

UVU magazine

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UVU IS READY TO TAKE THE STAGE PG. 12

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One of the things I am proudest of at Utah Valley University is our mandate to serve the needs of our region and the community of people who call Utah Valley home. From lifelong learning activities to spirited athletic competitions, breathtaking performing arts productions, and engagement with the local business community, we are dedicated to being a vibrant driver of academic, economic, and cultural enrichment and development. That is why I was beyond delighted to arrive on campus when the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts was just a few months shy of completion and finally opened in January 2019. UVU has built a venue where our students, faculty, and the broader arts community can delight audiences with dance, music, theater, and other spectacular performances. As you will read in this issue, an army of like-minded supporters have leveraged passion, commitment, and effort to plan, fund, and build the Noorda Center. It is a venue that only exists because of the collaborative and critical investments of many friends, supporters, and legislative advocates. We are privileged to be stewards of this center. We will be offering a vast array of inspiring and enriching cultural events for the region, and will enhance our educational offerings for students and the community. The Week of Dreams in March was an awe-inspiring introduction to all that we will be able to offer through the Noorda Center at UVU. I felt particularly honored and delighted to have my inauguration celebrated at The Noorda during the Week of Dreams.

In addition to investing in the economic and cultural life of our valley, UVU prides itself on being the university that says to each and every member of our community, “Come as you are. UVU has a place for you.” We understand the power of being an open-admissions institution, serving as the first choice for an ever-growing number of students and the place of second, third, and fourth chances for so many others. Because of my own educational experience as a child in the Philippines, one of the initiatives that I am most passionate about is our First-Generation

Completion Initiative, which provides scholarships and programming for students who are first in their families to pursue a university education. I was thrilled to announce at the 2018 Presidential Scholarship Ball that we were launching a \$15 million campaign for first-generation students. Since that time, we have made steady progress in our fundraising efforts, but still have a ways to go. Students and alumni have embraced this campaign, raising financial support for their peers and fellow Wolverines. I am happy that UVU Magazine is spotlighting our first-generation students and programming. I hope that this story will inspire you to support this important campaign.

As you continue to read through this edition, you will learn more about two important and transformative programs at UVU: our newly launched MBA program at Thanksgiving Point, which is partnered with Silicon Slopes, and our English as a Second Language program. This is UVU at its best — serving the diverse needs of our community with innovation and purpose. You will also be treated to a firsthand look at our Culinary Arts program and our Salt Flats racing team, two programs that shine because of the talents of our students and professors.

As always, thank you for your support of Utah Valley University and our students. We are writing this story together. Please be assured of my deep commitment to UVU and its mission, and my passion in being a fierce advocate for every member of our community.

Warmest regards,

Astrid S. Tuminez, Ph.D.
President

PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER



ASTRID S. TUMINEZ INAUGURATED AS SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF UVU

Using her personal story as a backdrop, Dr. Astrid S. Tuminez urged the “village of constituents” of Utah Valley University to work with her toward a goal of student success, as she was formally given the mantle of leadership at her inauguration Wednesday in Orem.

Surrounded by dignitaries and colleagues, Tuminez, a native of the Philippines, outlined past achievements of UVU, now the university with the highest enrollment in Utah, and set the tone for her administration by sharing her “verbs of commitment,” which she listed as “include, engage, and achieve.”

“We are in the business of people and their dreams,” she said. “It sometimes takes a village to move where we need to go. You are our village. Please work with us.”

Using the theme of “It Takes a Village,” Tuminez shared experi-

ences from her childhood villages, her village of faith, her village of mentors, her village of family, and a village made up of those involved with higher education at UVU to present highlights from the university’s past and to share her hopes for the future.

“What percentage of those who are capable of achieving their dreams actually achieve them?” Tuminez asked several times during her presentation, quoting author Malcolm Gladwell. “I started life as a statistic and would have remained a statistic if people would not have helped me.”

Tuminez, the seventh president of UVU, outlined her desire to continue to fulfill the institution’s mission of a dual-purpose university, that is, of combining both a full university and a community college. She described that dual-mission approach as the correct model for today’s fast-moving and disruptive technological and global landscape — and “very appropriate” with regard to higher education.

“But what kind of education experience will help our students become more skilled, more confident, more resilient, more kind, more ethical, and more honest?” Tuminez asked.

Elaine S. Dalton, chair of the UVU Board of Trustees, who conducted the inauguration program, said she had “renewed joy and confidence” in Tuminez’s appointment and was elated to see the love for students that was expressed during the ceremony. Among those speaking were student-athletes from various UVU teams who expressed their appreciation for Tuminez’s support and their UVU experience. Tuminez’s daughter, Michal, also gave remarks.

Representing other institutions of higher education in Utah was Noelle Cockett, president of Utah State University. She noted that with President Tuminez’s appointment, there are now five female university presidents among the 10 institutions in the Utah System of Higher Education. She said that statistic might be a goal or milestone in an affirmative action sense, but that she believes it is because of the type of leadership the women bring to the table.

Cockett commended Tuminez for presenting an agenda of “I see you, and I believe in you” at UVU. She urged Tuminez to continue to reach out to those communities that are underrepresented in higher education.

“Elitism has no place in higher education. There are many paths to success in higher education,” Cockett said. “The future of UVU, of Utah County, of the state of Utah is very bright, indeed, because of the appointment of Astrid S. Tuminez as president of this university.”

Other speakers included David L. Buhler, commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education, Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert, Gary Browning, a mentor and friend of Tuminez from her years as an undergraduate student at BYU, and Harris H. Simmons, chair of the Utah State Board of Regents.

Among the goals expressed by Tuminez in her extemporaneous presentation, highlighted by slides and visuals, were to have the university present exceptional care, exceptional accountability, and exceptional results. She said UVU “must obsess” about achieving higher graduation rates for its students.



UVU'S NEW BUSINESS BUILDING TO CONTINUE FUELING UTAH'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

Utah Valley University received \$50 million from the Utah State Legislature to greatly help fund its \$75 million new business building. The school will raise the remaining \$25 million — of which \$13 million have already been secured. A groundbreaking is planned for fall, and completion is expected for late 2021.

“Over its lifetime, this building will help literally hundreds of thousands of students master salient business concepts through hands-on application of theory,” said Norm Wright, dean of the Woodbury School of Business. “This building will help create the industry ties students need to build meaningful careers, provide for their families, and strengthen our community. I am grateful to the legislature for its foresight in funding the building, and for many business leaders who are making a difference in the lives of our students every day.”

The 180,000-square-foot project will be constructed in the Lake-side parking lot and consist of a state-of-the-art business building and a convenient entry for UVX commuters and others to the rest of campus. The business building and gateway project will revitalize the south side of campus, providing a new “front door” for UVU. The existing Woodbury Building will continue to be used for classrooms, offices, and academic programs.

NEW UVU MASTER'S DEGREES, BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS MOVE FORWARD FOR APPROVALS

Three new master's programs and two new bachelor's degrees were approved by the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees on Nov. 29. The trustees approved the creation of graduate programs and degrees in financial planning and analytics, physician assistant studies, and marriage and family therapy.

The programs require approval by the Utah State Board of Regents and accreditation from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The programs, except for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies, could begin in the fall of 2019. The Master of Physician Assistant Studies program will begin instructing students in the spring of 2020.

The trustees also approved the creation of bachelor's degrees in architecture and in aerospace technology management.

UVU NAMES NEW PROVOST AND VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. F. Wayne Vaught has been named Utah Valley University's new provost and vice president for academic affairs, effective June 1, 2019. Dr. Vaught will replace Dr. Jeffery E. Olson, who is retiring after a distinguished 40-year career in higher education.

Prior to his appointment at UVU, Dr. Vaught had a 21-year career at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he served as a faculty member and then dean and chief academic officer of the College of Arts and Sciences. He oversaw 18 academic departments and 434 full and part-time faculty and staff members. Prior to UMKC, he taught at Allegheny University of the Health Sciences (merged with Drexel University), and Georgetown College in Kentucky.

“Dr. Vaught is a gifted academician and champion of higher education,” said Astrid S. Tuminez, president of Utah Valley University. “His accomplishments at UMKC are impressive. He understands students, faculty, what it takes to run a university, and, most importantly, he is the right person at the right time for UVU.”

“I am truly honored to be invited to be part of the UVU success story,” Vaught said. “The university's focus on inclusion, engaged learning, and student success caught my attention immediately, and I look forward to engaging with faculty and offering my skills and abilities toward that success.”



NBA CHAMPION MARK MADSEN NAMED MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH AT UVU

Two-time NBA champion, former Los Angeles Lakers assistant coach, and former Stanford University basketball star Mark Madsen was named UVU men's basketball head coach in April, becoming just the third coach for men's basketball in UVU's 16-year Division I history.

“Mark Madsen has reached the pinnacle of his sport as an NBA champion — not once, but twice. He knows what it takes to succeed in basketball and in life,” said President Tuminez. “Off the court, Coach Madsen earned a bachelor's degree in economics and an MBA before launching an extensive coaching career. With his strengths and experience, he will inspire our student-athletes in and out of competition, and will help us build even stronger relationships with our broader UVU community.”

Madsen takes over the Utah Valley program after serving the past six seasons as an assistant coach for the Los Angeles Lakers. He was a two-time NBA champion as a player with the Lakers (2001 and 2002), and he played for the Minnesota Timberwolves for six seasons.

“Utah Valley University is an amazing institution, and I'm excited to be the new head coach at the largest and fastest-growing school in the state of Utah,” Madsen said. “I love the mission that President Tuminez has put forth for the university, and I am excited to be a part of it. I can't wait to get to work and start helping our players achieve their goals.”

Following his playing career, Madsen served as an assistant coach during the 2009–10 season with the Utah Flash, formerly of the NBA G League, before returning to his alma mater, Stanford University, where he earned an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2012. That same year, he was named an assistant coach at Stanford on Johnny Dawkins' staff and spent the 2012–13 season working in recruiting, opponent game planning, and player skill development.

Madsen spent four years as a player at Stanford (1996–2000), where he earned All-American honors in each of his final two seasons while helping the Cardinal to four NCAA Tournament appearances, including the 1998 Final Four. He gained the nickname “Mad Dog” while at Stanford for his aggressive style of play. The nickname stayed with him throughout his NBA career. Madsen averaged 10.9 points and 7.0 rebounds per game during his four seasons with the Cardinal. He ranks fourth all-time in field goal percentage (58.7) and sixth in rebounds (857). During his time at Stanford, the team compiled an impressive 105-24 overall record.

“Mark Madsen embodies the mission and vision that we strive for here at UVU. He's hungry and filled with passion. Coach Madsen will work tirelessly to help his players achieve their dreams,” said Jared Sumsion, interim athletic director.

A native of Danville, Calif., Madsen earned his undergraduate degree in economics in 2000. He graduated from San Ramon Valley High School and served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Spain. He and his wife, Hannah, have one son, William.

RENDERING BY METHOD STUDIO

PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

“IT’S AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM, THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS. ONE YEAR I TOOK DESKS OUT THERE AND SET THEM UP ON THE SALT FLATS.



ON THE FAST TRACK

Salt flats becomes classroom for dedicated UVU automotive students

BY JAY WAMSLEY | PHOTOS BY JAY DROWNS



IMAGINE a classroom that is a 30,000-acre expanse of hard, white salt crust, 12 miles long and five miles wide, where sunglasses and floppy hats are required, and the day’s instruction is punctuated by the loud roar of racing engines.

Each fall, at the beginning of the new school year, about a dozen students from Utah Valley University’s automotive technology program gather at what must be the most unusual classroom in the West, certainly one of the most expansive.

“What a great classroom,” Todd Low, professor for 27 years in the UVU automotive technology department, says of the Bonneville Salt Flats and the UVU Racing Team experience. “It’s an extension of the classroom, that’s exactly what it is. One year I took desks out there and set them up on the salt flats. Now that was a great image.”

With his team of students in tow, Low uses an event known as The World of Speed, held during the second week of September, as a chance to see the hard work which started in the classrooms of the Sparks Automotive Building on the UVU campus be put to an exciting test.

This past year, the team set a new record for speed for its Wolverine green machine, going 214 miles per hour, with Low at the wheel.

“We had been 204 in that car a few years earlier,” Low says. “We changed some things last year, got to 198, but this year we went 214. I’m the driver, but I involve the team really heavily. One is in charge of the tires, and I have another in charge of everything to do with the fuel, and what’s related with that. We break it down like that.

“The students have an idea of what their job will be before we leave for summer break, and they think about it all summer. When we come back, it is hands-down busy for everyone, so we can get to the salt. Someone’s even in charge of packing the parachute. There’s a lot of work and the students love it — they step up and do what’s needed to get it done.”

After setting this record this past season, the UVU race car actually caught on fire and

suffered some damage.

“It’s a mess right now,” Low says. “We’ve cleaned it up, but it will be a lot of work to get it back together.” Low says while driving he heard “a pop and a bang” in the turbocharger, so he knew “something was wrong.” By the time he shut it off, got off the track, and hit the fire extinguishers, “it was flaming pretty bad ... it was burning my seat belts and my fire suit got a little scorch on it. But we were all safe, so we were good. Now we just got to fix it.”

The students enjoy the teamwork involved in getting the 1969 El Camino onto the hard-pan white surface for an extension of their academics.

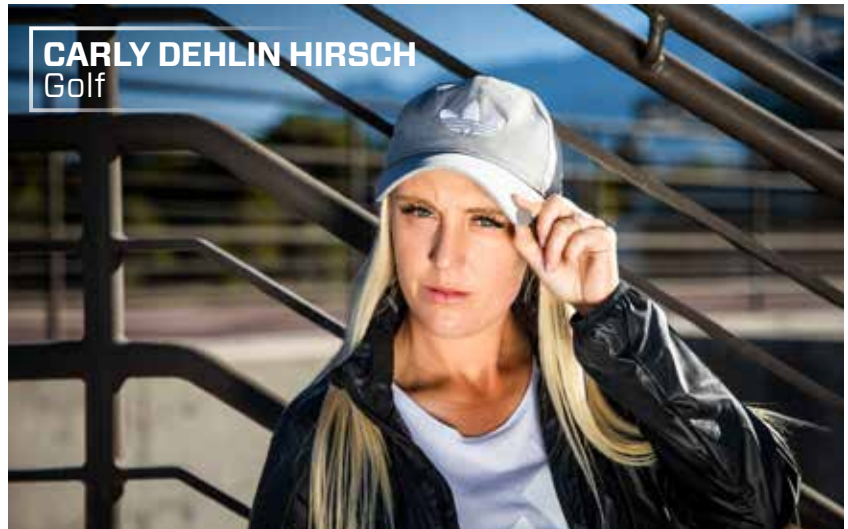
“What I was looking for from the team was more mechanical experience from working with cars,” student Lucas Smith says, “particularly race cars. And I’ve always been interested in learning how a team works together when putting a race car together.”

Fellow student Korteney Stewart says the racing team is a lot of fun. She says she considers team members like brothers, “and they don’t ever really judge you... they are all hard workers.”

Low says the racing team and the depth of research-type activities his students undertake keep his department running at a high level.

“I have had great success with engaged learning,” he says, “just getting them out of the classroom. Plus, I believe in doing undergraduate research. We’ve gone to the national undergraduate research conference multiple times, doing things we tested on the car. Talk about engaged learning — that is what gets students going.” ■





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= *Ride* =

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lasting impact!**

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\$16 special plate fee, and
an annual \$25 donation
toward scholarships
for UVU students

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CALL CURTAIN

**WITH THE NEW
NOORDA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS,
UVU IS READY TO TAKE THE STAGE**

By LAYTON SHUMWAY | Photos by JAY DROWNS, AUGUST MILLER,
BROOKE STEINICKE, ERIC FLORES, KIM RAFF, UNIVERSITY MARKETING

IT'S TRADITION, when celebrating the opening of a new building, to cut a ceremonial ribbon, usually with an oversized pair of scissors. But on March 25, 2019, Utah Valley University President Astrid S. Tuminez, joined by university and community leaders, chose a different cutting implement: a pair of cavalier-style dueling sabers.

The choice wasn't a random one. The swords were delivered moments earlier by a pair of actors — UVU School of the Arts alumnus Benjamin Henderson and sophomore Jacob Thomason — who, dressed in full Shakespearean garb, had staged a mock sword fight across the walkways and down the steps of UVU's new Noorda Center for the Performing Arts.

What better way, after all, to celebrate the new home of the performing arts at UVU than with a performance?

"It was so much fun to be a part of this honor by using the thing we've trained in," Hender-son says.

For too long, students in UVU's School of the Arts have trained in spaces and performed in facilities that were ill-equipped and never intended for such use, especially at the institu-tion's current scale. But now, thanks to the efforts of countless people — from UVU leaders and employees to generous donors to state legislators, and even a world-famous face or two — the performing arts at UVU, and in Utah County, have a new home. And the curtain just went up.

EVERYTHING WITH NOTHING

UVU was founded as a vocational school over 75 years ago, but that hasn't stopped the university's performing arts students from excelling, especially in recent years. In 2013 and 2014, UVU theatre faculty and students received top honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival — the first university in the nation to win that prize in back-to-back years. In 2015, UVU's Ballroom Dance Tour Team won a world championship at the British Ballroom Formation Dance Competition in Blackpool, England. And graduates throughout the School of the Arts have gone on to successful careers as performers, composers, and professional creators.

Until now, though, they've had to do all that in practice facilities and performance spaces that simply didn't match the quality of the talent on hand, according to Stephen Pullen, dean of UVU's School of the Arts. Music and theatre students had to double up in the Gunther Technology Building, just down the hall from automotive classrooms and metalworking shops. Concerts and dramatic productions were limited to spaces designed for lectures, not performances. Dancers had to crowd into physical education classrooms and gyms.

"Prior to this building there was a thriving, robust, vibrant school of the arts here at Utah Valley University," Pullen says. "Amazing faculty, who have been trained at some of the top conservatories and universities in the country, teaching and mentoring and training some of the most talented students you will find anywhere in the United States. But they were doing it without any kind of facility. They were doing it in places I called 'dungeons' because they were that dismal. And yet the kind of work that was being accomplished by these remarkable facul-ty members and these astounding students was mind-blowing."

As programs within the School of the Arts continued to excel — and as UVU grew large enough to become a full-fledged university and gain more public attention — it became clear to K. Newell Dayley, School of the Arts dean before Pullen, that something had to change.

"The story of this building begins with the faculty, staff, and students who did everything with nothing," Dayley says. "They got the programs to a certain point where we had to have a building. That's where the story begins."

Together with then-UVU President Matthew S. Holland, Dayley came out of retirement to spearhead efforts to give UVU the performing arts facilities its students — and community — deserved. They and other UVU leaders sparked a fundraising campaign which raised more than \$22 million in private donations in two years, led by an anchor gift from the Ray & Tye Noorda Foundation. That's the largest amount of private funding raised for a new building in UVU history to date.

THE STORY OF THIS BUILDING BEGINS WITH THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS WHO DID EVERYTHING WITH NOTHING.

Upon seeing the response from UVU do-nors and community partners, in 2016 the Utah State Legislature granted UVU another \$30 million in funding. Finally, the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts could become a reality.

"My hat is really off to this faculty, a group of 75-80 people who have done amazing, incredible things with substandard facilities," Pullen says. "They've gotten creative, they've made sacrifices, they've turned venues that are not meant to be performing venues into performing venues. But now that we have these facilities, which are state of the art, we can really take off in ways that we haven't been able to before."

CREATING FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Noorda, as it has come to be known, is effectively five separate buildings under one roof. Each section of the 130,000-square-foot building was built with its own foundation, walls, and insulation to prevent noise transfer from one venue to the next. There are seven venues in all, designed with not just perfor-mance in mind but recording as well. Each one functions as a professional soundstage with audio and video that feeds back to a central re-cording studio, which can be used by commer-cial music students.

The 889-seat Concert Hall is the largest performance venue, and it will serve more than UVU students and faculty alone. It's also the new home of the Utah Symphony in Utah County. The renowned ensemble christened the new venue during March's "Week of Dreams," a series of performances in The Noorda planned in tandem with the inaugu-ration of President Tuminez. The symphony will play at The Noorda six more times over the next 12 months, with concerts featuring the works of John Williams, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, and Dvorak, among others.

"The new partnership with UVU at the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts rep-resents a very significant initiative for us," says Paul Meecham, president and CEO of Utah Symphony and Utah Opera. "Situated in the heart of Utah's fastest-growing county, this beautiful new concert hall will become our long-term home in Utah Valley, meeting our goal to serve more Utahns, and encouraging businesses and individuals to support our work in schools and the community."

The ribbon-cutting for The Noorda, with key donors including Andy Noorda (right) present, kicked off UVU's Week of Dreams, featuring performers including Jason Alexander (above), Broadway star Sierra Boggess (previous page), and UVU's own amazing performing ensembles.





Every performance during the Week of Dreams made audiences part of the show, from sword fights, to dancing with Jason Alexander, to a master class for UVU and high school students with Sierra Boggess.



THE NEW NOORDA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS PROVIDES UVU STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART VENUE FOR ARTS EDUCATION. HERE ARE A FEW OF THE BUILDING'S FEATURES.

THE
NOORDA CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

The Noorda is a modern space for true artistic collaboration. The logo, composed of two paired semicircles, represents The Noorda's vision for true connection. It captures the movement, collaboration, and transformative power of the creative process.

27 private teaching studios

27 soundproof practice rooms

7 performance venues

CONCERT HALL:
889 seats
165-seat choir loft
The Utah County home for the Utah Symphony

OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATRE:
150 seats

SCOTT AND KAREN SMITH THEATRE:
502-seat proscenium theatre
Orchestra pit with space for a 35-piece ensemble

130,000 square feet, built as **five** separate buildings, each with its own foundation, walls, and insulation to prevent noise transfer from one venue to the next.

NU SKIN RECITAL HALL:
Transforms from classroom to performance venue

NAMED VENUES:
O.C. Tanner Atrium
Barbara Barrington Jones Family Foundation Dance Theatre Concert Hall
Scott & Karen Smith Theatre
Melanie Laycock Bastian Theatre
Nu Skin Recital Hall
Curtis & Lisa Blair Family Box Office
Christopher Clark Green Room
Jeanette Hales Beckham Dean's Suite
Sandefur Schmidt Music Library
Paul Pollei Piano Suites

Approximately 120 productions each year



Another high-profile performer took the stage at The Noorda during the Week of Dreams: actor Jason Alexander, who has forged a surprising friendship with UVU over the past decade. First invited to campus through UVU School of the Arts Events and Production Manager Traci Hainsworth, Alexander has made a personal effort both in holding workshops and master classes for UVU and local high school students, as well as serving as a fundraising ally.

“I don’t believe in art for art’s sake,” Alexander told UVU Magazine in 2014. “You are creating for your community. You’re an artist that has set up shop here. And if you want to be in dialogue with your audience, you must understand who your audience is and serve them. So an arts building here serves not just this campus but an ever-growing concentric circle of community. UVU has a really good eye on that.”

While community members will certainly benefit from The Noorda, UVU faculty, staff, and students are even more excited.

“It encourages me that there’s a lot of support from the community for this kind of thing,” says Thomason, one of The Noorda’s ribbon-cutting knights. “Going from a small

black box [theatre] to a huge proscenium means we get to practice different techniques and train in different environments. It gives us fantastic opportunities all around.”

“Some of our students had better facilities at their high schools than we had here,” says Linda Moore, School of the Arts assistant dean. “Now our students can graduate having had experiences performing in an actual concert hall instead of a lecture hall stage. Our music, our theatre, our dance, our opera students get to perform on a proscenium stage, with a fly loft and an orchestra pit. Those two things alone are huge. They’re going to learn how to do things we couldn’t teach them before.”

The Noorda raises UVU’s profile as a whole too, according to School of the Arts Marketing Manager Kaitlin Taft. She says having a facility equipped to handle outside performers like the Utah Symphony and Alexander will help change how the community perceives the arts in Utah County.

“Our students and faculty were already talented,” Taft says. “But I think being able to say we have bigger names coming in makes it feel like we’re really a city now. We’re really an

arts-focused community.”

That’s significant for Pullen, who serves as The Noorda’s artistic director in addition to his duties as dean. It’s his responsibility to put together a performance season that weaves student and professional productions together in a way that benefits the whole community.

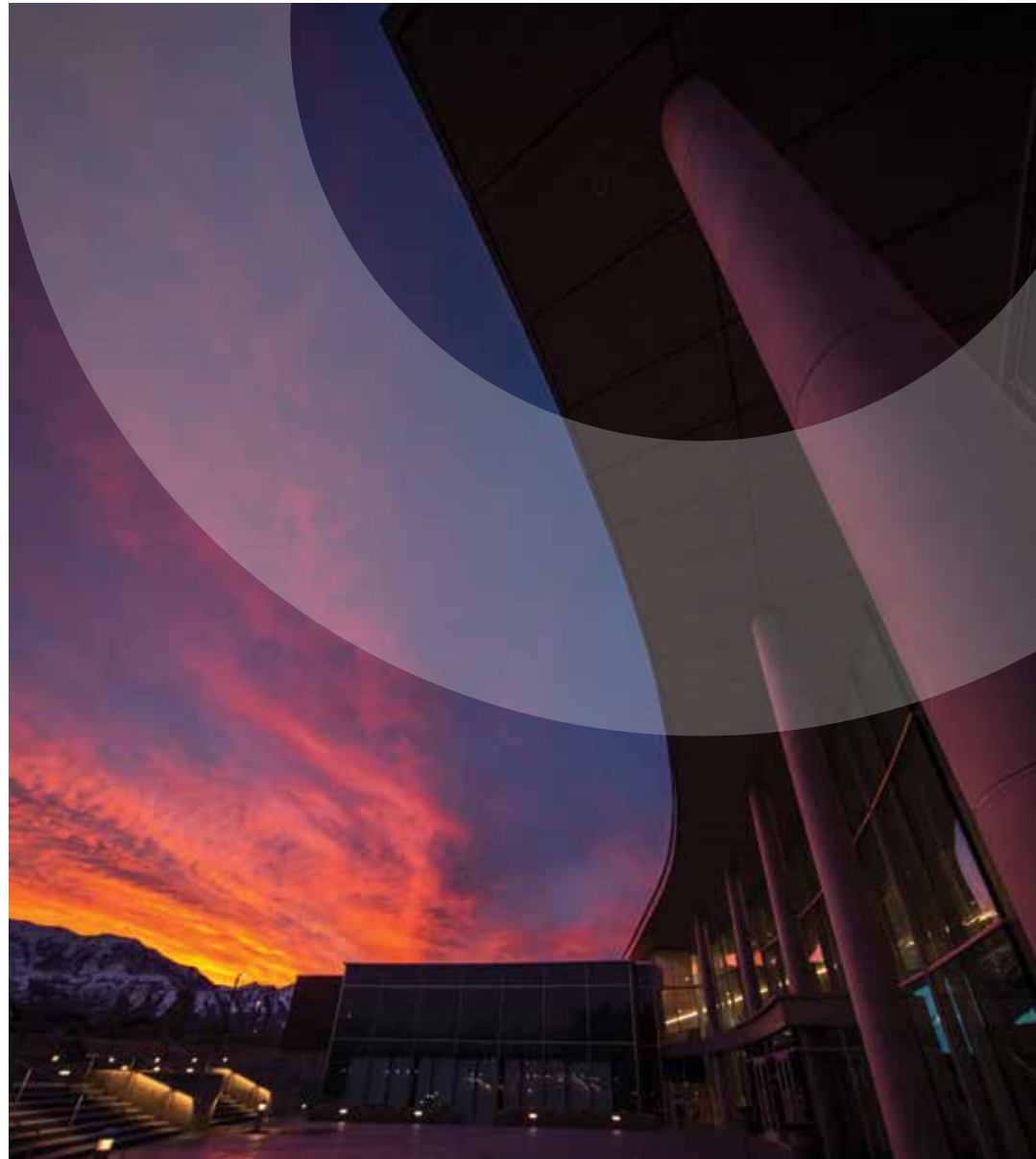
“We wanted our students to have direct exposure to these professional performers,” Pullen says. “We wanted them to work with them, to rehearse with them, to have master classes and educational opportunities. And we also know there’s an expectation to see nationally and internationally known professional artists in this venue. I’m glad that we’re going in this direction because I think we’re going to knock people’s socks off.”

“The arts make us better people, the arts elevate us, the arts break our hearts and make us better,” President Tuminez said during the center’s opening. “What we do here will outlive us.” ■

**AN ARTS
BUILDING HERE
SERVES NOT JUST
THIS CAMPUS
BUT AN
EVER-GROWING
CONCENTRIC
CIRCLE OF
COMMUNITY.**



Actor and activist Terry Crews (far left) gave an inspiring personal message during his Presidential Lecture, and a Masquerade Ball in The Noorda, with President Tuminez in costume, provided the perfect end to the Week of Dreams.



FINISHING FIRST

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY IS FORGING AVENUES AND BUILDING
FOUNDATIONS FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS TO THRIVE.

by **KIM BOJÓRQUEZ** | Photos by **JAY DROWNS**



BRADY SILVA ▶



◀ MARY RIVERA

AFTER BRADY SILVA spent a summer in Utah with relatives, his parents decided it was best for him to make his visit permanent in hopes that he would have better educational opportunities in the U.S. Originally from the Dominican Republic, Silva was living in Puerto Rico with his family when he was told he was moving to Utah.

“It was always vital for me to continue my education, and having the support of my family helped me make entering academia a priority,” Silva says.

Once he completed high school, Silva visited Utah Valley University’s Multicultural Student Services (MSS), which is what he calls the “deciding factor” in his decision to enroll in classes on the Orem campus.

“I was on my own, and as soon as I stepped into campus, it felt like a second home,” Silva says.

One of the most important factors for Silva was finding a group of people that he felt connected with. Fortunately, he found a sense of belonging in MSS and joined a Latino student club on campus known for bringing “Bachata Fest” to campus. It is a Latin dance event that grows larger each year and donates a portion of its proceeds toward student scholarships.

First-generation students navigate through the college experience differently compared to traditional students. At UVU, a student is first

Belinda ‘Otukolo Saltiban, UVU’s chief inclusion and diversity officer and a first-generation student herself, says the First-Generation Completion Initiative is important to UVU’s inclusion efforts. They are key to UVU’s mission and Strategic Inclusion Plan, which strive to provide access, equity, and opportunity to all students.

“One of the defining characteristics of first-generation students is that many don’t have an at-home support network in preparation to go to college and while in college,” Nagaishi says. “Sometimes tied to that is something that is often called ‘imposter syndrome,’ when they feel that they don’t belong here or that they are not like these other ‘smart kids’ whose parents or grandparents went to college. We have a lot of

**“I WAS ON MY OWN, AND
AS SOON AS I STEPPED INTO
CAMPUS, IT FELT LIKE A
SECOND HOME.”**

generation if neither parent nor guardian has completed a bachelor’s degree in the U.S. First-generation students are trailblazers in their families, and often decide to pursue higher education at a great cost. According to Garrett Nagaishi, UVU’s I Am First program manager, first-generation students are irrespective of class, ethnicity, gender, and major.

“They are everywhere throughout the university,” Nagaishi says. “They’re across departments, colleges, and majors evenly throughout the university.”

Currently first-generation students reflect 36% of the university’s enrollment numbers, and that number is growing by roughly one percent each year. I Am First seeks to connect first-generation students with a mentorship program, networking opportunities, and vital campus resources.

“We are leading the Utah schools in tracking the status of our first-generation students and providing support to them. We are leading the charge,” says Marcy Glassford, director of First-Year Experience and Student Retention at UVU.

students who feel this way, and they can’t always articulate it unless it’s actually brought to their attention.”

Without college survival tips or institutional history from their parents, many students come to college and don’t know the terminology or that they need to buy books. They face a lack of knowledge and understanding of where to turn.

“They are navigating the system all by themselves. The university experience is much more autonomous. They don’t have what we call that ‘university cultural capital’ to really know how to assertively navigate the university experience,” says Martha Wilson, assistant director of First-Year Experience and Orientation. According to Wilson, two-year degrees are popular among first-generation students.

“If what they want is a two-year degree, we fully support that but we are also trying to help them understand that there is more available to them,” Glassford says. “By providing support through Garrett’s office, through mentoring and scholarship funding, we’re hoping to encourage them to think a little bit broader if they are willing and interested in that.”

Toward the end of 2018 during the President’s Scholarship Ball, UVU President Astrid S. Tuminez announced a campaign to raise \$15 million for the initiative to support first-generation students. At the time of the announcement, UVU had raised \$3 million.

“UVU says to every person in this valley: Come as you are — bring your dreams, and we will help you with the support, structure, and care to make those dreams a reality,” she said. “With this First-Generation [Completion] Initiative, we want to underline that the dreams of first-generation students are not only valued, but they are achievable.”

Social work student Mary Rivera is the first in her family to attend college. Originally from Arizona, she enrolled in UVU’s social work program in order to make a difference like the social workers who impacted her life at a young age.

“I’ve always known I wanted to attend college, and my elementary school teachers encouraged me to because they said I was bright and that I had all this potential,” Rivera says. She adds she was keen on the idea of going to college when her fifth-grade teacher took her on a tour of a local university.

Applying for college was a struggle for Rivera, and she gathered together with three other friends to figure out how to enroll in classes.

“Navigating all the online forms, registration, FAFSA — we had to figure all that out on our own,” Rivera says. “It’s hard if you don’t know what’s going on.”

She came across the first-generation program when she received emails from Nagaishi. While the majority of students seek out the program to find a mentor, Rivera came into the program to become a mentor.

Even if she only helps one student, it’s enough to make a difference, she says. Currently, Rivera is acting as a mentor for her younger siblings and preparing them for college.

Rivera learned of the fundraising for first-generation students and says it could help a lot of students in her situation and inspire people who think that they can’t do it.

Rivera currently interns for the Family Justice Center in downtown Provo, Utah, which offers free legal advice and provides aid for victims of crimes like child abuse and domestic violence. Upon graduation, Rivera hopes to work in the field and continue her education by obtaining a master’s degree in social work.

At the age of 15, Keira Shae had just been placed in a foster home when her new guardians suggested she should attend college. Shae knew no one in her family had completed high school, and never thought of attending college as an option. She says she’s been nicknamed the “daughter of Provo” for having been helped by so many community resources as a youth.

“They encouraged me, but I remember rich people complaining about college so how could I ever go?” Shae says. “I never thought in a million years that I would get a scholarship, but I did.”

Upon graduating from high school Shae enrolled herself at UVU, where she would meet one of her greatest advocates, Professor Matthew Draper, from whom she took multiple psychology courses.

“I knew she had a luminous spirit,” Draper says. “Compared to her peers, she thought deeply, she wrote well. More importantly and impressively to me was the fact that she cared about where she was, who she was with, that being at UVU mattered.”

Early on, imposter syndrome overtook Shae as she was certain she’d flunk out of her first semester in college. But with the help of counselors and resources like the math lab, she ended up completing her first semester in college. She went on to complete her associate degree and pushed herself to earn a bachelor’s degree. Shae was even

“WITH THIS FIRST-GENERATION INITIATIVE, WE WANT TO UNDERLINE THAT THE DREAMS OF FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS ARE NOT ONLY VALUED, BUT THEY ARE ACHIEVABLE.”

named an outstanding graduate of her college.

“There were so many supportive people at UVU — it acted a little bit like my village in Provo where everyone came together to feed me, clothe me, and shelter me,” Shae says. “At UVU they loved me and cared for me. The small classroom sizes meant that I really got to know my professors.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s in behavioral science with an emphasis in psychology, Shae wrote and published a book about her tumultuous upbringing to her road to success, called “How the Light Gets In.”

After changing majors twice, Brady Silva graduated with a bachelor’s in community health with an emphasis in hospital administration. With two internships under his belt at Intermountain Healthcare and experience in student leadership, Silva’s next academic opportunity is graduate school.

“I decided to apply for UVU’s business administration graduate program because I know it will open a lot of opportunities for me down the road,” he says.

Silva’s advice to future first-generation students is to try out new experiences. “Be riskier,” he says. ■



◀ KEIRA SHAE



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TURNING

THE SLOPES

GREEN

*UVU and Silicon Slopes team up to offer
new MBA in technology management*

Written by
SUZANNE BROADBENT

Photography by
AUGUST MILLER





THERE ARE MANY REASONS to pursue a degree at Utah Valley University: the competitive tuition, smaller class sizes to enable more engagement, hybrid learning options, and the high caliber of professors, just to name a few. And now there is another reason.

On Feb. 1, 2019, at the Silicon Slopes Tech Summit held in Salt Lake City, UVU President Astrid S. Tuminez announced that UVU’s Master of Business Administration program has partnered with Silicon Slopes to create a special MBA degree with an emphasis in technology management, taught at the Silicon Slopes offices in Lehi.

“UVU’s MBA at Silicon Slopes continues UVU’s commitment to innovation and impactful partnerships,” President Tuminez said at the Tech Summit. “It is meant to be closely tied to the economic and industry needs of Utah, and Silicon Slopes in particular.”

The announcement from Tuminez created a buzz among the conference’s 24,000 attendees, as potential MBA candidates gath-

UVU'S MBA AT SILICON SLOPES CONTINUES UVU'S COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION AND IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS.

President Astrid S. Tuminez

ered around UVU’s booth on the conference floor for more information.

Similar to Northern California’s Silicon Valley, Utah’s Wasatch Front has become a hub for technology and software companies, earning the name Silicon Slopes. The name also references a nonprofit organization

which brings together and helps network these businesses into a community to learn, connect, and serve. Each year, Silicon Slopes hosts more than 200 events targeted at the tech industry, and it is not uncommon to see some of Utah’s most successful and influential leaders present.

It seems the timing is perfect for a collaborative relationship between the two entities, as both hope to serve the community.

“We are tired of hearing tech companies say that they are going to change the world. Instead, we want to serve the world,” Clint Betts, executive director of Silicon Slopes and a UVU alumnus, said during his remarks at the summit.

Based on reporting from U.S. News and World Report in May 2018, the number of people working in the Provo area tech industry increased nearly 65 percent from 2010 to 2017, far surpassing the national average of approximately 16 percent. Technology jobs account for 10 percent of the area’s total employment.

As Utah’s technology industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing in the country, UVU’s MBA students will now have an extra edge in the marketplace as they compete to secure jobs in this growing industry.

Promoters of UVU’s MBA in technology management indicate the new venture will immerse students in the Silicon Slopes landscape, “providing an engaging experience with continuous real-world application. Students will strengthen their business proficiency through case studies, simulations, projects, and interactions with organizations and business leaders on a regional, national, and international level.”

“UVU and Silicon Slopes both have these amazing stories of innovation and growth that have caused us to be national leaders in our respective fields,” says Norm Wright, dean of UVU’s Woodbury School of Business. “We have, for years, worked hand in hand to create jobs and the skilled workforce to fill those jobs that make Utah the envy of other states.”

When the opportunity presented itself to align the MBA program with Silicon Slopes, UVU was ready.

“We had been brainstorming on how to orient the MBA program to respond to local market needs. There is an incredible demand for more qualified managers in this community,” says Jim Mortensen, MBA program director. “When we were approached by Silicon Slopes to collaborate on an MBA program, we knew we needed to act quickly to meet the needs of not only our students,

but of the business community as well.”

Janae Holland, MBA program manager, says, “One of our goals is to support local companies with the talent they need.”

Another goal of the department is to be the most relevant MBA in the region. As additional industry relationships with UVU are fostered, even more goals will be met.

Joshua Fowlke, creative director for Silicon Slopes and a UVU alumnus, says the affordability of tuition, smaller class sizes, and professors who worked in the technology

THE VIEW OF THE MBA PROGRAM MOVING FORWARD IS MUCH MORE THAN SOMEONE GETTING A DEGREE AND MOVING ON... WE CALL IT LIFELONG LEARNING.

Jacob Sybrowsky, associate dean of the Woodbury School of Business

field are what attracted him, and many others, to UVU.

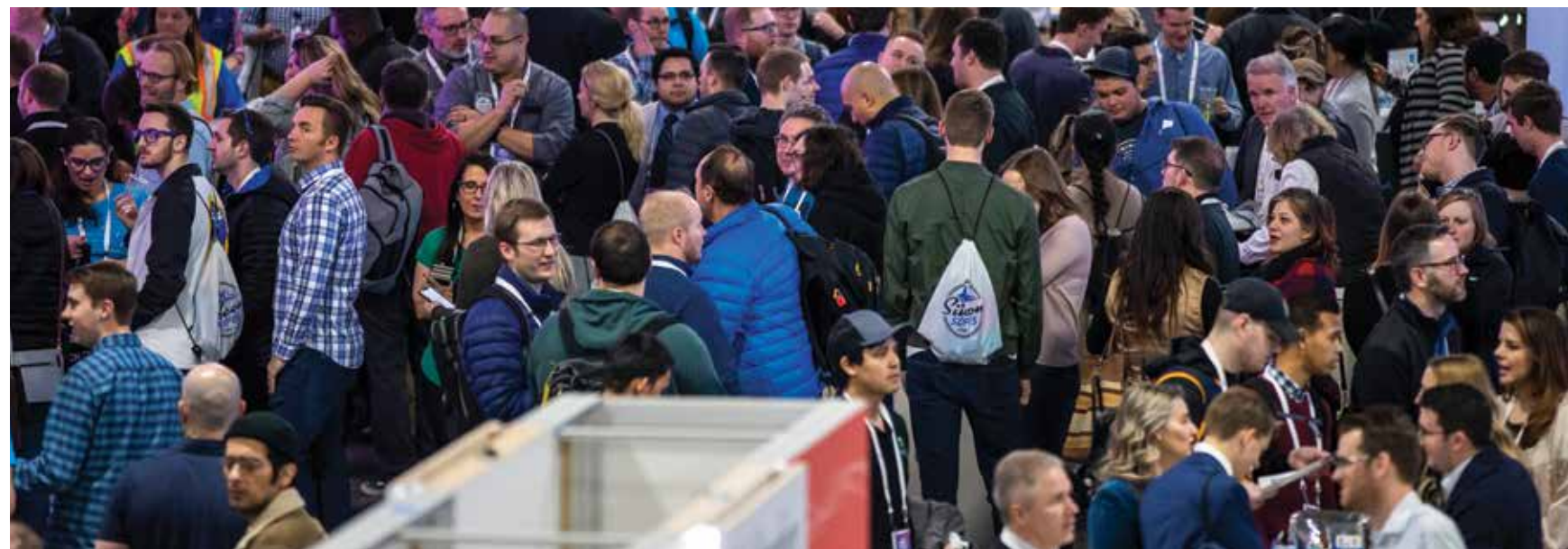
“I still keep in contact with a lot of people from UVU,” Fowlke says. “And I now work with a lot of my past professors in the industry.”

UVU has a track record of placing graduates in the job market, with 93% of Woodbury’s MBA students employed within six months of their graduation, Holland says. MBA students also know they can look to UVU to provide continuing education in their respective fields in the years to come.

“The view of the MBA program moving forward is much more than someone getting a degree and moving on,” Jacob Sybrowsky, associate dean of the Woodbury School of Business, says. “UVU will provide modules for certifications for professional development throughout a person’s career. We call it lifelong learning.”

UVU is positioned to partner with additional industries to provide top candidates, Sybrowsky says. Students can look forward to healthcare administration cohorts, aviation cohorts, and more as industry demands increase.

The first cohort in the Silicon Slopes MBA will begin in the fall of 2019. ■



A woman with dark, curly hair is wearing a pink, textured sweater with a drawstring waist and blue jeans. She is looking directly at the camera. The background is a solid pink color. A large, light pink, wavy graphic element is overlaid on the image, extending from the woman's side towards the text on the right.

PAVING A PATH OF PROMISE

UVU'S ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE COMMUNITY PROGRAM COORDINATOR GUIDES STUDENTS TO SUCCESS

BY MEGAN NIELSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE STEINICKE

WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY.

YINAURY VILLAR was 18 when she left the Dominican Republic, green card in hand, and moved to New York City. Overwhelmed by the busyness of the city, she moved to Chicago with her sister, where she began learning English. On the cusp of her 21st birthday, Villar's sister asked her to move with her to Utah, where she had graduated from college at what was then called UVSC. Packing her things, yet again, Villar moved to another unfamiliar place.

Choosing to continue her education at UVU, Villar took a placement exam and was placed into regular college courses.

"I wasn't feeling ready," she says. "I didn't feel comfortable enough to be in a classroom with native speakers. So I begged the ESL (English as a Second Language) program to let me in, and that was the best thing I've ever done."

She continues, "I didn't see it as going back to studying English all over again. I took it as an opportunity to reinforce what I already knew. And I learned a lot of new stuff, like how to take tests and how to read textbooks."

After a semester in the ESL program — a program now known as ELL (English Language Learning) for full-time students — Villar felt confident enough in her English

skills to begin taking regular college courses.

Since her decision to continue her English education, Villar has graduated from UVU with a bachelor's degree in psychology, and is now the ESL community program coordinator.

The mission of the ESL program is to help community members learn how to read, write, and speak English, in order to improve their professional and personal life. Open to anyone— not just students — the program offers four levels of English courses, ranging from basic to high-intermediate, and students are placed in a level after an initial assessment.

The courses have seen students from all over the world — Brazil, Venezuela, Japan, Pakistan, Mexico, Ukraine, Chile, Korea, and Guatemala, to name a few. Students have ranged in age from 17-70. Despite the differences between them, students become united and form lasting friendships, striving to help each other accomplish their goals. At the end of each term, they celebrate with food from each of their countries, and share their culture with one another. One class even had an impromptu talent show, sharing music and dance from their countries.

"It's a great night of recognition," Tammy Nelson, a teacher in the ESL program, says.

"They work really, really hard! A lot of the students work two jobs during the day and then attend English class at night. It's an incredible demonstration of their commitment. We all enjoy the last night of class when students bring their families to our big cultural night. We eat dinner together, play games, and enjoy listening to music from their countries."

"It's a wonderful celebration," Nelson says. "They receive their certificates for completing the course, and just to see the look in their eyes that says, 'Hey, I'm moving forward to my goal in learning English for a better life, to be accepted into the university, for a better job.' Those are the kinds of things that are really rewarding in teaching such a diverse group."

Nelson's motto is to "celebrate diversity and embrace differences." The most rewarding skill she says she has gained is the ability to see the world through the eyes of her students.

"I have been so touched by what they bring to class, and how we teach one another," she says.

Like Nelson, Villar's responsibilities as coordinator revolve around the success of the students in the program. She views herself as "a guide to the student, a source."

"I'm a connection to all the resources they can get," she says. "Sometimes they don't even know they have access to so many things they can take advantage of. That's what I think I'm doing here. That's my duty."

Villar and her team, a few of whom are also former ESL students, regularly utilize Turning Point, a program initiated and available at UVU designed to help people through transitions. If they need clothes, an advisor on building confidence, help finding a job, child-care, or getting their high school equivalency diploma, Turning Point offers courses and consultations to aid in the processes.

"Lots of students use this," Villar says.

Turning Point also offers professional clothing for women, and vouchers for men's clothing to be used at Deseret Industries. Not only does Deseret Industries provide these vouchers, it also regularly sponsors students who want to take ESL courses.

It's partnerships like these that create an ideal environment for success of community members, Villar says.

"What we're offering here is a way to change the community's economy," Villar says. "Imagine all those students who just don't know English, now learning English and then providing better for their families, making more money, and going to school. They'll say, 'You know what? I want to continue, I want to keep doing this.'"

She adds, "We are serving a low-income community. Sometimes if they don't have a sponsor, they can't come to our classes. But they want to come, and that kills me because they see their own potential and how much they can grow by coming here. I think we're doing a great job here. We are shaping the future of our community here."

The reach of the ESL program has grown significantly since Villar was selected as coordinator two years ago.

When the program moved to UVU's Community Education department and Villar started as coordinator, the program had 50-60 students per term. The next summer, the program grew to 120, then to 135, and then to 190 students, the largest term to date. Villar attributes the growth to recruiting.

"Our recruiting helps a lot," she says. "We go to festivals and set up a table and we provide information there. I make flyers all the time, and drop them off to classes so students can keep telling other people. Having updated information and the way we treat our students, that speaks a lot. They want to come back, and they tell others about what we're doing here."

Villar's motivation always comes back to the success of her students. Everything she does as coordinator is for their benefit. She describes the most rewarding part of her job as, "When a student comes to my office and they just hug me and say, 'Thank you, thank you, I learned so much.'"

When Villar was interviewed for the ESL coordinator position, one of the last questions she was asked was, "Why should we hire you?"

Her response was simple, and poignant. "Because I am the person that I wish I'd had when I was looking for information, when I was ready to start studying English," she says. "Since I went through all of that and already had that experience, I can tell the student and make them feel that it is OK what they're feeling. I can make them feel safe, and that the fear will go away."

Villar, a single mother of two children, working two jobs, has recently completed the courses necessary to receive her Master of Education with endorsement in ESL. All that's left for her to conquer is her thesis.

"I can tell the students, 'Look, I am here, you can be me. This is how far you can get and even farther,'" she says.

I HAVE BEEN SO TOUCHED BY WHAT WE TEACH ONE ANOTHER.





uvu_president

Message



UVU President Astrid S. Tuminez shows her fun side on social media

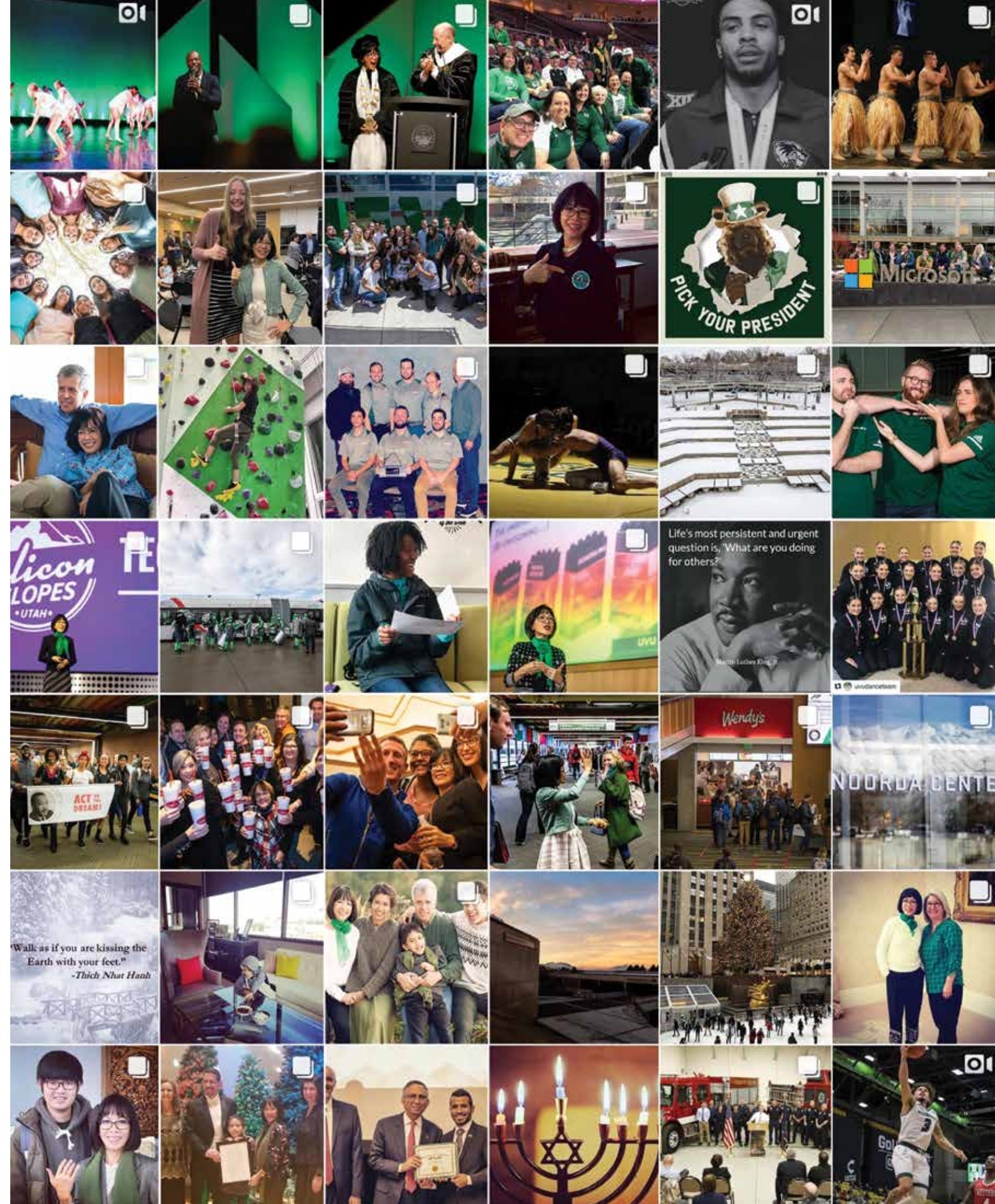


By Layton Shumway

Since officially beginning her service as president of Utah Valley University in September 2018, Astrid S. Tuminez has been a fixture at events across campus and the state of Utah. She's been spotted in the crowd at every kind of Wolverine athletic competition. At the opening of the new Wendy's restaurant in the Student Life and Wellness Center, she was one of the first in line. And she's been invited to speak at high-profile business and education events throughout Utah.

And just in case you haven't seen her in person, President Tuminez has posted hundreds of photos on her Instagram account, @uvu_president, so Wolverines everywhere can interact.

Here's a collection of some of the best social media moments from her first year as president of UVU.





"Today was truly the best day. My heart is so full. Thank you, @utah.valley.university, for welcoming me with open arms." 🍷🍷🍷



FROM GARDEN TO GALA

UVU CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON PRACTICE BY CATERING HIGH-PROFILE EVENTS



BY LAYTON SHUMWAY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUGUST MILLER



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY is known for engaged learning, and nowhere is that hands-on philosophy more evident than in UVU's Culinary Arts program. Student chefs get to put their skills to the test by serving their creations at exclusive invite-only events like the annual President's Scholarship Ball, preparing them for high-class culinary careers.



UVU Culinary Arts students get to learn from instructors who are amazing chefs in their own right. Chef Todd Leonard, Utah Valley University's Culinary Arts Institute department chair, was named the 2018 National Chef of the Year by the American Culinary Federation, beating out four other regional winners for the first Chef of the Year national title in UVU history. ■

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT
OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS



Photo By BROOKE STEINICKE | By BARBARA CHRISTIANSEN

These are the outstanding educators for each college, based on votes from the Class of 2019:

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICE
DIANNE BRADSHAW KNIGHT 1

Dianne Bradshaw Knight worked for more than 30 years in private practice as a dental hygienist. Now an associate professor at UVU, she has earned awards for her teaching and student support. Her honors include the Going the Extra Mile Award for Excellence in Internship and Career Development, Outstanding Mentor Award from the Utah Dental Hygiene Association, and recognition from the University of Washington for the program Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities. She is the Utah Dental Hygienists' Association (UDHA) state education liaison.

The best part of working at UVU is the students, she says. In the hygiene program, she teaches the same students every day for two years.

"The relationships you build, as well as the degree of influence you can have in their lives, make it all worth it," she says. "And they are always exceptional students."

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
HANK MCINTIRE 2

Hank McIntire has been a professional communicator for three decades, including as an assistant professor in UVU's Department of Communication. He was the public affairs officer for the Utah National Guard for nine years and served in the U.S. Army, Utah National Guard for 26 years.

At UVU, he earned the Faculty Excellence Award in 2018 and the PRSSA Faculty of the Year for 2014-2015.

"The best thing about UVU is that I get to teach and get paid for it," he says. "My philosophy is that I teach students and not courses. UVU students are more mature, have life experience, and are serious about their education to get into the workforce or to go to graduate school. UVU faculty bring real-life experience to the classroom to help students understand the conceptual and apply the practical."

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
CRAIG DAN THULIN 3

Craig Dan Thulin says his favorite color has always been green, even though he has attended red and purple schools and worked at a blue one. He has taught chemistry at UVU since 2006 and is the university's current Faculty Senate president. He won a previous Outstand-

ing Educator of the Year award, and he has been a finalist for the Wolverine Achievement Award for full-time faculty.

"Our students are amazing," he says. "So many of them are wonderful examples of determination despite difficulties, and progressing to the possibilities of becoming their best selves. They inspire me and give me hope. The mission of UVU also inspires me and gives me hope. We include, we engage, and we achieve. We are all about the success of our students, and, therefore, of our community and the world."

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
DAVID WAGSTAFF 4

David Wagstaff spent 25 years in the software industry, with his primary focus on web applications. He has been at UVU for four years, with a primary focus on full-stack web applications. When he earned his undergraduate degree, he felt like he was learning in spite of his classes. Things are the opposite at UVU.

"When offered a position to teach at UVU, it was like a second chance to make the right decision," he says. "I love UVU because I get to concentrate on teaching, on truly being passionate along with my students about a subject I love."

He appreciates UVU's focus on being a teaching institution that maintains open enrollment, yet keeps the rigor of academic excellence.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
NANCY PETERSON 5

Nancy Peterson has been a part of Utah Valley University for nearly 22 years, and she says the best part of working at UVU has stayed the same throughout that time.

"It is the opportunity to help bright, eager, goal-oriented students assume confidence and passion for changing the world," she says. "Our graduates are changing the world — one classroom at a time."

She has previously taught in Alpine School District in Utah, and in Mesa, Arizona, and in San Antonio, Texas. She began graduate work in Virginia, supervising student teachers, teaching child development and elementary teaching methods. In West Virginia, she taught literacy teaching methods and science teaching methods.

"I am so grateful to have been a part of what has become the UVU School of Education," she says.

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
COURTNEY DAVIS 6

Law and the arts seem like two distinct fields of study, not likely to coincide. But UVU's

Courtney R. Davis, an assistant professor of art history and the department chair of art and design, has done just that.

"I enjoy researching contemporary art and copyright law, bringing together the two sides of my world," she says.

This is the third time she has been named the Outstanding Educator for the School of the Arts. She has also earned the UVU Faculty Senate Excellence Award for the school.

"The UVU spirit is a tangible thing that enlightens and enlivens. It is what makes UVU such a special place," she says. "I look forward to every class that I have the honor of teaching."

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DOUGLAS SCHIFFMAN 7

An adjunct professor of mathematics and developmental math at UVU, Douglas Schiffman received a bachelor's degree from BYU and a master's in math education from Western Governors University. He has taught at the Utah County Academy of Sciences since 2012, and was honored by that school as the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year.

The best part of working at UVU "is being a part of the educational journeys of so many wonderful people," he says. "I am inspired by their examples, their dedication to learn, and their efforts to overcome challenges so they can enhance their individual circumstances. I have the best job in the world."

Married with four children and five grandchildren, Schiffman loves to read, particularly biographies and history. He is slowly restoring a 1955 Studebaker classic automobile.

WOODBURY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
STEVEN C. HUFF 8

Steven C. Huff is the chair of the Marketing Department in the Woodbury School of Business and an associate professor of marketing. He has worked at UVU since 2012.

Huff received a bachelor's in computer engineering, an MBA from BYU, and a doctorate in marketing from UC Berkeley.

He received an Outstanding Educator Award previously, the Presidential Teaching Award, the Best of State for Utah College or University Teachers, and a Wolverine Achievement Award for full-time faculty.

He says, "Research institutions often trade student success for academic reputation, but we seek above all student growth and achievement — we call them delta and alpha at the business school. Our incredibly unique 'T1' aspiration ('T' for teaching) inspires and fuels me daily and is incredibly fulfilling." ■



ON SATURDAY, October 13, 2018, President Astrid S. Tuminez announced her historic First-Generation Completion Initiative — to raise \$15 million within three-to-five years to fund scholarships and programming for first-generation students.

First-generation students are those whose parents or guardians have not completed a U.S. bachelor's degree. More than one of every three UVU students are first-generation students. More than 75% of first-generation students are from households with a combined income of \$50,000 or fewer, and 27% are from households with a combined income of \$20,000 or fewer.

Many of these students face unique obstacles, and support from their learning community can mean the difference between dropping out and graduating. At the very moment President Tuminez made her announcement, the cost for one semester of in-state tuition was \$2,518.

2518 is representative of something else — our goal. The UVU Student Alumni Association is looking for 2,518 students and alumni to join them in supporting our first-generation students.

UVU alumni have proven to be ardent supporters of others — especially fellow Wolverines. Whether it's \$1 or \$100, every gift has an impact on the education and future of a UVU first-generation student.

President Tuminez has taken the lead. Join her and join the 2518. Find out more at www.uvu.edu/2518.

Sincerely,

Kevin Walkenhorst
Senior Director, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving



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