



2019 UNIVERSITY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS & TRUSTEES AWARDS

The Utah Valley University Awards of Excellence program recognizes faculty and staff who dedicate their time and talents to students, scholarship, and the advancement of higher education.

The Presidential Awards of Excellence honors six faculty and staff for their efforts in key areas related to UVU's mission and core themes.

The UVU Board of Trustees recognizes four employees this year for their contributions to forwarding UVU's mission.



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

WELCOME	President Astrid S. Tuminez
DINNER	Culinary Arts Institute
PERFORMANCE	UVU Brazilian Club <i>Capoeira</i> <i>Introduction by Carlos Figueiredo, Club President</i>
INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIVERSITY AWARDS	Elaine S. Dalton, <i>Chair, UVU Board of Trustees</i>
PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS	Presented by President Astrid S. Tuminez Christa Fletcher, <i>Efficiency and Effectiveness</i> Qianwen (Rachel) Bi, <i>Engagement</i> Brian D. Birch, <i>Leadership and Inclusion</i> Gregory H. Jackson, <i>Student Success</i> Shalece Nuttall, <i>Service</i> Ryan J. Vogel, <i>Innovation</i>
PERFORMANCE	Terrell Baker, <i>Junior, Commercial Music</i> <i>“The Fight,” an original song by Terrell Baker</i>
TRUSTEE AWARDS	Mary V. Brown Eddy L. Cadet Summer Barrick Valente Stephen L. Whyte
CLOSING REMARKS	Elaine S. Dalton



BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

ELAINE S. DALTON

It is an honor and a privilege for members of the Board of Trustees to join with President Tuminez and university officials in honoring you for your important and unique contributions to UVU. You are recipients of the institution's highest honors — the Trustee and Presidential Awards of Excellence. In your professional and personal lives, you exemplify in every way the exceptional values upon which this institution was founded and to which it remains dedicated today.

You have distinguished yourself in your commitment to our dual-mission model through your service to the students, the institution, and the community. Because of your professionalism and uncompromising integrity, your efforts and contributions will enrich and bless generations to come.

On behalf of all trustees, we congratulate you for demonstrating exceptional dedication to the mission and values of Utah Valley University. We are honored to acknowledge the contributions you have made and are delighted that we can shine a spotlight on your efforts. Thank you for making UVU a place where all students know they can bring their dreams, and that a caring community of dedicated employees will help these dreams become reality.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine S. Dalton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Elaine Dalton
Chair, Board of Trustees



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ASTRID S. TUMINEZ

In my first year as president of Utah Valley University, I have witnessed the incredible dedication and commitment of the faculty, staff, and administration to the mission of our institution and their unwavering desire to see all of our students succeed. It has been a privilege to work alongside these women and men over the last several months. Together, we are helping to ensure that we take meaningful steps to include and engage our students so they can achieve those credentials and degrees that will allow them to lead lives of dignity, productivity, and integrity in a rapidly changing world.

I am thrilled that this evening we are able to highlight those women and men who have demonstrated exceptional care and accountability in their day-to-day activities. The recipients of the Awards of Excellence are examples to us all of how we can put students first in all that we do at UVU. I am so proud of their efforts and delighted that we as a university have the opportunity to say thank you in such a meaningful and celebratory fashion.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Astrid S. Tuminez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "T".

Astrid S. Tuminez, Ph.D.

President





PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS



QIANWEN (RACHEL) BI

Engagement

Qianwen (Rachel) Bi is from Shenyang, China, and earned her bachelor's degree in management of information systems, 2007, from Dalian Maritime University. She was awarded a master's in personal financial planning, an MBA with a concentration in finance, and a Ph.D. in personal financial planning from Texas Tech University. At UVU, Bi has been actively involved in teaching-related events hosted by the Office of Teaching and Learning, such as Teaching Academy, Learning Cycle, Great Teacher Summit, and International Teaching Forum. At the past two years' Technology Tools for Today (T3) conferences (an interdisciplinary collaboration between financial planning students and computer science students), she led three UVU teams to two championships and one third-place finish. She has authored and co-authored numerous papers and continues to work on tools to accelerate learning and expertise in the financial software field, receiving numerous grants and honors for her research. She travels to China on behalf of the Woodbury School of Business to strengthen ties there. She is a member of the UVU Inclusion Committee. Bi says, "I love the spirit of UVU. Everybody has a unique utility function, which determines the satisfaction level from different things. I gain mine the most from helping students to be successful through their coursework and other engaging activities, such as undergraduate research projects and national competitions. The open-enrollment policy and the inclusive environment give me the opportunity to engage students with different backgrounds. It is exciting to be their mentor and to see their accomplishments."



BRIAN D. BIRCH

Leadership/Inclusion

Currently the director of the UVU Center for the Study of Ethics, Brian D. Birch is also a professor of philosophy. From Draper, Utah, Birch earned bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy from the University of Utah. He also holds a Ph.D. in philosophy of religion and theology from Claremont Graduate University. Birch has been the director of the Religious Studies program at UVU since 2002. He was named the Marlin K. Jensen Scholar in Residence at the University of Utah in Fall 2016. Birch has been the associate vice president for academic affairs and engaged learning at UVU (2010–2014), as well as the associate dean in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (interim) from 2008–2010. He is a past winner of the Faculty Excellence Award in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (2001–2002) and Adjunct Teacher of the Year Award (1997–1998). Birch says, “Working with students is far and away the most rewarding aspect of my job.” He enjoys biking, hiking, and heavy metal, “though not necessarily in that order.”



CHRISTA FLETCHER

Efficiency & Effectiveness

Christa Fletcher is the executive assistant to the vice president of Institutional Advancement at Utah Valley University, a position she has held since 2017. From Rochester, Minnesota, Fletcher holds a bachelor's degree in family life studies from Brigham Young University. Prior to her current position, she provided administrative support for the office of Institutional Advancement at UVU and also worked for Catering and Hospitality at BYU (2014–2016). Fletcher notes that she appreciates working where she has the opportunity to be around colleagues and donors who understand the “immeasurable value” of an institution like UVU and who want to help it succeed. “UVU is truly remarkable in that it is a home for people of every background and life situation, whether those people are students, staff, faculty, or even community members,” she says. “UVU provides invaluable opportunities for anyone who is willing to seek them out, and these opportunities extend far beyond the classroom.” Fletcher is an avid reader and enjoys running, photography, and hiking with her husband and two little boys.



GREGORY H. JACKSON

Student Success

Gregory H. Jackson is the director of Student Affairs Grant Development and has been at UVU full time since 1994. He earned a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in Chinese (Mandarin) and Asian history, an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University, and will complete a doctorate degree from the University of Buckingham (U.K.) in humanities research later this year. Jackson has more than 20 years of nonprofit sector administration, fundraising, program services, and project management, as well as 15-plus years of experience in grant writing, proposal development, and facilitation of grant programs for Utah Valley University. He came to UVU after a successful international banking career in New York City and Asia and continues to be actively engaged in regional and international affairs, especially in China, Asia, and with Native American, Native Hawaiian, and other indigenous communities worldwide. He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and conversant in Japanese, Cantonese, and Spanish. "When I started working at UVU," Jackson says, "I found the culture to my liking — a place where the vast majority of individuals are here to serve and help students achieve their lifelong goals. That atmosphere has kept me here ever since that time. I love what I do, and the greatest aspect of my working at UVU has been those many fine individuals with similar mindsets... I continue to be motivated by that sense of contribution to the whole that is available to me in the UVU culture." Jackson and his wife, Valerie, have seven children and 13 grandchildren, and the couple loves to travel and meet diverse cultures and peoples.



SHALECE NUTTALL

Service

Shalece Nuttall is the manager of Academic Advising and Student Success in the College of Health and Public Service. She is also a past president of Professional Association of Campus Employees (PACE). From Springville, Utah, Nuttall received her associate degree in paralegal studies from Utah Valley University (2004), a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies (UVU, 2005), and a master's degree in educational psychology (with an instructional design and educational technology emphasis) from the University of Utah (2012). Nuttall's past experience includes having been an adjunct faculty member in the UVU digital media and marketing programs, an academic advisor in the Woodbury School of Business, an administrative assistant in the WSB, as well as an office assistant in the legal studies program. She says, "I have had many positive experiences with students I have worked with, and care deeply for each of them. I am passionate about their success not only at UVU but in their lives, and I develop a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment whenever I see them succeed." She enjoys spending time camping, fishing, and occasionally hunting with her husband of 17 years and her "two beautiful and sassy daughters, and two rambunctious little boys." She adds that "dark chocolate and dirty Diet Dr Pepper should be part of the major food groups."



RYAN J. VOGEL

Innovation

Ryan J. Vogel is the director of the Center for National Security Studies, director of the National Security Studies program, and an assistant professor at UVU. From Herriman, Utah, he earned a bachelor's degree in integrated studies at UVU, a master's in international affairs from American University, and a juris doctorate from American University. Additionally, he was awarded an LLM and a certificate in national security law from Georgetown University. Before coming to UVU, Vogel served at the Pentagon as a senior policy adviser in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Vogel also served as a senior research associate at the Public International Law and Policy Group in Washington, D.C., and as an advisor on national security and foreign policy issues to U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch. As a law student, he clerked in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State. He has taught international law courses at American University in Washington, D.C., Brigham Young University, and at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. In 2018, Vogel was awarded a Presidential Fellowship for Faculty Service. With the award, he has proposed and accepted a contract to write a book on U.S. National Security with MacMillan International Press. "When I made the decision to transition from government service to academia," he says, "my primary motivating factor was in preparing the next generation of public servants. Coming to UVU, I have been continually impressed with the character, intelligence, drive, and desire to serve of our students. It is such a pleasure to help them pursue their dreams." Vogel describes himself as a lucky husband and father of four. He enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, and "debating anything."

TRUSTEE AWARDS



MARY V. BROWN

Mary V. Brown is currently the department chair and an associate professor in the Department of Public and Community Health. She is a former winner (2018) of the Dean's Excellence Award for Faculty Excellence in the College of Health and Public Service. In 2017, Brown was awarded the Outstanding Service and Leadership Award from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC). Brown earned a doctorate degree in health promotion and education from the University of Utah, master's and bachelor's degrees in health science from Brigham Young University, as well as an associate degree from Mt. San Jacinto Community College. A native of Hemet, California, she started her career as an environmental health educator at the Riverside County Health Department. She has since taught for Salt Lake Community College, Brigham Young University, and the University of Utah. "Utah Valley University is where I was most comfortable," Brown says, "and I have taught at UVU as an adjunct from 1996–2006, then full time from 2007 to the present... I love working with the students here at UVU. They inspire me, they motivate me, they teach me, they amaze me." Brown has twice been named Outstanding Educator for her college, as well as Adjunct Instructor of the Year (2002). She says she married "the boy next door" and the couple has been together for 36 years. She has two children and twin granddaughters.



EDDY L. CADET

Associate Professor Eddy L. Cadet has been at UVU, associated with the environmental science and management program, since 1993. He has also been an environmental health scientist with the Utah County Health Department (2002–2010). He was a registered environmental health scientist in the Lake County Department of Health, Wauconda, Illinois, as well as a high school science teacher in Chicago. Cadet earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Illinois-Chicago campus, and master’s and doctorate degrees (integrative bioscience) from Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. He was honored with a Faculty Grant Proposal Writing Award in 2018 from the Office of Sponsored Programs at UVU. He earned a Teacher of the Year Award in 2001 from the School of Technology, Trades, and Industry from then-Utah Valley State College. Cadet won the Environmental Club Advisor Award in 1998 from the Environmental Management Program. “I also have enjoyed working with students in the classroom and in the laboratory doing research,” Cadet says. “I love seeing the enthusiasm in their faces and in their demeanor as they experience the excitement of being engaged in scientific research. One student testified to me, ‘It changed my life.’ It is one thing to hear such a statement, but totally another to actually witness this transformation.” Cadet enjoys time with family and friends, but also enjoys meditation and playing the guitar.



SUMMER BARRICK VALENTE

The director of UVU’s Center for Social Impact, Summer Barrick Valente, lives in Provo, Utah. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor of arts in humanities, with an emphasis in philosophy. During her undergraduate studies, she spent time in Brazil, which sparked her passion for community development, civic engagement, and the nonprofit sector. Valente then earned a master’s degree in public administration from the Romney Institute of Public Management at BYU. During her graduate studies, she spent time abroad in Ghana and Mozambique, focusing on international development and research. She started her nonprofit career at United Way of Utah County, where she was business relations manager, community engagement director, and chief operating officer. She was responsible for developing resources, securing grants, and training those involved with EveryDay Learners, the Volunteer Center, Sub for Santa, Day of Caring, and coordinating many other local, state, and national activities. As the director of the Center for Social Impact at UVU, she loves working with students to create a space for critical thinking, reflection, and action on social justice issues. She is a believer in “the power of students to change their world.” Valente says, “The best part of working at UVU is the people. It’s such a privilege to work with wonderful students, dedicated staff, and committed faculty and administrators. I love that students come first.”



STEPHEN L. WHYTE

Stephen L. Whyte is the associate vice president of University Marketing and Communications at UVU, where he is considered the chief marketing and communications officer of the university. He is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Communication, and Whyte continues to teach a public relations class each semester, noting that one of the most enjoyable aspects of his career has been teaching UVU students. Under Whyte's leadership, UVU has been featured on Bloomberg TV, *The New York Times*, CNN, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *U.S. News & World Report*. Telling UVU's story, showcasing the Roots of Knowledge windows around the world, elevating UVU's dual-mission model on a national level, and publicly commemorating the successes of President Matthew S. Holland while celebrating and welcoming President Tuminez have been highlights of Stephen's career. UVU's pre-professional chapter of public relations students has been named the top Student Public Relations Chapter in the nation twice in the last six years. Whyte earned the National PRSSA Outstanding Faculty Adviser Award in 2012, the 2013 UVU Presidential Award of Excellence for Engagement, and the 2017 UVU Alumni Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. "I love UVU," Whyte says. "Being a part of the UVU family is a privilege and honor as we unitedly work together to help our students succeed." Whyte loves skiing, traveling, and spending time with his wife, Roxane, and their five children.



AWARDS IN SUMMARY

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Qianwen (Rachel) Bi
Assistant Professor, Personal Financial Planning

Brian D. Birch
Director, Center for the Study of Ethics

Christa Fletcher
Administrative Support, Development and Alumni Relations

Gregory H. Jackson
Program Director, Grant Writing, Student Affairs

Shalece Nuttall
Manager, Academic Advising, College of Health and Public Service

Ryan J. Vogel
Director, National Security Studies

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Mary V. Brown
Associate Professor, Community Health

Eddy L. Cadet
Associate Professor, Department of Earth Sciences

Summer Barrick Valente
Director, Center for Social Impact

Stephen L. Whyte
Associate Vice President, University Relations

DIVISIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Amy Barnett
Office of Global Engagement

Karen Cushing
Office of Academic Affairs

Kimberly Rollins
Library Public Services

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Ashton Stitt
Executive Events

Phil Schwartz
Alumni Relations/Annual Giving

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Kameron Dearing
Athletics

Kaelee Nielsen
Athletics

Jessica Houston
UVU Service Desk

Duane Lee
IT Systems Administration

Asmik Sargsian
Dining Services

Thames Harding
Custodial

Cody Bills
Parking Services

Troy James
Finance and Business Services

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Michael Snapp
Career Development Center

Jeremy Webb
Student Health Services

Sam Hadlock
Prospective Student Services

Tiegan Hatch
Admissions and Registration

PLANNING, BUDGET & HUMAN RESOURCES

Angela Ward
Institutional Research

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Stace Hall
University Marketing and Communications

DEANS' AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

EXCELLENCE FOR SERVICE

Anton Tolman
Professor of Behavioral Science

EXCELLENCE FOR TEACHING

Stevie Michelle Munz
Assistant Professor of Communication

EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP OR CREATIVE WORK

Russell T. Warne
Associate Professor of Behavioral Science

EXCELLENCE FOR STAFF

Natalie Shelley
Advisor, Communication

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Hazel McKenna
Professor, Developmental Mathematics

EXCELLENCE FOR SERVICE

Lindsey Gerber
Assistant Professor, Developmental Mathematics

DEAN'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR STAFF

Kristen Campbell Nuesmeyer
Counselor, Academic Standards

EXCELLENCE FOR STAFF

Jan Christensen
Assistant to the Dean, Financial Operations

DEAN'S STUDENT CHOICE FOR WOLVERINE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MaKayla Bernardo
Student

**WOODBURY SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS**

EXCELLENCE FOR TEACHING

Carolyn Hamilton
Associate Professor, Strategic Management

EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Dustin Harding
Assistant Professor, Marketing

EXCELLENCE FOR SERVICE

Vaughn Cox
Professional in Residence, Finance and Economics

EXCELLENCE FOR STAFF

Bonnie Mortensen
Coordinator, Undergraduate Talent Sourcing

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DEAN'S STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Cindy Wilkinson
Administrative Support III

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Eric Domyan
Assistant Professor, Biology

EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Tyler Standifird
Assistant Professor, Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation

EXCELLENCE FOR SERVICE

Craig Thulin
Professor, Chemistry

EXCELLENCE FOR TEACHING

Alessandro Zanazzi
Associate Professor, Earth Science

EXCELLENCE FOR STAFF

Brandi Pacchiega
Administrative Support III, Earth Science and Physics

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

EXCELLENCE FOR SERVICE

Dan Hatch
Assistant Professor, Digital Media

EXCELLENCE FOR SERVICE

George L. Rudolph
Associate Professor, Computer Science

EXCELLENCE FOR TEACHING

Darin Taylor
Professor, Engineering Graphics and Design Technology

EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Chuck Allison
Professor, Computer Science

EXCELLENCE FOR STAFF

Donna Cornia
Administrative Support IV







FACULTY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

FULL-TIME FACULTY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Krista Ruggles
Assistant Professor, Elementary Education

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Alan Parry
Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Weihong Wang
Associate Professor, Geography

Michaela Gazdik-Stofer
Associate Professor, Biology

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Dan Hatch
Assistant Professor, Digital Media

Reza Kamali
Associate Professor, Computer Engineering

Jan Bentley
Associate Professor, Information Systems and Technology

Susan Thackeray
Assistant Professor, Technology Management

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Karin Anderson
Professor, English Literature

Maria Blevins
Assistant Professor, Communication

Christopher Nguyen
Associate Professor, Philosophy

WOODBURY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Jared Chapman
Assistant Professor, Organizational Leadership

Mitch Murdock
Assistant Professor, Marketing

Joel Helquist
Associate Professor, Accounting

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Sarah Donohue
Assistant Professor, Dance

Ben Evjen
Assistant Professor, Graphic Design

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Ben Johnson
Assistant Professor, Student Leadership and Success

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

Kevin McCarthy
Assistant Professor, Emergency Services

FACULTY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

ADJUNCT FACULTY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Leesa Leonard

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Steve Revelli

Jessica Wagner

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Bryan Sansom

Marshall Krebs

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Serena Kanig Benish

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Colleen Sorensen

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

Bonnie Wilder-Estes

PACE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

FULL-TIME STAFF

Kimberly Williamson
Administrative Support III, History and Political Science

Jolene Arnoff
Assistant to the Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Vaylene Perry
Administrative Support IV, Enrollment Management

Vadra Rowley
Software Engineer, IT Administrative Programming

Noemy Medina
Assistant Director, First Year Experience/Student Retention

Laurel Riding
Administrative Support III, Student Leadership/Involvement

Dustin Lamont
Program Director, Intramurals, Campus Recreation/Wellness

Mariana Ramiro Gomez
Counselor, Gear Up

PART-TIME STAFF

Ashley Beck
College of Health & Public Service/Educational Technology

Teresa Organista
Gear Up

Jessica Frandsen
Institutional Effectiveness

Corinne Johnson
Development Services

Special thanks to the event planning students from the UVU Hospitality Management program in the Woodbury School of Business for their assistance in planning and implementing this event.

