

UVU magazine



A BEACON OF COURAGE

PG. 20

ALSO INSIDE \\\

LIVE A LARGE LIFE \\\ PG. 8

THE MARK POPE FACTOR \\\ PG. 34

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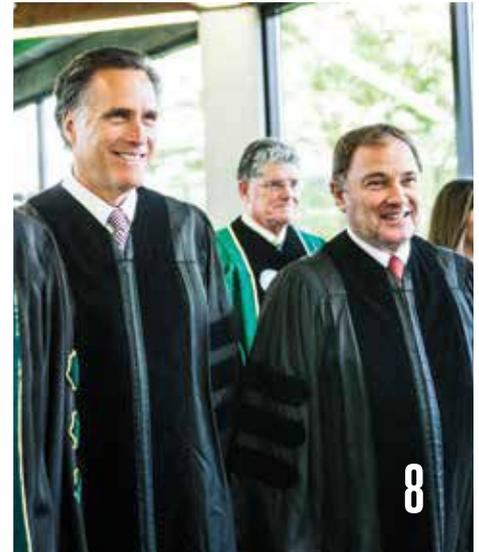
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ON THE COVER: A BEACON OF COURAGE

Alum Porter Hancock shares his inspiring story.

Cover photo by Jay Drowns



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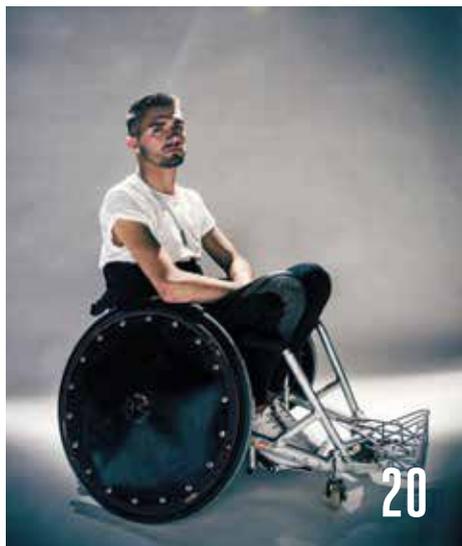
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Remarkable Momentum



PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

Utah Valley University has enjoyed an extraordinary summer — one that included worldwide attention focused on our outstanding programs and students. Here in the states, our UVU students won the annual SkillsUSA National Championships in Louisville, Ky., for the second year in a row. Globally, our ballroom dancers earned international recognition in Blackpool, England, where the team claimed first place in the British Ballroom Formation Dancing Championship. And UVU was the only uni-

versity in the world given an official seat at the recent United Nations conference in Tajikistan.

Perhaps the most inspiring event this summer was the announcement of our plans to build a dedicated autism facility on campus. While we recognize that UVU is not going to be the university that cracks the genetic code for autism, we absolutely can and should be the university that provides the best services to individuals on the autism spectrum. The University and its faculty and staff are committed to becoming the regional hub for autism education and providing resources for the community. The next issue of UVU Magazine will provide more details about this vital community project.

With the summer now behind us, we look forward to maintaining this momentum moving into fall semester. Each new school year brings with it a contagious energy on campus. We are predicting an enrollment increase of more than 1,000 students this fall. Teaching more Utahns than any other state university gives us a unique responsibility and opportunity to provide quality programs for our students.

I am honored to work at a university where student success is at the heart of all we do. Our continued progress and accomplishment set us apart as one of the finest opportunities available for students seeking the highest quality of education.

Warmest regards,

Matthew S. Holland
President

Wrestling Program Moves to Big 12 Conference



BIG 12 CONFERENCE

The Utah Valley University wrestling program announced its move to the Big 12 Conference this summer and will compete for the conference's postseason championship and automatic qualification to NCAA postseason competition beginning with the upcoming 2015–2016 academic year.

“The Big 12 will take our wrestling program to the next level,” UVU director of athletics Vince Otoupal said. “This is a great day for our program. We are thrilled to be competing in an elite wrestling conference and against some of the top programs in the country.”

UVU joins Air Force, North Dakota State, Northern Colorado, South Dakota State, and Wyoming as new affiliates of the Big 12. Those six, along with Big 12 core members Iowa State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, and West Virginia, will make for a 10-team league in wrestling.

“Becoming a part of the Big 12 Conference is a tremendous opportunity for UVU wrestling,” said head coach Greg Williams. “The timing of this transition is great for our program, and competing against these nationally prominent programs demands that we raise our level of competitiveness. The expectations and goals of our team going forward with the talent we have coming into our room are very high and we’re eager for the challenge.”

The UVU wrestling program recently completed its 12th year of competition, the last nine as a member of the Western Wrestling Conference. The Wolverines enjoyed a successful run in the WWC, crowning six conference champions, 17 NCAA qualifiers, a pair of second-place regular season finishes, and one NCAA All-American. Utah Valley has sent at least one grappler to the NCAA Wrestling Championships in each of the past six seasons.

UVU Wins Prestigious British Ballroom Formation Dancing Championship

The Ballroom Dance Tour Team won the British Ballroom Formation Dancing Championship at the Dance Festival in Blackpool, England, in May. The 30-member dance team also took third place in the festival's Latin Formation Dancing Championship, and several tour team members competed in the Amateur Ballroom and Latin individual events.

"Dancing at the Blackpool Festival for most of these students is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Paul Winkelman, assistant professor of dance and director of the Ballroom Dance Tour Team. "This is a great indication of how the UVU ballroom dance program is growing. The level of dancers coming to the University is extremely exciting."

In addition to competing at the festival, which Winkelman said is considered the Olympics of ballroom dancing, the dancers rehearsed, worked on costumes, and performed in several communities as part of their England tour.

Winkelman noted the annual festival, which takes place in the Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, is one of the world's first and most prestigious international dance competitions. The nine-day competition attracts more than 20,000 competitors and spectators from more than 60 countries all over the world.



PHOTO BY DAVID MOON

Plans Announced for Autism Facility at UVU



PRELIMINARY ARTIST RENDERINGS

Utah Valley University's Board of Trustees approved plans in June for a privately funded building on campus that will support community members, working professionals, future educators, and individuals with autism. The proposed facility will now move to the Board of Regents and State Building Board for consideration.

UVU has been responsive to community needs by offering an autism studies minor and autism certificate program. "We will soon have a dedicated structure because of the generosity of individuals and companies who understand the urgent need for additional resources dedicated to autism," said President Matthew S. Holland.

The 10,000-square-foot building is expected to house therapy rooms for counseling, diagnostics, social skills groups, and family support; sensory rooms; two sensory playgrounds; and a sensory landscape that will enhance children's motor skills and ability to engage in science exploration. The play space will also feature a learning garden and water table.

Private funding is still needed to complete the building. Contributions to the new facility can be made at supportuvu.org/autism.

Photo of Creative Design Element in Campus Building Goes Viral



PHOTO BY JAY DROWNS

It started as a photo posted by a UVU student, then began trending on social media, and within 24 hours it had gone viral. Throughout the summer, Utah Valley University has received local, national, and international attention thanks to a photo of a stairway in its Student Life & Wellness Center that is divided into three lanes – walk, run, and text.

The University Marketing & Communications Department was tasked with enhancing the center’s design through the use of art and graphics. “When you have 18- to 24-year-olds walking on campus glued to their smartphones, you’re bound to run into someone somewhere; it’s the nature of the world we live in,” said UVU’s creative director Matt Bambrough. “But that isn’t the reason we did it – we used that fact to engage our students, to catch their attention, and to let them know we are aware of who they are and where they’re coming from. The design was meant to be humorous rather than a real attempt to direct traffic flow.”

The photo has been published online in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Time Magazine, and has aired on TV stations in more than 25 countries and in all 50 states.

“The viral photo began as a single social media post and from there was covered by literally thousands of digital outlets,” said Melinda Colton, director of public relations. “What started out as a creative way to enhance a building has now caught the attention of people worldwide.”

UVU Hosts First-Ever TEDx Event

UVU hosted its first-ever TEDxUVU event in April. TEDx is a nonprofit organization committed to “ideas worth spreading.” TEDx helps organizations, communities, and individuals connect through local experiences that encompass the ideals of the organization.

Tyler Brklacich, 2014–2015 UVUSA student body president, said the event brought a new level of legitimacy to the University’s reputation and new experiences to the local community.

“We wanted to help UVU students understand that their education can lead them anywhere. TEDxUVU may be just the thing that inspired those who attended to become the leading inventors, educators, and philosophers of our generation,” said Brklacich.

“This event allowed students to foster a platform of new ideas and imagine a new realm of possibilities for their future,” he said.

Todd Olsen, coordinator for UVU Student Senate, said he hopes this event will give the University the recognition it deserves. “We wanted to communicate that the TED principles are alive and well here at UVU,” he said.

The keynote speaker of the event was TED Fellow Joe Landolina. He is known for developing a medical substance that can stop traumatic bleeding within seconds. Other speakers included local leaders and innovators in the community.

President Speaks at University of Oxford



PHOTO BY SIMON JONES

LEFT TO RIGHT: PAUL KERRY, PRESIDENT MATTHEW S. HOLLAND, ADAM SMITH, AND PRESIDENT RICHARD CARWARDINE, IN THE BLUE BOAR LECTURE THEATRE AT CHRIST CHURCH, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

President Matthew S. Holland was invited this summer to participate in a panel discussion about the leadership of Abraham Lincoln at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. He spoke as part of the university’s Seminar in Constitutional Thought and History.

President Holland was part of a three-member panel consisting of Richard Carwardine, president of Corpus Christi College in Oxford and a former Rhodes Professor of American History, and Adam Smith, a history professor at University College in London. The seminar was a rare opportunity for two university presidents to provide American and British perspectives on Lincoln.

The discussion occurred in the historic Blue Boar Lecture Theatre at Christ Church, one of the largest colleges in the University of Oxford.

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LIVE A LARGE LIFE

BY MITT ROMNEY

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mitt Romney, 2012 Republican nominee for president, former governor of Massachusetts, and chief executive officer of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Olympics, gave the following address at UVU's 74th Commencement ceremony in April.

To the Class of 2015: Well done, and congratulations.

To you parents, the years of investment and prayers have added up to this joyful achievement. Hopefully, you are about to experience the new American Dream, which is no longer owning your own home — it is getting your kids out of the home you own.

My grandson is understandably concerned about where, exactly, lions and tigers actually live. He hears that they live in Africa, but he's not entirely sure where that is. When I told him I was coming here, he asked me whether I would see any.

It's a funny thing about little kids: they don't see much beyond what's right around them. They see their family, their school, maybe their city or town, but they just can't imagine distant places. Their vision, their world, is like a small circle, bounded by their very limited experience.

Having now completed 16 years of education, your world has become breathtakingly large, almost without boundaries. With such vastness and with so many possible directions to take, some of you may understandably feel somewhat anxious and uncertain. You may even be tempted to look for a smaller, more comfortable world, one that's less complex, and less demanding. That's not who you are, and that's not what you've been prepared to do. To experience a fulfilling, purposeful life, one thing you're going to have to do is this: live a large life.

Living large means embracing every fruitful dimension of life.

It means continuing to expand your world and engaging in it as fully as you are able.

Let me offer a few suggestions about how to do that.

FRIENDSHIPS

The first involves your friends. I remember sitting in a business class, looking around the room and thinking to myself that I'd probably never see any of these people again after I graduated. All my attention was focused on what was being taught. But you know what? I've forgotten almost everything that was taught; it's the classmates I remember, and it's those friends whom I value most today.

Forty years since my graduation, the people in my six-person study group continue to get

friend Stuart Stevens decided to take his father to every single Ole Miss football game, home or away. What's unusual about that is that his father is 95 years old. And Stuart had moved away from home for college over 40 years ago. He lives in Vermont, and his dad lives in North Carolina. So these father-son excursions would involve a great deal of time and travel ... and long talks. He would dig deep into understanding his dad: his personality, his dreams, and his fears. Delving so far into his father's personhood, their friendship deepened and their relationship expanded in such interesting ways that a noted New York publisher, Knopf, will publish a book about their experience this fall.

Your life will be larger if you value and nourish friendships — friends here at UVU, from your home, and from the growing circle of your life.

RELATIONSHIPS

For most of you, living life to the fullest will also mean marriage and children. I don't expect that everyone here believes as I do that the Bible is the word of God or even that it is inspired by God. If not, then at least you will have to acknowledge that it represents the wisdom of the ages, written by extraordinary thinkers and philosophers. Either way, its counsel warrants serious attention.

In its opening pages, Adam gives this direction: "therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." The "one flesh" part we get, but the part about leaving Mom and Dad and getting married trips some people up.

I'm surely not going to tell you when to tie the knot. You've got parents who will do that.

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AS YOU ARE ABLE.

together. We've congratulated one another on our highs and consoled one another on our lows.

Believe it or not, your parents can become even closer friends than they are today. My

But I will tell you that marriage has been the single-most rewarding part of my life, by far. Marriage involves passion, conflict, emotion, fear, hope, compromise, and understanding. In short, it is living to the max.

And then children. In the Old Testament, Psalm 127 states, “Children are an heritage of the Lord ... As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them.”

I’m not sure whether having five sons qualifies as a full quiver, but I can affirm that they brought immeasurable happiness, as promised by the Psalmist. And to my point, they engaged Ann and me in ways we would not have expected.

On one occasion, Ann and I were invited to speak to students at Harvard Business School about our choice of careers, I as a management consultant and she as a full-time mom. Ann was reluctant, in part because two other couples would also be speaking on the same

**DON'T WASTE TIME
BEMOANING YOUR JOB.
DON'T SKIM BY WITH THE
MINIMUM OF EFFORT.
DIVE IN. GET MORE FROM
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LIVING LARGE.**

topic and both of the other women had chosen to be Wall Street bankers.

In the class, the other couples went first. I followed, and Ann spoke last. She explained that while she expected to have a career outside the home in the future, she had chosen to be a full-time mom until her five kids were raised. She went on to explain that her job had required more of her than she had imagined: she was psychologist, tutor, counselor, scoutmaster, coach, nurse practitioner, nutritionist, budget director, and more. When she sat down, the class was silent for several seconds and then it rose in a standing ovation.

Golda Meir, the former prime minister of Israel, was asked what her greatest accomplishment was. “Raising my daughter” she answered.

Marriage and children expand your world and engage you more fully in it.

WORK

There’s a Hires burger joint not far from here. It’s one of my favorites. Its founder, Don Hales, put out a little book of his homespun wisdom. He says that to be happy requires three things: someone to love, something to look forward to, and something to do. In other words, work. You might be inclined to think that a Garden-of-Eden life would be preferable to working at a job, but you’d be wrong. I’m convinced that Adam and Eve would have been bored to tears if they’d stayed in the garden: no kids, no challenges, no job. I think that Adam being made to grow food “by the sweat of his brow” was a blessing, not a curse.

Of course, there’s a lot not to like about a job: the early alarm clock, the rush-hour traffic, the stress. But work engages you in life. You come to know more people, to understand their motivations and values, and to learn the intricacies of the enterprise that employs you.

Don’t waste time bemoaning your job. Don’t skim by with the minimum of effort. Dive in. Get more from your job than the paycheck. Hard work is living large.

ENGAGE

There’s a part of life that you won’t welcome: bad things — bad things that happen to you. If you’re like I was, you imagine that bad things happen infrequently and that when they do, they mostly happen to other people.

I used to sit in church and look around the congregation. Everyone was smiling and happy. Life seemed to be nothing but puppies and pansies for everybody. And then my church asked me to serve as the pastor of that congregation. As pastor, I got to really know the people behind those smiling faces. And to my surprise, many of them held what Ann and I call a “bag of rocks” behind their backs. That bag of rocks could be a chronic illness, a battle with some kind of addiction, a child who couldn’t keep up in school, unemployment, a financial crisis, withering loneliness,

or a marriage on the rocks. To my surprise, almost every single family faced one kind of challenge or another. They all had a bag of rocks behind their backs. We all will hurt.

Engaging in your world means accepting that hurt, confronting it, and endeavoring to ascend above it so that you can keep pursuing a fulfilling and abundant life.

During my campaign, I met Sam Schmidt in Las Vegas. In January of 2000, Sam’s Indianapolis racing car hit the wall. This father of two young children spent five months on a respirator and was rendered quadriplegic — he can move nothing below his neck. He and I spoke about his life today. His morning begins with a two- to three-hour routine for bowel, bladder, teeth, shower, and dressing. That would be enough for a lot of people to just give up. But instead, Sam owns and manages an Indy car racing team that regularly dominates the Indy Lights, having won 60 races. And he himself has actually begun to drive again. He has a Corvette that has been fitted out with special controls. To accelerate, he blows in an air tube. To brake, he sucks the air out of it. To turn left or right, he looks carefully left or right respectively. Accordingly, he warned his racing buddies: “You gotta keep the bikinis out of the grandstands because you don’t want any sudden movements.”

Sam’s disability is still there. He endures it every day, every hour. But that has not kept him from fully engaging in life.

Your career may be very different than you expect.

The biggest departure from my predicted career path came with my decision to run for political office. When I stepped into the auditorium to debate Ted Kennedy in Boston’s historic Faneuil Hall, I turned to Ann and asked, “In your wildest dreams, did you see me running for U.S. Senate?”

“Mitt,” she replied, “you weren’t in my wildest dreams.” Actually, she didn’t say that. That was a joke I bought for my campaign from a joke writer.

Through all my occupations, I have experienced successes and failures. I am asked what it felt like to lose to President Obama. Well, not as good as winning. Failures aren’t fun, but they are inevitable.

More importantly, failures don’t have to define who you are. Some people measure their life by their secular successes — how high on

THE REAL WEALTH IN LIFE IS IN YOUR FRIENDSHIPS,
YOUR MARRIAGE, YOUR CHILDREN, WHAT YOU HAVE
LEARNED IN YOUR WORK, WHAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME,
YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND WHAT YOU HAVE
CONTRIBUTED TO OTHERS.

the corporate ladder did they get? How much money did they make? Did they do better than their high school classmate? One business partner of mine went back to his high school reunion in Fort Scott, Kan. As a wealthy financier, he expected to be voted by his 50 or so former classmates as the most successful graduate. To his dismay, a local doctor took that honor. So at the reunion five years later, this partner of mine chartered a jet to fly him to Fort Scott. It buzzed the town before landing at the tiny airport. Predictably, this time he won the vote.

If that's the kind of vote you're looking for, you're bound to be disappointed. Life has way too much chance and luck, good and bad, to be assured that kind of success. And if your life is lived for money and position, it will be a shallow and unfulfilling journey.

The real wealth in life is in your friendships, your marriage, your children, what you have learned in your work, what you have overcome, your relationship with God, and what you have contributed to others.

SERVICE

This last dimension, contribution to others, is often the most overlooked and most undervalued.

Tom Monaghan's father died when Tom was just four years old. His mother entrusted him to a Catholic orphanage because she was unable to care for him and for his brother. He graduated from high school and enrolled in the University of Michigan. The tuition proved to be beyond his reach, so to help meet costs, he and his brother bought a pizza shop for \$900 and then ran it. When he had expanded it to three shops, his brother sold his interest to Tom for a used Volkswagen.

He called his shops Domino's, and Tom became wealthy. He bought a Bugatti for \$8.4 million. He bought the Detroit Tigers and won the World Series the next year. He began construction of a massive modern home, one that would rival his majestic corporate office in Ann Arbor.

When I met him in 1998, I was surprised to find him seated in a closet-sized antechamber to what had once been his lavish and spacious executive suite. He had sold the Tigers and the car, and had stopped construction of his mansion. Tom had signed what was called the Millionaire's Vow of Poverty. Accordingly, he would not drive a luxury car, fly in a private plane, or assume any of the trappings of wealth. That included trading his impressive office for the small cubicle where I had found him.

Tom explained that reading the Bible and the essays of C.S. Lewis had reminded him of his upbringing in the Catholic orphanage. He wanted to change his life and devote his remaining years to service.

On behalf of Bain Capital, I ultimately wrote Tom a check to buy Domino's for more than \$1 billion. Except for a small living stipend, he then turned around and donated it all to Catholic charities. He founded a college and named it, not after himself, but after Mary: Ave Maria University.

I asked him a few weeks ago what was the most rewarding part of his life: winning the World Series, building Domino's, or driving his Bugatti. You can guess his answer. "It wasn't the toys. I've had enough toys to know how important they aren't. It was giving back, through the university."

Living life in fullness includes serving others, and doing so without pride or personal

gain. It will fill your heart and expand your mind. I've seen that kind of service in large and small ways in my own family.

My sister has devoted the last 45 years of her life to the care and development of her Down syndrome son. My wife volunteered as a teacher for a class of at-risk girls. My mother was a frequent visitor to the homes of shut-ins and widows. My brother-in-law served in the Navy. My cousin Joan was foster mother to 57 children. My father and I both ran for political office.

Wait a second. That last item, running for office, may not seem like real service to you. I know that for some, politics is an occupation, and a fine one at that. But for Dad and me, it came after our careers were over. I believed, and my father believed, that we could really help people if we were elected.

CITIZENSHIP

Most of you probably won't run for office, but the country needs all of you to serve. America faces daunting challenges: generational poverty, looming debt, a warming climate, and a world that is increasingly dangerous and tumultuous. Washington appears inept, powerless, and without an effective strategy to overcome any of these. America needs your passion, your impatience with inaction, your participation in the political discourse. Engaging in your world includes engaging in citizenship. Stay informed, influence others, campaign for people you trust, and for the sake of preserving freedom, vote.

The cozy little world of your childhood is long gone. You may be tempted to try to create for yourself that same kind of small and safe circle, concentrating on entertainments for yourself, doing the minimum at work, reading nothing because nothing has been assigned, avoiding meaningful commitments, complaining about the inevitable unfairnesses of life. Alternatively, you can live large by expanding your world and engaging in your world, constantly learning, nourishing friendships, overcoming reversals, and serving others. That is the road less traveled, and it will make all the difference. God bless you in your life's journey.

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Worth Every Minute

Digital media student Austin Wilson applies classroom learning and life lessons to his final project

When Utah Valley University digital media student Austin Wilson woke at 3 a.m. one day knowing exactly what his senior project was going to be, he had no idea that his film — “47 Minutes” — would eventually be screened at the Independent Filmmaker’s Lounge during Sundance 2015, be named Official Selection at the 2015 Student Filmmaker Awards, win first place in the short film category and receive the Audience Choice Award at LDS Film Festival 2015, receive an Award of Excellence at the 2015 Indie Fest, and be nominated in seven categories in the 2015 Filmed in Utah Awards. He just wanted to make his best movie — and get a passing grade.

Wilson’s film is based on an original play written by UVU student Joshua French. The play tells the fictional story of three people whose separate lives are thrown together during one of the tragic moments of this generation: 9/11. Months after seeing the play, which Wilson calls “the most impactful thing I’d ever seen on stage,” he met with French and eventually began collaborating.

“We wanted to be very sensitive to the subject matter and not dwell on the negative,” says Wilson. “Instead, we wanted to focus on what life was like before the attacks and how it can change in an instant.”

The two developed the original 10-minute play, which consisted of three monologues, into the final 20-minute film script, painstakingly adding characters, dialogue, scenes, and meaning. And that was the easy part.

Production on “47 Minutes” began in April 2012; postproduction wrapped up more than two years later in November 2014. An estimated 50 UVU students were involved in the project, which included a three-day shoot in New York City and a realistic plane set created from scratch. Thanks to a tremendous amount of volunteer work and donated equipment, the film’s budget came in under \$15,000.

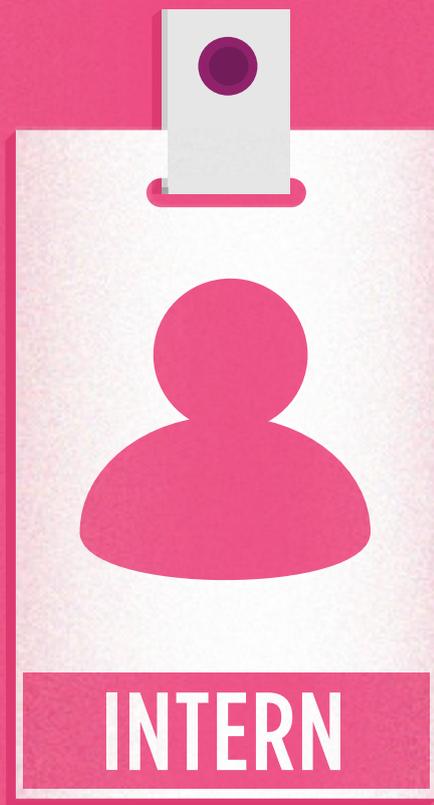
One reason the film took so long was because, after filming wrapped, tragedy struck. Wilson’s father was killed in a plane crash. “And I wasn’t the only one who was dealing with stuff,” Wilson notes. “Almost every postproduction team member faced a major personal challenge. Ultimately, we used our pain to tell the story even more clearly.”

UVU’s digital media program is all about engaged learning, points out Dennis Lisonbee, digital media associate professor. “Practical application of the foundational skills we teach is critical. Wilson and his team wrote, pitched, packaged, shot, edited, and completed ‘47 Minutes’ on their own initiative. They took what they learned in their years of schooling and applied it on this final project.”

Wilson, a South Jordan, Utah, resident, graduated in April and also earned a minor in entrepreneurship. “UVU is the only place where I could have gotten the experience and the network I have gained,” he says.

And by the way, in addition to receiving all those awards, Wilson’s film earned him an A.

— Kellene Ricks Adams



PATHWAY

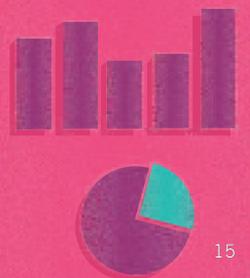
— — TO — —

BETTER JOBS

INTERNSHIPS OFFER STUDENTS THE
OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN EXPERIENCE
IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELD



BY KELLENE
RICKS ADAMS



M

Many youngsters dream of being a special government agent, but that dream often falls by the wayside. Becoming an adult didn't change Robert Brandt's dream, however, and as a student at Utah Valley University, he jumped at the chance to work as an intern in the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in San Diego, Calif.

While interning, Brandt wrote reports of investigations and worked closely with agents. "I also observed an autopsy and was involved with NCIS shooting tactics, forensic fingerprinting, forensic photography, interrogations, and crime scene investigations — and I obtained invaluable contacts for the advancement of my career," he says.

"This internship gave me the opportunity to find out if I really wanted to pursue becoming a special agent," continues Brandt, who graduated from UVU in exercise science and outdoor recreation. "After completing the internship, I knew this is what I wanted to do. When I was there, I felt like I was part of the NCIS team, having access to almost everything available at the San Diego field office."

Brandt's experience as an intern — both in confirming his interest in his chosen career and helping him find employment after graduation — is not unique. In fact, data indicate that an internship leads to both better job opportunities and higher salaries.

"Statistics show that it takes six months to a year for graduates to find their first job without any experience," reports Marsha Haynes, director of UVU Internship Services. "With experience,

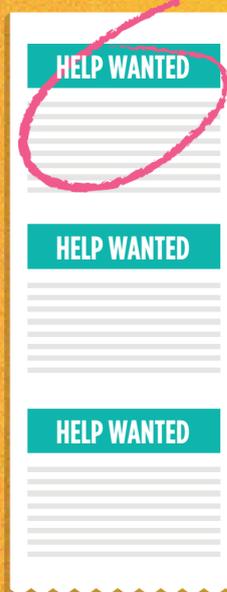
which often comes through internships, they find that first job much faster — and at a significantly higher starting salary."

Dustin Fowkes, who completed an EMT internship at the fire station in Draper, Utah, applied for a job with the Unified Fire Authority in Salt Lake City. "They interviewed more than 100 applicants," Fowkes reports, "and myself and three others who participated in the same internship were among those hired. I feel the internship played a critical role in receiving employment."

Internships are so important that the University is investing significantly in the Internship Services program, whose mission is to support engaged learning and student success by developing exceptional internship opportunities, coordinating the internship process, and offering comprehensive information. In the coming months, the program will be adding four full-time and three part-time coordinators embedded in different colleges and schools. The program will also be adding a coordinator to work specifically with governmental and high-profile internships in the central office.

In addition to personal contact with 1,500 students each year, Internship Services plans weekly hallway promotions, hosts regular information sessions and classroom presentations, sends out weekly emails, and even works with students to create customized internships.

HELP WANTED



UVU's Internship Services is always looking to expand internship opportunities. "We invite employers to contact us," says Marsha Haynes, director of Internship Services. "UVU interns are excited, energetic, skilled, and ready to work. Those who employ our interns have nothing but positive responses."

Internship Services works closely with employers to ensure that both parties — employers and interns — have a more than satisfying experience. "We can walk employers through the process, and help them identify what they want to accomplish, what we expect, and how to make the internship an experience worth repeating."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT UVU.EDU/INTERNSHIPS/EMPLOYER OR CONTACT INTERNSHIP SERVICES AT 801-863-6589.

“ THIS INTERNSHIP GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT IF I REALLY WANTED TO PURSUE BECOMING A SPECIAL AGENT. ”

For instance, Carol Acevedo was majoring in history and wanted to work in a library, so Internship Services facilitated finding her a position at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. And Mara Orchard, majoring in political science with an emphasis in international relations, wanted to work with a consulate or an ambassador and found an internship with the consulate of Peru in Salt Lake City.

Internship Services provides a wide range of internships, including IT internships with Adobe and Domo, graphic design internships with advertising and design firms, and various internships with nonprofits, small businesses, and international organizations.

Available opportunities include ongoing internships (internships available every semester or every year) and special project internships (one-time only internships based on a special project or need). “We have found that those one-time-only internships often turn into ongoing opportunities,” Haynes says, “because the companies recognize what a huge contribution our interns make.”

Internships can be paid or unpaid, and UVU internships are generally about half and half. “Of course, our goal is to have them all paid — that’s the ideal,” says Haynes. “However, there are some amazing internships out there that aren’t paid but provide incredible experience.”

UVU offers scholarships for students participating in unpaid internships. “We also have housing scholarships for our students who intern outside the state, particularly in New York City and Washington, D.C.,” says Haynes. “Helping out with housing can make it possible for a student to afford to do these unpaid internships.”

The program also works closely with other UVU organizations to accomplish its mission, including partnering with the International Center to create and identify international internships. UVU students have taught English in China, completed humanitarian work in South America, and gained valuable international business experience in numerous countries.

Internship opportunities are also posted daily on Wolverine Career Link, in conjunction with the Career Development Center. The center also assists students in

preparing résumés and cover letters and strengthening interview skills as they apply for internships.

Tasia Briggs, a senior majoring in public relations who is currently an intern with University Marketing & Communications, calls internships vital. “Today you have to have real-life experience in your field of choice,” explains Briggs, who has written press releases and magazine articles, interacted with the news media, and gained insight into the world of public relations. “Being published before I graduate gives me a significant advantage as I build my career,” Briggs concludes. “I can’t imagine graduating without an internship.”

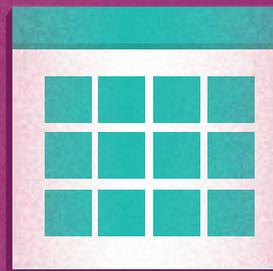
Haynes loves to hear feedback like this from students. “We know that internships change lives,” she says. “Internships often turn into jobs and almost always result in invaluable hands-on experience that can’t be gained in any other way in the higher education setting. My goal is that one day every UVU student will have the opportunity to participate in an internship.”

Internships: Paving the Way

UVU students gain valuable experience by interning with top companies around the country

2,248

internships were completed by UVU students throughout the year



24%

increase in internships over the past three years

On average, **184** internships are available on the UVU job board on a daily basis

Paid interns received an average of

\$12.70/hr

3,422

students stopped by internship table booths to get information in 2014-2015



49%

of UVU internships were paid

30% intern as a graduation requirement

15

UVU students interned in Washington, D.C. — the most in one year



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 Authorized Campus Store

A BEACON OF COURAGE

UVU alum Porter Hancock pushes through the challenges of his new life and finds motivation in wheelchair rugby

by Melinda R. Colton
photography by Jay Drowns

It happened in an instant.

Porter Hancock was starting his first high school football game at South Summit High in Kamas, Utah, in 2011. Tragedy struck in the third quarter when the 16-year-old linebacker and running back blocked a tackle and his head collided with another player's shoulder.

"I remember the tackle," Hancock says. "A warm sensation came over me. I felt no pain. I was calm. I drifted in and out of consciousness and didn't wake up until the next morning."

He dislocated his neck and underwent emergency surgery that night to repair his neck and remove two discs. Doctors told Hancock he was paralyzed from the chest down. But Hancock has always had a fighting spirit; it's what drives him. So instead of giving up, he put all his energy into looking forward.



Many wheelchair rugby players will wrap their hands before games, wear specialized gloves, and use a tacky substance to better control the ball and protect against blisters and hand injuries.

"My motto for life parallels that of wheelchair rugby, which is, 'smashing stereotypes, one wheelchair at a time.'"

MENTAL FORTITUDE

What followed was months of intense physical therapy. Hancock immersed himself in therapy, accomplishing everything asked of him, hoping it would change his outcome. It wasn't until a year later that doctors actually said the words: "you'll never walk again."

Once again, Hancock's determination superseded that crushing news. His new focus became rehab and improving the function in his arms. And when he wasn't working on his physical strength, he was getting serious about improving his mental strength.

"Being mentally strong isn't something you're born with," Hancock says. "It's something that's instilled in you at a young age, and you wake up every day to nourish and strengthen it."

It wasn't until his accident that Hancock discovered that he was capable of achieving, both in body and mind. "My physical strength has been taken and my mental strength tested, but it hasn't been broken. I've learned that mental strength far outweighs any physical strength you think you have. Mental fortitude propels you and picks you up when you are in a bad circumstance," he says. "It gives you the strength to know that this isn't the end and that there are other great things out there for you."

In April, Hancock earned his associate degree in communication at UVU's Wasatch Campus in Heber City. The campus was ideal for him because he lives in nearby Oakley and values the small campus environment. He knew everyone, and everyone knew him.

"Porter is one of the most respected and highly regarded students at this campus," says Mike Walker, assistant administrator at Wasatch Campus. "Students flock to his infectious personality and see him as a beacon of both hope and courage. He is an everyday person doing everyday things but in an uncommon and extraordinary way. His legacy here is one of inspiration."

A NEW PASSION

Knowing how much Hancock loves sports — and loves to excel — his physical therapist suggested he try wheelchair rugby.

"I went to my first practice at Copperview Recreation Center [in Midvale, Utah]," recalls Hancock. "There were guys flying all around, and I could barely push my wheelchair."

Hancock participated sporadically, playing a dozen or so times his first season. "I still needed help getting in and out of my chair, so my buddies would go with me. Before long I recognized what a great workout rugby was and knew I needed to take advantage of it."

About a year and half ago he realized he had found a new interest — and a new motivation.

Today, Hancock can be found at the rec center just about every Friday and Saturday night, working on perfecting his new-found passion.

Now that he takes rugby more seriously, Hancock combines his love for the outdoors with his conditioning, pushing his wheelchair on the back roads and hills of Oakley.



Wheelchair rugby players will use specially designed and engineered sports chairs that help with speed, and to navigate the pace of the game. Hancock's chair is equipped with a bumper/picker to help in his defensive role.

"There are some very desolate roads near my home. When it's just me and the empty roads it feels freeing. It used to be with every stride I took, but now it's with every push I make. There's just something about pushing your physical limits. I started with a mile and now push seven to eight miles a day," he says. "I'm finding myself when I'm out there. I've fallen in love with pushing my boundaries and being all that I can be."

"My focus right now is to be the best at what I want to do, both physically and mentally."

When he's not pushing himself up and down hills, Hancock does weight training at home. "As a quadriplegic I can't let myself go. I lost 50 pounds the first month after my accident. Now that I'm working out and pushing myself, I've put 20 pounds back on."

With each rugby practice and game, Hancock feels stronger and more confident in his abilities. "Rugby gives me focus, drive, and glory, and shows me what I'm made of. It shows me how much heart I have."

It wasn't long before Hancock was able to parlay his passion into a competitive opportunity. Professional wheelchair rugby isn't new to Utah. In fact, Utah has won a national championship but doesn't currently have a team due to the lack of players and interest. Two Utah players and Hancock were fortunate to be invited by the coaches of the Sierra Storm Quadrugby Team, based in Reno, Nev., to train and compete with them. "Thanks to my teammates, I

A person in a wheelchair is shown from the back, with their arms outstretched horizontally. They are positioned in the lower half of the frame, silhouetted against a bright, low sun that creates a large lens flare and illuminates the scene from behind. The background is a clear, bright sky. The overall mood is one of triumph and resilience.

"I've learned that mental strength far outweighs any physical strength you think you have."

Hancock is considered quadriplegic. He is paralyzed from the chest down. He has limited muscles in his back, no abdominal muscles, and no control of his fingers. With help from his doctors he has gained strength and mobility to allow him to play wheelchair rugby.

just happened to be at the right place at the right time,” he says.

Wheelchair rugby players are assessed into seven classifications — between 0.5 to 3.5 points. The lower level points indicate less functional mobility and the higher points indicate greater functional mobility. Hancock plays at a 1.0 and plays as a defender.

The Sierra Storm competed this spring at Division-II nationals in Kentucky and finished third, giving Hancock, one of the youngest competitors, the exposure he needs to move his dream forward.

“I think I can be good at this. I know it will require an incredible amount of effort,” he says, adding his ultimate goal is to compete in the U.S. Paralympic Games. “I believe I’m the kind of player the U.S. team needs.”

Hancock spent the summer conditioning and will start more intense training this fall in preparation for a new rugby season. He eventually hopes to transfer to the University of Arizona and participate on its NCAA Division-I wheelchair rugby team while pursuing a bachelor’s degree in communication. “My focus right now is to be the best at what I want to do, both physically and mentally.”

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Hancock is a planner and is always thinking about his next move. In June he completed the Utah Valley half marathon in Provo. “Training for it kept me motivated while I worked out. It kept me pushing myself.”

In addition to pushing himself physically and mentally, Hancock uses his experiences to help inspire others toward greatness: he often shares his story with young people and fellow students who need motivation to move past their circumstances. He exemplifies his message of determination and perseverance on a daily basis.

But that’s not to say it has been an easy process.

Learning to adjust to his injury has led him to realize how generous people are — with their time, their money, and their kindness — and how much he has depended on that generosity. His friends, his community, and complete strangers have encouraged and supported his journey.

“My friends are more like brothers to me,” Hancock observes. “The nurses referred to my hospital room as a ‘revolving door’ because people came in and out of my room all day long.”

Now four years later, his friends and family are still there to support and encourage him. Hancock’s mother and three sisters have been a tremendous support. “My mom is strong on the outside, but she knew the things I love most were taken away from me,” he says. “This has been harder for her than for me.”

For now, Hancock continues to train and perfect the sport he has grown to love — six days a week, complete with weight training, pushing up and down the hills of the Wasatch Back, and performing agility drills for quickness. “There are a lot of other sports for wheelchairs that are less physical, but I wanted to play the most physical and most demanding one. It’s just who I am.”

Rules of the Game

Wheelchair rugby has been around since the '70s. The game is played indoors on a hardwood court and combines the sports of basketball, ice hockey, and handball. Originally called “murderball,” it is a contact sport, and physical contact between wheelchairs is an integral part of the game. A volleyball must be bounced or passed between teammates at least once every 10 seconds during play. The sport is played in four eight-minute, stop-time quarters with goal lines marked by cones and a lined-off key area. All players are classified based on their abilities from 0.5 to 3.5 points. Four players from each team are allowed on the court at a time, and the classification value between all four players cannot exceed 8.0 points. The object of the game is to score a goal by crossing the goal line with possession of the ball while the opposing team is defending that goal.

— SOURCE: USQRA WHEELCHAIR RUGBY, USQRA.ORG

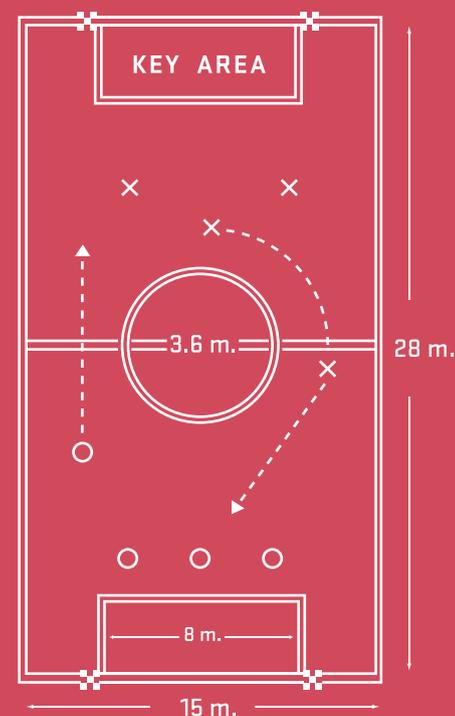




PHOTO BY JAY DROWNS

DIGITAL DEFENSE

UVU's new cybersecurity program takes a practical approach to online protection

In today's world, almost every aspect of our lives involves information stored online. And that information is extremely valuable to criminals who know how to steal it. Protecting our digital data has never been more important.

That's where Utah Valley University's cybersecurity program comes in. Created in 2014, the program features five different tracks, from one-year certificates to four-year bachelor degrees and beyond. Rob Jorgensen, senior professional-in-residence and UVU cybersecurity program manager, explains how UVU is preparing students to fight crime in a digital world.

>> Why is cybersecurity so important?

>> Cybersecurity comes down to protecting the interconnected devices of our lives. It's more than just our computers: it's smartphones, tablets, smart TVs. It's about securing all these devices that connect to the Web and share information. Cybersecurity has an ever-increasing role in society because all the information we're concerned about is now being stored electronically, where people who are interested in getting it have access to it.

As a society, we like helping people. That's a good thing, but it leaves us open to social engineering, which is where criminals take advantage of human

kindness, as well as ignorance, to access data. If I want to get your money, I don't need to break into your house or bank or mug you. I can access your account or trick you into going to a website to put in your credentials.

Part of what we're trying to do at UVU is educate people who aren't familiar with computers about the scams and threats that are out there. Whenever you see a monster movie, you get that one person who says something like, "We only fear it because we don't understand it!" It's a lot like that with computers. The more you understand, the more secure you'll feel.

>> What can the average person do to protect his or her data online?

>> First off, people still reuse passwords. We've been telling people not to do that forever, but everybody still does. There are ways to mitigate that, such as using a password manager, a program that helps store and organize large numbers of passwords. Another is enabling two-factor authentication, which requires both a password and another physical device or code. This can be done on Gmail, Facebook, and lots of other websites.

The reason password reuse is dangerous is because it means thieves have to gain access only one time. If they get a username and password on one website, they'll try plugging it in everywhere.

The other thing is just to be aware of what you're doing. If you get an email that asks you to take certain actions, think about it. Say to yourself,

"Is this really from my bank?" Think about to whom you're giving your information, because your information has value. If you're suspicious about something, call and verify it. Develop a healthy skepticism of the things that are being presented to you.

At the same time, you need a balance. Think about the flu. If you're really worried about the flu, never leave your house. You won't get the flu, but you'll also miss going outside and living life. Yes, there are viruses on the Internet. There can be bad things out there. But there are a lot of good things too. If you don't want to get the flu, don't shake hands with a bunch of people and immediately rub your face. It's the same thing with the Internet. Make sure you've got a good antivirus program. Change your passwords often. Good Internet hygiene is a real thing.

>> How do UVU students learn how to fight these threats?

>> I think the best thing students get here is hands-on experience. We don't just talk about the theory; we demonstrate the tools. We teach them how hackers break into a system, and then we show them the defensive side. In my network defense class, I have them running three systems: a hacker platform, a target, and a security monitoring tool. And they'll run an attack from the hacker platform and catch it on the monitoring tool. That lets them see how an intrusion works from all sides.

The other thing we have at UVU is a great advisory board with some of the biggest companies represented: Adobe, EMC, the NSA, Symantec, Paraben, Security Metrics, and a few others. We talk about what's going on and what their employees are lacking. I spend a lot of time dealing with industry people, asking what we need to teach our students. We're also working on establishing a center of cybersecurity excellence where we can interface with local businesses and the community. We don't just talk about cybersecurity — we do it.

Alumni Mark and Britnee Johnston captured their favorite memories of traveling the world this past year

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK JOHNSTON

A View of the World in a Year

Mark and Britnee Johnston of Salt Lake City spent exactly 365 days visiting countries around the world, calling their expedition, "One World One Year." The experience met their need to engage with the world and encounter new cultures. Now they are eager to get back to a 9-to-5 routine and the chance to eat at In-N-Out Burger whenever they want.







WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED?

Britnee: Countries such as Nepal made a big impact on us. We saw so much poverty and a lack of amenities and opportunities that we took for granted back home: plumbing, hot showers, paved roads, supermarkets, good education, traffic rules that people actually follow, drinkable tap water, strong Wi-Fi, and more. Traveling around the world and meeting people from all walks of life has opened my eyes to the great worth of my freedoms, opportunities, and comforts in the United States.

Mark: The world is such an amazing place, and I think it's important to get out and explore it sometime in life. We've both realized just how much we miss all that we left behind in Utah. We departed wanting something different in our lives, and we got just that. In the end, however, we also ended up with a greater love of home. I don't mean the USA, but home wherever it happens to be with all its familiar comforts and good company.

LEAD PHOTO: *Britnee kayacking in Halong Bay, Vietnam*

1: *Morning market in Hoi An, Vietnam*

2: *A guard on duty outside the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

3: *An Uru woman departing a floating village on Lake Titicaca, Peru*

4: *A lovely face found at Boudhanath in Kathmandu, Nepal*

5: *Fighting Cholitas wrestling in El Alto, Bolivia*

6: *A monk takes in the view of Annapurna Circuit, Nepal*

FAVORITE COUNTRY

Britnee: Thailand. We spent two months there, mostly living on the Thai islands. It was amazing to live next to a beach with smooth white sand and warm ocean water — something I've never experienced before on any prior vacations. We went to the beach almost every day for two months. It was also rewarding because we came to Thailand straight from two months in Nepal where we trekked more than 150 miles in the Himalayas. My body was sorely in need of relaxation and warm weather, and Thailand was the perfect remedy.

Mark: Nepal by a long shot. I've missed it ever since we left. We made good use of our time after touching down in Kathmandu, trekking the Annapurna in the Himalayas for weeks, passing through remote villages, crossing challenging mountain passes, making new friends, and falling madly in love with the biggest mountains in the world. So it was heartbreaking to see the news of the destructive earthquakes that have claimed so many lives and disrupted many more in a place I've come to love so much. There's no doubt in my mind that I'll be back there in the next three or four years.

COUNTRIES VISITED: *Japan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Finland, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, England, Scotland, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, and Peru.*

Visit the Johnston's blog at
OneWorldOneYear.com



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6.

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THE

MARK POPE

— F A C T O R —



BY LAYTON SHUMWAY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUGUST MILLER

FROM NCAA CHAMPION TO NBA VETERAN TO THREE-YEAR MED STUDENT TO HEAD COACH, POPE LEADS UVU HOOPS INTO A NEW ERA

WHEN BIG CHANGES ARE COMING IN MARK POPE'S LIFE, THEY OFTEN START WITH AN UNEXPECTED PHONE CALL. One call from a basketball coach led him to an NCAA national championship at the University of Kentucky in 1996. A phone call from the NBA's Indiana Pacers led to a nine-year career in professional basketball. Another call informed him he had been accepted to medical school at Columbia University, and a call three years later led him back to basketball as an assistant coach at the University of Georgia.



“I’VE BEEN AMAZED AT HOW QUICKLY AND HOW AGGRESSIVELY UVU IS WILLING TO EVOLVE, AND I THINK THAT’S PART OF WHAT’S MAKING THIS PLACE SO SPECTACULAR.”

“I felt like I was going to get a shot at two lives,” Pope says. “I had this incredible basketball life, and I thought I was going to take a shot at living a second life, heavily steeped in academics and service. Little did I know I’m a pretty one-dimensional person.”

Pope says that out of humility — he’s always downplaying his own success — but his path from NCAA champion to NBA veteran to three-year med student to UVU men’s basketball head coach shows that he’s anything but one-dimensional. In fact, Pope’s experience and love of learning make him the perfect person to lead the Wolverines to new heights on the court and in the classroom.

The NCAA combines the words “student-athlete” to refer to every competitor, but Pope lives up to the term. Players with NBA potential rarely stay in college for all four years, but Pope wasn’t leaving Kentucky without his degree, a bachelor’s in English. He also earned Academic All-SEC honors in 1995 and served as a team captain during Kentucky’s national championship season. And even as a professional, he always made time to educate himself.

“I knew I was a terrible basketball player,” Pope deadpans. “I was one day away from getting fired for 10 years. So I was always thinking about what else I could do.”

While playing for the NBA’s Milwaukee Bucks, Pope read about the medical programs at nearby University of Wisconsin–Madison and began taking post-baccalaureate classes. He used his study time as a refuge from the hectic lifestyle and travel of the NBA.

“It was a safe place, away from the madness of the game,” Pope says. “I had never taken any serious science classes in college, but I loved them.”

When Pope’s professional basketball career ended in 2005, he enrolled in medical school at Columbia and had every intention of devoting himself to medicine. “I remember talking about it at great length with my wife, that it was going to be a great post-basketball career, doing something really noble,” Pope says.

But basketball wasn’t done with him yet. In 2009, his third year of medical school, Pope received a phone call from Mark Fox, the men’s basketball coach at the University of Georgia, with an opportunity that he couldn’t pass up. And from his first day at Georgia, Pope says, he knew coaching was what he wanted to do and that his experiences had prepared him perfectly.

“I think that you’re a better ball-player, a better person, and better in every area the more diverse your expe-



TOP LEFT: VICE PRESIDENT VAL PETERSON, PRESIDENT MATTHEW S. HOLLAND, COACH MARK POPE, AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR VINCE OTDUPAL.
ABOVE: POPE WAS A MEMBER OF THE 1996 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM; AND LEE ANNE POPE AND THEIR FOUR DAUGHTERS ATTEND POPE'S INTRODUCTORY PRESS CONFERENCE AT UVU.

rience is," Pope says. "Our world's become so specialized that it's easy to get locked into your own view. So I think it's important when we take opportunities to listen. Let's maintain the focus, but let's step back and have a little perspective, because perspective can help you grow too."

After coaching at Georgia and Wake Forest, Pope joined Brigham Young University's men's basketball program in 2011 as the top assistant coach. And again, he planned on staying there for a long time — until another phone call came, this time from UVU President Matthew S. Holland.

"I was really happy in my old job, coaching guys who I loved, really growing and learning because I had a ton of freedom to coach," Pope says. "But President Holland educated me about UVU, its history and its trajectory, and that got me incredibly interested in the job. And every day since then I've been amazed at what's happening here."

UVU's rapid growth and emphasis on innovation and engagement immediately appealed to Pope, who teaches a fast, aggressive style of play on the court and hard work and personal improvement off it.

"I've been amazed at how quickly and how aggressively UVU is willing to evolve," Pope says. "And I think that's part of what's making this place so spectacular. This university is not only championing new ideas and chasing them hard but almost requiring them. If you're here just to go through your day and stay in your lane, this is probably not the place for you. And that's incredible."

That's part of Pope's recruiting pitch to potential players, which is quickly bearing fruit. Six new players have already signed on with UVU, including BYU transfer Isaac Neilson. And more are on the way, driven by the promise of instruction from Pope and his handpicked coaching staff. That includes new hires such as former BYU director of basketball operations Cody Fueger, former Duke and University of Utah player Chris Burgess, and former Orlando Magic video analyst Eric Daniels.

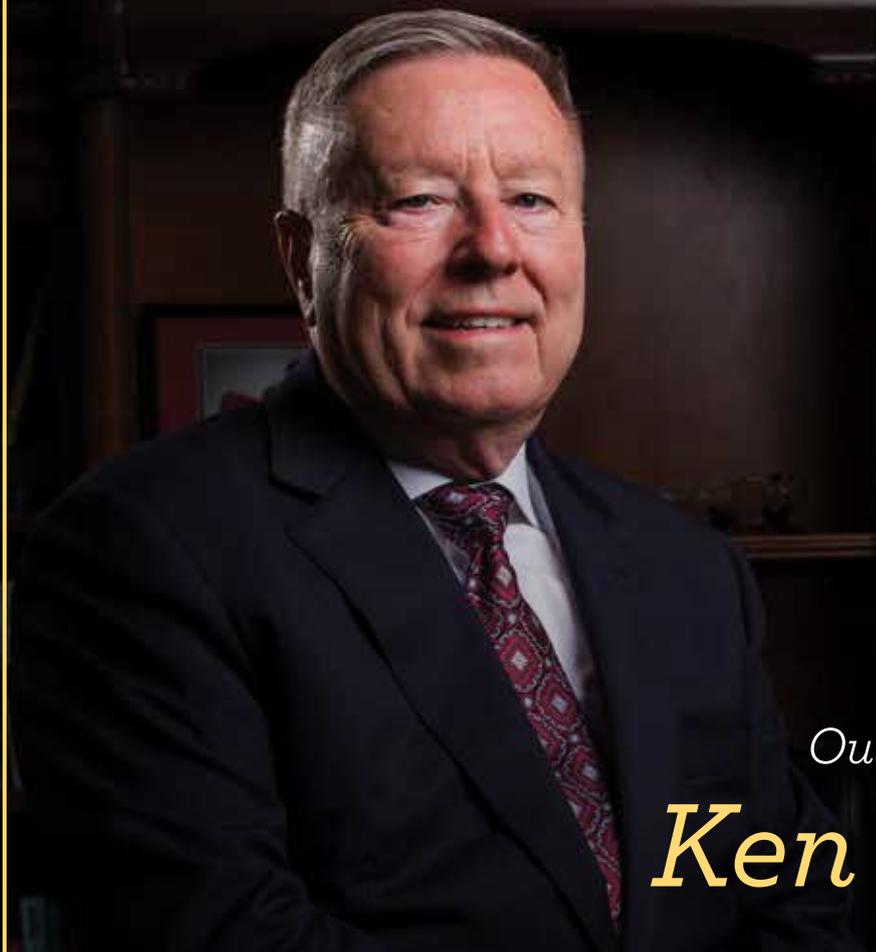
"I have a better staff than I ever could have imagined," Pope says. "These guys are all 24/7 guys, they're all great players in their own right, and they love to teach this game."

Pope's own experience certainly doesn't hurt. He played for legendary coaches such as Rick Pitino and George Karl and played on NBA teams with veteran players such as Reggie Miller and Ray Allen. And his love for learning drove him to soak up as much knowledge from them as possible, which he's eager to pass on to his new Wolverines.

"I think part of the reason we've had so much success early is that recruits come out to campus and feel how engaged our coaches are in helping our players grow," Pope says. "They know we'll be on the court with them every day. We'll teach them what we've learned from NBA draft picks and big-time coaches. And I think they want to be a part of it. They say, 'I want to play for these guys.'"

But Pope hasn't forgotten the unexpected turns his own life has taken, and he wants to prepare his players to answer their own calls beyond basketball. That, he says, is another big selling point for UVU.

"The success that our athletic teams have had in academics over the last few years is stunning," he says. "I think a lot of that's due to UVU's practical, hands-on approach. I want my players to experience as many different things as possible so they're ready for whatever life throws at them."



Outstanding Alumni Award

Ken Brailsford

*Lead, follow, or
get out of the way.*

This motto has guided Ken Brailsford throughout his extraordinary journey as a student, commissioned Army officer, and entrepreneur.

"I don't mind following, and I don't mind leading," says Brailsford, who is this year's recipient of Utah Valley University's Outstanding Alumni Award.

"I can do either – I just want to be moving forward."

And moving forward is what Brailsford has done his entire life. After earning a degree in economics from Brigham Young University, getting married, and serving a stint in the Army during the Vietnam War (the war was winding down, so he stayed stateside the entire time), Brailsford returned to Utah. He

started a business with family members, and although he already had a degree, he decided to put his GI bill to good use by attending UVU (then Utah Valley Community College).

"The classes, the instructors, the whole experience was positive," Brailsford recalls. "The education available at UVU is as good – or better – than any place. I've watched with enthusiasm as buildings have been added and enrollment numbers have gone up. The University is very needed in the valley and in the state."

Within a few years, the family business – Nature's Sunshine, the first nutritional supplement company to encapsulate herbs – became so successful that it demanded his entire attention. However, while his time in brick-and-mortar classrooms ended, his education continued.

"In addition to pioneering the idea of encapsulation, we were also one of only a handful of MLM companies at the

time," says Brailsford, who served as company president and earned the title "Father of Encapsulation." "I had to learn everything on my own, with some valuable tutoring from our top distributors."

After leaving Nature's Sunshine in 1979, Brailsford repeated his pattern of success with two more MLM companies; he is currently the founder, chairman of the board, and CEO for Zija International in Lehi, Utah. In addition, Brailsford has played a key role in investing in and leading several local companies hovering on the brink of bankruptcy out of danger.

"I enjoy saving companies and saving jobs," says Brailsford, who watches "Shark Tank" and acknowledges the similarities, on a smaller scale, between the reality TV show and his real life. "I definitely want to help people succeed," he continues. "You have to go with your gut and trust the people you're investing in, but it's incredibly rewarding when you are able to make a difference."

Alumni Awards 2015

Ten individuals will be recognized during Homecoming Week for their outstanding service and contributions to the University

by Kellene Ricks Adams
photography by August Miller

Keith & Melisa Nellesen

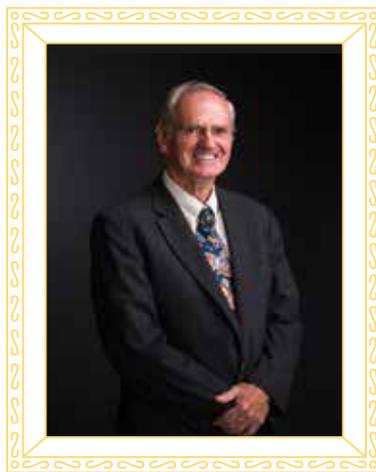


Distinguished Service Award

Recognizes individuals who have served to further the purposes and mission of UVU through their affiliation with the University.

Discovering their son Cole had autism was a defining moment for Melisa and Keith Nellesen. In the years since that diagnosis, the Nellesens have dedicated themselves to doing all they can to help and support Cole as well as others who have found themselves in a similar situation. That help includes donating the cornerstone gift for UVU's newly announced autism facility as well as encouraging others to become involved in the effort to provide training, resources, and hope for those living with autism.

Steve Teeter



Wilson Sorensen
Lifetime Achievement Award

Honors an employee who has furthered the purposes, mission, growth, and advancement of the University.

First hired as an accounting teacher in 1987, Steve Teeter has also served as an accounting department chair and Woodbury School of Business alumni board faculty advisor. Recently retired after 28 years, Teeter developed a paperless classroom when it was unheard of in the accounting field, was a member of the Wiley Faculty Network to encourage and support technology integration in accounting classrooms nationwide, and developed hybrid accounting classes to combine the best traits of a live classroom and online learning.

Marc & Debbie Bingham



Legacy Award

Recognizes alumni and friends of the University who have gone the extra mile to contribute to UVU and the Alumni Association.

Lifetime residents of Utah County, Marc and Debbie Bingham have been strong supporters of UVU for decades. In addition to time (Debbie served for more than 12 years on both the UVU Foundation Board and the Board of Trustees), the Bingham's have provided ongoing financial donations to the University, from purchasing a table at the Presidential Scholarship Ball years ago to donating \$1 million for the construction of the Science Building, to funding an ongoing scholarship for single parents today.

Curtis Morley

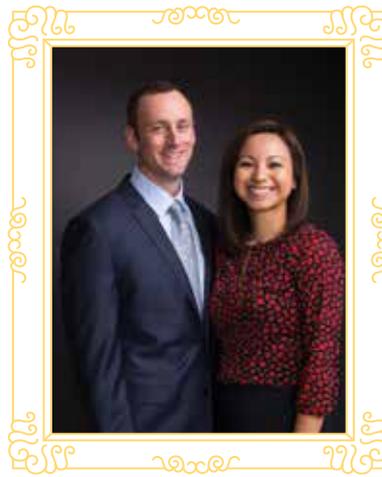


Pinnacle Award

Honors alumni who further the purpose and mission of the UVU Alumni Association.

An entrepreneur at heart, Curtis Morley has started three separate companies and currently serves as president of eLearning Brothers. He has taught numerous classes at UVU and served on several alumni committees, including most recently as president and president emeritus. Morley “absolutely bleeds green” and is excited about the growth and momentum the University is experiencing. The University does all it can to provide a cutting-edge education for its students, says Morley, who plans to continue to support the University in every way he can.

Mark & Britnee Johnston



Young Alumni Award

Recognizes recent UVU graduates who continue to support the University with their time, energy, and resources.

After five years of living “traditional” post-graduate lives, Britnee and Mark Johnston left their jobs and home behind for one entire year to travel the world. They chronicled their dream trip on a blog (see “A View of the World” on page 28), both to preserve the memories and so others could share their experiences. Now home, the couple credit their education at UVU for helping them gain skills for the adventure – writing, marketing, public relations, and more – and plan to support the University in the years to come.

Zack Dearing



Distinguished Student Service Award

Recognizes a UVU student who has notably given of himself or herself to enhance the quality of campus life and the student experience.

Zack Dearing describes himself as introverted before he attended UVU; anyone who knows him now would find that hard to believe. A public relations major slated to graduate in April, Dearing credits his experiences at UVU with changing his life in every way. Dearing got involved in student government as the activities chair, and in the past four years has been a UVU mentor, Foundation ambassador, club ambassador, and president of the Student Alumni Association, where he was instrumental in quadrupling association membership.

Alumni Can Make a Difference



JERI ALLPHIN, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS & ANNUAL GIVING

One of the highlights of Homecoming Week is the alumni awards event where the Alumni Association recognizes and honors individuals who have made a difference at UVU, either through their service, support, or example. It’s my privilege each year to interview the award recipients about their UVU experience and their feelings about being honored.

I’ve learned that these people are involved at UVU because they are committed to making a difference for UVU students. None of our recipients serve in hopes of being honored. In fact, most of them protest that they are not deserving of an award and that their

involvement was reward enough. Their stories are inspiring and illustrate exactly why they are worthy of being honored.

It’s a wonderful opportunity to recognize those who have helped shape UVU in quiet and profound ways. Please take a few minutes to read their stories and think about their contributions to UVU. If you know someone you feel should be honored, please submit their name at uvualumni.org/awards. Likewise, if any of these stories inspire you to get involved, please contact Alumni Relations at 801-863-8179 to discuss how you too can make a difference at UVU.

future rocket scientist

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IKE IKEME
UVU 2008

I am UVU

IKE IKEME. Managing partner at the Karter Group, B.S. Business Management, summa cum laude, Class of 2008.

"I chose UVU because as an institution it had elements of who I was as a person - accepting of all, purposefully distinct, while valuing closer, smaller, and more meaningful relationships. But maybe more importantly, it had elements of who I was trying to be - forward thinking, never content or stale, and continually evolving. I am UVU."

Share your story at uvualumni.org