Fiscal Year Giving

June 30, 2013: $51,519,872
June 30, 2014: $58,434,884
June 30, 2015: $76,757,567

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Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to announce to the Utah Valley University community and supporters that during the past fiscal year we set a fundraising record with an outpouring of more than $25 million from you for much needed facilities and programs. A majority of these funds were raised to construct a new Performing and Visual Arts Building, which still remains a top fundraising priority. Substantial funds were also donated by generous benefactors to build a new autism center, which you may learn more about on pages 8-9. As an ongoing priority, and only through your generosity, we were able to raise more than $1.7 million for student scholarships.

Another accomplishment this year is the initiation of our new Merit Grant Program. This program awards grants of up to $5,000 to UVU students, faculty members, staff members, and organizations that undertake projects furthering the Foundation’s goals. These goals may include telling UVU’s story, engaging with the community, meeting the needs of Utah County, and promoting economic and cultural development.

Within this new issue of Foundation Today, you can read about the remarkable Bruce and Deanna Hammond, who have made a unique career out of helping others. We take a look back through history from the humble beginnings of the President’s Scholarship Ball through today, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. We also bid farewell and thank a pair of Foundation colleagues who were instrumental in transforming UVU fundraising: Marc Archambault and Joel Kincart.

As we approach UVU’s 75th anniversary celebration in 2016, our hope for the successful future of this extraordinary university only increases. We sincerely thank you for your ongoing support.

All the best,

James N. Clarke
UVU Foundation Chair
Bruce and Deanna Hammond show off some of their stuffed animals, soon to find a home.
Recyclers Extraordinaire

When Bruce Hammond noticed that a neighbor's air conditioner was still covered up after hot weather had set in, he knocked on the door to see if they needed any help with it. It turned out the elderly man living there had nearly fallen off the roof the previous year, and his wife wouldn't let him go up again. “It took me less than half an hour to get the air conditioner going,” says Bruce, who, at 69, is trim and fit. “There are opportunities every day to make a difference in somebody’s life.”

Bruce and his wife, Deanna, are sitting together on their living room sofa in their West Valley, Utah, home. The room is crowded with stacks of boxes, but not for the Hammonds’ upcoming move to Texas; they’re full of clothes and toys the Hammonds have collected to donate to a long list of charitable agencies they work with. One box is full of stuffed animals, and a plastic case contains nothing but bags of new underwear. An effusive blond in her sixties, Deanna pulls out the top bag to demonstrate; it’s full of girls’ size 12.

“We’re recyclers,” Deanna explains. “That’s what we do. What one agency can’t use, we’ll find another agency that can.” The Hammonds have built a career out of finding free and discounted goods and getting them to the nonprofit agencies they work with. One box is full of stuffed animals, and a plastic case contains nothing but bags of new underwear. An effusive blond in her sixties, Deanna pulls out the top bag to demonstrate; it’s full of girls’ size 12.

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Early on in their marriage, the Hammonds made a bad real estate investment. Deanna says they didn’t have two dimes to rub together. But rather than seeing it as a failure, they say it was probably their best investment ever; it convinced them to go into real estate full time.

After selling some property in 1997, they got a tax break by establishing a charitable remainder trust at Utah Valley University. The trust was set up to fund an endowed scholarship for single parents upon the Hammonds’ deaths. Since the Hammonds didn’t need an income from the trust, they eventually donated it outright.

The Hammonds have attended scholarship luncheons at UVU, where they met some of the recipients of their scholarship. “There were two or three who mentioned to us that it changed their lives,” says Bruce. “And it changed their kids’ lives too. It’s shown the kids that they can do it too.” He considers the scholarship one of their best investments.

In 1992 the Hammonds rented a property to a woman recovering from a house fire. The American Red Cross was paying her deposit and first month’s rent, and the Hammonds needed to fill out some paperwork to receive payment. That’s when they decided to get involved with the Red Cross, and it started them on the path to making volunteerism a career. They took classes so that Deanna could work with the family services division and Bruce could be a team leader. Whenever someone had a fire during the Hammond’s night shift, the Red Cross helped get them into a hotel and furnished them with vouchers for any items they needed immediately.

Then, in 1999, a friend who supervised the warehouse at The Road Home homeless shelter challenged Bruce to come up with 500 pairs of socks for the men at the shelter. “This was two or three weeks before Christmas,” Bruce points out. They talked to the manager at a big box store and were taken into the back of the store. “There were all these carts just heaped full of underwear and socks in torn packaging,” says Deanna, “and they sold them to us for $25 a shopping cart—socks, underwear, undershirts—anything from the underwear department.” The Hammonds filled their SUV and went...
Recyclers Extraordinaire

back for more every few days. They collected the 500 pairs of socks but ended up with piles of other things as well. They needed to find a way to get the undergarments to the people who needed them, so they found other charities.

Next, the homeless shelter asked for gloves, so the Hammonds approached the manager at another big box store, who took them out back to a pallet piled six feet high with various items. The manager explained he’d been trying to give it to a charity, but the charity wouldn’t come and collect it. “If you take it and distribute it, it’s yours,” he said. “But it has to be gone tonight.”

“We hauled it all home, and two days later he called and said he had some more,” says Deanna. Among the items they collected were women’s slippers in a cow print. Deanna was inspired to create gift baskets for the eight women who were in the homeless shelter at the time. She bought shampoo, conditioner, soap, shower sponges, and hair clips for each of them. Even though the number of women in the shelter has grown to 150 since then, she has continued the tradition, collecting things all year and organizing neighborhood women to help out. This year she found an Eagle Scout willing to take part of it on as a service project.

In March 2001, the Hammonds worked on their first national disaster with the Red Cross. Heavy rains and straight-line winds had felled masses of trees in Mississippi. Houses had been crushed and power lines downed. The Red Cross doesn’t allow married couples to work together, but the Hammonds each wanted to know that the other was safe, so they put in a special request. “They told us they’d give us one chance, and if we came back fighting we wouldn’t get to work together anymore,” says Deanna. The Hammonds helped displaced people find hotels and provided vouchers for food, diapers, and whatever was needed. “We accomplished much more together because we understand each other. After that we got to work together,” she says.

On Sept. 11, 2001, shortly after the World Trade Center towers came down, the Hammonds got a call from the Red Cross asking if they would go to New York. They immediately agreed, but it turned out to be one of the most emotionally grueling jobs they’d ever undertaken. Working for the family services division, they helped people at ground zero whose homes had been damaged. “We walked by ground zero every day, and it was three or four days in that I realized that this piece of metal I was walking by was a fire truck,” says Deanna. She pauses to regain her composure. People who had lost family members in the attack were sent out to a ship for counseling, but many of the families the Hammonds assisted had lost close friends. “We listened to people tell their stories of where they were when the towers fell, how they got out, and their fears for their families.”

Bruce says, “Our training didn’t prepare us for this. We’d been with Red Cross for eight years, but then this . . .” He breaks off, struggling with the memories. Sometimes just hearing a certain song will bring it all back to him.

“A lot of the time we didn’t have any idea what influence we were having, we just had a feeling that this was where it was supposed to go.”

When the Hammonds returned from ground zero, they dove back into their volunteer work at home. They collected food with damaged packaging from retailers and distributed it to food banks and other charities. The groceries they delivered to victims of domestic violence made it possible for the

Deanna and Bruce Hammond in their living room in West Valley, Utah
women in the shelter to put aside money toward a car, or to buy gas, bus tokens or diapers. The Hammonds were surprised one day when a shelter official told them that half a dozen women had quit smoking with the help of the nicotine patches and gum the Hammonds had delivered. “A lot of the time we didn’t have any idea what influence we were having,” says Bruce. “We just had a feeling that this was where it was supposed to go.”

One year a store going out of business was selling children’s coats at deep discounts. The Hammonds didn’t know what they would do with them, but they knew there were many kids in need. “We would just pile coats onto a cart, and then we’d ask for a charitable discount on top of the 80 or 90 percent off,” says Deanna.

The Hammonds distributed some of the coats to children at Neighborhood House, which provides day care and after-school care for children as well as day care for the elderly. They distributed coats to kids at UVU’s Wee Care Center, at The Road Home, and at several schools, but only to kids who really needed them. “We had coats coming out our ears,” says Deanna. “But every once in a while we didn’t have the right size for a child. So we’d ask what color they wanted, and then we’d go out to Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse and buy it.” Whenever the Hammonds find themselves with a surplus of something, sooner or later they find a place that’s looking for just what they have. “The only way it works is to listen to the spirit,” says Deanna. One year somebody gave a truckload of men’s sweatshirts to Candy Cane Corner, which helps low-income people provide Christmas gifts to their families. There were so many sweatshirts, the charity couldn’t use them all and asked the Hammonds if they could find homes for the rest. “We didn’t have any idea what we were going to do with them, but when we got back from hauling the second load home, I had an email in my inbox from a man I’d never met at Volunteers of America asking for men’s sweatshirts,” marvels Deanna.

“Two years prior and had seen the perfect one—extra deep and wide, with 12-foot ceilings. The owner hadn’t been ready to sell, so he gave her a business card. He decided to call the owner as soon as he and Deanna got home and see if she was ready to sell. He never got the chance. When they arrived home, there was a message from the garage owner on their answering machine offering them the garage. Bruce laughs, “I went to a garage sale and bought a garage.”

The Hammonds have worked with so many different charitable agencies that Deanna holds a printed list to refresh her memory. They became volunteers at Primary Children’s Medical Center when Deanna offered to help organize their donation storage. Once when they found themselves the beneficiaries of some Jewish holiday items, they started delivering to the Jewish Community Center in Salt Lake City. They’ve delivered clothing, books and candy to youth detention centers and stuffed animals to the Children’s Justice Center. They’ve delivered goods to veterans at Valor House and to children at Christmas Box House, which cares for kids headed into foster care. The list goes on.

This fall the Hammonds are moving to Texas to be closer to their family, including two great-grandsons. They’re whittling down the boxes of goods they still have. Bruce pulls a giant stuffed rhinoceros out of a box in the garage. He grabs some giant stuffed dogs and poses for a photo with Deanna. The Hammonds have been dumbfounded by the number of people who have told them how much they will be missed, people they hardly know. “But it’s because of what we do,” says Deanna. She says they’ve had friends ask them what they’ll do in Texas. The Hammonds are already looking at volunteer opportunities. “We’re not changing who we are,” she says. “We’re just changing locations.”
Solving the Autism Puzzle

The Cole Nellesen Autism Building, funded entirely through philanthropy, will be built adjacent to the McKay Education Building and will bring together all the University’s autism initiatives for better collaboration. It will include spaces for innovation and experimentation.

Unlike most teenagers, Cole Nellesen lives alone in a world of his own, to the anguish of his parents. Keith and Melisa Nellesen have tried their best to reach their autistic son and have struggled to find professionals with the knowledge and skills to help them. “For years we’ve been trying to figure out how to help and to educate him,” said Keith. “If kids with autism aren’t reached while they’re young, their world becomes closed. We need to crack open the world they live in and become a part of it.”

Knowing that better understanding of autism will come about only with better coordination among the various agencies working to find answers, the Nellesens turned to UVU. They recognized that a university is the ideal place for such collaboration, as it affords the best environment for resources to be pooled and the best solutions discovered.

To create better interventions for others dealing with autism, the Nellesens are generous supporters of Utah Valley University’s autism initiatives. They made a leading gift toward the construction of UVU’s autism center and a gift to support autism programming. The Melisa Nellesen Autism Center will be housed in the Cole Nellesen Autism Building.

“UVU is the epicenter of autism studies in Utah County,” said Keith, managing partner of the angel investment company McCole Partners. “They had an idea and a plan, and they’re working to find the best ways to help these kids and to educate them.”

One in 68 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and in Utah, which has the second-highest rate in the country, one in 54 children is diagnosed with ASD. To address the pressing need for a clearer understanding of the disorder and how to best support those who are struggling with it, UVU held a conference on autism in 2011. The conference has become an annual event, providing a forum for discussing ways to help students,
professionals, educators, families, and service providers understand and manage the disorder.

From that first conference, UVU’s autism programs evolved, with input and funding from the community, including a leading gift from J. Brent and Kathryn Wood. “Over ten years ago, our family opened the Clear Horizons Academy (CHA), a school dedicated to providing educational and other needs for families and their children on the autism spectrum. Our first decade of helping these families has been significantly enriched by the dedicated service of many members of UVU’s faculty and administration who have served CHA in many capacities. My wife, Kathryn, and I have admired the growth in quality and stature of the University’s autism initiatives,” said Brent Wood.

UVU helps prepare teachers, first responders and other professionals to better serve individuals with ASD and helps students on the autism spectrum to reach their full potential. The effort has become truly interdisciplinary, with faculty members and administrators across several different schools and colleges collaborating to provide the most informed and comprehensive resources.

UVU now offers a minor and a certificate program in autism for students studying behavioral sciences, with courses in early intervention, educational options, and lifespan interventions, as well as a field course in which students work directly with individuals with ASD. Community members can earn the certification through UVU’s Continuing Education Office.

Most kids with ASD end up in a public school classroom, so UVU is developing a special education degree that will offer a minor in autism education. Since UVU turns out more K-12 teachers than any other university in Utah, the impact of this minor will be significant.

UVU’s Passages program prepares young people with ASD for higher education and adulthood by helping them to utilize their strengths, to develop job skills and to take university courses. The program includes education, social experiences, independent living, and career guidance.

The Cole Nellesen Autism Building, funded entirely through philanthropy, will be built adjacent to the McKay Education Building and will bring together all the University’s autism initiatives for better collaboration. It will include spaces for innovation and experimentation. The Clear Horizons Academy Second Floor, made possible by a gift from Brent and Kathryn Wood, will feature a flexible space for training and engaging families and community members.

A gift from dōTERRA is providing playground areas and sensory landscaping. The two adjoining, shaded playgrounds will help children enhance their motor skills and engage in science exploration while they play and interact with each other. Aromatic plants will provide an uplifting sensory experience for children and families. Kirk Jowers, vice president of dōTERRA corporate relations, said, “The UVU autism center will benefit the community and even those beyond our valley through the education of families, professionals and those dealing with autism. We foresee the learning that will congregate in and around the center spilling beyond into the broader autism community. When the learning that takes place in the center is shared and published, people all around the world will benefit.”

“UVU’s Passages program prepares young people with autism for higher education and adulthood by helping them to utilize their strengths, develop job skills and take university courses.”

A gift from Vivint is providing two sensory room suites, and a gift from Vivint CEO Todd Pedersen and his wife, Andrea, is providing a preschool classroom. “Vivint is 100 percent committed to supporting children with autism,” said Pedersen. “This is an opportunity for our entire community to come together to care for these dedicated and often overlooked families.”

Casey Baugh, a vice president of sales at Vivint, is funding the Casey and Chelsea Baugh Classroom, and John R. Pestana, co-founder of Omniture, has donated funding for an additional interior space.

“I’m hoping that if graduates come out of UVU with a greater awareness of the challenges of autism and with the knowledge and skills to reach autistic children while they’re young, many more children will be helped,” said Keith Nellesen.
UVU Scholarship Ball
The Event of Utah Valley
In 1991 former Utah Valley University President Kerry Romesburg asked Margaret Pope if she thought a scholarship ball would be a good way to raise money for scholarships. Did she think it would take hold? “He had no idea that over the years it would be the biggest and finest party in town,” said Pope.

The President’s Scholarship Ball at UVU has been called the premier event of Utah County, an event that attracts the “Who’s Who” of the county. Even Utah Governor Gary Herbert attends. But it’s not just a social event. By funding the merit-based Presidential Scholarship, the ball has made it possible for hundreds of students to attend UVU.

In 1991 the UVU Foundation was still young and was putting 80 percent of its income into endowment. There wasn’t much left over, but the need for scholarships was great. President Kerry Romesburg asked Foundation Board Chair Bill Anderson if there was another way to raise money for the badly needed scholarships.

Anderson tossed out the idea of a social event that would raise money through ticket sales. “I said, why don’t we make it the event of the year for Utah Valley? Make it a black tie event and call it the Presidential Scholarship Ball. See if we can’t bring out the wealth of the valley and begin a tradition,” said Anderson.

The Andersons chaired the scholarship ball committee for the first two years, before turning the job over to Wilford and Natalie Clyde, but they remained staunch supporters. “My wife and I made a firm commitment after the success of those first two balls that this would be something we’d be involved with so long as we lived and that we would try to instill in our children that it would be a way in which our family would continue to give forever,” said Anderson, who continues to bring his children and grandchildren to the ball each year. “It’s one event of three that we hold as a family every year,” he said.

The Clyde family also has been supporting the ball since its inception. Louise Clyde was a member of the first Foundation Board and hosted a family table at the ball every year until her death in 2013. Her children have continued the tradition. “I invite my children to come and sit with me at my table like my mother did,” said Paul Clyde. “I’m hoping they will continue to come to the ball. To anybody who hasn’t been a part of it in the past, I say, it is the best event of the year in Utah Valley.”

The jazz band that played at that first ball—and at the next 19—was The Dick Losee Band. Dick and JoAnn Losee

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- Bill Anderson

A committee of couples was assembled to organize the ball, chaired by Anderson and his wife, Norma. They managed to get the food and the band donated. Norma took care of the decorations for the venue—what is now UVU’s Centre Stage—and the committee got busy selling tickets. The ball brought in $30,000 in ticket sales plus a surprise check from a committee member. During the evening, Romesburg had tucked the check into his shirt pocket without looking at it, but as he was leaving the ball with Anderson, he pulled it out. It was for $100,000.
Dick have been generous supporters of the University for decades. Dick passed away in 2012, but JoAnn continues to sponsor a family table each year. “This university has always been for the community, and it has grown because of the support of the community,” said Losee. It’s a strong cause, helping anyone who wants an education and wants to be better prepared for whatever lies ahead of them, she said.

“I don’t like to miss a good party, ever, and I wanted my kids to be there, too,” said Margaret Pope, whose family also has been a part of the ball from the beginning. The Popes are longtime supporters of UVU as well. “Bill and I thought the best way you could help people was through scholarships,” she said. “Many of the recipients of our scholarships have been single mothers who just desperately needed a job that was worthwhile, a job where they could hold their heads up and support their families.”

Soon the UVU Symphony Orchestra began to play at the ball, then it was joined by other award-winning UVU music and dance performers. In 1995, the ball gained a fruitful partner in UVU’s Culinary Arts Institute, whose famously delectable seven-course meals are a big draw in themselves. The following year the ball was moved to the UCCU Center to accommodate more people. Today it boasts more than 700 attendees.

The famed hors d’oeuvre tables are decorated with ice and fruit sculptures and offer such treats as hand-made bacon, salami and chorizo. “The hors d’oeuvres are a masterpiece—the assortment, the quality and the uniqueness. Hollywood could not improve upon them,” said Losee. “Then you go into this beautiful room, and each dish they prepare and serve you is a showpiece.” Dinner might be grilled filet mignon and roast jumbo shrimp. Dessert might be pistachio lemon mezzaluna with blackberry gèlee and crème fraîche. The Culinary Arts Institute tries to use local, seasonal foods as much as possible at the ball.

The most poignant moments of the ball are created by scholarship students telling the stories of their struggles and how the scholarship changed their lives. “You’d better have a Kleenex in your hand, because it touches your life,” said Losee. “When these students tell their story, it makes it more worthwhile than anything else could.” Over the years, the Scholarship Ball has introduced dozens of new donors to UVU and has served as a venue for the University to highlight its achievements to the community. The ball currently raises scholarship funds for 51 undergraduate students and a small number of master’s degree students each year. The 2014 ball brought in more than $166,000.

“It’s like being in an elegant hall in one of the most successful, beautiful cities in the United States. That’s what you feel when you’re a part of it,” said Losee. “And you want to continue to always be a part of the President’s Scholarship Ball.”

“I look forward to seeing who’s going to be there and how they’re dressed, what the food is and what kind of a program they’re going to do this year. Where else do you go where you have 22 tables of hors d’oeuvres, all of them special?” said Margaret Pope. “I just hope it goes on forever. I’m 92, and I don’t think there will be another 25 years for me, but I hope that the year I die, I will have been to the ball.”
his summer we said goodbye to Marc Archambault, who transformed Utah Valley University’s development and alumni relations operations in his five years as vice president. Under Marc’s management, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education named UVU the most improved program in the nation among liberal arts institutions in 2013.

With the team he assembled, Archambault significantly increased the number of new donors and private funding at UVU. Scholarship gifts increased tenfold. The Student Alumni program and the student giving campaign won national CASE awards. Archambault established key volunteer programs, including the Gift Planning Advisory Board, and led the effort for UVU’s first-ever privately funded building, the Wee Care Center, Barbara Barrington Jones Family Foundation. He also led the successful campaigns for an arts building and an autism building.

Known among his staff as a high-energy leader with an upbeat, positive approach, Archambault was also extremely generous, paying out of his own pocket for barbecues and movie tickets for his staff. He is now at Western Kentucky University as vice president of development and alumni relations and president of the WKU Foundation.

“Marc came to UVU and truly transformed our development efforts. I am optimistic about the future because of Marc’s great leadership in our fundraising operation,” said UVU President Matthew S. Holland.

Joel Kincart, who joined UVU in 2011, departed in early March of this year. Kincart successfully led the Foundation through significant changes. Under his leadership, the Foundation revamped its charter, created operating guidelines, updated investment guidelines, instituted three key Foundation committees and two task forces, and established the Foundation Ambassadors program. In his nearly four years at UVU, he also led the fundraising team to record heights, recruited new talent, and fostered good relationships with University leaders.

Kincart left in March to become president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Foundation. Located in Rapid City, South Dakota, the position takes his family closer to relatives in Iowa.

Utah Valley University welcomed Kay Schallenkamp as interim vice president of development and alumni relations during the search for a new vice president. Kay is retired as president of Black Hills State University in South Dakota and brings a wealth of experience to her role of providing leadership during the transition.
Next year's Business and Economic Forum will be held May 19, 2016
Bestselling author and Partners in Leadership co-founder Roger Connors and Getaway Guru Larry Gelwix helped attract more professionals than ever to Utah Valley University’s Business and Economic Forum May 14, 2015. More than 370 people attended the daylong program for legal, accounting, financial, and nonprofit professionals in UVU’s Sorensen Student Center.

Central Bank was the founding sponsor of the forum and has continued to sponsor it each of its four years. “We believe strongly in promoting business in Utah County,” said Alan Blackham, the bank’s executive vice president and chief financial officer. “The speakers who are coming in, the quality of the material presented is fabulous. It’s one of the best that I’ve seen among all the different forums and conferences I go to.”

Each year UVU strives to expand the daylong conference, improve its offerings and better support local professionals. “Thanks to the feedback we have received from our attendees, we are continually tweaking our offerings to meet their needs and to create the best experience possible,” said Cristina Pianezzola, director of gift planning at UVU.

Working with UVU staff members, the group of top-flight professionals who make up the UVU Gift Planning Advisory Board puts in a lot of hard work to bring this event together under the leadership of Chair Jerry Garrett, president and senior partner of the financial services firm Keeler Thomas. “Jerry has had the vision, and the forum has evolved to realize his vision,” said Geoff Germane, a shareholder at Kirton McConkie and member of the advisory board. “It gives me a great deal of pleasure to see how it’s grown and how the diversity of the attendees has increased.”

“In addition to the networking opportunities the forum fosters, a wide variety of breakout sessions—16 this year—provide opportunities for attendees to earn continuing education credits that are necessary to maintaining their credentials.

The forum also helps establish important national connections for the University. This year Bruce Johnstone, managing director and senior marketing investment strategist at Fidelity Investments, flew in from Boston to give a presentation on the nation’s economic and market outlook. While here, he spoke to UVU Woodbury School of Business students, met with UVU President Matthew S. Holland, and made plans to return as a speaker in UVU’s Reed and Christine Halladay Executive Lecture Series.

At a luncheon provided by UVU’s award-winning Culinary Arts Institute, President Holland demonstrated the University’s economic impact on Utah Valley and the state overall. He also outlined the University’s plans for expansion over the next decade to accommodate the current numbers of children in local school districts. “It’s always a treat to hear President Holland speak and give the business owners and the advisors a vision of what’s happening at the University from a perspective that you can’t really get anywhere else,” said Germane.

“Attending the Business and Economic Forum is a very wise investment of time, energy and resources, because you can learn so much from the programs that you can take back and implement at your place of business,” said Rona Rahl, president and CEO of the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce and UVU Gift Planning Advisory Board member. “It will also help you connect with new people, new businesses in Utah Valley that you may not have otherwise had the opportunity to connect with. So it’s a win-win situation.”
The Utah Valley University Business and Economic Forum’s Outstanding Community Partner Award recognizes professionals who have truly distinguished themselves through exceptional effort, expertise, and wise counsel to UVU as well as through their selfless devotion to supporting UVU’s mission.
Commissioner John Valentine

As a member of the Utah Legislature from 1988 to 2014, John Valentine was a strong proponent of Utah Valley University. He was instrumental in UVU’s transformation from a two-year community college to a four-year college and championed the effort to gain university status. He supported funding for the library and classroom buildings and aided in many other successes throughout his years of service.

Commissioner Valentine has sponsored legislation enhancing higher education across the state, including expanding the medical school and funding a nursing building at the University of Utah, funding the science building at Weber State University, and developing the Regents’ Scholarship. He also sponsored legislation to expand the Mountainland Applied Technology system and won approval and funding for the state Natural History Museum.

In September 2014, Valentine was appointed to Governor Gary Herbert’s cabinet as chair of the State Tax Commission. During his nearly 40 years as a practicing tax attorney, he used public-private partnerships to preserve the beauty of the community. He was instrumental in protecting Rock Canyon near Provo and the Range Creek preserve near Price, Utah. His numerous community activities include the Boy Scouts of America and the Utah County Sheriff Search and Rescue team, where he still serves as a lieutenant and an EMT-A. He is currently serving as a bishop in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Reed Halladay

Reed Halladay endowed the Reed and Christine Halladay Executive Lecture Series at Utah Valley University’s Woodbury School of Business. The weekly lecture series has brought many local, regional, and national business leaders to UVU to share their experiences in life and business, serving as inspiration to UVU students, who attend the lectures as part of their business core requirements. The series has engaged prominent business leaders with the University and has contributed to UVU’s mission of engaging students with the world. The lectures, which are free and open to the public, help to extend UVU’s outreach efforts to the wider community as well. Halladay also sits on the National Advisory Council for the Woodbury School of Business.

Halladay is a founding member of Bel Air Investment Advisors LLC of Los Angeles. He represents many Utah clients and is also an owner of PEG Development in Provo, a leading commercial real estate development firm in the intermountain west. He was previously with Goldman, Sachs & Co. in Los Angeles, where he specialized in equity and fixed income portfolio management and was involved in new business development and single stock risk management. He has been a leader in his community, serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a bishop and stake president, and is currently a member of the President’s Advisory Council at Brigham Young University. He is a founding trustee and chair of the board of the Pasadena Museum of California Art.

Fillmore Spencer LLC

The Provo-based law firm of Fillmore Spencer LLC is a strong supporter of Utah Valley University. Attorneys with the firm are involved in various University programs, including the Center for Constitutional Studies, the President’s Scholarship Ball, the Entrepreneurship Institute/Business Advisory Board, the Culinary Arts Institute and pre-law studies. Along with its volunteer efforts at the University, the firm is proud to claim three UVU graduates among its attorneys.

The firm’s motto of “Serving our clients and community with excellence and integrity” applies to their law practice as well as their commitment to Utah Valley. As a major element of its firm culture, Fillmore Spencer attorneys are involved in providing legal and other services to many nonprofit entities in Utah County, including, among others, America’s Freedom Festival, the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce board, the Provo School Board of Education, the American Inns of Court, the Timpanogos Legal Center, the Timpanogos Regional Hospital board, the United Angels Foundation, the Nebo School District, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, and various Utah County cities’ economic development and planning commissions. The attorneys are also highly involved in a variety of church, education, youth recreation and other civic and charitable activities in the valley.

Fillmore Spencer is Utah County’s largest local law firm, providing a wide range of legal services, including mergers and acquisitions and all other business and corporate matters, trademark and copyright work, technology licensing, commercial and civil litigation, real estate matters, personal injury, Social Security disability, estate planning and probate, bankruptcy, family law, criminal defense, and immigration services.
AT&T Funds UVU Scholarships

On June 26, representatives from AT&T presented Utah Valley University with a $24,000 grant for scholarships. The bulk of the grant—$19,000—will provide $1,000 scholarships to low-income Latino students. The remaining $5,000 will support a female student with the first ever Rebecca D. Lockhart Scholarship.

Utah has one of the largest educational gaps between its Hispanic population and its white population. Only 67 percent of Utah’s Hispanic population has completed high school, compared with 94 percent of whites. And only 16 percent of Utah’s Hispanic young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 45 percent of white young adults. Recognizing the need to increase educational and career opportunities for Latino students and their families in local communities, UVU launched its Latino Initiative in 2007.

To help more Latino students enroll in and graduate from UVU, the Latino Initiative engages students, parents, educators, and community leaders in efforts to provide information about college access, opportunities, and resources to Latino youth and their families. It assists local schools in preparing Latino students academically and socially for post-secondary education. Between 2007 and 2014, Latino student enrollment at UVU grew from 1,066 to 3,134 students, giving UVU the largest percentage of Latino students among four-year colleges and universities in the state.

“UVU’s Latino Initiative is honored to have been awarded $19,000 in AT&T grant funds to provide scholarships to current UVU Latino students,” said Director of the UVU Latino Initiative Yudi Lewis. “We are very thankful to AT&T for supporting education and for working with us to change students’ lives.”

“We are thrilled to share our commitment to building a diverse and thriving community of skilled, next-generation students right here in Utah,” said Tara Thue, AT&T director of external affairs. “This commitment is part of AT&T’s Aspire program, which aims to increase high school and college graduation rates nationwide.”

The Rebecca D. Lockhart Endowed Scholarship honors the former speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, who died in January 2015 after a brief illness, for her outstanding leadership in public service. The scholarship was established to benefit a female student with an aptitude and interest in public service in line with constitutional ideals. It is intended to inspire women to pursue degrees and to believe that they can make a positive difference in their communities.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Lockhart Scholarship has been awarded to Deann Torsak, a junior majoring in political science with minors in constitutional studies and American Indian studies. “Words cannot truly express just how thrilled I was when I learned I had been given this scholarship. It will help me continue my education while making sure I am also able to support my children in their educational pursuits,” said Torsak.
The 2016 Appreciation Banquet to honor Utah Valley University’s donors will be held March 23 in UVU’s Grande Ballroom.

The first annual Utah Valley University Foundation Mount Timpanogos Award was presented posthumously to Rebecca D. Lockhart, former Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, at the March 19, 2015, banquet. A longtime advocate of UVU, Lockhart played a crucial role in securing equity funding for the University as well as funding for the new Classroom Building. In her memory, the Lockhart family asked mourners to support The Rebecca D. Lockhart Endowed Scholarship for the benefit of students studying within the Center for Constitutional Studies at UVU. More than $127,600 had been raised for the scholarship as of September 30, 2015.

Tears were shed as guests watched a film honoring Lockhart’s life. President Matthew S. Holland said, “The state of Utah has lost one of its great leaders and public servants in the prime of her life. We, as a university, have lost one of our staunchest champions.”
Foundation Ambassadors

Utah Valley University Foundation ambassadors represent UVU at prominent events and welcome important guests to campus. Each ambassador receives a scholarship in the name of a past Foundation Board chair.

**Cody K. Brown** from Orem is majoring in deaf studies with an emphasis in interpreting. With his passion for musical theater, he hopes to interpret American Sign Language for musical theater—ultimately on Broadway. Cody earned the Paul Clyde Scholarship.

*I want to help make this young program the best it can be. I love contributing ideas and growing as the program grows.*

**Spencer Brown** from South Jordan, Utah, is majoring in information systems. Spencer initiated a college-wide survey of technology and computing students in his role as department representative to student government. Spencer earned the Ron Dallin Scholarship.

*As a Foundation ambassador I would like to create real and meaningful relationships with donors and the Foundation Board.*

**Zack Dearing** from Vernal, Utah, is majoring in communications. He has won the UVU People’s Choice Award, the Wolverine Spirit Award, Student Alumni of the Year, and the Public Relations Student Society of America Presidency Award. Zach earned the Tom Heal Scholarship.

*I chose UVU because it enables you to make a difference. I have loved finding ways to make a difference through serving on various boards, committees, and councils.*

**Lacey Farley** from Brigham City, Utah, is majoring in sociology. She was named Female Leader of the Year by the UVU Center for the Advancement of Leadership and was valedictorian of her class at Box Elder High School. Lacey earned the Thone Heppler Scholarship.

*My vision is for the Foundation ambassadors to create an outreach initiative that helps us develop as professionals and understand the unique importance of philanthropy.*

**Cameron Ketch** from Alpine, Utah, is majoring in business management. He was selected by the National Council on Undergraduate Research to present his work at the organization’s state and national conferences. Cameron earned the Neal Savage Memorial Scholarship.

*I feel like I can make a difference at UVU, which is something that makes it so different from other institutions.*
**Nathan Northcott** from Manila, Utah, is majoring in economics. He was named Male Leader of the Year by the Center for the Advancement of Leadership and served a presidential internship with Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeffery Olson. Nathan earned the Ralph Yarro Scholarship.

*I hope to help the Foundation Ambassador program grow in the impact it can have on future students.*

**Kimberly Nyhus** from Provo is majoring in exercise science. For an assignment to promote wellness in the community, she brought a nationally recognized expert to Utah to raise awareness of melanoma. Kimberly is a volunteer ambassador.

*I believe that the more involvement the Foundation ambassadors have, the more people will gain a love for UVU like we have.*

**Yulia Yevdokimova Rickers** from Ukraine is majoring in behavioral science. She earned degrees in English and French and taught English at private institutions in her home country before coming to Utah to study English. Yulia earned the Craig Carlile Scholarship.

*I would like the Foundation ambassadors to be involved in the recruitment processes both inside and outside the country.*

**Kiana Shaffer** from Boise, Idaho, is majoring in sign language interpreting. She recently spent two months in Ghana, Africa, teaching sign language to deaf students through Signs of Hope International. Kiana earned the Debbie Bingham Scholarship.

*Using what I’ve learned as vice president of philanthropy for Student Alumni, I’d like to help develop a philanthropy campaign that can sustain itself for years to come.*

**Michael Stroud** from Taylorsville, Utah, is majoring in exercise science. As a member of the Service Council, Michael helped bring Elizabeth Smart to campus to speak and raise awareness of sexual assault prevention. Michael earned the Marlon Snow Scholarship.

*This university has given me so much. I want to be able to give others a chance to have the same experience I’ve had, or an even better one.*

**Jessica Willard** from Roosevelt, Utah, is majoring in communications. The Wolverine ambassador manager for prospective student services was recognized as an influential woman in the community by the UVU Women’s Success Center. Jessica earned the Bill Anderson Scholarship.

*UVU has given me a college experience that was better than all my dreams. I have a desire to do more for UVU in return for all it has done for me.*

**Taylor Wilson** from Pleasant Grove, Utah, is majoring in integrated studies with emphases in psychology and community health. He initiated the first 24-Hour Dribble to build excitement for a men’s basketball game. The dribble has now become a UVU tradition. Taylor earned the Jeff Kahn Scholarship.

*The opportunities to get involved, gain a great education through engaged learning, and meet wonderful people mean a lot to me.*
Darin Zwick is president and CEO of Zwick Construction. Started in the 1960s by Darin’s grandfather, Zwick Construction was later headed up by Darin’s father, who eventually shut it down to work full time for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With the support of his wife, Courtney, Darin restarted the company in 2007.

Zwick Construction has doubled in size over the last few years and recently was selected for Utah Business magazine’s Fast 50 award for business growth. Engineering News-Record has named Zwick a regional Top 20 Under 40 industry leader in construction and design.

After serving on Brigham Young University’s construction management industry advisory board and helping to develop that school’s master’s curriculum, Zwick was invited to join Utah Valley University’s construction management board and help guide the fledgling program. “I learned a lot about UVU, and because of my good experience with students I’ve hired, I wanted to make UVU the premiere construction management school,” said Zwick.

Zwick joined the Foundation Board as a way to get more involved with the University and more involved with an outstanding group of people. “I feel like together we can help UVU become the best university in the state,” he says.

Darin and Courtney live in Salt Lake City and have five children, ranging in age from 2 to 14. The family enjoys boating in the summer and skiing in the winter.

Get More for Your Money

Would you like your money to go further? If you make a gift toward Utah Valley University’s new Performing and Visual Arts Building this year, you can multiply your impact. A generous consortium of donors has offered up to $1 million in a match challenge. The consortium will match all gifts of up to $1,000 on a 10:1 basis. The challenge runs throughout 2015 and applies to alumni giving, student giving, employee giving and parent giving.

As of Sept. 1, UVU had raised $16.4 million toward the new building—the largest sum of money raised for a new facility in UVU history. Long overdue, the building will alleviate severe overcrowding and will provide teaching, practice, and performance spaces for UVU’s award-winning programs in music, dance and theater as well as exhibit space for the visual arts.
Utah Valley University’s Student Alumni Association won a national award for its student engagement campaign, “Stop Being Boring.” The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Affiliated Student Advancement Program awarded UVU the Outstanding Internal Program National Award.

“The purpose of the Student Alumni Association is to engage students early on so they have a great college experience and become involved alumni as they leave the University,” said Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Kevin Walkenhorst, who manages the Student Alumni Association. “We build loyalty, educate students on what it means to be alumni, connect students with alumni, promote a culture of philanthropy so students have an opportunity to give back to other students and to the University, and develop leaders.”

The “Stop Being Boring” campaign was created to raise awareness of the Student Alumni Association and to communicate the importance to students of getting more involved with their university and making a difference as part of their college experience.
DONATE Today!

Make a Difference!
Your donations, whether big or small, will make a difference.
Visit our website at www.supportUVU.org