

BRIDGES

01 ISSUE
2020

ALUMNI
MAGAZINE



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Training Future Diplomats

In many ways, the pandemic of 2020 spotlights our global interconnectedness. These global interdependencies underscore the importance of training diplomats to build and work through international channels. Diplomacy has been part of the Kennedy Center's legacy, owing to our namesake, Ambassador David M. Kennedy. Ambassador Kennedy served as secretary of the treasury and was appointed ambassador to NATO and ambassador-at-large.

Training future diplomats continues to be a valuable part of the Kennedy Center mission, as well as exposing all students to the importance of international diplomacy. Since 1985, hundreds of diplomats from nearly every country around the world have spoken at the Kennedy Center. Our academic programs continue to prepare regional and area specialists who provide public service to their respective countries. Data from the US Department of State reported in *Politico* (June 14, 2020) show that BYU is among the top ten US feeder universities with alumni in the Foreign Service, just ahead of Harvard. We have a thriving network of BYU alumni and friends who mentor our students and help prepare them for careers in diplomacy as well as in development, law, business, and national security.

The Middle East includes a trio of notable BYU ambassadors, and we are thrilled to feature an interview in this issue with former ambassador Deborah Jones, who served in Kuwait and later Libya under challenging circumstances. Other alumni and faculty highlights include contrasting policy perspectives from former ambassador Robert King and Texas A&M professor Valerie Hudson, a firsthand account from our own Asian Studies coordinator Eric Hyer, who recently returned from a fellowship on the China Desk in DC, and a moving tribute to the Tueller family's legacy. It is because of our excellent faculty and alumni and their willingness to mentor future generations of diplomats that we continue to make important contributions to global relations.

Thank you,

Renata Forste, Director
David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies

Global insights, ideas, and experiences across disciplines and borders.

PUBLISHER
RENATA FORSTE

MANAGING EDITOR
CORY W. LEONARD

EDITOR
J. LEE SIMONS

ASSISTANT EDITORS
ERICA SUGGS
KIMBER SEVERANCE

COPY EDITOR
LENA M. PRIMOSCH

ART DIRECTOR
A.J. RICH

DESIGN
BYU PUBLICATIONS & GRAPHICS

PHOTOGRAPHERS
BRADLEY H. SLADE
A.J. RICH
JULIA BENJAMIN
BYU PHOTO
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801-422-2652
kcpublications@byu.edu
kennedy.byu.edu

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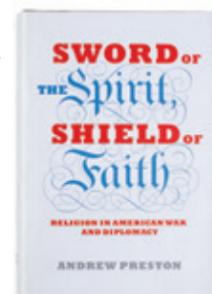


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Enjoy the magazine's first major redesign since 2010, with a sharper focus on important ideas. Send feedback to kcpublications@byu.edu.



Hill of Crosses

THIS YEAR'S BEST OF SHOW in the Kennedy Center photo contest was taken by Madeleine Hendricks on the Baltic States Medical Internship, Spring–Summer 2019. Her winning photograph, *Hill of Crosses*, explores a former military fort constructed in the 1800s where Lithuanians placed more than 2,000 crosses on the hill to commemorate deaths. The Soviets repeatedly bulldozed the hill without success, as crosses were replaced at night. After the occupation ended in 1991, the area grew in popularity. Currently more than 200,000 crosses are on display.

This year every BYU student can submit an image, whether from a study abroad in fall 2019 semester, from a canceled study abroad in winter 2020 semester, or from home, showing how their education was disrupted by COVID-19.





**Inside the Kennedy Center’s and
 BYU AdLab’s Collaboration for
 the US Diplomacy Museum**

ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2014, every living former secretary of state gathered to break ground for the National Museum of American Diplomacy on the 21st Street entrance of the Harry S. Truman Building in Washington, DC. To help the museum tell the story of diplomacy, a team of 24 students were assembled by Jeff Sheets of the BYU AdLab and Cory Leonard of the Kennedy Center in winter semester 2015 to research, design, and execute a project. The resulting four short films now welcome visitors to the museum’s Hall 1 and invite them to discover diplomacy through peace, prosperity, democracy, and development.

Funded by a \$100,000 grant, the project became a masterclass in navigating bureaucracies, global storytelling, and envisioning new ways to think about diplomacy. The BYU student team traveled to Estonia, Rwanda, Mauritius, Cambodia, and Peru for filming. After the videos were produced, the team submitted them to the State Department for approval.

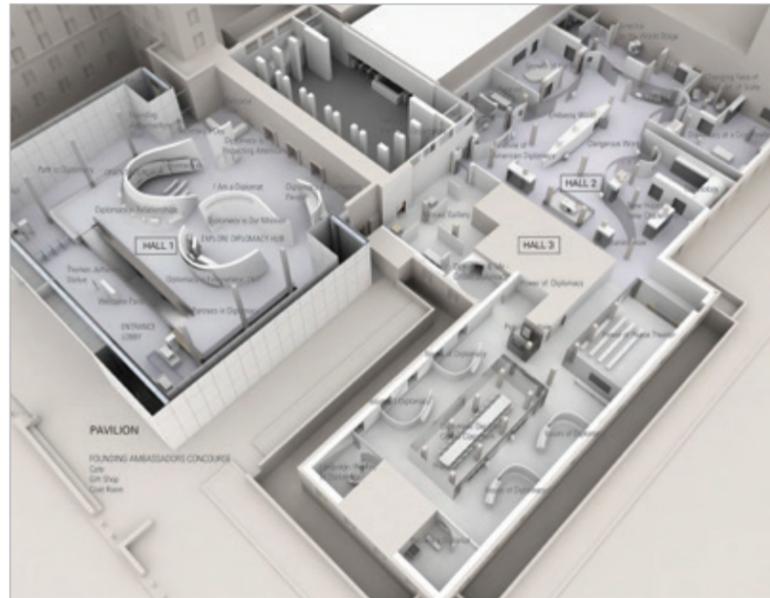
On November 8, 2019, the videos became part of the exhibit *Diplomacy Is Our Mission*. Test your knowledge of diplomacy and watch each short film on the National Museum of American Diplomacy’s YouTube channel if you can’t make it to DC.

Cambodian women gather rice grown using techniques taught by USAID (from the film “Development in Cambodia”).





Above: Onsite in Cambodia, students use film and photography to explore development as a pillar of diplomacy. Right: The diplomacy museum will be finished and fully open to the public in 2022. BYU team members, left to right: Jared Jakins, Michael Boren, Adam McLain, Jeff Sheets, and Scott James.



The New US Diplomacy Museum

AN INITIATIVE that's twenty years in the making, the National Museum of American Diplomacy is still under construction and slated to fully open in 2022. In the meantime, through a few exhibits, a host of online content, and public events, the museum is telling important stories of diplomacy and inspiring Americans to discover the role diplomacy plays in the nation's success and in their own lives. The finished museum will be an interactive, dynamic experience. Visit diplomacy.state.gov to learn more.



Left: Working with the United States, Estonia trained its military to defend its independence (from the film "Peace in Estonia"). Below: BYU students interact with the people of Rwanda, who demonstrate the life-changing impact diplomacy can have (for the film "Prosperity in Rwanda and Mauritius"). BYU team members, center: Jarom Cowan and Jeff Sheets.



"At the root of all good diplomacy is collaboration. Even though it sometimes felt like the Kennedy Center students and the advertising students didn't speak the same language, we were able to effectively collaborate in an interdisciplinary environment."

—ASHLEY LOVELL CLARK ('16), BYU STUDENT TEAM MEMBER

Above left: BYU's student team gathers footage for the film "Democracy in Peru" while visiting a cacao production site. BYU team members, back row, left to right: Jeff Sheets, Michael Boren, Mackenzie Hamilton, and Bob Hill. Above right: The flag of Estonia symbolizes the independence the country maintained with the help of diplomacy (from the film "Peace in Estonia").





A Coronavirus Exodus on a Diplomatic Passport

Joey Leavitt

AT THE OUTSET of the COVID-19 pandemic, the US State Department authorized elective evacuation of Foreign Service officers and their dependents posted abroad. A consular-cone Foreign Service officer, Joey Leavitt, and his family braved ambiguous and ever-changing international immigration rules to travel from Dubai to Las Vegas in early April via London and Los Angeles. Leavitt rated and detailed their experience for us.



101,386

Americans have been repatriated by the US Department of State since March 2020 on 1,140 flights from 136 countries and territories.

Big Tourism Drop Mexico, Spain, and Italy top the list as being most reliant on travel, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council.

Worry No More US citizens can stay connected when traveling internationally by signing up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).



Leavitt finds it relatively easy to practice social distancing in a nearly empty airport terminal. (Dubai International Airport, United Arab Emirates, April 2020)

International Phone Calls: 7/10

I spent hours working the phones trying to figure out which route was least likely to get my family and me stuck in quarantine in a foreign country or an empty airport terminal with only a vending machine full of Cheetos for sustenance (actually this sounds okay).

I like that now you can call anywhere in the world just by dialing a few numbers, and the reception is usually pretty good. I remember when we lived in Syria about fifteen years ago and we would call home with a calling card. When I would finally get a connection with my parents, there would be a twelve-second delay while my voice got routed around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, was held up by protests in France, traveled across the Atlantic seabed, and then stopped for grits in southern Georgia. Things are way better now.

Airport Security: 9/10

Airport security in Dubai, our departure point, was just a guy who pointed a thermometer gun at our foreheads, waved us past, and did the same thing to the other twelve people in the airport. Then he sat down and watched YouTube videos on his phone. We still had to send our carry-ons through the scanner, but the conveyor belt made a weird, loud, echoey sound in the nearly empty chamber, and I felt like I was in a dream. It would have been a 10/10, but we still had to take off our shoes.

Airport McDonald's: 2/10

It was 7:45 a.m., yet they weren't serving breakfast, which is irresponsible because you know what kills COVID-19? Hotcakes—



Shannon and Savannah, so forlorn—so close to London yet unable to actually reach it. (Heathrow Airport, London, UK, April 2020)

with Lysol syrup. But just plain hotcakes give it a pretty good spanking. So I had to eat a Quarter Pounder for breakfast, which is interestingly against the law in Vermont.

Aerotel Hotel Inside Heathrow: 5/10

Pretty expensive. And I can see why: it would have cost a lot to conduct the extensive R&D necessary to engineer bathroom sinks that small. When I spit my used toothpaste, it almost overflowed the basin. But that's just because I needed a lot of toothpaste to kill the taste of stale Quarter Pounder. Bumped up a couple of points for the soft, green lights that you can't turn off and make you feel like you're sleeping inside a translucent frog.

Heathrow Terminal 5: 7/10

A yawning, hollow, disinfected place, Terminal 5 was the least likely place on earth to catch COVID-19, apart from the inside of a bottle of Lysol. A security guy asked us a lot of questions about how we were feeling. I said I had been sleeping better ever since coronavirus killed two of the five voices in my head, but I think he was asking more about physical health than mental health, which he could've been clearer about up front, in my defense.

Shannon's Cleaning Joke: 13/10

There wasn't really anyone in the terminal except me, Shannon, and the kids. Well, and the cleaning lady, who for unfathomable reasons didn't think it was funny when Shannon said, motioning at the desolate terminal, "Welp, must be easier to clean when it's like this!" How is that not funny?!

The Flights Themselves: 9/10

The flights themselves were pleasant. Everyone pretty much had their own row and each bag had its own overhead compartment. The lavatories were basically always free. You could go in and just flush the toilet over and over to cool off. I don't know why, but flushing the toilet in an airplane reduces the lavatory temperature by at least 0.5 degrees.

Be smart and do puzzles at home. And also this is a good time to practice pull-ups, or eat push-ups.

The flight attendants were extra nice, probably because they thought we would all be stressed, but how can you be stressed when there are eighteen people on a plane big enough for three hundred? The captain told us the cabin recycles its air every twenty-eight seconds, so I only inhaled twice per minute so that I was always breathing clean air. "Safety first"—that's what I always say. Well, that and "Give it, that's mine."

LAX: 7/10

During our six-hour layover in a completely deserted Los Angeles airport, we played Uno sitting cross-legged in a spot of sun in front of our gate, but then we all just sort of fell asleep. That's probably the only time my family will sleep on the floor in front of a check-in desk at LAX. This would be an 8 or a 9, but they had the air conditioning jacked up pretty high. Can't you see I'm curled up in a ball in the middle of the floor at 49B, clearly freezing?

Overall: -42/10

You shouldn't travel during global pandemics unless you absolutely have to. Repeatedly and happily flushing the lavatory toilet on a nearly empty plane just isn't worth the risk of contracting or spreading disease, let alone the risk of getting stranded somewhere you don't want to be due to borders closing or immigration rules changing without notice. So be smart and do puzzles at home. And also this is a good time to practice pull-ups, or eat push-ups.

THE PODCAST ESCAPE

Is the itch to travel getting out of hand? Though you may be physically stuck in quarantine, give your mind a vacation with these podcasts.

Deviate with Rolf Potts

With episodes about jumping freight trains in the Pacific, using travel skills in quarantine, and letting travel lead to questions about the universe, you won't want to miss this podcast.

The Phileas Club

Feeling overwhelmed by global news but still want to stay informed? In this fresh podcast, people across the world offer firsthand, culturally localized perspectives on current events.

Why We Wander

Taking a deeper look at all things travel, this podcast explores why people travel, where they go, and how it changes them.



Joey Leavitt is a Kennedy Center Middle East Studies/Arabic and BYU Law School graduate who has served in Saudi Arabia, El Salvador, India, and Washington, DC, and is currently posted to the UAE.

How to Read a Cable

What Is a Cable?

DIPLOMATIC CABLES are the official communications between embassies and consulates abroad and the Department of State. They memorialize the conduct of foreign policy; they contain démarche instructions to posts, negotiation guidelines, memoranda of conversations, and policy recommendations; and they report on local events, providing a constant stream of information about what's happening around the world. Cables often include a "comment" with analysis and policy recommendations from embassy officers.

What's Happening Here?

This cable from 3 May 2000 details a meeting between US ambassador to Jordan William Burns and King Abdullah bin Al-Hussein II of Jordan regarding a potential bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) between Jordan and the US. Having become king of Jordan after his father's death in February 1999, Abdullah II focused on building Jordan's economy following years of excessive debt. Jordan became a member of the World Trade Organization in April 2000, but King Abdullah II wanted further integration into the global economy.

After negotiations between Amman and Washington and ratification by the US Senate, the US-Jordan FTA entered into force in December 2001. It was the first US FTA with an Arab state and the fourth such agreement at that time. According to Burns in his memoir, *The Back Channel*, Jordanian exports to the US increased from \$9 million in 1998 to more than \$1 billion by 2003 thanks to the agreement and this quiet diplomatic and legislative success.

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
Classification is determined by the originator of the message for a specific period of time. This message was originally marked SECRET. Other categories include SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED (SBU), CONFIDENTIAL, and TOP SECRET.

FACT The greatest cable ever written was George Kennan's Long Telegram, sent from the Moscow embassy in 1946.

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C06323472 ED U.S. Department of State Case No. MP-2015-07420 Doc No. C06323472 Date: 06/27/2017

RELEASE IN PART
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~~SECRET~~ PTO6988

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02370 01 OF 02 031523Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4229

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 002370

NODIS ~~DECLASSIFIED~~

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/3/20
TAGS: PREL, JO

SUBJECT: KING ABDULLAH DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FTA, WORRIED ABOUT MONTHS AHEAD

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR BURNS FOR REASON 1.5 (B,D)

1. (S) AMBASSADOR MET ONE-ON-ONE MORNING OF MAY 3 WITH KING ABDULLAH, WHO EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE "VERY BAD NEWS" HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR PURSUING A BILATERAL FTA FOR JORDAN THIS YEAR. WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC FRUSTRATION, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD (RELUCTANTLY) THE TACTICAL NEED TO AVOID ANY OVERT EFFORT TO BEGIN TALKING ABOUT AN FTA UNTIL AFTER THE HOUSE VOTE ON CHINA PNTR LATER THIS MONTH, BUT CONTINUES TO PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON LAUNCHING FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS VISIT TO

1.4(B)
1.4(D)

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02370 01 OF 02 031523Z
WASHINGTON JUNE 8-8. THE KING MADE CLEAR THAT HE SEES A MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO TRY TO ACHIEVE A BILATERAL FTA BEFORE THE END OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AS THE "CRUCIAL OBJECTIVE" OF HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. (S) ABDULLAH EXPLAINED IN FAMILIAR TERMS THE URGENCY OF HIS INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON AN FTA. HAVING TAKEN VERY IMPRESSIVE STRIDES ON STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC REFORM, AND HAVING STUCK HIS NECK OUT ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND A VARIETY OF OTHER ISSUES, HE NOW FEELS MOUNTING PRESSURES TO SHOW ECONOMIC RESULTS, AND REASSURE HIS PUBLIC AND ESPECIALLY HIS BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT THINGS ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. PURSUIT OF AN FTA, COUPLED WITH WTO ACCESSION, IS A WAY TO HELP LOCK IN ECONOMIC REFORMS AND COMPEL HIS PRIVATE SECTOR TO BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE.

Declassification Authority: Geoffrey W. Chapman, OCA, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. MP-2015-07420 Doc No. C06323472 Date: 06/27/2017

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C06323472 ED U.S. Department of State Case No. MP-2015-07420 Doc No. C06323472 Date: 06/27/2017

3. (S) THE REGIONAL SITUATION IS BECOMING MORE EXPLOSIVE, WITH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN UPRISER IN SYRIA LOOMING AHEAD. PEOPLE IN JORDAN ARE FEELING MORE AND MORE FRUSTRATED ECONOMICALLY, WITH UNEMPLOYMENT AT 21 PERCENT. STANDARDS OF LIVING STILL FALLING STEADILY, AND THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR GROWING MORE OBVIOUS. THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CLIMATE IS SOBER TOO, WITH PALESTINIAN-EAST BANKER FRUSTRATIONS RE-EMERGING, AND THE GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT AT EACH SECRET.

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OTHERS' THREATS.

4. (S) ABDULLAH ACKNOWLEDGED READILY THAT A BILATERAL FTA IS HARDLY A PANACEA FOR ALL THOSE CHALLENGES. HE SAID HE PLANS TO CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT THIS SUMMER, FOLLOWING AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF PARLIAMENT IN JUNE-JULY.

1.4(B)
1.4(D)

5. (S) THE KING STRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT SINCE HIS FATHER'S DEATH, BUT ADDED THAT "THE APPROXIMATE YEAR WILL BE A LOT TOUGHER." HE SAID AGAIN THAT HE FELT INCREASING PRESSURE TO SHOW RESULTS, ESPECIALLY ON THE ECONOMY.

6. (S) JIS GISH RECENT OFFERS TO THE WHITE HOUSE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AS EVIDENCE OF WIDE SUPPORT FOR A JORDAN FTA ON THE HILL, AND EMPHASIZED THAT HE WANTED TO WORK WITH THE ADMINISTRATION TO FIND A WAY TO MOVE AHEAD ON AN FTA THAT DIDN'T CUT ACROSS THE CHINA ISSUE. "I KNOW WE CAN GET THIS DONE IF WE SECRET.

PAGE 04 AMMAN 02370 01 OF 02 031523Z
WORK TOGETHER, AND IT WILL HELP ME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE YOU COULD DO THIS YEAR."

6. (S) AMBASSADOR UNDERSCORED THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO JORDAN IS AS STRONG AS EVER. HE SAID HE WAS SURE HE WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR A WAY FORWARD ON THE FTA, EVEN IF HE HAD TO DELAY ACTION IN MAY. HE PROMISED TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON THE IMPORTANCE THE KING ATTACHED

1.4(B)
1.4(D)

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. MP-2015-07420 Doc No. C06323472 Date: 06/27/2017

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C06323472 ED U.S. Department of State Case No. MP-2015-07420 Doc No. C06323472 Date: 06/27/2017

TO HAVING A CONCRETE COMMITMENT TO POINT TO AT THE END OF HIS VISIT, AND URGED THE KING NOT TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS AT THIS STAGE ABOUT WHAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE. THERE COULD BE NO GUARANTEES, BUT THAT DIDN'T MEAN HE WOULDN'T KEEP LOOKING HARD AT HOW TO ADDRESS THE KING'S CONCERNS.

1.4(B)
1.4(D)

7. (S) COMMENT: IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, ROYAL COURT CHIEF TAWAHMUK FOREIGN

SECRET

~~SECRET~~ PTO6989

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02370 02 OF 02 031523Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 SAS-00 /000W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4229

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 AMMAN 002370

NODIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/3/20
TAGS: PREL, JO

SUBJECT: KING ABDULLAH DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FTA, WORRIED ABOUT MONTHS AHEAD

MINISTER KHATEB AND GID DIRECTOR BATTIKH WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE ALARMIST THAN THE KING. AMBASSADOR MADE THE SAME POINTS TO THEM ABOUT NOT OVERREACTING AT THIS POINT AND CONTINUING TO PLUG AWAY. HE DELIVERED A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO MINISTER OF TRADE HILALAH, WHO SAID HE CONTINUES TO WORK QUIETLY WITH HIS TEAM TO PREPARE FOR TRADE TALKS. END COMMENT.

BURNS

SECRET

END OF DOCUMENT A6A6

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. MP-2015-07420 Doc No. C06323472 Date: 06/27/2017

O 031604Z MAY 00
Known as the cable's date-time group (DTG), this is the standard date and time format recording when the document was created. The DTG uses Zulu time (GMT)—as indicated by the Z—followed by the month and two-digit year.

NODIS
Captions indicate distribution restrictions placed on a document. NODIS means "no distribution" and is reserved generally for first-person messages from ambassadors to the secretary of state. Other captions include NOFORN (should not be shared with foreign entities, even if unclassified) and EXDIS (exclusive distribution to those with a specific need to know).

CABLE DISTRIBUTION LIST/TAGS
Distribution is generally based on an automated electronic system referred to as TAGS (Traffic Analysis by Geography and Subject) per guidelines and definitions contained in the *Foreign Affairs Manual*.

"Cable writing is thoughtful and reflective—a cross between reporting and essay writing. Cables provide context."

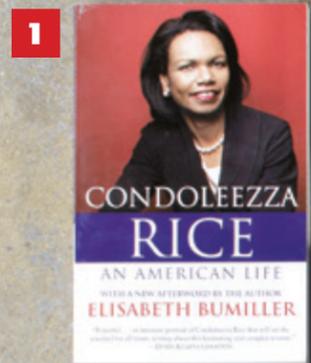
—MARY THOMPSON-JONES, TO THE SECRETARY:
LEAKED EMBASSY CABLES AND AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY DISCONNECT

DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS

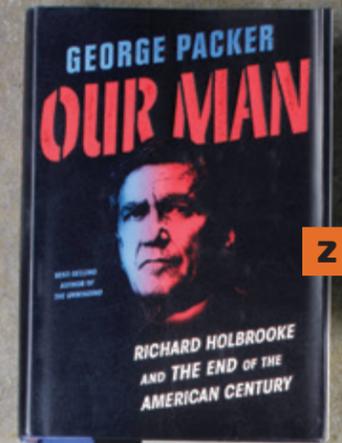
- aide-mémoire:** An informal note of a conversation that serves merely to help with memory recall.
- démarche:** A formal diplomatic take on a government's official position on a given subject written to another government or international organization.
- memorandum:** A written statement on any subject, generally routine, from one organization to another.
- non-paper:** A paper—despite the name—that summarizes a démarche or other verbal presentation to a foreign government. See *aide-mémoire*.
- opinion piece:** An article that articulates specific US government policies and views written for foreign media outlets.

**Condoleezza Rice:
An American Life**
By Elisabeth Bumiller

In a biography that stands out for its thorough reporting, Bumiller traces Rice's path from the segregated American South to becoming the first Black female top diplomat and details her training as a Scowcroft realist internationalist and the neoconservative agenda she later embraced.

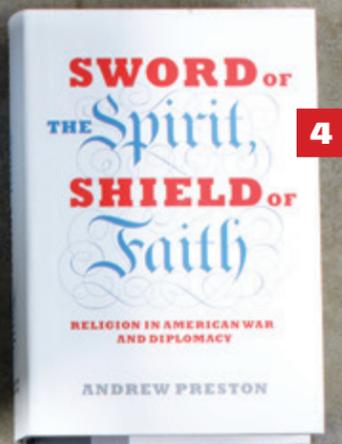


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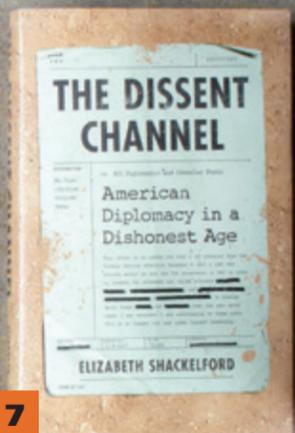


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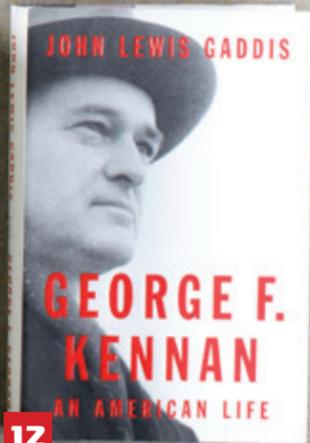


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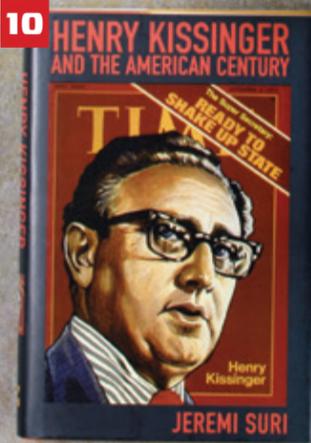
12

George F. Kennan: An American Life
By John Lewis Gaddis

This meticulously researched biography won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize by masterfully telling the story of one of the twentieth century's most influential diplomats. Gaddis details Kennan's life with particular focus on his time as a Russia specialist and his landmark Long Telegram, or X Article.

Henry Kissinger and the American Century
By Jeremi Suri

No US diplomat is more well-known—or controversial—than Henry Kissinger. Suri manages to work through Kissinger's complex figure, explores him as a captive of his Cold War times, reveals the influence of his German-Jewish identity, and explores his brand of *realpolitik* foreign policy.



10

Another Type of Diplomacy

With so many books on diplomacy, where do we even start? The Kennedy Center reached out—via Zoom, of course—to some top experts to create a reading short list, with a hat tip to the many memoirs, biographies, and historical treatments that bring the realities of diplomacy to life. Thanks to Andrew Johns (BYU), Cameron McCoy (Air Force Academy), Mark Choate (BYU), Ken Stiles (BYU), Deborah Jones (former ambassador), and Kelly McFarland (Georgetown) for their suggestions.

2 OUR MAN: RICHARD HOLBROOKE AND THE END OF THE AMERICAN CENTURY
By George Packer

PACKER PAINTS A GRAND, human, and sometimes unflattering portrait of Richard Holbrooke, the larger-than-life American diplomat. As reviewer Walter Isaacson remarked, the book “portrays Holbrooke in all of his endearing and exasperating self-willed glory. . . . Both a sweeping diplomatic history and a Shakespearean tragicomedy.”

4 SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, SHIELD OF FAITH: RELIGION IN AMERICAN WAR AND DIPLOMACY
By Andrew Preston

The Kennedy Center book of the semester for winter 2013, *Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith* chronicles just how intertwined religion and international relations have been in American history. The book looks at everything from how Lincoln invoked religion during the Civil War to George W. Bush's use of religious language in the War on Terror.

3 THE AMBASSADORS: AMERICA'S DIPLOMATS ON THE FRONT LINES
By Paul Richter



RICHTER HIGHLIGHTS the fast-paced careers of the US Department of State's elite cadre of ambassadors working in some of the most fragile, difficult places in the Muslim world. Filled with acute physical danger, high-stakes diplomacy, and tragedy, *The Ambassadors* brings attention to the demanding and often-overlooked work of diplomacy.



5 THE EDUCATION OF AN IDEALIST: A MEMOIR
By Samantha Power

THE CENTRAL QUESTION of Power's memoir is, “In the face of so much evil and suffering, what can one person do?” Her answer: a lot, as she outlines her time as US ambassador to the United Nations, where she focused on issues as diverse as women's rights, religious freedom, refugees, human trafficking, human rights, and democracy.

6 NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART: LESSONS IN COURAGE, POWER, AND PERSISTENCE
By Wendy R. Sherman

SITTING ACROSS the negotiating table from rogue state actors like North Korea and Iran can be a highly stressful experience. In this inside look at foreign relations, Ambassador Sherman reminds readers that diplomacy is far from simple but is critically important.

7 THE DISSENT CHANNEL: AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IN A DISHONEST AGE
By Elizabeth Shackelford

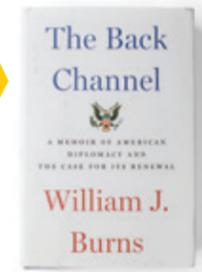
IN 2017 career diplomat Shackelford resigned in protest over the US's lack of response to the South Sudanese Civil War, one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time. In *The Dissent Channel*, she grapples with US policy missteps and how she and colleagues dissented.

8 KOFI ANNAN: A MAN OF PEACE IN A WORLD OF WAR
By Stanley Meisler

MEISLER WORKED AS a UN correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, where he was deeply aware of Annan's peacekeeping work as the Rwandan genocide and massacre at Srebrenica unfolded. Each of the book's sixteen chapters emphasize Annan's roles within the UN, revealing the “social star of New York society” who was powered by an “Anglo-American inner circle.”

9 THE BACK CHANNEL: A MEMOIR OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND THE CASE FOR ITS RENEWAL
By William J. Burns

BURNS IS ONE of the great diplomatic minds of his time and is only the second serving career diplomat in history to become deputy secretary of state. This memoir looks at Russia in the turbulent '90s, the negotiations for the Iran nuclear deal, and the Arab Spring.



11 BREAKING PROTOCOL: AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE AMBASSADORS, 1933-1964
By Philip Nash

BREAKING PROTOCOL shines a light on the first six female American ambassadors and how they cultivated and projected power in the traditional male space of foreign relations. Using newly available archival sources, Nash highlights each of the ambassadors and chronicles how these pioneering women made it possible for other women to be successful in foreign affairs.



LOST

IN SHANGHAI

BY
BOB
DEWITT

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
NICOLE XU

AT ITS CORE, THIS IS A STORY OF LOVE—GOD’S LOVE. This is my path to conversion, in which humility played a key role.

I was a lost sheep for nearly twenty years. I was born into a Latter-day Saint family, was baptized at eight, and went on a mission to Taiwan at the age of nineteen. I attended BYU. Gloria and I were married in the Salt Lake Temple. But, at the age of thirty, I suddenly quit going to Church. I quit reading the scriptures. I quit paying tithing. I quit praying. I quit wearing my temple garment. I simply walked away from God.

Looking back now, I understand why: I had been an active and faithful member of the Church, but only in outward appearances to please other people—first my parents and later my wife. By so doing, I was sailing along on someone else’s power. I did not have my own testimony. I had not been truly converted! I had not asked God for a witness, and I was afraid to do so.

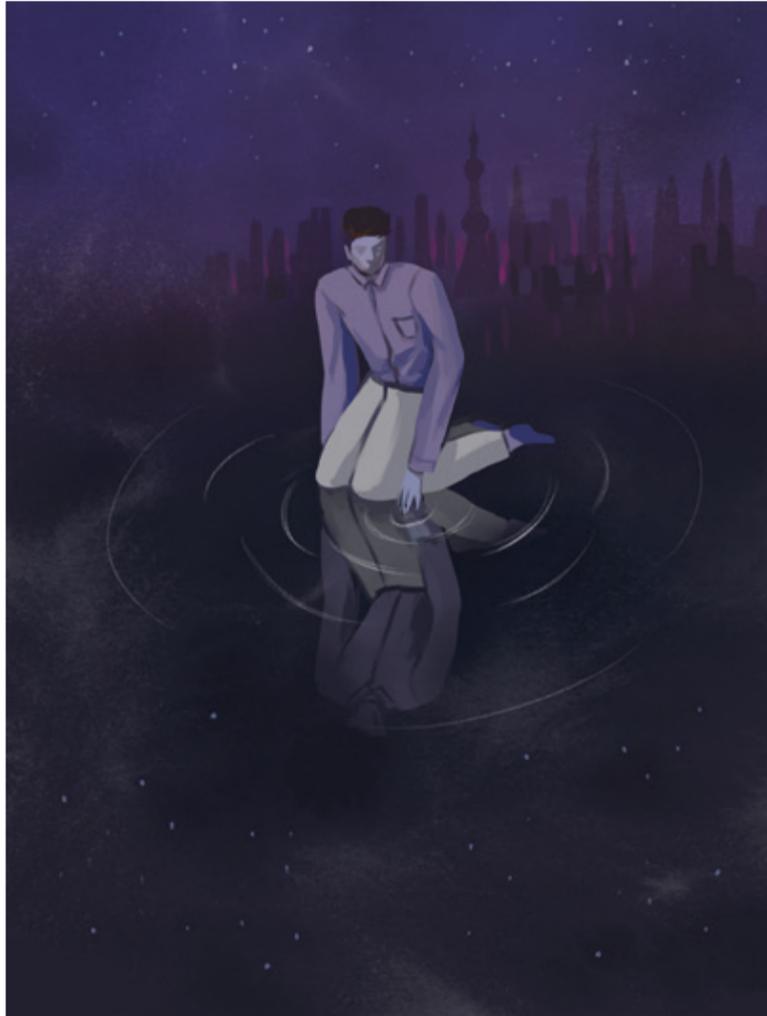
I was a proud person, and I did not think I needed anyone. Why would I need to rely on God when I could get through life using my own talents and intellect? Why did I need a Savior? I told myself that I was willing to pay the price for my own mistakes. I told Gloria many times, "I don't need God. If you need God, go to church. But I don't." I was prideful, pure and simple.

When our daughter Susan was married in the Monterey Mexico Temple, I was unable to attend her wedding because I did not have a temple recommend—nor could I get one. When our son Andrew turned eight while we were living in Uganda, his Grandpa Robertson baptized him. I was not a worthy priesthood holder, so I could not have baptized him even if I had wanted to. I told myself that these things did not bother me, and that is what I told others, too. But the truth is, not baptizing my son and not attending my daughter's wedding made me hurt inside. I was too proud to admit it. I told myself, "That's okay. They need God. I don't."

Fast forward to 2004. I was approaching fifty. We were living in Shanghai, where I worked at the American Consulate. I loved Shanghai and I loved my job. In my mind, it was all smooth sailing, and I thought that I could get through life on my own.

But in the fall of 2004, my ship crashed on a reef. There was something wrong with me, but I did not know what it was. I could not sleep, eat, or concentrate. I could not retain anything I read. I started to feel an incredible burden of anxiety about my job, which became so great that it was debilitating. I began to feel worthless. I was incapacitated by fear, which only increased my loss of self-confidence, starting a cycle that sent me spinning very quickly into a very dark place.

By Thanksgiving, I was a wreck. I felt as if I were falling into a deep well and the circle of light above me was growing smaller and dimmer. With the intervention of my sweet



wife and caring colleagues, a State Department doctor met with me and diagnosed major depression. I was medically evacuated from Shanghai to Washington, DC. This was very frightening for me. I worried that I was going to lose my job. I even worried that I might lose my family. I started thinking about hurting myself, or worse.

During this time, I was so overwhelmed that I could not read. This, too, was very frightening for me. I relied on my brain in my job—a brain that up until that point had served me fairly well. I wondered what would happen to me if something was wrong with my brain. Would I have to give up my Foreign Service career? If so, how was I going to support my family?

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Several days before Gloria and I left Shanghai, she asked if she could read to me from the Book of Mormon. Prayer and scripture reading were not part of my life and had not been for many years. I do not know why I accepted her suggestion to read to me, but when she began to read aloud, just hearing the words truly brought me a small measure of peace.

The day before I left Shanghai, a priesthood holder from the Shanghai Expatriate Branch gave me a blessing at my request. I had not had a blessing in many years because I was a proud man and I did not want to ask anybody for anything. I do not remember the exact words spoken to me in that blessing, but I do remember what I felt: a sense of peace and hope, and a feeling that someone was watching over me. I felt that this “someone” was God! In fact, I began to feel, for the first time in my entire life, that God knew who I was and that He cared about me!

My illness was a blessing from God because it humbled me. In Mosiah 29:20, it says, “[The Lord] did deliver them because they did humble themselves before him; and because they cried mightily unto him he did deliver them.” The depression made me realize that I could not get through this life alone, no matter how smart or talented I thought I was.

My affliction prepared me to find God. When Alma was preaching the gospel among the poor and the afflicted, “he beheld with great joy; for he beheld that their afflictions had truly humbled them, and that they were in a preparation to hear the word” (Alma 32:6, emphasis added). In the weeks and months that followed my depression diagnosis, I began to have the desire to find out for myself about God. That desire was His gift of

love to me. It was also the beginning of a series of miracles in my life. Because I was humble, the Lord delivered me.

I began to read the Book of Mormon again and to ask God for a witness of its truth. After many months of reading and prayer, I received that witness. On a beautiful Easter morning in 2005, while sitting on a beautiful beach on the island of Boracay in the Philippines, I was reading in Mormon 8:16, which says, “And blessed be he that shall bring this thing to light; for it shall be brought out of darkness unto light, according to the word of God; yea, it shall be brought out of the earth, and it shall shine forth out of darkness, and come unto the knowledge of the people; and it shall be done by the power of God.”

These words struck me like a bolt of lightning. A warmth and power entered my body from the top of my head and traveled to the tips of my toes.

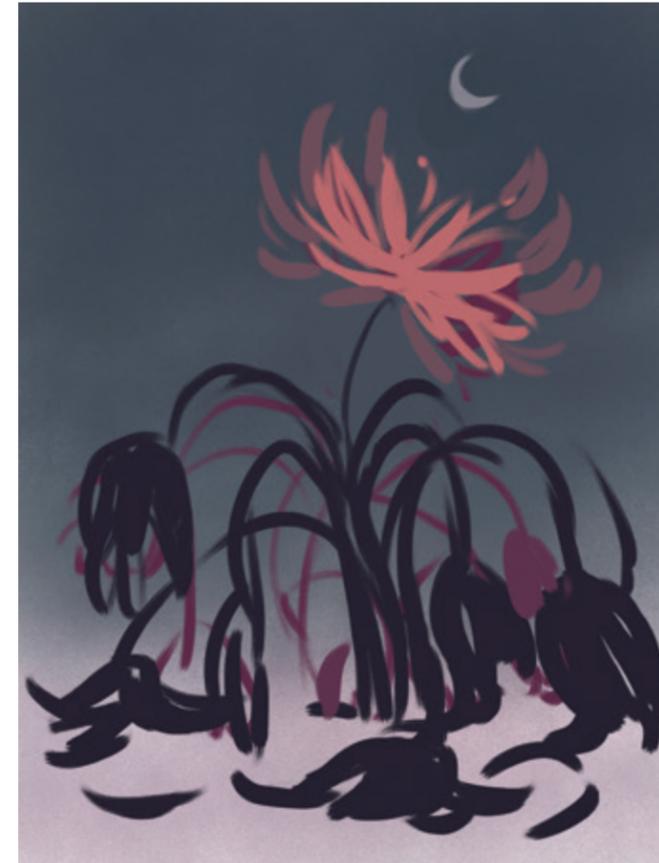
I knew at that moment that God was telling me, through the Holy Ghost, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, called to bring forth the Book of Mormon and restore God’s true Church on the earth in the latter days. I came to understand, for the first time in my life, the meaning of the Atonement, and to know that Jesus Christ is my Savior. I came to know that without Him, I am lost.

I was a blind man walking in darkness, going the wrong way on a lonely and benighted path. Today, I am still a lost sheep—we all are until we return to God—but now I know who my Shepherd is and where He wants me to go. I still struggle to find my way, but my eyes are now open, and the light of the Savior leads me on. The single greatest lesson I learned through my illness is that God loves me.

Of course, my conversion was really just the beginning of a journey that I am still on. I still must deal with depression. I continue to take antidepressants, see a psychiatrist, and as needed, talk to a counselor. Fall is always a difficult time for me, with the shorter days, limited daylight, and colder temperatures. I talk to a counselor to help me get through that annual downturn. These things helped me recover then and continue to help me now deal with depression.

My testimony has also helped me to recover physically, mentally, and spiritually. I returned to Shanghai, resumed my career, and began what I believe is a lifelong journey of conversion, strengthening my testimony and building a relationship with my Savior, Jesus Christ.

I have since learned that humility is a prerequisite to true conversion. Without humility, the Spirit cannot bear witness to the seeker. Without humility, one cannot develop the desire to learn of God and of the Savior, or even admit that one has anything to learn. Alma said, “And now, because ye are compelled to be humble blessed are ye; for a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh repentance. . . . Do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who truly *humble themselves because of the word*? . . . Yea much more blessed than they who are *compelled to be humble*” (Alma 32:13–15, emphasis added).



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Humility means that we are willing to put God’s promises to the test. It is saying that God knows best and that even if we do not fully understand why, we know what He commands is better for us than what our own knowledge or intellect tells us to do.

Humility requires obedience. The process of ongoing obedience is known as “enduring to the end.” Obedience is a true form of humility because it acknowledges all that God has done for us and that He always knows what is best.

I pray that each person who reads this will know and feel God’s love. Let His love change your lives as it has changed mine. Let it convert you! If you are sailing along, as I was, on someone else’s faith and testimony, let God’s love help you find your own. If pride is in the way, do not wait to be humbled as I was. Let God’s love humble you; let it guide you to a higher and brighter place. E

Robert DeWitt recently retired as the principal officer in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, following a lengthy Foreign Service career with the US Department of State. DeWitt also served in Addis Ababa, Beijing, Dar es Salaam, Kampala, Quito, Mogadishu, Minneapolis (directing the new Passport Agency), Shanghai, Shenyang, and Washington (Consular Training at FSI). He has spent more than twelve years living and working in Chinese-speaking environments. He is the proud father of two and grandfather of six. We thank him for sharing his reconversion story, which was delivered at a fireside in Washington, DC.

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
ELIZABETH TRAYNOR



Trumpopportunities

By Valerie M. Hudson

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ADMINISTRATION may well be judged almost entirely upon its handling of the coronavirus pandemic. As of this writing, it is too soon to tell what that judgment will be. In recent days we have certainly seen a more brusque relationship between China and the US as a result.

But what of Trump's foreign policy more generally? Have the past four years of the Trump presidency been one of foreign policy success or failure?

Interestingly, the answer may be neither. Trump's major contribution to American foreign policy may be found in its

The Great Hollowing Out

By Robert R. King

AFTER SERVING FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS as chief of staff to a US congressman from California, I was appointed as special envoy for North Korean human rights issues with the rank of ambassador in 2009. I spent over seven years at the US Department of State focusing attention on North Korea's abysmal human rights record, pressing for international action through the United Nations and other international organizations, and encouraging North Korea to improve the treatment of its own citizens.

upheaval of the status quo ante—an upheaval that may yield as many opportunities as it does dangers.

Two years ago, Henry Kissinger commented, “I think Trump may be one of those figures in history who appears from time to time to mark the end of an era and to force it to give up its old pretenses. It doesn't necessarily mean that he knows this, or that he is considering any great alternative. It could just be an accident.”

Similarly, Tom McTague of the *Atlantic* interpreted Ryan Evans's term “Trumpopportunities” to mean “the idea that, whether by accident or design, Trump creates chances to solve long-running international problems that a conventional leader would not.”

Scholars have long noted the bipartisan consensus among the foreign policy establishment that existed before Trump, with some christening it “the Blob.” The Blob's vision of a liberal international order rooted in global capitalism just seemed like common sense to many, but certain scholars, such as the “restrainers,” had begun to ask why the vision so often led to foreign policy failure. A “reflexive do-somethingism,” to use Susan Glasser's description, plus an acceptance of inertia in critical

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arenas, such as NATO, seemed to have led inexorably to debacles, such as the Libyan R2P operation and the lack of enforcement of the vaunted “red line” in Syria.

Trump certainly came into his four years determined not to follow the Blob and to cut loose as much of the Blob-ian foreign policy bureaucracy as he could. The mass resignations and firings at the US State Department in 2017—with very few of these empty positions subsequently filled—spoke volumes. “This is a president who ran against the foreign policy establishment pretty explicitly,” NSC spokesman Michael Anton told Glasser in 2017, “so I don't think that it should surprise anyone that the foreign policy establishment isn't supportive. It's a sign he's following through on what he said he would do.”

Tom Countryman, a senior State Department official, gave a speech upon the occasion of his abrupt firing in 2017 that was

My position as special envoy was created by Congress. It was adopted by unanimous consent in the US Senate and by a recorded vote of 415 to 0 in the House of Representatives. In this era of partisan politics, that is truly remarkable. That legislation was signed into law by President Trump three years ago, but still the president has not nominated a special envoy. The position has been vacant since I left in January 2017.

Unfortunately, the North Korea human rights special envoy is not the only key diplomatic position that is unfilled at the Department of State. Well over a third of the key leadership positions in the department are currently vacant. The twenty-eight undersecretaries and assistant secretaries of state play key roles in foreign policy leadership, and ten are currently vacant. They require Senate confirmation, and successors have not even been nominated. In addition, one post has a nominee who is not yet confirmed by the Senate. The areas without an assistant secretary include arms control, European affairs, international organizations, South Asia (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Central

BUT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, AMBASSADORS TO KEY COUNTRIES HAVE INCREASINGLY BEEN POLITICAL APPOINTEES WITH LITTLE OR NO PREVIOUS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE.

Asia, Sri Lanka), the Western Hemisphere, and, not surprisingly, oceans, the environment, and science.

But senior-level vacancies are only a part of the problem. White House budget proposals have slashed funds for international programs over the last three years. Cuts were not as dramatic as the administration proposed, but there were serious reductions. Department of Defense spending is nineteen times what is spent on foreign affairs.

Our embassies abroad and the State Department in Washington, DC, have traditionally been staffed by experienced career Foreign Service and foreign policy professionals. These individuals have advanced degrees in foreign affairs and regional studies, are trained in diplomacy, and are taught other languages. They are informed in the complexities of modern foreign relations, have a variety of significant international experiences, and understand US laws and international norms. But in the last three years, ambassadors to key countries have increasingly been political appointees with little or no previous diplomatic experience. Career appointees are appointed as top diplomats in small

subsequently leaked to *Foreign Policy*. In it he asserted, “Despite similarities, a dog is not a cat, baseball is not football and diplomacy is not a business. Human rights are not a business and democracy most assuredly is not a business. . . . If our interaction with other countries is only a business transaction and not a partnership with allies and friends, we’ll lose that game.”

To the contrary, I’d suggest that the nature of foreign policy is, in fact, transactional. Foreign policy is still rooted in national interest and power. While we may use power for human rights aims, power is still the currency. Furthermore, it is critical in a

I’D SUGGEST THAT THE NATURE OF FOREIGN POLICY IS, IN FACT, TRANSACTIONAL. FOREIGN POLICY IS STILL ROOTED IN NATIONAL INTEREST AND POWER. WHILE WE MAY USE POWER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AIMS, POWER IS STILL THE CURRENCY.

democracy to make the case that the promotion of human rights, both in general and in specific cases, is in fact a furtherance of the national interest. Without attention to these two foundation stones, foreign policy is likely to go amiss.

One of the healthiest things that could have been done was to suggest—finally—to our NATO allies that if they did not meet their financial obligations, the US would not simply go on with business as usual. An alliance is absolutely transactional,

and poor countries, while political appointees serve in the most important places.

A particularly insightful article in the *Atlantic* explained this trend: “Trump is not alone in appointing political donors with no relevant experience to ambassadorships in foreign capitals. All recent presidents have done so. Yet the problem is getting worse—as the cost of American presidential campaigns skyrocket, as wealthy Americans flex their muscles within the American political system, and as the selling of ambassadorships for cold, hard cash becomes more and more overt.”

Increasingly these amateur ambassadors deal directly with the White House and largely ignore the expertise and advice of the State Department career officials in Washington, DC, and the experienced Foreign Service officers that staff the embassies. The most dramatic consequence of this was the Ukraine fiasco in 2019. The career State Department ambassador, who speaks Ukrainian and had served in the Foreign Service for three decades, was not kept informed about conversations between the US president and the newly elected president of Ukraine.

The most critical aspects of US policy toward Ukraine’s new government were being handled by Gordon Sondland, a real estate developer who was appointed as the US ambassador to the European Union because he contributed one million dollars to the Trump inaugural committee and whose official duties had nothing to do with Ukraine, as well as former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a personal attorney to the president with no foreign policy experience.

The impact of seeing two inexperienced neophytes dabbling in critical US policy on Ukraine certainly does not make the Foreign Service appear to be a career where education, experience, and judgment are important. The resulting impact on career officers is devastating.

The Ukraine fiasco is not the only incident of improperly appointed Foreign Service positions. While in Central Europe several months ago, I met up with a friend, fellow missionary, and Capitol Hill colleague. He was looking to leave the Foreign Service. My friend worked for a political appointee ambassador who knew nothing about the Central European country to which he had been appointed, and his only concern was to get the US president to meet with the leader of “his country” so that he personally could go to the White House. The meeting took place, but it was

though it can be strengthened by friendship and common values. Remove the two-way transaction, and the alliance falters despite common values.

A second healthy move was to call the Obama-era nuclear deal with Iran for what it was—a document not worth the paper it was written on. Paper agreements and pie-crust promises keep no one safe. The airstrike killing Qassim al-Soleimani, who reigned with blood and horror across Iran’s “near abroad,” was a needed display of hard power that pulled the Iranian regime back to a more realistic appraisal of the pros and cons of the current relationship between the two countries. Ironically, as one former British diplomat put it to McTague, “This has fundamentally changed the game and opens up the space for de-escalation.”

A third move by the Trump administration, aborted by US domestic politics, was to suggest that in a world where the ascendant power is China, Russia should not be an enemy. Indeed, it will not be too much longer before the national interests of China and of Russia begin to clash. While Russia may never be a friend to the US, a long-term view would sense the obvious realignments to come and adjust accordingly.

A fourth move by the Trump administration—long overdue—was to put China on notice that the US would firmly defend its economic interests. While the US still possesses, arguably, the world’s largest economy, that distinction may well fade with time. Using hard economic power now may delay the pain of readjustment to a new economic reality in the coming decades.

These may be four important “Trumpportunities.” Could there also be “Trumpstrophes”? Absolutely. The coronavirus pandemic and ensuing recession may be mishandled; it is too early to judge at this point. Afghanistan may turn into a viper’s nest once again. The closeness to the Saudi regime may be deeply regretted one day. Rather than causing our allies to step up to the plate, Trump’s hardball tactics may cause the final demise of NATO.

Whether Trump is reelected again this fall or not, the next president will no longer be locked into the Blob mindset because of what Trump wrought in his first four years. The debate over what should replace it should begin as expeditiously as possible.

Valerie M. Hudson taught at BYU for twenty-five years before moving to Texas A&M University, where she is a professor and holds the George H. W. Bush Chair in the Department of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service and serves as director of the Program on Women, Peace, and Security. Hudson is cofounder of the WomanStats Project, which hosts the largest compilation of information on the status of women in the world. She is also coauthor of Bare Branches, Sex and World Peace, and The Hillary Doctrine, and her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, and the US Department of Defense.

the wrong signal for US policy. The country involved was backsliding from the democratic principles it initially embraced after the Soviet occupation came to an end in 1990.

The expertise and knowledge that we have cultivated in the Foreign Service now play a decreasing role in shaping American foreign policy. For example, our nation developed a Foreign Service that played a key part in shaping the US role in the post-World War II world, but now, in this era of social media, the

OUR NATION DEVELOPED A FOREIGN SERVICE THAT PLAYED A KEY PART IN SHAPING THE US ROLE IN THE POST-WORLD WAR II WORLD, BUT NOW, IN THIS ERA OF SOCIAL MEDIA, THE LOUDEST VOICE RATHER THAN THE MOST EXPERIENCED VOICE IS FREQUENTLY THE ONE THAT IS HEARD.

loudest voice rather than the most experienced voice is frequently the one that is heard. The voices of go-it-alone nationalism and isolationism are not just being heard *in* the White House; they are the loudest voices shouting *from* the White House.

Unless we can counteract this hollowing out of American diplomacy by providing the necessary funding for a robust foreign policy, cultivating a professional Foreign Service of experienced and educated people, and taking full advantage of the wisdom and insight of foreign policy professionals, the future for United States foreign policy will not be bright.

Robert R. King received a BA in political science from BYU and was a participant in BYU’s first study abroad program in Salzburg, Austria. He received a PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He was assistant director of research at Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany (1970–1977); served as a White House fellow (1977–1978); was chief of staff to Congressman Tom Lantos of California (1983–2008); and was staff director of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (2001–2009). He was confirmed by the US Senate as US special envoy for North Korean human rights issues (2009–2017) with the rank of ambassador. Since 2017 he has been senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a nonresident fellow at the Korea Economic Institute, both in Washington, DC. Most recently, he was a visiting scholar at Stanford University (2019–2020).



By Samuel Tueller Dearden (BA '15)

Foreign Service Family

A Legacy of a Life Abroad

BLAINE TUELLER was at church with his family in Washington, DC. A prominent Latter-day Saint greeted him and began a conversation. Upon learning of Tueller's career as a diplomat, the man declared, "You can't be a good Latter-day Saint and be in the Foreign Service," and abruptly walked away without explaining why the two were incompatible.

Years earlier when Blaine and his wife, Jean, were making the decision to enter the Foreign Service, they weighed the career's advantages and disadvantages carefully. Being in the Foreign Service and living in various countries could give their children rich and varied experiences. On the other hand, the career brought separation from extended family and friends. For Latter-day Saints, there was the added problem of the boozy environment of the US Department of State's endless cocktail parties and diplomatic receptions. Upon weighing the options, Blaine and Jean decided that they could live the gospel and be in the Foreign Service.

Blaine Carlson Tueller and Jean Marie Heywood met in 1944 in high school in Cedar City, Utah, where they began dating. After high school, Blaine served a three-year mission to the Netherlands, and Jean graduated college and received a master's degree in early childhood education from the University of Nebraska. Shortly after Blaine's mission, the two married. A few years later, in 1957, Blaine entered the Foreign Service. Blaine and Jean served in Ireland, Austria, Morocco, Venezuela, Panama, the Philippines, Spain, and Washington, DC. They had ten children, raising them all abroad. Growing up internationally deeply influenced the lives and the faith of their children and taught them some of their most cherished lessons. The eldest child, Jan Tueller Lowman (BA '76) said, "The lifestyle was not a trial; it was an advantage."

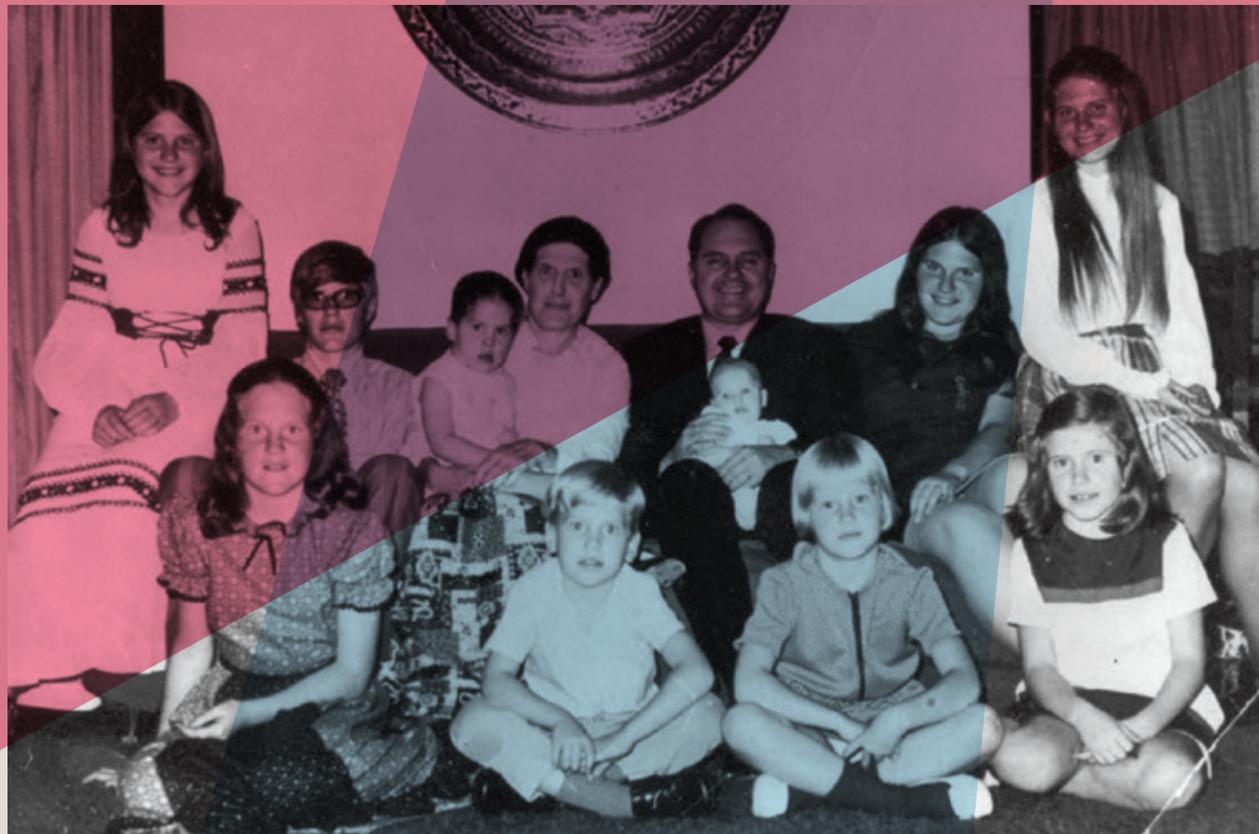
Lifetimes of Learning

The Foreign Service gave the Tuellers ample opportunities to learn about the various countries, cultures, and ideas they encountered. Betsy Tueller Dearden (BS '89) noted that her upbringing taught her to expand her intellectual horizons. She learned English and Spanish simultaneously in Venezuela. Later she added Tagalog, Swedish, and bits and pieces of several other languages. Betsy was by no means the only child to excel at language acquisition, as each of the ten children picked up Spanish, Tagalog, French, or Arabic. These language abilities

Top left: A 1963 photo shows the family in Vienna, Austria.

Top right: Blaine Tueller gives a gift to new high school graduate Jan Tueller Lowman in 1972, while Jean Tueller (holding Jeanne Tueller Krumperman) and Anna Tueller Stone look on.

Bottom: The family poses for a photo in Venezuela in 1972. Pictured top row from left: Marie Tueller Emmett (BS '81), Matthew Heywood Tueller (BA '81), Jean Marie Heywood Tueller holding Rachel Tueller (BA '91), Blaine Tueller holding Jeanne Tueller Krumperman (BA '95), Anna Tueller Stone (BA '78), and Jan Tueller Lowman (BA '76); bottom row from left: Diane Tueller Pritchett (BA '82, MA '83), James Blaine Tueller (BA '89), Betsy Tueller Dearden (BS '89), and Martha Tueller Barrett (BS '85).



gave the Tuellers a solid foundation of lifelong learning by providing an intellectual hunger for culture, literature, and politics.

Both Blaine and Jean actively encouraged their children's learning. Many of the children remember with fondness the frequent trips to the library. Blaine reflected, "When we got to a new place, the first place we looked for was the library." Blaine and Jean read widely, and their children followed their example. Matthew H. Tueller (BA '81) recalled, "I remember weekly outings to the library, coming back with our arms loaded with whatever books we found. When I was in eighth grade, my dad was reading Dostoyevsky and Solzhenitsyn. [As a fourteen-year-old], I read them and found them enthralling." Jean was also an avid reader and kept reading during the last years of her life—even when her macular degeneration made it hard. Instead of giving up, she turned her Kindle to the largest text setting and kept reading one or two words at a time. She passed away in August 2019.

It was not just secular material to which the Tueller children were exposed. Blaine and Jean made sure that the scriptures were an important part of their lives. Most mornings, the family gathered for scripture study and discussion.

All of that reading, both secular and spiritual, served the Tuellers well. Every one of the ten children graduated from BYU and went on to apply the lessons of lifetime learning to their own lives. Their backgrounds, combined with language skills and intellectual interests, led to many of their life choices. It was in Morocco as a child that Matthew fell in love with the Arabic language—a love that would drive him to follow in his father's footsteps and become an Arabist in the Foreign Service. He currently serves as US ambassador to Iraq and previously served as ambassador to Yemen and to Kuwait. Diane Tueller Pritchett (BA '82, MA '83) credited her upbringing for both her interest in political science (she received a PhD in the discipline) and the decision that she and her husband, Lant H. Pritchett (BA '83), made to raise their children abroad.

Respect for All

The Tuellers were not like other Foreign Service families. While many American diplomats associated almost exclusively with other American expatriates, the Tuellers made connections and friendships with host-country nationals in the local ward or branch. The Tuellers made some of their closest friends at church, including Astrid Tuminez (BA '86), the current president of Utah Valley University, when they were in the Philippines.

Jean wanted her family to be kind not only to their friends but to all. Her daughter Anna Tueller Stone (BA '78) noted, "My mother was a fierce warrior against unkindness." Jean was especially good at teaching her children to care in Christlike ways for people who were marginalized. Diane remarked that by moving so often, her parents "cast us into the role of outsider." This role gave the children the empathy to help others who were left out or different. Diane remembered that her mother gave her this advice: "When you walk into a room as a newcomer, you should always look around and see who needs you." Jean modeled this behavior herself, reaching out to those who needed love by inviting them to dinner or helping them financially. She also helped other families with housework and childcare. A constant thread running through Blaine and Jean's life was kindness and a concern for those less fortunate. One colleague of Blaine's described him as "the nicest and kindest man I ever worked for."¹

The experiences the Tuellers had with caring for and associating with others significantly informed their worldview for the rest of their lives. According to Diane, growing up abroad gave her a keen awareness of the vast and unfair inequalities in the world. In turn, this awareness made her more comfortable with differences and made her more sympathetic toward people who are different. Jan emphasized that she "learned to interact with and respect others from different countries, not just in an academic way but in a real heartfelt way." For Betsy, she learned "the world is a big place, and there is room for everybody, so we should be accepting of people."

A Close Family

Moving so often could be difficult on the family, as they had to leave behind dear friends from church and school. The upside to this was that the siblings became each other's best friends. Jeanne Tueller Krumperman (BA '95), the youngest Tueller, said she cherished the gift of her siblings being "instant, lifelong friends." With ten children, fights and disagreements were inevitable, but in those situations, Jean could usually be found singing "Love at Home" or praying for her squabbling children privately in her bedroom.



Ambassador Matthew Tueller meets with Iraqi foreign minister Mohamed Ali Alhakim (courtesy US Embassy Baghdad).



For Jean and Blaine's 60th wedding anniversary, the Tuellers re-created the beloved 1972 family photo.

Despite being separated from extended family and their Utah roots, the Tuellers made sure to stay as connected as they could. Jean regularly wrote to her family in the US. She also taught her children a great deal about their Utah pioneer heritage, so much so that Jan figured "we probably heard more about our pioneer ancestors than most people did." Jean also had copious amounts of Church literature around the house, including a collection of Relief Society magazines and Church booklets. Matthew recollected, "Both my parents gave us a sense of where our roots were. They told us stories about Cedar City, Panguitch, and Logan. We all loved those stories."

The family also became closer as they told and retold their own stories, a tradition that continues to this day. The children remember the time they found storks on the roof in Morocco, or the time in Venezuela that robbers broke into the house, held a few family members at gunpoint, and tied them up—luckily, nobody was hurt. Today, Tueller grandchildren bond over telling family stories, like the time when Uncle Matt showed up on a post on Kim Kardashian's Instagram, or how every fourth of July, pyromaniac Uncle Lant sets something on fire.

Lessons Learned

It is clear nowadays that one can be a good Latter-day Saint and be in the Foreign Service, as many faithful Latter-day Saints choose the career. In 2015 the American Foreign Service Association released a list of the top ten Foreign Service feeder schools. BYU made the list, alongside prestigious schools like Harvard, Georgetown, and Yale. Former secretary of state Condoleezza Rice recognized the compatibility of Latter-day Saints and the Foreign Service when she said, "[BYU] has produced a fair share of fine public servants. . . . [The Foreign Service] requires a kind of selflessness that I associate with BYU and the community that BYU represents, the Latter-day Saints."²

The lessons of learning, kindness, and togetherness that Blaine and Jean passed down to their children have now been passed down to their thirty grandchildren and are still being passed down to twenty great-grandchildren. A few of the grandchildren even want to follow in the footsteps of their grandfather and of their uncle and join the Foreign Service. The ten Tueller children remain grateful for their experiences growing up and for the example of their parents as kind, faithful, and knowledge-loving people. When asked to look back on his life in the Foreign Service, Blaine remarked, "We were very blessed. It turned out to be overwhelmingly positive in every way." ☒

Blaine Tueller passed away on 7 June 2020, six days after his ninetieth birthday, leaving a legacy of love, faithfulness, and kindness.

Notes

1. David L. Lyon, interview by Charles Stuart Kennedy, 9 December 2010, adst.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Lyon-David-L.pdf.
2. Brittany Karford Rogers, "A Diplomatic Life," *BYU Magazine*, Winter 2012, magazine.byu.edu/article/a-diplomatic-life.



Tyranny of the Urgent

My Year at the China Desk (with a Stint on the Hill)

MY PATH TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, like those of many others', was not direct. I spent the 2018–19 year as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow, but a delay in gaining an interim security clearance necessitated an adjustment in my plans. I first looked at Capitol Hill, where I ultimately accepted an offer from Congressman John R. Curtis (R-UT). It was a good fit and offered me rich opportunities to participate in the politics of policymaking in Congress.

Congressman Curtis, new to the House of Representatives, won a special election in November 2017 to fill the seat vacated when Jason Chaffetz resigned in June 2017. Curtis serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) and has a special interest in China, owing to his Chinese language skills and the two years he lived in Taiwan. With no foreign policy experts on his staff, I assumed a wide range of responsibilities related to foreign affairs and Curtis's work on the HFAC (Middle East subcommittee). Moreover, I enjoyed a great deal of freedom and latitude to advise Congressman Curtis on international affairs, cosponsor potential legislation, and prepare for hearings. My daily work also included working with his staff to craft statements on foreign affairs and US foreign relations.

I covered issues dealing with Syrian refugees, human rights in Xinjiang, China, international adoptions, and asylum, as well as Iranian nuclear issues and many other ongoing issues before the HFAC. When time permitted, I wrote short memoranda and potential resolutions on a range of international and foreign policy topics. Most of these were unsolicited but were my effort to deepen Congressman Curtis's knowledge and expertise on a wide range of foreign policy issues.

DAILY ROUTINE

At the Department of State it's just like "bang!"—you get a phone call or email that says, "In an hour, so-and-so has a meeting with so-and-so. We need cleared talking points for this conversation." You put them together, and then you're getting ready to leave the office around 5:30 p.m. or so, and you get another email with a task that needs to be finished "by opening of business tomorrow," which means 7:00 a.m. You stay later and get it done.

We all take turns coming in and doing early-morning duty, which means arriving at the office at about 6:00 a.m. The person on morning duty receives a summary from the US Embassy in Beijing of what happened at the end of their day—fresh information since there is a twelve-hour time difference between Beijing and DC. It's always several pages long, and each point must be summarized in no more than five lines. This has to be done by 7:00 a.m. in order to go upstairs for the assistant secretaries and the undersecretaries to discuss what's on their plates that day.

By Eric Hyer

POLICY ACROSS DIFFERENT SETTINGS

My experience was so different from working in academia, where we can sit back, think deep thoughts, and work on big ideas. Being on Capitol Hill offered a very wide range of issues, but we had little time to go into greater depth. Working at the China Desk felt like being dropped into a narrow well that goes down forever, with many issues of varying dimensions to explore—all on a deadline. At the university, we end a class with more questions and open-ended issues, but in the policy world of Washington, DC, we had to meet deadlines with solutions, answers, and concrete recommendations.

The work on Capitol Hill was broad ranging but not substantively deep. On the China Desk, I made a deep dive into tracking China.

War in Yemen

Perhaps the most exciting experience was taking Congressman Curtis from zero to sixty on the war in Yemen. I initially wrote a one-page memo explaining why the war in Yemen was a humanitarian nightmare and not a war that served US interests in the region. After we discussed the memo, Curtis expressed interest and requested a more comprehensive five-page memo. We had a detailed discussion of this memo with other staff members, and he decided to take a public stand against the war. He requested that I draft a five-minute floor speech.

The next day, Curtis went to the floor of the House and read the speech. Curtis took a strong position opposing the war in Yemen, but in the end, he did not support legislation to invoke the War Powers Act and force President Trump to end US involvement in the war in Yemen. When the issue came to a vote, Congressman Curtis felt compelled to toe the party line because Republican leadership argued that invoking the War Powers Resolution was not appropriate since no US troops were endangered in hostilities on the ground in Yemen. Ultimately, the legislation passed, largely along partisan lines, and the president vetoed the bill. The bill marked a significant rebuke to Trump and US policy in Yemen.

The China Desk

I received a security clearance in January 2019, and I moved to the Department of State, Bureau of Asian and Pacific Affairs, Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs. The work on Capitol Hill was broad ranging but not substantively deep. On the China Desk, I made a deep dive into tracking China. I was part of the global-strategy unit following China's global activities (except US-China relations). This unit was initially established to support the economic and security dialogue, but with the negative turn in US-China relations over the past two years, the unit was repurposed to track China's global activities and participate in developing executive policies to counter China.

After hopping around and helping where needed, I became the point person for three portfolios: Near East and North Africa, Africa, and the Belt and Road Initiative. I tracked reports from these regions related to Chinese activities and followed developments related to China's Belt and Road Initiative (formerly known as One Belt, One Road). My daily work primarily consisted of developing talking points for Department of State officials who would engage with like-minded allies and diplomats from Africa and the Middle East regarding US-China policy. The primary concerns of our unit focused on the human rights situation in Xinjiang, the Belt and Road Initiative, and 5G technology. Other important issues included China's military-to-military relations with Africa and the Middle East and supporting allies who were faced with development challenges that China was attempting to exploit for its own diplomatic benefit, especially in funding infrastructure projects linked to the Belt and Road Initiative.



The new office director who arrived partway through my time at the Department of State asked me to initiate more engagement with the think tank community in Washington, DC. I organized several roundtable engagements with think tank analysts to present their research and policy recommendations on countering China's Belt and Road Initiative. I also wrote an analytical narrative of US-China relations that the new deputy assistant secretary used to address a group of scholars from several think tanks hosted by the Brookings Institution. This secretary used that same narrative to brief a group of top-ranking noncommissioned officers from the Pentagon, followed by a wide-ranging discussion of US-China policy, which I sat in on.

While at the Department of State, I had many opportunities to accompany higher-level officials in meetings with the Chinese, like-minded allies, and diplomats from many countries to take notes during a demarche or other exchanges. I also prepared information memos and decision memos for seventh-floor principals. I gave several lectures to Foreign Service officers and other staff on the analysis of Chinese foreign policy. Before I left, the Department of State's Speakers Bureau contacted me, seeking to add me to the list of possible future speaking engagements to Citizen Diplomacy groups or foreign audiences.

My experience at the Department of State was rich and professionally fulfilling. Because of this experience, I now use new ideas in teaching the politics of US foreign policymaking, and I incorporate my experiences to enrich my lectures in the classroom. My hope is to mentor the next generation of policymakers, experts, and diplomats. [E](#)

GETTING STARTED WITH CHINA

My father, Paul Hyer, was an Asian history professor and founder of BYU's Asian Studies program. As a child, I lived in Japan and Taiwan with my family and developed an interest in China—it was all around me. I took Chinese at BYU and started an intensive Chinese language program in Taiwan until I served a mission there. I graduated with a degree in Chinese language, literature, and Asian Studies and then went to graduate school in political science because I was interested in contemporary diplomacy. I received a PhD in international relations with an emphasis on Chinese foreign policy and international security and theory from Columbia University. My first job after my graduate program was teaching at City University of New York at Hunter College. I came to BYU in 1989, where I've been ever since. Additionally, as a Fulbright Scholar, I taught at a Chinese university in Beijing and traveled back and forth from China often for research and work.



ERIC A. HYER is a professor of political science and the Asian Studies coordinator. Hyer has traveled extensively within China, including Tibet, and has twice traversed the Karakorum Highway between western China and Pakistan, where he conducted field research on boundaries separating Russia, Vietnam, Mongolia, and South and Central Asia. His research focuses on China's foreign relations, especially regional relations and territorial

conflicts. He is the author of *The Pragmatic Dragon: China's Grand Strategy and Boundary Settlements*. Hyer has published numerous academic articles and is associate producer of the documentary films *From the Masses to the Masses: An Artist in Mao's China* and *Helen Foster Snow: Witness to Revolution*.

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY A.J. RICH

The Best Job in the World

What's it like to be the first US ambassador to Libya after the tragic death of Christopher Stevens in Benghazi in 2012? How will the current COVID-19 crisis change diplomacy? And how did a broad BYU education in history, foreign language, and the humanities prepare her for global public service?

Ambassador Deborah K. Jones retired from the US Department of State in 2016 with the rank of Career Minister following a thirty-four-year career, including as US ambassador to Libya and to Kuwait, as well as principal officer in Istanbul, Turkey. Along the way, she served in Argentina, Iraq, Syria, Ethiopia, the UAE, and Tunisia. Jones received a BS in history, magna cum laude, from Brigham Young University, where she also pursued graduate studies in the humanities and taught for BYU's study abroad program in Madrid, Spain. She has a master's degree in national security strategy from the National War College of the National Defense University.

Unable to visit campus, Jones spoke with the Kennedy Center from her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, via Zoom on April 21, 2020. **Charlotte Sudweeks** was a research assistant at the Kennedy Center and graduated in April 2020 with an MPA from the BYU Romney Institute of Public Management. Sudweeks grew up in various locations around the world where her parents served as a tandem Foreign Service couple. **Cory Leonard** is an associate director at the Kennedy Center.

Sudweeks: *We are facing many challenges as a country right now. What are your thoughts on the current situation and the role US diplomacy is playing?*

Jones: I was very fortunate to have come into the Department of State at a time when the US was getting back on its feet again after Vietnam and all of the civil disruptions of the 1960s and '70s. People forget this country goes through these episodic, violent outbursts, and that the consequences are far reaching. The laws of physics apply in life, love, and diplomacy: heat is not lost, merely transferred; for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction; and force equals mass times acceleration. In this final equation, technology has always been a huge disruptor, as we see now with social media. Politics and governance, to include diplomacy, are essentially organic, relying on dialog and civility to establish institutions and processes that address human challenges. Humans don't come with an embedded chip—no 1.0 or 2.0 version—so politics and governance are always struggling to catch up with technological disruptions, or “progress.”

COVID-19—which has spread as it has due to this “progress,” air travel, and a global economy—has probably done more than anything else to remove the perception of the US as an exceptional power. Everyone knows we have enormous military power, which we tend to use more and more in lieu of diplomacy and other national tools.

The way we have handled this particular crisis—and the way it has been perceived by people across the world—has revealed our vulnerabilities and social inequities. Mike Pompeo has rightfully been proud of the Department of State's function in protecting American citizens by bringing them home from overseas, but if you speak to the people on the other end of that assistance, they're not as enthusiastic as he is about the way things were handled. And more and more people are assessing that our politics don't seem to be working at home.

Leonard: *How do domestic politics impact the work of diplomacy abroad?*

Jones: We used to say “partisan politics never cross the ocean.” We work for presidents both Democratic and Republican. My father was a Goldwater Republican, my mother a Kennedy Democrat, but that was irrelevant (I was in fact a registered Independent for years). We knew that when overseas, we were representing policies that reflected a very involved process, “an invitation to struggle,” as our Founding Fathers called it, between all the American stakeholders.

There's a very robust, often rambunctious, process for arriving at policies, which is why they're often disappointing to people: they're necessarily incremental, as they reflect a broad panoply of interests,

Future diplomats will have different tools than they do now and must be open to new paradigms. A former ambassador to Germany once told our Foreign Service Institute class that the Berlin Wall would never come down; two weeks later the wall fell. We can't think in terms of concrete boundaries. That's not how the world works anymore.

such as the industry involved, or the state, or Congress. But you know when you're overseas and carrying it out that you have the backing of the people of the US behind it. Many of us are mourning the loss of that bipartisan approach.

Leonard: *Does the experience of grappling with the coronavirus change us as a nation?*

Jones: This is going to be a moment of awakening and rethinking approaches. Americans, unlike Europeans, didn't suffer a great Blitz, we didn't experience the physical destruction of World War II, we haven't witnessed the devastation experienced by Syria or Iraq—some at our own hands—but now we have this silent enemy here. It's really throwing people off because we've always had this mindset that we're largely protected by these two oceans and our huge geography. But guess what? The virus doesn't recognize physical borders. In the past, we often dealt with socioeconomic problems or political upheaval by "opening up" more land to let off demographic steam. But we no longer have western expansion. We can't address this scourge by moving folks around or giving them "forty acres and a mule." This virus is exposing our inherent socioeconomic disparities, racial and otherwise, and vulnerabilities. We need to rethink our governance systems, as well as our own selfishness. We need to look again at how we do things in a world increasingly linked virtually, and this is perhaps a preparation for it.

Leonard: *The British diplomat Tom Fletcher envisions everyone armed with Twitter and a flattened hierarchy. What do diplomats of the future look like to you?*

Jones: If you look at our buildings of governance they resemble Roman temples or ancient churches: brick-and-mortar structures reflective of authoritarian and hierarchical systems. That's not how the world works anymore. What we're learning now is that we can be all over the place and still talk to each other and still get things done. Why isn't the Department of Agriculture in Nebraska?

Future diplomats will have different tools than they do now and must be open to new paradigms. A former ambassador to Germany once told our Foreign Service Institute class that the Berlin Wall would never come down; two weeks later the wall fell. We can't think in terms of concrete boundaries. That's not how the world works anymore. People find their way over and around walls. Ancient Rome became powerful because it built roads and water systems (aqueducts), i.e., networks. People sought to become Roman citizens because of the benefits that would accrue to them. We need to make clear to others the tangible and intangible benefits of being responsible human beings within more networked civil societies.

Sudweeks: *When did you first become interested in a diplomatic career—and the Arab world?*

Jones: There are Foreign Service officers who never wanted to be anything else. My own entry into the Foreign Service (FS) was a serendipitous consequence of being in Spain. It was during my graduate program there that a fellow student said, "I'm going to go register to take the FS exam at the US Embassy; do you want me to sign you up?" My first question was, "Does it cost anything?" It was free, so I said, "Sure, sign me up!" I passed the exam (my friend didn't), and the rest is history. My immersion in Spain and my focus on the humanities and medieval texts and ecclesiology, as well as the gathering of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in the Toledan court of Alfonso el Sabio and elsewhere, led me to the Near East.

Sudweeks: *What role did studying Spanish play in all of this?*

Jones: My mother is Argentine (my father met her on his mission) but never taught us Spanish. We had all these interactions, though, because my father was president of the Tucson Spanish-American Latter-day Saint branch when I was young. I studied French in high school and Latin at BYU but eventually thought, "This is ridiculous; my mother is a native speaker of Spanish and I don't know the language." During my sophomore year at BYU, I finally took a course, and I guess my DNA kicked in.

I learned Spanish easily, and, serendipitously, my first FS assignment was Argentina. I went during the Falklands-Malvinas War, three years after the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis. The US sided with the British, and there was some reluctance in my FS A-100 class to go to a presumably hostile locale. I told the folks making the assignments, "Look, full disclosure, I still have family in Buenos Aires, but I'm happy to go." I had the time of my life there. I regularly lunched with my grandmother and conversed with her in Spanish for the first time in my life.

Leonard: *You also learned Arabic as well?*

Jones: I went from Buenos Aires to Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq War without any language training, and that was a real shock for me. It was funny, because in some ways the terrain was not as foreign to me—some of it reminded me of Arizona. The Arabic language was, on the other hand—wow! Learning it, wrapping my ears around it, was challenging. Iraq has a very unique Arabic dialect with a lot of old Ottoman (Turkish) and Persian words. When I came back to the US, I was in Washington for a couple of tours, and by the time I went out again, to Damascus, I had spent two years studying Arabic: one year in Washington and another year at the State Department's field school in Tunisia.

Leonard: *What BYU classes or professors stand out or left an impression on you?*

Jones: Doug Tobler (history) told me that I was both "very smart and very lazy" and that my papers could have been "much better had I devoted more time to them." I still quote Todd Britsch (humanities), who once said to me: "Deborah, don't confuse aesthetic appreciation with faith"—this in the context of truth and beauty and great choral works. George Tate (humanities) embedded Icelandic literature in my brain forever. And I simply adored Ted Warner (history), who led a BYU Study Abroad Madrid program. He was knowledgeable and humble with a huge dose of "dad humor," as in "I'm Tedder, the Gooder and Better." And that head of hair everyone thought was a wig! And of course his wonderful wife, Doris, who was a mother to us all.

Leonard: *It seems like every Kennedy Center student, at some point, wants to be an ambassador. What's your advice for them?*

Jones: Work hard and enhance the enterprise as a whole. I've always said I was an "accidental ambassador." My mother visited me in Baghdad in 1986, and then-Ambassador David Newton threw a dinner party in her honor. Afterward, she confided that the ambassador had told her that when I first arrived at post, "we didn't think she would make it, but Deborah's going to be an ambassador someday." Instead of being overjoyed, my face fell. I said, "Mom, why did they think I wasn't going to make it?" Of course, she replied: "The point is he said you're going to be an ambassador someday." I did whatever task was handed to me, even those where others had failed. I never

Dusty, an eleven-year-old Jack Russell terrier, was a gift from Sheikha Paula al Sabah while Jones was serving as ambassador to Kuwait. Dusty accompanied Jones to Libya.



said, “That’s not my job; I’m a diplomat. I passed that tough exam, and I am too smart for this.” There were times I would put on my boots and jeans and go into the warehouse with local staff to clean it up. My approach was always, “Okay, this job needs to be done. How are we going to do it?” Sometimes my daughters tease me for this, but I would goad them: “Your ancestors crossed this country pushing handcarts, so don’t tell me you can’t do that!” It’s the ethos. People look for you to say, “What’s my job on this team? How can I help accomplish our mission?”

Leonard: *Some people wonder what they will be doing all day and if there will be aspects of the job that are less appealing.*

Jones: Of course. That’s life. My oldest daughter works for a well-known tech firm. She was expressing frustration the other day about some of the tasks assigned, bemoaning the detail work when she preferred thinking “big picture.” I suggested that the point of doing the detail work is so that when you become the leader—as I know she will—you know what goes into the details and how to thank others for taking care of them. You will also be able to devise viable strategies for your enterprise because you will know its capabilities. It’s important to recognize what everyone in your life does to make you a success. In that regard, it’s important to test your own biases and prejudices. Don’t fall prey to what President George W. Bush called “the soft bigotry of low expectations.” When someone walks into the room and you see them for the first time, do you anticipate success and decide you’re going to do everything possible to support that success? Or do you anticipate failure? That is the most important thing I’ve learned in my career: to live up to what we were brought up believing, that we are all children of God. Act on it.

Sudweeks: *What’s it like being an ambassador?*

Jones: It is the best job in the world. There’s no question about it. I once asked a colleague of mine who had been an ambassador a couple of times himself why he was still doing this, and he said, “Deborah, you can be a king, or you can be an ambassador.” I laughed at the time, because it’s not quite like that. But it’s pretty good. The full title is “plenipotentiary and extraordinary,” which means you are given these extraordinary authorities as the personal representative of the president of the United States. When you go out to a post, you are the chief of mission, overlooking elements from all the agencies and responsible for shaping the way your mission operates. You are continuously learning, stretching your mind and your capabilities. And here’s the best part, the “secret sauce” that’s so cool: You have this extraordinary reservoir of talent working for you, all these people who are dedicated to serving the nation and the people of the US and to fulfilling its mission. They’re good. They know what they’re doing. And they make you look even better than you are!

I had two very different experiences as ambassador. In Kuwait, where we have a very special relationship and a large presence following that country’s liberation from Iraq in 1991, it was very much a “maintenance of relationship” type of mission. I had authority over the fifteen US government agencies represented, as well as a coordinating role with the large US military presence there under the command of the Near East Central Command’s Combatant Commander, a four-star general based out of Florida. (An ambassador at post is the equivalent of a military four-star.) Our primary bilateral issues revolved around hydrocarbons and Kuwait’s significant financial holdings in the US, as well as support for US regional security objectives, terror financing, Iraqi reconstruction, regional political

Do your homework and know your stuff so that when you offer a perspective or viewpoint, you can do so with confidence. . . . And someone may differ. Don’t take it personally.

dynamics, labor issues, human rights and women’s issues, and educational and cultural exchange. We were there to promote broader US interests and manage conflicts while working on the broad range of issues noted above.

Libya was a different story. I was called by the assistant secretary in October 2012, just weeks after the tragedy in Benghazi, and asked whether I would be willing to serve in either Libya or Yemen. I agreed (and Yemen ended up going to another BYU graduate, Ambassador Matthew Tueller). I arrived in Tripoli in June 2013 following Senate hearings. I went from overseeing a mature bilateral relationship and living on a beautiful, purpose-built embassy compound in Kuwait to living in an ad hoc compound under construction in Libya, which had a barely functioning government and where all of our facilities had been destroyed. Our mission there was to support UN efforts to get Libya back on its feet after the revolution. This was especially challenging given the security conditions; we had eighty-nine combat Marines posted on our perimeter walls and many restrictions. Our goal was to work with what we found, negotiate bilateral agreements, and help Libya rebuild. Sadly, the Libyan revolution was unfinished, and by July 2014 the Libyan Civil War had broken out.

Our location, near the international airport in a contested area held by a militia group from outside of Tripoli, made us vulnerable to the fighting, with GRAD missiles coming perilously close and other shells hitting the compound. It was pretty serious, and I didn’t want to lose another American after Benghazi. It was Ramadan, and we knew the combatants—who were fasting—were stopping in the early morning hours to eat before sunrise. The airport had been destroyed, and we couldn’t get to the sea because of barricades set up by competing militias, so we went about it the old-fashioned way. After

destroying the sensitive material at post, we lowered the flag, and 159 of us loaded into thirty-nine armored vehicles and rolled off the compound at precisely 3:45 a.m. By the time those fighting realized what had happened, we were gone. We drove west and then down along the Jebel Nafusa Mountains, crossed into Tunisia, and were lifted out by a US C-17 transport mission that flew us to safety in Italy. It was pretty standard stuff—a textbook overland evacuation—and we got out without anyone being hurt. The country has since fallen into a hot war.

Leonard: *What was it like when you got to Libya, knowing you were filling the shoes of Chris Stevens?*

Jones: The Benghazi tragedy was highly politicized and remains a very delicate topic. Chris had been in Libya as ambassador for less than four months when he died with three others. We all understand why he felt it important to go to Benghazi to maintain his contacts there, because that’s where the revolution started. But Benghazi had witnessed a lot of violence in the six months preceding, and there were numerous indicators the revolution wasn’t quite over. Mahmoud Jabril had oversold his ability to unify the country to Secretary Hillary Clinton. There wasn’t a lot of appetite for making the mistakes we’d made in Iraq, and the Libyans didn’t want foreign forces in their country. They all knew the revolution was unfinished as well. There were those who believed the overthrow of Gaddafi would lead to genuine democracy and those more inclined to stick with a more benign authoritarian regime, “Gaddafi Lite.” This is not about Islamists versus secularists; there are extremists and moderates on both sides.

September 11, 2012, was an ill-fated day. Beyond the resentment of the revolutionaries toward countries they thought were interfering in Libya’s internal matters, there was a video made in the US denigrating the prophet Muhammad on the 9/11 anniversary, when we typically lock down all our missions across the world because we know that extremist groups will exploit that date. In fact, a number of US embassies across the Middle East saw violence that day; it was not unique to Benghazi. But no one was killed.

When I arrived at post, I realized that a number of staff members were still feeling the effects of losing an ambassador they’d loved and the ability to interact freely with Libyans as they had before. Many were angry because they felt the State Department had not addressed their needs in the wake of the tragedy or spent much effort on counseling. I spent a lot of time simply listening to people, focusing them on our purpose, and preparing our mission statement and how we would accomplish our goals. It was hard to comprehend what they had experienced, but as ambassador, you are the captain of the ship. It’s your mission.

Sudweeks: *Any advice, in particular, for women pursuing careers in foreign policy and diplomacy?*

Jones: Do your homework and know your stuff so that when you offer a perspective or viewpoint, you can do so with confidence. Break the habit of beginning statements with “So I think . . .” and then ending with that upward lilt in your voice that suggests you are seeking someone else’s approval. Just say what you have to say as a conclusion based on your research or observations. And someone may differ. Don’t take it personally.

Be aware, keep your mind open, learn and listen to people, and reaffirm your colleagues. Make it a practice when you hear they’ve

And here's the best part, the **“secret sauce”** that's so cool: You have this extraordinary reservoir of talent working for you, all these people who are dedicated to serving the nation and the people of the US and to fulfilling its mission. **They're good. They know what they're doing. And they make you look even better than you are!**



said something that hasn't been acknowledged to credit them for their insight. People like being acknowledged and will support you in turn (the laws of physics, remember!). Be alert to what triggers reactions, and be prepared with rational arguments for taking actions. Practice a tone and cadence of voice that allows you to interject politely when you are interrupted or your ideas are appropriated by others.

It may also be useful to deploy what I call “gender jiu-jitsu,” especially (but not always) when dealing in other cultures. The famous traveler and British official Dame Freya Stark once said, “The great and almost only comfort about being a woman is that one can always pretend to be more stupid than one is and no one is surprised.” This is a double-edged sword; she could accomplish the things she wanted to get done and obtain access others could not by playing dumb. Sometimes rather than a Clausewitzian approach, i.e., a full-frontal attack, take the Sun Tzu approach of smoke and mirrors and deception. The best victory is the battle that is never fought. Be prepared, and don't expect charm to substitute for substance.

Leonard: *What do you think we misunderstand about diplomacy careers?*

Jones: The Department of State is a journeyman-apprentice organization, and most top leaders have learned their skills through practice and observation. Diplomacy is not all negotiation and receptions. It's a lot of management—of policies and personalities and schedules and dynamics over which you have little control. There is endless coordination within the interagency and with Congress and other stakeholders. You spend a lot of time on writing and projects

that may go nowhere. You can find yourself in dangerous places, due not only to military conflict but to crime or gang violence. The hours are endless and stamina is often your most important asset. After I left Tripoli in July 2014 and went to Malta, my job was almost purely negotiation. I spent 80 percent of my time traveling for talks in London, Rome, Geneva, and Morocco with the Libyan factions, more like a special envoy than an ambassador. But this is highly unusual.

Two of the hardest and best jobs I had were as ambassador in Libya and as a second-tour general services officer in Baghdad, running logistics as we restored diplomatic relations. I leased residences, dealt with broken air conditioners, and ordered furniture for demanding FS personnel during a SCUD missile war between Iran and Iraq. It was a very weird time. Iraqi military defectors were robbing people, and their government was spying on us. With missiles falling and no daily flights offered by the airlines, our deputy principal officer called our regional executive office in Washington to see if we could get danger pay and was asked, “Has anyone been hurt yet? No? Then carry on!” Benghazi and earlier bombings of our other embassies has changed all that.

Leonard: *What are you reading now?*

Jones: Bill Burns's *The Back Channel*, a great behind-the-scenes of how diplomacy works. And I'm always interested in US history, so Jill LePore's *These Truths*. Other books include Joseph Ellis's *American Dialogue* and Kim Ghattas's *Black Wave*, which is about how 1979 was pivotal for both Iran and Saudi Arabia and the competition between Shi'a and Sunni Islam and its implications for the Near East region. [E](#)



Lectures

An Extraordinary Woman

Helene Cooper

Madame President: The Extraordinary Journey of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf by bestselling author Helene Cooper was book of the semester for winter 2019. In the book, Cooper explores the life of an extraordinary woman: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was the mother of four sons, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and Liberia's first democratically elected female president. "The election," Cooper related, "came down to a choice between the sixty-seven-year-old Harvard-educated global bureaucrat [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf] and a professional football player, George Weah."

Reviewing the harrowing circumstances surrounding Sirleaf's election, Cooper honored her rise from abuse and prejudice to political legacy: "[She did] something no woman had ever done before: win, by popular vote, the right to lead an African country." Cooper wove Johnson's remarkable life with the stories of all Liberian women in an age of social and political change. "All across Liberia, young women were riveted by the story of this jailed female political dissident who was standing up to the men running the country," Cooper recounted. "The stage was now set for the revolution that would overturn gender politics in West Africa."

Describing ordinary women who took to the market and the polls, ready to enforce change, Cooper said, "Defying centuries of history in the most patriarchal of places, [women] flooded to the polls and staged a democratic coup. They upended years of male rule and voted for Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to be president of Liberia. . . . I knew instantly that I wanted to write about this."

View the lecture in its entirety online at kennedy.byu.edu/events/madame-president.



Germany After the Wall Fell

Wade Jacoby

DURING THE FALL 2019 BRIDGES AND WALLS LECTURE SERIES, Wade Jacoby, the Mary Lou Fulton Professor of Political Science at BYU, presented "Thirty Years After the Wall Fell." Jacoby focused on German reunification, analyzing West German–East German politics, economics, and culture in the modern age. With a unique twist, he incorporated insights from three sources: the 1988 Bruce Springsteen concert in East Berlin, Donald Trump's discussion on Germany's trade surplus, and experiences with his East- and West-German host family.

Regarding Springsteen's concert, Jacoby noted, "People came away with an understanding that something was different about their lives." He described this difference as a sense of power and control among East Germans in defying the authority of the state. He claimed that, for the twenty thousand attendants, the Springsteen concert was empowering.

As for President Trump's views of Germany, Jacoby warned about Germany's future economy as the country sells far more than it buys. "The German economy we see today is not the German economy we saw twenty years ago. . . . It is both better and worse." He used his experience as an undergraduate student living with an East- and West-German host family to illustrate the tense relationship between East and West Germans today. "It's not a good thing for the future of the country if a part of the country [East Germany] is not listened to by the major parties," he said.

Jacoby described the loss of population in the eastern regions, the political strain between both East and West parties, and the effects of "alienation and frustration" on Germany as a whole. "None of these problems can be fixed by the passage of time alone," he advised. Jacoby concluded his message to students with an expression of hope that Germany will "invest in itself again" in education, training, jobs, military, and NATO.

View the lecture in its entirety online at kennedy.byu.edu/events/thirty-years-after-the-wall-fell.

Wade Jacoby suffered a fatal heart attack on 29 February 2020 while mountain biking with friends. He had served as the director of the Kennedy Center's Center for the Study of Europe (CSE) and was the European Studies coordinator, receiving in 2003 the first Title VI grant (of three for CSE) ever awarded by the US Department of Education to BYU.



LECTURES *A Sampling from WINTER-FALL 2019*

24 January 2019 The Church of Jesus Christ and the Jewish Community: Sharing a Commitment to Service and Principled Leadership

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League



13 March 2019 Gender Quotas and Democratic Participation: Recruiting Candidates for Elective Offices in Germany

Louise Davidson-Schmich, Professor of Political Science, University of Miami



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH



7 February 2019 Europe at the Crossroads

José María Aznar, Former Prime Minister of Spain and Executive President of the Foundation for Analysis and Social Studies



20 February 2019 Loss and Stigma: Experiences of Widowed Women in Post-Conflict Sri-Lanka

Alyssa Banford Witting, Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy, BYU

20 March 2019
**Café Europa—Beyond Eurovision:
The European Music Scene**

Christian Asplund, Professor of Music, BYU; Jeremy Grimshaw, Professor of Music, BYU; Anna-Lisa Halling, Assistant Professor of Portuguese, BYU; Moderator: Gregory Stallings, Associate Professor of Spanish, BYU



11 September 2019
**Games for Good? How Diplomacy Simulations Foster
Cooperation and Experiential Learning**

Panel: Heather Belnap, Associate Professor of Art History and Coordinator of European Studies, BYU; Cory Leonard, Associate Director of the Kennedy Center, BYU; James Toronto, Associate Professor of Arabic, BYU; Evan Ward, Associate Professor of History, BYU



16 October 2019
Understanding Syria Through Refugees' Stories

Wendy Pearlman, Author and Associate Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University



30 October 2019
**Bridges of Information: Public Sphere
and Social Movements in Venezuela
During the Age of Revolution**

Cristina Soriano, Associate Professor of History, Villanova University



6 December 2019
Politics of the Korean Peninsula

His Excellency Park Joon-Yong, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco



APRIL

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



4 April 2019
**An Equivocal Reading of 1 Samuel 1: A Model for
Reading Patriarchal Texts in a Feminist Age**

Amy Kalmanofsky, Dean of the List College of Jewish Studies and Blanche and Romie Shapiro Associate Professor of Bible, Jewish Theological Seminary



25 September 2019
Hadrian's Wall: Symbol and Substance

David Potter, Francis W. Kelsey Collegiate Professor of Greek and Roman History and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan



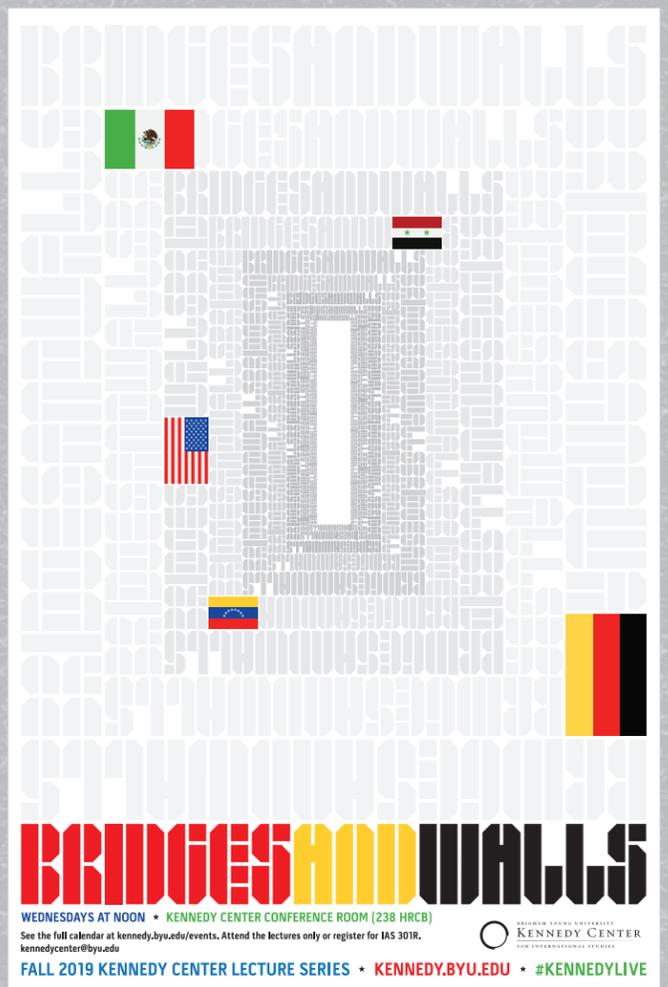
6 November 2019
The Fall of the Berlin Wall—and the Rise of the Border?

Peter Fritzsche, W. D. and Sara E. Trowbridge Professor of History, University of Illinois



14 November 2019
**The Voice of America: When I Announced the Fall of the
Berlin Wall**

Julie Kiriakov Caswell, Former Broadcaster, Voice of America



LECTURE SERIES

POVERTY, WOMEN'S RIGHTS, SEGREGATION, IMMIGRATION—a thousand social issues cry out for change every day. In the fall of 2018, the Kennedy Center began discussing some of these issues, selecting one topic each semester. National and international authors, political scientists, social scientists, and academics visited BYU each Wednesday to impart knowledge from their own experiences and studies. The first series was titled Social Justice (fall 2018). Women and Politics (winter 2019), Bridges and Walls (fall 2019), and then Environmental Stewardship (winter 2020) followed. With the help of virtual technology, this fall will “bring” new speakers to campus to discuss the theme Challenges to Democracy.

Join In
Learn more about upcoming and past lectures and become part of the discussion: visit kennedy.byu.edu/events.



Diana Bate Harty:
“We’re bold in calling out injustice, but we do so without berating the individual.” #kennedylive

@kristy_nuttall: This was a phenomenal lecture. Thank you @Wendy_Pearlman for your thoughtful, detailed presentation that gave voice to the powerful stories of Syrian refugees. You are doing important work.

José María Aznar: “Having a strong will, a career-centered mind . . . and [disciplined] focus are very important goals for future politicians and world leaders. We need leaders with strong convictions, [and most importantly,] with principles.” #kennedylive



Alumni

WANT TO HELP STUDENTS find their way in the world? These alumni updates come from your changing profiles via our LinkedIn group as well as from individual submissions. Our academic and career advisors use them to see what you're doing and to guide students to better understand the world of work and explore careers and opportunities.

1995

RUSSELL C. RASMUSSEN was appointed in March 2020 as senior director of worldwide education at SnapAV, a commercial audio business based in Draper, Utah, having previously served as director. Rasmussen received a PhD in instructional psychology and technology from BYU in 2003 and an MA in Middle East history from the American University in Cairo in 1997.
BA: Near Eastern Studies, 1995

1996

COLIN L. CROPPER is a managing director in the Investment Banking Division at RBC Capital Markets in New York City, where he heads the firm's automotive franchise globally; this includes automotive suppliers, original equipment manufacturers, and companies operating in the various subsectors of the automotive aftermarket. He advises clients on sales, mergers and acquisitions, and various types of capital raising. Cropper received an MBA in finance from the Anderson School at UCLA in 2002. While at BYU, he served as president of the French club and participated in Model UN.
BA: International Relations; Minor: Business, 1996

1999

GILLES FRANÇOIS has worked in Germany as the Frankfurt am Main Area welfare manager for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since 2015. François received an MBA from Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main and an MA in political science from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne in 2002.
BA: Development; Minor: Arab and Islamic Studies, 1999



2000

JACOB G. MILLER has served as vice president of CRM and loyalty at Qatar Airways since August 2018. Miller currently resides in Doha, Qatar. Before joining Qatar Airways, he was senior director for Global Loyalty and Customer Retention with Expedia Inc. in Seattle, Washington. Miller received an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in international economics and European studies.
BAs: Development and French, 2000

MARIA (DINCHEVA) PRICE took a new position in 2018 as an expert for the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) in Bern, Switzerland. OTIF strives to improve and promote international railroad traffic. Price previously served as head of EU policy and public affairs in Brussels, Belgium, for the International Union of Wagon Keepers. She received an MA in international law and world order from the University of Reading and a PhD in transport from the University of Oxford.
BA: International Studies; Minor: European Studies, 2000

2003

SPENCER R. EDGIN has been an enterprise finance executive at Apple Financial Services in Olathe, Kansas, since 2016. As an executive, Edgin has provided finance and lifecycle management solutions for Apple products to enterprise companies across the central United States. He previously served as assistant vice president of corporate finance at GE Capital in Overland Park, Kansas. Edgin received an MBA from the University of Utah in 2011. While at BYU he participated in Model UN.
BA: International Studies, 2003

2004

JOSEPH C. ANDERSEN serves as director of international government relations at the Alibaba Group in Washington, DC, analyzing and resolving complex legal, legislative, and regulatory issues related to security, cloud migration, the internet of things, mobility, network center modernization, and government procurement. Andersen previously worked as senior manager at Brocade Communication Systems Inc., which specializes in data and storage networking products. He received a JD from George Washington University in 2007 and an MA in international law and legal studies from the University of Oxford in 2006.
BA: International Studies, 2004

2005

JOHN S. KELLER is president of REDLIST, a computerized maintenance management system that helps heavy-equipment industry-related companies improve safety and expand production. Keller is based in Pleasant Grove, Utah. He received an MBA from BYU in 2013.
BA: International Studies, 2005



ARE YOU A CONNECTOR? Help us reach other alumni by sending your updates or reconnecting us with lost (but not forgotten) alumni at kennedycenter@byu.edu.

2006

SPENCER T. MONTAGUE has served as a US government analyst in Washington, DC, since 2010. In 2015 Montague received a certificate in international migration studies from Georgetown University. He also received a master's in law and diplomacy in 2009 from Tufts University and completed leadership courses in 2008 at the Harvard Kennedy School.
BA: International Relations, 2006

2008

JEFFREY D. GLENN has been an assistant professor of public health at BYU since July 2018. Previously, he worked as a systems change fellow with the END Fund in New York City, raising funds to help eradicate tropical diseases. Glenn received a PhD in public health from Harvard in 2018 and an MPA from the University of Southern California in 2010.
BA: International Relations, 2008

2010

SANDRA (CANNON) CERNA is a program coordinator for Go Learn at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Go Learn is an educational travel program for small groups. Cerna previously served as a refugee grant specialist at Salt Lake Community College. By age twenty-one, she had lived in seven countries and could speak three languages. Cerna received an MA in tourism management from Colorado State University in 2019.
BA: Latin American Studies, 2010

2011

MEGAN (MARLER) WOOD launched Megan Wood Consulting in January 2015. Wood helps individuals achieve higher mental performance. Previously, she was an intelligence analyst at the US Department of Defense.
BA: Middle East Studies/Arabic, 2011.

2016

GABRIEL DAVIS has worked for Trade Services at World Trade Center Utah since the beginning of 2020. Previously, he was an account executive at Awardco, an organization in Orem, Utah, that specializes in employee recognition programs. Davis interned at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh in 2015. From 2010 to 2012 he served a mission in Germany.
BA: European Studies, 2016

JENNA L. JACKSON has been an associate at Leavitt Partners in Salt Lake City, Utah, since 2016. Jackson previously worked in Washington, DC, as a legislative intern at USAID.
BA: International Relations, 2016

2019

LAURIE K. BATSCHI is a program support officer at the US Department of State in Washington, DC, where she supports the multilateral responsibility and diplomacy team at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator as part of the PEPFAR program. While at BYU, Batschi participated in the Foreign Service Student Organization, Students for International Development, and Sigma Iota Rho.
BA: International Relations, 2019

ANA NIELSEN is a transaction specialist at Shareworks by Morgan Stanley in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, an innovative organization that provides equity solutions in company management. In 2018 Nielsen interned with Self-Reliance Services in Otavalo, Ecuador.
BA: Latin American Studies, 2019

The Foreign Service:

Springboard or Landing Pad?

A diplomacy career is often considered to be a single, lifetime trajectory. While that may be true for some, many join the Foreign Service as a second career and others leave it for new opportunities. We reached out to Kennedy Center alumni to learn how the Foreign Service has been a springboard to a different career—or, for some, a landing pad.



"THE WORLD NEEDS MORE DIPLOMATS"

Jonathan Beutler

Public Affairs Consultant and Los Angeles County Beach Commissioner; Former Foreign Service Officer, US Department of State



What drew you to a career in the Foreign Service?

When I was in the sixth grade, our class was visited by a recently returned Peace Corps volunteer who was planning to pursue a Foreign Service career, and I was mesmerized thinking about a career in another country. Several years later, I was an exchange student in Spain, where I had exposure to the US embassy in Madrid and learned about the importance of diplomatic work. Finally, as a graduate student at UCLA, during a welcome reception for Pakistan's foreign minister, I enjoyed a very encouraging conversation with former US secretary of state Warren Christopher, which really solidified my commitment to prepare for the Foreign Service by seeking a State Department internship (I was assigned to the embassy in Lisbon).

What were some of your career highlights?

First was that overwhelming moment when I was informed that I had passed the oral assessment and was advancing to Foreign Service officer (FSO) candidacy. While in Washington, I had opportunities to serve on two special task forces that monitored the situation of American citizens during the Egyptian revolution and after the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Highlights from Tokyo include overseeing advocacy in the Japanese Diet for Japan's accession to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction, coordinating cultural diplomacy activities with American musicians and artists, and serving as a control officer for official visits by high-ranking officials. I was particularly moved when President Barack Obama incorporated some text I had written in his speech during a joint presser with Prime Minister Shinzō Abe.

How did your work as a diplomat serve as a springboard to what you're doing now?

The training and experiences I had have made me a more well-rounded professional and a stronger communicator. My diplomatic background certainly continues to be relevant, as my current work is substantially international. The Foreign Service educated me in public engagement and mass communication, writing succinct reports, staff management, and navigating bureaucratic team dynamics.

What do you think about the current state of US diplomacy?

I am deeply concerned about Washington's current approach to diplomacy. The US and, dare I say, the world are in a hard position today because of the departure of so many dedicated,



Ryan Koch

Director of the New York Office of Public and International Affairs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Former Foreign Service Officer, US Department of State



How did your work as a diplomat serve as a springboard to what you're doing now?

When I thought about leaving the State Department, my wife asked me what my dream job would be. I replied, "Doing exactly what I'm doing but doing it for the Church." About 95 percent of what I do for the Church is what I did for the State Department: interacting with diplomats, working with NGO leaders, promoting policies, organizing events, dispelling stereotypes, and building relationships. The only difference is that I have a much better secretary of state now!

What do you think about the current state of US diplomacy?

The State Department is often seen as low-hanging fruit when it comes to budget cuts in the federal government. Beefing up the diplomatic corps, both in terms of budget and personnel, is one of the best things that can be done to improve our relationships with other countries. In addition to not having adequate resources, the State Department is a treasure trove of expertise that is currently not being used to its full extent. Nevertheless, US diplomats continue to push forward, establish key relationships, and promote the United States around the world.

"US diplomats continue to push forward, establish key relationships, and promote the United States around the world."

—RYAN KOCH



Stephen Frahm

Foreign Service Officer, US Department of State; Former Association Executive in Arizona, Texas, and Utah and Former Executive Vice President of the Salt Lake Board of Realtors and Washington County Board of Realtors, with Work Experience in the Arizona Office of Tourism and the Texas Travel Industry Association

What drew you to a career in the Foreign Service?
I met a Foreign Service officer during my air force assignment in Berlin and was fascinated by his career.

How did your previous work prepare you for your work as a diplomat?
My prior work experience allowed me to hone team- and consensus-building skills, taught me how to problem solve and make decisions without complete information, and, perhaps most importantly, taught me to develop professional networking competencies.

What's something most people do not fully understand about diplomats?
Life as a diplomat is not, for the most part, luxurious living. Living overseas is not the same as vacationing overseas. It afforded my family many wonderful experiences that we would not trade. But organizing a household move every few years and then adapting to a new culture exacts a price—especially for a spouse and children. A spouse's career is not easy to manage when you move so often. My children made some good friends but also experienced anti-American bullying in their schools. They had amazing adventures traveling on school trips but missed out on common American childhood experiences.



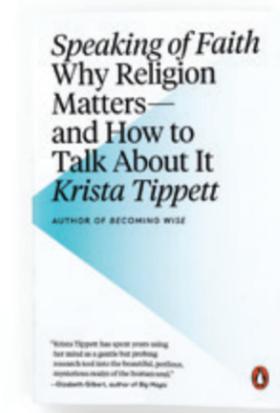
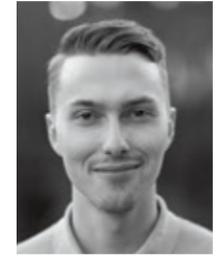
Connor Kreutz

Business Analyst, McKinsey & Company, Seattle, Washington; Former Intern, US Diplomatic Mission to Germany

What initially drew you to a career in the Foreign Service?
The Foreign Service seemed like a way I could see the world, operate at the intersection between business and policy, and work where policy implementation was happening.

How did your internship serve as a springboard to what you're doing now?
I had a lot of autonomy, especially traveling alone to high schools across the region to speak about US politics and culture to auditoriums of German high school students. I found it difficult, however, to stand up in front of students and defend President Trump's "America first" strategy for foreign policy, to which I was diametrically opposed. Knowing that dissonance would be constant in my job if I joined the Foreign Service, I began exploring other career paths.

What are some skills that you developed at the Kennedy Center and as a State Department intern that you use now?
I think the ability to read the news and link current events to the broader story about your community, the country, and even the world is important. I got into the habit of reading a number of newspapers and following the social media accounts of reporters while I was a student at the Kennedy Center. Today I spend nearly an hour each morning listening to the news while I get ready because I want to be ready to respond when clients ask for guidance.



SPEAKING OF FAITH: WHY RELIGION MATTERS—AND HOW TO TALK ABOUT IT
By Krista Tippett

Tippett's memoir shows the fascinating life paths that diplomacy can lead to. In her 20s she worked on nuclear issues as a diplomat and journalist in East Germany. However, most readers may know her from her public radio program *On Being*, formerly called *Speaking of Faith*, which cultivates diplomacy of a different kind: that of interfaith diplomacy.



Recommended Read
Send us your own top pick on diplomacy. Or find us on Goodreads.



Eliza Campbell

Associate Director of the Cyber Program, Middle East Institute, Washington, DC

What initially drew you to a career in foreign policy?
My parents were educators, and I saw firsthand the intersection of poverty with race and class. Alongside that, I followed the US invasion of Iraq and the war in Afghanistan closely as a teenager, and there were things about US foreign policy and its intersection with domestic policy that I wanted to understand better.

Did you consider working for the State Department?
I did, but ultimately I decided it was not for me. Diplomacy has a lot more to do with domestic politics than I initially thought. I recommend doing a lot of reading and talking with people involved in different levels at State, and consider seriously whether you have any particular ethical or moral convictions that might preclude you from building a career in these spaces.

What unique challenges do women face in foreign affairs?
I wish someone had told me how difficult it would be and how the same challenges of fifty years ago are still present. We've made certain strides, of course, but the worst and most important thing, I think, is that the invisible labor of those who identify as female is still often taken for granted, and their contributions are still coded differently than those who identify as male. I am still learning how to navigate this myself, but I would recommend that women working in this field set strong boundaries, practice advocating for themselves and others, and practice seeing unpaid and invisible labor as worthy of value and attention.



"I would recommend that women working in this field set strong boundaries, practice advocating for themselves and others, and practice seeing unpaid and invisible labor as worthy of value and attention."

—ELIZA CAMPBELL



EMBASSY INTERNS

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, BYU has been on a roll: more than twenty students each year have been selected for Internships with the US Department of State. As Foreign Service officer Jacob Glenn recently shared with students in a virtual Ask Me Anything event, internships are one of the best ways to find out whether you are a good fit for a career in diplomacy. They require early application; are available in Washington, DC, and worldwide at embassies, consulates, and permanent missions; and draw upon language and area studies knowledge. Embassy personnel are consistently impressed by the caliber of Kennedy Center students.

We surveyed alumni and students to discover what they learned while on internships working among diplomats.



Laurie Batschi
Hometown: Silverdale, Washington
Major: International Relations, '19
Internship: US Embassy in Brussels, Political-Economic Section

What drives you? My goal is to become a Foreign Service officer, and I am especially interested in fostering a political space to allow for economic and social development through a bilateral partnership. I am currently working at the US Department of State's Global HIV/AIDS Program, so I am seeing firsthand the various impediments that a poor political environment can have on apolitical development work.

Major accomplishments: I conducted research and met with Belgian officials to draft a cable on Chinese investment in Belgium through the Belt and Road Initiative. Brussels is amazing and home to both the EU and NATO. I learned about multilateral work in each organization, in addition to the more specific bilateral issues through my work at the embassy.



Stefan Bendtschneider
Hometown: Springville, Utah
Majors: Sociology and Spanish Studies, '17
Internship: San Juan, Puerto Rico, Diplomatic Security Service (Special Agents)

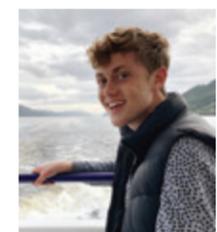
What drives you? I am interested in federal law enforcement and following what's happening with current events and international relations.

Major accomplishments: I translated a variety of legal documents from Spanish to English for use in a US district court. I was privileged to work with special agents and investigative analysts on active federal investigations and cases for passport and visa fraud and other crimes. During my internship, I received a secret-level security clearance.



Lillie Haggard
Hometown: Fargo, North Dakota
Major: Political Science, '21
Minor: International Diplomacy and Strategy
Internship: US Department of State Executive Secretariat, Operations Center, Crisis Management and Strategy Office, Washington, DC

What drives you? I am passionate about political economy issues and fighting poverty, developing diplomacy and better international relations, and determining effective US aid and intervention around the world.



Coleman Packer
Hometown: Orem, Utah
Major: Political Science, '19
Emphasis: International Strategy and Diplomacy
Internship: US Department of State Headquarters, Work/Life Division of the Employee Relations Office, Bureau of Human Resources, Washington, DC

What drives you? I was interested in the importance of work-life balance programs that improve employees' well-being and job satisfaction. I was also interested in initiatives that empower women and LGBTQ+ employees.

Major accomplishments: I collaborated with subject-matter experts to manage programs that empower working mothers and allow civil servants to telework overseas. This involved extensive communication with other bureaus and employees across the department. It also required me to design surveys and analyze data. My career goals are in human resources, and this internship gave me incredible program-management experience. I had rewarding opportunities to network and interact with career diplomats and civil servants.



VIRTUAL INTERNSHIPS?
Online internships were once a small but growing idea. Now, with coronavirus travel restrictions in place, students are giving them a closer look.



Nicholas Merrill
Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska
Major: International Relations, '22
Minor: Communications
Internship: US Embassy in Prague

What drives you? The issues of media literacy, public diplomacy, and media relations are important to me. Even though COVID-19 forced me to return to Provo halfway through the program, I continued working from home on these issues.

Major accomplishments: My supervisors loved an interactive heat map I created showing where extremist political parties are most influential across Czechia. It will help the embassy increase programming in troubled regions. I represented the embassy at Prague Comic Con, facilitated a meet and greet between the bassist of Five Finger Death Punch and the Marines, and ran a public debate between the overseas representatives of both major US parties.



Marisa Gonzalez-Mabbutt
Hometown: Nampa, Idaho
Major: International Relations, '20
Internship: Economic Bureau, Bilateral Trade Affairs Office, US Department of State

What drives you? I am interested in Latin American and Asian trade affairs.
Major accomplishments: My position in the office consisted primarily of analyzing trade data, and by the end of my internship, I had completed a portfolio of bilateral trade profiles for key countries, which were to be used by State officials in meetings. Between projects, my coworkers made every effort to bring me along to State-sponsored conventions and allow me to assist with senior-level meetings and contribute to reports and memos. By the end, I had grown considerably as a professional and knew more about what I was capable of and what I wanted to do in the future. My internship gave me so many opportunities to expand my skills, perceptions, and goals.



Newsroom

BYU AS BULGARIA—LATVIA AND POLAND TOO

In March 2020 the BYU Model EU Team—Maxwell Collins, Reagan Curtis, Amanda Gach, Hailey Hannigan, and Annie Ackerman—represented Bulgaria, Latvia, and Poland at the European Council simulation hosted by the University of Washington in Seattle. Model EU students hone research, public speaking, negotiation, and other diplomatic skills. **Cristiana Farnsworth** and **Aidan Houston** served as teaching assistants. Western US teams negotiated two topics: climate change and labor/commerce.

Curtis said, “We worked on migration issues and environmental solutions, among other things, and, frankly, we had a great time in Seattle.” Similarly, Farnsworth described this year as “especially rewarding to see our team members apply the extensive research and skills they learned throughout the course.”

Faculty advisor **Liz Jevtic-Somlai** related the unique circumstances of the conference, including the opportunity to honor the late **Wade Jacoby**, who initiated BYU’s

involvement in Model EU. “At the end of the conference,” she said, “we took a moment to honor him and everything he did for so many students.” Jacoby played a key role through BYU’s Center for the Study of Europe in founding the simulation with UW and the European Union Center of Southern California.

The two-day conference concluded with BYU receiving two outstanding position paper awards as well as an outstanding delegate and an honorable mention delegate.

AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT FOR FACULTY

During university conference in August 2019, the Kennedy Center held its annual open house for faculty. Displays highlighted majors and minors, faculty research grants, student scholarship opportunities, the fall 2019 Bridges and Walls Lecture Series, and the process to become a director for one of more than 200 study abroad programs. An array of international food was provided, including sushi, samosas, coxinha, eclairs, and facturas. In addition, an airfare giveaway kicked off the Build Bridges not Walls campaign, based on **President Russell M. Nelson’s** plea at the NAACP convention in July 2019 to “build bridges of cooperation rather than walls of segregation.” Faculty were given the opportunity to place a luggage lock on the Kennedy Center’s LugLock bridge and commit themselves to building bridges internationally. As a reminder of their commitment, they were gifted an enamel pin of the Rialto Bridge in Venice, Italy.



A faculty member attaches his luggage lock, a symbol of cooperation.

MAKING DREAMS HAPPEN

The Kennedy Center is building a \$10 million endowment through the Global Opportunity Initiative with the purpose of providing funds for study abroad to students who otherwise could not afford to go. In 2019 sixty-eight Global Opportunity Scholarships were awarded to students from forty-three majors across campus. These scholarships are based on financial need and help students of all majors have their first academic experiences abroad. In addition to alumni donations, BYU students collectively donated more than \$2,600 to the scholarship in 2019.

Please help us reach our goal by visiting kennedy.byu.edu/donate.

STUDENT FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Each fall and winter semester the Kennedy Center offers students a \$1,000 fellowship for their qualifying research papers and the chance to present those papers during the Wednesday noon lecture series. In fall 2019, **Eliza Bennett** and **Olivia Whiteley** received the award.

Bennett’s presentation, “Bridging the Gap: The Informal Education Differences Between Men and Women in Rural Africa,” focused on her work with the School of Agriculture for Family Independence (SAFI), an organization in rural Malawi that educates men and women on maize production and

promotes gender equality. She proposed significant changes to SAFT’s structure, including orally teaching females who were illiterate, increasing female staff members, encouraging female attendance, and fighting culturally based gender inequality.

Whiteley’s presentation, “Performing American Latina-ness: The Miss Latina Pageant and Post-Border Citizenship,” looked at the question of American and Latino identity in a world of borders and stereotypes. Her work with Miss Utah Latina pageant participants illuminated the struggle of navigating two cultural identities and looked at the possibility of redefining them in a third space, a place where dual citizenship can be honored.

Watch their presentations online at kennedy.byu.edu/events/kennedy-research-fellow-awards-4.

CELEBRATING GRADUATES

At the spring 2019 convocation, graduates heard from alumna **Aleisha Woodward**.* Woodward shared counsel to be authentic and spoke about the value of collaboration and lifelong learning. She also gave a warning: “Life is not going to turn out the way you plan it.” She then said, “Trust in God.” Alynne Scirkovich, a double-major in Middle East Studies/Arabic and economics, gave the student address. Scirkovich spoke on the hope she gained while studying at BYU and her mission to endow others with hope for the future. The highlight of every convocation is the entertainment; at this convocation Tablado Dance Company performed two traditional flamenco dances, “Asturias” and “Sevillanas.”



**Aleisha Woodward serves as the deputy assistant secretary for policy in the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1998, she has served in US embassies in Japan, the United Kingdom, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Ireland, and Korea and as consul general in Perth, Australia. In Washington, DC, Woodward has worked in the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands and as a senior watch officer in the State Department Operations Center. She speaks Japanese, Russian, and Romanian and received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in international relations from the Kennedy Center.*

PUBLISHING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

In April 2019 the *Sigma* journal highlighted contributing students’ scholarship on a variety of topics. The articles discussed immigration reform and crime rate, the effects of politics on dating preferences in contemporary America, public opinion on immigration and national security in the EU, the effects of sexual misconduct allegations on constituents’ views of their politicians, the impact of pro-windmill rhetoric on local support for clean energy, predictors of women’s political representation in sub-Saharan



“Life is not going to turn out the way you plan it. Trust in God.”

—ALEISHA WOODWARD



Share your experience directly with a Kennedy Center student. Our Kennedy mentor program is getting a reboot: sign up to help advise and guide students seeking careers in global business, law, development, diplomacy, national security, or other subfields. Watch for info on our webpage and social channels—and help become what @AdamMGrant calls “someone who sees more potential in us than we see in ourselves.”



“My all-time favorite Political Review event remains the tightly contested West Wing trivia night.”

—RYAN DAVIS

Africa, and the influence of social proof on government officials. Authors for the issue were Gabe Darger, Kelly Duncan, Matthew Easton, Connor Kreutz, Alena Smith, Brynne Townley, and Aubriana Wolferts. Political science major Rachel Finlayson served as editor-in-chief, overseeing a board of editorial staff, and political science professor Scott Cooper served as the journal’s faculty advisor.

A STUDENT TAKE ON POLITICS

BYU’s *Political Review* journal offers an engaging student perspective on today’s political climate. The journal is managed by BYU students, most of whom are political science majors. Taylor Petersen, the editor-in-chief, is a senior from Southern California. An outdoorsman at heart and political science enthusiast, Petersen plans to further his education at law school. Jennica Collette, the journal’s publisher, is a senior from New Hampshire who is pursuing the global development track under the political science major along with minors in non-profit management and European Studies. Collette currently works at the International Rescue Committee. Other members of the editorial board are Tyler Clancy, Camille

Cressman, Reagan Curtis, Edie Ellison, Hailey Hannigan, Kaity Marquis, Colton Quist, Anna Salvania, Helaman Sanchez, and Steven Schone.

Ryan Davis, a professor of political science, oversees the students. Davis received a PhD from Princeton University in political philosophy, and his research interests primarily draw upon Kantian ethics. “I have loved working with the students on the *Political Review*,” he said. “Over the last few years, the student editors-in-chief and publishers have done a great job making the review relevant, interesting, and informative.” Along with the publication, Davis holds a weekly class for the students with discussions and engaging events. “My all-time favorite *Political Review* event remains the tightly contested *West Wing* trivia night we did last year,” said Davis. “My team narrowly lost, but it’s not the battles you lose that should bother you. So I’m told.”

NEW RESEARCH ON WOMEN’S STATUS

WomanStats had a productive season in 2019, beginning in July with an academic conference at which researchers (principal investigators) and affiliates from around the world presented their findings on the status of women. These findings incorporated international relations, geography, psychology, development, statistics, and sociology. “Academics attended from universities in Germany, Norway, Turkey, China, the UK, and the United States,” reported Celeste Beesley, one of BYU’s WomanStats principal investigators. Many academics also attended virtually.

In August, Beesley and Donna Lee Bowen, another BYU principal investigator, attended the UN Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City. There the two hosted a panel on the WomanStats database and connected with representatives of NGOs and other organizations. “In the fall we also began monthly public discussions related to global women’s issues: marriage law and practices around the world; women, peace, and security; and the murders and disappearances of indigenous women,” Beesley said.

WomanStats continues to contribute to the security of women around the world through its research and collaborative leadership. In March 2020, Bowen, Perpetua Lynne Nielsen (BYU), and Valerie M. Hudson (Texas A&M University) published *The First Political Order: How Sex*

Shapes Governance and National Security Worldwide (Columbia University Press). The book draws on years of data collected by WomanStats coders at both BYU and Texas A&M.

A NAME CHANGE AND CONTINUED PROGRESS

In fall 2019 the Political, Economic, and Development Lab became the Global Politics Lab (GPL). Founded in 2008, the lab is committed to providing a networked mentored-learning environment for highly motivated, research-oriented students. The students approach global politics broadly, and in recent years, GPL students have been accepted to postgraduate programs in areas as diverse as legal studies and development economics in addition to political science.

This year GPL research included populist mitigation in Europe, economic interdependence in Africa, religion and democracy in Thailand, and political parties in the Middle East. Faculty and students alike are enriched by the lab’s cross-pollination of ideas and methods. “Being a research assistant, GPL fellow, and now lab manager for the Global Politics Lab has been the best part of my time at BYU,” noted Hailey Hannigan. “From the enriching political conversations around the lab to the mentored research on populist rhetoric with Professor Wade Jacoby, I gained friends, mentors, and an employable skill set I could not have developed anywhere else on campus.”

TWO GROUPS CELEBRATE THIRTY YEARS

BYU Model United Nations for High Schools

In November 2019, BYU hosted its thirtieth Model United Nations high school conference. Twenty-two high schools, four academies, and two independent teams gathered on campus to represent countries and states around the globe. Within the conference, high school participants served on committees for the Organization of American States, Commission on the Status of Women, General Assembly First Committee, UN High Commission for Refugees, Model European Union, Security Council, General Assembly Fourth Committee, and UN Environmental Program. Each committee debated on a host of global issues, including women’s rights, peace and security, state conflicts, infrastructure, biological weapons, climate

change, refugees, and cybersecurity.

At the commencement of the conference, senior Foreign Service officer John Dinkelman welcomed participants as the conference’s honored guest. Dinkelman currently serves as deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Logistics Management at the US Department of State. His overseas assignments have been to Yugoslavia, the UK, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Turkey, Mexico, and, most recently, the Bahamas. Following Dinkelman’s remarks, Cindy Davis of the Utah State School Board gave the keynote address. Davis helped found the first BYUMUN in 1989 and served as an education director. She was a teacher and school administrator in Utah schools for twenty-five years. Davis currently serves as an adjunct professor of education at Utah Valley University.

SID Hunger Banquet

In February 2020, Students for International Development (SID) hosted its thirtieth annual Hunger Banquet on BYU campus. Each banquet is dedicated to raising awareness on global income inequality and requires the help of many BYU volunteers and resources. This year Elise Hall, Amber Andrews, and Brian Allen served as SID copresidents, managing the Hunger Banquet as well as a host of SID activities focused on international development. Their preparation for the banquet spanned several months of overseeing committees, advertising the event, working with BYU Dining, and figuring out other logistics.

“We picked a simple theme that the world is improving and focused on that,” Andrews said. “Most people are surprised to know that the world is getting better.” This year’s banquet also featured Bishnu Adhikari from *Meet the Mormons* as the night’s guest speaker. Adhikari intertwined spiritual elements and practical advice in his address. “Our speaker was amazing,” said Allen, who left the event with greater appreciation and greater resolve to live as a global citizen.

“We pick an organization each year to receive all proceeds from the event,” Hall said. This year’s proceeds went to CHOICE Humanitarian projects in Peru, Nepal, and Guatemala. The 2020 Hunger Banquet marks a thirty-year legacy of inspiring individuals, building knowledge, and increasing global awareness.



More than 600 high school students filled the de Jong Concert Hall for the BYUMUN30 opening ceremonies (top). SID’s copresidency welcomes keynote speaker Bishnu Adhikari (bottom).



Scholars

EACH YEAR several students receive scholarships to further their academic study abroad. Most of these scholarships are specific to certain areas of study or languages, but the experiences they fund include much more—including new sights, sounds, foods, and cultures—for an adventure of a lifetime.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Asia FLAS, Summer 2019

Chinese
Emily Moore

Russian
Joshua Gladwell
Perryn Huth
Rachael Reynolds

Tagalog
Daniel Peterson
Brandon Pulley

Thai
Jared Tuttle

Urdu
Jacob Dunn

Asia FLAS, 2019-20

Chinese
Anna Chang
Ethan Garlick
Emily Moore
Dexter Murray
Hailey Richards
Ryder Seamons

Hindi
Maria Cano
Jordan Koopmans

Indonesian
Adam Strathearn

Japanese
Elizabeth Ellison
Caroline Stone

Korean
Alyssa Carman
Loriana Goulding

Russian
Joshua Gladwell
Landon Merrill
Sarah Nielsen
Jacob Stebbing

Thai
Summer Crockett
Jessica Curtis

Urdu
Jarom Drummond

Latin America FLAS, Summer 2019

Brazilian Portuguese
Andrew Allen
Marlee Evans

Micah Jones
Ethan McGinty
Emily Mello
Doug Wendt

Quechua
Azya Ladd

Latin America FLAS, 2019-20

Brazilian Portuguese
Sophia Almeida
Michael Ashman
Carolina Bladaia da Costa
Andrew Daniels
Liam Fitzgerald
Shanna Hamilton
Marissa Jensen
Esther Johnson
Jesse King
Lexanne Klimes
Nathan Knudsen
Chandrelyn Kraczek
Peter Maughan
Ashley Mauss
Ethan McGinty
Annika Nielson
Matthew Rollins
Jared Simmons
Courtney Walker
Anthony Wride

Haitian Creole
Ethan Hassel

Quechua
Azya Ladd

Boren Scholarship, 2019-20

Arabic, Morocco
Steven Tibbitts

Mandarin, China
Brayden Sampson

Portuguese, Brazil
Andrew Allen

Turkish, Azerbaijan
Nathan Anderson

Urdu, India
Jarom Drummond

Critical Language Scholarship, Summer 2019

Arabic, Morocco
Daniel Harker

Bangla, India
Melanie Clark

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mandarin, China
Rachel Schaer

Russian, Georgia
Rosa Nielsen

Gilman Scholarship, Spring-Summer 2019

Fiji
Paige Stodtmeister

Germany
Brendon Anderson

India
Bela Gandhi

Malawi
Brooklyn Williams

Norway
Forrest Emmett

Rwanda
Gabriel Ghanadan

Singapore
Ryan Ruth

Thailand
Jared Tuttle

Vanuatu and Australia
Abigail Moon

Gilman Scholarship, Fall 2019

China
McKay Christensen
Peter Rosen

Jordan
Jonathan Jackson

Jordan and Israel
Olivia Bliss
Dillon Nordhoff

South Korea
Maria Hansen



SEEKING A PEOPLE-CENTERED LIFE

Jared Tuttle

Asia FLAS and Gilman Scholarship, Summer 2019, Thailand

GROWING UP, Jared Tuttle “dreamed of changing the world.” After Tuttle had an opportunity to interview his uncle, a biochemistry professor at BYU, he reflected, “It wasn’t through complex scientific discoveries that he had made a difference in the world; it was through helping people—his students.” That conversation set Tuttle on a course for a “people-centered life.” This is his story:

“I first began loving the Thai people on a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Thailand. After returning home in summer 2018, I discovered a desire to continue my service through a profession in healthcare and by seeking a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience with a minor in family life. During summer 2019, I strengthened my ties with the Thai people through mastery of their language. My plan is to become a bilingual medical doctor and to minister to a variety of people through personable medical care and humanitarian work. My love for the Thai people has caused me to want to serve them for the rest of my life.

“For my post-Gilman project beginning fall 2019, I organized a select group of study abroad alumni. This group of Study Abroad Ambassadors will participate in regular presentations to high school and BYU students and will be assigned to mentor future study abroad participants.”

With the furlough of study abroad programs, the Study Abroad Ambassador Program is on hold.



NEW RECORD:
Kudos to BYU students for receiving 21 Gilman Scholarships in 2019 and a record 24 awards plus 8 alternates in 2020.

KENNEDY SCHOLARS



1. Brady Stimpson

Hometown: Meridian, Idaho
Major: Middle East Studies/Arabic
Minor: Scandinavian Studies

Stimpson is a research assistant for the Educational Leadership and Foundations Department. He interned at a Finnish immigration law firm helping Arab refugees apply for asylum and citizenship. Stimpson also studied abroad in Jordan and Israel/Palestine and plans to move to Morocco in 2020 to complete a Flagship Capstone Program. He then hopes to obtain an MA in Near Eastern studies and an EdD with the goal of founding a nonprofit institute. Simpson served a mission in Finland.

2. Brian Allen

Hometown: Layton, Utah
Major: Public Health
Minor: International Development

Allen interned through and served as the program coordinator for the Malawi International Development Internship for two years. He has been involved with Students for International Development (copresident 2019–20) and helped plan and execute the Hunger Banquet for the past three years. Allen is interested in the intersection of health and development and wants to create more equitable health systems for vulnerable populations throughout the world. He served in the Philippines San Pablo Mission.

3. Sam Jacob

Hometown: Provo, Utah
Majors: English, Russian
Minor: European Studies

Jacob is a teaching assistant for several English classes as well as a writing tutor for the BYU Writing Center and Writing Fellows program. His interests include comparative studies of twentieth-century transatlantic English and Russian literatures, African American literature, translation studies, and environmental humanities and ecocriticism. Jacob plans to pursue a PhD program in English literature and become a professor of English literature. He served in the Baltic Mission.

4. Isabella Errigo

Hometown: Long Grove, Illinois
Major: Environmental Science
Minor: International Development

Errigo is leading research projects on air quality in Utah and water quality in Ecuador and works as a teaching assistant for Model United Nations. She has participated in many Kennedy Center programs, including an internship in Thailand, an individual experience in Ecuador, Model United Nations conferences in China and New York City, and Students for International Development. Errigo hopes to complete a PhD in environmental sustainability and a JD emphasizing international law.

5. Nick Hainsworth

Hometown: Columbia, Missouri
Majors: Middle East Studies/Arabic, Sociology

Hainsworth's education has included opportunities to study and perform volunteer work in Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. His primary academic focus is on religion and the role it plays in modern society. He currently serves as a president of the BYU Interfaith Club and the Middle East Studies Arabic Students. Hainsworth plans to complete postgraduate work in the sociology of religion and pursue a career in academia. He served in the Idaho Twin Falls Mission.

6. Greg Coy

Hometown: Eagle River, Alaska
Major: Middle East Studies/Arabic

Coy served five years in the airborne infantry, including one tour in Iraq. He received a Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) through the US Department of State to study advanced Arabic language in Morocco. His unique background is a blended experience of vision and drive.

7. Tyler Harris

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada
Major: Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Hebrew Bible)

Being the son of deaf parents and becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at age eighteen are just two experiences that have shaped who Harris is today. His biblical research has focused on disability theory and the functions of Jewish priests before the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70. He is also interested in the intersection of the mystical elements of Christian theologies with modern secularization. Harris plans to pursue graduate studies and a career in academia. He served in the New York New York South Mission.



8. Colton Getter

Hometown: Cedar Hills, Utah
Major: International Relations
Minor: Asian Studies

In 2017 Getter taught English at a youth summer camp in Indonesia; in summer 2018 he returned there to study abroad. He was accepted to a US State Department internship in the Public Affairs Office of the US embassy in Jakarta. Colton also completed an e-internship for USAID Indonesia this past year. He is currently an online English and Indonesian language teacher and has more than 200 students from over 35 countries. He hopes to work for USAID in the future. Getter served in the Indonesia Jakarta Mission.

9. Emily Ostler

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah
Major: International Relations
Minor: International Development

Ostler has interned and designed research projects in Tanzania, performed research on development policy in India, studied at Yunnan University in China, and interned with the US Department of State in Myanmar. She has served as president of Refugee Empowerment, as vice president of Sigma Iota Rho, and as an active member of Students for International Development. Ostler plans to pursue a graduate degree in international education with a career in education policy.

10. Matthew Harris

Hometown: Lindon, Utah
Major: Latin American Studies
Minor: Global Business

Harris is an application engineer at a global radar development company and is the primary author on a paper studying rural and urban disparities and incident cognitive impairment. He presented his research at the American Heart Association and at the Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research. Harris served as vice president of the Student Association for Latin American Studies and volunteers at a pro bono clinic as a Spanish and Portuguese interpreter and scribe. He hopes to go to medical school. Harris served in the Guatemala City East Mission.

12. Rebecca Russavage

Hometown: Chino Hills, California
Majors: Political Science, Sociology
Minors: International Development, Global Women's Studies

Russavage has been a part of BYU's award-winning Model United Nations program as both a student and a TA and has worked as a research assistant for political science faculty for the past two years. In 2019 she interned in London with the AMAR International Charitable Foundation. She was also the program facilitator for the Peace and Conflict Resolution Study Abroad in Rwanda and Uganda in 2018. Russavage graduated with university honors in December 2019.

11. Allie King

Hometown: Gaithersburg, Maryland
Major: Exercise Science
Minors: International Development, Gerontology

King interned in Pavia, Italy, in summer 2018 and conducted field research in Uganda in 2019. She has done research on truth commissions as well as on intervertebral disc pressure and therapeutic interventions. King is a program director for Anatomy Academy and volunteers with the Utah Community and Refugee Partnership Center. She also works as a computing specialist and data analyst and plans to get a master's in public health with an emphasis on global health. King served in the California Bakersfield Mission.

13. Savannah Melvin

Hometown: Harare, Zimbabwe
Major: Sociocultural Anthropology
Minors: Africana Studies, International Development

Melvin is part of the Honors Program and speaks Shona, Quechua, and French at a beginning level. Raised in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Zimbabwe, she has interned in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Zambia and has conducted research in Ecuador. Melvin has worked on development projects that focus on technology in decreasing domestic violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has conducted professor-led research on various development-related topics for the past four years.





THE KENNEDY CENTER encourages high-quality research with an explicit international focus and recognizes that seed monies are often important in incubating such research. Consequently, a limited number of research grants are made available each year to full-time BYU faculty to help them jump-start international-focused research. Examples of research activities include archival research, surveys, field studies, archaeological digs, or small meetings that help faculty collaborate with experts in other countries. Faculty who receive research and travel grants are expected to contribute to the intellectual life of the Kennedy Center. Here is a list of the 2019–20 research and travel grant awardees.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Art Education

Mark A. Graham
The Affordances of a STEAM Program in Nepal and Buddhist and Hindu Iconographic Traditions in Art Education

English

Brandie R. Siegfried
The Tree of Life in English Renaissance Thought

Geography

Michael J. Clay
Active Transportation in Shenzhen, China

History

Eric R. Dursteler
Around the Mediterranean Table: Foodways and Identity in the Early Modern Era

Andrew L. Johns
1972: A Global History

Matthew E. Mason

Slavery, Sovereignty, and Empire: The Anglo-American Politics of Slavery from the American Revolution to the Age of Livingston

Instructional Psychology and Technology

Richard E. West
Improving Self-Directed Learning and Open Education Through University Microcredentials

Latin American Studies

Matthew J. K. Hill
"Academia devota" Critical Edition Project

Music

A. Claudine Bigelow
Skandinavisk Porträtt: Women of Wonder

Political Science

Celeste E. Beesley
Security and Trade: Survey Experimental Evidence on the Micro-foundations of the Commercial Peace Hypothesis

Joel S. Selway
Democracy and Strong Leaders

Psychology

Niwako Yamawaki
Perceptions of Violence Against Women Among College Students in the United States, Japan, India, Vietnam, and China

Public Health

Steven M. Thygerson
Investigating the Effectiveness of Improving Hospital Infrastructure and Resources for Traditional Birthing Attendants in Rural Nepal

Religious Education

Christopher J. Blythe
Book of Mormon Geography and Latin American Latter-day Saints

Matthew J. Grey

The Huqoq Excavation Project

Janiece L. Johnson

Becoming a People of the Books: Early Latter-day Saint Converts and the Book of Mormon

Sociology

Scott R. Sanders
Assessing the Impact of Humanitarian and Eco-Tourism on Northern Thai Communities

Special Education

Ryan O. Kellems
SPED PD: Exploring and Fulfilling the Professional Development Needs of Special Education Teachers in the Republic of the Marshall Islands



TRAVEL GRANTS

Asian and Near Eastern Languages

Kevin M. Blankinship
Crete, Greece

David B. Honey
Taipei, Taiwan

Steve L. Riep
Belgium

Jack C. Stoneman
Tallinn, Estonia

Classical Studies

Stephen M. Bay
Athens, Greece

Comparative Arts and Letters

Julie K. Allen
Madrid, Spain

Matthew G. Ancell
Toronto, Canada

Robert L. Colson III
Mexico City, Mexico

Nathaniel T. Kramer
Madrid, Spain

Roger T. Macfarlane
Lecce, Italy

Cecilia M. Peek
Athens, Greece

Elliott D. Wise
Toronto, Canada

Marc T. Yamada
Tokyo, Japan

English
Juliana M. Chapman
Leeds, England

Emron L. Esplin
Lisbon, Portugal

Marlene H. Esplin
Lisbon, Portugal

Brandie R. Siegfried
Trondheim, Norway

Leslee Thorne-Murphy
Brighton, England

History

Eric R. Dursteler
Toronto, Canada

Edward P. Stratford
Paris, France

Christopher G. Hodson
Paris, France

Sarah M. Loose
Toronto, Canada

Brenden W. Rensink
Oxford, England

Evan R. Ward
Coimbra, Portugal

Music

Robert D. Brandt
Berlin, Leipzig, and Dresden, Germany

Nursing

Cheryl A. Corbett
Calgary, Canada

Philosophy

Nathan Rockwood
Helsinki, Finland

Religious Education

Daniel L. Belnap
Rome, Italy

Rachel Cope
Tokyo, Japan

Kerry M. Hull
Cairo, Egypt

Michael H. MacKay
Dublin, Ireland

Sociology

Mikaela J. Dufur
Potsdam, Germany

Jonathan A. Jarvis
Potsdam, Germany

Scott R. Sanders
Prague, Czech Republic

Sociology, Family Studies, and Social Work, HBLL

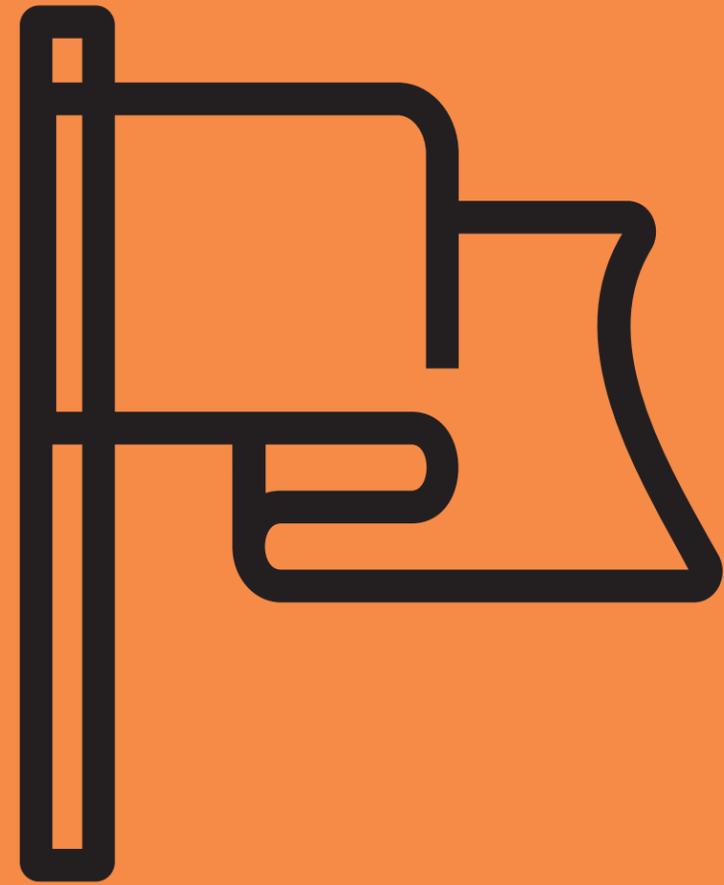
Quinn Galbraith
Granada, Spain

Spanish and Portuguese

Dale J. Pratt
Barcelona, Spain

Gregory C. Stallings
Salamanca, Spain





Give Diplomats a Start



New in 2020, the V Jordan and Patricia N. Tanner Endowment provides \$5,000 in annual scholarships to support students pursuing a career in diplomacy. We need your help to expand the endowment's reach and fill unmet student needs.

During his 27 years in the US Foreign Service, Jordan Tanner served in South Korea, Indonesia, Pakistan, DC, South Africa, and Australia. His roles included cultural affairs officer, consul, and director of American centers. After retiring to Utah, he has continued working with the State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program, spending an additional 26 years periodically leading groups of foreign leaders on their US project trips. He was elected to the Utah House of Representatives in 1990, serving five terms.

Patricia N. Tanner grew up in Mendham, New Jersey, and attended the prestigious Kent Place School. She graduated from BYU in 1955 and then embarked on a 27-year adventure of public service abroad. She was a constant support to her husband's Foreign Service career, but she also made a point of finding her own work wherever the couple lived, whether at the American embassy, at private foundations and companies, or at universities. She loved the people wherever she went and they loved her. Patricia passed away in February 2019.

**Add your support for BYU's future diplomats:
kennedy.byu.edu/donate**

BRIDGES
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Brigham Young University
David M. Kennedy Center
for International Studies
237 HRCB
Provo, UT 84602

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DAVID M.
KENNEDY CENTER

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

“The basis of diplomacy is empathy for the views of others. It is most effective when grounded in a sophisticated understanding of another’s language, culture, feelings, and intellectual habits. Empathy inhibits killing. It is not a character trait we expect or desire our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to have. Language and area training plus practical experience are what enable diplomats to imagine the viewpoint of foreign leaders, to see the world as they do, to analyze trends and events as they would, and to evaluate the pros and cons of actions as they might.”

—Chas W. Freeman Jr.