

UVU magazine

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EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT | PG. 28

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
*The strategy guiding the
next 10 years at UVU*

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UTAH VALLEY WOLVERINES™



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Home Schedule

2.08.20 Seattle U
2.20.20 CSU Bakersfield
2.22.20 Grand Canyon
3.05.20 Kansas City
3.07.20 Chicago State

WAC TOURNAMENT

3.12.20 - 3.14.20
Las Vegas, Nevada

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Home Schedule

2.13.20 UT Rio Grande Valley
2.15.20 NM State
2.26.20 California Baptist

WAC TOURNAMENT

3.11.20 - 3.14.20
Las Vegas, Nevada

WRESTLING

Home Schedule

2.03.20 North Dakota State
2.14.20 Northern Colorado

BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.07.20 - 3.08.20
Tulsa, Oklahoma



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Dates and times subject to change.

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OF ALL THE THINGS that I have come to enjoy about serving as president of Utah Valley University, the view from my desk has been one of the most pleasant of all. Framed by the majestic Mount Timpanogos and the Wasatch mountain range, my window provides a view of a walkway that connects our academic, administrative, and student life buildings, allowing me to see the many faces of our students, faculty, and staff. It is a daily reminder that UVU’s mission is not just words on a page. It is a commitment to real individuals with real hopes and aspirations, all looking for a place to thrive academically and personally.

I am delighted that in this edition of UVU Magazine you will come to know some of the remarkable women and men who are proud Wolverines. They have come to UVU for different reasons. Some have looked to UVU as their school of first choice, seeing in our engaged-learning curriculum a chance to not only excel in the classroom but also to gain the experience-based skills needed to thrive in the workforce. Some have come to UVU as a place of second, third, and even fourth chances. They have experienced success that validates their persistence and drive. But each has found in UVU’s integrated dual-mission approach — serving as a regional teaching university and community college under one roof — a place of welcome and support.

UVU is committed to providing transformational, engaged, and relevant educational offerings and experiences for tens of thousands of students in an environment that champions exceptional care, accountability, and results. We are committed to improving the student experience continuously by providing education that is of high quality, accessible, affordable, engaging, personalized, and relevant. We believe in helping students develop the knowledge, understanding, and skills to make meaningful contributions in our communities locally and globally and live dignified, fulfilling lives.

Over the last year, we have focused

strategically on how we can make our dual mission stronger and more effective in addressing the needs of higher education and workforce development. In October of 2019 we finalized this vision — our Vision 2030 — and have begun the work of implementing this bold, comprehensive approach to student success and university vitality. It is a document that not only gives us a path to increased retention and graduation rates, but it solidifies our commitment to developing stackable degree pathways that give our students opportunities to thrive at every level of their post-high school education. I am proud of this guiding document and its reflection of aspirations and goals shared across the university. In this issue, you will hear directly from Kyle Reyes, vice president of Student Affairs and co-chair of the Vision 2030 drafting committee.

As you read through the stories featured in this edition, you will come to see how well a UVU education prepares our students for impactful professional careers. You will learn about our expansive criminal justice offerings and our thriving collision repair program, both of which truly reflect our commitment to addressing the workforce development needs of our community and providing an adaptive education. And you will see the connective footprint UVU has in our community.

In everything we do, we proudly articulate “Come as you are. UVU has a place for you.” This place — our dual-mission institution — will thrive for years to come. And I am proud to walk alongside you as we bring our bold Vision 2030 to fruition.

Warmest regards,

Astrid S. Tuminez, Ph.D.
President

CONSTRUCTION OF I-15 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE BEGINS

Construction of the new Interstate 15 pedestrian bridge that will connect Utah Valley University with the UTA FrontRunner Orem Central Station is underway, with the approximate completion date set for December 2020.

The nearly 1,000-foot structure, which is a joint project between UDOT, UTA, and UVU, was designed to make public transportation easier and more efficient for students who commute from Salt Lake and northern Utah counties, and to alleviate traffic on nearby roads. The bridge will also serve as a pedestrian-friendly connection between UVU’s main and west campuses.

“This bridge is a symbol of UVU’s commitment to sustainability, clean air, and reducing traffic,” said Astrid S. Tuminez, president of Utah Valley University. “We are grateful to the Utah Department of Transportation and the Utah Transit Authority for their vision, resources, and support of this project.”

The bridge will include a 15-foot-wide, partially enclosed walkway with heating elements in the floor for snow removal. There will be ample room for cyclists and pedestrians. High-capacity elevators and stairs will be provided at each end of the bridge for accessibility compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



UVU BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BUSINESS BUILDING AFTER \$10 MILLION DONATION FROM SCOTT C. AND KAREN KELLER

In November 2019, a select group of academic, business, and political leaders broke ground on the Scott C. Keller Building, the future home of the Woodbury School of Business, at UVU’s Orem Campus. The 180,000-square-foot building is estimated to be finished by late fall 2021 or early 2022.

The total cost of the building is \$75 million: \$50 million from the state legislature, \$10 million from Scott and Karen Keller, and \$15 million from various other donors.

The Keller Building will have 30 classrooms and 205 offices. It will house the Bloomberg Lab, Entrepreneurship Institute, Money Management Resource Center, SmartLab, and a grand auditorium to host large lectures and special events. The second floor will be home to UVU’s Student Success Center, which combines placement, tutoring, internships, and advisement.

PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

PHOTOS BY AUGUST MILLER

DōTERRA EMBRACES UVU WITH SECOND-LARGEST DONATION IN INSTITUTION’S HISTORY

In September 2019, dōTERRA, an integrative health and wellness company and the world leader in essential oils, announced the second-largest donation in UVU history. The contribution, part of a 10-year agreement, includes donations from dōTERRA worth \$17.7 million.

A significant portion of the donation will support scholarships, online educational opportunities, and athletic programs, and includes the initial gift toward funding a new student-athlete wellness building. Other university organizations such as the Center for Constitutional Studies, the Women’s Success Center, the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts, and the College of Science will benefit in many ways, including research opportunities, scholarships, and nationally acclaimed performance lineups.

“At dōTERRA we feel an affinity with Utah Valley University,” said David Stirling, dōTERRA’s founding executive and CEO. “More than 500 of our current employees attend UVU. Plus, we have many employees who graduated from UVU or have children at the university. This donation gives us the opportunity to support a variety of UVU academic, athletic, and art-based programs over the next 10 years.”





2019 UVU SCHOLARSHIP BALL RAISES RECORD \$900,000 IN DONATIONS

Utah Valley University’s 2019 Scholarship Ball featured fine cuisine, exciting entertainment, dancing, and generous guests. The event, with lead sponsor Nu Skin, raised a record \$903,217 in donations for UVU’s prestigious Presidential Scholarship. The gifts will provide support for 352 semesters of learning — or 33 full-tuition scholarships for four years.

“I have learned that the business of higher education is the business of hope,” President Tuminez said during the evening. “Education is the great leveler, the tool that unlocks human potential. We have come together tonight to celebrate and to raise money for scholarships. This is crucial because we know the No. 1 reason students drop out of their studies is finances.”

More than 800 guests in black-tie attire were welcomed to the elegantly transformed UCCU Center on Saturday, October 12. Elected local and state officials, prominent business owners, and friends of the university mingled during a reception that offered “mocktails” and a variety of appetizers as well as photo opportunities.

UVU FINANCIAL PLANNING PROGRAM RANKS THIRD IN THE NATION

In 2019, Wealth Management magazine ranked the top 25 financial planning degree programs in the United States. Utah Valley University is among the top of the list — coming in third as the best on-campus, degree-granting programs that prepare students in financial planning.

The rankings are based on nine markers of excellence. More than 300 four-year institutions were studied. The top-ranked programs have a high ratio of faculty who have earned Certified Financial Planner credentials, offer electives in finance beyond the minimums designed by the CFP Board, and report a higher number of completions to the CFP Board.

“UVU has been home to the largest undergraduate financial planning degree program in the U.S. for several years now,” Luke Dean, CFP program director. “It’s nice to see in a data-driven, objective ranking created by Wealth Management magazine and WealthManagement.com that they feel like UVU has the third-best financial planning program in the country.”

UVU VIDEO PRODUCTION TEAM BRINGS HOME EMMY AWARDS

The Utah Valley University Studios and Broadcast Services team is Emmy Award-winning. Their work on video productions featuring UVU students earned two Emmys at the 42nd annual Rocky Mountain Emmy Awards show in September 2019.

Both videos won in the category of Arts/Entertainment Program Segment. One featured UVU’s male a cappella group, VoiceLine, singing a Halloween medley. It was directed by Brendan Larkin and features the singers in costumes representative of Halloween classics, including “Thriller,” “The Addams Family,” and “I Put a Spell on You.” Various lighting, angles, and special effects, including fog, were utilized to create a dramatic effect and mood.

The second video to take home an award was directed by Mark Hansen, featuring the UVU national champion Dance Team. The video is based around the popular TV series “Stranger Things” and highlights the UVU dance team overcoming the series villain, the Demogorgon. The video made good use of lighting, creating an ambiance with dark and bright exposure. The special effects and expert editing make the video visually exciting.

The winning videos can be viewed on UVU’s YouTube page at www.youtube.com/utahvalleyuniversity.

JEFF HAMILTON TRIO

Considered one of the best small jazz groups in the country, the Jeff Hamilton Trio sets the bar for what a versatile “swingin’ trio” can offer jazz-loving audiences — with ingenious arrangements of popular jazz classics alongside exciting original compositions. *All About Jazz* calls JHT “sizzling” and “steamy.” What better way to warm up on a cold February night?

Concert Hall
Tue, Feb 11, 7:30 PM



PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER

THE ODYSSEY
Aquila Theatre

One of the most famous tales in world literature, *The Odyssey* presents a powerful portrait of Odysseus and his epic struggle to return home — a journey fraught with obstacles, dangers, and temptations. Aquila’s acclaimed adaptation of *The Illiad* was hailed by *The New York Times* as “thrillingly embodied.” In *The Odyssey*, Aquila once again employs its signature style of inventive storytelling and innovative ensemble movement to bring another of Homer’s epic poems to life.

Smith Theatre
Thu, Mar 12, 7:30 PM



1984
Aquila Theatre

As the modern world grapples with the threats and benefits of technological integration and advancement, Aquila Theatre’s evocative adaptation of *1984* cuts deep into the conversation of personal freedom pitted against political repression. One could easily say that Orwell’s prescient story resonates today even more than it did in 1949 when it was first published. *The New Yorker* said, “Aquila’s productions are beautifully spoken, dramatically revealing, and crystalline in effect.”

Smith Theatre
Fri, Mar 13, 7:30 PM



SOMETHING WORTH DOING

SCULPTOR AND UVU ALUM VIRGIL OERTLE CREATES NEW SYMBOL OF WOLVERINE PRIDE

SCULPTING has always been in Virgil Oertle’s blood. But until he came to Utah Valley State College in the fall of 1996, he had no formal art training.

While he was growing up, Oertle’s father would carve wooden sculptures using primarily a chainsaw. When Oertle came to UVSC, he began taking classes in sculpting and quickly found his calling, enrolling in every class available to him in the program.

“A few years later I was offered an adjunct position to teach the classes I had taken a couple of years before,” Oertle says.

After a few years of teaching, Oertle left Utah to complete bachelor’s and master’s degrees before returning home. Oertle was working as a sculptor for some time when he designed a statue for Brigham Young University featuring its school mascot. This is when he found his niche of designing “mascot benches.”

After completing the project for BYU, Oertle met with Jared Summison, the associate athletic director for UVU at the time, about doing a similar project for UVU’s Willy the Wolverine. With interest high but

Because Oertle is a UVU alumnus, Chambers says the image committee wanted to make this statue larger than others he has created. “We wanted students to feel its grandeur and wanted the statue to really grasp people when they see it,” Chambers says.

To make it easier for any student, alumni, parent, or member of the community to feel a connection with the statue, Willy’s traditional bandana reading his name was switched to read “Wolverines.” A tribute to academics was also made by adding books, to show that even the mascot is studious.

“I think my favorite part is when I’m all finished and the piece ends up on campus,” Oertle says. “There is a lot of stress with anything that’s worth doing, and seeing the

“INSPIRATION COMES FROM THE SCHOOL ITSELF.

THE SCHOOL TELLS ME WHAT THEIR MASCOT IS LIKE, AND I CREATE THEIR VISION.”

funding low, Oertle made a small model of Willy. This small model eventually became the same design as the current statue that sits on UVU’s Orem campus today.

Summison then directed Oertle to UVU licensing manager Matthew Chambers. “Virgil came to me and proposed the idea of the statue, and we instantly loved it,” Chambers says. “Everyone who saw what this statue could mean to the school fell in love with the project.”

With funds still low, UVU’s image committee decided to take on the statue in small projects. The first objective was to find a place where the statue could call home. After several locations were proposed, the committee quickly decided that the statue would be placed outside the Student Life & Wellness Center. As the center of student activities, it would be a place to connect the mascot to the students.

Due to Oertle’s personal history with the university, he envisioned making a contribution to the campus. “I really loved my time at the school and was committed to getting the Willy statue accomplished,” Oertle says.

After six years of waiting, funding finally became available with a donation from James and Andrea Clarke, who have made several contributions to UVU. Oertle was able to begin work on the statue that drew him back to his roots.

With everything in place, the last step was to make the sculpture true to the Wolverine spirit. Oertle, who has completed several mascot statues for other schools, says, “Inspiration comes from the school itself. The school tells me what their mascot is like, and I create their vision.”

finished project and knowing everyone is happy with it really feels amazing.”

The statue was unveiled in September 2019 to celebrate Homecoming Week and UVU’s anniversary.


“The mascot bench represents goals, dreams, and pride in UVU,” Chambers says. “At graduation, new student orientation, and other events, this statue is something that will make people proud to be a part of UVU.” ■

By KATELYN HUGHES

Virgil Oertle and his wife sit next to his statue outside the Student Life & Wellness Center. PHOTO BY AUGUST MILLER



PHOTO BY GABRIEL MAYBERRY



Layers of Learning

By ANNA TIBBITTS
Photography By GABRIEL MAYBERRY
and AUGUST MILLER

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S open enrollment policy and dual-mission model combine to provide its students with options and opportunities they may not otherwise have. With access to multiple levels of degrees under one roof, UVU students can pursue further education without transferring or moving. The open enrollment policy provides a place for anyone to begin where they are and progress further on their personal educational path.

Many students have walked through UVU's doors and back out again with more education than they originally believed possible. UVU Magazine asked a few of those students to share their stories here.

UVU's open enrollment and dual-mission model give students their own paths to progress



grad school
bachelor's student
SUDC certificate student



Brooke Schroeder

Growing up in San Diego, California, Brooke struggled with crippling guilt and shame. That shame manifested itself as isolation, lying, and eventually an all-consuming drug habit from the ages of 17-22. She flunked out of three universities and survived several overdoses. Years of reckless behavior and abusive relationships culminated with Brooke being admitted to a combination psych ward and detox unit, and a month into her sobriety, her mother died of colon cancer.

It took years for Brooke to become functional following the trauma of her early 20s, and the thought of attending school again was overwhelming. Five years into her sobriety, she decided UVU's certification for Substance Use Disorder Counseling (SUDC) was not only realistically manageable but also genuinely interesting. Her anxiety around this choice was so debilitating that she met with an advisor at UVU several times over the course of a year before officially deciding to apply.

Brooke was accepted to the SUDC program and found she was capable of excelling in challenging courses. Though she was determined to simply complete her certification and jump back into the workforce, Brooke was surprised and flattered by how often UVU students and faculty assumed she would not only earn her bachelor's degree, but also attend graduate school. After many corrections, she finally asked a professor why so many people assumed she'd be continuing her education beyond certification. He shrugged and answered with, "Well, you're an academic."

"That was when it finally clicked for me," Brooke says. "Of course people saw me as an academic. I'd been one all along. I had just put myself in this tiny box years ago and never realized it. I absolutely needed other people to see me as a bright and driven person for me to ever see myself that way. Imposter syndrome is so real, and the casual way folks at UVU assume the best in everyone made considering graduate school feel natural."

Brooke's transition from a certificate track to a bachelor's degree track became a reality

"If every professor, advisor, and administrator wasn't on board for the dual mission at UVU, I wouldn't have been able to transition so seamlessly from an SUDC certificate student to a bachelor's student and even a grad school hopeful."

in large part due to UVU's role as an integrated dual-mission institution. She was able to earn her certificate, develop her goals further, and then pursue higher degrees.

"I needed an environment where I could outgrow my original goal without losing momentum by having to change schools and lose the support system I had built for myself," Brooke says. "If every professor, advisor, and administrator wasn't on board for the dual mission at UVU, I wouldn't have been able to transition so seamlessly from an SUDC certificate student to a bachelor's student and even a grad school hopeful."

As she worked toward her bachelor's degree, Brooke took advantage of the networks and engaged learning opportunities UVU offers its students. These included the UVU Presidential Internship program, a legislative internship, a study-abroad program at the University of Oxford, and a two-year research project that earned her prestigious off-campus jobs.

"Based on my interests in professional development and public interest, professors gave me the chance to lecture in classes and told me about internship opportunities," Brooke says. "Others pulled me into research groups or recommended certain books. It felt like my personality was geared to a million different things, and I was given the chance to explore many different fields."

Not only had Brooke set her sights on a bachelor's degree, but she began seriously considering a doctorate as well as law school. This trajectory was fully supported by her professors and other employees at UVU. She was taught how to find valuable mentors within the grad school realm, and she was given contacts and referrals to individuals who could answer her questions and guide her.

Brooke graduated from UVU in May 2019 with a bachelor's degree in behavioral science and a minor in political science. She applied to multiple dual law and doctoral programs and was offered a position at the oldest such program in the country, at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She began her studies there in fall 2019, and says she'll honor UVU by continually expanding her goals beyond what feels possible.

“I knew from my first class at UVU that I could have the support to do more than an associate degree.”



Terri Sawyer

Terri Sawyer never had intentions of attending college. She and her 14 siblings were raised in the back hills of Appalachia by her mother and father. Both parents stopped attending school after ninth grade, and her father began working in the coal mines at age 14. Terri first came to campus when UVU was known as Utah Valley State College. She was able to complete two semesters before finding out she was pregnant. She and her husband separated shortly after, and she dropped out of school and moved back to Pennsylvania.

Two years later, Terri was back in Utah with a second child, ready to take on her education once again. She had originally planned to only pursue an associate degree, but after considering the \$8 in her bank account, she knew that without a higher degree she would be unable to provide for her little family.

“Although it was difficult for me to see how I could make it through a bachelor’s degree as a single mom with two kids, I knew from my first class at UVU that I could have the support to do more than an associate degree,” Terri says.

With the ability to move from an associate degree to a bachelor’s degree under the same roof, Terri’s progression was seamless.

“All of my credits transferred, and my advisor showed me what I needed to complete the bachelor’s degree,” Terri says. “The journey was always crystal clear for me, and I always knew where I was progressing on my journey at the end of each term.”

Terri originally pursued a bachelor’s degree in computer networking, but she soon changed to behavioral science and loved it. Surrounded by professors who answered her questions and expanded her vision to include more education, Terri began to set her sights on graduate school.

“The professors taught me to trust in my learning experience and have faith in my talents and abilities,” she says. “I was constantly acknowledged and praised for my work. There is a spirit at UVU that lets students know that success is so very possible.”

After receiving her bachelor’s degree, Terri went on to earn a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Utah and then a doctorate in social work at Capella University. She has now been working as an adjunct professor in behavioral science at UVU for four years.



doctorate
Master of Social Work
bachelor’s degree
associate degree

Charlie Jensen

Charlie Jensen came to UVU with his sights set on Nashville, Tennessee. As a talented singer and songwriter from Layton, Utah, his original plan was to attend UVU and obtain an associate degree in business. From there, he would move to Nashville to turn his passion of songwriting into a career. This plan quickly changed once he had a look into the commercial music program at UVU.

“After taking a few music production classes and listening to the experiences of other students in the program, I realized I had so much more to learn,” Charlie says. “I knew I needed to get a bachelor’s degree to do that, and I met with my advisor to make the change. The whole process was really easy. It took about five minutes, and I was suddenly on track for a bachelor’s.”

Soon after earning his associate degree in business management, Charlie auditioned for UVU’s commercial music program and was not only accepted but also offered a scholarship. Being able to make the easy transition from an associate degree to a bachelor’s degree allowed Charlie to continue honing his music skills without worrying about moving or transferring schools. He was able to stay in the community he had spent two years building for himself and use his time and energy to focus on furthering his education.

While Charlie has attended UVU only, he says it wasn’t where he originally planned to get an education. When he wasn’t accepted to his first-choice school, he looked to UVU as a place to land. UVU’s open enrollment allowed him to pursue his education when other institutions might not have.

“I’m so glad UVU is open enrollment and that I didn’t get accepted to the other school,” Charlie says. “The culture and educational quality at UVU is everything I was looking for. Not only does UVU provide a phenomenal learning environment, but the open enrollment here allows anyone a second chance to achieve excellence in college.”

Achieving excellence is exactly what Charlie is doing. With two years left in his degree, Charlie’s passions and abilities have been magnified by the faculty and fellow students around him. He is excelling in his courses and looks forward to completing his bachelor’s degree and pursuing his dream of songwriting. ■



“After taking a few music production classes and listening to the experiences of other students in the program, I realized I had so much more to learn.”






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A Q&A ON THE STRATEGY GUIDING THE NEXT 10 YEARS AT UVU

Last year, at the direction of President Astrid S. Tuminez, UVU leaders created **VISION 2030** a 10-year plan outlining how UVU's integrated dual mission will meet the higher education and workforce need of Utah County, UVU's service region, and the state of Utah. UVU Magazine sat down with Kyle Reyes, UVU vice president of Student Affairs, to find out more.

BY LAYTON SHUMWAY

WHAT IS THE VISION 2030 PLAN, AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

VISION 2030 is a set of directional strategies that help us to fulfill what we consider to be a strong dual mission — serving both a community college and a teaching university function. Early in her presidency, President Tuminez asked for a guiding document that unified all the university's planning and strategy. Before that, you could find pieces in different documents, like the facilities master plan, the academic master plan, or the inclusion and completion plans. But we realized we needed to bring those together, to really plant our flag for the next five to 10 years.

This document also comes at a time when the entire state of Utah is reimagining what higher education looks like. They're discussing what the role of UVU is in fulfilling the educational needs of the fastest-growing county in the state. We feel strongly that this document shows why UVU is poised to address such needs.

WHAT ARE THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE VISION 2030 PLAN?

Initially, we decided to focus on eight strategic initiatives, which we had whittled down from a brainstorm of 15 or 16. For example, we wanted to focus on increasing completion rates and improving affordability. We want to have authentically stackable degrees. As we started to list these out, and after receiving feedback from the community, it still seemed like there was a lot we were trying to tackle. Then Linda Makin [UVU vice president of Planning, Budget, and Human Resources] realized that all the strategies we were trying to focus on lined up perfectly with UVU's action commitments: Include, Engage, and Achieve. All of our strategies fall under one of those categories.

HOW IS THE VISION 2030 PLAN A RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY NEED?

The first question we asked ourselves is, "What is the community demanding of us in terms of an education? What value would they find in higher education over the next five to 10 years?" There's a lot of public perception that says higher education might not be worth it anymore. But usually there's a flip side to that story — that during times of recession, folks who don't have a meaningful credential really fall on some hard times.

So our message is, it's no longer just bachelor's or bust. We're going to put just as much effort into our certificates and associate programs as our bachelor's programs. And why is UVU the right organization to address these kinds of things? Because it's part of our DNA to be community responsive. This institution was born out of fulfilling a workforce need. When we add programs, it's not out of elitism. We add programs because the community has asked for them.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO SEE ACHIEVED AT UVU BY 2030?

We want to see a significant increase in our completion rates. We want to make sure we have significantly improved our outreach to underserved populations, everyone from low-income families to first-generation students to communities of color. We want to make sure that at least 30% of our total offerings are available online. We want a robust branch campus system that incorporates target offerings that make sense to communities in Payson, Lehi, Wasatch, and elsewhere. We hope the community continues to see us as a partner in workforce development.

My pitch to potential UVU students is that UVU allows you to explore toward something. When I speak to high school students, most of them don't know what their major will be. But at UVU, you really have a blank canvas. You can paint your own future. You can make meaningful progress toward a credential starting with concurrent enrollment. In less than a year, you can walk away with an industry certificate. And at that point, you have more choices. I feel like we are still young, nimble, and hungry enough that we want to continue to be dynamic in our response to what students need. ■

AT UVU, YOU
REALLY HAVE A
BLANK CANVAS.
YOU CAN PAINT
YOUR OWN
FUTURE.

TO READ MORE ABOUT THE VISION 2030 PLAN, VISIT WWW.UVU.EDU/VISION2030.

ANALYZES THE

A key part of Utah Valley University's Vision 2030 plan is providing access to two future master planned locations, By 2030, UVU will serve students at seven current and tailored to community and industry needs. These options help reduce traffic and pressure on neighborhoods and communities.

UVU champions connectivity of its campuses to a full range of transportation options, including UVX, FrontRunner, and accessible biking and walking paths.

WASATCH CAMPUS
Hospitality and recreation center
Education startup center

CANYON PARK CAMPUS
Culinary Arts program

VINEYARD CAMPUS
Specialized academic programs, athletics and support services

OREM CAMPUS
Primary academic hub

PROVO AIRPORT CAMPUS
Aviation and Emergency Services programs

CAPITOL REEF FIELD STATION
Engaged learning and scholarly activities field station

LEHI CAMPUS
Digital technology campus, educational startup center, MTECH collaboration, graduate education

EAGLE MOUNTAIN/SARATOGA SPRINGS (PLANNED)
Education startup center, further expansion as appropriate

PARSON (PLANNED)
Education startup center, further expansion as appropriate

46%
PERCENTAGE OF UVX DAILY RIDERS WHO ARE UVU STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

4,000
APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF UVU RIDERS PER DAY ON UTA

1,000+
NUMBER OF PARKING SLOTS FREED UP PER DAY ON THE OREM CAMPUS

UVX COMPLETES ABOUT **250 TRIPS** EACH WEEKDAY, BEGINNING AT 4:05 A.M. AND ENDING AT 1:37 A.M.

UVX OPENED IN AUGUST OF 2018. SINCE THAT TIME, IT HAS ACHIEVED **2,751,568 BOARDS**.

UVU PRODUCED **1,573,656 BOARDS** BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2018 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.

- UVU campuses
- UVU future planned campuses
- UTA FrontRunner
- UVX dedicated bus line

UVU ATHLETICS MARKETING TEAM GIVES STUDENT
EMPLOYEES HEAD START IN WORLD OF SPORTS

EVERY DAY is DIFFERENT

BY JAY WAMSLEY | PHOTOS BY JAY DROWNS

THEY don't often deal with trampolines or rocket engines, but the Utah Valley University Athletics marketing team seems to have a knack for launching staffers into next-level experiences, thanks to the experience they gained from UVU.

Take Parker Handley, for example. The 23-year-old from Centerville, Utah, is currently a social media associate for the Minnesota Timberwolves of the NBA and the associated Minnesota Lynx of the WNBA. Handley is tasked with content creation for the social channels of the two professional teams. He utilizes graphic design, photography, and video to create eye-catching, quality content to drive engagement and increase brand awareness.

And just months before this all-in career, he was wondering what he wanted to be when he grew up and was willing to take an unpaid job to find out.

"When I began searching for career paths, I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do, other than I wanted to work in sports," Handley, who is still enrolled at UVU and studying marketing, says. "An opportunity arose to



"My favorite part of the job is by far the experience of being in an NBA front office and being around the team," Handley says. "The workload can be pretty heavy, but, that being said, working at professional sporting events and hanging out with athletes makes work fun and enjoyable."

Kameron Dearing, director of marketing and promotions for UVU Athletics, says he remembers Handley's thirst for learning and noted his constant ambition to learn more.

"Parker said he was afraid that I would think he's abandoning UVU," Dearing says, "but I couldn't have been happier for him. He went from an intern that didn't know what he wanted to be, to a professional designer, hanging out with the big boys."

Recent UVU graduate Matt Mansfield also gets to hang out with teams, both professional athletes and teams of well-known broadcasters and their support staff. As a social media shooter and editor for Turner Sports, Mansfield says he has no "typical day."

"I work with the social media and studios department to fulfill video requests and create content for Turner's social media accounts, primarily March Madness, NBA TV, and NBA on TNT social accounts," Mansfield says. "We capture in-the-moment interactions between players and the fans that create engagement and excitement on these plat-

forms."

Besides

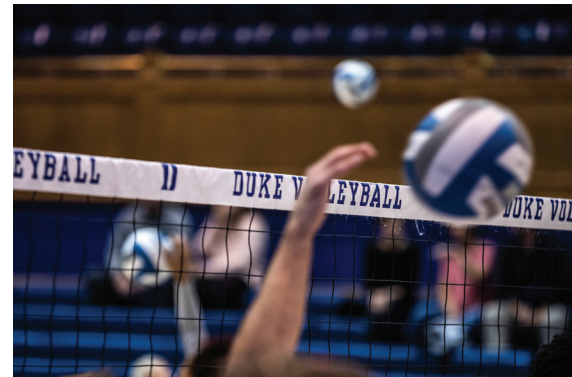
being involved in the

regular NBA season, as covered

by Turner Sports, Mansfield travels to events, such as the NBA Awards Show, NBA Summer League, and preseason games.

"There's not really a typical day for me in the office. Every day there's a different project or task to complete," he says. "It really is about the people you meet and work with. Being able to work and learn with the people at Turner is the most rewarding. Being assigned new tasks to work on has helped me grow in this position."

Mansfield is quick to credit UVU for the learning and experiences outside the classroom in preparing him for a high-level career. Mansfield was involved with the Center for the Advancement of Leadership, UVU's Student Ambassadors, and the UVU



Previous page, Parker Handley in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he manages social media content for two professional basketball teams. Above, left, Handley spends much of his time in the Target Center, home of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Minnesota Lynx. Above, Courtney Wright assists with marketing several NCAA teams at Duke University.

"WHEN IT CAME TO HIRING FOR MY NEW JOB, WHAT SET ME APART IS MY WILD SKILLSET AND EXPERIENCE THAT I COULD HAVE ONLY GAINED AT UVU."

work in the Athletics marketing department on campus, and I began as an unpaid intern. Being in a small department, I had the opportunity to not only work my way up in the department, but grow my skillset and build my all-around value in the industry. When it came to hiring for my new job, what set me apart is my wild skill set and experience that I could have only gained at UVU."

Handley says the around-the-clock nature of social media and digital interaction make for a massive workload and a formidable challenge. But then he remembers his long-time dream of being a part of an NBA franchise.



“I KNOW
THAT WITHOUT UVU
I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS
POSITION TODAY.”

Matt Mansfield, pictured in the television studio of “Inside the NBA,” is an editor for Turner Sports, one of the major channels of presentation of NBA games, often traveling to NBA events such as awards shows and off-season games.



Student Alumni Association, in addition to his employment in the Athletics marketing department while at the university.

“I know that without UVU I wouldn’t be in this position today,” he says. “These experiences I received outside the classroom are comparable to those received at so-called elite universities which cost \$30,000 a semester. Along with gaining these experiences, I value the networking opportunities and connections I made. Teachers, faculty members, mentors, and fellow students — they have all helped and prepared me for my current position.”

Bill Hoops, former UVU Athletics marketing manager, says many of the innovations and ideas brought by his cadre of interns remain and have become a part of the department’s internal strategy.

“The students we had the chance to work with in UVU Athletics are so talented,” Hoops says. “My role was simple — understand where they wanted to go, give them some guidance and networking, help them think big, and then remove any roadblocks that were in their way. They learned a craft that they might not have intended to learn in the first place, and then added some old-fashioned hustle to it to become great candidates for any job at any level. And now they are working at some of the most visible organizations in all of sports.”

Hoops says he appreciated how the marketing interns saw solutions to problems and worked to help UVU. He says Mansfield originally was assigned to put flyers up and improve attendance at games.

“While working, Matt saw a need to create more engaging content for our social media accounts,” Hoops says. “He used a combination of digital marketing classes, YouTube tutorials, networking with professionals in video, some UVU Athletics camera equipment, and access to each team at UVU to grow incredibly fast.”

Hoops says Mansfield’s work improved so much that he received national recognition, winning a bronze medal in digital promotions from the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators. “It wasn’t long before his content online was getting noticed by some of the most respected universities and broadcasters in the nation,” he says.

Social media marketing — not a career or even an academic major a decade ago — also fills the day for Courtney Wright, a 2019 UVU graduate. Wright is in charge of developing and executing digital media plans for the volleyball, baseball, cross-country, and track and field

teams at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Wright meets with coaches of each squad and creative teams to develop strategies, along with interactions with ticketing, marketing, and network representatives.

“When the seasons start, I will begin traveling with the teams as their coaches permit. When I am not working with my specific sports, I am helping others on my team in whatever aspects are needed,” Wright says, “which includes working others’ games while they are traveling with their respective teams. We are all present at both football and men’s basketball to create the best content possible.”

Wright notes that the spotlight is a little brighter on Duke than her beloved Wolverines, but it doesn’t deter her enthusiasm for personal growth.

“The best part of my job is being on a stage,” she says. “I have loved spending time in the facilities, getting to know coaches, and being able to create personal relationships that will impact my future career.”

“My UVU experience helped prepare me for this role. During my time there, I was able to develop skills that are not developed in the classroom. I was able to learn the world of collegiate athletics. The biggest thing that this position gave me was versatility. I loved having the ability to know how to do every aspect of athletics marketing.”

Hoops says, “Courtney is so good at what she does. In the day-to-day challenges we faced, Courtney would often say something like, ‘Hey, I was thinking about this in class,

can we try something new?’ Then we let her do her thing and get out of her way.”

An Orem native, Wright says she hopes to one day get a master’s degree in sports administration.

As the community relations intern for the Fiesta Bowl, JoDee Disney is glad she doesn’t get stuck doing what are sometimes cast as lesser intern-level responsibilities.

“The great part about interning with the (Fiesta) Bowl is that you get to be involved in everything and are not stuck doing ‘intern work,’” Disney says. “The best part of my job is being able to work in sports, which is something that I love and am passionate about while also being able to give back to those who really deserve it. I really enjoy working with children, so I am enjoying the events that I get to be around and help children.”

She says she works with a wide array of community outreach efforts and programs, including youth flag football tournaments for the Boys and Girls Club, playground builds, grants to help make classroom wishes come true for teachers across Arizona, and other outward-facing events.





Mansfield, Dearing says, brought UVU's marketing efforts to a new level through his innovative video work, eventually getting work offers from around the country.

"He consistently studied best practices and what kind of equipment should be used," Dearing remembers. "We went from a department

“MY BACKGROUND AND UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS REALLY SET ME APART FROM THE OTHER CANDIDATES.”

"I think the most challenging thing about working in sports is the long hours," Disney says, "but after the event, the feeling of fulfillment makes it all worth it."

Disney, a first-generation student from Tacoma, Washington, who graduated summa cum laude in 2019 with a degree in communication, recalls that she took a stab at working with UVU Athletics because there seemed to be opportunities that combined public relations with sports.

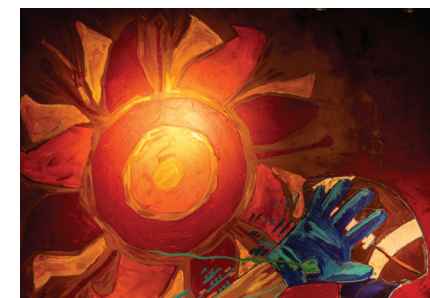
"One of the available positions was in community relations, so I decided to try it out. I quickly figured out that this was where I was meant to be," she says. "Interning and then eventually working for UVU's Athletics marketing department taught me so much about myself, what I want to do and where I want to go. UVU also provided me with great mentorship from Bill Hoops and friends who wanted to go in the same direction I did. When I was hired for this role at the Fiesta Bowl, my boss said that my background and understanding of community relations really set me apart from the other candidates."

that had no video production to four cameras and a plethora of lenses. He consistently pushed himself to learn the newest techniques and how to grab attention. The day Matt left was a dark day and he's still highly missed by the entire athletic department."

Of Wright, Dearing said she "consistently did things that no one else wanted to do and did it without complaining." He said Wright would study other university's social activities to find what might work best at UVU: "Her knowledge for efficiency is a major reason why she's at Duke today. She's able to do what it takes multiple others to accomplish."

Dearing remembers Disney as "one of the most passionate employees I've had the pleasure of working with. When given a task, she would put her whole heart into it." He said he enjoyed watching her rise from being an intern to "managing all community relations for me. I knew that I could give her a large task and not need to worry about it."

No hidden trampolines or personal jet-packs, but these Wolverines continue to move upward in all that they touch, thanks to the mentorship and opportunities they received while at UVU. ■



JoDee Disney works with several community groups in out-facing efforts related to the Arizona-based Fiesta Bowl. She says some of her favorite community relations events revolve around children's teams.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

UVU alums

transfer technical skills

to aircraft industry.

BY Barbara Christiansen PHOTOGRAPHY BY August Miller



They anticipated they would be fixing dents or replacing bumpers on cars, but some Utah Valley University students and graduates have found themselves applying custom paint jobs to corporate jets, valued up to \$60 million.

And they have obtained good jobs in a growing industry.

A growing number of UVU alumni — from fields including collision repair, automotive technology, and graphic design — have found their place at Duncan Aviation at the Provo Municipal Airport. Duncan is an aircraft service provider, with more than 20 locations nationwide. In Provo, the company recently expanded its facility, including a 275,000 square-foot building for maintenance and modifications, and a new state-of-the-art paint facility.

“Three or four years ago, Duncan invited us to come over and take a tour of their facilities,” says Don Wilson, chair of UVU’s Transportation Technologies Department. “They were going to need technicians, in any possible field that we could train. We do training in areas of refinishing. The types of processes you go through to refinish a vehicle are the same as to refinish an airplane.”

And the similarities are many. Although there are some differences, the basic principles are the same, and students can be quickly trained to add those skills.

“Paint is paint and electricity is electricity,” Wilson says. “We are not an airframe and power plant program. That particular program has to be FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) certified. If you are trained in a specific area, they can use those specialties.”

Cayden Bailey is a UVU student who is also working at Duncan Aviation. He has been in the collision repair program and says the skills he has learned have helped him.

“I love it,” he says. “I get to learn new skills every day and apply what I have taken from the collision repair program. I can be that much further ahead of newcomers into Duncan because I have that collision repair background.”

Jake Brewer, the manager of the paint facility at Duncan Aviation in Provo, agreed that the basics are the same.

“They come in with the same basic concept,” he says. “To prep aluminum, we can easily train them on those things based on the experience they got at UVU. It is extremely helpful in training them to do what we do here.”

“We look at experience. It definitely helps,” he added. “It is a huge plus when we look at it as far as hiring. They definitely have more of an advantage getting a position here.”

Adam Beach, Duncan’s paint and interior sales representative in Provo, says, “The skillset of the UVU students who come out of the automotive program is very applicable to what we do here. I recruit heavily from UVU.”

Despite being prepared to do the work, the students who transfer their skills to the world of aviation have some unexpected adjustments to make.

“Not really knowing about the corporate jet industry, a lot of them get shell-shocked,” Brewer says. “It is definitely a way

“The skillset of the UVU students who come out of the automotive program is very applicable to what we do here. I recruit heavily from UVU.”

larger scale — the amount of materials, and the size of the facility to start with. A large aircraft can cost between \$10 million and \$60 million.”

And a paint job can be a quarter of a million dollars on each airplane, says Jeff Holm, a professional in residence in UVU’s Transportation Technologies Department.

Another big difference is the type of customers they serve.

“I have been working on celebrities’ planes — actors and sports figures,” Bailey says. “It was kind of astonishing to have this celebrity, who I look up to, look up to me for my skill. It was a crazy experience. It was never how I expected anything to go.”

Bailey is attending UVU full time and working full time. The salary is almost double what he had been earning previously, and he says he never had imagined that would happen to him at this stage of his life. The 20-year-old student just purchased a house.

Jordan Atkin graduated from UVU’s collision repair program and has worked at Duncan for seven months. He is in the spot repair department, repainting and blending to fix damage from incidents, including bird strikes.

“I feel UVU’s program has so many options for what it can teach you,” he says. “Not every time when you get a job are you going to be using every single skill.



Utah Valley University alumni, many from the collision repair program, have transferred their skills to employment in the aircraft industry. Pictured clockwise from top left, Josel Angeles, Jordan Atkin, Cayden Bailey, Mariana Alcalá, Bryan Henson.

“It gave me good insight into what I would love doing. Coming over to aviation, I am still able to apply the same knowledge. It has given me more options with my life.”

Josel Angeles is a UVU graduate in art and design, now working at Duncan. He is an interior specialist, which can include upholstery, seat coverings, carpet, and paint.

“It is basically my dream job,” he says. “It was basically life-changing. It took me seven years to graduate. A counselor gave me a chance to start doing cars. After I graduated, I began fixing airplanes instead of cars. If you don’t know what you are doing, college is pretty hard. UVU has so many

“It is basically my dream job... it was basically life-changing.”

programs. Give yourself a break and do some fun classes. Eventually, it will help you.”

With the many applications of skills that students learn, the department has changed its name to better reflect its possibilities.

“We changed our name to Transportation Technologies,” Wilson says. “Our students can reach across several different fields of specialty and be valued employees from rail to aviation.”

They can work with paint, interiors, upholstery, electronics, cabinetry, and use mechanical, electronics, and critical thinking skills. Some require additional training or certification. With the transferrable skills, the students can work in numerous fields. The field is also growing and the need for new employees is expected to continue to increase.

“The industry is severely hurting for employees,” Beach says.

Bailey says he was enthusiastic about it for himself and others.

“I would recommend the program to anyone who wants to get their hands moving,” Bailey says. “If you are willing to work and want to learn and better your mechanical aspects, I would definitely recommend it. You should take advantage of the opportunities you have. You never know what might present itself.” ■

Part of
Something

Big- ger

UVU Criminal Justice Department celebrates
25 years of service and student success

The first thing you see when you step into Bobbi Kassel's office is her giant bulletin board. Decorated with patches from police departments all over the country, it represents just a fraction of the number of students she has impacted during her time at Utah Valley University, where she now serves as chair of the Criminal Justice Department.

"When I started advising, I got this bulletin board because a couple of students gave me a patch from wherever they got a job after graduation," Kassel says. "This is a collection of my students and where they have gone to work. I just collected those when I was an advisor, but every once in a while I still get a package in the mail that has a letter and a patch."

Kassel's story is unique. She received her associate degree in administrative service and then started her part-time job in the School of Business in 1993, when UVU was known as Utah Valley Community College. In 1995 she accepted a full-time position with the Criminal Justice Department. Eventually, she decided to take advantage of one of her work benefits — she didn't have to pay tuition to take classes.

"That was a big incentive for me to continue to go to school," she explains. "I ended up getting my bachelor's degree in 2002, so in total it was about seven years that I was working and taking classes here and there. During that time, I moved into an academic advisor position."

By **Alex Kennington**
Photography by **Jay Drowns**

Once Kassel took a victimology class for the first time, she was hooked. She ended up deciding to put her plans to become a police officer to the side once she started having children, but that didn't stop her from wanting to help those in the line of duty.

"I decided if I couldn't be a police officer, I at least wanted to work with police officers," she says. "As we developed our criminal justice program at UVU, we had many officers coming back to get degrees, so I was still able to associate with them. We also had officers teaching for us, so I was involved with them a little differently. Then when I took the victimology class, that really piqued my interest in helping people."

Once she earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Kassel received a master's degree from the University of Utah in educational psychology while continuing to work for UVU. "My department chair, Brent Bullock, let me start teaching a victimology class," she says. "Victimology had been my absolute favorite since I took the class. I got involved advocating for sexual assault victims

with the Utah County Rape Crisis Team. My passion for victim advocacy created interest among criminal justice students. That's how I filled a niche in the department when I moved to being full-time faculty."

Now, 26 years after receiving her first degree at UVU, Kassel is the chair of the department where she initially worked as a secretary.

"From administrative assistant to academic advisor to adjunct faculty to full-time faculty to department chair in the same department? I don't know that that's ever happened," Kassel says. "I think it helps me understand the staff within my department and their roles and responsibilities because I've done those jobs. I feel like the stars aligned for me during my time here at UVU."

With the help of other faculty members, Kassel works to make the Criminal Justice Department a place where all students can succeed. Faculty member Matt Duffin, who previously served as department chair, helped jump-start this process.

"One of the things I did when I was department chair was start teaching concurrent enrollment classes," Duffin says. "We started by teaching our core courses — we'd teach them all through a broadcast. Then a bunch of high schools started getting involved through this distance education format. At first I only had three or four students, but now I have 60 to 70 students taking our concurrent enrollment classes each semester."

These concurrent enrollment classes support UVU's mission to create stackable degrees throughout its programs.

"We were asked to generate a certificate of proficiency for concurrent enrollment students. In addition to that, we have an associate degree. There's another certificate for people who pass through the police academy. We have two associate degrees that build into the bachelor's degree," Duffin explains.

Kassel and Duffin worked together to create an online option for students who were already working full time. Now, those looking

to get a criminal justice degree can do it through face-to-face classes, online classes, or a hybrid of the two.

"It was hard for students to get classes when their work schedule would change or they'd have to wait a semester or two for the class to be offered at the right time," Duffin says. "Bobbi and I worked with Marcy Hehny to develop the online program. It's really made a difference for our students."

Students who pursue criminal justice at UVU don't leave with any ordinary experience. The program cultivates hands-on opportunities for students to succeed. Those enrolled in Kassel's victimology class participate in service projects each semester to help the community.

"I think students get a lot of joy and growth in the service they do for their community," she says.

One recent instance Kassel mentions is a collaboration between UVU's Criminal Justice Department and the American Fork Police Department. The police chief, Darren Falslev, is a UVU alumnus and current adjunct faculty member. Falslev contacted Kassel after a number of domestic violence incidents in his city, and together they came up with the idea of creating a series of informational videos about domestic violence, using grant money from UVU's College of Health and Public Service.

"Some people in that situation don't want to call the police department," Kassel says, "so we wanted to make videos that would offer the same information we would offer if they called us."

Three videos in the series have been released so far, and they're already having a positive effect in the community.

"One of my students who was a victim of domestic violence appears in the videos and tells her story," Kassel says. "She was phenomenal, and I know the project really impacted her. Even after doing the video, she contacted me and said, 'I want to do more and share my story more — how do I get more involved?'"

Kassel's journey through the ranks of the Criminal Justice Department is one that represents possibilities for all UVU students. The creation of stackable degrees offered her opportunities that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Now, she works hard to pay it forward.

"There are a lot of great opportunities for our students, and they can start even smaller than I did and move up," Kassel says. "Now our college even has a master's degree in public service. It's really awesome just

to watch students start in careers and get promoted with more education."

One example of that student success is Gregory Petersen, who graduated from UVU in 2004. Petersen says he didn't do great in high school and only went to college because of the pressure others put on him. Despite this, he found a passion for criminal justice and eventually earned a master's degree.

"The professors who worked in the field made the biggest difference for me," Petersen says. "We had a great mix of professors who had a wide array of experience within the criminal justice system, and they exposed me to a lot of career options."

Over the past 25 years, the department has grown from one or two classes to an associate degree to a bachelor's degree. Primarily responsible for this growth was

former Department Chair Brent Bullock, who was key in establishing the program when it first started.

"I taught the very first class, Introduction to Criminal Justice, and there were five students who signed up for the semester," Bullock says. "Now we offer entire criminal justice degrees."

Bullock says he worked hard to see the program built from the ground up. "I'm very proud of having had a small part in establishing and helping grow the Criminal Justice Department," he says.

This year, as the department celebrates its 25th anniversary, Kassel expresses her hopes for the future of the program.

"Exceptional care is a core value at UVU, and I see my faculty practicing that every single day," she says. "Students in the program feel like they're a part of something bigger." ■

"Exceptional care is a core value at UVU, and I see my faculty practicing that every single day," she says. "Students in the program feel like they're a part of something bigger."



Patient Preparation

**NEW NURSING
STUDENT
LEARNING AND
SIMULATION
CENTER OPENS
AT UVU**

Photos by Jay Drowns

In the ever-changing world of healthcare, preparation is key. With that in mind, Utah Valley University opened its new Nursing Student Learning and Simulation Center in 2019. This lab provides a hospital-like setting for student nurses to train and develop their skills. Thanks to the facility, nurses can prepare for emergency situations in a high-pressure environment that helps them hone their abilities without any risk.





“Each year the state of Utah is short 4,000 nurses, and we need to do as much as we can to increase the quantity of nurses entering the field each year,” says David McEntire, dean of the College of Health and Public Service. “In addition to that, we also want quality. That’s where this lab comes in. We have great instructors and great support from the community, but this is a safe lab where we can help our students gain confidence.”



The facility is impressive, with nearly 7,500 square feet and room for up to 21 hospital beds. There are three nursing skill labs in the center and three high-fidelity simulation rooms including a simulated mother and baby birthing suite. The use of computerized mannequins to simulate real-life scenarios provides students with effective engaged-learning opportunities that are second to none. The facility also includes a state-of-the-art control room, three debriefing rooms, and an outpatient exam room.





AS WE TRAVEL life’s road, there are many lessons learned and adventures to be shared. One of the easiest ways for alumni to share their insights and let classmates know what is new in their lives is through class notes.

A great example of a class note was recently shared by Tong Li:

“I graduated from UVU in May 2019 with an associate’s degree in criminal justice. I figured that both the criminal justice department of UVU as well as the alumni association would be proud to know that I am now a sworn public safety officer. Just a few days ago, I graduated from North Carolina’s correctional officer academy and was sworn in as a correctional officer of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. I hope to continue toward a productive career in public safety, and to always proudly carry the banner of a UVU graduate. Go Wolverines!”

—Correctional Officer Tong Li, NCDPS

We are proud of Tong Li and all of our alumni’s accomplishments, and it’s important we hear from all of you so our alumni can be inspired and stay connected with each other.

A class note can be about a milestone in your life, a fun adventure, a UVU memory, or a remarkable story. Alumni want to know as much about their fellow classmates as possible.

To share a class note or to update your information with the Alumni Association, follow these steps:

- 1. Log in to the uvualumni.org online community. If you have not done so, do the first-time login and complete your alumni profile.
- 2. At uvualumni.org/profile, click “Class Notes.”
- 3. To view other members’ class notes, click “Class Notes Home.”
- 4. To share your class note:
 - a. Click “Create,”
 - b. Choose a “Category” to identify your type of class note,
 - c. Type your class note in “Note Text,”
 - d. Follow the prompts to preview and save your class note.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Kevin Walkenhorst
Senior Director, Alumni Relations

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CHELSEY BECK. Computer science teacher at Provo High School, former first-generation UVU student. Graduated with seven endorsements in STEM-related fields. B.S. Business/Marketing Education, 2012; and M.Ed Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Technology emphasis, 2019.

"Because of my attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, and central auditory processing disorder, my ACT scores were terrible. If it weren't for UVU, I never would have gotten the chance to continue my education. I never thought I'd have a master's degree and work to help bring computer science into this valley. Seeing my students with similar backgrounds to my own running down the hall to come play with robots or deciding to pursue a career in STEM is inspiring. I am UVU."

Share your story at **uvualumni.org**

