

FALL 2016

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

UVU magazine



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FROM THE GOVERNOR

Happy 75th, Utah Valley University!

UVU's journey through the years has been one I've watched with great interest and pride. As an Orem native and former Utah County commissioner, I have become a proud advocate of the institution's growth and accomplishments. As a father and grandfather, I am deeply grateful for the educational options UVU has offered my own family members, neighbors, and friends.

Elevating education is one of my highest priorities as governor, and I see that elevation exemplified at UVU. From its humble beginning as the Central Utah Vocational School, this institution's administrators, faculty, and staff have worked tirelessly to offer students the highest quality education possible. Now a thriving university, UVU has risen again and again to become what it is today.

This institution has remained steadfast in its commitment to an open-admissions policy, recognizing the value of offering anyone who is willing to work hard an opportunity to grow and succeed. What a remarkable accomplishment. UVU is also renowned for recognizing needs within the community and acting upon those needs. From days long ago partnering with Geneva Steel to its current partnerships with companies such as Vivint and Adobe, UVU has a track record of responding quickly and effectively, offering vital education and training, and working to keep this community vibrant.

On this occasion we celebrate not only the growth of UVU but also the accomplishments of all who have poured their time, talents, and energy into making it the marvelous institution it is today.

Congratulations, UVU! Utah is proud to look back on all you've accomplished and look forward to your future success. Go, Wolverines!

Sincerely,

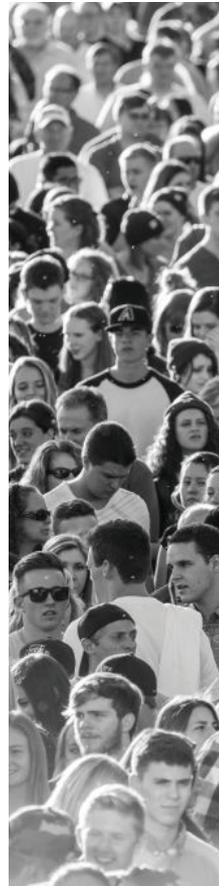
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor of Utah

p 42 **MAKING IT HAPPEN**
Shining a spotlight on three "movers and shakers" who have contributed to the rich 75-year legacy of Utah Valley University



p 22 **THE NEXT LEVEL**
From humble beginnings, Wolverine athletic programs are now ready to compete on a national scale



75 YEARS STRONG
Some of the defining moments that transformed Utah Valley University

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p 36 **LIFE ABOVE THE CLOUDS**
 One of UVU's earliest alumni credits aircraft mechanics class as basis for 44-year career

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UTAH BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVES FIVE NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT UVU

The Utah State Board of Regents has reviewed and approved plans for five new master degree programs at Utah Valley University. The programs, slated to begin offering classes during fall 2017, are specifically targeted to address growing needs for Utah employers and promote student success.

The five new programs include Master of Computer Science; Master of Public Service; Master of Social Work; Master of Accountancy; and Master of Science in Cybersecurity. Pending accreditation approval of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, this will increase UVU's total number of graduate degree offerings to eight. UVU already offers graduate degrees in nursing, business, and education.

"We are grateful to have received the full support of the Board of Regents for the implementation

of five additional degrees at the graduate level," said President Matthew S. Holland. "Student success is at the heart of everything we do. These opportunities in fields of demand are a definitive reflection of our commitment to equipping students with the skills and credibility they need to achieve their goals."

"These five programs have been carefully formulated in direct response to community needs," said Jeff Olson, senior vice president for academic affairs. "They represent an important addition to our graduate degree offerings."



UVU BREAKS GROUND ON PRIVATELY FUNDED NUVI BASKETBALL CENTER

Utah Valley University broke ground in June on a new \$3.5 million practice and conditioning facility to house its men's and women's basketball teams. The 14,500-square-foot facility, which is privately funded, will be named the NUVI Basketball Center after a lead donation from NUVI executive chair Keith Nellesen. The structure will be located on the south side of the UCCU Center on UVU's Orem Campus.

The facility will include 8,000 square feet of court space and nine basketball standards, with "game-day atmosphere" graphics to match the UCCU Center environment. A mesh wall will separate the court from 1,900 square feet of strength and conditioning space, with

sliding doors to dampen sound when necessary. A mezzanine level overlooks the court and will include 3,000 square feet of office space split into suites for the men's and women's coaching staff. Each suite will feature a large office for each head coach that can double as a conference room, and offices for three assistant coaches and basketball operations.

"This facility is the future of Utah Valley University basketball and UVU athletics," said UVU men's basketball coach Mark Pope. "It gives us a place to call our own and allows us to take our program to the next level."

Major gift support for the facility was also received from:

- Utah Community Credit Union
- Ryan Toolson, former UVU basketball player, now playing in Europe
- Workers Compensation Fund
- Todd Pedersen, founder and CEO of Vivint
- Alexander's Print Advantage
- Travis Hansen, former UVU and NBA basketball player
- Forte Elements



UVU STUDENTS WIN FIRST CULINARY ARTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, STUDENT CHEF OF THE YEAR

Utah Valley University's Culinary Arts Institute won its first national championship at the American Culinary Federation's national convention held in July. The University also had its first individual national champion—Michelle Stephenson from Delta, Utah, won Student Chef of the Year.

Stephenson had only 90 minutes to prepare a dish to impress a team of seasoned top-level chefs who were judging the event. Competitors representing the four regions in the country came up with their own recipes using an ingredient list given to them a few weeks prior to the event.

"It was definitely a challenge, but the great chef instructors at UVU helped me settle on a menu designed to impress the judges," she said. Her menu included pan-seared arctic char with creamy char mousseline stuffed crepe, char-roe beurre blanc, pan-fried char and shrimp cake, smoked belly, and celery root-vegetable puree with a pea and vegetable medley.

UVU students also won in the culinary knowledge bowl double-elimination event. Each of the four teams competing in the knowledge bowl had won its regional championship.

"I could not be more proud of this team," said coach John Thomas, assistant professor and chef instructor at UVU's Culinary Arts Institute. "They literally put in hundreds of extra hours preparing for this, and they certainly came here to win."



UVU RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT TO HELP FUTURE SCIENCE OF MATH EDUCATORS

Approximately 45 students will have a chance to study science education or mathematics education at Utah Valley University, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation. The Noyce Professional Engagement for Educators in Mathematics & Science Phase II will provide \$1,050,000 in funding for 65 \$10,000 scholarships starting fall 2016 through spring 2021.

UVU previously received an initial Phase I grant, which funded science education and mathematics education scholarships totaling \$765,000, between September 2009 and September 2015.

The scholarship program is designed to encourage talented science and mathematics students to pursue careers in science and math education in high-needs school districts. Districts in Utah are experiencing a shortage of science and mathematics teachers, especially level 4 mathematics teachers at the high school level.

The second phase of the grant includes outreach agreements with Snow College and at UVU to recruit students into the teacher licensure program at UVU. Biology professor Richard Tolman will continue as the project director for the second phase of the grant.

UVU PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW \$8.4 MILLION AUTISM CENTER

In an effort to meet an increasing community need, Utah Valley University broke ground April 21, during National Autism Awareness Month, on the Cole Nellesen Building, which will house the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism.

UVU raised \$8.4 million in private donations to fund the center which is designed to be immediately useful for the community, families, future educators and others in addressing a myriad of practical issues.

"This is such a great moment on this campus. It is such an exciting time to be a part of Utah Valley

University," said President Matthew S. Holland during the groundbreaking. "There is no reason in the world why we shouldn't be the national — if not global — leader in how to deal with autism."

One in 58 children in Utah is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. "This building, with the autism resources at its very core, is in direct response to community feedback and support," said President Holland. "This will be a unique resource in the state, evidence of what can be accomplished in a public-private partnership."





I am UVU

The student body at UVU is a diverse, fascinating group of men and women from all walks of life. Our students speak different languages, wear different clothes, believe different things. Yet at UVU we come together with a common goal of learning, understanding, and succeeding.

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we also celebrate every individual who has walked on our campus. Inserted throughout this issue are the stories of a select few of the tens of thousands of students who have helped define Utah Valley University.

BY KELLENE RICKS ADAMS | ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAITLIN PARSONS



“

If someone had told me that I'd be flying A10s one day, I would have called them a liar, but one of my UVU instructors told me to shoot for the moon, and I did. I got my dream job because of UVU.

Bud Means

Graduated spring 2009, aviation sciences

Bud Means grew up on a cattle ranch in Idaho. When he was 10, his father traded a side of beef for an airplane ride for his kids, and Means was hooked. During high school and his first two years of college in Idaho, Means focused on rodeo, but when UVU called and offered him a rodeo scholarship — plus the opportunity to study aviation — he transferred. He was national reserve champion in bareback riding and ranked second in the world his senior year at UVU, but he wanted to fly.

After graduating in 2009, he worked as an adjunct instructor at UVU and earned his civilian ratings, “but the economy tanked and no one was hiring pilots,” he says. When a fellow UVU instructor told him the Idaho National Guard was looking for pilots, he applied. “The odds were against me,” he says. “It’s competitive, and I had to pass all kinds of physicals and tests, but somehow I did it. I pinch myself every day that I get to fly such a cool aircraft — and get paid to do it.”

Where Are They Now?

Catching up with engaged learners previously featured in UVU Magazine

by Barbara Christiansen

Like the University, UVU Magazine has had a focus on engaged learning through the years, spotlighting students and the experiences they have had at the University. To mark this 75th anniversary, we reached out to some of those students to find out what they have been doing in recent years.

chris bailey



When Chris Bailey was profiled in UVU Magazine after he finished an internship with the Utah Jazz, he had just secured employment with the team. Since then he has been named director of VIP Services & Jazz 100 Club. He works with government officials, as well as religious and community leaders, and he says it is a lot of fun to meet them.

“There are so many people, so many stories and paths to success,” he says. “It has been interesting to see how success and, in many cases, the accompanying wealth, affects people.”

The Kaysville, Utah, resident says every job brings with it both bad and good, and he naturally enjoys the good and has learned to enjoy the things that are not so pleasant.

Bailey not only manages premium seating for the Jazz but also the Salt Lake Bees and Vivint Smart Home Arena concerts and events, including the luxury and hospitality suites and other similar areas.

His experience at UVU, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in public relations, prepared him for his career. “I loved my college experience,” he observes. “I used that experience to create more effective emails and marketing pieces. I learned how to communicate, not just talk and network, but how to write and engage with people.”



kim cook saling



A 2007 graduate in culinary arts, Saling was featured in UVU Magazine when she studied culinary arts in Italy. It was a two-week study abroad trip to study at two cooking schools: one in Sorrento, and the other in Siena. Today she is a stay-at-home mom of three children, ages five, three, and one — but that doesn’t mean her education is not being used.

The skills she learned in culinary arts are ones she uses every day as she prepares meals for her family. “I am really quick with my skills now,” she says. “I can make dinner in less time than it takes most people to cut the vegetables up.”

Her education also influences what her family eats. “We eat the basic things, but we also have special occasions when we have really nice meals. And I still try new things all the time.”

Saling gave a big shout-out to UVU chef Troy Wilson. “He made learning things really enjoyable. He was really up-front with us. When I was cooking, I was able to handle situations because of what I learned from him.”

The West Bountiful, Utah, resident says her current goals are to make sure her kids are healthy and happy and she is there for them. “I am still super grateful for what I have learned,” she says.



PHOTO BY JAY DROWNS

darren reid

Darren Reid graduated from UVU in 2003 with a degree in English. With additional education, he is now a partner at Holland & Hart, one of the largest law firms in the Rocky Mountain West.

"I am a commercial litigator and spend my time representing clients in complex disputes in both state and federal courts," he says. That may seem like a far cry from diagramming sentences and reading classical literature, but Reid says there is a connection.

"My experience in the English department at UVU was invaluable as it forced me to read deeply, think critically, and weigh and consider the human drama of past and present," he says.

In a 2006 issue of UVU Magazine, he was recognized for being a clerk for Justice Matthew B. Durrant of the Utah Supreme Court.

A resident of Spanish Fork when he attended UVU, Reid now lives in Lehi, Utah. He noted that his professors, including Karin Anderson, Robert Cousins, Laura Hamblin, Rick McDonald, Kathryn McPherson, and Paul Tanner, played a huge role in his UVU experience. "They shaped my intellectual world in special ways," he says.



adam torkildson

Adam Torkildson, who graduated in 2007 with a degree in integrated studies, started his own business, Tork Media, in 2013. In that business, he explains, he writes, and writes. His credits include Forbes, Inc., Entrepreneur, Business Insider, Huffington Post, CNN, and other publications. In most cases, however, you won't see his byline.

"It is mostly ghost writing," he explains. "I have probably had hundreds of articles over the years. The model works because everybody wants to be seen and mentioned in a big magazine like Forbes. The journalists don't have the staff to write everything they would like, so they rely on people like me."

Torkildson estimates he has written 20 articles a month for the past three years. Prior to that he worked for The Walton Group, a public relations firm in Provo, Utah.



Torkildson was featured in UVU Magazine for his work in online communications and social media. Today, he uses those skills along with his abilities in print and broadcast media to meet the needs of his clients. He also builds websites for their businesses.

He grew up in Stanley, North Dakota, and currently lives in American Fork, Utah, with his wife and children.



christopher wiltsie

A 2014 graduate in political science and history, Christopher Wiltsie has taken his education a long way — across the Atlantic Ocean. He lives in London and is working on a graduate degree in public administration at University College London. He is the first UVU graduate to attend UCL.

"Engaged learning was important to me. It wasn't just lip service," says Wiltsie. "By the time I graduated, I had two years on my résumé of really high-quality work and research with local cities. The work I did with the Office of New Urban Mechanics at UVU is what set me apart from others." That work for the city of Provo, Utah in 2014 earned him a nod in the Engaged Learning section of UVU Magazine.

This summer he did an internship with the New Democracy Foundation in Australia, an

independent, non-partisan research organization that identifies improvements to the democratic process. Wiltsie helped conduct practical, real-world trials to provide recommendations to local governments. He is

also busy conducting his own thesis on how to create cost-effective citizen assemblies.

Wiltsie will finish his graduate program in September and then continue another graduate program, possibly at Cambridge University, which will lead to a Ph.D. program on regeneration — the idea of investing money in an equitable way into communities.

"I'm more interested in finding something interesting to do, something meaningful," he says. "I don't care about making a lot of money. I need to do something that I enjoy and something that makes me happy."

He encourages UVU students to have a plan to implement what they are learning. "UVU offered me all kinds of opportunities to practice what I was learning," he notes.

amber lindsay



Lindsay was spotlighted in UVU Magazine in 2007 when she toured Europe on an eight-week study abroad program to study some of the world's most famous art work.

"For me what was really great about my time at UVU was that I had the real learning experience of an internship while I was earning a degree," she says. "I had job interviews and showed a portfolio of things that had actually been distributed. It was real-world experience."



Amber Lindsay graduated from UVU's School of the Arts in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in arts and visual communication. While in school, she worked for the University's marketing department and built a résumé with more practical experience than many of her peers.

Currently Lindsay is doing web design for a company in Logan, Utah, and has started a business with her sister. They design and distribute toys and recently launched a Kickstarter campaign for a product designed to make forts for children using card tables. She and her husband are working on a similar product, which creates an instant lemonade stand. The table coverings aren't your standard throw-a-sheet-over-it kind; rather, they feature specially designed accessories to enhance the play. Their company is Hideaboo.com, and Lindsay provides its design work.



lara taylor johnson

Johnson lives in Farmington, Utah, and graduated from UVU in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in public relations. She was previously featured in UVU Magazine for participating in the Public Relations Student Society of America competition. It was the University's first year in the competition, and the team scored in the top 20 in the nation.

Today Johnson works from home for the Farmington City Planning Commission as a recording secretary. In addition, when she and three others saw a need to help families of terminally ill individuals who have children at home, they jumped in to help.

They started a nonprofit organization called The Paul Moore Foundation, named after a neighbor who was diagnosed with terminal cancer at age 36. He had two young children and was concerned about how they would be supported.

The foundation put on a 5K race and a silent auction, raising more than \$60,000. It helped not only the Moores but others facing similar situations.



amy kelly

In 2007, Amy Kelly's experience as a nontraditional nurse was featured in UVU Magazine. She had earned an LPN certificate and worked for 10 years before leaving the profession to raise a family.

She later returned to work one day a week, mostly covering shifts when someone was sick or on vacation. But she did more than bring home a part-time paycheck, she kept her skills current and maintained her license.

Since then, Kelly worked at Utah Valley Orthopedics and Neurology for six years and has worked for Dr. Kimball Crofts in his Lindon office for the last 15 years.

She credits her education for enabling her to stay current and maintain consistent employment. "It kept me having a job," she notes.



And her job has taken her farther than Lindon. "I have gone to Africa with Dr. Crofts about 10 times to do humanitarian work. It has been great."

Kelly is in a job for which there is a demand, and her education at UVU set her on that path.

"It has been great, wonderful," she says. "I loved going to school at UVU. Everybody was very helpful."

Kelly's days in the classroom may be behind her, but she continues to learn on the job. "It is great to work with patients. It is always changing, and there is always something new."



"It is gratifying to be able to offer the product of my quality educational training to the adolescents of this humble rural community. Every day I go to work knowing that I have brought cutting-edge science experiences to many students that will impact their educational and life success."

Angie Card

Graduated 2011, biology education

In 2009, education student Angie Card received one of the first Noyce scholarships available at UVU; the scholarships are awarded to junior and senior education majors who commit to teach in Title IV schools for a specific amount of time after graduating. Card completed her degree and began teaching integrated science to 7th graders in the suburbs of Salt Lake City and then took a job teaching science in Monroe, Utah, where she grew up. "I teach in the same classroom where I was formally introduced to science education," she notes.

While at UVU, Card launched a women's science organization and was named an outstanding biology student. She continues that tradition of excellence in her career, achieving a "highly qualified" teacher status and being selected as one of only two science teachers from Utah to be invited to attend the National Science Foundation's Western Regional Science meeting. She has also created and shares a website with teachers around the world.

75

YEARS STRONG



THE DEFINING MOMENTS THAT TRANSFORMED

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

by Layton Shumway | photography: UVU photo archives



UVU IS NOW THE LARGEST INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE STATE OF UTAH, WITH MORE THAN 33,000 ENROLLED STUDENTS.

If you want to understand the history of Utah Valley University — if you're trying to figure out how a wartime vocational school evolved into the largest institution of higher education in the state in just 75 years — the secret is this: the bigger the need, the more UVU rises to the challenge.

"This University is hardwired to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles with pluck and ingenuity," says UVU President Matthew S. Holland. "We've been doing it since our inception in 1941, and look where we are today."

Here's where UVU is today: The University has more than 33,000 enrolled students, with more than 5,000 graduates annually across nearly 200 degrees and certificates. UVU owns around 500 acres of land in Orem, Provo, Heber City, Lehi at Thanksgiving Point, Payson, and Vineyard. Seven new buildings have been constructed in the last five years, with others on the way, including the University's first performing arts center. And that's just a tiny sample of UVU's tremendous growth.

At the heart of every one of these achievements is a driving desire to fulfill the needs of the UVU community — and more importantly—the needs of each UVU student. And as UVU looks back on some of the defining moments of its 75 year history, that pattern — and the University's future — becomes clearer and brighter than ever.

At the heart of every one of these achievements is a driving desire to fulfill the needs of the UVU community — and most importantly, the needs of each UVU student.



PRESIDENT HOLLAND STANDS WITH CENTRAL UTAH VOCATIONAL SCHOOL'S FIRST PRESIDENT WILSON W. SORENSEN, WHO DIED IN 2009.

LEADERSHIP WITH VISION

Central Utah Vocational School was created in response to one of the biggest needs in this country's history: World War II. Hyrum E. Johnson, the school's first coordinator, established what would become a UVU hallmark by reaching achievements far beyond his resources. He hired staff and purchased equipment with his own money and, through sheer will, secured UVU's first home on the Provo Fairgrounds.

One member of Johnson's early staff was a young purchasing agent named Wilson Sorensen. Like many future UVU employees, Sorensen combined academics with practical skills, with a master's degree in educational administration and considerable skill and experience as a carpenter. As CUVS's first president, Sorensen led the school's 36-year journey from the Fairgrounds campus to a site in north Provo, and then to UVU's current home in Orem. And Sorensen upheld his predecessor's precedent for personally meeting needs, going beyond his assigned duties to work long hours laying tile and painting ceilings on new campus property.

J. Marvin Higbee, Sorensen's successor as president of the school then called Utah Technical College, was one of the first to recognize the need to adapt to the greater demands of the Utah community. His leadership was instrumental in UTC's move to community college status in 1987, while still maintaining

a strong emphasis on and support for vocational training.

The need to make Utah Valley Community College into a four-year state institution was championed by Kerry Romesburg, the school's next president. A child of a poor, working-class neighborhood in Phoenix, Romesburg had a unique perspective on how education could transform lives. By the time he stepped down in 2002 after 14 years of leadership, Utah Valley State College had an enrolled population of more than 23,000 students.

William A. Sederburg, who took office as UVSC president in 2003, led the school to its present status and name: Utah Valley University. He also saw to the needs of the rapidly growing student body by prompting an increase in the institutional budget by 65.4 percent and adding 26 new bachelor degrees and the school's first master's degree.

Finally, under President Holland's leadership, UVU has exploded in growth, gained unprecedented amounts of funding from public and private sources, and empowered its students to succeed with what will soon be eight master programs and satellite campuses throughout UVU's service region.

"In every case, each president was the right person at the right time to nurture the institution into and through each phase of growth," says Cameron Martin, vice president of University relations.

Each president was the right person at the right time to nurture the institution.



UVU'S 2014 PURCHASE OF 225 ACRES IN VINEYARD HAS NEARLY DOUBLED THE INSTITUTION'S PHYSICAL FOOTPRINT.

ROOM TO GROW

The dynamic change and evolution throughout UVU's history goes hand-in-hand with the growth of its service region. Utah's population is almost six times larger now than it was in 1940, and UVU's increase in enrollment has followed that trend.

Thanks to farsighted leaders such as Sorensen, the institution has been able to keep up with the needs of its local population. Moving from Provo to the Orem Campus was a massive and visionary step, and since then, UVU has moved forward boldly to acquire more space for its students.

In 1988, UVCC began teaching aviation classes out of a small leased hangar at the Provo Airport. By 1991, the fledgling flight school had grown to 55 students, and the program purchased its first aircraft in 1994. Today, UVU flights make up more than 70 percent of the air traffic at the Provo Municipal Airport, where the school maintains a satellite campus.

While UVU has always been centered in Utah County, classes have been taught in nearby Summit and Wasatch counties since the 1980s. In 2003, UVU established a permanent footprint in the region with its Wasatch Campus in Heber City. More than 40 full- and part-time faculty and staff work at this beautiful facility, and many students study while working in nearby Park City.

By far the biggest expansion since moving to Orem was UVU's purchase of 225 acres of land in Vineyard in 2014. This purchase has almost doubled the amount of UVU land, and plans are in the works to add new buildings to the intramural fields and practice facilities already present there.

This, too, is in response to a need. The technology industry is booming in Utah County, which saw the second-highest rate of job growth in the United States in 2015. New companies mean new job openings, and UVU educates more Utahns than any school in the state.

"With every passing iteration of this [Vineyard] project, we see how absolutely essential it is to our future," Holland said in 2014. "We are just beginning to be the university we are destined to become."

And in addition to the Vineyard property, plans are in place to establish permanent UVU satellite locations at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi — near many of those new tech companies — and at the county's southern edge in Payson.



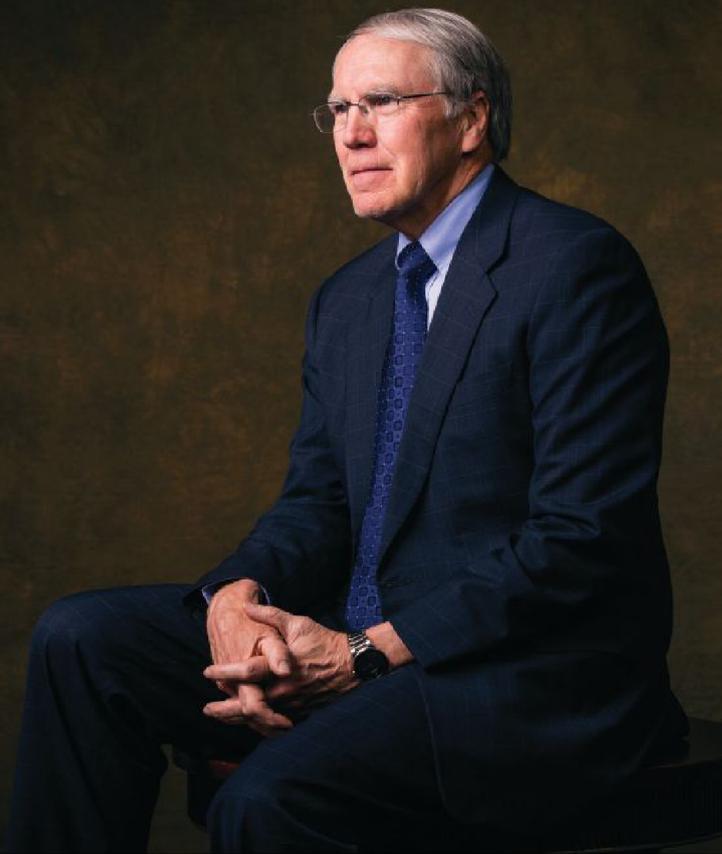
At UVU, I was given opportunities to work my craft. More importantly, my instructors never accepted less than my best.

Aaron De Jesus

Graduated 2001, theatre

Although Aaron DeJesus has performed in shows such as "The Lion King," "Wicked," "Peter Pan," and "Little Shop of Horrors" — and currently stars as Frankie Valli in the National Touring Company of "Jersey Boys" — one of his most memorable theatrical experiences was actually on the UVU (then Utah Valley State College) stage. "I was in a production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' directed by Bob Manning," he recalls. "It was performed by eight 'nuns' and three 'stage technicians.'"

Being creative is essential to succeeding in theatre, and DeJesus has done well, working steadily since he left UVU 15 years ago. Now married to fellow performer Gail Bennett (the couple has a four-year-old daughter), DeJesus notes that while at UVU he loved the class size, great instructors, and a student body that wanted to excel. "Being at the university helped me learn that my education was entirely up to me," he observes. "This is an important lesson that applies to life as well."



FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM A. SEDERBURG LED UVU TO FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY STATUS IN 2008.



1941-1963



1963-1967



1967-1987



1987-1993



1993-2008



2008-PRESENT

AN EVOLVING ROLE

That destiny has always been apparent to UVU's leaders, but as the institution's title and mission evolved to fit the changing needs of the community, the transitions weren't always smooth.

It took six years for Central Utah Vocational School to become officially recognized by Utah's Legislature as a state-supported school, including a period in 1945 when a controversially worded bill approved the institution for only a two-year period. Great effort on the part of Johnson and Sorensen secured that status permanently, but that was only the first of many barriers to growth.

Under Sorensen's leadership, CUVS was already bursting at the seams of its Provo campus in 1963, when the Utah State Board for Vocational Education realized the need to rename the school Utah Trade Technical Institute. The change reflected the growing Cold War-era technological demands of the nation, and it was quickly followed by another new name in 1967: Utah Technical College at Provo. With this rebirth came the school's first associate degree programs — the initial step for an institution that would eventually offer nearly 100 such degrees.

Moving to community-college status took a much greater shift in thinking. It took Higbee

most of his five-year tenure as UTC president to convince the Board of Regents, the state Legislature, and community leaders of the need to make UTC a community college. Higbee's foresight paid off in 1987, when two-year community college status was granted and set the institution on its modern-day path to becoming a university.

But the toughest growing pains were still to come. Early in his tenure as president, Romesburg received feedback from UVCC students that their future success was stunted without the opportunity for bachelor degrees. But little precedent existed for a two-year community college that also offered four-year programs, especially one that preserved UVCC's vocational roots and open enrollment. Consultants, other university presidents, and others railed against the idea. Romesburg wore them down, and in 1992, thanks to Board of Regents member and Utah governor-elect Mike Leavitt's deciding vote, Utah Valley State College was born.

The vote to make UVSC a full university and offer masters degrees, while perhaps the most significant, was not nearly as dramatic. Sederburg worked tirelessly to draw attention to the institution's success despite per-student funding disparity. This time, the state Legislature voted in unanimous support, with \$10 million in base funding to boot.

With each passing name, the institution evolved not just to fit its own purposes but also the needs of its students and community — in some cases, before they even realized what those needs were.



NO UVU SOCCER PLAYER WEARS NUMBER 12; IT'S RESERVED FOR THE FANS, KNOWN AS THE "12TH WOLVERINE."

At each step, UVU evolved to fit the needs of its students and community.



“

As I started to take classes at UVU, I grew more confident and satisfied with my decision to attend the University because the professors were talented, intelligent, and useful in my career pursuits. I felt valued at UVU. The culture and attitude among staff encouraged that intimate experience, which is a reflection of the institution as a whole.

Ryan K. Loo

Graduated 2001, behavioral science

Working as a teaching assistant and statistics lab instructor was life-changing for Ryan K. Loo. While at UVU, Loo authored a statistics course workbook that took UVU behavioral science professor Cameron John's teaching approaches in statistics and translated them into useable, common sense interpretations that aided the learning process. "I have used that workbook to teach over 2,500 students the same principles that Cameron taught me," says Loo, who is now the president and CEO of Spectrum Health Policy Research, a company that manages more than \$150 million in grant funding from state health departments annually.

"Cameron helped set me on the career trajectory and success that I currently enjoy," says Loo, who worked as an adjunct professor, research coordinator, and behavioral scientist before landing in his current position. "I probably owe him and the University a commission as a percentage of my lifetime salary!"

UVU received full NCAA Division I status in 2009, and no school will ever make the same jump.



UVU MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH MARK POPE BRINGS NCAA CHAMPION AND NBA VETERAN EXPERIENCE TO WOLVERINE HOOPS.

A HIGHER DIVISION

UVU's climb from vocational school to four-year university took only a few decades, but Wolverine athletics made an unprecedented leap in a fraction of the time. The institution's first intercollegiate athletic teams competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association beginning in 1974, with men's basketball a featured sport.

But as the school's population grew and its institutional mission changed, administrators and students saw the growing need for a higher athletic profile. Winning the NJCAA National Championship in softball in 2000 didn't hurt, either — the achievement remains Wolverine athletics' only national title. With the completion of a new basketball arena, then known as the McKay Events Center, moving to a higher level of competition seemed imminent.

But few could have anticipated the bold move proposed by then-president Romesburg and longtime Wolverine athletic director Mike Jacobsen: a jump straight from junior college to Division I, the highest level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

There was no rule against it, but such a move had never before been attempted. The NCAA required the Wolverines to serve a seven-year transition period, from 2002 to 2009, during which they were ineligible for postseason play. Even so, Wolverine athletics found ways to excel. The men's basketball team — led by stars Ronnie Price and Ryan Toolson — defeated Florida Gulf Coast University in 2004 to win a championship tournament held for NCAA Division I teams on provisional status.

Eventually the waiting paid off. UVU received full Division I status in 2009, and the NCAA closed the loophole in its rules, guaranteeing that no school will ever make the same jump. Four years later, the Wolverines were invited to join the Western Athletic Conference — giving UVU teams the crucial possibility of playing in the highest postseason competitions in the country.

"Joining the WAC is really a recognition of the many years of effort that have gone into building what has become an excellent athletics program here at UVU," Jacobsen said in 2013.

Several UVU teams have already taken advantage of these new opportunities. In 2015, both men's and women's soccer teams earned berths to their respective NCAA tournaments. And in 2016, Wolverine baseball followed suit. All three achievements are firsts in UVU history.

And yes, UVU has a men's soccer program — the only NCAA Division I team in Utah.

ACUTE EQUITY FUNDING

Since UVU's earliest days, funding has been a challenge. More specifically, the needs of the students and community have frequently been greater than the available support to meet them. On one hand, that's the University's specialty — the institution has a long history of doing more with less, and in 2011 a study showed that UVU returned an estimated eight dollars in economic impact to the state of Utah for each dollar allocated. But the school's dynamic growth has often outpaced its support.

In 2012, despite a student population already near 30,000, UVU received the lowest per-student tax funding in Utah. The institution's explosion in size over the years and shrinking state budgets left UVU with only \$2,871 per student that year — well below the state standard and a trend that had become most pronounced at UVU. Something had to change.

Finally, after a multiyear effort, in 2014 the state Legislature allotted \$50 million ongoing to the Utah System of Higher Education's acute equity funding initiative. UVU's portion: \$21 million, more than 42 percent of the total amount.

The funds were put to work immediately, helping UVU preserve academic quality, increase student support to graduation, improve faculty- and advisor-to-student ratios, increase academic programs and course offerings, and more.

Even more importantly, UVU students are now taking on less of the financial burden for their education. In 2012, only 38 percent of the total UVU budget came from tax funds, meaning a greater portion had to come from tuition and other sources. Now that number has risen to more than 48 percent.

"This funding will be game changing for an institution that has experienced so much recent growth and is charged with being a point of educational access as the state continues to work toward its goals for 2020," Holland said at the time. "We couldn't be more thrilled."



“

I was getting promoted and was already part of leadership, but I thought I'd hit a ceiling. UVU's MBA program helped me bust that ceiling and create new opportunities for myself.

Adam Miner

Graduated spring 2014, MBA

The career of a typical MBA graduate can run the gamut from successful high-tech start-up executive to lucrative entrepreneur. But you don't often hear about MBA graduates dedicated to helping troubled teenage boys find a path of clarity, healing, and direction. Adam Miner, however, is anything but typical. His goal is to "always stand out," especially as part of the team at Telos, an established leader in adolescent care in Orem, Utah, helping teenage boys deal with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, addiction, social problems, and learning differences.

Employed at Telos since 2005, Miner enrolled in UVU's MBA program in 2012, knowing he needed to continually add value if he wanted to advance his career. While an MBA student, Miner executed a new marketing plan to increase revenue 150 percent. His MBA afforded him the opportunity to become a partner in the company's \$13-million expansion project, as well as be promoted to executive director of Telos University. More than all that, Miner is proud to play an integral role in preparing the youth of today to become leaders of tomorrow through recognizing and honoring each person's humanity in all circumstances.

THE UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE PASSED A JOINT RESOLUTION IN 2016 HONORING UVU'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY.



BUILDING THE FUTURE

While the increase in public funding has helped UVU catch up with its own growth, the University doesn't show any signs of slowing down. The acquisition of new property and satellite campuses gives UVU breathing room, but new buildings continue to proliferate across the main Orem Campus, including the Wee Care Center, the Student Life & Wellness Center, and the Classroom Building — all built in the last three years.

Each of these structures came in response to student and public need, but the next wave of additions to UVU is different: they're addressing those demands using historic contributions from private donors.

For example, in 2016, UVU secured an allocation of \$32 million from the state Legislature toward a performing arts building — something UVU has never had — but the public funding only came after a resoundingly successful donation campaign that privately raised more than \$20 million in just 18 months. Major donors include the Ray and Tye Noorda Foundation, Utah County, Kem and Carolyn Gardner, Nu Skin Enterprises, and others. The performing arts building will not only serve UVU students but the entire community, providing a new performing venue in Utah County for groups such as the Utah Symphony.

"Our original goal was to raise \$15 million," Holland said when announcing the donation level. "Exceeding our goal by \$5 million is a tribute to the generosity of so many. This support speaks to the need for an arts center at UVU and the importance of the arts in our communities."

In addition to the arts campaign, UVU has raised \$8.4 million in private donations to fund the Cole Nellesen Building, which will house the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism. Again, UVU is on the leading edge of meeting a public need; one in 58 children in Utah is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and UVU currently offers Utah's only minor in autism studies.

Meanwhile, now that UVU's basketball teams can compete at the highest collegiate level, they're receiving facilities to match. In June, UVU broke ground on the NUVI Basketball Center, supported by \$3.5 million in private funding. The 14,500-square-foot facility will house both men's and women's basketball coaching staffs and includes more than 8,000 square feet of court space.

Add it all up, and UVU has privately raised more than \$30 million in the last two years. It's a sign, not just of the institution's growth but also of the community's faith in UVU's ability to meet its needs.

UVU'S WEE CARE CENTER HAS BEEN INTEGRAL IN INCREASING HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO WOMEN.





UVU ALUMNUS KOLTRY WRIGHT HELPED EBAY IMPROVE ITS CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE, DIRECTLY IMPACTING OPERATIONAL COSTS.



ENGAGED IN STUDENT SUCCESS

When Central Utah Vocational School began establishing that first campus on the Provo Fairgrounds in 1941, the facilities were far from ready. Under Hyrum Johnson's direction, students and instructors worked side-by-side to repair windows, replace wiring, build furniture, and get the campus in shape before winter set in.

Though he didn't know it at the time, Johnson was defining the philosophy and pedagogy that would drive the next 75 years of UVU's growth. "Much of this work was performed as part of course instruction," Holland observes, "launching what was, for all intents and purposes, this institution's first and foundational commitment to engaged learning."

Today, engaged learning is UVU's calling card; it is fundamental to both the institution's identity and its success. It means combining academic theory with practical application. It is a focus on student success, solving problems, and learning by doing.

"For me, if we are celebrating anything about our 75 years of history," Holland says, "we are celebrating 75 years of helping students improve the quality of their professional, public, and personal lives." ■

"We are celebrating 75 years of helping students improve the quality of their professional, public, and personal lives."

THE NEXT



**FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS,
WOLVERINE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
ARE NOW READY TO COMPETE
ON A NATIONAL SCALE**

by Layton Shumway
photography by Jay Drowns

LEVEL



Ask most athletes what their ultimate goal is, and they'll probably say the same thing: To compete — and win — at the highest possible level.

For Utah Valley University's 2004 men's basketball team, that meant traveling 2,500 miles to Fort Myers, Florida, to play Florida Gulf Coast University in the NCAA Division I Provisional Championship. And it meant trying to beat the FGCU Eagles on their home floor, where they were undefeated for more than two seasons.

UVU, then known as Utah Valley State College, took a 15-point second-half lead, but the Eagles fought back to force overtime after Wolverines star Ronnie Price fouled out. With two seconds left in overtime, Florida Gulf Coast led 80-78, and UVSC needed to go the length of the court to score.

What happened next, Price says, still gives him goosebumps.

As Price looked on from the bench, UVSC's Ryan Toolson hit a buzzer-beating three-pointer to stun the FGCU home crowd, win the game 81-80, and give the Wolverines their biggest win to that point as a Division I NCAA program.

Price says it's still the best basketball moment he's ever seen. And for an 11-year NBA veteran such as Price, that's saying something.

Beating Florida Gulf Coast and winning that championship was the highest level that 2004 Wolverine team could achieve. That's because UVSC's provisional Division I status prohibited the team from qualifying for the 64-team NCAA tournament.

"For that team, that was as far as they were eligible to go," former UVU associate athletic director D.J. Smith says. "But the thing that's most exciting about sports is winning championships, going to nationals, competing for the opportunity to win a national title."

Today's Wolverines are under no such restrictions. As full NCAA Division I members competing in the Western Athletic Conference, UVU student-athletes now have unprecedented opportunities to win at the highest levels in America. And they're making the most of those opportunities.

Intramural to Intercollegiate

While Central Utah Vocational School — UVU's earliest incarnation — was officially founded in 1941, its intercollegiate athletics took longer to get started. In 1947, students approached school administrators with a proposal to form a men's basketball team to compete in local city leagues. Permission was granted — as long as students paid for their own equipment and practice space — and the school's first team was born.

When the institution changed its name to Utah Technical College and moved to new campus space near Brigham Young University in Provo, arrangements were made to exchange use of the larger school's physical education facilities. But UTC faced an uphill battle to get approval for intercollegiate athletics from the Utah State Board for Vocational Education.

That approval finally came in 1974, with men's basketball, baseball, and rodeo as UTC's first official intercollegiate athletic programs. UTC joined the National Junior College Athletic Association and was accepted into the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference, joining nearby rivals such as the College of Eastern Utah, Dixie State, Ricks College, and Snow College.

The next giant step forward for Wolverine athletics came when Mike Jacobsen, previously a coach and administrator at Springville High School, arrived as athletic director in 1984. Prior to that point, UTC had had no full-time athletic director; responsibilities were split between different faculty members and coaches. The only other athletics employee was a work-study administrative assistant. Jacobsen's first office was a converted custodial closet.

When Jacobsen started, UTC had five intercollegiate athletic programs. By the time he retired in 2013 to serve a church mission — 29 years and three school name changes later — UVU had 16.

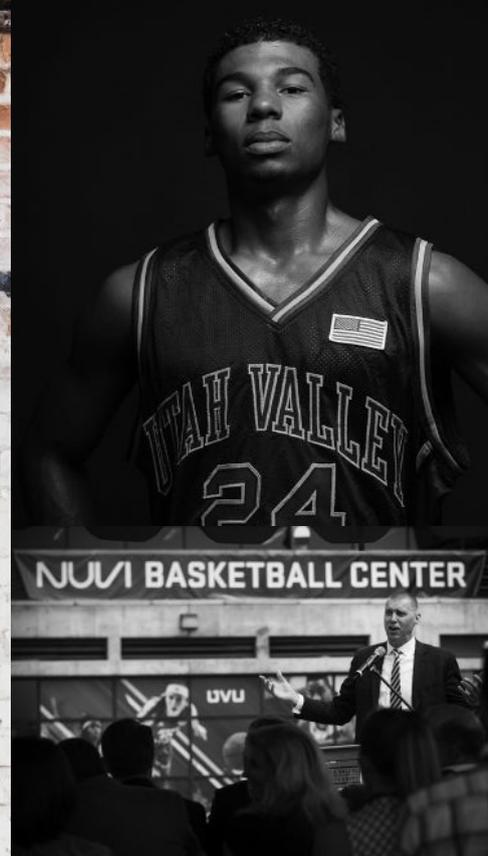
"Mike has nearly, quite literally, seen it all," UVU president Matthew S. Holland said in 2013. "It is becoming less and less common for someone to exhibit this kind of loyalty to one institution, particularly in the athletics profession where things seem to change on almost a minute-by-minute basis."

Here's some of what Jacobsen saw in his first 15 years in Orem: construction of UVU's first physical education building; completion of the David O. McKay Events Center (now known as the UCCU Center); numerous Scenic West Athletic Conference championships; a fourth-place national finish in women's basketball; and a national junior-college championship in softball in 2000 — still UVU's only such title.

Smith was the team's play-by-play voice through the tournament, which was in Kissimmee, Florida, that year. "The defending national champion was Central Arizona, and they had won an incredible number of games that year," he says. "But we went through the tournament undefeated and beat Central Arizona twice."

NEXT PAGE: NBA veteran Ronnie Price (TOP) helped lay the foundation for UVU's basketball growth, which includes a new privately funded practice facility (SECOND FROM TOP) and annual visits to Las Vegas for the WAC Tournament (BOTTOM).

**RONNIE PRICE
SAYS BEATING
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COAST IS STILL
THE BEST
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WHEN UVU ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MIKE JACOBSEN STARTED, THE SCHOOL HAD FIVE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS. BY THE TIME HE RETIRED IN 2013 — 29 YEARS AND THREE SCHOOL NAME CHANGES LATER — UVU HAD 16.

ABOVE: Rodeo (RIGHT) was an early standout sport at UVU, before Wolverine teams such as women's soccer (CENTER) were winning WAC titles.

NEXT PAGE: UVU track and field alums Chris Fogt (LEFT) and Noelle Pikus-Pace (CENTER) won Olympic medals in 2014, and UVU wrestling (RIGHT) now competes in the Big 12 Conference.



“That era, that championship, is when we really took off and started making a name for ourselves,” says current UVU senior associate athletic director Jared Sumsion.

But those achievements, though impressive given UVU’s roots, were only a prelude to what came next.

Making the Leap

Around the time the Wolverine softball team was making history, a local newspaper ran a survey asking how many people knew the school then known as Utah Valley State College had become a four-year institution. Only 11 percent responded affirmatively.

This, to then-President Kerry Romesburg, was unacceptable. He and Jacobsen began wondering if a higher athletic profile would better reflect the growth UVSC was making academically.

“President Romesburg felt like we were never going to shake our junior-college image until we moved out of junior-college athletics,” Smith says. “We did feasibility studies, and we brought in an outside group. They recommended we go into Division II. But President Romesburg was worried we’d just be saying we needed to shake our Division II image. He wanted to position the school with the other four-year schools in the state, and there were no Division II schools in the state at the time.”

Beginning in 2000, Romesburg and Jacobsen approached the National Collegiate Athletic Association about the possibility of becoming a member, not at the Division II level but at Division I — the highest status in American college sports.

At first, the NCAA was reluctant, recommending a trial period in a lower division. But was there any rule against jumping straight to Division I, Romesburg asked? No, the NCAA said. There would be a hefty fee, and a period of provisional status and postseason ineligibility. But there was no rule against it.

There is now. After the Wolverines made the leap in 2002, the NCAA changed its regulations to prohibit any other junior college from doing what UVU did. The Wolverines will forever stand alone in that regard.

The provisional period wasn’t easy. Student-athletes came to UVU knowing there would be no postseason play. But that didn’t stop those who became standouts, including pro basketball veterans such as Ronnie Price and Ryan Toolson. Or track and field athletes such as Olympic medalists Chris Fogt and Noelle Pikus-Pace. Or baseball stars such as Kam Mickolio, UVU’s first alumnus to play major league baseball. The attitude of the Division I leap — of identifying a goal and letting no obstacle stand in the way — has become a UVU trademark.

The Highest Level

By 2009, Utah Valley State College had become Utah Valley University, and the NCAA’s seven-year provisional period was up. The Wolverines were eligible for postseason play. But that didn’t mean the opportunity was guaranteed.

For its first official season as a full NCAA Division I member, UVU joined the newly reorganized Great West Conference. However, due to the league’s fledgling status, the NCAA would not grant an automatic postseason bid to its champion. That meant if any UVU teams wanted an invite to the Big Dance, they had to win big and impress a selection committee too.

The 2012 Wolverine baseball team responded to that challenge by winning 32 straight games, including victories over Arizona and Arizona State. The team posted a 47–12 overall record, a .349 team batting average, and 532 total runs scored — all best in the nation. And the team romped through the Great West Conference, winning a third-straight league title.

It wasn’t enough. The NCAA selection committee deemed the Wolverines unfit for inclusion in its 64-team tournament, and just like that, the historic season was over.

“I still maintain that, in all my history of sports and selection committees, that was the most outrageous snub,” Smith says. “That season was





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one of my most wonderful experiences in terms of what the team did, but one of my saddest moments when we didn't get selected. We deserved a chance."

The situation would soon be rectified. In October 2012, President Holland stood before hundreds of students, faculty, and staff in the UCCU Center and announced that UVU would be joining the Western Athletic Conference starting in 2013. The WAC, with its long and storied history, awarded automatic postseason berths for its league champions. And with that, the last barrier preventing Wolverine athletics from competing at the highest possible level vanished.

The Wolverines didn't take long to make their mark in the new conference. In its first year of WAC competition, UVU's men's cross-country team won the league championship. While a loss in the conference tournament kept it out of March Madness, the Wolverine men's basketball team claimed the WAC regular-season title in 2014. And UVU softball won the 2014 WAC Tournament for the school's first-ever NCAA postseason berth.

"Joining the WAC is really a recognition of the many years of effort that have gone into building what has become an excellent athletics program here at UVU," Jacobsen said in 2013. "We really are entering a new era for UVU athletics."

The Wolverine Way

With each unprecedented achievement, Wolverine student-athletes and administrators refused to rest on their laurels. In 2014, UVU established the state's first NCAA Division I men's soccer program, with former Real Salt Lake youth coach Greg Maas as head coach. That team posted a winning record in its first season of existence, also drawing the 14th-largest average attendance in the nation. In 2015, Wolverine men's soccer topped that achievement by earning UVU's first at-large bid to an NCAA tournament.

Meanwhile, UVU's women's soccer team won a school-record 14 matches in 2015, including winning the WAC tournament for its first-ever NCAA berth, and head coach Brent Anderson won his 100th game at UVU.

After longtime men's basketball head coach Dick Hunsaker retired in 2014, UVU hired former BYU assistant coach and NCAA national champion Mark Pope. Now in his second season at UVU, Pope has recruited exceptional talent from in and out of Utah. And Wolverine men's and women's basketball will soon have a new home after break-

ing ground in 2016 on the NUVI Basketball Center, a 14,500-square-foot practice and conditioning facility funded by \$3.5 million in private donations.

In 2015, UVU wrestling joined the Big 12 Conference, one of the most prestigious leagues in collegiate wrestling. Jade Rauser, a 133-pound wrestler, became UVU's second-ever All-American, finishing in eighth place at the 2016 NCAA Championships. And the Wolverine wrestlers finished 18th in the nation in combined GPA.

Wolverine cross-country teams swept the WAC championships in 2015 — a three-peat for the men's squad and a first-ever title for the women. Both teams were awarded national All-Academic status by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

And after the disappointment of 2012, UVU baseball swept through the 2016 WAC tournament for its first-ever NCAA tournament bid. Pitcher Danny Beddes was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 15th round of the 2016 MLB Draft — the highest a Wolverine has been drafted since moving to Division I. And 13 UVU baseball players were named to the WAC All-Academic team.

The list of accomplishments will only continue to grow.

"The future for Utah Valley is bright," athletic director Vince Otoupal says. "We're fired up and ready to show the state and the country what it means to do things the Wolverine Way." ■

UVU's earliest ancestor was established in 1941, but the University didn't begin competing in intercollegiate athletics until several decades later. So to acknowledge the institution's history with a modern twist, UVU Magazine commissioned the University's theatre arts department to create uniforms similar to what Wolverines could have worn in 1941. Current UVU student-athletes modeled the uniforms for our photo shoot. The models are:

- Deijah Blanks, women's basketball*
- Kristy Snyder, softball*
- Corey Carter, men's golf*
- Kimberly Nyhus, women's golf*
- Zach Nelson, men's basketball*
- Elliott Rubio, soccer*
- Marco Briones, baseball*

PREVIOUS PAGE: UVU began the only NCAA Division I men's soccer program in Utah in 2014. Under coach Greg Maas (BOTTOM), the Wolverines earned an NCAA Tournament berth in just their second season.

BELOW: Baseball fans enjoy a gorgeous view at Brent Brown Ballpark (TOP), a 2,500-seat stadium that hosts the Wolverines and the Orem Owlz of the Pioneer League.



EVOLUTION

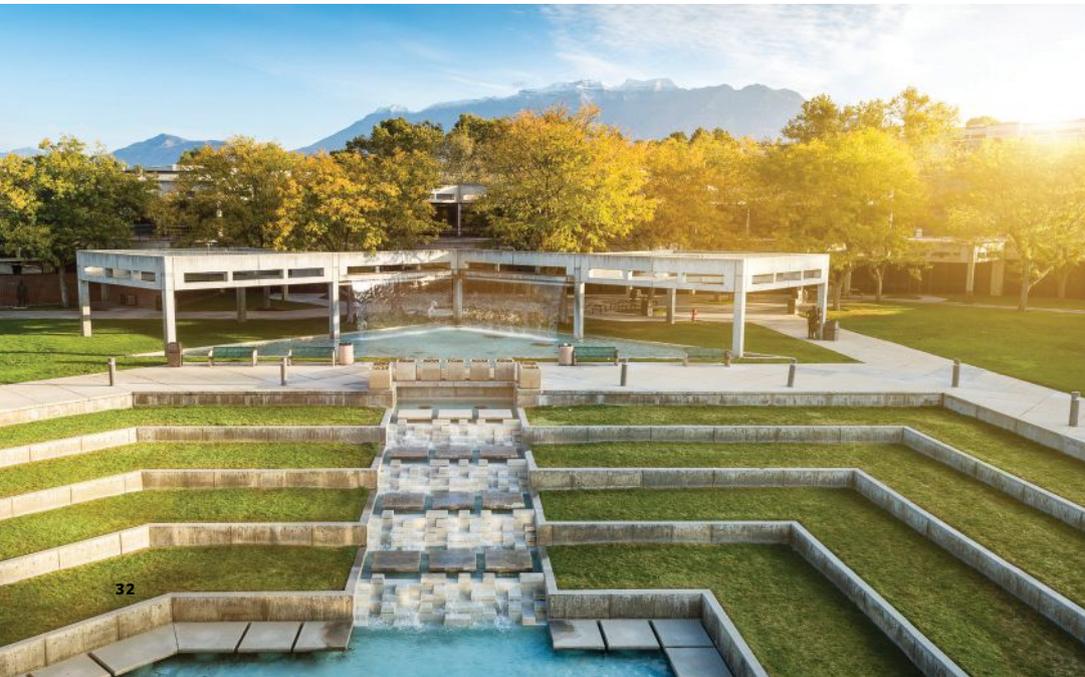


Utah Valley University's Orem campus was first dedicated in 1977. Over the next 39 years, UVU evolved from a small technical college

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATHANIEL RAY EDWARDS

into the largest institution of higher learning in Utah. And that evolution is apparent in every new building UVU has added along the way.









PREVIOUS PAGE: The Classroom Building and the Library are two of UVU's biggest recent additions, shown here framing Utah Valley landmark Mount Timpanogos. ABOVE: The Student Life & Wellness Center features a 40-foot climbing wall, six bowling lanes, a demonstration kitchen, and four stories of fitness areas. TOP RIGHT: The Classroom Building added 34 classrooms, a 1,000-seat auditorium, and office space for UVU's expanding faculty. BOTTOM RIGHT: The Science Building has kept UVU on the cutting edge with 27 laboratory classrooms, 18 lecture rooms, 12 research laboratories, and a rooftop greenhouse.

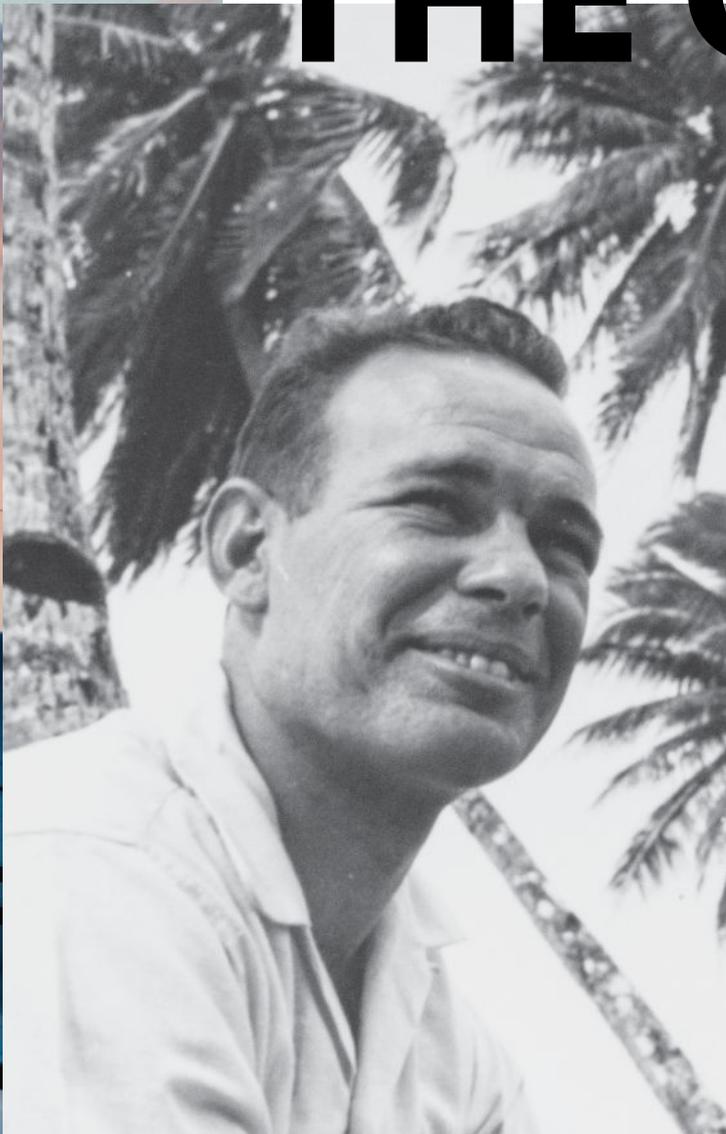




LIFE ABOVE THE CLOUDS

One of UVU's earliest alumni credits the institution's aircraft mechanics class as basis for 44-year career

by Barbara Christiansen
Photography by Jay Drowns



Tom Richardson's fascination with flight began when he was a boy building model airplanes at his Benjamin, Utah, home. A few years later, when he was a senior at Spanish Fork High School in 1942, that fascination motivated him to attend a half-day aircraft mechanics class at Central Utah Vocational School (now Utah Valley University). And that led Richardson to a 44-year career with Pan American World Airways.

Richardson learned of the opportunity with Pan Am when a representative of the airline came to CUVS seeking aircraft mechanics. He signed up and began working a week after he finished high school.

ENGINEER IN CHARGE

For the first 12 years of his 44-year career, Richardson worked as an aircraft mechanic, and the remainder of his career was spent as a flight engineer. He also later earned a commercial pilot's license with an instrument rating.

According to Richardson, the general public probably thinks that the pilot is in charge of the plane, but that is not actually the case. "The airplane belongs to the engineer," he says. "The pilots get to fly it.

"My job was to know the airplane and its limits," he continues. "I set up cruise control, power, the cabin temperature and pressure, and use of fuel. I know the limitations. I compute the burn-off of the fuel." The engineer and the pilot work together as a team to provide a safe experience for the passengers, he notes. They play different parts but know enough about each other's responsibilities to provide backup.

After an aircraft touches ground, engines are put in reverse to slow it down, explains Richardson. Standard policy is to take the plane out of reverse when it gets down to 60 miles per hour. On one flight, the pilot was following that protocol, but the plane was not slowing quickly enough. Richardson urged the pilot to reverse again. He did, and the plane finally stopped — at the very end of the runway.

Another time, Richardson and his crew members were preparing to land an aircraft when they got a message from the airport telling them to postpone the landing because there was a typhoon in the area. Richardson had to keep close track of the remaining fuel to delay the landing sufficiently but still have enough to keep the plane in the air. It's called maximum endurance, says Richardson.

Thankfully, he calculated correctly and the plane landed safely, just as the typhoon was leaving the other end of the runway.

FAMOUS NAMES

Richardson has flown to varied destinations, including going in and out of Vietnam up to four times a month during the Vietnam War, flying both cargo and military passengers.

"I heard General William Westmoreland give a welcoming speech to incoming troops in Saigon," he says.

Westmoreland isn't the only famous name in Richardson's past. He met Charles A. Lindbergh three times; the last time was on a

UVU OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME



flight from Tokyo to Maui, and Lindbergh was a passenger. He knocked on the cockpit door and simply announced, "Lindbergh here." Richardson quickly responded, "Richardson here."

The two conversed, mostly about business. Richardson said Lindbergh was affable and had no airs about him. "I was impressed with that," he says. "He would come in the cockpit and talk about the operation of the plane. He always asked for an opinion of some kind."

Movie stars and television personalities have also flown on Richardson's flights. Although he recognized these individuals, company policy restricted employees from speaking to well-known passengers unless they spoke to the crew member first.

For three years Richardson flew a regular route between Fiji and Tokyo. On one leg, he

discovered that David O. McKay, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was on the flight. He was on his way to dedicate the LDS temple in New Zealand. They had a chance to converse during their time together, and Richardson said he was very pleasant.

Political figures have also been on his flights. One time he chatted with former U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey. "He was easy to talk to," Richardson says. "I have been fortunate to meet these people and have thoroughly enjoyed it."

Occasionally stories of babies being born on flights make the news. Although that has never happened on Richardson's flights, he has had experience with the other end of life.

"People have died on my flights," he recalls. On one occasion, a severely ill Englishman



“

In my artificial intelligence class, our final was a competition to build an AI chess agent. I had to not only learn chess but also develop a program that could calculate more steps ahead than my competitor's code. I happily walked out with the winning program. It was an exciting time spent with classmates who encouraged and helped each other.

Vanessa Kyrobie Hadley
Graduated spring 2006,
computer science major

Vanessa Kyrobie Hadley spent considerable time researching computer science programs before finally choosing to attend UVU. "The education I received gave me a solid foundation to be successful in any career path in the IT world," she says. "I loved that my classes included real-world applications as well as a solid understanding of the core theory of computer science." Hadley says she loved the culture and diversity at UVU, the friends she made, and the activities and clubs that encouraged students to engage with each other and in the community.

Since graduation, Hadley has worked as a quality control and reliability engineer and senior quality assurance engineer; she currently works as senior solution analyst for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On the side, she develops apps. "I am a strong advocate of encouraging women to pursue degrees in technology," she adds. "I was involved at UVU as an ambassador for the WISTEM [Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] program, and I continue to stay involved in the community."

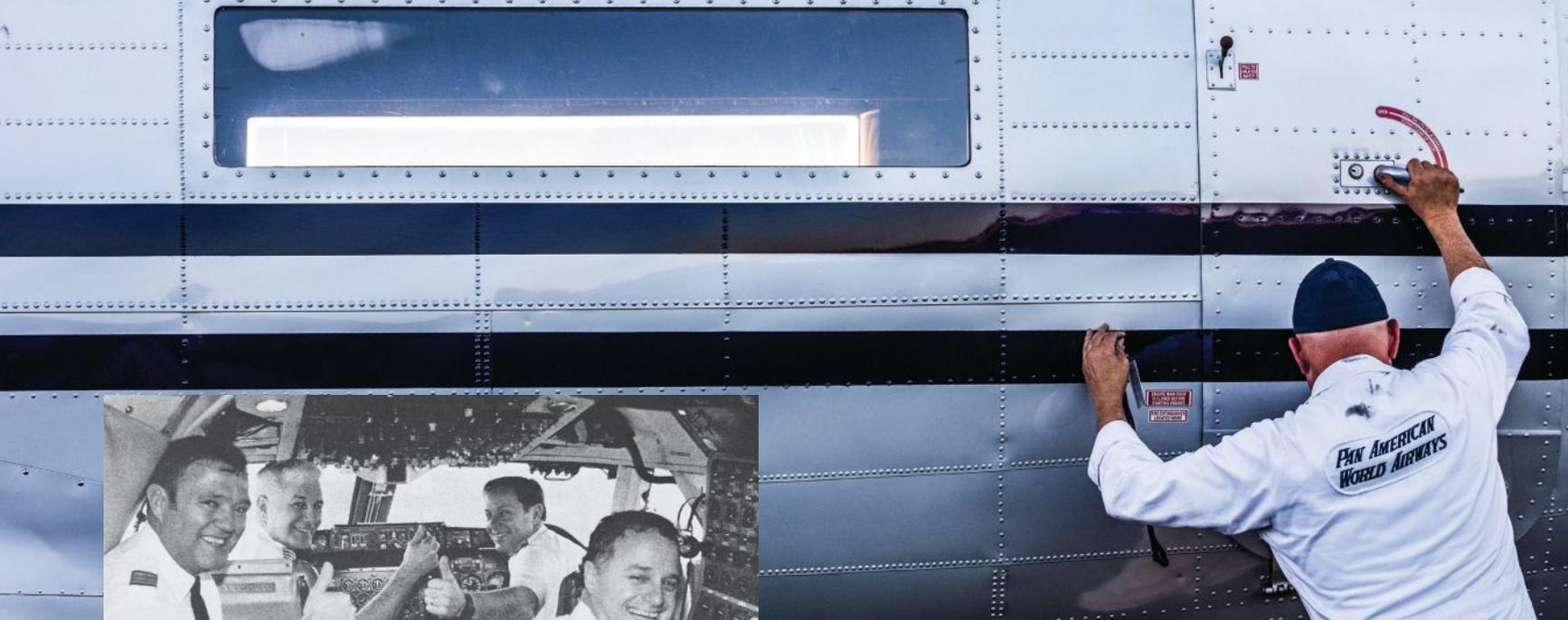
was flying back to London where his family was waiting him. He died while on the flight, and the crew had to wire ahead to contact the family. The rest of the passengers respectfully waited while he was taken off the plane.

SEEING THE WORLD

Flight personnel usually have a 24-hour or longer layover before they're assigned their next shift. During that time, Richardson has had chances to visit nearby landmarks and interact with the residents. Most of these experiences he enjoyed, but he has developed an aversion to Paris, saying he often encountered rude people there.

He enjoyed going to stage plays and museums in England and especially enjoyed the Japanese people. He recalls being asked for his autograph at a Japanese zoo. Children attending the zoo seemed to want a chance to practice their English language skills with an American. He appreciated the honesty of the Japanese people, noting that "poor boxes" were scattered around and people would make contributions if they were able. Those in need could take from the boxes. People weren't taking undue advantage of the system, he observes.

SYSTEM



WAR TIME

When he started his schooling at UVU, World War II was raging. Richardson actually began his job with Pan Am prior to his 18th birthday. Because of the airline's contract with the Navy, he enlisted in that branch of the military when he turned 18. He received a machinist mate third-class rating and was placed on inactive duty.

"At the end of the war, they just sent me a discharge," he says. "I stayed in San Francisco. I spent the war at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay and, later on, down at the San Francisco airport."

Richardson was warned several times of impending layoffs at the airline.

"For two years, I would get a layoff notice every 30 days, giving me a 75-day notice," he

says. To prepare for that possibility, he started several businesses — selling insurance and securities, cement contracting, and land development at southern Utah's Brian Head — but never had to completely rely on those as the layoffs never happened.

HOME AGAIN

During leave in 1949, Richardson headed back home to Spanish Fork, where he met Gloria M. Dixon. The couple was married that same year. They have 11 children, 45 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

Richardson turned 92 in July, but he stays active. He's back in Benjamin, not far from where he was raised. Richardson spent 14 years as the director of the LDS Family History Center in Spanish Fork and continues to volunteer there; he also enjoys camping and traveling.

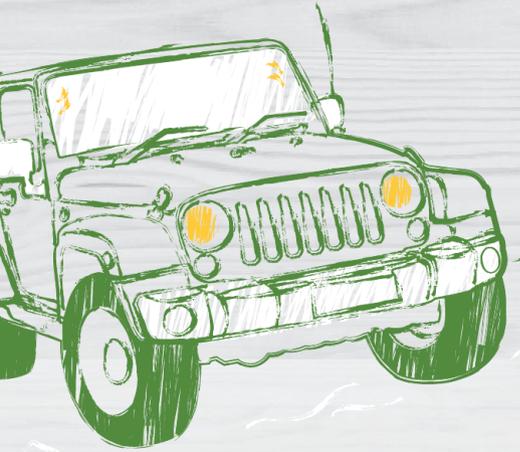
In his 44 years, there have been numerous changes and advancements in the technology related to flight. The field was continually evolving from the flying boats he learned to repair as a mechanic in 1942 to the 747s he flew on as an engineer decades later. "It was exciting to see what had been done," he says. "I would sit there and watch the gauges. It was great to see all the power come up on all four engines. We get 780,000 pounds to accelerate to 160 miles per hour in five to six thousand feet."

It's a long journey from learning to make a chain in a blacksmith shop while attending Central Utah Vocational School to telling pilots how best to fly a commercial airliner, but Richardson says he has enjoyed the ride. "It has been a joy," he says. "I liked to go to work; I enjoyed the job. There were challenges, of course. It was a constant learning thing. And that class I had at UVU opened the door for me." ■



Shared 75th Anniversaries

Wolverines aren't the only ones celebrating 75 years strong in 2016. Here are a few local, national, and global brands who are also celebrating this notable milestone.

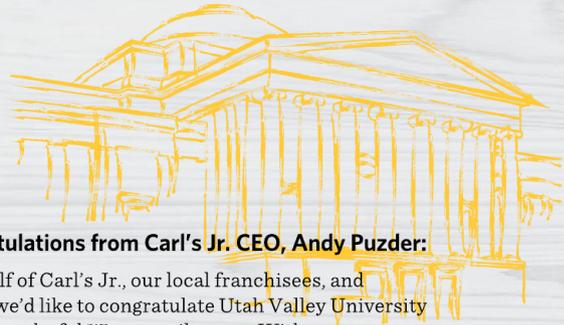


Congratulations from Mount Rushmore:

“Mount Rushmore National Memorial is celebrating its 75th anniversary of the carving’s completion. Work on the mountain was done between 1927–1941. Congratulations to Utah Valley University for 75 years.”



National Gallery of Art



Congratulations from Carl's Jr. CEO, Andy Puzder:

“On behalf of Carl's Jr., our local franchisees, and myself, we'd like to congratulate Utah Valley University on this wonderful 75-year milestone. With our company also celebrating the very same landmark this summer, we're pleased to be in such terrific company alongside the Wolverines!”



UTAH SYMPHONY
THIERRY FISCHER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

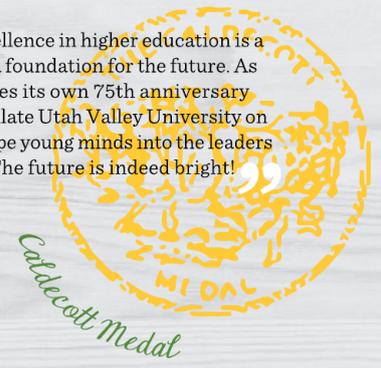
Utah Symphony Interim President and CEO Patricia A. Richards:

“Seventy-five years of excellence in higher education is a great legacy that creates a foundation for the future. As Utah Symphony concludes its own 75th anniversary celebrations, we congratulate Utah Valley University on 75 years of helping to shape young minds into the leaders of today and tomorrow. The future is indeed bright!”

Snowbasin Ski Resort



Coast Guard



Caldecott Medal

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A spotlight of three "movers and shakers" who have contributed to the rich 75-year legacy of UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY.

MAKING IT HAPPEN



by **Kellene Ricks Adams**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATHANIEL RAY EDWARDS

The 75-year history of Utah Valley University is replete with individuals who have dedicated themselves to the students and mission of the institution. While it is impossible to mention them all, we honor their legacy by featuring three individuals — from the categories of faculty, staff, and executive — who have served generally at UVU for the longest period of time.

J.D. Davidson was a senior at Brigham Young University planning to go on to law school when Dale Peterson, a vice president at what was then Utah Technical College, called him. “We’ve heard about you,” Peterson told Davidson. “And we’d like you to come work for us.”

At the time, Davidson was a returned Latter-day Saint missionary who had served in the Southwest Mission and spoke Navajo. “The school wanted to focus on Native Americans,” Davidson said, “so even though I was majoring in English literature, they were interested in my experience with Native Americans.”

Davidson was hired in 1971 as a part-time professor; after he graduated the next year, he started teaching full time. Until the department moved to the Orem Campus, he taught in a trailer. “We didn’t offer a degree in English yet, and I taught a variety of courses,” he recalls. Those included composition, Shakespeare, British and American literature, and even psychology and communications classes.

“It was an interesting institution back then — much more casual, of course,” he continues. “I remember more than once when I was teaching, a fellow faculty member would walk by the trailer door and throw a firecracker into the classroom. That wouldn’t fly today!”

The transition has been fun and exciting to be part of, says Davidson, who through his 44-year career has served in a variety of roles, including a 10-year stint as dean of the humanities, arts, and social sciences department and 6 years as dean of the Wasatch Campus. “They say some people don’t adjust well to change, but I’m not a big believer that people can’t adjust and adapt,” he observes. “The people at this institution are the movers and shakers of change, and thanks to that, I think today we offer an education as good as anybody out there.”

His role in offering that education — and especially hiring many of the current faculty when he was dean — is something he is proud of, says Davidson. “When I was hiring, one of the foremost things on my mind was finding people who could evaluate where their students were and meet them on that level to help them move forward,” he says. “Because of our open-enrollment situation, when the faculty walks into the classroom, it’s a huge unknown, and we have to begin where our students are capable of beginning. Our faculty is excellent at that, and it helps that most of our students want to be here and want to do something with their lives.”

Outside of teaching, Davidson has other interests. He loves to hunt and rides street bikes. He rode his motorcycle all the way to Oregon to visit his wife, Abby, before they were married. “I’m noted on campus because I have a bear rug and a stuffed pig and two javelina in my office,” says Davidson.

And while he’s been at UVU for more than four decades, Davidson isn’t planning to retire any time soon. “My original goal was to become a lawyer,” he notes, “but I got sidetracked — and it’s been a pretty good sidetrack.”

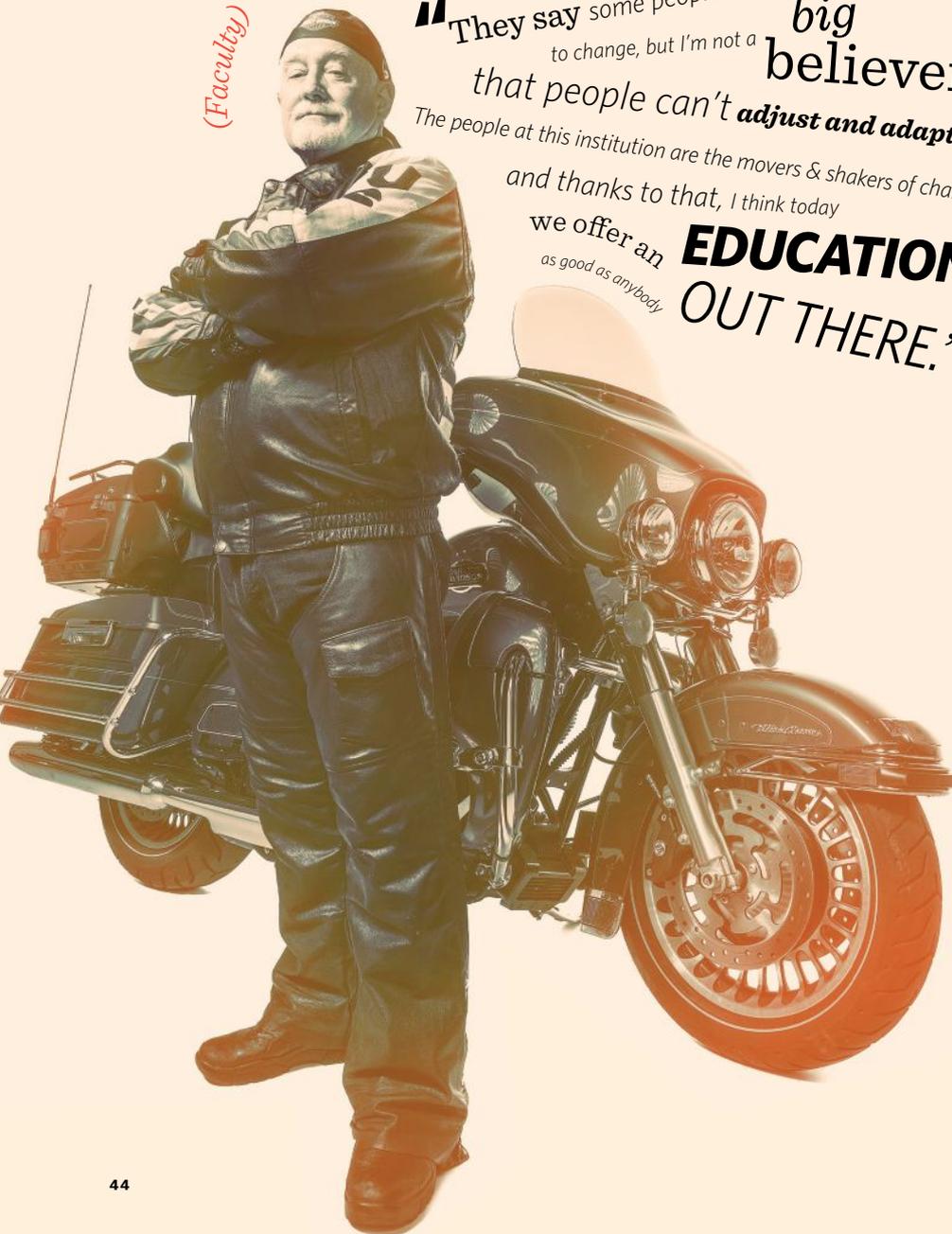
J.D. DAVIDSON

(Faculty)

“They say some people **DON’T** adjust well to change, but I’m not a **big believer** that people can’t **adjust and adapt**.”

The people at this institution are the movers & shakers of change, and thanks to that, I think today

we offer an **EDUCATION** as good as anybody **OUT THERE.**”



On February 27, 2007, **Linda Makin** was at the Utah State Capitol, sitting in the gallery, when the Utah State Legislature unanimously approved Senate Bill 70, which made Utah Valley State College a university. “We stood up, and there was a spontaneous round of applause to celebrate this remarkable moment,” recalls Makin, vice president of planning, budget, and human resources. “Through the years, this institution has worked tooth and nail for so much of our success and progress, so to have the bill pass unanimously was particularly exciting.”

That moment is one of many that Makin thinks about as she looks back on her 35 years at what is now the largest public university in the state, but perhaps nothing makes her more proud than the fact that the institution has maintained its commitment to open admission throughout its 75-year history.

“I am a first-generation student, and so is my husband, Mike,” Makin observes. “I was a good student in high school; I even got a letter from Harvard at one point, inviting me to apply. But my parents and I didn’t realize how cool that was.”

Instead, Makin started attending UVU, then known as Utah Technical College at Provo, in September 1978. The next year, she was hired as the secretary to the dean of business, and in 1980, she graduated with her first degree. She would eventually earn an associate of science degree in five quarters before earning a bachelor’s degree in accounting from UVU and a master’s of public administration from Brigham Young University.

That desire to achieve and excel has been the impetus behind her steady rise in ranks, from secretary to budget analyst to director of budgets and ultimately to her current position. While she hasn’t been in an executive position her entire time at UVU, she is currently the executive with the longest service at the institution in general. “I’ve evolved right along with this place,” notes Makin, who calls herself a data geek.

“I can get immersed in a spreadsheet,” she continues. “I can look at numbers and data and see how things work together and find solutions. I call it being a resourceful strategist.”

Makin has relied on those skills constantly in her career. Highlights for her include working on a four-person team to write the “Rationale for University Status,” which provided comprehensive research, data, and analysis justifying the institution’s move to a university; ensuring that the funds allotted to UVU are spent deliberately and judiciously; and weathering a variety of budget cuts through the years without any furloughs or layoffs.

“Someone once called the University the lean, green, educating machine,” she says. “And it’s that lean part that I’ve been part of my whole career, being accountable for the dollars and making sure we were good stewards.”

“I have a passion for this place and for what we’re trying to accomplish,” continues Makin, who notes that the only job that sounds more tempting than what she is doing now is working as the fairy godmother at Cinderella’s castle in Walt Disney World. “I love the magic I feel at Disney parks. It’s kind of the same magic we try to create here — helping identify people’s visions and applying the resources to make wishes and dreams come true.”

LINDA MAKIN

(Executive)



“I love *the magic I feel at* **Disney parks.**
It’s kind of the same magic we try to create here —
helping identify people’s visions
and applying the resources to make
WISHES AND DREAMS
COME TRUE.”

Alan Blaine Clark waited patiently for his job interview. After graduating from Springville High School, he'd taken some custodial and mechanic classes, along with a few general education classes, and when he heard about a custodial job opening at Utah Technical College, he applied and was scheduled for an interview.

The person who was supposed to interview him, however, was unavailable at the scheduled time, so Clark headed home. Later that day, Clark's phone rang. "The man who was supposed to interview me apologized, asked me a few questions, and offered me the job," he says.

And just like that, Clark started his 42-year custodial career at UVU. Clark's first assignment was cleaning the shops on the Provo Campus. Occasionally he'd be assigned other jobs as needed.

"I remember doing the Spanish Fork trailers," he says. "There were two trailers out there, and once I opened the doors and had to hold my nose, the smell was so bad. Skunks had been in there, so that was a hard job."

On another occasion, he was cleaning trailers on the Provo Campus where the engineering classes met. "Those drafting tables were angled," he recalls, "and when we were cleaning, the tables moved. It scared the guy I was working with to death."

More than once, he was assigned to assist the ground crews that were working on the Orem Campus in preparation for construction. "We went and helped weed and clear out the land," he explains.

Clark has a home in Spanish Fork, but he spends most nights at his brother's house because it's closer to his job. "I do yard work on the weekend and do stuff to make sure the house is okay," he says. He also enjoys attending church dances, going to movies (action and drama are his favorites), and watching people.

Through the years, Clark has cleaned most of the buildings on the Orem Campus, and has also shouldered different custodial responsibilities, from carpet and furniture cleaning to bathroom detail and garbage collecting. During the fall and winter semesters, he has a regular routine, but during the summer, the custodial crews do deeper cleaning, and his assignments vary.

His shifts have changed as well. "It's hard to remember exactly," he says, "but I think when I first started, our shifts started at 2 p.m. and we worked until 10:30 at night. I've also worked graveyards — I didn't like them much! — then they had us start at 5 in the afternoon, and then 4. Now our shifts start at 4:30, and we work until 1 in the morning."

"There's been a lot of change," he notes. "I've had a lot of different leads [bosses] through the years and a lot of different assignments. I've had some things I wasn't happy about, and sometimes I've had to think through some things and work on changing my attitude, because your attitude is so important — when you have a good attitude you do a better job."

One of the things Clark enjoys most about his job is the people he's met. "I try to be friendly around the campus," he says. "I try to say 'hi' to everyone. I like the people I work with, and I've had some good friends through the years. I've never really thought about going anywhere else. This has been a great place for me." ■

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because your attitude is **SO IMPORTANT.**
When you have a good attitude
you do a **BETTER JOB!**

ALAN BLAINE CLARK



THEN & NOW

In 1941, the average cost of a new house was \$4,075; a gallon of gas was 12 cents; the population of Orem, Utah was 2,914; and only 5% of American adults held a bachelor degree or higher.

At Utah Valley University, similar changes in costs, facilities, and programs have occurred.

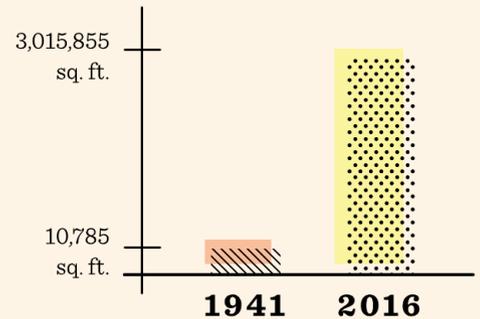


STUDENTS

1945 566
2016 33,211



FACILITIES



FACULTY MEMBERS

1945 12
2016 642 full time
1,058 adjunct/part time



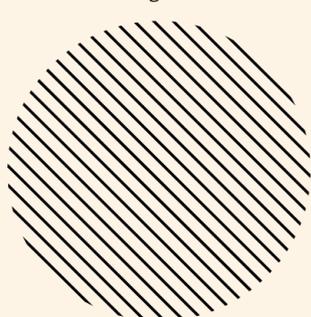
TUITION

1941 | none for war production occupational training courses

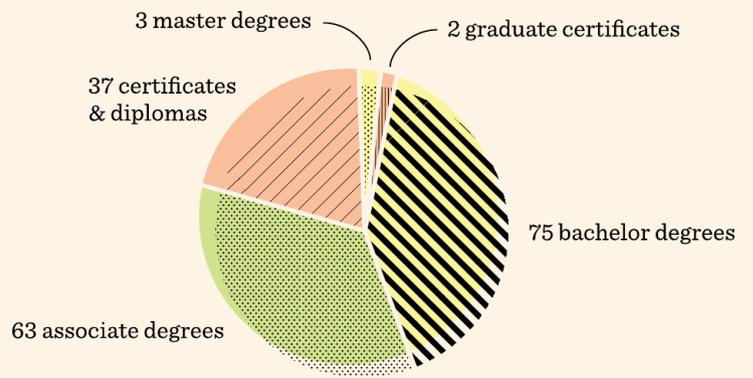


DEGREES/ CERTIFICATES

war production occupational training courses



1941



2016



Reflections

UVU Presidents Reflect on University's Journey

UVU Magazine interviewed the University's three living past presidents and two interim presidents when they were on campus in March for the 75th Anniversary Appreciation Banquet. Following are highlights of those interviews, as well as responses from current UVU President Matthew S. Holland.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUGUST MILLER

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment while serving as president?

J. MARVIN HIGBEE (1982-1987): When I first came here, I thought this was an institution that was underdeveloped. There were about 2,000 students when I came. When I left, there were 10,000 students. It was setting the stage and starting the transformation into what this institution is today. That has been very fulfilling for me to see, and I think it has been very fulfilling for the institution.

KERRY ROMESBURG (1988-2002): It is tens of thousands of graduates. It is the product. I rejoice in the opportunity that we were able to give those students and their families. It means so much. It changes lives. I can't think of a better accomplishment or a greater accomplishment.

WILLIAM A. SEDERBURG (2003-2008): I made the decision after five years to leave because I thought the legacy had been achieved. It was getting

the school to transition from a community college to a regional state university. It wasn't just a name change but having a quality university.

MATTHEW S. HOLLAND (2008-PRESENT): It has been focusing the institution on a relentless effort to simultaneously make UVU welcome to all — responsive to the real demands of the world in which we live — and the most serious intellectual and professional environment possible, all in an effort to prepare students for lives of richness, in the fullest sense of the term, and success.

What do you see for the University in the next 75 years?

HIGBEE: I expect the institution will continue to grow. Maybe it will be one of the largest in the western United States.

ROMESBURG: This will still be a vital institution meeting the needs of businesses and industries in the community. Who knows what the delivery system will be in 75 years? It will be the most vital institution in the state.

SEDERBURG: I think you are going to see universities be integral partners of all sorts in different aspects of American life. It will be less of a physical location and more of a networked location.

HOLLAND: Seventy-five years ago, absolutely no one could have seen or predicted what this very small “vocational school” would become. That said, I will venture this about the next 75 years: if UVU stays true to the core ideals we espouse today, and have always espoused at some level, it will stand above virtually all other institutions across the nation for its ability to keep an outstanding, practical, and life-transforming education within the reach of anyone who really wants it.

What was your greatest challenge?

HIGBEE: Finances were the biggest challenge I faced in my 14 years as a college or university president. [He also served at Snow College.] The state of Utah was in a period of time when money was very scarce. There were times I had to lay people off. I hated that. Seven of my fourteen years required budget cuts midyear.

ROMESBURG: The biggest hurdle was when we moved from a two-year college to a four-year college because we proposed a new model that had never been done in the country before, and everybody opposed it. We wanted to keep the culture of the community college, and layer on a four-year institution or parallel it and keep that culture as well, and maintain them both. That is what we needed and what this community needed.

SEDERBURG: It was getting the school to transition from a community college to a regional state university. The school had gone through a number of iterations. There really hadn't been a lot of thinking about moving from a community college mindset and policy structure to a regional state university. During those years we had to transition a number of employees over to the Mountainlands Applied Technology College as we kind of shed that role. It was a task not a challenge.

HOLLAND: It was securing the resources, private and public, in order to carry out our mission and secure our future growth. The time, effort, thought, and emotion required to build a major building almost every year, and put UVU's funding model on par with other state institutions, was sometimes more taxing than I could have imagined.

What is one of your favorite personal experiences while here?

HIGBEE: It was an interesting experience just to engage in life with my children. We didn't miss any of the events that were here — theater programs, music programs, athletic programs. That was the medium through which we experienced life here, and it was a fun time. We laughed, we joked, we ran, we rolled down the hills. We did all sorts of things that were fun to do.

ROMESBURG: I was asked to help open a rodeo. I was very new, and people didn't know me except that I said I could handle a horse. I couldn't get the horse to even move, so the wrangler said, “Take mine.” I used my heels to kick the horse to start just as the wrangler said, “Don't kick that horse.” It was a cutting horse, an unbelievable animal. It reared up. It took off like somebody had shot a gun. My hat flew off. I grabbed the saddle horn. I went flying around there. The stands went crazy, people were laughing. That was an embarrassing moment. It wasn't quite the entrance the rodeo team or I had ever anticipated.

SEDERBURG: I had a lot of fun with the church connection. Not being a member of the LDS Church, I was always a little nervous as to how church people would react to making a few jokes about the difference between Lutherans and LDS folks. We were dedicating the new library, and LDS Church President Thomas S. Monson was here. I made the comment that I was delighted to have him there because I played golf every Sunday afternoon out at the country club, and I would be the only one there. Would President Monson please designate somebody to be a missionary on Sunday afternoon so I would have somebody to play with? President Monson raised his hand, and he volunteered to be the missionary.

HOLLAND: After an exhausting, multicity set of travels for the University, I was finally headed home. As I sat on the plane getting ready for takeoff, I got thinking about just how much I was missing my wife and children, even though I would see them shortly. As the door of the plane was shutting and all travelers were being asked to shut down all electronic devices, I quickly whipped out my phone and typed a text to Paige: “The time between now and the moment I see you next seems like an eternity.” As the stewardess was scolding me for still using my phone, I promptly fired the message off . . . to one of my vice presidents.

What do you remember about graduations?

ROMESBURG: My favorite day each year is commencement. We celebrate the success of the students. You share the success, the joy. It is all about the students. One year in the early years when everyone came across the stage, a woman yelled, “Way to go, Grandma.” I will never forget that.

What controversy did you address?

SEDERBURG: The students invited Michael Moore to speak. We had in my office 1,300 emails complaining to us about Michael Moore speaking to us on campus. We had all sorts of craziness. People said that’s the most liberal person who has been in Utah County ever. That was a very interesting time. Fortunately calm heads prevailed.

How does what you see now match your vision?

HIGBEE: Having grown up here in Orem, I watched the institution from the very beginning. I saw this institution become what it is today. I knew that it was something that we needed because of the nature of Brigham Young University. There was no way they could do what needed to be done in this valley. I made an effort to put together a master plan and look at this institution — where it had been and where it would go. When I see what I see now, it sits very well with the vision that I had in 1982.

*Interim presidents
Lucille Stoddard and Elizabeth Hitch
also shared their thoughts.*

STODDARD: *We knew we had to move this college forward. You can’t separate the heart from the hand. They are symbiotic. Not everybody agreed with me — heart and hand and mind. They thought we were going to drop the trades. It was very difficult to make that change. Every single degree we took to the Regents. We had to make sure there was no flaw.*

UVU was kind of a secret. We got accreditation from the accrediting body for business. Nobody in the state thought that would happen, but it did. Nobody knew really what was going on. Nobody knew that we were having all these consultants come in, and we were hiring Ph.D.s, and we were being sure they were in discipline-specific fields. We just didn’t get the word out like we should have. They saw us as this little podunk college that was trying to be better than it could. Of course, we were that good — and better.

HITCH: *During the 11 months I was interim president [in 2008] the financial situation was very difficult in the state. We knew we had to cut the budget by 15 percent. We knew we were going to get 5,000 more students in one year. That challenge was really something. The team that was here was so strong. They rolled up their sleeves and went to work. We did it in a way that didn’t hurt the University long term.*

I think participation for women in higher education is still evolving for UVU. I think there has been a big effort under President Holland to move forward with a lot of initiatives that both help and encourage women to participate in higher education.





Chapter 1 – In the Beginning: Central Utah Vocational School

To honor the 75th anniversary of Utah Valley University, the administration commissioned a commemorative book. Written by UVU history professor Sondra Jones, "Utah Valley University: 75 Years Strong" tells the story of the fledgling Central Utah Vocational School growing into the State of Utah's largest public institution of higher education. The following is an excerpt from the book's opening chapter.

The book will be available for purchase soon.

photography by Nathaniel Ray Edwards

Utah Valley University entered the world as a scattered collection of vocational classes taught throughout Utah and Wasatch counties in 1938, which had been initiated in response to the Great Depression. In 1941 these classes were centralized and formally organized into a school as World War II began. During these years, the school rode the crest of enthusiasm for federal recovery programs and then a high tide of patriotism. But in the aftermath of the war, interest and funding for vocational and technical education waned. The school teetered on the brink of dissolution, saved only by the dedication and dogged determination of its administrators and local school district officials to wrangle funding and recognition from a reluctant state legislature. With persistence, the school won a temporary designation as a state institution in 1945 and became a permanent state-supported institution in 1947 — though the fight for funding seemed a never-ending battle. So also was the struggle to demonstrate the intrinsic value of providing vocational education for the region's growing industrial workforce.

Over the next decades, the campus moved from the Utah County Fairgrounds (then located just south of Provo, now known as the East Bay District) to a small Provo campus across from Brigham Young University. When an extended University Avenue threatened to split the campus and its growing student body, an expansive new campus was purchased on the west side of Orem (1966), and master planning began for the rapidly growing institution. By the fall of 1976,

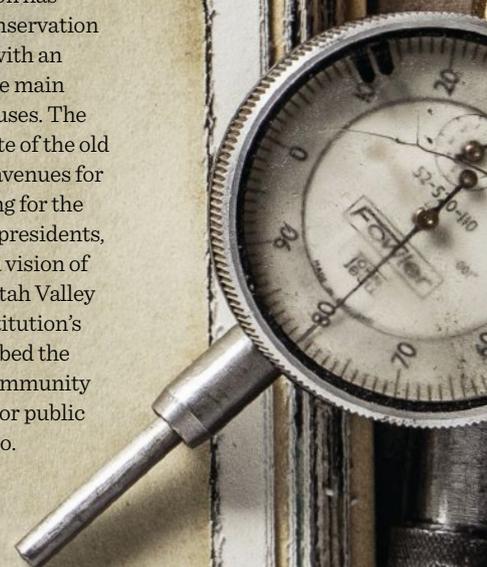
the first buildings had been completed and occupied, with an ongoing list of new buildings on the horizon.

During these decades, the institution underwent a series of name changes that reflected its transforming status and mission. From the Central Utah Vocational School that filled the needs of war-production training, it became a state-supported vocational school. As regional needs for vocational and general education increased, the school became the Utah Trade Technical Institute (1963) and then Utah Technical College at Provo (1967), and it added general education courses to its trades offering. During the 1970s, the campus split, teaching courses at both the Provo and Orem campuses. But as the college grew, its mission and name shifted again as it embraced its emerging role as a source of education for the whole community, becoming Utah Valley Community College (1987).

By 1993, the school had become a regional state college and changed its name yet again, this time to Utah Valley State College, adding more liberal arts classes and offering bachelor degrees as well as associate degrees and vocational certificates. In 2008, the school assumed its role as a full-fledged regional state university — Utah Valley University — but with the distinction of being one of the largest universities in the country that offered a rich liberal arts education, maintained its vision as a community college, and retained its ongoing commitment to vocational and business education. Here students learning diesel mechanics could stroll the University's modern halls connecting one building to the next alongside a dance major, while the computer science major could share library study space with a student of dental hygiene or lift weights in the Student Life & Wellness Center alongside a chemistry major.

It has been an eventful 75 years. The institution has transformed from a school housed in Civilian Conservation Corps barracks to a superbly modern university with an enrollment of over 33,000 on a sprawling 235-acre main campus in Orem with a number of satellite campuses. The acquisition of another 225 acres in 2014 on the site of the old U.S. Steel's Geneva Works opens promising new avenues for future expansion. Gaining recognition and funding for the school was seldom easy, but a series of dedicated presidents, along with their handpicked advisors, all shared a vision of the institution's potential and future role in the Utah Valley community. In 1982 Wilson W. Sorensen, the institution's second director and first official president, described the rapid development of CUVS into an important community college as a miracle; its transformation into a major public university over the next 30 years was even more so.

This is its story.





During the dark days of the Great Depression, millions of Americans were thrown out of work and the threatening clouds of war hung over much of Europe. In Utah, unemployment was especially high at 36 percent compared to a national unemployment rate of 25 percent. As a result (and because they felt these dire economic problems had been caused by failed federal policies), both Governors George H. Dern and his successor Henry H. Blood, along with Utah congressmen, lobbied vigorously for New Deal money and projects for Utah. Washington responded with funds for various projects, including \$52 million for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) projects — a New Deal agency then under the direction of Secretary of War George Dern, the former Utah governor. One of these was the Rock Canyon CCC project, which employed men to help terrace, replant, and restore the watershed up Rock Canyon, east of Provo. The Rock Canyon CCC set up quarters on the old county fairgrounds just south of Provo, where workers added barracks and other sundry buildings to an already-existing set of brick exhibition buildings. As these men went to work, the demand for formal vocational training increased, and classes were soon being offered through local high schools and colleges. Thus the stage was set for the birth of Utah County's first vocational and technical school.

Federal and state governments recognized a growing need to provide their citizens with the vocational and technical skills needed in a new industrial world. Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917 to provide matching federal funds for agricultural and domestic arts education; unfortunately, while the idea was good, it reinforced the perception that vocational education should be isolated from the rest of the liberal arts curriculum.

By the 1930s, most Utah high schools included industrial arts and a few home economics courses. However, most educators viewed “shop” as a place to send unruly or poor-performance students, a holding tank rather than a real education. But as the Depression deepened,

state vocational education directors emphasized the importance of teaching marketable vocational skills. Meanwhile, the scourge of war in Europe led to the development of military mobilization plans. Although the United States maintained an official policy of neutrality, most leaders knew that the country was drawing closer to war.

Secretary of War Dern began promoting war readiness and advocated modernizing the army with newer planes, tanks, and weapons. This required gearing up industrial production of this war material. Congress passed the George-Deen Vocational Law in 1936, which authorized funds to help states improve vocational training in the skilled trades needed for a country gearing up for war. Industrial leaders also saw that American workers needed to upgrade existing skills more quickly than the old apprenticeship system allowed.

Armed with the new federal money, the Utah Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for vocational education for the 1936–1938 biennium budget. Because the new George-Deen funds doubled the money available, school districts began to increase their vocational education offerings. Alpine and Provo school districts, for example, added welding, carpentry, and auto mechanics to their offerings. However, just adding classes wasn't enough; all four school districts (Alpine, Provo, Nebo, and Wasatch) needed some kind of overall coordinator.

Howard B. Gunderson, state director for vocational education, and Charles H. Skidmore, state superintendent of public instruction, searched for a regional coordinator and, in April 1938, appointed Hyrum E. Johnson as coordinator for vocational education in Utah and Wasatch valleys. Johnson was a well-known and highly respected tradesman and teacher who taught evening classes and mentored student apprentices in Spanish Fork and Pleasant Grove. A middle-aged man, he had a degree in industrial arts and had worked as a contractor and draftsman before being recruited to teach high school evening classes. Now as the area vocational educational coordinator, Johnson



became the catalyst for developing a solid vocational education program for the region.

Johnson threw himself into his duties heart and soul, dedicated to promoting vocational education and shifting attitudes about industrial arts as a dumping ground for poorly motivated or troublesome students. He recruited great teachers, individuals already skilled in their trades and willing to share their knowledge. He also organized the industrial, trades, and distributive education classes, coordinated the programs through the local school districts, arranged for facilities, and struggled to obtain adequate equipment and supplies. Johnson also recruited students, many of them adults who desperately wanted to develop or improve skills to help them find jobs. But funding remained miserly at best, for public school administrators remained skeptical of the program. They also worried that many under- or unemployed adults would begin taking these evening classes alongside their younger high school students. During the summer of 1938, Johnson approached district administrators about creating a centralized vocational school. The school officials were overtly sympathetic but were reluctant to part with any of their funds. The state legislature also refused to fund a vocational school in Provo.

So vocational classes remained scattered, located in high school classrooms or independently owned shops, and mostly taught in the evening, typically on a three-hour, three-times-a-week schedule. Classes included auto mechanics, electricity, welding, plumbing and pipe fitting, radio repair, sheet metal, drafting, blueprint reading, carpentry and cabinetmaking, house framing, and concrete work, as well as practical business, secretarial, and salesmanship classes.

Instructors recruited by Johnson included well-respected tradesmen with their own shops and private businesses. For example, Ralph Woodhouse, who owned a body and fender shop, taught auto mechanics and welding in American Fork. Johnson had promoted aviation mechanics, arguing that the United



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I recently came across a 3x5 card where I had written down a goal more than five years ago to become a professor at UVU teaching student success. Today I work at UVU with UV Mentors, and I get to teach them how to be successful students and members of our community.

Gretchen Alisa Palmer

Graduated spring 2011, psychology major

A decade ago, Gretchen Palmer started attending Utah Valley University, then known as Utah Valley State College. She'd tried going to college a couple of times before and failed, but when she heard about UVU's mentor program, she somehow knew that would make a difference. "I was a UV Mentor and a UV Mentor team lead for three of my five years here," says Palmer, who worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Utah and as an intern in the dean of students' office at BYU before returning to UVU in 2012 as manager of the very program that changed her life years earlier.

Palmer has earned a master's degree and plans to earn a Ph.D. Her focus now, however, is on her job and her family (she met her husband at UVU; he was also a mentor). "Attending UVU and my experiences here helped me find my passion for teaching, leading, and giving back."



States would need skilled workers for an expanded air force if it became embroiled in the European or Pacific wars. But few others saw the necessity of aviation mechanics since great oceans separated the United States from Europe and Japan. Yet within a year, the Army and Navy requisitioned Woodhouse's private plane and asked him to train military personnel. By 1942, aviation mechanics, sheet metal work, and riveting became a major component of the war industries training program in Utah Valley, with many of Johnson's students recruited directly to Hill Field near Ogden to work on damaged aircraft.

Keith Hunter was another tradesman-turned-instructor who taught electricity to students gathered in the Lehi Elementary School furnace room. Glen Wing, owner of a radio repair shop, taught radio theory and repair in the attic of the same school. A. C. Goates, an accounting supervisor of merchandizing for an oil company, taught petroleum merchandizing in an art classroom at Provo High, while two plumbing contractors taught in classrooms down the hall. Other tradesmen held classes in their own shops, including Lloyd Smith who taught sheet metal work and heating and ventilation contracting in his Payson shop and John I. Lamph who, with his teenage sons, taught

welding in his Pleasant Grove body and fender shop before moving the class to Lincoln High School in Orem.

Courses in business and distributive education, including textile merchandizing, office practice, typing, practical English, and salesmanship, were taught at local high schools. Meanwhile local businesses sent their employees to salesmanship classes to learn how to sell over the counter, detect forged checks, and prevent shoplifting. The institution was already generating links between its vocational education programs and local businesses — a tradition that would expand over the years as partnerships were formed with businesses from Geneva Steel in the 1940s and Signetics in the 1960s to Vivint in 2014. As educators and businesses recognized the value of a skilled workforce, the tradition of engaging students with practical experience began even before the institution was consolidated as the embryonic CUVS. ■



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Our present
is so much grander
than our past
but it is not nearly as grand as
our future.

- President Matthew S. Holland

