



Utah Academy
of Sciences, Arts & Letters

2025 Fall Awards Night

November 7th, 2025

5:15 PM – 5:50 PM Reception

Room 250 MSRB

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Program & Entertainment

321 MSRB Maeser Auditorium

Brigham Young University

Awards Program

President’s Welcome. Keith Lawrence

Musical Performance. Caine Quartet
Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 18 No. 1, 1st movement, and
Mozart's Eine Kleine Nacht Music 1st movement
USU students Kristene Murrow (violin), Jonathan Swank (violin),
Brenley Mason (viola), and Raif Milligan (cello)

Outgoing Officers
Business Chair – Taowen Le – Weber State University

Incoming Officers
Business Chair – Jim Brau – Brigham Young University
English Language and Literature Chair – Melanie Jenkins – Snow
College

Excursion
Contact CoCo James (coco.james@utah.edu) for more information

Presentation of Honorary Member Jim Godfrey
Recipient: Liliana Olvera-Arbon

Presentation of Academy Fellow. Jim Godfrey
Recipient: Dr. Rachel Keller

Presentation of Best Paper Awards. . . . Keith Lawrence and Division Chairs
James H. Wolfe Address Dr. Rachel Keller
“Navigating Difficult Times: What UASAL Offers Us All”

Closing Remarks. Keith Lawrence

**Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters
Outstanding Best Paper/Poster Awards 2025**

Arts - Jim Godfrey Chair

Best Poster

“Finding Beauty in Balance and Cost: Analyzing the Evolution of Mobile Homes”

Hayden Fleming – Utah Valley University

Best Paper

“Touching Loss – The Language of Hands in Käthe Kollwitz’s Maternal Mourning”

Lily Greenwood – Utah Valley University

Biological Science - Daniel Clark Chair

Best Poster

"A look into frugivorous interactions with *Psychotria* and *Palicourea* genera on Barro Colorado Island, Panama"

Madison Smart and Elsa Jos – Utah State University

Best Paper

"Identifying cranial specimens of Utah species of *Lepus*"

Arianna Harrington and Ethan Rowland – Southern Utah University

Business – Taowen Le Chair

Best Paper

“The Oyster is Your World: A Revisited Look at International Diversification”

Robert Dobil – University of Utah

Engineering - Ali Siahpush Chair

Best Paper

“Slab of Ice Melting Rate Due to Natural Convection and Thermal Radiation”

Tim Amodt – Southern Utah University

Humanities, Philosophy, & Foreign Languages – Thomas Terry Chair

Best Poster

“Body Worlds: Issues of Corpses & Human Dignity, Insights from Rome”

Miranda Slusser and Savanna Thompson – Snow College

Best Paper

“Scroll, Click, Mitigate: Unmasking and Taming the Social Media Mental Health Concerns Haunting Utah’s Kids”

Aggrey Otieno – Utah State University

“Then I Remembered: Joan Didion Greif: Minimalism and Phenomenology”

George Dibble – Brigham Young University

Kinesiology and Health Sciences – Tracy Fawns Chair

Best Poster

“Eating Disorders: Treating the Underlying Mental Illness”

Darci Barker – Salt Lake Community College

Best Paper

“Musical (Department) Chairs: The Health Impacts of Serving as a Rotating Department Chair”

James Bemel – Utah Valley University

Physical Science – Maria Rodriguez Chair

Best Poster

“Effects of Heavy Metal Uptake in the Growth and Development of *Lactuca sativa L.*”

Elisa Johnson, Audrey O’Donnal, Riley Jackson, and Braden Robinson – Utah Valley University

Best Paper

“Quantifying Cadmium and Lead Concentrations in Cocoa Beans”

Hannah J. Verhaal, Lydia E. Felix, Harrison R. Yates, J. Andreas Lippert, and Charles Davidson – Weber State University

Social Science – Emily Putman Chair

Best Poster

“Gaps in Gun Safety: A Dual Lens Approach to Addressing Gun Safety in Utah through Policy and Community Action”

Jamie McFall and Kaisha McFall – Utah Valley University

Best Paper

"Wellbeing, Experiential Learning, and Food Justice: A Mixed Methods Case Study of a University Campus Garden"

Elisa L. Diaz, CoCo M. James, and Gabrielle M. James - University of Utah

Dr. Rachel Keller, Academy Fellow

Rachel Keller served as division chair and president of UASAL 2018-2020. She graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, specializing in modern American literature, composition, and secondary education. She passed comprehensive exams with distinction in poetry, modern American literature, and 19th century American literature. She earned her New Mexico State Secondary Teaching License and has extensive teaching experience at the college level, secondary level, and abroad in West Africa. After completing a two-year Peace Corps Volunteer service term in Cape Verde, West Africa, she and her husband moved to Ephraim, where she teaches a variety of classes in the English department.

Liliana Olvera-Arbon, Honorary Member

Liliana Olvera-Arbon embarked on her transformative journey with UCASA in July 2019, assuming the role of Advocacy Manager. Her appointment as Executive Director marked a pivotal moment in the organization's evolution, reflecting her steadfast dedication to advancing the rights of survivors of sexual violence. Liliana is deeply committed to centering and amplifying the voices of survivors, advocating tirelessly for justice and empowerment. Her leadership at UCASA is characterized by a passionate pursuit of equity and a staunch commitment to dismantling systemic injustices that perpetuate sexual violence. Believing fervently in collective action, Liliana champions collaborative efforts to foster safer communities and drive societal change. She envisions a future where every voice is heard, every survivor is supported, and together, we can eliminate sexual violence. Through her advocacy work and personal pursuits, Liliana continues to inspire and empower others, leaving an indelible impact on those she serves and the broader community.