

# UVU magazine

## FINANCIAL FREEDOM

*UVU's top-10 financial planning program helps students learn to serve while they help others save*

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UVU's top-10 financial planning program helps students learn to serve while they help others save



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SCRIBBLING WOMEN

UVU students study and display works of literature by 19th century women authors

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UVU SkillsUSA teams have  
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tradition of excellence

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 Grad in tough television industry got his 10,000 hours in UVU theater department

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SINCE its inception more than 75 years ago, Utah Valley University has made student success a priority, and that tradition continues today. The interest in our unique dual model, combining the access and affordability of a trade school with a serious, engaged, and inclusive academic education, has never been higher.

I was privileged to be able to share UVU's story and successes of the dual approach during my time as a Senior Associate at Pembroke College at the University of Oxford this summer. In a discussion with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Foreign Affairs, many U.K. education leaders showed great interest in the way UVU has combined vocational education with advanced four-year and graduate degrees. Speaking to members of Parliament was a distinct honor, and an opportunity of a lifetime, both professionally and personally.

The content in this issue of UVU Magazine underscores why leaders at home and abroad are interested in our model – they see our all-encompassing student success. Comprised of students from our certificate and associates degree programs, UVU teams consistently place among the top five schools in the nation in the annual SkillsUSA competition, a test of individual trade and technical skills. Similarly, UVU's personal financial planning program in the Woodbury School of Business is also among the nation's best, boasting a near 100-percent job placement rate for its undergrads – many of whom have positions secured years before completing their degrees.

Equally deserving of a bright spotlight, our Liberal Arts students are gaining recognition for their creativity: UVU English students produced an amazing scholarly exhibit on early American women authors, which was featured at the Salt Lake City Public Library. And UVU theatre alumnus Eric Phillips successfully debuted his own Kickstarter-funded stage musical this summer in Hollywood.

I hope the variety of these achievements makes one thing clear: no matter how you define success for yourself, there is a place for you at UVU. Thank you for your continued support.

Best,

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

Matthew S. Holland  
President

## WOLVERINE FUND PROVIDES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Utah Valley University is planning to announce its Wolverine Fund this fall. It's a venture capital fund – and more.

"It is providing our students with a hands-on, engaged learning opportunity to directly invest in businesses," says Jeff Moss, executive director and Foundation COO. "It gives a chance to take real money and invest it in start-up companies." Donors have provided the money for the ventures.

Another objective is to get a return on the money invested. That goes to the UVU Foundation and is used for university projects and students.

The third goal is what sets the Wolverine Fund apart from similar programs at other universities.

"We are working closely with our Entrepreneurship Institute," Moss says. "Students have ideas for businesses. What we bring is a very deep relationship with our partners, all of these people who are engaged. We can be a great conduit to venture capital firms."

That part is a multi-faceted process, he says. Two new classes will be offered, with the plan to have students from various majors enroll. There is an advisory board to help students become successful entrepreneurs.

"Their whole focus is trying to make sure the students can be successful," Moss says. "Our goal is to make sure they have a good return."

## RECORD NUMBER OF INTERNS SERVE IN THE EAST

This summer, Utah Valley University sent its largest group of interns to Washington, D.C., and New York City in the history of the University.

The 13 interns came from various educational backgrounds, pursuing degrees in political science, financial planning, math, computer science, aviation administration, behavioral science, journalism, and graphic design.

The students who represented UVU included: Andre Jones (Senator Orrin Hatch), Gerika Ballard (SBSB Wealth Advisory services), James Nielsen (Senator Orrin Hatch), Addison Adams (FBI), Emily Addison (FBI), Aaron John Organ (American Association of Airport Executives), Tyler Keetch (Congressman Chris Stewart), Tuvae Nerveza (Congresswoman Mia Love), Preston Parry (Capital Research Center), Kayla Cook (Forest Hills Assisted Living Center), Mitchell Riley (HAF-A10 Pentagon Air Force Headquarters), McKenzie Stauffer (Thatcher & Co.), and Sara McNeil (Good Housekeeping magazine).



## PRESIDENT HOLLAND STUDIES AND PRESENTS AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Utah Valley University President Matthew S. Holland spent the summer in England as a senior associate at Pembroke College of the University of Oxford. Oxford is the oldest English-language university in the world.

During his time there, President Holland gave a public lecture for a seminar on religious issues and participated in a panel about the role Abraham Lincoln played in United States history. Further, he addressed the All Party Parliamentary Group of Foreign Affairs regarding education reform and current challenges the field faces.

Officials at Oxford and other institutions of higher education expressed interest in UVU's unique dual mission of educating in the trades while offering a more traditional university experience.

The university remains open-admission, and utilizes structured enrollment to help students reach their goals.

In addition to giving numerous addresses, Holland worked to strengthen Oxford connections to UVU. One such connection is the Quill Project wherein the Center for Constitutional Studies pairs students with Dr. Nicholas Cole from the University of Oxford to research and model the creation of constitutions.

While at Oxford, Holland also conducted research in his academic areas of expertise, political philosophy, American history, and higher education administration. Specifically, he focused on the correspondence between Thomas Jefferson and James Madison regarding human liberty and the responsibility to future generations.

The Utah State Board of Regents permits university presidents to accumulate a month of leave for every year of leadership. Holland has served as president since 2009, and the Oxford appointment was his first leave.

## CULINARY STUDENT TAKES TOP NATIONAL HONORS

Madeline Black, a first-year student at Utah Valley University's Culinary Arts Institute, was named the nation's Student Chef of the Year at the American Culinary Federation's national convention held in Orlando, Florida, in July.

Black, a sophomore from Provo, became the second straight national champion from UVU's Culinary Arts Institute. Last year, UVU's Michelle Stephenson won the same title, the first in UVU history.

"Nobody expected UVU to do what we have done," said Chef Todd Leonard, department chair of UVU's Culinary Arts Institute. "From not knowing who we were just a couple years ago, to having back-to-back national champions, this has just put UVU on the culinary map to stay. We have suddenly become one of the most intriguing places in the culinary world."

As one of five regional winners, Black had only 90 minutes to prepare a world-class dish that would impress a team of seasoned top-level chefs. Each competitor came up with their own recipes utilizing an ingredient list given to them just a few weeks earlier. This year's list was built around duck as the main protein. Black's final winning menu consisted of truffle-scented duck roulade finished in duck fat, with Utah honey lacquered duck thigh-riblet, pan seared foie gras with port and morel mushroom sauce, accompanied by potatoes gratin, celeriac and pea puree, with rhubarb chutney and a summer vegetable medley.

### THREE NEW TRUSTEES JOIN BOARD

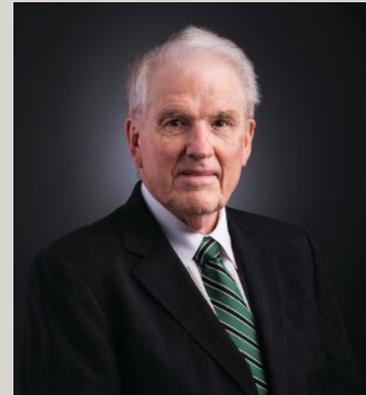
Utah Valley University welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees — former Weber State University president Paul H. Thompson of Orem, new UVUSA president Rob Smith, and Nebo School District superintendent Richard C. Nielsen of Spanish Fork.

Thompson was president of WSU from 1990 to 2002. He received a doctorate in business administration from Harvard University and served as an assistant professor at Harvard Business School from 1969 to 1973. At Brigham Young University, he served as professor of organizational behavior, chairman of that department, dean of the Marriott School of Management, and vice president of development and university relations.

Smith is entering his senior year at UVU, studying political science and American

government. He has served as a presidential intern at UVU and received an associate degree in history and political science from UVU in 2016. He has also been an assistant basketball coach at Mountain View High School in Orem.

Nielsen has been superintendent of Nebo School District since 2010. Previously, he served as assistant superintendent and elementary director at Nebo. He has been the principal at Rees, Art City, and Westside elementary schools. Nielsen received the Human Resource Developer of the Year Award from the Utah Association of Elementary School Principals in 2003. He also received the Rookie Principal of the Year Award by the Utah Association of Elementary School Principals.



Paul H. Thompson



Rob Smith



Richard C. Nielsen

### UVU SENIOR NAMED TO UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS



Alex Trujillo, a senior at UVU who is studying marketing, has been appointed to the Utah State Board of Regents for a one-year term. The group oversees the Utah System of Higher Education. Its major responsibilities include selecting and evaluating institutional presidents, setting policy, approving programs, missions, and degrees, and submitting a unified higher education budget request to the governor and state legislature, according to [higheredutah.org](http://higheredutah.org).

He has served in numerous student involvement positions throughout his college career such as a presidential cabinet intern to UVU and the Service Council VP of Communications in the UVU Student Association. He was awarded “the Champion of Inclusion” at UVU as well as “Ambassador of the Year” for his impactful efforts in prospective student outreach and service to underserved student populations, and has received top placements in national competitions in the American Marketing Association.

Trujillo was chosen through an application process and later confirmed by the governor and the state senate. He will represent all students in the state.

# UTAH VALLEY<sup>TM</sup>

## BASKETBALL

*Season tickets  
now available for  
the 2017-18 season.*

GoUVU.com | @GoUVU | #GoUVU

*Zach Nelson  
Senior*



A close-up portrait of a middle-aged man with a goatee, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark green polo shirt with a white logo on the chest that includes the letters 'GVU' and a stylized eagle head. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

**“Even though it hasn’t been easy, he’s accomplished some really cool things, and continues to accomplish some really cool things.”**

# OVERCOMING THE ODDS

Tech Management student Andy Lopp works through challenges

By JAY WAMSLEY

A **NON-TRADITIONAL** student working toward success at a national undergraduate research competition two years in a row might seem mildly interesting. But if that student considers even attending college a miracle, the milestones he passes become remarkably noteworthy.

UVU student Andy Lopp readily suggests that if he gets his baccalaureate degree “it will be huge,” adding, “I want to get a bachelor’s in technology management, but it’s going to take me a while. I can’t go at the same pace as others. Even being here, I am really challenging myself. I may not succeed as much as other students, but for me, I will have succeeded.”

Back up four years. Lopp was 50 years old and part of a truck-driving team, traveling on I-80 17 miles into Iowa. Lopp was sleeping in the back of the cab when the driver of the 18-wheeler hit another semi, both trailers being fully loaded.

“It totaled both trucks,” Lopp remembers. “I went flying out the side — there wasn’t a door or window there, but there was now — and hit I-80 and started breaking up as I rolled along. It was pretty bad.”

Lopp was taken by air ambulance to Omaha where he was in the hospital for three weeks. After life-saving surgery, screws and rods now dominate his joints and extremities. His back was broken. Further surgeries came at the University of Utah, along with rehabilitation in hospitals in Utah and Salt Lake counties.

“But the brain injury has been the toughest challenge — traumatic brain injury,” Lopp said. “I now have depression, anger issues, anxiety. At first I would lash out, get angry, go from 0 to 60 when no one was in the house. There was nothing stimulating that. I would just suddenly lash out at anything,

suddenly be furious, and that was hard ... the last couple years I have done more therapy for the brain injury than anything else.”

Susan Thackeray, Lopp’s mentor and an assistant professor in the UVU Technology Management Department, points out that Lopp’s former state of being is why his educational highlights are so significant.

“That’s why I think Andy’s story is so compelling and important and needs to be told to all students,” she says. “Even though you’ve had all these challenges, you’ve diverted your energy into being a student. And even though it hasn’t been easy, he’s accomplished some really cool things, and continues to accomplish some really cool things.”

Cooler among them is Lopp’s deciding last fall — “on his own,” Thackeray is quick to point out — to submit a research project to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR). His topic and abstract submission, “How will Technology Change Education and Schools,” was selected from more than 4,000 submissions for presentation at NCUR 31 at the University of Memphis. The selection committee recognized Lopp’s work as “a unique contribution” to his field of study in Technology Management, Thackeray notes. In addition, his abstract was recognized in the top 10 percent by faculty researchers in the Institute for Intelligent Systems at the University of Memphis.

Lopp in 2015 had also assisted with a presentation at NCUR, that time with the UVU Automotive Technology Department, presenting information regarding the university’s fine-tuning of a race car that was raced on the Bonneville Salt Flats, so the follow-up presentation in 2016 came in a new area for him. Because he had a hobby of restoring classic

cars — his specialty is MGBs — Lopp had watched the business of auto mechanics become more about computers. “It is a real big interest of mine to see how we could better prepare the high school kid going into automotive, or any other area really, how to do more than just Google and Skype, but to actually learn the technical things that will help them. We hear about kids having to share iPads and such, so it was a really interesting topic to me.”

Thackeray says Lopp received a lot of positive feedback at the NCUR event. She says the pair plan to “enhance his topic and presentation and resubmit in the fall because there were a lot of questions and room for additional research that he identified.”

Thackeray says she has become a strong proponent of assisting students to learn to do research. The UVU Faculty Scholarly and Creative Undergraduate Learning Team (SCULPT) is working on ways to “introduce more students in a safe way to apply for undergraduate research,” she says.

“Andy just jumped right in. That’s not common. Not everyone can do that,” she says. “At UVU, we want to encourage more students to try to learn how to do more research. We want to give them more opportunities to compete and present.” SCULPT, she says, may soon have a fair or conference on campus toward this purpose, as well as continuing to support the statewide Utah Collegiate Undergraduate Research competitions and the national group.

“Memphis was a great experience for me,” Lopp says. “I met students from all over the country and I’m impressed with the students from our school who want to branch out and do things to help and not just look for the dollar sign. That’s important, because if you’re happy, happy is a good place to be.” ■



## EASY AS PI

Mini-sized computers bring big learning for IT students

By JAY WAMSLEY

**WHAT** sounds like a dessert is a new wave in education and a delicious service-learning activity for UVU students in the College of Technology & Computing.

### *Meet Raspberry Pi.*

The Raspberry is a mini-computer, about the size of a deck of cards, with all the guts and goodies for students working with the computer operating system Linux, to create solutions to little real-world problems. The best part about this computer is the price — about \$30.

Professor S. Jeff Cold of UVU's Information Systems and Technology Department teaches IT 3510, an advanced systems administration course with an emphasis on Linux. The course, he says, often evolves into a service-learning class, though students can choose to present a research paper or some other semester-ending activity.

"Now the challenge students have always had is, because this is a server class, where do I get the hardware to do a project?" Cold says. "This last year, we cobbled together enough sources of money to get 32 of these mini computers, the Raspberry Pi. These are credit card-sized computers, and this computer has an HDMI port, an ethernet port for network, and it has four USB ports so you can totally plug in a mouse, a keyboard, a monitor, and a network. It has an operating system and it boots off of micro SD cards. By itself, you're talking about 30 bucks."

With adapters for power and some cables to match classroom needs, Cold utilizes larger IBM monitors in the classroom and turns the students loose to learn Linux scripting.

"I used them at the beginning of the class to teach my students how to do scripting," Cold says. "They could have done scripting on the big computers in the classroom, but this is kind of novel, kind of fun, it teaches them how to use it while it's still

Linux. And the cool part was several of my students were able to do projects for other people."

Cold describes how a student who also worked in a care facility was able to use her Raspberry to eliminate a paper-based scheduling system and put it on the web, making it more convenient for employees to check their working schedules.

"So she sets up a Raspberry Pi with Google Calendar, and it's so small she can hide it under a desk," Cold says. "She scripts it to become a web server. And so they are now doing scheduling that way and employees can check online from home, even using their phones to find out when they work, and before they all had to physically come in."

Another student, Cold explains, had a grandmother whose loss of hearing prevented her from hearing her own doorbell. The student, Jordan Ross, used scripting and Raspberry Pi to program her cell phone — which she always carried — to vibrate when someone used her doorbell. Ross says he was particularly pleased that he was able to help a member of his family.

"I chose this project because I wanted to do something that would make a difference for someone in my family. I also really liked the idea of using a Raspberry Pi," Ross says. "I knew it would be a learning experience and felt confident I could do it so I moved forward ... I was really glad when I got it working. It took a lot of research and some trial and error. This project was a lot of fun and I learned a lot."

Ross, who graduated in May and is now working as a software engineer, says he enjoyed learning about the mini-computers in the class: "Raspberry Pi's are inexpensive computers that are ideal for projects like this. They allow for many forms of input/output that can be used for many things like detecting signals on a wire from a doorbell. I will definitely do more Raspberry Pi projects in the

**"I'm really proud of my students. You are creating something with Linux, you are providing a service, you are involved in engaged learning at its finest."**

future and I plan on building on this project. I would like to do this project for other people in my family."

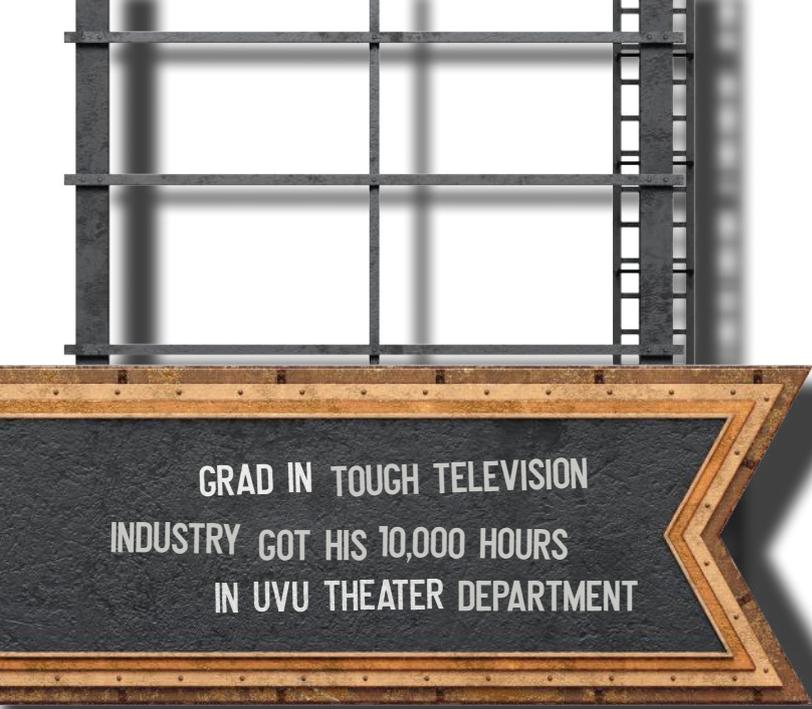
There's a whole movement in education, Cold says, in which students are using affordable or wearable electronics to do "an internet of things, or IOT projects. In other words, using the internet to solve little problems." Cold says he is particularly happy his students are applying Linux to solve those problems — "that is what I wanted out of the class, as 70 percent of the servers in the world have Linux, but what can you do with it? ... I feel like using the Raspberry Pi to teach them scripting kind of gave them the confidence to do more. Yeah, I'm really proud of my students. You are creating something with Linux, you are providing a service, you are involved in engaged learning at its finest."

Ross agrees, saying, "There are many people who have needs that could be met through projects like this. The possibilities are endless. It just takes a little knowledge about Linux and some determination. Knowing that it was for someone else helped push me to get it done and to do it well. There's no way just studying from a textbook could have taught me all that I learned from doing this hands-on project." ■



*Making*  
**LUCK**  
**HAPPEN**

**FEATURING ERIC PHILLIPS**  
**BY JAY WAMSLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUGUST MILLER**



GRAD IN TOUGH TELEVISION  
INDUSTRY GOT HIS 10,000 HOURS  
IN UVU THEATER DEPARTMENT

WHEN people say Eric Phillips is really lucky to be catching some breaks and working as a writer in the eat-you-up world of television production, he tries not to roll his eyes. Such praise reminds him of a poster his family had in their Kaysville, Utah, home.

“You hear people say to make it in this business you just gotta be lucky,” the 2012 UVU graduate reflects. “When I was little, my brother had a poster on the ceiling above our weight bench that read, ‘The harder you work, the luckier you get.’ And I think that’s super true.”

It is true that Phillips won awards — along with the love and appreciation of theater patrons and students — for his stage and comedy sketch work while at UVU. He was a principal in “Vincent in Brixton,” which won Outstanding Production of a Play at the Kennedy Center’s national festival. He also won the Chicago Style Comedy Scholarship at the regional Kennedy Center Festival in 2012, leading to a summer improv intensive at Cal State Monterey Bay with famed improv artists Second City. But Phillips is quick to note that in Los Angeles, a college resume and list of awards is only a piece of paper.

“To be honest, LA can be harsh. You show up and they don’t care about anything you’ve done prior to LA, especially in the theater and TV,” Phillips says. “On paper, I was an award-winner — three years of this and that, I went to LA with our production, and all of that. That doesn’t translate off the paper, but the experiences and things that you did, you can take with you, and people pick up on that. In TV-land, in Hollywood-land, they want you to speak their language and that is, ‘What have you done for me lately?’”

### POLITICS IN THE SHOWER

Lately, as it turns out, Phillips has been in the mix in TV-land — and national politics — with a production he wrote, directed, and got funded called “Fox News: The Musical.” Phillips says he had done musical parodies before, including one he did with fellow UVU student Robbie Pierce, called “Les Mig: The Hobbit Musical,” which evolved from a comedy sketch played out on a UVU stage to a full show at San Diego Comic-Con.

“After we did that, I was kind of itching to do an original musical, and I’m a bit political and the name ‘Fox News: The Musical’ hit me in the shower,” Phillips remembers. “It was so absurd, I couldn’t not do it. So, I started planning it and outlining it. We did a Kickstarter, raised \$10,000 in 30 days, and that spanned over the time of the election — the election happened right in the middle of the Kickstarter, so it was a very politically charged time. I actually went to Washington, D.C., and played some of our songs on the sidewalk out in front of the White House on a boom box during the Kickstarter, just to kind of get a buzz going and see what would happen.”

What happened was that funding came, and so a theater was secured and rehearsals begun. UVU friends Bradley Brough and Joanna Castle Miller were brought on to help with music and lyrics. Fifteen original songs were written. Phillips put up acting notices and in 24 hours had nearly a thousand submissions — “It was pretty crazy. At the time, I thought this must be normal. But we weren’t paying much; I think it was the topic.”

Phillips’s “Fox News: The Musical” had a four-day run in Hollywood, was sold out each night, and is still likely to have a second life.



“We wrote it so that it can be evergreen,” Phillips says. “We are exploring corporate media bias in general ... and how it can divide our political spectrum so much. There will always be women experiencing sexism in the workplace and so there’s that, and we have a lot of themes we hope will carry the show beyond LA, so hopefully we can get some more interest. We filmed it and will be releasing that online soon, for our Kickstarter backers, and so people can view it online in sort of a pay-for-view format.”

## RISKY BUSINESS

Original songs, renting out theaters, topical subject matter, and funding through the internet my sound risky to most, but Phillips says he found making the jump from UVU to LA was both “scary and exciting, and I guess I kind of thrive on that, being the risk-taker.”

Christopher Clark, associate professor and chair of the UVU Theatre Department, has followed Phillips’s risk-taking trend since graduation.

“The reason Eric is successful, and I’ve said this all along, is that he isn’t afraid to work — he’s not afraid to take risks,” Clark says. “And he just goes for stuff. So many of our students graduate and just wait for things to come to them, thinking, ‘I’m done with school, so opportunities should be coming my way.’ But they don’t in our field. That why he’s done so well — because he makes these things happen.”

Phillips considers Clark his “huge, huge mentor” and close friend. Clark was the sounding board for Phillips when, as a new UVU student, he wanted to learn about sketch comedy and improvisational comedy by doing it. With friends Robbie Pierce, Kyle Oram, and Greg Larsen, Phillips formed a troupe called Laughing Matters, “and that became like a do-it-yourself bootcamp. We were all writing, we were all directing, we were all producing, we were all acting in it, so it was like we were all trading hats constantly.” Sometimes finding venues was tough, but Laughing Matters produced two shows each semester Phillips attended UVU. Pierce and Phillips still write together and do two-man sketch comedy and improv together in LA, known as The Corduroy Commandos.

Clark remembers the enthusiasm and originality of the students: “They were very funny. Some of their ideas were so bizarre and I would go and watch them. And they wouldn’t always get big laughs, but I

remember being so admiring of the fact that they would try these really weird ideas and they would kill me. I would laugh so hard at the most random stuff and sometimes really risky stuff, for sure.”

Phillips is quick to point out UVU staff who were supportive of Laughing Matters and him as an actor. He points to theater professors Dave Tinney and Lisa Hall-Hagen as examples: “Dave put me in ‘Holiday Night Live,’ as well as ‘Black Box Rep,’ a touring musical that went to high schools and middle schools in Utah. He taught me so much about collaboration. Dave really helped me do things I never thought I could do.”

Phillips admits the friends “figured it out as we went along,” as none had ever done improv or sketch comedy before.

“As far as value goes, Laughing Matters was so hard at times,” Phillips says. “Chris was advisor to the club. I would come into his office and lay on his couch and say, ‘This is super hard.’ And it was hard doing it all ourselves and we didn’t always get along because we were figuring it out as we went along, but we still did about 14 shows. And all those shows and all those sketches and all that work, we lived here. That’s how I got my 10,000 hours, so to speak.

“We didn’t know what the rules were when we tried experimental stuff, and we took lots of risks and a lot of it didn’t work and we just failed our way into finding out how to do it. To be completely honest, we were some idiots who had started a club and sometimes there was a lot of red tape, but Chris and Dave and the theatre department were super-supportive ... I think the first couple of shows we filled the Ragan.”



CHRIS CLARK  
AND ERIC PHILLIPS.

PHILLIPS CONSIDERS  
CLARK HIS HUGE,  
HUGE MENTOR AND  
CLOSE FRIEND.

## TAKING THE LEAP

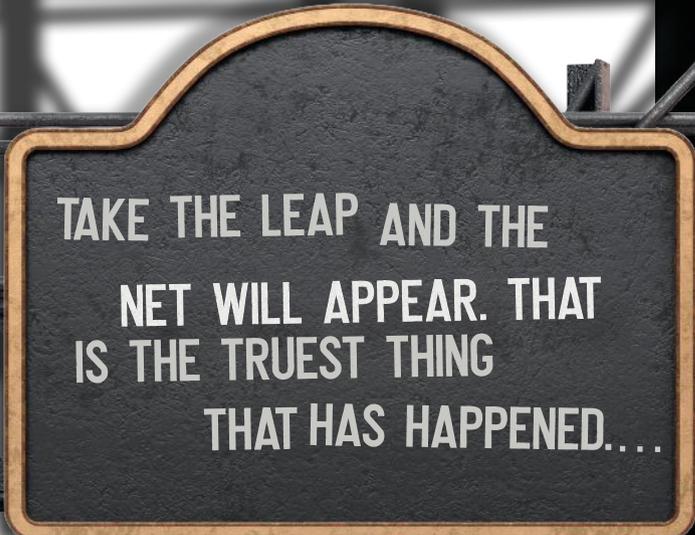
But filling the Ragan Theater is not the same thing as finding a career in Los Angeles, Phillips admits, which had worked its way into becoming a goal of his. Even while still at UVU, he says he undertook serious research to find out how to get work. He said he read books by Tina Fey, Mindy Kaling, and others who chronicled their climb through the television industry in order to pick up on commonalities in their careers. He admits he even Googled “How to get a job in television.” Once in LA, Phillips took comedy improv classes and became a part of improv and comedy sketch groups there, and his network began expanding.

“As I read about others, I found they were constantly creating things,” Phillips says, “so over the past four years, I always have a project running, a couple of things I’m working on. I try to treat it as serious a career as I can — reading something every day, writing something every day.”

Phillips said he once asked Clark what it would take to be a successful artist. “He told me, ‘Just work hard and be nice.’ And then he also said, ‘Keep filling your library.’ He explained that to mean always be reading everything, and watching movies — even the bad ones — read articles, study things you’re not interested in, learn new skills, and always be saying ‘yes’ to learning and discovering things. It will help you to always have inspiration to draw from.”

Phillips says he decided a post-production job on a reality television show might be a door opener for him. He says he edited lots of videos from his Laughing Matters and comedy improv shows and worked that into a job editing for “America’s Got Talent,” then shifted that to scripted TV — he is a writer’s assistant on a Netflix series now being filmed based on the book *Altered Carbon* and was named a script coordinator for the Netflix dark comedy “The Umbrella Academy,” which started in July. Along the way he also wrote for the “CBS Diversity Workshop” and did voice-over work for the AMC original “The Son.”

“I think when you make plans and you put in the time and the effort and the work, that preparation does away with fear,” Phillips says. “That’s what it means to be a self-starter, I guess. If it’s going to be, it’s up to me. I think it was Chris that told me this once and it’s the truest thing: Once you decide to do something, and you commit all that energy to it, things will start moving to help you. Whether you believe in God or The Universe or whatever, things will start to fall into place. Take the leap and the net will appear. That is the truest thing that has happened in the last five or six years of trying to go after this. It’s real.” ■



TAKE THE LEAP AND THE  
NET WILL APPEAR. THAT  
IS THE TRUEST THING  
THAT HAS HAPPENED....





# FINANCIAL FREEDOM

*UVU's top-10 financial  
planning program helps  
students learn to serve while they help others save.*

**W**hen Utah Valley University professor Luke Dean looks for a candidate to join UVU's prestigious financial planning program, he's not looking for what he calls "calculator skills." What's more important, he says, is something you might not expect in a finance-related field: a desire to help others.

"People are scared and anxious about money. It's really a sensitive thing tied to their life goals," Dean says. "We care more about our students' people skills, then we teach them how to help people financially. It takes a lot of love and care to help clients do the right thing."

*By Layton Shumway Illustration By Kotryna Zukauskaitė*

*“We care more about our students’ people skills, then we teach them how to help people financially. It takes a lot of love and care to help clients do the right thing.”*

That plan is working, because UVU’s financial planning program, for which Dean serves as director, is ranked in the top 10 nationally and has more students than any program in the country — with a near 100-percent job-placement rate to boot. And Dean credits the program’s success to UVU’s commitment to its students — showing them the same love and care they learn to show their clients.

#### FILLING A NEED

While there are thousands of accounting and finance programs at universities across the United States, there are only 150 or so financial planning degree programs. The difference, Dean says, is that financial planning advisors work with individuals and families, while accountants and other finance professionals often represent companies or other large entities. In fact, Dean says, that’s what got him into the business.

“I always enjoyed money and helping people,” Dean says. “But a lot of the jobs that were just money-related felt kind of soulless, and a lot of the jobs where you help people don’t always pay well. This was the best of both worlds for me.”

And Americans definitely need the help, no matter their economic status. While the United States’ economic recession last decade encouraged people to avoid debt and be more financially responsible, the need for certified financial planners is still extreme. Dean says the industry is facing a shortfall of up to 200,000 jobs. The relatively small number of financial planning programs means only a couple thousand new graduates per year join the profession.

UVU has been quick to take advantage, hiring what Dean calls a “Yankees-like” array of teaching talent from across the country to form what is now the nation’s largest financial planning program by student headcount, with more than 400 undergraduates.

“UVU’s committed and invested a lot to this program,” Dean says. “And a lot of that, I would say, is the vision of UVU Woodbury School of Business Dean Norman Wright. He saw that we weren’t going to beat some of the more established schools in finance or accounting, and there just isn’t the job placement in finance that there used to be. So he saw an extremely fast-growing profession with

incredible placement and high salaries, and he had the vision to commit to it.”

With so many opportunities, UVU financial planning grads often have full-time job offers waiting for them years before completing the program.

“The average age of financial planners is over 60 years old,” says UVU financial planning professor Ryan Law. “And at a lot of financial planning firms, there’s only one or two people running the shop. If they’re in their 50s and 60s, they need to start thinking about transitioning over to younger employees. So that’s where our students are really filling that niche. In a lot of cases, after three or four years, our students end up becoming partners in the firms.”

#### MONEY MANAGEMENT

While many UVU grads will end up representing clients with millions in net worth, the need for financial planning goes beyond the wealthy. According to a 2016 study by NerdWallet, the average American carries more than \$16,000 in credit card debt. Dean says that often means one unexpected expense can put people in real trouble.





*“It’s awesome to help other UVU students navigate their financial lives and help set them up for success both during and after school.”*

*“Most Americans are clueless financially, or their natural inclination is the wrong thing,” Dean says. “Of course it’s more fun to spend all your money today and let tomorrow take care of itself...*

but tomorrow does come. And the more you’re prepared for it, the better off you’ll be. So the job of the financial advisor is to help people find that balance.”

To increase the campus community’s financial literacy, UVU has established the Money Management Resource Center, a free service available to any UVU student or employee with financial questions, staffed by student volunteers. Law is the director of the MMRC, and he says it provides valuable advice along with vital engaged learning opportunities for students.

“For every one person who’s ready for a financial planner, there are nine people who need basic financial management skills — things like budgeting, debt reduction, and credit repair,” Law says. “At the MMRC, we focus on those basic skills, so eventually people can really start to achieve their long-term goals, like retirement.”

Working at the MMRC has helped students like UVU senior Trent Colledge to understand what it’s like to help people deal with sensitive money issues — including, in Colledge’s case, his own father.

“My father came to see me when I was fresh in the program, and after that discussion, I realized that I have the potential to help a lot of people with this as a career,” Colledge says. “The MMRC is an incredible place for people to come who are seeking unbiased financial advice. I love being the person that people come to for advice about finance.”

Even students who think they may not have enough money to need a financial advisor can benefit from the MMRC, Law says.

“My favorite appointments are freshmen and sophomores who come in before they’ve got any problems,” Law says. “They come in on their own and they say, ‘Hey, I just want to know what to do to manage my money well.’ So we’ll help them set up a budget, we’ll start to look at their credit report and see how we can make sure they graduate with a great credit score. The goal is to focus on productive habits — how we can take where you’re at right now and start to achieve those goals.”

## CASH AND COMPASSION

While outside observers might think financial planning is all about the “bottom line,” Dean emphasizes how important it is for students to learn compassion and sensitivity as they help clients reach their goals.

“It’s kind of like being a coach,” Dean says. “Sometimes you have to talk tough to the client and say, ‘You really can’t do this.’ But a lot of times you need the heart of a teacher or a nurse. You have to really care about people. Then we can teach you about how to manage money.”

UVU senior Brian Miller says he had been planning to study law, but that desire to help people drew him toward financial planning.

“Working in the MMRC has been very enlightening for me,” Miller says. “I understand the pressures and problems that are so prevalent in life for students. It’s awesome to help other UVU students navigate their financial lives and help set them up for success both during and after school.”

That focus on achieving success in life — both for UVU’s financial planning students and those they advise — is a UVU hallmark, according to Dean.

“To me, UVU had the vision and made the commitment because UVU cares about the students,” Dean says. “I know that no university can do everything — they can’t solve all their students’ problems. But UVU cared about getting students into an applied profession where they could make a difference in their community. I love what we’ve done here.” ■

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

# HOMECOMING



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SEPTEMBER 11 - 16

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# TYING INTO THE REAL WORLD

NOEL LOPEZ, *Student*  
Woodbury School of Business  
The Town + Co, *Founder*

From first generation student to creating a global business. Watch Noel's story on facebook.

ENGAGED LEARNING

UVU™



# THE TEAM TO BEAT UUV SKILLSUSA TEAMS HAVE BUILT A DECADES-LONG TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

BY JAY WAMSLEY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY DROWNS



ROVAC

3M

EATA

3M

EURO

**VOCATIONAL SKILLS TO HELP INDUSTRY ARE THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF SKILLSUSA.**



# IN DOG YEARS, IT IS ROUGHLY 100 TO 120 YEARS.

**IN MOST FAMILIES**, it is the length of time to get a child born, raised, and out the door. It's several presidential administrations. Eighteen years ago, everyone was worried about Y2K and something called the millennium bug. Napster and MySpace had just been released and were working their way on to the internet and into everyday vernacular. Boris Yeltsin was still president of Russia, Bill Clinton was in the White House, and a character known as SpongeBob SquarePants made his debut on Nickelodeon.

And for 18 years — consecutive years, mind you — Utah Valley University has been ranked in the top five among American universities in what is now known as the nationwide SkillsUSA competition. In three of the past five years, UVU was ranked as national winner — No. 1 — in the competition, being top dog in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

This year, continuing a streak of top-five finishes, the university ended up fifth in the national contest, held in Louisville, Kentucky. For perspective, there were 32 states that did not win as many post-secondary awards for all their universities combined as did UVU as a single institution.

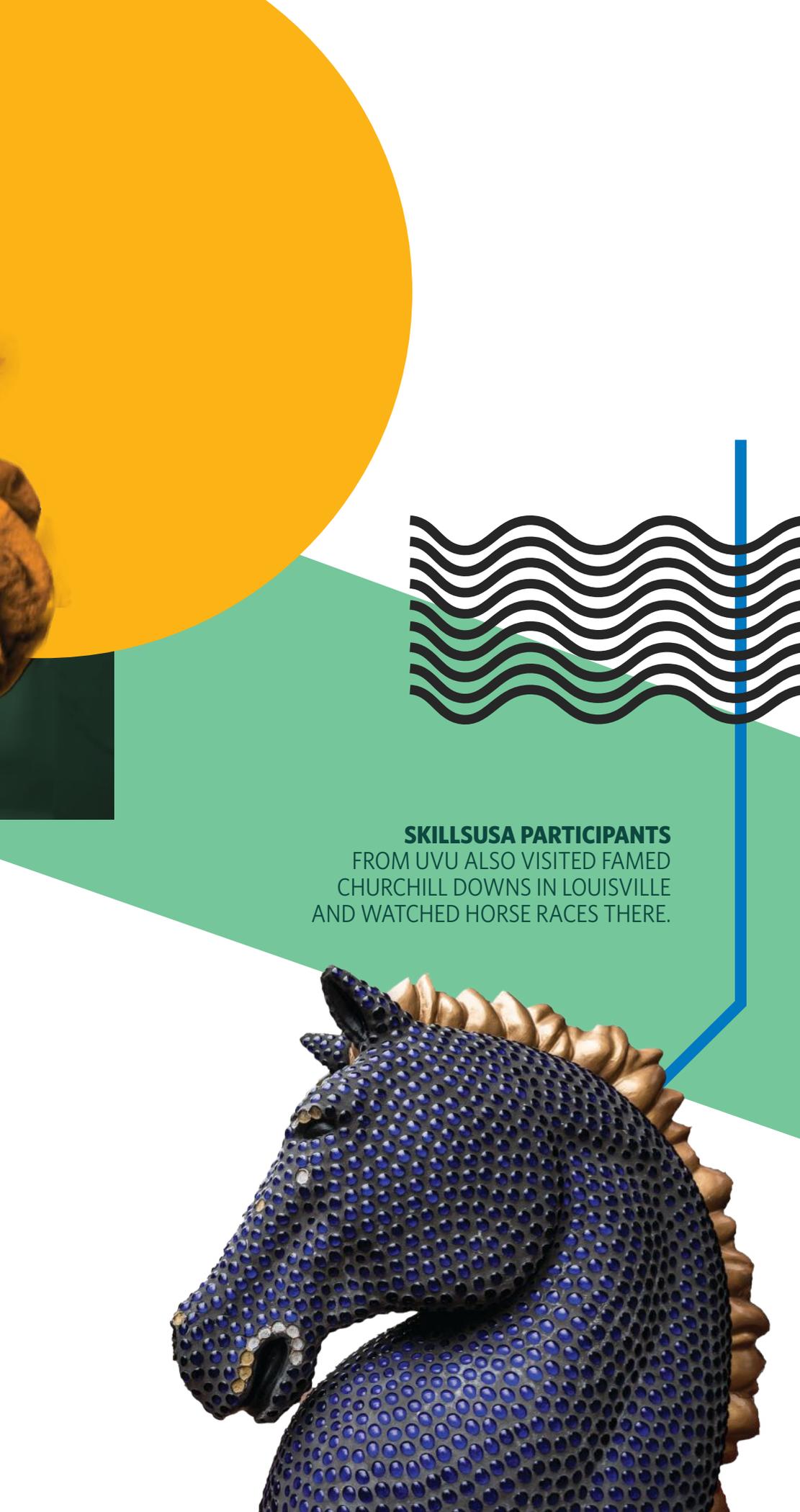
SkillsUSA is an organization that has its roots in vocational trades, much like UVU does. It provides training, expertise, and competitions at both the high school and college level with an emphasis on meeting ever-changing standards presented by industries and businesses, companies that are involved because they want an educated and well-trained workforce.

## LEARNING BY DOING

“SkillsUSA is most known for its competitions but it also teaches leadership skills as well,” says Darin Taylor, professor of engineering design technology and director of SkillsUSA at UVU. “The bottom line is that students compete against their peers. So here at UVU, around January and February of each year, all the students in certain programs compete against each other to earn the right to go to state. It’s a little different in each program, but in most, one or two get sent to state to compete against one or two students from Dixie, SUU, USU, all those schools.

“There are 100 contest categories, and those categories are as diverse as bricklaying, dental assisting, architecture, cabinet making, carpentry, and the list goes on and on. If there is a trade or vocation out there, there is probably a competition set up to test those individuals.”

SkillsUSA emphasizes job skills, so the competitions are driven by industry experts, Taylor says, with the testing and judging being done by professionals, not educators. “Stu-



**SKILLSUSA PARTICIPANTS**  
FROM UVU ALSO VISITED FAMED  
CHURCHILL DOWNS IN LOUISVILLE  
AND WATCHED HORSE RACES THERE.

dents are being judged on the latest standards because it is industry that puts this on and they know what they want,” he notes. “They keep the educators out of it and it is very hands-on.”

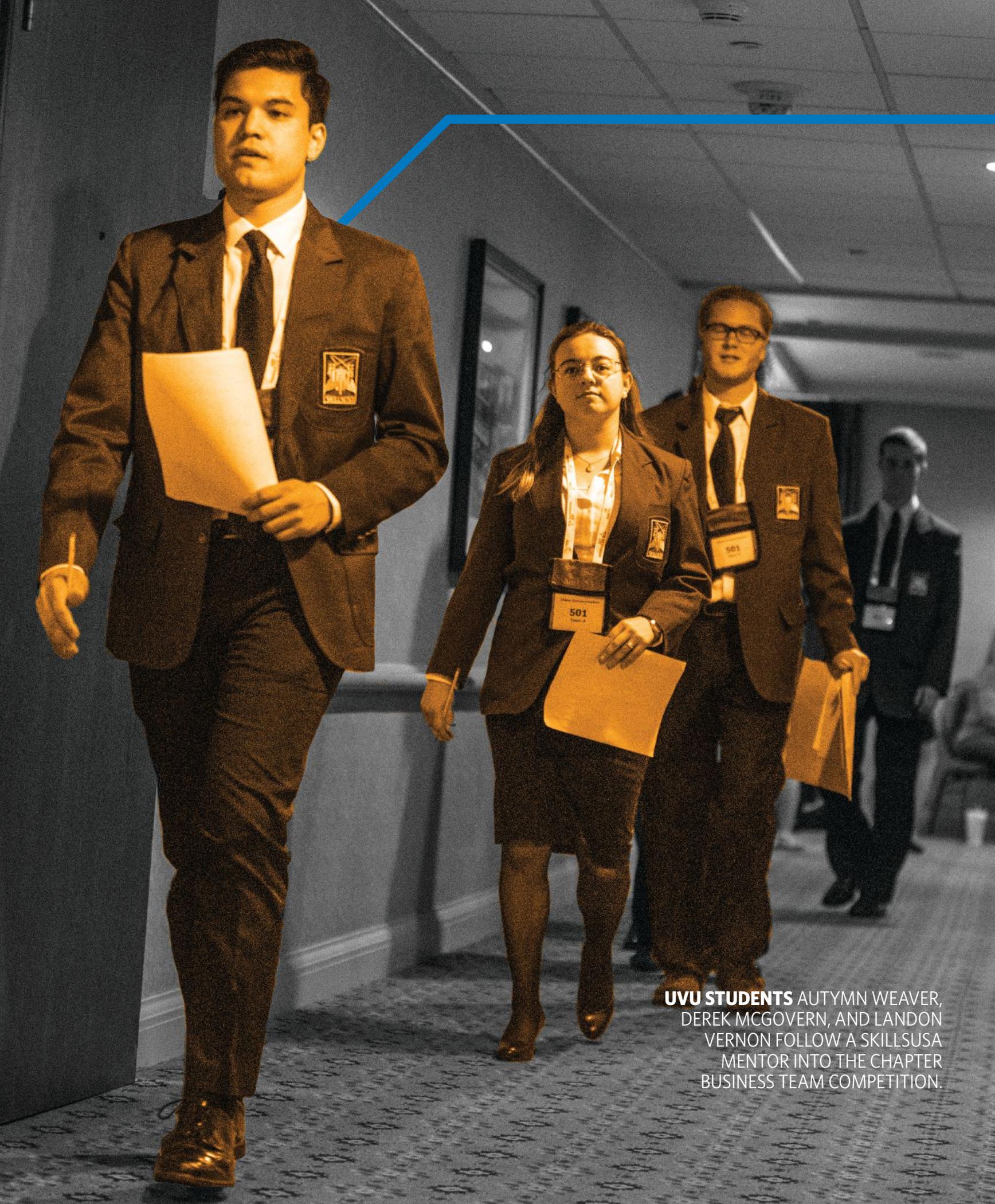
UVU first started working with the SkillsUSA program in 1973. Taylor — who himself competed and medalled at nationals for UVU in the early ‘80s — says he feels committed to SkillsUSA, as it is a perfect reflection of UVU’s engaged learning emphasis.

“We teach in our area with a very real-world approach, very engaged — and, yes, that’s a buzzword, but accurate,” Taylor says. “We teach an engaged learning style, instead of just reading about it in a book. Some schools around the country don’t have a lot of equipment — they see a lot of pictures and hear a lot of stories, but to put their hand on a wrench and fix an engine, not all of them get to do that, certainly not at the level our students do.”

Students attending the national competition this year can sense that, too. Autymn Weaver is working toward a degree in engineering design technology at UVU.

“I have never learned well by being lectured at, and UVU has made leaps and bounds to avoid doing this,” Weaver says. “I have done better with this method of teaching than I have with any other, and my grades reflect that. As a drafting student, most people assume that I sit at a desk and draw lines all day while someone stands over me lecturing. That could not be further from the truth. I am learning physical drawing, yes, but I am learning industry-used computer programs by designing my own houses and machines. I am going out and surveying with actual equipment and then drawing it myself. I am learning by doing the things I will be doing in industry. It is empowering to know that I am not going to go into a job with only a theoretical understanding of how things work, but instead I am going into industry with an arsenal of my own house designs, both drafted and 3D modeled by myself.”

Though armed with a background in drafting, the junior from Springville, Utah, earned a gold medal as a team member in 2016 and this year as president of a six-person team in the category of Chapter Business Procedure. Taylor feels this is one of the tougher competitions offered.



**UVU STUDENTS** AUTYMN WEAVER,  
DEREK MCGOVERN, AND LANDON  
VERNON FOLLOW A SKILLSUSA  
MENTOR INTO THE CHAPTER  
BUSINESS TEAM COMPETITION.

# SKILLSUSA ENHANCES WHAT IS TAUGHT IN THE CLASSROOMS

—BRANDON PARR, UVU STUDENT

“The chapter business team has a tough competition. It takes a lot of training. It’s parliamentary procedure,” he says, “like running like a city council meeting, or faculty senate, or on the senate floor. They use Robert’s Rules of Order. They conduct business. One hour before the competition, they are given a sealed envelope with a list of things they have to accomplish in a certain amount of time. They have to debate these things, propose things, amend them, and use many of the different classes of motions from Robert’s Rules. That takes a lot of time and practice to get it exactly right. And for the 18th year in a row, we have won a national medal, generally taking first, like they have the last two years.”

Weaver says working with the Chapter Business Procedure team has given her a real boost.

“Chapter Business is a competition that is often overlooked as boring,” she says. “But understanding Robert’s Rules of Order gives us power in meetings. As the saying goes, ‘Knowledge is power.’ I can’t tell you how good it feels to walk into a city meeting and be able to understand exactly what is going on and what I can do to change it or let my thoughts be heard. I have used the skills learned from Chapter Business in many situations at business meetings, where I am able to step forward and suggest something new or suggest it go to a committee for special consideration. I find confidence in being able to get meetings to run smoothly and still allow everyone to be heard.”

## STUDENT BESTS THE MENTOR

Hunter Huffman, a sophomore from Highland, Utah, also competed at Louisville and earned a gold medal in architectural drafting. At both the state and national level, the competition was a combination of written test, drawing by hand, and computer-aided drafting. A Salt Lake City-based design firm designed the test for the state-level competition.

“At the national level, the written test consisted of the same related content as at state—on building code,” Huffman says. “We then had to draw by hand a wall section that cut through a chimney, which they knew was going to be a curveball. Their test was difficult in the sense that it required you to finish more than you were capable of doing in the timeframe given. They knew this but did it to better judge and distinguish who had the better speed and drafting capability.”

Huffman says he initially thought he would not do well because others in the computer-assisted portion of the competition finished before him, “and I was on an old laptop that was very slow ... I guess I was a little too hard on myself because they obviously thought otherwise.”

Huffman was urged to enter the SkillsUSA competition by his employer. Alan Shurtliff graduated from UVU 20 years earlier and had won a silver medal at a national SkillsUSA competition. Because of this opportunity from his employer to leave work and attend the competitions, Huffman says, “I was able to compete and win gold on all three levels, thanks to him as a mentor, but would also not have been able to do it at nationals without the help of David Barker, my professor and SkillsUSA advisor.”

## SETTING STANDARDS

Also medaling at Louisville was Brandon Parr, taking a bronze medal in the firefighting competition. Parr said the competition’s expected level of expertise and standards presented were “second to none.”

“The physical aspects of my firefighting competition are within the industry standard,” Parr says. “We were judged on each individual skill of the Candidate Physical Agility Test and whether it was completed. Also, there is a fire-specific written exam, fast-dress bunker drill, an oral interview, one part being similar to a job interview, while the second component was field-specific questions. Finally there was a list of knots we had to tie with structure gloves on. This was a timed event and we had to explain what the knots were used for and such. These are all industry standards, and it’s a great way to hone our craft.”

Parr says he hopes UVU continues to support SkillsUSA and notes that it “enhances what is taught in the classrooms.”

“It has been a rewarding experience, not only to have placed in a national competition but to have been able to represent my home state, school, and my profession, on top of getting a world-class education,” he says.

Taylor says UVU’s reputation in SkillsUSA competitions helps them recruit top-level students to UVU.

“I think first off it speaks volumes to the quality of programs we have at UVU,” he explains. “It takes a quality program, but it also takes a quality student to begin with. SkillsUSA is a pretty popular thing within the state of Utah and we recruit those high school seniors who have done well. We bring in all the first, second, and third-place high school seniors who win at SkillsUSA and have a dinner for them ... with the hope of recruiting them. So we are getting students who are already familiar with skills involved, the competition level, and I think that helps us keep doing well.”

The 18-year-plus track record often puts a target on the back of the participating UVU students, Taylor says, as UVU’s reputation has grown in that niche of education.

“I know when we get off that airplane and show up at nationals there are folks that say, ‘There they are. There’s your competitors. If you can beat them, if you can do as well as them, you’ll be on the medals podium,’” Taylor says. “Every year, I have advisors say that to me ... You hear that often enough that you know the reputation is nationwide.” ■



# TWO IF



# BY SEA

Two women from UVU capture photographs on U.S. aircraft carrier

By BARBARA CHRISTIANSEN



PHOTOS  
COURTESY  
CHRISTINA  
RUTH, KYARA  
ENGLUND,  
AND U.S.  
NAVY MEDIA  
DIVISION

Englund says it was interesting to get a glimpse of an insider's perspective of being on the ship, an experience most people will never have. Even though it was exhausting and physically taxing, she says she does not regret one bit of it.



**TWO** women from Utah Valley University spent three weeks this spring aboard the USS Carl Vinson — one of only 11 United States Navy aircraft carriers — off the shore of North Korea, during a time of heightened tension with that country.

Christina Ruth, internship coordinator for the School of the Arts, and Kyara Englund, a senior pursuing a bachelor of fine arts, had the rare assignment to photograph the ship, its personnel, and operations. They were two of only seven civilians on the ship.

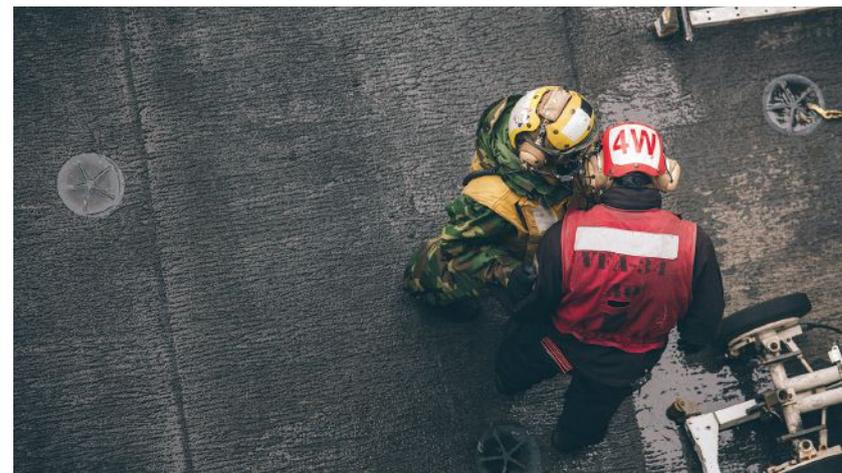
It was the first time a university had done such a project, says Michelle Taylor, vice president of student affairs at UVU. Taylor had met with Sharlene Wells Hawkes, who works with StoryRock Electronic Publishing, which produces commemorative books for members of the military. The two found a fit and the project was under way.

After only two weeks to prepare, Ruth and Englund flew to Seoul, South Korea, then boarded a smaller plane and after a five-and-a-half-hour flight, landed on the deck of the USS Carl Vinson.

They worked long days, taking individual photographs of the 5,700 crew members, documenting take-offs and landings, and the day-to-day operations of the aircraft carrier. Usually when media representatives visit they spend a much shorter time, perhaps a day or two; the three-week period allowed a more thorough approach and gave them a chance to better get to know the personnel.



There's always something going on aboard an aircraft carrier. If planes are not taking off or landing, helicopters or other ships may be delivering supplies, mail, food or fuel. Ruth and Englund slept underneath the flight deck, just four feet below where jet planes were landing. They learned to sleep with earplugs.



“It was interesting to get more of an insider’s perspective,” Englund says. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We were able to watch flight operations from five different perspectives and at different times of the day.”

“The ship was amazing,” Ruth says. “It was like nothing I have ever done before. It was a wild, wild experience.”

Despite what the public heard from the news coverage of the U.S. warship in a potentially dangerous location, the two said they felt safe.

“We were surrounded by other U.S. ships, plus ones from Japan and South Korea,” Ruth says.

With so many visual images on their minds, it could be difficult to choose a favorite. Englund had one she called the most memorable, however.

“It was really hard to get a feel for where exactly we were geographically,” she says. “One morning we got up really early. We were passing a small Japanese island and got to watch the sunrise. It was beautiful.” ■





# Scribbling Women

*"America is now wholly given over to a damned mob of scribbling women, and I should have no chance of success while the public taste is occupied with their trash — and should be ashamed of myself if I did succeed. What is the mystery of these innumerable editions of the 'Lamp-lighter,' and other books neither better nor worse? — worse they could not be, and better they need not be, when they sell by the 100,000."*

*— Nathaniel Hawthorne*

By BARBARA  
CHRISTIANSEN

Photography by  
HANS KOEPSSELL

Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote numerous books in the 19th century, including "The Scarlet Letter" and "The House of Seven Gables." Those works have endured through the years, but he was concerned about his viability as an author for an unusual reason — his books were competing with those of female authors; those books he considered trash. Hawthorne made his comment in a letter to his publisher in 1855. Since then, in literary circles, his brief remark has become almost as well-known as his books.



Sarah Orne Jewett's profile taken 1893  
published in 1894



Portrait of Margaret Fuller circa 1830's



ineteenth century author Nathaniel Hawthorne derided his female counterparts, calling them “scribbling women.” These women writers, for the most part, have been neglected, says Utah Valley University assistant professor Todd Goddard.

“This occurred for a variety of reasons, including the creation of an American literary history — primarily by male critics in the first half of the 20th century — that privileged male writing as representative of ‘American identity,’” he says. “Women’s writing was often viewed as too popular, focused to a fault on domestic and social realities, and overly sentimental.”

UVU students in Goddard’s Literature by Women class studied those authors and helped dispel some of those Hawthornian misconceptions. The resulting exhibit was featured this summer at the Salt Lake City Public Library and will be displayed in the fall at the American Fork Public Library.

During the semester, the students learned about the women authors — their works, their backgrounds, and their beliefs. The students also did their own individual research and created projects to bring the authors and their works to the forefront.

The students searched databases and found digital images from sources around the country. UVU's visual arts department printed and matted those images, which include letters and original manuscripts. In addition, the exhibit draws on the theater arts department for objects and materials that complement the images. The exhibit also includes biographies and suggestions of books to borrow.

"We also found some of our own archival materials," Goddard says. "Some hand-written letters have come from private collections. We have some first-edition books."

Preparing the exhibit helped the students become active participants and creators rather than passive receivers, he says.

## *Transformative Experiences*

*G*oddard's students also had some real-life experience creating relationships between the university and the community.

"These public-oriented projects are especially important to students in the humanities who often are unable to see the direct application and everyday relevance of their education to people's lives," Goddard says. "In creating and curating the exhibit, students provide important spaces where the public can reflect on diverse heritages and traditions, and converse about issues and ideas."

"By helping to recuperate these writers' lives and works, by organizing and curating materials, and by deciding how best to translate and present their scholarship for a public audience, the students actively participate in the construction of historical narratives and knowledge," he says.

Kristi Burrows was one of those students. She says she learned a lot, not only about Sarah Orne Jewett, the author she studied, but also about what goes into creating an exhibit. Jewett wrote "The Country of the Pointed Firs" in 1896.

"I learned more about the emphasis on regionalism at the time Sarah wrote her book and the importance it played in her life," Burrows says. "There was a movement in America that emphasized the importance of going around to different parts of the country and capturing the



essence of them. Authors felt the need to write about the dialect, region, people, and cultures."

Burrows discovered the talent of the women authors.

"I was impressed with the amount of talent all the women had, but they were lost to time," she says. "They were all very impressive people that most are not familiar with for one reason or another."

"I was surprised about how much work goes into putting on an exhibit," she says. "Not just the basic research but deciding how you are going to present it and if there are additional embellishments you want to include."

Class member Katelyn Unsworth adds, "More professors should be creating these types of learning opportunities for their students. Writing papers is important and students learn a lot by writing, but having tangible evidence, a wider audience, is incredibly impactful to the experience."

"I think of the exhibit as a high-impact, engaged learning activity," Goddard explains. "Students spend extended amounts of time devoted to purposeful tasks that deepen and broaden their educational experiences, and then they reflect on that process. Overall, I think the exhibit is transformative for students."



## *A Broader Impact*

That impact extended to more than the students, also reaching those who viewed the exhibit.

"The Scribbling Women exhibit at the Main Library has been very well-received," says Camille Schubert, exhibits coordinator for the Salt Lake City Public Library. "It's very professionally presented and offers viewers the opportunity to learn about women writers of the 19th century. Several people who have stopped to enjoy the exhibit have commented on the fact that they were not familiar with many of the authors exhibited and looked forward to reading them. The exhibit conveys the students' enthusiasm for their subject."

And enthusiastic they were.

"I got really excited for the exhibit," UVU junior Michaela Hilton says. "I didn't realize that women were so discriminated against and I didn't realize it was such a heavy discrimination. Women were viewed a lot differently back then than they are today. But these

women led the way and laid the groundwork to overcome that."

"These women were such amazing people," says UVU student Meagan Ouzts. "Society thought women writers were irrelevant, but they were striving to make the United States better. This class opened my eyes to how extraordinary these people were. Each one had an extraordinary life and their own viewpoints and feelings."

Discovering those viewpoints today and presenting them to the public enhances the view of our country and its origins, Goddard says.

"These narratives provide us with a much fuller and more nuanced understanding of American literary history and culture," he says. "As writers, critics, scholars, and influential editors, these women helped shape American culture and identity in the 19th century. By recovering their voices, we recover lost parts of our history, and we know more about who we are today as a nation and how we got here." ■



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# LEADING THE WAY

*Getting to know UVU's  
three newest deans.*

As Utah Valley University continues its explosive growth, the need for new leaders increases, too. This semester, three such leaders begin their service as deans: Steven Clark of UVU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Stephen Pullen of the School of the Arts, and Saeed Moaveni of the College of Technology & Computing. UVU Magazine caught up with each to learn their vision for UVU's future.

*/By Layton Shumway /*



Photo by Taylor Strong

## Steven Clark

College of Humanities  
and Social Sciences

### ↓ You've held prominent roles at UVU for years. How have you seen the university change and grow?

I started at Utah Valley State College in the fall of 2000 as a faculty member in the Behavioral Science Department. I think that there were about 18,000 students at UVSC when I started. Now there are nearly double that number. The following buildings have been built since I came to the institution: Liberal Arts Building, Classroom Building, Computer Science Building, Science Building, Fulton Library, Student Life and Wellness Building. So the institution has matured a great deal during my time here.

I was Faculty Senate President during the campaign to gain university status and a name change. It was very exciting when the legislature approved the bill creating Utah Valley University. During that time I was on the committee that helped select the UVU logo and wolverine image. It is fun to look at them and know that I was a part of that process.

### What lessons have you learned previously in your career that will help you in your new position?

I learned from my service in Faculty Senate how to work with faculty, staff, and administrators. They each have their own concerns, perspective, and place at the table. I was able to communicate well with these different groups and was able to develop relationships with people across campus. Being able to understand and connect with these different constituencies is very important for someone in a leadership position at a university. I also gained a perspective of the institution as a whole, which let me see beyond the concerns of my discipline, department, and college. It was a great experience in that regard.

### CHSS is UVU's largest college and provides more general education than any other UVU college. Why is a strong foundation in these subjects important?

Employer surveys have shown that skills such as written and oral communication, the ability to work in groups, and critical and analytical thinking are what they seek in college graduates. In fact, most employers say that these skills are more important than the undergraduate major of college graduates for their employment purposes. While these skills can be developed in the many degree programs offered at UVU, general education is an important foundation for this intellectual work. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences plays a key role providing general education classes for UVU students.

### What is your vision for CHSS? What do you hope to accomplish?

I am very fortunate to be dean of a college as wonderful as CHSS. The faculty and staff do great work and are very committed to student success. One of my goals is to look for areas when we can go from "better" to "best" and do even more for our students and our community. I am also going to be focused on how we can gain the support of people who have philanthropic desires and who want to leave a legacy that will benefit our students, college, and community.

Photo by Hans Koepsell



## Stephen Pullen

School of the Arts

### What lessons have you learned in your professional career, especially as a filmmaker, that will help you in your position here?

From my perspective, film is the ultimate collaborative art. It draws on writing, theater, art, dance, music, photography, design, technology, and other creative and technical disciplines in its many complex processes. I'm confident that my professional filmmaking experiences – which have included intricate alliances with artists in all these areas – will bring perspective, practicality, and passion to my work as artistic director and dean of the School of the Arts. My focus will be on providing energetic support to each discipline individually as well as to the school as a whole as we continue to train and cultivate creative professionals and to grow world-class programs in all our departments.

### Your position at UVU includes the title of “artistic director” — what does that entail?

An orchestra cannot function properly without a conductor. An artistic director, like a conductor, provides cohesion, promotes coordination, and fosters collaboration among the highly talented stakeholders in the organization. The faculty in the School of the Arts is comprised of exceptional artists, artisans, craftspeople, technicians, designers, performers, directors, and conductors — all of whom are also highly invested mentors and dedicated teachers. With literally hundreds

of performances and exhibitions each year being led by that talented faculty, the logistic and artistic needs of the school require central leadership that is focused on the school's collective vision. With the new Noorda Center for the Performing Arts coming online in just 18 months, we've already begun the challenging work of creating the logistical infrastructure and administrative protocols that will allow this state-of-the-art performance space to function at the very highest levels of artistry, giving our students truly professional experiences throughout the year, and giving our audiences and patrons an almost-endless array of inspiring encounters with the arts.

### What role do you see for the arts in today's world of higher education? Why is studying the arts important?

My predecessor and friend, Newell Dayley, employed three crucial words repeatedly and emphatically in his many conversations with students, faculty, patrons and friends; words that are no less than central to everything we do in the Arts and, increasingly, central to just about every other exciting thing that's happening in the world. Those words are “imagination, creativity and innovation.” The working world is looking for prospective employees with skills like teamwork, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, analytical abilities, and attributes like energy, passion, self-motivation, vision, and leadership. All of these can trace their roots back to one or all of those three critical words — imagination, creativity, and innovation. The arts at UVU (and in higher education writ large) have a three-fold mission: 1.) to train students for successful professional careers as artists, either by preparing them to enter their professions directly or by preparing them to be competitive at top graduate programs in the Arts; 2.) to prepare passionate arts educators for careers in K12 and higher ed; and 3.) to nurture imagination, creativity, and innovation in non-arts majors who take our classes, participate in our ensembles and productions or who follow their creative passions while simultaneously pursuing educational and professional goals in other disciplines. All three categories of students will come out of our programs thoroughly prepared in the areas of imagination, creativity, and innovation and well positioned for success.

## What is your vision for UVU's School of the Arts?

I believe that in the next 10 years, the UVU School of the Arts will emerge as one of the state's premiere institutes for the Arts. I believe that in the near future we will see UVU students on the stages of Broadway, in Carnegie Hall, in Hollywood films and TV shows, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and in top venues across the country and around the world. The faculty are that good. The students are that talented. With the generous and passionate support of friends of the arts in Utah and across the country, these ambitious aspirations will undoubtedly become a reality.

## Saeed Moaveni

College of Technology and Computing

### What is your vision for UVU's College of Technology & Computing?

The faculty, staff, and students at the College of Technology & Computing represent an outstanding community whose work makes significant contributions to the Utah Valley region and beyond. I look forward to working with my colleagues and partnering with our community to build on the college's distinguished history to address the growing needs of the region.

### Why is it important to study both the trades and new technology?

Those who have lived in this area and are familiar with UVU's history will note that much has changed over the past decade. Under the leadership of President Holland, enrollment has increased, new buildings have sprouted all over the campus, and the academic preparation of our students has never been better. This amazing progress notwithstanding, the Utah Valley region still desperately needs workers with the right set of skills. The technology companies surveyed by the Utah Technology Council have emphasized their struggle to find qualified candidates to fill positions, and stated that they often have to go out of state to recruit.

As UVU continues to grow to address this need, the College of Technology and Computing will also take the necessary steps. We are embarking on a process to define our strategic plan to continue educating new generation of students who will address the current and the future needs of the region — students who are prepared to make immediate positive impact. We are exercising great care not to forget

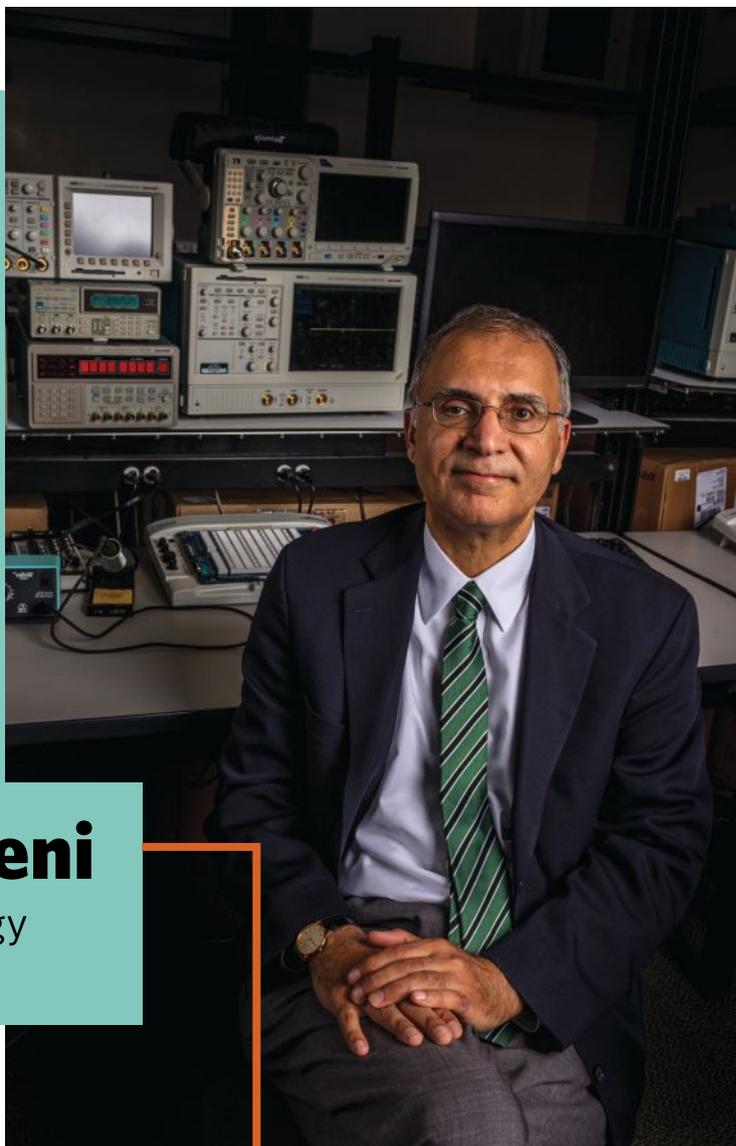


Photo by Hans Koepsell

where we came from and who we are now. As we develop our strategic plan, faculty, students, alumni, and our government and industrial partners will be consulted. Emerging technologies in computer science, information systems, cybersecurity, engineering, construction, transportation, and digital media will be integrated into our existing programs. We will also develop new programs as deemed critical to the mission of UVU. Moreover, we will foster the relationship that must exist among the technology and engineering faculty members and our government and industrial partners so that we could respond promptly to changes that are occurring in our society. ■

# ALUMNI AWARDS



Lyn Wells

## YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD — Lyn Wells

*For a recent graduate who has continued to support the university in a profound and substantive manner. The individual may contribute time, energy, and/or money to help support the university.*

Lyn Wells graduated from UVU in 2011, and finished her bachelor's degree in hospitality management in 2015. She is currently working on an MBA in organization.

An adjunct instructor at UVU, she has applied for a full-time position at the university, to teach culinary arts.

While a student at UVU, she participated in more than 25 sanctioned culinary competitions nationwide, and won ACF Western Regional student chef of the year in 2013. She progressed to become a 2016 world finalist in the Chaîne des Rotisseurs Jeunes Chef competition and a bronze medalist at the 2016 World IKA Culinary Olympics.

She has recently been named by the American Culinary Federation to the U.S. Culinary 2020 team, selected through tryouts. Organizers anticipate 50 countries will compete.

"The biggest take-away I have learned is to never give up," she says. "If you put your mind to it, and work, you can really make something happen. It is not about successes. It is about failures that make things happen."



Nu Skin Enterprises (Ritch Wood)

## CORPORATE CATALYST AWARD — Nu Skin Enterprises (Ritch Wood)

*A business whose innovative and pioneering initiatives have demonstrated success and contributions to the community and the mission of UVU. It is based on strategic planning, employee development, community involvement, customer service, and corporate integrity.*

Nu Skin was founded in Provo, Utah, in 1984 and has expanded its scope to have a \$2.2 billion annual revenue, and is a global company. Its headquarters are still in Provo.

"It is a great honor for us to be recognized," says Ritch Wood, the company's CEO. "We love what UVU is doing. It plays such a key role in our community and with our employees."

Nu Skin has made donations to help with UVU's Fine Arts building and made a commitment to help with a new business building.

"We are lucky to be a part of these," Wood says. "We are fortunate to be recognized but that is not why we do it. A catalyst is something we love to do, helping with partnering and collaboration in a way that we are all better."

"We appreciate our ability to participate in some of these projects at UVU. It not only supports the initiatives but it also encourages others to do so."



Bill Anderson

## UVU LEGACY AWARD — Bill Anderson

*An individual whose contribution to UVU and/or the Alumni Association has been above and beyond the call of duty. It may be contributions of time, energy, and/or money.*

In 1981, Wilson Sorensen, president of what has become UVU, had a vision how to enhance the school. A meeting with Bill Anderson got that ball rolling. Anderson was instrumental in starting the UVU Foundation, to raise funds for the university. The two met and Sorensen asked Anderson to serve with the group. He took him in to meet others, and said he would introduce him as president and chairman of the board. Anderson balked and said the group should elect its own leader. They did. It was him, and he served in that position for 10 more years.

He stayed on the board for several years after that, then was placed on emeritus status. During that time, he was frequently called on for advice and assistance. "I just never left the place," he says.

Some of the "little things" he and the foundation helped begin were establishing scholarships, including the annual Scholarship Ball, and having alumni serve as ambassadors. He cited the "mustard seed" parable and said he was happy how far things had come.



G. Kevin Jones

## WILSON W. SORENSEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — G. Kevin Jones

*For an individual who has been dedicated throughout their life to the growth and advancement of UVU. It may be as an employee, past or present.*

G. Kevin Jones is an adjunct professor at UVU, teaching courses in Constitutional Studies and in the History and Political Science Department. He is one of a handful of individuals who have worked in all three branches of the United States government — legislative, executive, and judicial. He has been a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), an attorney-advisor in the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, and a U.S. Supreme Court Fellow. In that role, he worked on a committee studying the court system and making recommendations to Congress.

Jones is also active in numerous community affairs.

He has taught at several other universities, then at UVU since the early 2010s. He donates most of his salary to fund five scholarships he has established for students in various fields of study. He said he appreciates the university serving both traditional and non-traditional students.

"Every place needs an institution for second chances," he says.



Steve Beck



John Eagleston

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD — Steve Beck and John Eagleston**

*For living individuals who have served to further the purposes and mission of UVU.*

*The act of service should be recent and have a profound effect on the university.*

Steve Beck and John Eagleston started the first out-of-state alumni chapter for UVU attendees. Arizona residents, two years ago they received a visit from UVU President Matthew S. Holland, with the request to create the chapter.

“We worked really close together,” Eagleston says. Although the chapter is still in its early stages, it has sponsored events to bring the former UVU students closer together. When UVU basketball and baseball teams play in the area, they provide a cheering section.

They have had socials including movie nights and tailgate parties. The connections provide fun for the alumni, along with a chance to network and share their successes.

The effort is also affecting a coming generation of UVU students. The group held a “send-off” for students on their way to Orem for their education. “It was to give the new students a soft landing,” Beck says. “It provides these alumni with a point of contact, especially as their kids are looking at places to go.”

**ALUMNI MESSAGE**



**FROM** the Losee Center to the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts, which is currently under construction, Utah Valley University has benefited from the support of major donors. This includes scholarships and numerous investments that are essential to student success.

In coming years, we will need to broaden our giving participation from all alumni. You can help us realize new levels of success as a one-of-a-kind university—blending academic rigor with vocational training while educating students to meet the diverse needs of our workforce.

To advance our progress, the UVU Alumni Association has kicked off new initiatives to help us deepen a culture of philanthropy among our alumni. These include:

- A new dedication to annual giving with ramped-up resources and focus.
- A plan to develop strong alumni chapters, starting with our own schools and colleges within UVU, then moving to our state and national base.
- The organization of a new young alumni council to engage a segment of our most enthusiastic and committed alumni.

These initiatives will make us both alumni- and donor-centric and will ensure that current and future students have the same opportunities as we did. As we pursue this course, please remember that philanthropy is not so much about how much you can give, but, more importantly, that you are among those who give.

Join with us by first looking back on your college experience and the value of your degree. Many of you benefited from a scholarship or university facilities to advance your learning. Second, look to support your alma mater and her students.

Then enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are part of student success at UVU.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Walkenhorst**

*Senior Director, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving*

[uvu.edu/supportuvu/ways-to-give](http://uvu.edu/supportuvu/ways-to-give)

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Share your story at [uvualumni.org](http://uvualumni.org)