

SPRING 2018

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

UVU magazine



SPECIAL ISSUE

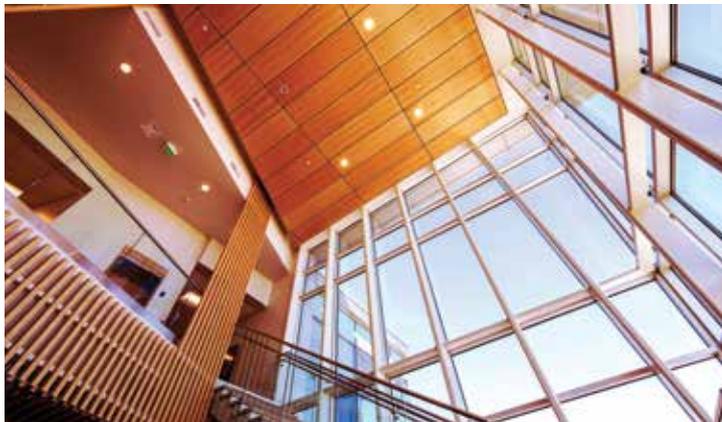
UVU AT 10

Under President Matthew S. Holland,
UVU has gone from fledgling university
to higher-ed trendsetter

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OPENING DOORS

University's development chief says, "Our donors like what they see here."



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A DECADE OF PHYSICAL GROWTH
Campus adds buildings, more than doubles in size since becoming designated a university

ON THE COVER:
President Matthew S. Holland
photo by: August Miller

UVU magazine

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THE DUAL-MISSION MODEL

Combining community college accessibility with university rigor, UVU is setting trends in higher education

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BECOMING A PRESIDENT
 An oral history of the early days of
 President Matthew S. Holland's time at UVU

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IT IS IMPOSSIBLE for me to convey all that I am feeling as I consider that this is the last issue of the UVU Magazine I will send to you.

Serving as president of this institution for nine years has been a signal honor and an enormous source of satisfaction and joy, both personally and professionally. When I first arrived here nine years ago, the institution was already on a tremendous trajectory. Yet, significant challenges also loomed. Determining how to maintain that trajectory and overcome those challenges looked daunting to say the least. What I discovered very early on, though, is that this institution is filled with and supported by a vast swath of intelligent, talented individuals with huge hearts and a love of this institution.

As Paige and I move on to a new chapter of life, serving a faith we cherish, we want to, above all things, thank and pay tribute to all those who have made such a difference in our lives and in the life of this institution.

We are so grateful to our colleagues in the administration and on the faculty and staff who have worked so tirelessly in the development and implementation of a vision for UVU to be:

- inclusive in its outreach to all students, from all backgrounds, and all levels of academic preparation and aim,
- engaged with the world around us, making the educational experience at UVU practical and fascinating,
- serious in its commitment to intellectual rigor, academic standards, professional best practices, and national achievement in everything from the arts to athletics,
- and, ultimately, a place focused first, foremost, and forever on student success, helping all those who come here prepare to make a great mark on their professions, communities, and families.

We are no less grateful for the incredibly generous and thoughtful support of all our alumni, external boards, legislators, civic officials, and general community supporters who have made the realization of this vision possible.

Finally, and most tenderly, we express our greatest thanks and praise to the students of Utah Valley University. They are the main reason we came, stayed, and absolutely love this institution. We wish them, and the entire UVU community, the best possible future — something that we know awaits as UVU takes the next step in its exhilarating development.

Best,

*Matthew S. Holland
President*



UVU TO PROVIDE FREE ANNUAL PREMIUM ACCESS UTA PASSES TO EMPLOYEES, DEPENDENTS AND STUDENTS FOR TEN YEARS

UVU President Matthew S. Holland announced that beginning August 2018 and continuing for the next 10 years, all UVU full- and part-time employees as well as their spouses and dependents, and students will receive free UTA transit passes annually. The new pass plan is designed to alleviate traffic congestion, parking issues, and help promote clean air in Utah County.

“The UTA free-pass program is an investment in our future, and the future of our students,” said President Holland. “Research clearly shows the majority of our students stay in Utah after graduation. This is a step toward preserving and protecting this beautiful valley for them and others who come behind us.”

This announcement came jointly with Brigham Young University, which will also be providing transit passes for its students and employees, and is timely because UTA’s new bus rapid transit line (BRT), currently under construction, is scheduled to be operational in August 2018. The line will connect the two universities with the UTA transit system.



Dr. Rodney K. Smith (left), director of UVU's Center for Constitutional Studies, stands in Washington, D.C., with Dr. Nicholas Cole of Pembroke College at the University of Oxford.

UVU PARTNERS WITH OXFORD ON GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH PLATFORM ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

In partnership with Pembroke College at the University of Oxford, Utah Valley University announced the launch of the Quill Project, www.quillproject.net, a groundbreaking new research platform that recreates in its entirety the original context of historic negotiated texts such as constitutions, treaties, and legislation. The presentation of the complete known records of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 that resulted in the United States Constitution is its flagship project.

"I am immensely proud of our students' contribution to this remarkable, even historic project, which provides a significant learning tool to everyday students as well as scholars looking to delve more deeply into negotiated texts," said President Holland. "We have been honored to work with such an esteemed institution as Pembroke College in bringing this platform to the public. This collaboration by our Center for Constitutional Studies beautifully illustrates our defining commitment to engaged learning, which immerses students in real-world activities outside the classroom to increase professional competence and confidence."



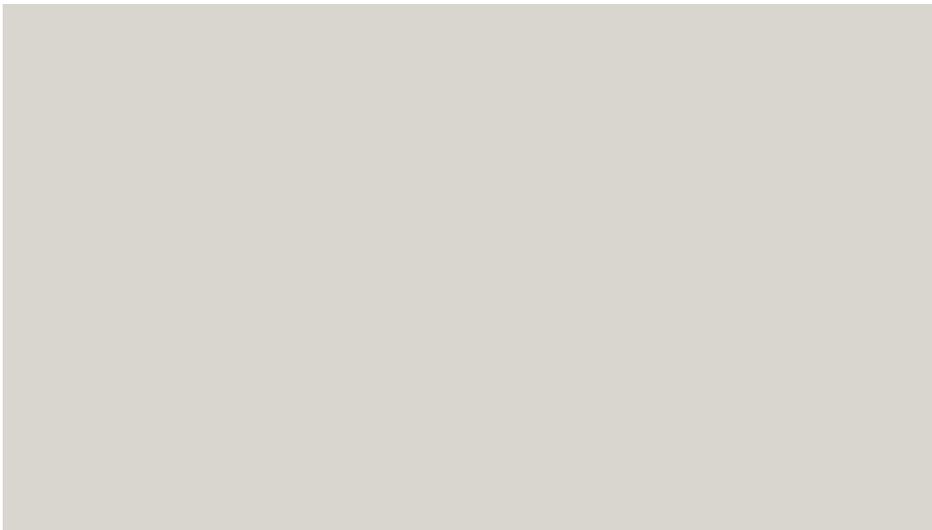


OSCAR-WINNING MUSICAL TEAM PASEK & PAUL SPEAKS AT UVU

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, Oscar- and Golden Globe-winning songwriters, spoke at the Roots of Knowledge Lecture series and to a master class at UVU on February.

The evening presentation was sold out soon after their appearance was announced. They performed and spoke about their career writing for stage, television, and film. They are known for their songs including those in “La La Land,” “Dear Evan Hansen,” and “The Greatest Showman.”

In the master class, a handful of students performed for Pasek and Paul and they deconstructed their performance by examining their delivery of lyrics to their physical presence on stage to give them and others in attendance advice to perfect their craft. The songs performed ranged from original works to a song from “Newsies.”



LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS VISIT UVU

Utah Valley University’s Office of Global Engagement welcomed speakers and honored guests to the UVU Diplomatic Conference on International Trade Relations in March.

Presenters during the first session, led by Utah Lt. Governor Spencer Cox, examined the topics of sustainability, free trade, energy, technology, and innovation. They included Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski, World Trade Center President Derek Miller, Meghan Stettler of Utah Governor’s Office of Energy, and Clint Betts of Silicon Slopes.

“Utah Valley University plays an important role in terms of global economic development,” said Cox at a state address. “I appreciate UVU’s Office of Global Engagement’s commitment to host international dignitaries and delegations.”

Following the initial session, three breakout sessions covered Africa and Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Networking closed the event with consuls general and trade representatives.

“UVU’s Diplomatic Conference brought together diplomats from around the world, Utah government and business leaders, community members, students, and faculty,” said Baldomero Lago, UVU’s chief international officer. “It’s the perfect venue to discuss international trade, establish good network opportunities, and develop global understanding.”





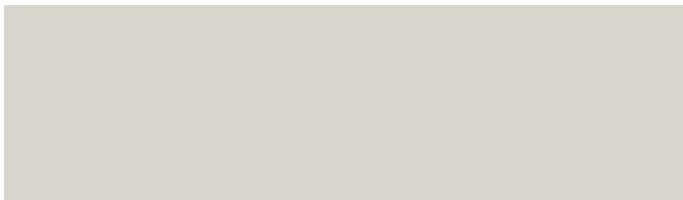
BIONIC INNOVATOR HUGH HERR SPEAKS ABOUT ABILITY, NOT DISABILITY

Hugh Herr, professor and bionic innovator, visited UVU's campus in March as part of the 2018 Presidential Lecture Series. He began by showing those in attendance a picture of himself right after the amputation of both of his legs below the knee. Herr continued, expressing his determination to learn and create so that he could continue doing what he loved which was rock climbing.

Could a "disability" be viewed as a "disability" if there was sufficient technology to restore a human to full capability? Herr doesn't think so. In fact, he said he hates the word "disability." He says that bad eyesight is such a common disability, we don't even think about it as a disability anymore because there is technology to improve it.

"You cannot, with a straight face, look at me and say that I am disabled," Herr said, standing in front of the audience on his two bionic legs.

Herr explained the progress he and his team have made through research at the MIT Media Lab and what that means for future medical and military advancements. He then showed the picture he started with, and asked if the audience saw the same person in that picture as when he started. Did they see a sad, disabled man, or did they see future, possibility, and hope in that picture? The audience responded by giving a standing ovation.



UVU BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES COLLEGE NAME CHANGE

The Utah Valley University Board of Trustees has approved a name change for one of UVU's largest colleges. The College of Technology and Computing has been renamed the College of Engineering and Technology. This name change is a direct result of the recent approval of UVU's three new engineering degrees by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

The newly approved Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering will join the already existing Computer Engineering degree to form a solid nucleus of engineering opportunities for UVU students.

"This college name change is evidence of our serious commitment to engineering and addressing the growing needs for more engineers in our region," said UVU President Matthew S. Holland.

University officials anticipate a high demand for these new engineering programs in an effort to meet the critical shortage of engineers in Utah.



UVU CYBERSECURITY TEAM HEADS TO NATIONALS

Utah Valley University's Cybersecurity Club took first place in the seventh annual Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition March 9 and 10 in Colorado. UVU competed against schools from Kansas, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Teams tested their cybersecurity skills by defending an existing network from a cyber attack. UVU's Cybersecurity club now has the opportunity to represent the region at the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

Austin Larsen, president and team member of the UVU Cybersecurity Club, led the team of eight in their efforts. The other team members included Chris Hallstrom, Charlie Espailat, Alex Reyneke, Ryan Fisk, Daniel Daley, Logan Barnes, and Chriss Hansen.

UVU AT 10

In 2016, Utah Valley University celebrated 10 years of engaged learning. This summer marks its 10th year as a university, and it has been under the leadership of Dr. Robert Holland, who leaves UVU in June.

In the following special section, we take a look back at the steps that transformed a state college to its current position as a top-tier university, the best open-admissions platform, and the most innovative learning environment.

University celebrated 75 years
summer, UVU will mark
7. Nine of those years have
of President Matthew S.
in June.

tion, UVU Magazine takes
t led UVU from a regional
place as one of the nation's
forms for student success.



OUT

OF THE

BOX

Abridged by
Layton Shumway
Illustrated by
JD Hawkins

From UVSC to UVU

The following is a condensed excerpt from the book “75 Years Strong: A History of Utah Valley University,” by Sondra Jones, covering UVU’s transition from state college to university.

PRESIDENT Kerry D. Romesburg had led Utah Valley Community College to the status of a four-year, degree-granting state college, always knowing it was just a matter of time before it became a university. Most state officials now agreed, but it was a question of when and how. Always optimistic, President Romesburg believed this would happen within five years – by 2007. But most state officials believed the college couldn’t begin to think about becoming a university until at least 2010, or more likely even later. Meanwhile, the State Board of Regents searched for a new president who would guide the young state college through calm waters, rocking no more boats, diverting no more money, and “staying within the box.”

Consequently the Board of Regents hired William A. Sederburg, the nine-year president of Ferris State College (now Ferris State University), a regional institution in Michigan with strong trades and technical programs. The Regents clearly wanted UVSC to continue being a degree-granting community and trades college without pretensions toward university status, and Commissioner of Higher Education Cecilia Foxley charged President Sederburg to slow the movement toward university status (and quiet those who were promoting the transition) by very methodically assessing the readiness of the institution for this change. But Sederburg was looking to lead the school onward – methodically, yes – but at a much faster pace than the commissioner envisioned. With an appreciative nod to the critical groundwork laid by Romesburg, he began the task of devising and implementing a plan to make UVSC a regional university. Over the next five years, he reorganized the administration; initiated a strategic planning, budgeting, and accountability (PBA) process; created a national presidential advisory board (NPAB) and a community advisory council (CAC); revamped the institution’s policy approval process and management system; funded and constructed several new facilities, including a massive new state-of-the-art library; and, most importantly, propelled UVSC into university status, bringing with that status an additional \$10 million in annual funding.

Sederburg believed there were three basic types of college presidencies: one that kept the status quo, one that had to fix something, and one where the president takes an institution from point A to point B. He came to Utah, he said, because he wanted to take UVSC to point B: university status. He loved the challenge and opportunity of shaping an institution that had such energy, potential for growth, great students, and a core of qualified faculty.

During the Sederburg years (2003-2008) the number of bachelor degrees offered increased from 31 to 58, in addition to dozens more associate, certificate, and diploma programs. The college also hired another 120 full-time faculty with graduate degrees, as well as an equivalent increase in part-time faculty. Knowing that an institution is shaped – and aligned to its mission – by the type and focus of its faculty, Sederburg made sure that job announcement for faculty positions clearly stated that UVSC was a student-centered teaching institution that prided itself in engaged learning pedagogy.

Because he fully expected to attain university status for the college, Sederburg encouraged three of his departments to begin the research necessary to create solid master programs as well. Although none could be approved until university status was achieved, by then the programs were in place with the first ready for approval within a month. A master of education was approved in August 2008, followed by a master of science in nursing a year later and a master of business administration the year after that.

A significant number of capital improvements took place as well, all of which added to the developing image of a university-class institution. Sederburg worked with advisors to revise the campus master plan and would ultimately see more than \$100 million in construction completed, including a new baseball field, the Liberal Arts Building, the Capitol Reef Field Station, and the new Wasatch Campus, as well as the purchase of a building in northeast Orem (the former WordPerfect campus) to house the culinary arts program, and the purchase and remodel of the old Vineyard Elementary School to house the School of Education (McKay Education Building). And Sederburg initiated and saw to completion the jewel of the campus: a new, state-of-the-art library. It would be another stepping stone to university status.

The new library was dedicated by Thomas S. Monson, president



The new library was dedicated by Thomas S. Monson, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with all of the previous institution presidents in attendance, including an elderly Wilson W. Sorenson, as well as J. Marvin Higbee, Kerry D. Romesburg, and Interim President Lucille Stoddard. Sederburg cut the ribbon on the new Utah Valley University Library on July 1, 2008, the same day the institution officially became a university. These two events were Sederburg’s crowning achievements.

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When the UVU Library was opened, Wilson Sorensen was brought to visit campus. As they approached from the north, tears came to Sorensen's eyes. "I never thought I would see the day of such a beautiful library," he choked, remembering earlier days on the old Fairgrounds and Provo campuses.

But planning a new library did not itself lead to the college's becoming a university. Sederburg faced a number of challenges trying to shift the mindset of the political powers to recognize the inevitability of UVSC's becoming a university. The question was not would UVSC become a university, but when it would and how that would be accomplished. However, the Regents and legislators were caught in an older mindset that defined the roles and missions of Utah's community or trades colleges, and they fought the transformation of these institutions. Consequently, the battle for university status had been terribly contentious for both Southern Utah University and Weber State University; the process had been divisive and approval had been won by very slim margins. As UVSC approached the same crossroads, some legislators were public in their opposition, insisting that UVSC just needed to "stay within its box." But Sederburg kept pushing the idea that university status was inevitable and that it was a natural trajectory, and we worked tirelessly to overcome officials' beliefs that UVSC was not yet ready to become a university.

Once again, a key factor was the increasingly restrictive enrollment at neighboring Brigham Young University and the valley's rapidly growing population. Sederburg and his administrators lobbied the community, talked to people, gave sales pitches, and sold the inevitability of university status. The region's population growth and its growing diversity were also significant factors; someone needed to meet the demand for education that BYU could no longer meet. And even as they lobbied, UVSC continued to develop its academics, facilities, faculty, and staff. And, Sederburg reminded everyone, thanks to Romesburg's efforts, the college was already competing in Division I athletics.

On the advice of a specialist, his administrative advisors, and key legislators – chief among them being Senate President John Valentine from Utah County – Sederburg created a concrete plan for moving to university status, one with steps and dates that he transferred to a large whiteboard in his office. This served as a reminder to all who entered what their ultimate institutional goal was. Finally the new commissioner of higher education, Rich Kendell, got on board with the idea, simply insisting the institution "do it right" and create an "authentic" university.

Commissioner Kendell, in consultation with Sederburg, hired consultants to identify key factors and benchmarks UVSC needed to achieve in order to demonstrate its readiness. Once these factors were identified – internally referred to as "The Kendell Plan" – Sederburg charged key advisors to draft the "Rationale for University Status" to document progress made and specific plans for improvement. The rationale identified eight critical reasons why UVSC should be granted a mission change, and it was presented in December 2006 to the Regents for their acceptance. These reasons included the increasing quality of its undergraduate programs; the need for, and the institution's ability

to, begin offering career-specific graduate programs; and the impact university status would have on student success and the regional economy. The rationale also pointed out that the institution was ready for university status because the number and quality of its faculty met university standards, with the majority holding terminal degrees. And, the institution had university-quality facilities to support its academic programs and offer support services to its students. With the Regents' support, Sederburg looked to Senate President Valentine and other legislative leaders for statutory authorization and funding. Ironically, it was Representative Dave Clark from Washington County (who later served as Speaker of the House and helped Dixie State College follow UVSC's path to university status years later) who presented the bill in the House for vote.

It wasn't just about university status. It was also about having the state fund the institution appropriately for its role and mission, then and in the future. Sederburg pointed out the funding disparity per student (full-time equivalency) between UVSC and its peer institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education. This was later labeled "acute equity" funding and would finally be realized under Sederburg's successor, Matthew S. Holland. Such things had never been discussed publicly, and Sederburg challenged that silent tradition and status quo. He, too, was "taken to the woodshed" by some state leaders, reminiscent of Romesburg's treatment for lobbying for the institution's first four-year degrees. But Sederburg never let up nor abandoned his efforts to draw attention to the institution's poor funding.

While there was tremendous support for university status, there were still some who worried about what kind of a university the institution would be. For Sederburg, this decision was clear: The institution would not be a traditional liberal arts university but would become an engaged institution that continued to include trades and technology and continue to serve the community. However, semantics could be a stumbling block. When Sederburg tried to use terms such as "career-oriented" and "applied," few faculty bought into it. But Sederburg knew the institution did not have the resources to become a research institution nor was that the need within the state system. In any case, he didn't want that nor did most of the faculty or key stakeholders. The state already had the University of Utah, Utah State University, and BYU. At this point, the administration began looking at the idea of engaged learning.

The community engagement model was an ideal fit. Not only did it open new avenues of community cooperation, it also perpetuated the long history of community linkage and engagement that had marked the institution from its earliest years when it had trained apprentices for Geneva Steel and secretaries for local businesses, as well as incorporating skilled local tradesmen as vocational faculty.

Sederburg had succeeded in getting people to know what UVSC was doing and had taught them about the tremendous growth and development that had occurred. He had also made the institution more visible and, in so doing, convinced the Regents and the legislature that Utah Valley State College should become Utah Valley University. This time the opposition was not there, and in 2007, the bill to create Utah Valley University and fund \$10 million passed the legislature unanimously – an almost unheard-of phenomenon. On March 19, 2007, a packed audience filled the ballroom to witness officials sign the bill, and the institution officially became a university on July 1, 2008. On this same July day, officials cut the ribbon to reveal the nerve center of the new university: the magnificent new UVU Library. ■



UTAH VALLEY
UVU
UNIVERSITY

The Core of the Core

By Layton Shumway

President Matthew S. Holland's core themes prepared UVU for a decade of excellence

WHEN Matthew and Paige Holland returned home from London in 2008 after a year of leading the study abroad program for Brigham Young University, they found a surprise waiting for them.

"We were driving home from the airport," Paige says, "and we noticed the sign on the UCCU Center had changed to 'Utah Valley University.' Matt and I both noticed it, and we said, 'Hey, when did that happen?' We were excited for the community, but we didn't really think any more

about it at the time."

But the more the Hollands heard about the new UVU, the more excited they became. When friends and colleagues encouraged Holland to seek the position of UVU president, he began to see an educational opportunity unlike any in Utah.

"I started to look into it and thought, 'Wow — there's something really special going on here,'" Holland says.

In 2009, Holland became the sixth president in UVU's history. And because of his relative inexperience with UVU, he already knew what he needed to do first: listen.

"Before I came in with some sort of bold vision, I needed to do some listening

and thinking," Holland says. "I talked to a lot of people during the search, after I was appointed, and after I assumed office — new faculty, veteran faculty, staff, students, legislators, trustees, and community observers. And as I did, I realized I was hearing some things repeated that seemed at once both descriptive and aspirational — describing what UVU already was, but also what people wanted it to become."

From these discussions, three key words arose: serious, inclusive, and engaged. Holland felt each had "a lot of richness" and would help direct UVU's efforts going forward.

For a new university with a

background in vocational and technical training, making "serious" a core theme was important to Holland. "The word 'serious' had that idea of rigor and expectation and excellence — really pushing people to do and be their very best and take ideas seriously," he says.

The "engaged" theme fit into the groundwork laid by Holland's predecessors, including President William A. Sederburg, who touted a focus on engaged learning as a differentiating factor in making UVU a university.

But "inclusive" caught some by surprise. Holland quickly stressed that UVU's inclusion efforts would go far beyond simple diversity.

"What I meant by 'inclusive' was that UVU is a place for everybody, not just for the dominant population,

and not just for underserved populations," Holland says. "It's for both and everybody and all. And it also meant being academically inclusive in terms of preparation — that UVU would challenge the best and brightest, as well as helping those that maybe need a second chance. So it really is inclusive, in the fullest and best sense of that word."

As Holland introduced these core themes early in his administration, he received positive feedback, along with a challenge.

"I remember being asked, 'Engaged, serious, and inclusive — about what? To what

end?'" Holland says. "And that's when the breakthrough idea came: It's all for student success. That's the core of the core. And that's achieved by an education that's serious, engaged, and inclusive. If you bring those together, you'll create this really dynamic place of excellence for everybody."

Early in the planning process, an additional core theme, "large," was discussed. Holland says he foresaw the explosion in UVU's growth, and he wanted to be prepared for it and address it somehow. But he and others felt like the word

Our mission is your

SUCCESS

we are

INCLUSIVE

**WELCOMING • EVERYONE
OPEN • ACCEPTANCE**

**ACHIEVEMENT
ACADEMICS
DETERMINED**

SERIOUS

and

ENGAGED

HANDS ON • LEARNING • DOING • DEVELOPING



PHOTO BY JAY BROWNS

just didn't fit.

"I knew we had to deal with 'large,'" Holland says, "but I thought maybe it's not in terms of mission and aspiration — it's more just a managerial reality. So 'large' turned into its own set of three things: securing resources effectively, managing growth, and operating effectively and ethically."

As luck would have it, soon after establishing the core themes, Holland was asked to present them before the Northwest Accreditation Commission, a non-governmental organization that evaluates educational institutions and grants them accredited status. Core themes were a requirement to achieve accreditation. Holland's preparation paid off — and nine years later, early in 2018, he reported to the commission again on UVU's progress.

"We got a lot of praise for how our core themes drive our planning and our budgeting," Holland says. "They're very integral. I think for a lot of universities, they sit off to the side, like window dressing — they're sort of aspirational. But for us, they're part of the warp and weave of how we do our planning and activities on campus. And it's all for student success. That's when all the pieces fit together." ■

Roots of Knowledge

IN NOVEMBER 2016, UVU unveiled Roots of Knowledge, a stunning stained-glass installation which chronicles the human quest for intellectual advancement. The work, a collaboration between UVU and Holdman Studios, holds a special place in President Matthew S. Holland's heart.

"Roots of Knowledge is a way to say that there is something about higher education that is more than just about job training," he says. "We've become very efficient at skill development and these programs that the community needs, but if that's all you think about higher education, you miss the fact that it's about art and architecture and science and government and history. It's about being curious about that and seeing them on display and moving them forward."

Holland says the Roots of Knowledge windows are emblematic of UVU's core themes and emphasis on engaged learning. UVU students and faculty collaborated with professional artists on the installation's design, content, and creation.

"It was just such a great learning experience for those who were actively involved in the making of it, as opposed to just the brilliant brainchild of a brilliant artist, done in a single stroke," Holland says. "It brings together all of the elements. I trust that it will live on and grow in its impact in the community on every level."

PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER





A decade of physical growth

Campus adds buildings, more than doubles in size since reaching university status

*By Barbara Christiansen
Photography by UVU Marketing Staff*



WHETHER measured in square feet or acres, Utah Valley University is growing. Since becoming a university in 2008, there have been more than 250 acres purchased for expansion, seven major buildings constructed or under construction, the lease of additional property, and numerous renovations, remodels and repurposing projects, and the end is nowhere in sight. The growth has been in response to the needs of a rapidly increasing number of students and to help them find success. “I think we’ll see UVU be the engine of the valley,” said President Matthew S. Holland in an interview. “This is where the valley will educate its students. They will fill every post and every office of influence from Lehi to Santaquin and beyond. And people will feel great affection for it and be devoted to it and cheer for it. As exciting as the things that have been that we’ve been able to be a part of, the best is yet to come for this institution.”

S. Holland
Basketball Center
22, 2016

UTAH VALLEY
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Matthew S. Holland
Performing Arts Building
December 1, 2016

UVU UTAH VALLEY
UNIVERSITY.

Library

Originally known as the Digital Learning Center, Utah Valley University's library was the site for the announcement of UVSC's attaining university status. The announcement coincided with the library's ribbon cutting on July 1, 2008. It was fitting, since having a quality library was a major criterion before becoming a university. "The library is what allowed us to become a university," says Frank Young, UVU's associate vice president, facilities and planning.

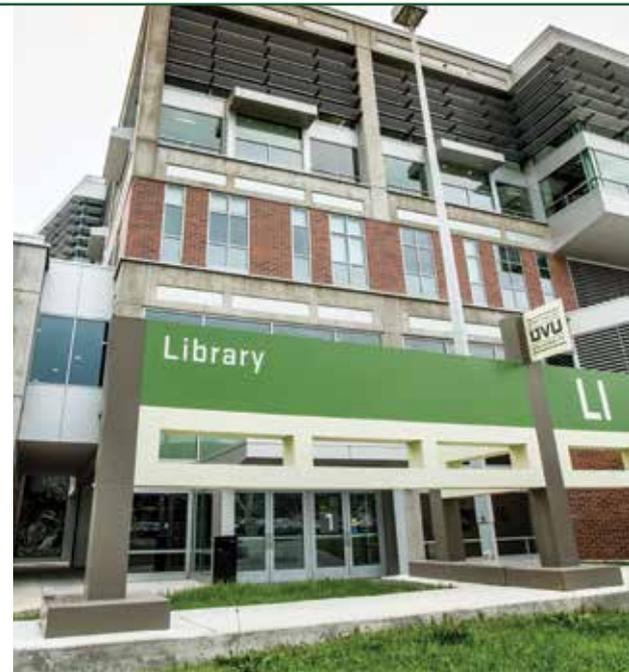
Ground was broken for the library in September 2006. It is almost 200,000 square feet and was originally planned to provide mostly digital access to resources. It is currently home to nearly 400,000 books, periodicals, and videos, however.

It also includes a family study room on the first floor. Some students needed to bring young children with them when they studied. That tended to be distracting to others, so the family study room was designed for them. It has computers and printers, toys and cartoons.

"We surveyed what students needed," says Kim Rollins, library assistant director of public services. "We wanted the students, no matter what walk of life they were in, to have a place where they could do work and could leave the library with a finished product."

"The library is more symbolic of the status of the institution. It is the heart of the campus," says Library Director Lesli Baker. "If we have a good library, we have a strong emphasis on academics and academic rigor."

Now named the Ira A. and Mary Lou Fulton Library, it is also home to the Roots of Knowledge stained glass window mural. "Roots of Knowledge was a way to say that there is something about higher education that is more than just about job training," says UVU President Matthew S. Holland.





Science Building

Originally, the science building was actually scheduled to be completed before the library, but Young says then-dean Sam Rushforth recognized the more immediate need for the library to help attain university status, so he pushed back construction of the science building.

The Pope Science Building had already been in use, but was not sufficient to house the classes and labs for the department.

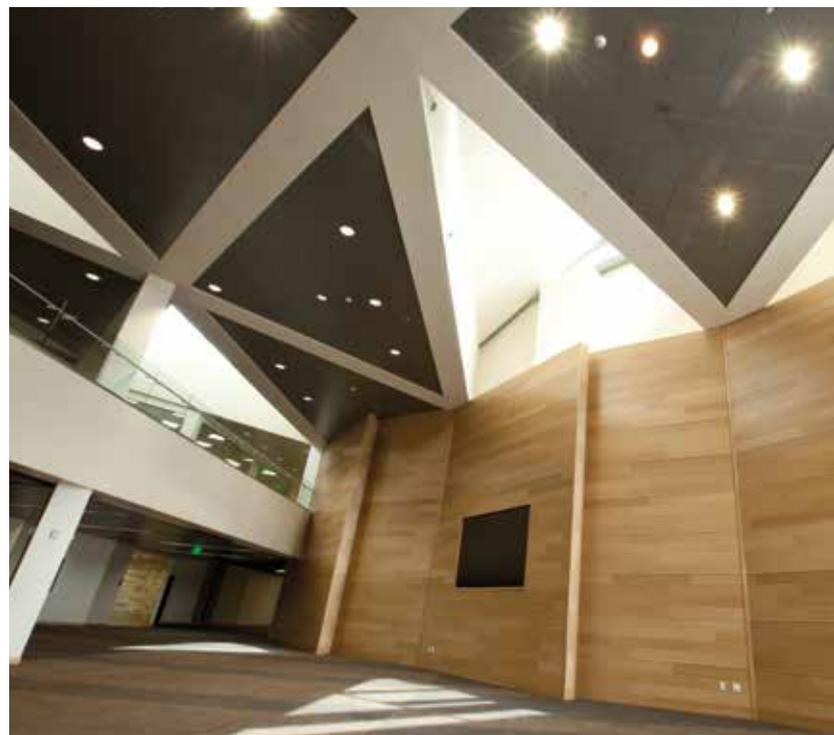
“The Science Building really brought us up to a university-level building to teach sciences,” Young says. “It is here that there are good chemistry and biology labs and teaching spaces for things like anatomy.”

Space was split between the disciplines with chemistry and physics remaining in the initial building and others moving to the new one.

“

The library is more symbolic of the status of the institution. It is the heart of the campus.

—Lesli Baker





Student Life and Wellness Center

Programming started in 2009-10 to plan the Student Life & Wellness Center, and it was the first building Holland was involved in from its inception. Groundbreaking ceremonies were in 2012 and the building opened in 2014.

In addition to health and fitness, the building was to provide a connection point for students on a commuter campus.

“Research shows that the more students are engaged with campus life, the more likely they are to reach their educational goals,” Holland says.

The facility garnered national attention in 2015 when a photo of a stairway with lanes labeled walking, running, and texting went viral.

“We used that to engage our students, to catch their attention and to let them know we are aware of who they are and where they’re coming from,” said Matt Bambrough, formerly UVU’s creative director. “The design was meant for people to laugh at rather than a real attempt to direct traffic flow.”





Classroom Building

“President Holland was also heavily involved with the planning of the classroom building,” Young says.

Its groundbreaking was held in 2013, with the official ribbon cutting in December 2014. There are seats for more than 3,600 students in 35 classrooms, each with a capacity between 35-175. There is a 960-seat auditorium that can be divided into three sections.

“The state-of-the-art structure will provide students with the requisite learning environment that will lead to their lifelong success outside of the classroom,” Holland said at the ribbon cutting.



These statues, displayed on bookshelves in President Holland’s office, represent groundbreakings for each new building constructed at UVU during his administration.



Wee Care Center

The center's mission is to get students into classes and get their children in and have them cared for and be educated while their parents are pursuing their education dreams, says Mary Ellen Larsen, manager of the center.

"It is so valuable to the students," she says. "President Holland and Paige really promoted it."

In 2006, the center itself was "wee," having been in a home. The new facility, opened in 2013, virtually doubled the capacity and provided a wonderful experience for many, according to Larsen.

President Holland says it was good to have community support. "I think it was sort of a wake-up call, in a positive sense, to the community that there's something important happening at UVU, and people with means are willing to get behind it, to fund in its entirety a program like that."



Fundraising

The Wee Care Center, Cole Nellesen Building and NUVI Basketball Center have the distinction of being financed completely through donated funds, Young said. The coming Noorda Center for the Performing Arts — currently under construction and due to open January 2019 — has also had \$22 million in private donations to greatly help make it a reality.

"Is that something we can continue?" Holland says. "We can, and we have to. One of the things we've got now is a bona fide fundraising operation. When I first got here, we were doing the best we could, but it wasn't really a fully dedicated operation with field officers and folks who had been deeply trained in the industry. Now we have all of that, so the crank is kind of turning on its own, the flywheel is going. And if we continue to do the right things by and with the community, this will continue to grow and grow and become an even greater asset to us moving ahead."

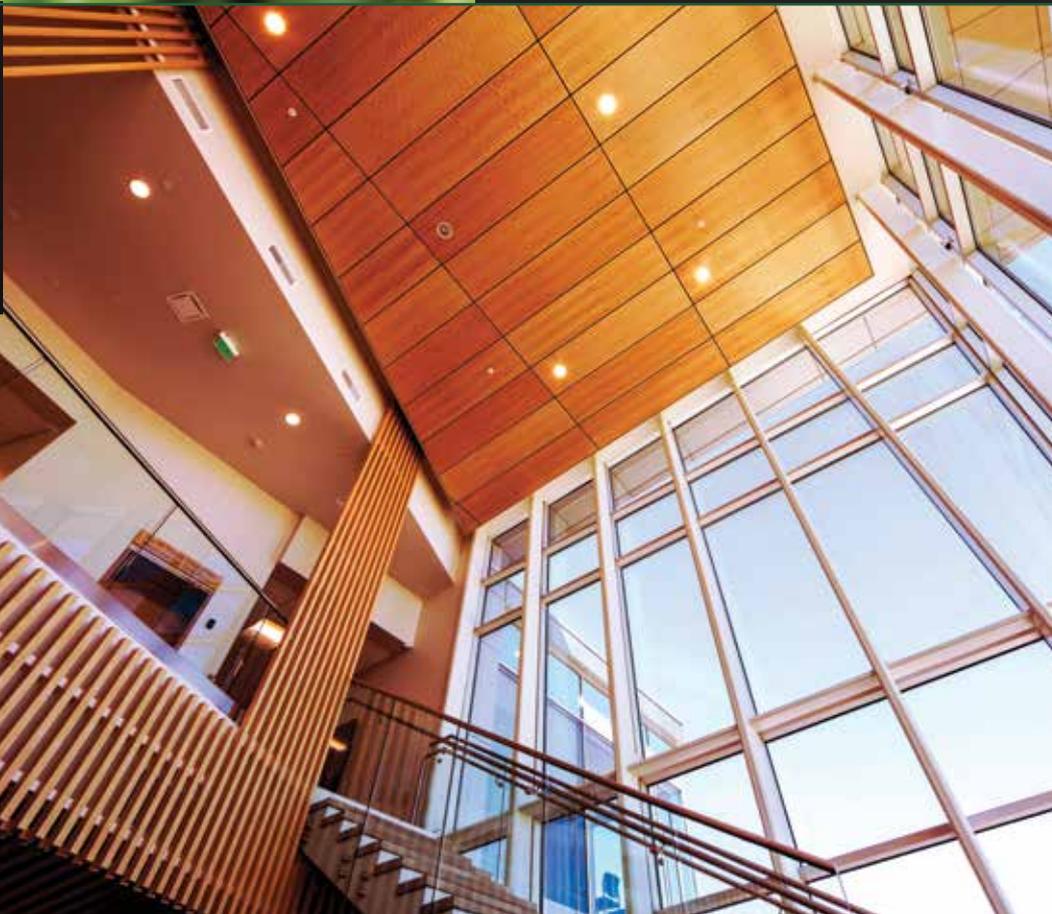
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This is a fantastic example of what can happen when a community comes together.

– Teresa Cardon



Cole Nellesen Building



With 15,000 square feet of specialized space, the Cole Nellesen Building is focused on raising autism awareness and supporting autism education. It includes classrooms, therapy rooms, quiet spaces, sensory rooms, an observation room, two playgrounds, and a sensory garden with aromatic plants, musical chimes and drums, and water features.

There are also offices, a conference room, and testing and study rooms for students. UVU's Passages program, which provides a specially designed higher education experience for adults with higher-functioning autism, also uses the building.

"This is a fantastic example of what can happen when a community comes together," says Teresa Cardon, director of the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism. "I am excited to be a part of this amazing community, and I know that we are going to make a significant difference together as we work to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder."

NUVI Basketball Center



This practice and conditioning facility houses the men's and women's basketball teams, with 8,000 square feet of court space, nine basketball standards, and a "game-day atmosphere" with graphics to match those of the UCCU Center. There are also a strength and conditioning center and 3,000 square feet of office space.

"The NUVI Basketball Center is one of the best practice facilities in the WAC," said UVU athletic director Vince Otoupal prior to the ribbon cutting. "It will help our basketball programs continue to pursue success both on the court and in the classroom. The facility changes the way our student-athletes and coaches approach their craft and will make our programs better."

"This beautiful facility will be a basketball factory that will facilitate our players in chasing their biggest possible dreams," UVU men's basketball coach Mark Pope said at the ribbon cutting. "The NUVI Basketball Center fully equips our program to prepare our players to win WAC championships and earn NCAA tournament bids. This facility is also a symbol of tremendous support from the Utah Valley community. It's a game changer."



This beautiful facility will be a basketball factory that will facilitate our players in chasing their biggest possible dreams.

– Mark Pope



Performing Arts Center

For years, music students practiced in facilities accompanied by the whine of sanders and other equipment designed for auto body work. There had been little space for performances. The coming Noorda Center for the Performing Arts is set to change those circumstances.

On schedule and on budget, according to Young, the building is set to open for classwork in January 2019, with an official ribbon cutting in April. In addition to serving UVU, the building will be the Utah County home for the Utah Symphony.

There will be a 900-seat concert hall, a 500-seat theater, choral and ensemble rooms, practice spaces and offices. “It is big enough to bring in Broadway shows,” Young said.

“Ten years ago our programs were literally one-third of what they are now,” says Linda Moore, assistant dean of the School of the Arts. “Academically we have made enormous strides but our facilities hadn’t. This will allow students who are taking those degrees to actually experience performing and working in state-of-the-art facilities which will be a benefit for their resumes.”

It will also help the community appreciate that there are actually arts programs on campus, she says.

“It is a real landmark for not only the School of the Arts, but for Utah Valley University,” Moore says.

Other locations

In addition to the Orem campus, UVU is expanding in other locations. The university is leasing space in an existing building at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi, and has added 10 acres of land near that location. UVU has purchased 30 acres in Payson. It is planned for a satellite campus, similar to the Wasatch campus in Heber. “As Utah County grows, it is expected to double in the next 20 years,” Young says. “It will be unreasonable to have everybody come to Orem.”

In two separate purchases, UVU added 225 acres of property in Vineyard. Holland called it a milestone. “That just sort of opened up a new vista for us in terms of what the campus could become,” he says. “We were feeling kind of landlocked when I first arrived. The Vineyard property doubled the campus’s footprint and opened up a whole new range of opportunities for decades to come.” “We are going to continue to be the largest university in the state,” Young says. “We needed some square footage. The extra space allows us to have top-notch athletic facilities out at Vineyard and top-notch academic facilities in Orem.”

Getting from there to here

To facilitate safety and reduce the need to provide an extensive addition to university parking, UVU is planning an overpass over the freeway. “The pedestrian overpass over Interstate 15 is in design

right now,” Young says. “It has been approved. It will be done in fall 2019. It will go from the intermodal hub to UVU. There will be 8,000-plus beds on the west side of I-15. We are hoping most of those students will walk the bridge.”

The future

As UVU continues to grow, so will its physical needs. One of the next projects is a new building for the Woodbury School of Business. Fundraising for that has begun.

All schools in the Utah System of Higher Education are required to update their master plans every two years. The anticipated growth has been a major factor in UVU’s plans.

“It not a ‘one and done’ experience,” says Vice President for University Relations Cameron Martin. “It is ongoing. We start the process of engaging our neighbors and other constituents — faculty, staff, students, community members, advisory board members. We try to foresee the needs of the campus. We don’t know all the variables yet, but we know there will be a need for greater physical capacity.”

Martin paid tribute to former UVU president Wilson W. Sorensen who oversaw the purchase of the property on which the Orem campus is located, and compared current challenges.

“We have to think about what we will see 75 years from now,” Martin says, drawing a parallel to Sorensen. “There are a lot of moving parts.” ■

Opening Doors

**University's
development
chief says,**
 **Our donors
like what they
see here.”**

By Jay Wamsley

Illustrated by Nick Lu

EVEN though Utah Valley University can point to 76 years of existence, when it comes to fundraising, those involved in that endeavor at the university find themselves facing a unique challenge: the pool of most-likely donors didn't graduate from here.

Scott Cooksey, UVU vice president of development and alumni relations, describes the perfect donor this way: "From a fundraising standpoint, our best demographic, those we are looking for, are an alumnus who graduated from here, with a four-year degree, and is over 50 years old."



But, he points out, that donor really doesn't exist.

"Right now, for traditional alumni," Cooksey says, "people who went here from the ages of 18-24 and got a four-year degree, none of those people have turned 50 yet. They are all young. So, our major supporters don't have degrees from here."

But, he says, that doesn't stop the effort.

"We've got alumni from the '60s and '70s and '80s, but those alumni got a certificate or a two-year degree and went on to somewhere else," Cooksey explains. "If they got a four-year degree, they got it from somewhere else. Affinity is normally where you got your bachelor's degree. Our first four-year alumnus didn't graduate until 1992 or '93, and there were very few of them.

"Many of our donors may have a degree from another school, but they like what they see here. Their kids, their grandkids are here. The university is providing them employees, educating the population, so we are very fortunate on that end ... It's a challenge for us, but 20 years from now, it will be a different story."

Gaining university status marked a significant shift in development efforts, Cooksey says, taking fundraising from around \$5 million or less

annually to \$25 million, and much more is expected.

"Like everything at UVU, development and alumni relations are going through a culture change, starting 10 years ago when we became a university," he says. "It's a coming-of-age thing ... When I first got here, I asked my leadership team, 'Who do you consider to be our peers?' The answers I got included many of the smaller institutions in Utah. My response, 'Let's start thinking differently: BYU and Utah and Utah State.' There were some gasps, but we're there. We've still got a way to go, but we are our own unique place with unique successes. As we continue to mature and grow, we're entering into the same fundraising club as these long-ago established universities. We really are fortunate to have a lot of support."

Cooksey says he is grateful that the thousands of more-recent graduates are energetic and engaged "and they love this place."

"We just need them to continue to be successful in their careers and life," he says. "We must keep them engaged and they'll support UVU. Helping students and helping our community — that's the fun part of my job. Getting donors to support us with their dollars is fun and exciting, but it's really about what we are doing with those dollars that counts.



“Many of our donors may have a degree from another school, but they like what they see here. Their kids, their grandkids are here.”

“Helping students and helping our community — that’s the fun part of my job. Getting donors to support us with their dollars is fun and exciting, but it’s really about what we are doing with those dollars that counts. Money is just a tool. You can have the best pen in the world, but it’s not the pen that’s of value — it’s what you write with the pen.”

President Holland communicates the university’s mission and vision with great skill and energy. He’s genuine. He opens a lot of doors.”

Money is just a tool. You can have the best pen in the world, but it’s not the pen that’s of value — it’s what you write with the pen.”

The decisions behind where fundraising efforts are directed usually flow in line with the university’s mission and priorities, Cooksey says. He said efforts are made to match up donors who might have an interest in current university priorities. Scholarships, he notes, are often the “easiest sell” because everyone enjoys helping students.

Cooksey says current efforts include funding a new building for the Woodbury School of Business, funding the Center for Constitutional Studies, and a final \$3.5 million to finish the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts, noting that the latter is nearing completion, “so failure is not an option.”

“That’s where a lot of our effort is right now,” he says. “But we always ask ourselves, ‘Where does the donor want their money to go?’ It’s not just a business transaction. When a donor makes a gift, everybody wins. Donors often say, ‘Thank you for doing what you do with my money.’ That’s pretty cool.”

Cooksey says he believes President Holland has been a great asset to development activities because of his vision, personality, and charis-

ma, as well as something deeper.

“President Holland is always strategizing,” he says, “and he’s always very strategic in his thinking. He’s always thinking about what’s next. It’s the same in dealing with our donors and supporters— always thinking how to get people involved. He communicates the university’s mission and vision with great skill and energy.”

Cooksey says he has spent a lot of time with President Holland — “you get to know someone pretty well when you travel a lot with them,” — and he enjoys the attributes the president possesses. “He’s genuine. He opens a lot of doors.”

He says UVU is on a “great trajectory right now” and believes the next president will be able to “put their arms around it and give it their own flavor.” He says he has full faith the university is on, and will continue to be on, the right track.

“We have so much momentum going, it’s like a battleship. You’re not to going to stop or turn this institution quickly. The momentum is strong. Of the six current vice presidents, President Holland hired five of us. We are all on board. We are cohesive and dedicated. We are going to stay on track and on task.” ■

MAKING STARS OF STUDENTS

Academics driven by doubling down on vision of UVU's mission

By Jay Wamsley

THE first decade of pursuing academic excellence at Utah Valley University, as a university, will be remembered for its adherence to a strong definition of its mission, as well as an appreciation of the widow's mite.

At least that's what one important observer of UVU academics — its senior vice president, Dr. Jeffery Olson — believes.

Olson has only been at UVU for a portion of the 10-year history of UVU as a four-year institution and President Matthew S. Holland's administration that nearly parallels that period. But he says that diving deep to understand the needs of the service area has, and should continue, to drive UVU's academics.

"Under President Holland's leadership, we carefully infused the core values, our core themes," Olson says, "and we carefully decided to retain a dual mission as a community college and a university. We weren't going to jettison the non-university parts of our activities as we became a university. We were going to actively address the educational needs of

our community."

Olson says the Utah Board of Regents and state Legislature initially pointed UVU to the path of being a teaching university, rather than a research institution, but that the UVU administration made it work by "examining the needs of our service area, defining exactly how we are going to do that and who we are going to be, and then doubling down and making that actually happen."

While acknowledging that the support UVU has garnered from the Legislature and donors is remarkable, Olson says UVU leadership is particularly sensitive to stretching every dollar.

"One of the things President Holland has done in terms of those administrative imperatives is that he has helped to create a culture that values every dollar the university receives," Olson says. "He recognizes that the money comes from students, their families, taxpayers, donors who are trusting us and trusting their funds to our care, and we need



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**Most universities are seeking
faculty stars, while we're trying to
make student stars.**

to use all that very carefully. We have a stewardship, a fiduciary duty to those people to be careful how we allocate our resources.”

Olson describes himself as a person who has “spent a lot of time studying universities,” and while he loves and values the importance of research institutions, he has come to value the UVU teaching university approach: “Defined by the regents, yes, but refined and amplified under the leadership of President Holland in quite a remarkable way. It builds on the past — he acknowledges that — but it has been amazing.”

Comparing the two types of institutions of higher education, Olson notes that “most universities are seeking faculty stars, while we’re trying to make student stars.”

A major benchmark on the academic path of growth, Olson says, was the decision to offer and the subsequent approval of eight master’s degree programs. He says employment projections and job postings were examined, “sector strategy meetings” were held with employers and focus groups, faculty were consulted, and 22 proposals were whittled down to the initial five graduate programs.

“These five were those our service area most needed and that we were well-positioned to do effectively,” Olson says. “There had to be the need and there also needed to be the capacity for us to do those effectively.”

The recent approval of three new engineering degrees is also a major step in academic progress, he says. These advances augment the underlying dual mission approach of UVU to continue to offer certificates and training to give a post-high school credential to an ever-growing service area, Olson explains.

“The need is there. In society right now, you have to be really fortunate to provide a good life for yourself and your family if you don’t have at least some post-high school credential, and yet more than half of the people in our service area don’t have that. About 160,000 adults in our service area don’t have a post-high school credential,” Olson says. “Our dual mission really helps with that, being able to offer certificates as well as associate and bachelor degrees. And I hope we continue to build pathways that lead from high school to those degrees.”

Another highlight of UVU academics this past decade, Olson says, is the achievements and honors received by student groups, clubs, and departments.

“The number of national awards students in various programs have received is really quite remarkable when you consider there



President Holland has helped to create a culture that values every dollar the university receives.

are thousands of institutions in the United States,” Olson says. “For a regional institution like we are to compete and perform well on so many fronts is really amazing.

“One of the most remarkable things — and it came out in our most-recent accreditation visit — is that the number one commendation is how deeply the institution across the board is committed to student success, which President Holland calls ‘the core of our core.’ And that’s a wonderful thing, an amazing thing.”

That focus on student success “and the value of the academy” is one of the areas in which Olson feels Holland excels. While balancing and expanding the core themes of the university — serious, inclusive, and engaged — Olson believes Holland has driven UVU to excel, and he says he hopes that continues with future administrations.

“He really is a remarkable academic leader,” Olson says of Holland. “He loves the academy — he’s an academic at heart. In his spare time he does academic things, in the event of having any spare time. He continues to fit academic things into his life, such as taking the sabbatical leave last summer at Oxford. He spent a little bit of his time early in his career as a business consultant, so he also brings a really good business acumen to the leadership of the institution ... He has really doubled down on all those things, all the elements of our mission, in a really remarkable way.”

One of President Holland’s favorite traditions is his annual book group for incoming freshmen — some of whom had never read a book outside of class before. Selections ranged from classics to contemporary bestsellers:

2010-11
Outliers
Antigone

2012-13
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
Cato: A Tragedy

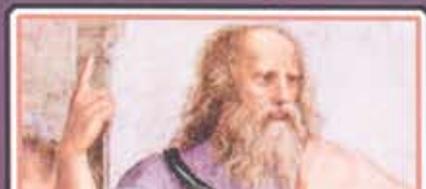
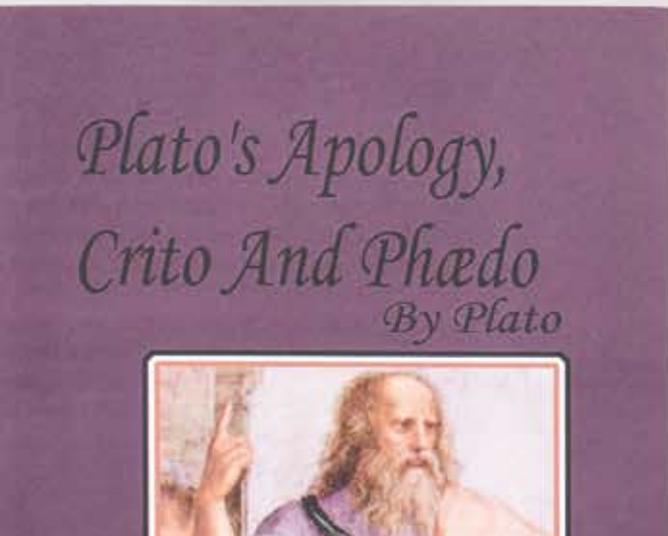
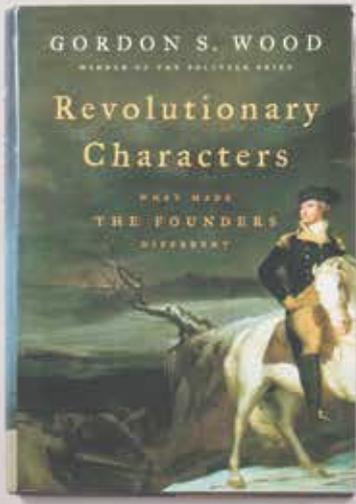
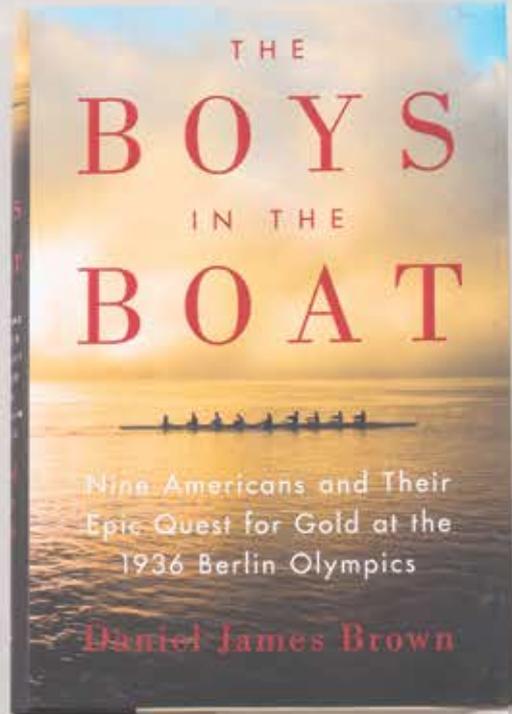
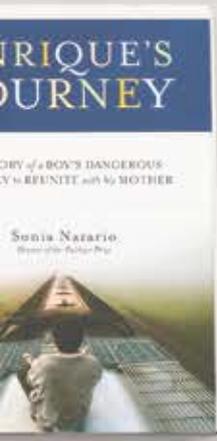
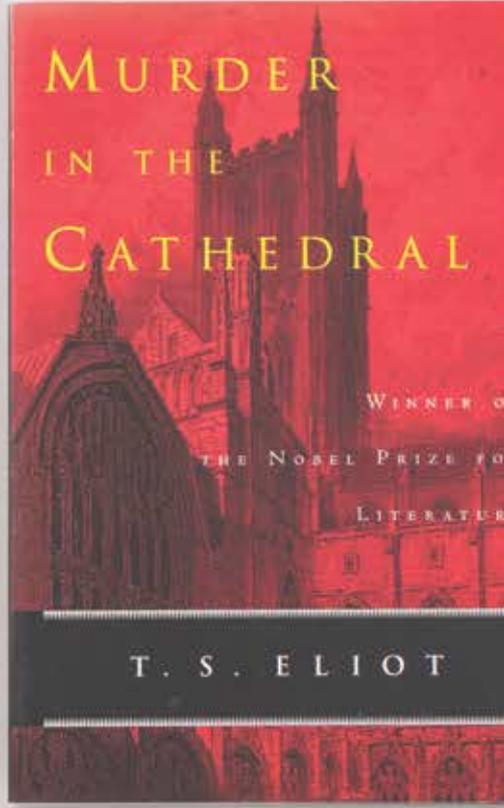
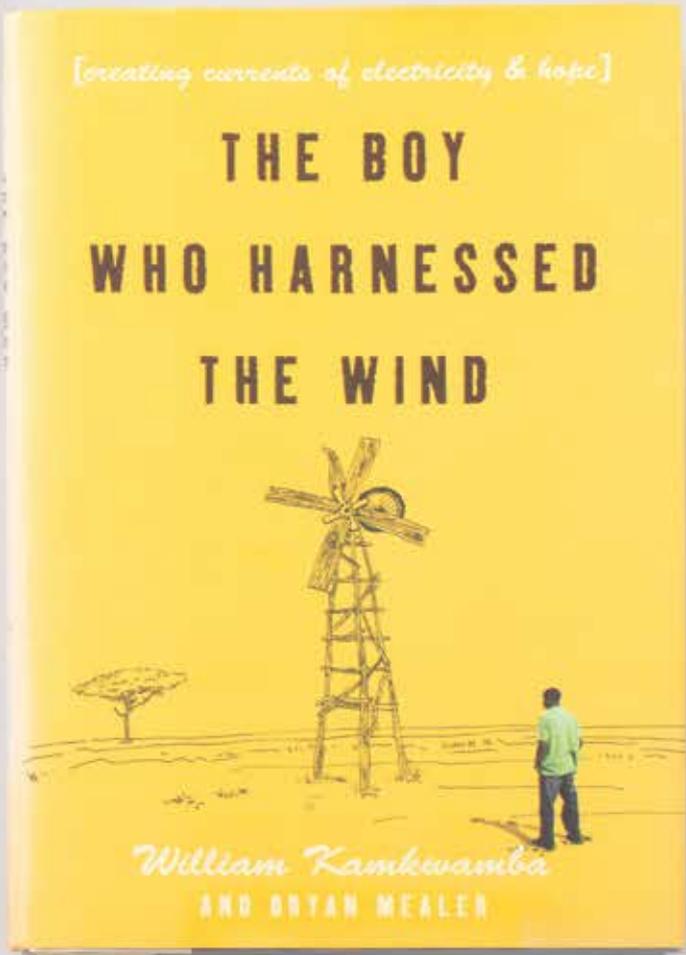
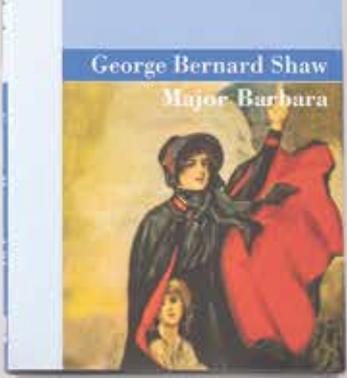
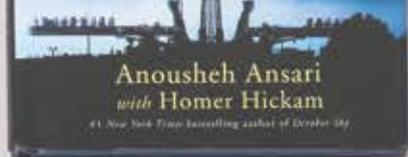
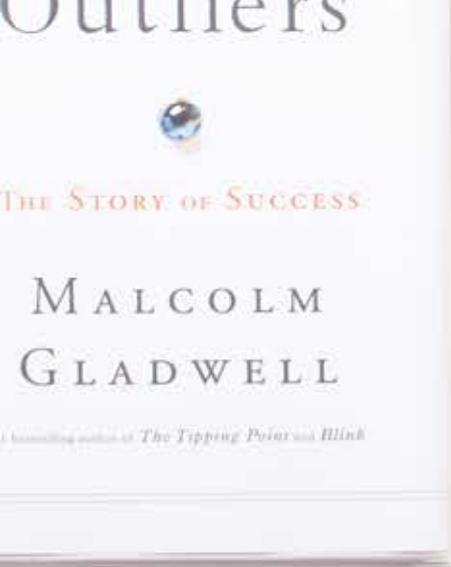
2013-14
My Dream of Stars
Plato’s Apology, Crito and Phaedo

2015-16
The Dressmaker of Khair Khana
Major Barbara

2016-17
The Boys in the Boat
The Winter’s Tale

2017-18
The Boys in the Boat
The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus

Enrique’s Journey
Othello
Outcasts United
Revolutionary Characters
The Dressmaker of Khair Khana



Helping Students Succeed

Written by **Suzanne Broadbent & Trisha Dugovic**

Photography by **Jay Drowns**

When President Matthew S. Holland gave his State of the University address in 2017, he described how the greatest measure of Utah Valley University's success would not be its national and international achievements, but the way it has helped its students and alumni build happy, successful lives. Here are a few of those stories from the last 10 years.

Claudia Recinos-Hales

As a Guatemalan and a first-generation student in her family to attend college, Claudia Recinos-Hales had some decisions to make when it came to choosing a university that would best meet her needs.

When Recinos-Hales married an American 25 years ago and moved to the United States, her father-in-law insisted that she learn English, which she did by taking classes here and there. But, life happened and she and her husband decided to start a family. Now, 20 years later, she decided it was time to go back to school.

Utah Valley University was close to her home and she said that she liked what she heard about the diverse student body, the inclusive environment, and the engagement the professors took to make sure each student was learning and continuing toward the path of graduation. She knew UVU was where she wanted to attend.

Recinos-Hales said that her professors have become life long friends and each of them has taken a personal interest in her success. As a student at UVU, she has now realized that she is excellent at math and has even become a math mentor on campus. Recinos-Hales says, "If I can do it, then others can do it too."

And the loyalty isn't stopping with just Recinos-Hales. She now has two kids that are doing concurrent enrollment classes at UVU and she said they are having as good an experience as she is.

— Suzanne Broadbent



Mike Negale

It could be said that it started with an old pickup truck for Mike Negale.

While working at a grocery store to support himself through college, his Chevy Silverado needed some tender loving care. He chose to study collision repair technology at Utah Valley University in order to improve and customize his much-loved vehicle. But after Negale did better than he thought he would in his intermediate algebra class, he felt he might enjoy a different field of study he hadn't considered before.

That initial realization led Negale to a passion for mathematics and physics, culminating with dual bachelor degrees in those majors in 2011.

Discovering these new passions helped Negale realize he wasn't content with only doing the things that came easily to him, whether fixing trucks, studying, or pursuing artistic hobbies.

"I like drawing with pencil or charcoal and oil painting," Negale says. "Human faces are difficult; hands are hard to draw as well. Painting was a lot harder for me than drawing. I think getting it to where I like it is very rewarding to me. I feel like I do seek out challenges just to see if I can do it."

Negale's most recent challenge was defending his dissertation on motion in the upper atmosphere and finding evidence of connections between the upper and middle atmosphere. With that done, he will complete a doctorate in physics from Utah State University.

Negale's interest in atmospheric research stemmed from an internship at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago during his final year at UVU. He also interned at Space Dynamics Laboratory in Logan, Utah, to prepare himself for graduate school.

During his educational career, Negale discovered another passion: a love of teaching.

While he was an undergraduate at UVU, Negale took up a weekend math tutoring position at a local church in Orem. Some children wouldn't bring any homework to work on, so Negale began creating more fun and interesting assignments than their normal math problems.

"I didn't think much of it at the time, but I liked helping these students by getting them motivated to do their homework," Negale says.

Following this experience, Negale wanted to further his teaching skills. He worked as a teaching assistant at UVU, then he worked as



an instructor, graduate teaching assistant, and physics lab instructor at USU, where he is also a graduate research assistant.

In the future, Negale says he wants to inspire younger generations to get an education, in particular Native Americans. Negale says many don't have parents who have gone to school, like Negale's mother did, to encourage them to get an education. They also may not have the opportunity or example to follow.

Because of Negale's Navajo heritage, he wants to teach physics at USU's Eastern campus in Blanding, Utah, near the Navajo reservation. He wants to encourage Navajo students to pursue or continue their education.

The old Chevy that sparked Negale's university education has since been sold and replaced with a more practical vehicle, but the truck's influence on Negale's life will last for years to come.

— *Trisha Dugovic*

“I didn’t think much of it at the time, but I liked helping these students by getting them motivated to do their homework.”

Andrea Neilson

While attending a college program with Walt Disney World, Andrea Neilson realized that she loved working with children, but she wanted to educate and teach rather than just entertain them.

With that in mind, she chose to enroll in the two-year elementary education program at Utah Valley University. Neilson attributes much of her success at UVU to the engagement her professors had with her. She recalls Ann Sharp and Elaine Byrd specifically as professors who were personable and “made learning really fun.” In fact, Neilson has used examples from her professors at UVU and incorporated those styles into her own classrooms.

Neilson also remembers meeting UVU President Matthew S. Holland at a local restaurant, where she was working while attending school. He had just been announced as the new president of UVU. She introduced herself as a student and said he spent a lot of time visiting with her and discussing her education.

Neilson graduated from UVU with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 2012. At that time, Utah had a surplus of educators, and the marketplace for a job was competitive. However, she was able to secure a position as a sixth-grade teacher at her first choice of schools: Rock Canyon Elementary in Provo.

Neilson has enjoyed teaching at Rock Canyon for the past six years and was recently named Rock Canyon Elementary Teacher of the Year. She says she loves her students and has made a concerted effort to be an engaged educator to assure their success.

— *Suzanne Broadbent*





As a young man, David Larsen started out taking classes in criminal justice, but ended up having to drop out of school and go to work for the next 20 years. Just three years ago, he decided that it was time to go back to college and finish what he started. He earned an associate degree in Emergency Services/Fire Officer and then his bachelor's in Emergency Services/Emergency Management from Utah Valley University.

Larsen said that going back to school at this point in his life still had its challenges. He had a career to balance, and as a firefighter, the schedule was anything but typical. Firefighters work 48 hours on and 96 hours off. And the schedule rotates. So, it was important to find a university that had a program that fit his schedule.

UVU met his needs because of the online classes available. Larsen was able to complete 100 percent of his courses online.

Larsen also became part of the Emergency Services Club. He also took an international study abroad which took him to the Balkans region of Europe, where he was able to visit seven countries. As someone who had never been out of the country, Larsen said this was an incredible experience.

The study abroad program had two components: to work with students at universities and then to work with local public safety officials.

While at the universities, he was able to teach things like how to set up a community

David Larsen

emergency response team (CERT) and was able to interact with local officials, agencies, and departments.

During that time, Larsen was able to work with local public safety officials in Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. UVU was able to foster a relationship with local governments with the intent to do some future exchanges of students and share programs.

Since graduating, Larsen has become chairman of the Utah Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations. In this position, he looks at any piece of legislations that has to do with the fire service in Utah and provides education and support to Utah legislators.

"The emergency services program at UVU does an excellent job at making it easily accessible and available to working professionals," Larsen says. "The program has been very well designed to accommodate these people."

— Suzanne Broadbent

“It helped me become who I am and to be a hard worker ... I am able to adapt to situations quickly, anticipate things, and learn from anybody.”



Laura Towner

As a young girl who grew up working for her dad's construction company, Laura Towner was assigned to work in the office, as a construction site for a woman was taboo at the time. However, by the time she was 48, she knew she wasn't happy with her job as an administrator and decided to do something about it.

Towner came to Utah Valley University and met with the Women's Success Center to get more information about coming back to school. Towner was motivated by the encouragement and guidance she received from the center. She agreed with the center's motto that

“every woman deserves the confidence, opportunity, and knowledge that comes with a college degree.”

Towner started back to school by just taking a couple of night courses, but after a couple of semesters she jumped into school full-time. Eric Linfield, the department chair, was very encouraging to Towner, which she appreciated because there were very few women in the program. Linfield made sure that she knew about available scholarships.

As a non-traditional student, Towner realized that there was a lot of support for her. And because of the emphasis on diversity at UVU, she felt very comfortable in the construction management program as a woman and as someone going back to school later in life.

Towner graduated with her bachelor's degree in construction management in 2017. She was immediately hired as the superintendent for the commercial division at Rod Lewis Construction. In fact, her first project from the ground up was the Hall of Flags on UVU campus.

“There is a path for non-traditional students to graduate through UVU,” Towner said. And she is looking forward to many years of a rewarding career as a result of obtaining her degree.

— Suzanne Broadbent

Lindsey Lewis

Lindsey Lewis always knew she wanted a career that would give her a good work-life balance. But she feared her expressive nature – as seen in her bright nail polish and loud clothing patterns – wouldn't be a good fit for something like accounting. "I have too much of a personality for accounting," she says.

After receiving acceptance letters from several universities in Utah, Lewis felt that Utah Valley University had a program that would provide the fit she was looking for. "I specifically chose UVU," Lewis says. In fact, Lewis can hardly contain her enthusiasm for UVU. "I love UVU – I even have the license plates," she says, "I'm a diehard fan."

An organized and methodical planner, Lewis has had the goal of being a mother and also having a career. She took some college courses while still in high school in the medical field but decided that the work-life balance would be better in a different career. She soon found out that UVU's financial planning program would be a better fit for her after reading the program's website, which said the program had 100 percent job placement at the time.

She went on to obtain her MBA in UVU's accelerated one-year program in 2017, shortly after obtaining her bachelor's degree in 2015. "The timing felt right," Lewis says.

Following graduation, Lewis had five job offers for full-time positions, but she didn't take any of them. Instead, she went back to a company where she absolutely knew she wanted to work. The company was only offering an internship position, but Lewis convinced them to give her a full-time job.

Since then, she has found herself working in wealth management and 401(k) training, where she creates comprehensive financial plans and trains employees at various companies on investing and saving techniques. "It sounds super boring," Lewis says, "but it's actually super cool because there is a lot of strategy involved."

What Lewis feels like she does most of the time for clients is manage their expectations about the realities of retiring and how much money they will actually need. "My dream goal is to help millennials understand how investing at a young age can change their lives," Lewis says.

Reflecting back on her time at UVU, Lewis says, "I don't feel like I had a typical college ex-

perience because I can call any of my professors and ask them for advice." Lewis tries to better herself personally and professionally every day and she feels that the engaged learning at UVU helped her do that.

Lewis sets four "B" goals – body, being, balance, and business – for her life each year. Her classes at UVU taught her to make her goals "SMART": specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. She puts all of her goals on a vision board, and in 2017 she accomplished most of them for that year.

"Life is always a balancing act," she says.

Lewis always told herself that "a man is not a plan," and because her mother obtained a college degree, Lewis always expected to get a degree herself. She wishes that more women and girls would see earning a degree as an expectation rather than an option.

The Women's Success Center at UVU has programs that are helping more women graduate than ever before, and Lewis loves that. "They say to get 'a degree for life,'" which Lewis thinks is so important.

Lewis also endorses The Women of the Woodbury program at UVU, which promotes not only more women in education in general, but increased enrollment for women in business and entrepreneurship specifically.

"What we are really focused on is teaching women leadership skills," said Mikki O'Connor, assistant dean of the Woodbury School of Business. "Most women who come into the Woodbury School of Business finish their degrees."

Through the Women of the Woodbury program, students receive successful business women as mentors to teach them how to be prepared when entering the workforce. Lewis says that it is hard for women in business because of the various stereotypes associated with women in leadership positions, such as being bossy or aggressive. She loves that UVU has these programs to help women and felt she personally benefited from these programs.

"I want to be a woman who people can reach out to as a mentor for the next generation," Lewis says. "I want to help push the needle in a way that empowers women."

– Trisha Dugovic





Jordan Byrd

You will often find Jordan Byrd listening to music, making light of life and all that comes with it.

“I listen to metal, rap, pop, Christmas music,” Byrd says, smiling. “I listen to whatever has a good beat and vibe.”

You’ll also find Byrd typing away on his personal blog, “Moving Forward Despite Setbacks,” which he began writing about his brain

trauma that he experienced when his life was just beginning.

An oxygen deficiency at birth led to a life-altering brain injury for Byrd. Doctors said that he would never be able to read, write, or communicate. Byrd worked every day to learn through every difficulty he experienced, and continued on through school, where he says he needed more support than was offered. He relied heavily on his parents to help teach him each day after school, and as a result, he was able to graduate high school and move on to Utah Valley University, where he is today. Needless to say, he hasn’t let any of his setbacks get in the way of his life or education.

“I still deal with it today; it will never go away,” Byrd says.

At first, Byrd didn’t understand how his

brain trauma was more helpful to him than it was a hindrance, but he says he later saw what he had been missing. “It helped me become who I am and to be a hard worker,” Byrd says. “I am able to adapt to situations quickly, anticipate things, and learn from anybody.”

When he first started his college career, Byrd sought help from UVU’s Office of Accessibility Services, which offers accommodations to students based on their needs. Byrd visited the office to assess if he needed or wanted help, but because of the supportive nature of the professors at UVU and as a result of his self-sufficient spirit, he concluded he could do it on his own.

“That’s what I like about UVU— the professors here are willing to help you out,” Byrd says. “You can go to them and talk with them, which has been helpful to my success.” Byrd attributes the ability to talk to professors as the number one reason he has been successful at UVU.

Byrd began his undergraduate degree in digital media, but decided to change to technology management with a minor in digital media.

Initially, Byrd wanted to work his way up in a tech company in Utah after graduation. In order to get a job, though, he felt he was lacking understanding on the business side of things. That motivated him to continue his schooling and obtain a master of business administration.

Byrd’s goals now include gaining experience in the workforce and eventually starting his own business. He also seemingly can’t get enough of learning, as he now looks toward earning a doctorate.

Byrd says he never received the kind of support he needed to succeed in the school system prior to UVU, so he looks forward to starting a resource center for those with brain traumas, brain disabilities, and the like. He wants this center to be a place that shows people they can still succeed, despite the disabilities they may have.

“I want to be able to take what I’ve learned and go help someone else,” Byrd says. “I want them to come [to the resource center] and learn how to deal with their situations so they can feel like there is hope, because I didn’t really have that growing up as much.”

Soon, Byrd will be helping others move forward despite their setbacks.

— Trisha Dugovic

“I love UVU – I even have the license plates ... I’m a diehard fan.”

The Dual Mission Model

Combining community
college accessibility with university rigor,
UVU is setting trends in higher education

Written by **Layton Shumway**





People tend to specialize and focus —

they either focus on bachelors, masters, and doctorates, or they focus on certificates and two-year programs as more of a community college.

Soon after his appointment as the president of Utah Valley University, Matthew S. Holland visited one of his most distinguished predecessors: former president Wilson S. Sorensen. And Sorensen had an important message for Holland: Don't forget the trades.

Vocational and technical training has always been a key part of UVU's mission. When Sorensen became president, the institution was called the Central Utah Vocational School, founded during World War II to provide key workforce training to civilians during a time of war.

A lot has changed since then, both for UVU and its service region. Population in Utah Valley has exploded. Enrollment at UVU has skyrocketed. And the institution continues to add in-demand bachelor and master degrees, as indicated by community need. But Holland

has also heeded Sorensen's advice not to abandon UVU's roots. The result is what Holland calls UVU's "dual mission model" — the practicality and accessibility of a community college, combined with the rigor and seriousness of a four-year teaching institution.

"There just aren't that many universities that do it the way we're doing it," Holland says. "People tend to specialize and focus — they either focus on bachelors, masters, and doctorates, or they focus on certificates and two-year programs as more of a community college. We combine these into one."

Answering the Challenge

As the pathway into America's middle class continues to shift, formal higher education has become more important than ever, Holland says. He argues that even getting an associate degree or certificate requires a more rigorous approach than in the past.

"My view is that we really do have some challenges in higher ed today," Holland says. "Degrees are becoming more expensive, but they're also seeming to become less relevant. They're more theoretical, more tied to what's on the research agenda. And yet they've never been more needed for survival. The world is complex, it's technological, it's filled with diversity of culture and opinion and language. And to navigate that, you need the sophistication of a college degree. It's not enough to have a high school diploma anymore."

Part of UVU's mission is to provide those pathways for a broader student population, including underserved and lower-income communities. UVU's enrollment is open to all, but to help those who might not be prepared to jump straight into a four-year college program, the institution uses a system called structured enrollment. Students who need more preparation can qualify for one-year certificate programs, with full support and resources from the university. If they succeed, they can move into other degree programs.

"Everybody's welcome," Holland says, "but we also send a message of seriousness. You can't just stroll into class and expect to survive in a university environment. If you're not ready, we'll get you ready. But if you are ready, by all means, start going forward. So people in upper-division courses are prepared, and those who aren't are still welcome here, and there is a path for them."

The approach is especially beneficial in Utah Valley. For years, Brigham Young Uni-

versity served the higher-education needs of a largely homogeneous population. But as that population has grown and diversified, the need for another institution to serve Utahns has increased, especially those from underrepresented communities.

“It creates this opportunity for everybody,” Holland says. “Anybody willing to work and apply themselves gets a shot here. And they’re excellent opportunities. We accept anybody, but we’re not just some low-budget, non-demanding kind of place. We’ve got national award-winning programs where students can be part of transformational activities. That’s what I think is so unique — pulling those two things together under one roof.”

Holland says UVU isn’t trying to be a one-size-fits-all platform — “I think there’s a great role for the research institutions,” he says — but that UVU is perfectly situated to answer the needs of Utah Valley.

“I think what we’ve got in Salt Lake City works very well, with Salt Lake Community College and the University of Utah,” he says. “But in our valley, where we would have to create another institution to replicate that, our model is the most cost-effective way to create the best possible range of opportunities for our students. And that’s why I think UVU is an institution for our time, certainly here in Utah Valley, and increasingly in many other places around the nation.”

International Attention

During the summer of 2017, Holland took a sabbatical at the University of Oxford, studying the writings of early American leaders Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. But as he spoke to higher-education leaders in England, Holland found himself asked more and more frequently about UVU’s dual mission model. Before he knew it, Holland was asked to give a presentation to members of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster — not on his scholarly research, but on Utah Valley University.

“They were sometimes more interested in the higher ed things I was discussing than the American political history,” Holland says.

Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne, a member of Parliament who co-sponsored Holland’s presentation, says the United Kingdom currently faces a “gulf between vocational and academic education,” similar to America’s.

Again, Holland emphasizes that UVU isn’t trying to replace traditional higher education,

but rather adapt it to current social and economic needs.

“No one heard me present at Oxford and said, ‘Oh my gosh, Matt’s figured it out — let’s get rid of our model and let’s do the dual mission here at Oxford,’” Holland says. “People are going to keep that storied Oxford tradition going, and it’s a good thing for the world that they will do that. But people at Oxford said they could see, even in England, that they need some institutions that look like UVU. And I’m enthused that more and more people are responding that way.”

Higher-ed publications have taken notice, too. Features on UVU’s dual-mission model have appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Public Purpose* magazine, and *Inside Higher Ed* in the past year.

“This [model] is the next step in the evolution,” Joe Garcia, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, told *Inside Higher Ed*. “The results speak for themselves. They’ve been able to do both.”

As UVU continues to grow — enrollment is expected to rise to 46,000 students in the next eight years — new programs will be added. In 2016 the institution added five new master degrees, in specialized, in-demand fields like computer science, accounting, and public safety. Three new bachelor degrees in engineering will be offered beginning this year. And as new property is developed in Vineyard and at satellite campuses throughout Utah Valley, more students will have more options than ever.

“We’ve noticed this growing national and international sense that this dual mission is needed in today’s world, and a powerful way to respond to growth,” Holland says. “Our greatest growth rate comes in our junior and senior classes. And I think that’s significant in what it says about our attention to completion and graduation, but also our attention to drawing students in who may not even have thought they could go on to degrees like that. They’re coming here and discovering that they can.”

**We
combine
these into one.**”



We are so proud to be associated with UVU and participate in the growth and vision of this university.

**THE
FUTURE IS
SO BRIGHT!**

— **Ritch N. Wood**
CEO, Nu Skin

UVU's growth has been

**ABSOLUTELY
STUNNING.**

UVU is the heart and soul of not only Utah Valley, but is also the most significant institution in Utah, in my opinion.

— **Brandon Fugal**
*Chairman, Coldwell
Banker Commercial*

We have seen some amazing growth at UVU over the past 10 years. President Holland's leadership and vision to grow the university has enabled thousands of kids to

**ACHIEVE THEIR
DREAMS.**

— **Bert Blaha**
*Vice President, Intel Corporate;
Co-CEO, IM Flash Technologies*

UVU in the Community

Edited by **Layton Shumway**

We asked local and state leaders what UVU and President Holland's leadership have meant to them and the Utah community. Here's what they had to say.

President and Paige Holland

**HAVE BEEN
LEADERS**

not only at UVU, but in our community and state. They represent us all extremely well.

— **Vance Checketts**
*Vice President & General
Manager, Dell EMC*

UVU is an accessible hope for opportunities –

**HIGH
QUALITY
EDUCATION**

and training for Utahns.

— **E. Taylor Woodbury**
*COO, Woodbury
Corporation*

As a graduate of UVSC in 2001, watching the growth of UVU over the past 10 years has been astonishing. UVU continues to be an

INNOVATIVE INSTITUTION,

one that connects students to the community and the workforce.

— **John Knotwell**
*President & CEO,
Utah Technology Council*

Having a vibrant and successful state university like UVU in our midst is a

CORNERSTONE FOR OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

and cultural refinement, not just today, but for decades to come.

— **Gary R. Herbert**
Utah Governor

President Holland's tenure has had a profound benefit to the University and the community in that

HE IS A TRUE LEADER.

His ability to think like a lean entrepreneur and his work ethic and innovative spirit has been so impactful in

HELPING OTHERS REALIZE WHAT'S POSSIBLE.

— **Lindsay Smoot Hadley**
*CEO and Founder,
Hadley Impact Consulting*

I remember clearly attending my first UVU President's Ball as a guest at someone's table the year Matt Holland assumed leadership as the new UVU president. After hearing him speak that evening,

I KNEW MY INVOLVEMENT WITH UVU WOULD BE LAID IN STONE

and I would give my time and money to the University.

— **Mary Crafts-Homer**
*CEO/President, Culinary Crafts
Chairman of the Board, Visit Salt Lake*

Behind the Scenes

A window into some of the real-life moments of Matthew S. Holland's presidency

Written by August Miller

Photography by UVU Photo Staff Past and Present

President Matthew S. Holland and his family have been at Utah Valley University for over nine years. For the last six of those I, along with all the other university photography staff, have had the pleasure of documenting his tenure.

What this has meant is access that most people don't have, and with this access comes the responsibility to document the history of the institution and the history of the people who run it.

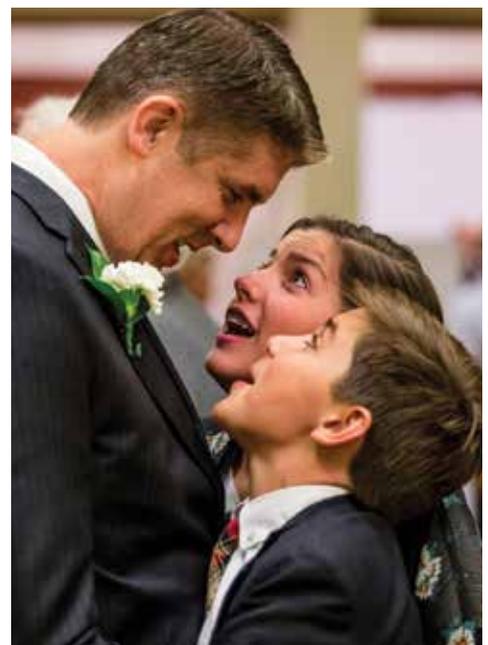
One of the most important things as a photographer that one can do when documenting important things like this is to look for quiet and powerful moments that quickly define the essence of the individuals involved — how they think, who they are, and what is important to them.

In this case, what these quiet moments reveal is a leader who loves people, and they love him back. Someone who remembers everyone's name, who is as equally at ease with a billionaire as a pauper, who always puts students first, who has a deep love for his family. Someone who laughs a lot, and someone who brings out laughter and the best in others.

These photos are not a timeline of President Holland's tenure at UVU, but rather a window into the person — and husband and father — that he is. We're sure he would want the spotlight on students rather than himself or his family. But in this instance, we will just have to rely on forgiveness and wish them luck as they move forward.

All the best,

*August Miller and the
UVU photo staff, present and past*





Family has been a huge part of the Hollands' time at UVU. During this photo shoot with the couple, President Holland spontaneously swept his wife Paige up into his arms.





Whether at work, at play, or with the family, President Holland has always made time to have fun — including a wide variety of apparel choices.



President Holland valued his interpersonal relationships with students, Wolverine student-athletes, coaches, and legislators, including the late Becky Lockhart (right).





No matter the setting, from a Christmas celebration with Barbara Barrington Jones and children at the Wee Care Center (top) to an impromptu Martin Short impression during a formal photo shoot with former university presidents (bottom left), President Holland's personality shone through.



Becoming a President

An oral history of the early days of President Matthew S. Holland's time at UVU



Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a conversation between UVU President Matthew S. Holland, vice president Linda Makin, and vice president Kyle Reyes about the first year of the Holland administration. It has been edited for length and clarity.

MSH — I was appointed in March 2009, and I had this belief about — you know, you're judged much more by how you leave an institution than how you start an institution. I still had a full-time job at BYU. I was busy teaching. I had grading to do. I had students to take care of and I didn't want to not serve them well and give them 100 percent, so that was very much on my mind. Everything was just hitting me so new and so fresh, and I just needed a minute to get my wits about me about how we were going to launch this thing.

KR — As somebody who was not in leadership,

the buzz around UVU campus at that time was that we knew one candidate, and the other two were relative unknowns. I still remember leading up to the announcement a number of people softly placing bets. The majority of bets were not on Matt Holland, from the rank-and-file of the folks that I had talked to.

LM — There became, at least for me, one key point of contact, and that was Val Hale. He became this emissary of some key people, a strategy of introduction to the university and key players.

MSH — That was true. Val showed up at the

*Edited by Layton Shumway
Photography by August Miller*



house a couple times — one time when I was in my bathrobe.

KR — How much did [UVU interim president] Liz Hitch play that buffer for you, and how much did she say about what you should know moving forward?

MSH — Liz was just outstanding in that transition — that process that could have been very complicated. There could have been a lot of different reactions, by Liz, by me, by us together. I really give her credit. Part of it is just who she is. She is a straightforward, very competent, professionally committed individual who loved

the institution, and I think she was wanting to see a good transition happen.

You may remember that famous moment of the flowers that were delivered as we were moving in to campus there. Paige thought the flowers were from me, but they were from you guys. It worked very well, and Liz played a very helpful role in all that.

LM — When it came time for commencement that year, I know it was President Monson,

MSH — Oh, yeah.

LM — We wondered, “Should we have Matt Holland come?” and some of us were like,

“Wait, but Liz is president.” I don’t even know where you sat. At that time I wasn’t sitting on the stand. I just remember being in the room. But that was Liz’s suggestion.

MSH — I was on the stand, and there were a couple of moments, like where Liz was in the processional, where I was sort of left playing that presidential role with the LDS Church First Presidency and some of the donors and trustees. I gave Liz great credit for reaching out, making that offer to me and letting me be a part of it.

KR — I don’t know if I ever asked you this, but



It was an unexpected, sweet experience.



I still remember sitting in Centre Stage when they announced you and you and Paige walked in. When did they let you know?

MSH — It was about 10 minutes before I walked in that room.

KR — 10 minutes! Walk us through that process.

MSH — The day of the interviews, that was a wild ride day.

KR — At that point, the other candidates also didn't know?

MSH — I think they had been told. I was told after the morning's interviews where I wasn't supposed to see the other candidates, but of course, I ran into both of them.

LM — It's a small place.

MSH — [I was told] I should go home. I think I was told that the chair of the Board of Regents would call me at 12:30. So I had finished up about 11 or 11:30 or so. I had about an hour — enough to go home, collapse and fall asleep. I woke myself up at 12:20 so I wouldn't have a groggy voice.

12:30, no call. 12:35, no call. 12:40, no call. 12:45, no call. I'm looking at Paige, thinking, "This doesn't look very good." 12:50-ish, Cameron calls me and asks, "Could you come back to campus for a discussion?" In retrospect, I might have seen that as a positive sign, but just because it was late, I figured, "OK, it's not me." So I drove out, assuming I did not get it. I drove out pretty discouraged. It was a pretty quiet ride.

So I've got like 20 minutes of percolation time, assuming it's not me. And then I'm taken into this room. Literally, as I sat down, they said, "We'd like to offer you the job of being president of Utah Valley University." And Paige just starts to cry, because she had been with me on the ride out and was already a little tearful anyway.

At that point, all of a sudden Karen walks in the room with a corsage and says, "Congratulations! We're going to take you out for this press conference, but there's someone on the phone who wants to talk to you." And it was my dad. It was an unexpected, sweet experience.

And then they're walking me out into Centre Stage. I remember walking in and somehow through the little pipe and drape, I saw Alexis Palmer, and she could see me. She had this big smile on her face. I just took that as a good sign. I had been Alexis's bishop.

LM — I didn't know that.

MSH — There was this intent to keep me secret, but people were peeking, and then all of a sudden, I'm there, and it's lights and a big roomful of people.

LM — After the announcement, you and Paige stood at the front of the room, and you were just bombarded with people and the press and everybody, but for us [the UVU administration] it was just this feeling of — our futures are about to be announced at somebody else's

hands, and we'll see what happens. It was an interesting day, an emotional day.

KR — My favorite moment as a staffer was what I consider to be what I call the “number one draft pick” moment, with the ball cap. To me, growing up, watching the NBA draft and always seeing the suits and then the team that you're going to play for, you just know that this is symbolic. In no other setting do you see a ball cap and a suit. So all of a sudden Matt dons the Wolverine ball cap, all of a sudden joining this team. That for me was huge. It was a great moment.

—
LM — We have to start with the white powder. We have to start with Day Two, because you've got your plan.

KR — The business building, right?

LM — Yeah. You've got your plan, so you're planning your week, and then what happens?

MSH — So, it was Day Two, and I think we had [UVU donor] Kem Gardner and somebody else down to visit, but we get this report there's an unidentified white substance on a table at the ROTC table in the business building. The ROTC thing can be a flashpoint for some people, and this was post-9/11, and anthrax scares, and all of that. We had this red booklet and some big binder somewhere, but other than that, I was literally starting from scratch about what to do. It consumed the better part of that day. And I had all these things I wanted to get done, and messages to send and people to respond to and letters to write, and we're dealing with something that probably was someone's protein powder left from a shake that they didn't create.

But that was a great early lesson drill, to say, “Oh my gosh, there are a ton of things I need to be prepared for.” I can tell you emergency preparedness was nowhere on my radar screen on Day One, and by Day Two, I knew this was going to be a major element of this administration — to have us ready for virtually any emergency that we would face.

LM — To have that be Day Two was just unbelievable. I do think it did cue up the whole emergency preparedness, which has been a theme throughout your administration.

MSH — A culture of safety.

LM — Yes, a culture of safety.

MSH — We had that red book, but that was... not useless, but—

KR — It was more for show almost.

MSH — It was the idea. We need to set up guidelines, but more importantly, we need to

learn to respond holistically as a campus in general.

LM — I also think you got to meet people on Day Two that you weren't planning to meet for a long time.

MSH — That's true. That's absolutely right.

KR — I think one big win early to signal the type of president that you would be for the campus was your Summer University presentation in May of 2009. You and I had met earlier, through Val Hale courting a potential donor. I remember you walking by and you remembered my name. I said, “That's our new president.” And someone asked, “How does he know your name already?” I was like, “Don't worry about it.”

Then you went on and you did this presentation that was very self-deprecating [...] everybody was laughing at every slide, and it was one of those things where everybody was like, “I could totally work for this guy.”

MSH — You guys were helpful on that. Somehow someone had gotten it in my head to personalize it. That was that dance again of, “I can't walk on that campus and give a great vision, in part because I don't have it yet. Even if I did, it wouldn't be the right time or place to do it.” I wanted to form a connection and send a message, so I'm glad that worked. ■



TEAM UTAH

OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS



LEFT TO RIGHT: **HYRUM SMITH | MERILEE LARSEN | SUZY COX | KOLENE MILLS**
OLGA RUIZ KOPP | MATTHEW NORTH | ALAN MISBACH | MARK BORCHELT



By **BARBARA CHRISTIANSEN**
Photography by **AUGUST MILLER AND HANS KOEPSSELL**



These are the outstanding educators for each college, based on votes from the Class of 2018:

Hyrum Smith

Woodbury School of Business

A professional in residence, Hyrum Smith is a Certified Financial Planner and Certified Public Accountant. He has been at UVU since 2013 and is also a partner at a wealth management practice. He has taught at Virginia Tech, worked for an international public accounting firm, and been a senior treasury analyst for Albertson's headquarter offices.

He was recently the faculty advisor of a team of UVU students that placed first overall in a national financial planning challenge.

"I love challenging students to think not just about the content, whether it be retirement or tax planning, but showing them how in practice these topics can be crafted uniquely together to help a client more fully reach goals," he says.

Merilee Larsen

College of Health and Public Service

Merilee M. Larsen earned a bachelor's in community health from then-Utah Valley State College, and a master's and doctorate of public health from Loma Linda University. She has been at UVU for 18 years in fire sciences and public and community health. She received the Adjunct Faculty of Excellence Award from UVU in 2010.

"There are two great aspects of working at UVU," she says. "First are the amazing students and alumni that I get to interact with. Second is the awesome faculty and staff. I get to be a part of a dynamic group who support each other, work well together, and work hard toward creating the next generation of health educators."

Suzy Cox

School of Education

An associate professor in the School of Education, Suzy Cox has a bachelor's degree in Spanish, and master's and doctoral degrees in instructional psychology and technology, all from Brigham Young University. She has

been at UVU since 2006, has also taught at Lakeridge Junior High School, and currently serves as a volunteer teacher at Springville High School. Cox received an Outstanding Educator award at UVU in 2011-12.

"I am lucky to work in secondary education, which allows me to interact with outstanding colleagues and an exceptional student body, all of whom are focused on the health and success of adolescents," she says.

Kolene Mills

University College

Kolene Mills is both an alumna and employee of UVU. She earned a bachelor's in English and literature from Utah Valley State College and a master's in rhetoric and composition from Northern Arizona University. She has worked in various capacities at UVU. She is director of academic tutoring in University College and is a member of the National College Learning Center Association.

"I love that UVU continues to focus on student success and that I'm encouraged — professionally and personally — to make an impact...I love that it is still a happy and safe home to me, my curiosity is still encouraged, my growth is still a priority, and that our students are always the most important part of this campus community," she says.

Olga Ruiz Kopp

College of Science

Olga Ruiz Kopp earned a bachelor's degree in Bogotá, Colombia, and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has been at UVU since 2003, where she has been a full professor since fall 2017. She also received the Outstanding Educator award for the 2007-08 school year, plus numerous other awards at UVU and the University of Tennessee.

"The best part of working at UVU is the opportunity to serve students and guide them on their path to success, engaging them inside and outside the classroom in learning and research, and encouraging them to find their inner strength, to publish their work, to find new horizons so they can be successful," she says.

Matthew North

College of Engineering and Technology

Matthew North is an assistant professor of information systems and technology. He has been a software engineer at eBay and project manager for University Computer Systems. He earned a doctorate in technology education from West Virginia University, master of science from Utah State University, bachelor's in history from BYU, and certificate of proficiency in legal studies from UVU.

"For me, the single best aspect of working at UVU is the students," he says. "Our institutional emphasis on teaching ensures that I get to be a true educator, and that my primary professional goal is the success of my students."

Alan Misbach

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Alan Misbach is an assistant professor of social work and director of field education. He came to UVU after 20 years as a licensed clinical social worker with a master's degree in social work from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He had been director of social work at Utah State Hospital, implementing a successful trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy program. He has been a therapist at six facilities and served as president of the Utah chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

"The greatest aspect of working at UVU is the students," he says. "I'm honored to be a part of their education. Students are intelligent, mature, competent, and eager to learn."

Mark Borchelt

School of the Arts

Mark Borchelt is an associate professor and has earned a bachelor's in psychology and master of fine arts — ballet, both from the University of Utah. He has danced professionally for 15 years. He has taught at the University of Utah, Southern Methodist University, and Cornish College in Seattle. He has been director of dance at the Interlochen Arts academy in Michigan and a faculty member at Harvard University's Project Zero. He received a U.S. Department of Education Educator Award while at Interlochen and a Faculty Excellence Award from SMU.

"I am continually impressed by the degree to which our students at UVU want to make a difference in the world around them," he says.

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