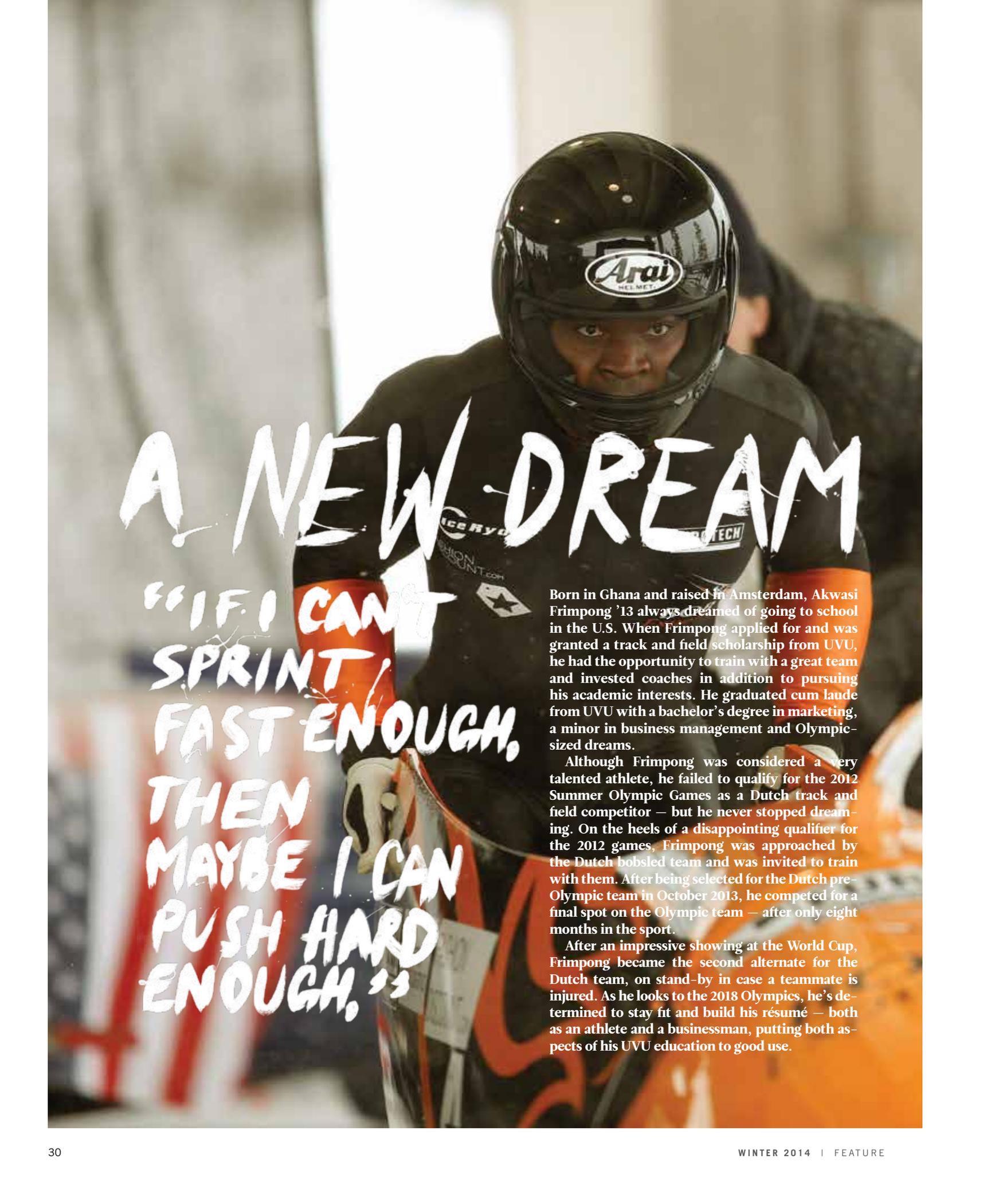
kus-Pace's husband, Janson Pace, suggested she return to skeleton and make a bid for the Olympics. After much deliberation, the couple decided to go for it — but only if they could do it together. Janson organized fundraisers and sought sponsors to cover the significant expenses of traveling the world with a family of four. And Pikus-Pace began training.

With two young children at home, Pikus-Pace works out in the basement with the help of a two-year-old acting as a weight while she does pushups. It is a balancing act she admits can be challenging.

"There are many times I feel that I fall short in both areas because I am compensating to one end or the other," she says. "I have to trust that although my workouts are oftentimes interrupted, as long as I give 100 percent, it will be enough. I have to trust that although I take three hours out of my day to work out and my kids are running around in their PJ's wondering why mom hasn't played with them yet, that I am doing the absolute best that I can and I love them more than anything in this world. I hope that in seeing my dedication, they might learn, even if it's just a glimpse, that they can have an incredible dream — and reach it."

So far, her comeback has been one for the record books. Seemingly faster and stronger than ever, Pikus-Pace has competed and qualified in the national team selection races and earned a position back on the team. She is currently ranked number three in the world and is expected to win a medal, but she has her eye firmly focused on taking the gold.





A NEW DREAM

“IF I CAN'T
SPRINT
FAST ENOUGH,
THEN
MAYBE I CAN
PUSH HARD
ENOUGH.”

Born in Ghana and raised in Amsterdam, Akwasi Frimpong '13 always dreamed of going to school in the U.S. When Frimpong applied for and was granted a track and field scholarship from UVU, he had the opportunity to train with a great team and invested coaches in addition to pursuing his academic interests. He graduated cum laude from UVU with a bachelor's degree in marketing, a minor in business management and Olympic-sized dreams.

Although Frimpong was considered a very talented athlete, he failed to qualify for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games as a Dutch track and field competitor — but he never stopped dreaming. On the heels of a disappointing qualifier for the 2012 games, Frimpong was approached by the Dutch bobsled team and was invited to train with them. After being selected for the Dutch pre-Olympic team in October 2013, he competed for a final spot on the Olympic team — after only eight months in the sport.

After an impressive showing at the World Cup, Frimpong became the second alternate for the Dutch team, on stand-by in case a teammate is injured. As he looks to the 2018 Olympics, he's determined to stay fit and build his résumé — both as an athlete and a businessman, putting both aspects of his UVU education to good use.

ALUMNI AWARDS

UVU
Grande
Ballroom

SEPTEMBER 20

20/13



Congratulations to the 2013 Alumni Award Recipients

Branden Miller '88, Outstanding Alumni Award
C. LaVar Rockwood, Wilson Sorensen Lifetime Achievement Award
James V. Cardall, Legacy Award
Patrick Lee Milligan '88, Alumni Pinnacle Award
Amie Huntsman '09, Young Alumni Award
Martha Wilson, Distinguished Service Award
Alejandro Perez '14, Distinguished Student Service Award

Clockwise, from top: President Matthew S. Holland; the UVU Grande Ballroom; Culinary Arts Institute catering; Branden and Jennifer Miller; Amie and Danny Huntsman; Marc Archambault, vice president of development and alumni relations, and James Cardall; LaVar Rockwood; Patrick Milligan and Norman Wright, dean of the Woodbury School of Business





BUILDING THE ARTS

*UVU's School of the Arts strives for excellence and
imagines endless possibilities for its students*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAC SCOTT

The breakthrough, an awakening, a quantum leap — whatever you prefer to call it, professors at Utah Valley University’s School of the Arts agree there is a defining moment for students when something “clicks,” and everything changes. From that point on, their abilities and understanding accelerate, and their passion thrives.

The School of the Arts has reached that point.

“The library may be the ‘brain’ of the campus, but the arts facility is the ‘heart.’ We can train our students on any number of subjects, but without the arts we are depriving them of the creative and expressive parts of education.”

Christopher Clark, UVU theater department chair
University of Exeter

In 2008, the School of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences split, and a school dedicated entirely to the arts was born. As part of that transition, UVU has continued to attract some of the finest theater, dance, art and music professors available.

The dedicated students in the SOA are surrounded by quality faculty who mentor them, encourage creativity and inspire excellence. And in return, the SOA is imagining even greater possibilities and making them a reality one teacher, one student, one class at a time.

“We are loaded with some of the finest faculty in their fields,” says K. Newell Dayley, SOA dean. “We bring the best here, because we want to be the best, and the students have responded.”

Outstanding, Engaging Faculty

The SOA has recruited instructors who have degrees from some of the world’s most prestigious institutions — including The Juilliard School, Savannah College of Art & Design, Frankfurt Conservatory, Rice University and the Peabody Conservatory.

“Professionally trained faculty members are key in the arts,” says Nichole Ortega, UVU Department of Dance chair and associate professor. “They provide students with a full understanding of the profession and the training required. These faculty members are also a key component for providing the networking needed for employment following graduation.”

Many of the professionals who come to UVU are impressed by the university’s unique focus on engaged learning. As students take what they learn and apply it in concert, on the stage or in an exhibit, professors see boundless potential for their students’ growing abilities.

“The way I see it, I can present a discussion, assign a play or direct a show, but the next step is always a bit tenuous, a bit magical,” says Lisa Hall Hagen, an assistant professor of theater and dramaturgy who received her doctoral degree from Colorado University, Boulder. “When a student takes those offerings, applies them and succeeds, it’s the most rewarding reflection on my work I could imagine.”

In addition to teaching practical skills, faculty members in the SOA bring invaluable, real-life experience to the classroom.

“It’s easy for an institution to let students believe they can have their dream without working hard for it,” says Dayley. “Our students work hard because our faculty demand it. There’s a sense of honesty and trust between the faculty and students. That’s a direct result of having faculty who have been prepared to demonstrate and expect high standards.”

Ambitious Students

“Art reminds us of the highest levels of achievement in thought and discipline and nourishes our deepest need for connection and inspiration.”

Paula Cho, UVU adjunct viola instructor
The Juilliard School

One of the most telling results of the SOA’s efforts to offer some of the best arts programs is the quantity and type of students it’s attracting. In just five years, enrollment in SOA classes has grown by nearly 5,000 students — from 17,938 to 22,719.

With the training and expertise of faculty, students are performing and competing at ever-higher levels. In February 2013, theater department chair Christopher Clark — who earned a master of fine arts degree in directing Shakespeare from London’s University of Exeter and an Ed.D. from BYU — led students to sweep the 45th annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival awards.

Shortly after, UVU’s Ballroom Dance



“An arts education helps you think and problem-solve more creatively. When students take arts classes — even non-arts majors, if they just take a class and ‘get their feet wet’ — it can dramatically improve their work in other fields.”

Sean Rees, UVU graphic design instructor
Savannah College of Art & Design

Team traveled to China to represent the U.S. at the China Ninth International Folk Art Festival. Led by assistant professor Paul Winkelman, students performed for tens of thousands as goodwill ambassadors and received international accolades.

With résumé-building experiences like these, it isn't a stretch to imagine what students from UVU's SOA will be capable of accomplishing after graduation.

In October, music education major Marie Buhler from Herriman, Utah, traveled to the National Collegiate Choral Organization's annual conference, where she performed as a member of the UVU Chamber Choir, one of just nine college choirs selected nationwide to perform at the event.

“When I was deciding where to go to school, I did what a lot of students do,” she says. “I looked at the music programs, I observed classes and I looked

at the choir. I decided to study at UVU because the teachers here are nationally and internationally acclaimed. I wanted to be trained by the best.”

Even outsiders are beginning to take note. For instance, actor Jason Alexander, best-known for his role as George Costanza on “Seinfeld,” has now visited the SOA twice (most recently in December 2013) to workshop with students and help build the theater program.

Supporting Creative Imagination

The SOA continues to build its arts programs through qualified faculty and quality students. Now all that is missing is up-to-date facilities — with proper practice and storage space and studios flooded with natural light.

To that end, UVU President Matthew S. Holland announced in October 2013 that the University is making an arts

building a top priority, stating, “A commitment to the arts is the mark of a serious university.”

And so today, professors like Don Seegmiller, an assistant professor of illustration, continue to watch their students for the day when that critical transformation occurs.

“Investing in the arts is a hedge against the future. The arts will help determine the values and what we as a people find important,” Seegmiller says. “The better we educate students in the arts, the better they will be able to help drive the forces that will affect us all.”

BACKSTAGE WITH THE ARTS: A LOOK AT THE BROAD IMPACT OF THE ARTS PROGRAMS AT UVU

With the finest faculty in their fields and a unique focus on engaged learning, Utah Valley University's School of the Arts is attracting more students than ever to its innovative arts programs. In addition to résumé-building experiences for our students, the cultural and economic impact of the arts is felt far and wide beyond campus.

UVU students perform in 79 plays, concerts and exhibits each year, for more than 25,000 audience members.

The SOA is home to 1,600 students majoring in 23 programs within 4 departments — art and visual communications, dance, music and theater.

The Woodbury Art Museum welcomes more than 10,000 visitors each year.

More than 7,400 students from across the University enroll in School of the Arts classes each semester.

Economic Impact of the Arts

In 2011, Utah generated more than \$140 MILLION in nonprofit arts and arts active research.

The Occupational Index of the Arts reports that there were 45,582 arts-related occupations in the state of Utah in 2011.

Utah gained 3,980 creative jobs in 2010–2011.

According to the National Arts Index, there are 905,689 businesses in the U.S. involved in the creation or distribution of the arts, employing more than 3.35 MILLION people.

In just 5 years, enrollment in SOA classes has grown by nearly 5,000 students — from 17,938 to 22,719.

Now Showing

BY KAITLYN TOLMAN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAC SCOTT

Outstanding Alumni Award winner Branden Miller has made his living doing what he loves – and it all began with a borrowed camera, some newspaper ads and a little imagination

For Branden Miller '88, childhood meant spending afternoons with his friends in his backyard making films on a borrowed eight-millimeter camera.

“We had a great time,” he recalls, “but I realized pretty early on that, for me, the real enjoyment was in creating the marketing materials for the films we were creating.”

Designing fliers and posters and convincing people to buy tickets to a screening of “The Blob That Ate Orem” in a neighbor’s garage didn’t make the film a success, but it did provide the impetus that charted the course for Miller’s life.

As a high school student, Miller was far from the stereotypical apathetic teenager. His enthusiasm for film marketing led him to volunteer at the SCERA Corporation after school, creating newspaper ads for the Orem-based nonprofit arts and culture organization.

After graduating from high school,

Miller continued to volunteer at SCERA while attending UVU. He was eventually able to parlay that volunteer experience into a part-time job in SCERA’s marketing department. By the time he graduated from UVU with an associate degree in humanities, he was SCERA’s full-time director of marketing and promotions.

“And it all began with an internship,” he says, which explains his advice to current students: “My advice to anyone – no matter what career they are pursuing – is to get involved in extracurricular activities. Go to seminars, volunteer, intern somewhere. These opportunities will give you experience and help you network. You never know what kinds of opportunities will come from those relationships.”

Miller took his own advice as a student at UVU by taking advantage of several hands-on learning experiences that helped prepare him for a challenging career.

In addition to working on the campus newspaper in its sales and editorial departments, Miller participated in the campus chapter of DECA, the college business club. Miller created a complete advertising campaign, emphasizing how to launch, distribute and market a feature film. His campaign won the state competition and went on to win second place at the national competition, where Miller pitched his plan to judges from top international businesses such as Coca-Cola and Ford.

“It was an amazing experience; it taught me a lot about how to put a campaign together,” he says, adding that it is experiences like this that make UVU a great training ground for students. “There are a lot of experiences that really have to be, well, experienced to be learned. UVU offers both book smarts and street smarts, and you need both to succeed in the business world.”



Now Showing *(continued)*

As a result of his networking and hands-on experiences, Miller soon found himself in Los Angeles working for Walt Disney Pictures and eventually Twentieth Century Fox, where 20 years later, his enthusiasm is still going strong.

Now, in addition to watching up to 10 movies a week — “I love everything: westerns and comedies and horror and action; I’ve seen just about everything, but I’ve been concentrating on films from the 60s and 70s right now” — Miller channels his enthusiasm for film by actively marketing as many as 20 films at a time as the vice president of in-theater marketing and exhibitor services at Twentieth Century Fox, one of the six major film studios in the U.S.

When he started working there, Miller set a lofty goal for himself: become a vice president by the time he was 30. He met that deadline — a week before his 30th birthday — through hard work, dedication and innovation.

“You have to keep moving,” he advises students with similarly lofty goals, “because this industry, and I think every industry, is ever-changing. You have to stay up-to-date on current trends. I read every magazine I can get my hands on, and I’m always online doing research, going to trade shows and attending seminars and workshops. When things get slow, I start reinventing things, looking at projects from a different angle to see if there’s a different, better way to do it.”

That passion and innovation helped Miller come up with marketing campaigns for some of the most successful films of all time, including “Avatar,” “Titanic,” “Independence Day” and “Star Wars” Episodes I, II and III. His creative use of promotional products and marketing has won him over a dozen industry awards.

Miller’s tremendous success in a competitive business motivated UVU

Alumni & Development to award him the university’s Outstanding Alumnus Award, which celebrates an alumnus who has done exceptional work since being at UVU.

“It was an honor recognizing an alumnus who has done so much and is such a great example to UVU alumni and students of someone who has really excelled at what he does,” says Jeri Allphin, senior director of alumni relations and annual giving.

But it’s more than a successful career that makes Miller an outstanding alumnus. He is also actively involved in several nonprofits and guest lectures at colleges all over the country.

“I think it’s important to give back to the next generation of executives,” he says. “I also think it’s important for them to see that they can do it, too. I was just a kid from a small town with big dreams. I’m proof that you can do anything.”

Reflections on a Decade



The number 10 has always been fascinating to me. The year I turned 10 I remember thinking how amazing it was that my life could now be measured in decades. Every

decade since, I’ve considered how my life and the world around me changed during the prior 10 years and how it will change in the next 10.

Last November marked my 10th anniversary at UVU — and I can now measure my tenure here in decades as well. I consider this an amazing feat, especially when I think about how my job and the University have changed in the past 10 years.

- I started working at UVSC and now work at UVU.
- My job responsibilities now include annual giving in addition to alumni relations.
- Our alumni base has grown from 70,000 to 192,000.
- The student body has grown from 23,800 to more than 30,000.
- The number of bachelor degrees has increased from 33 to 66.
- Three master degrees were added.
- UVU license plates increased from 150 to 670.
- Additional buildings include the UVU Library, Science Building, Education Building, Wee Care Center, Classroom Building, Student Life and Wellness Building and the Alumni Center.

I have no idea what to expect for the next 10 years, but I’m sure that UVU will

continue to be the exciting and dynamic place it has always been. I’m also certain that I’ll continue to find connecting with you one of the most rewarding experiences of my job. I’m looking forward to meeting those of you who will find your way to the alumni board or become involved in other ways.

Here’s to the next 10 years together!

Jeri Allphin
Senior Director, Alumni Relations & Annual Giving

New Alumni Association Board Members

The UVU Alumni Association welcomed three new board members in 2013. These individuals will serve three-year terms working on committees to plan and promote events and oversee finances, legislative affairs and scholarships.



Michelle Durham

Michelle Durham joined the Utah Valley University Alumni Association Board this year with the goal of giving back to the University and, in turn, the community because she believes in and enjoys demonstrating the value of UVU graduates to the community. Durham loves UVU because it offers a quality education and its faculty, staff and administration care for the success of the students, something

she experienced firsthand while attending UVU herself.

Durham earned two associate degrees and a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at UVU. She has worked in administration at eBay and in administrative support at UVU. She credits her UVU education with providing the academic base and networking framework for her career success.



Curtis Bateman

Curtis Bateman is a strong supporter of Utah Valley University and President Matthew S. Holland's vision for its continued growth, even though he is not a graduate of the University. He recognizes that UVU fills a necessary role in the area and joined the Alumni Association Board for the opportunity to contribute to the University.

Bateman has a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from Brigham Young University and an MBA from the University of Utah. He owns a training and consulting business that focuses on change management, leadership development, executive coaching and multi-generational workforce issues, particularly with the entry of Millennials to the workforce.



Lori Reay

Lori Reay is passionate about Utah Valley University's mission and goals, which is why she has joined two UVU boards this year. In addition to joining the Alumni Association Board, Reay joined the UVU Gift Planning Advisory Board to help out with UVU's annual Business and Economic Forum, a conference and workshop for estate planning professionals and business leaders. She has also shared her

expertise as a speaker at the forum for the past two years.

Reay earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with an accounting emphasis from UVU and an MBA from Utah State University. She is a partner and CPA at Hawkins Cloward & Simister and has practiced in tax and retirement plan design and administration since 1999.



Helping Women Become Self-Sufficient

by Julie Stowe
photography by Maria Corona-Taliercio

Kim Brown sees her financial success as a tremendous blessing and wants to use it to make a difference in the lives of others. Today, the hardworking and talented Utah Valley businesswoman runs her own award-winning advertising agency – but despite great successes in her professional life, helping the people of Utah County is Brown’s true *métier*. Most recently, Brown made a significant gift toward the expansion of the UVU Wee Care Center.

“The Wee Care Center provides a safe, nurturing environment for children while their parents pursue an education,” she says. “Now it will serve many more children.” The new center will offer quality child care on a sliding scale to many more low-income students, particularly women – like Jill Boswell, a math education major graduating in May 2014, whose four children (including four-year-old Logan, pictured) have all benefited from the Wee Care Center’s resources and Brown’s generosity.

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1. KIM BROWN (LEFT) AND JILL BOSWELL, A MATH EDUCATION MAJOR WHO HAS BENEFITED FROM THE WEE CARE CENTER'S PROGRAMS, LAUGH TOGETHER IN THE NEW EXPANDED WEE CARE CENTER.
2. BROWN RACES BOSWELL'S SON LOGAN IN THE KIMBERLY BROWN OPEN CLASSROOM.



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HEATHER OSTLER
UVU 2009

I am UVU

HEATHER OSTLER. Author of fantasy series, the Shapeshifter's Secret, A.S. English with an emphasis in Creative Writing, class of 2009.

UVU gave me the education I needed that led me to publish my first fantasy trilogy. My professors were passionate about their work and cared about my future. My experiences at UVU inspired me, helping me to become the novelist I am today. After I graduated, I felt motivated and prepared to head into my career as an author. I am Heather Ostler, class of '09. I am UVU.

Share your story at uvualumni.org