

BRIDGES

KENNEDY
CENTER

ALUMNI
MAGAZINE



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and Humility
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BOREN

EXPERTISE

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The Humble Expert

In the contemporary world, we could say that the function of a university is to produce experts, those, that is, that possess “a high degree of skill in or knowledge of a certain subject.”¹ We live in a world increasing in technical, political, and economic complexity. A university education should train students to navigate and respond to that complexity, and the way to do that is to provide students with expertise.

In this issue, part of what we do is celebrate our students who are building their expertise. You will see, for example, that last year BYU became the number one university in the country for students who received Boren Scholarships. These prestigious awards allow U.S. students to travel to a foreign country for intensive study of a language and culture critical to U.S. interests but also typically underrepresented. You will also read that our National Resource Centers for Latin American Studies and Asian Studies (both administered in partnership with the University of Utah) were recently renewed for another four years. These provide invaluable scholarship funds (particularly for the important FLAS scholarship) and other support for our students to develop expertise in these areas of the world.

Michael Hale, a twenty-five-year veteran of government intelligence work, in an outstanding talk that he gave at our 2022 convocation, underlines the crucial importance of expertise in work that engages with the often bewilderingly knotty international world. And while all of this is undeniably true, there are also pitfalls for the expert. Experts can become so enamored of their own knowledge, have so much faith in their own expertise, that they fail to recognize their limitations. And so Hale also provides invaluable advice on how to cultivate intellectual humility along with expertise. Both qualities, it turns out, are crucial to success.

One of the advantages of teaching and learning at BYU and the Kennedy Center is the encouragement, or even requirement, to pursue learning by study and by faith, to develop our intellects and simultaneously to cultivate the humility necessary to seek divine guidance. As we work to prepare our students so that they can contribute to and thrive in an increasingly international and complex world, we look to the examples of our alumni who, like Michael Hale, have been exceptional models of the humble expert. We're grateful for all that you do to perpetuate David M. Kennedy's vision of a life of service to God and His children.

Stan Benfell, Director,
David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies

1. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 3rd ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992), 645.

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2022 IN REVIEW

Global insights, ideas, and experiences across
disciplines and borders

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ABOUT THE COVER

After the Boren Awards announcement
dropped in May 2022 as things were begin-
ning to open up, 12 of 13 recipients headed
out (fast) around the world. Fortunately,
we caught up with Elena Guañuna over
Christmas break—days before her trip to
Singapore. She offers winning scholarship
advice you can watch on our Vimeo channel
and read in our feature story.



Anxious Market (2021)

JOSHUA GARDNER snapped this photo, one of two Best in Show winners at the Kennedy Center 2021 photo contest, in Panajachel, Guatemala. “Anxious Market” captures a slice of how the global COVID-19 pandemic enveloped and changed daily life for people everywhere. At the height of the pandemic, what once were colorful, crowded street markets turned into quiet, lifeless places for a few fearful shoppers. The tired and weary eyes of both the masked woman and the dog, placed against the vibrant colors of the woman’s clothes and the market, highlight the fatigue we all felt during the pandemic and the longing we all had for normalcy in life to return.

Expanding the World from Home

DURING A TIME IN WHICH ALL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS at BYU were disrupted by the pandemic and its accompanying global travel restrictions, students had to get creative in the ways they continued to explore, experience, and engage with other cultures. For the 2020 and 2021 photo contests (which covered the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years), all BYU students were eligible to submit photos that documented how they experienced the Kennedy Center’s mantra, “Expand your world,” even from home. Some photos captured the effects of the pandemic across the world; others showed how students found beauty and meaning right outside their doors.

In 2021, as we eased out of the COVID-19 pandemic, study abroad programs began to return and students were once again able to make the world their campus.



Unexpected (2021)

JESSICA GILSON, who took home an honorable mention award from the 2021 Kennedy Center photo contest, captured this image while on a rafting trip down the Salmon River in Idaho. “Unexpected” shows how an unexpected thunderstorm can ruin any thoroughly planned trip. Despite the chaos and fear caused by the tumultuous storms of life, there is much hope and beauty that can be found during challenging times, just like the beams of lightning shining through the dark clouds in this image. A perfect metaphor for the unexpected nature of the global COVID-19 pandemic in overturning nearly everyone’s plans, the photo symbolizes that moments of light and reassurance can be found amidst disruption.



Welcoming Ceremony (2021)

MEGAN KITCHENS, who was awarded a Runner Up award in the Kennedy Center 2021 photo contest, was able to take this photo on a family trip to Guatemala. “Welcoming Ceremony” captures a group of Guatemalan children putting on a celebration for all visitors from outside of the country as a show of gratitude for traveling all the way to Guatemala. Traditional welcoming ceremonies are often costly for the small village farmers to put on, yet the people of this town insist on showing hospitality to their guests in spite of the costs. This photograph demonstrates the love and care we should demonstrate to outsiders and to our own people.



MUN Back in Action in NYC

AFTER TWO YEARS OF PANDEMIC DISRUPTIONS, Model United Nations (MUN) competitions have returned to normal, and the BYU MUN team was able to travel to New York City in April 2022 to compete. Forty BYU students joined 2,500 participants from around the world, half of whom came from outside the United States.

Pandemic restrictions still affected this year's conference: participants had to be vaccinated and remain masked while in session. But even with those changes, Alix Hess, a December 2022 political science graduate who was a teaching assistant for the MUN class, was glad the team could attend the event in person. "It was more difficult to connect and collaborate with the other people at [last year's virtual] conference," she said. "Being in person fosters greater conversation and deeper connections because you are able to meet people and see them as they really are."



One of so many group photos where BYU's team is happy to be together: diplomacy works better in person. See their experiences @byumun.

As part of the competition, students were assigned to represent a country; this year, half of the BYU participants represented Morocco while the rest represented Panama. The competition was intense, lasting up to fourteen hours a day, but the BYU students persevered and were recognized for their excellent work and preparation: the Morocco team was recognized as an Outstanding Delegation—the highest honor a delegation can receive—while the Panama team was recognized as a Distinguished Delegation. Six of the student partnerships from BYU received position paper awards and three partnerships received peer awards, making this one of BYU's most successful MUN competitions in a decade.

But for Hess, it wasn't about the awards. "For me, the best part of the conference, hands down, was working with students from all around the world," she said, then reconsidered. "Actually, maybe it's a tie with the friendships and connections I made with the members of our team!"

Model Organization of American States Practices Diplomacy in D.C.



ALSO IN APRIL 2022, ten BYU students traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in a Model Organization of American States (MOAS) event.

Such events are "an attempt to recreate how an actual OAS meeting would be run," said Erick Calderon, an MOAS team member who recently graduated with a double major in Sociology and Latin American Studies. "Therefore, schools represent a country in the Americas and attempt to have their concerns heard as they create solutions for issues involving COVID-19, immigration, refugees, war, tourism, and so on."

In the months leading up to the model, the ten students who participated took part in a class led by Jeff Shumway, faculty coordinator of the Latin American Studies program at the Kennedy Center. BYU was assigned to represent Guatemala, so a big part of the class was spent studying that country. "We dove really deep into Guatemalan history so we could know who the country was we were representing," said team member Kristen Haws. "A lot of people have a surface-level understanding of Guatemala, but I got to learn a lot more."

Shumway, the team's director, said, "The students got to combine their Latin American Studies knowledge with a very practical experience of participating in a simulated diplomatic conference. In addition to researching and writing their resolutions, students had to meet other delegates from other universities and get them to co-sign their resolutions. They had to network and negotiate. They had to give a speech on their resolution in front of their committees. So it was 'academia meeting the real world.' Our students made a lot of friends and learned a lot about the importance of diplomacy."

Boren Awards at BYU

THE BOREN AWARDS ARE SCHOLARSHIPS that promote long-term linguistic and cultural immersion by providing funding for students going abroad to study foreign languages critical to U.S. interests. With help through the Kennedy Center, BYU students have applied for and received this award since 1999. But in 2022, BYU broke all previous records. Funding for students to go abroad and study foreign languages is critical to deepening their understanding of language and culture.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS
Although most BYU recipients are undergraduates, BYU graduate students from several programs have been successful too.

LANGUAGE STUDIES AT BYU
Languages have long been an important part of BYU course offerings. In 1999, there were 38 languages taught regularly at BYU. That increased to 48 in 2012, and has nearly doubled to 95 different language courses taught at BYU this year.

Each tag represents a language taught

HOW TO READ THIS GRAPHIC

Each luggage tag represents a student who received a Boren scholarship or fellowship.

- Language of Study
- Arabic
 - Farsi
 - Japanese
 - Korean
 - Mandarin
 - Portuguese
 - Russian
 - Swahili
 - Thai
 - Turkish
 - Urdu
 - Xhosa

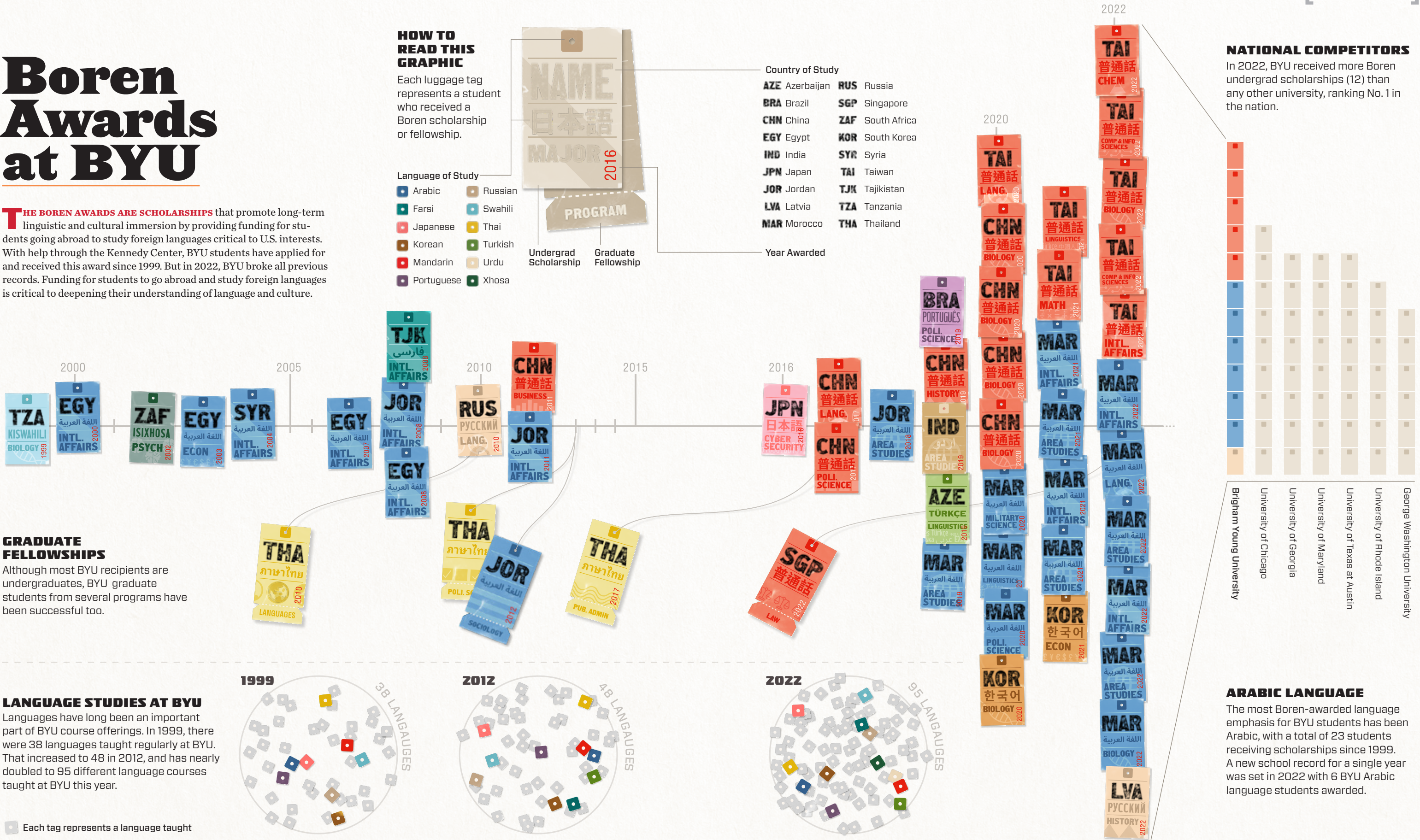


Country of Study

AZE	Azerbaijan	RUS	Russia
BRA	Brazil	SGP	Singapore
CHN	China	ZAF	South Africa
EGY	Egypt	KOR	South Korea
IND	India	SYR	Syria
JPN	Japan	TAI	Taiwan
JOR	Jordan	TJK	Tajikistan
LVA	Latvia	TZA	Tanzania
MAR	Morocco	THA	Thailand

Year Awarded

Undergrad Scholarship
Graduate Fellowship



Recommended Books

WANT TO SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING?

Each semester the Kennedy Center selects a Book of the Semester, based on the same academic theme as our lecture series. Like the semester's academic theme, the Book of the Semester is chosen based on recommendations from faculty members and the heads of our academic programs.

The goal of Book of the Semester, says Quinn Mecham, Associate Director for Academics and Research, is to create a campus conversation on the chosen topics: "We want to create common knowledge on campus so that conversations can be had outside the classroom and between faculty and students."

To encourage this conversation, copies of the book are often made freely available to members of the campus community, and where possible, the author is brought to campus to lecture as part of the Kennedy Center lecture series. The books chosen are usually interdisciplinary and international in scope; the goal is to choose works that are timely, insightful, and accessible to readers who may not yet be experts on the topic.

Check out these picks from recent semesters.



SEE
MORE!

Enhance your experience with these books by hearing from the authors themselves (or, if the author was unavailable, a panel of experts). Videos of these lectures and panel discussions can be found on the Kennedy Center's YouTube channel, located at youtube.com/BYUKennedyCenter.

BEYOND THE BORDER

recommended reads

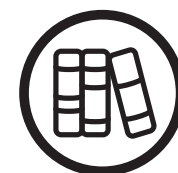
1 GLOBAL INEQUALITY: A NEW APPROACH FOR THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

By Branko Milanovic

MILANOVIC IS A LEADING ECONOMIST who studies inequality. His book uses copious amounts of data and research to explain the forces that both cause and lessen inequality. It received a plethora of awards and was included on the Financial Times best economics books of the year list as well as the Economist books of the year list in 2016.

Academic Theme: Engaging Global Inequality

Tagline: A bold new account of economic inequality on a global scale



2 ILL WINDS: SAVING DEMOCRACY FROM RUSSIAN RAGE, CHINESE AMBITION, AND AMERICAN COMPLACENCY

By Larry Diamond

DIAMOND, ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPERTS on democracy, examines global trends that show more and more countries retreating into illiberalism and autocracy. This book provides concrete suggestions about how the United States can step forward and reclaim its place as the heart of democracy—and an impassioned plea about why it is vital that we do so.

Academic Theme: Challenges to Democracy

Tagline: Saving democracy from global challenges



4 EXIT FROM HEGEMONY: THE UNRAVELING OF THE AMERICAN GLOBAL ORDER

By Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon

FOR DECADES, THE UNITED STATES was an undisputed global hegemon. In recent years, however, that position, and the liberal international order the United States helped to establish, have been challenged—and in some places outright rejected. Did Donald Trump's presidency spell the end of the liberal international order? Or did it only accelerate processes that had already begun?

Academic Theme: The New International (Dis)order

Tagline: The close of America's unipolar moment

3 THE DIGNITY OF DIFFERENCE: HOW TO AVOID THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

By Jonathan Sacks

SEPTEMBER 2022 MARKED the twentieth anniversary of the publication of this influential book by the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the longtime Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. The book, described as "a radical proposal for reconciling hatreds," asks whether religion can become a force for unification and peace in a time of increasing division.

Academic Theme: The Global Religious Experience

Tagline: How to engage with religious and cultural difference

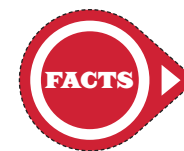


▶ THE BEST OF THE BORENS

“If you study a language and are interested in federal service, **Boren is a no-brainer.**”

One of the best reasons to pursue a Boren Award is the noncompetitive hiring status it gives you when applying for federal jobs. This status allows an office to make a job offer without having to justify passing over a long list of other candidates. I was able to get into one of the first agencies to lift its hiring freeze because they pulled from lists of Boren candidates.”

Clay Adair, Refugee Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
BYU Alumnus and Boren Award Recipient 2007



Language Flagship is a national effort to change the way Americans learn languages, with a goal of increasing their ability to communicate and compete globally.

The Flagship program aims to change the perception that many languages are too difficult for most English speakers, and it sponsors programs for U.S. undergraduates in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, and Turkish. **BYU Flagship programs in Arabic and Chinese** create global professionals who can work in these two language areas.

PORTRAIT
ILLUSTRATIONS
BY KEITH WITMER

OVER THE PAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, BYU students have received a small number of Boren Awards. But in 2022, BYU claimed the No. 1 ranking among U.S. universities for the most students receiving awards, ending up with twelve Boren Scholarship winners and a Boren Fellow. So, what’s going on? Why are so many BYU students receiving this prestigious national foreign-language scholarship?

What are Boren Awards?

- Boren Awards provide funding for intensive study of language and culture abroad.
- Winners come from a wide range of majors and fields.
- Students focus on immersive learning in one of more than sixty critical languages.

Boren Scholarships provide up to \$25,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study languages and culture in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and are underrepresented in study abroad programs. The catch? Award recipients must show a commitment to work in public service after graduation.

There are two types of awards:

- **Fellowships** fund research and language study proposals by graduate students in regions critical to U.S. interests. Students receive \$12,000 to \$25,000 for twelve to fifty-two weeks of study and research.
- **Scholarships** fund study abroad by undergraduate students in regions critical to U.S. interests. Recipients are awarded between \$8,000 and \$25,000 for eight to fifty-two weeks of study.

You might also hear about the National Security Education Program (NSEP), a U.S. Department of Defense major initiative that creates a pipeline of foreign language and cultural expertise for the U.S. federal workforce. Boren Awards are two of eight NSEP programs, along with the Language Flagship and National Language Service Corps.



National Centers of Excellence

The U.S. Department of Education National Resource Center grants support international area studies centers that include foreign languages.

BYU's current grants for Asian Studies and Latin American Studies provide \$2 million in scholarships and host a CIBER grant for international business in the Marriott School of Business.

The university first received grants in 2004 for European Studies.

RITA
CORTEZ



Why do Borens matter?

The scholarship allows students to focus on language proficiency and cultural awareness and to participate in local internships without having to worry about how to finance their education while studying abroad. Students also have an amazing opportunity to work in government service and add to their skill set after they finish their education at BYU.

Rita Cortez, Managing Director, BYU Language Flagship Center

I reside in the D.C. metro area. The Boren enabled me to take my Arabic language skills to the next level. It also enabled me to live in Jordan for nine months while I completed research for my master's degree. With financial support from Boren, I accrued minimal debt while fulfilling my academic goals.

The Boren Scholarship was key in securing my federal government employment. The Schedule A hiring priority and regular emails from the Boren team were invaluable. I onboarded with two other Boren recipients. The scholarship is widely respected in my professional community, and it continues to wow my agency's hiring teams and truly opens doors in the federal government.

*Annie Samhour, Immigration Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
BYU Alumna, Boren Award Recipient 2012*

The program took my language skills to the next level. Boren pushed me out of the campus nest, even beyond the BYU Arabic study abroad. It forced me to lean further into Arab and Egyptian cultural communities without the university's institutional safety net.

The year abroad prepared me to survive and thrive in the professional reality of working on various teams with varying dynamics or "cultures." It's one thing to spend a few months with a curated/hosted study abroad program. It was another to be a sole student on the ground having to build community in the midst of long-form culture shock. Being comfortable with different modes of sociocultural engagement is a critical skill in any team-oriented career. This was especially helpful in a role where I lived in a variety of developing countries with rotating, small, on-the-ground teams. The mindfulness and thriving skills developed in the NSEP program set me up for success in otherwise lonely, grinding settings.

*Clay Adair, Refugee Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
BYU Alumnus, Boren Award Recipient 2007*

Why is BYU the top U.S. university for Borens?

“BYU’s No. 1 ranking for Boren Awards means that students receive financial awards that make studying in a foreign country an achievable goal.

The fact that a great majority of BYU’s Boren Scholarship recipients are also Flagship students says a lot about the caliber of students we work with here. Our students are highly driven and motivated to excel in language proficiency and work very hard to obtain the high language levels for which our Flagship programs are known. Many students earn superior language levels even before they start their capstone year abroad.”

RITA CORTEZ, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
BYU LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP CENTER

“Studying Farsi in Tajikistan for a year on a prestigious Boren Scholarship was one of the greatest catalysts in my education and career. Building advanced proficiency in a critical language while gaining unparalleled international experience prepared me to launch a career in national security.

The Boren credential set me apart as I applied for top graduate schools, other prestigious scholarships, and foreign policy jobs that allowed me to leverage my Farsi and firsthand experience living in the region to advance vital U.S. security interests.

For me, it all started by applying for a Boren with the competitive advantage that BYU students enjoy—an advantage that has clearly grown exponentially over the past few years as **BYU has rocketed to be No. 1 in the U.S.**”

MILES HANSEN, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
WORLD TRADE CENTER UTAH
BOREN AWARD RECIPIENT 2008



MILES
HANSEN

“Being a Boren recipient carries social cachet in federal service. It’s common to ask, ‘How did you get into the government?’ It provides networking and opportunities to make connections. When you realize another Boren is in the room, you have an instant ally.”

Clay Adair, Refugee Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
BYU Alumnus, Boren Award Recipient 2007



JAMES
MAYO

Which languages do Borens support?

If you were trying to choose a language to study for a national security career, what would it be? One approach is to think about what the government needs. BYU is a place where these key languages are taught, supported by National Resource Center grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

Every year we see greater numbers of students applying that show the strength and variety of BYU language programs, which teach languages such as Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, and Swahili. While missions certainly can be a catalyst, they aren’t the only pathway to high proficiency and interest in sought-after languages.

We are such a unique university because we have so many less commonly taught languages—and students who want to learn them.

James Mayo, International Scholarship Coordinator, Kennedy Center

What is the best advice for students interested in applying?

It really is an essay competition. At BYU, we have James Mayo, who gives excellent guidance.

Don’t worry that you’re not studying something directly related to national security. Make a case about your background and connect it to national security.

You can’t know the future—but have a plan for your next steps when you get the Boren and know what you’re going to do with it. That shines through in your essays. Having an idea about the person you want to be and how you plan to serve the world has been useful for me.

Elena Guañuna, BYU Law 2L
Boren Fellow, Singapore 2023

Scan the QR code to watch advice from Elena Guañuna on how to prepare and what the scholarship means for a career in public service and cybersecurity.





We often hear of people who reject the advice of the experts, stating that they have decided to “do their own research.” On its face, that is a wonderful sentiment, and in fact, we all should be doing our own research. But I fear that people are not actually doing research but instead seeking only information that will confirm their preexisting biases.

By Michael Hale
Illustrations by Hokyoung Kim

ON Expertise ***AND Humility***

MICHAEL HALE spent twenty-five years as an East Asian political and security analyst at the CIA, during which he built close professional relationships with key policy officials, intelligence community officers, and the think tank community. He briefed and advised U.S. presidents, traveled and lived overseas, served as Deputy National Intelligence Officer for East Asia, and was selected as a member of the Senior Analytic Service. He retired from government service in 2018.

He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and speaks some Japanese and French. He lives in Leesburg, Virginia, with his wife of 31 years and is the father of five adult children—including three daughters who have attended BYU, a son who attended Harvard, and a son adopted from China, who is now attending George Mason University—and the grandfather of two grandchildren. Michael grew up in Huntsville, Utah, attended Weber High School, and then served a two-year Church mission in Taichung, Taiwan. Michael holds a BA from the University of Utah in History and Chinese (1991) and an MA from the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University in Asian Studies (1992). In his spare time, Michael enjoys community theater, travel, training for triathlons, and chopping wood.

It is such an honor to be speaking here at BYU. My parents, who I am very pleased to have in the audience today, graduated from BYU when this building, the Harris Fine Arts Center, was nearing completion. My wife and I got our BYU degrees on the same day in 1992. My oldest two daughters graduated from BYU (the second one just today) and my youngest daughter just finished her freshman year here. BYU holds a special place in my heart.

I want to start off with a twist on one of Aesop’s Fables: Once upon a time in a sheepherding village that was surrounded by forests, an annual competition was held to find a teenager who would serve as the night watch over the village’s flocks and warn of any wolf sightings. One boy had won the competition for many years running. As a youngster, he had accompanied his father on many excursions in the forest, learning about the patterns of wolf behavior and the tactics they would use to steal livestock. When he entered the competition at age twelve, he bested all the others in the village in tests for alertness, night vision, and vocal strength. In the first few years he served, not a single sheep was lost, and when the boy cried “Wolf!” the villagers were always able to respond in time. So good he was at his job, in fact, that the wolves in the area stopped even trying to attack the flocks in his village. After a few years of no attacks, however, there began to be divisions in the village. Some complained that the night-watch program was too expensive. Others complained that the competition was rigged, and their children were not given a fair chance. Others claimed that the wolves had left the forest and were no longer a threat.

One night when the boy was eighteen—during the last year he was eligible to serve—he spied wolves prowling at the edge of the pastures. He immediately raised the alarm. This time, however, when the boy cried “Wolf!” only about half the village responded, and the wolves were able to make off with many sheep. Rather than uniting the village in a renewed commitment to defenses, this led to further recrimination and division in the village. As the villagers argued about the future course of action, the boy prepared to leave for university, where he had always hoped to study lupinology and share his knowledge with others about how to protect livestock. Dejected, he changed his major—predictably—to political science.

This revised fable is meant to highlight a significant trend in our society today. The boy worked hard, did everything he could to hone his skills and his knowledge, and became an expert at preventing wolf attacks. Then, for reasons completely beyond his control, this boy who “cried wolf” became ignored, discredited, and even vilified by many in his community. Such is the plight of experts in the Civil Service today. Many have been called freeloading “swamp creatures,” or worse, members of a shadowy “deep state” bent on undermining democracy.

Thankfully, some have come to the defense of civil servants. Former D.C. Circuit Court Judge Tom Griffith, a proud BYU graduate who also happens to be a dear friend of mine, said on the *Leading Saints* podcast, “Let me tell you about the people in the ‘Deep State’: best people I’ve ever met—well-educated, patriotic, love their country, serving their country. They could be making a lot more money elsewhere, but they want to be working in government because they love the United States of America and what it stands for.”¹

From my own perspective of working and living in Washington for the past thirty years, the Civil Service provides a repository of institutional knowledge and expertise that endures through the political transitions. While my colleagues’ political views were all over the

spectrum, they approached their work with seriousness and objectivity in an effort to understand the world and promote U.S. interests.

As graduates in International and Area Studies, many of you will seek jobs in civil service, whether it be in diplomacy, the intelligence community, national security, or many of the other state and national agencies that deal with global affairs. Others may seek jobs in academia, journalism, or business.

Regardless of your chosen career path, a key element of your success will be the expertise you develop and the value that expertise will bring to society. As you develop expertise in your chosen fields, cultivate intellectual humility.

The Humility and Conviction in Public Life project at the University of Connecticut defines intellectual humility as “owning . . . one’s cognitive limitations,” having “a healthy recognition of one’s intellectual debts to others,” and being “closely allied with traits such as open-mindedness, a sense of one’s fallibility, and being responsive to reasons.”²

Socrates encapsulated the concept when he said, “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”

Sadly, this intellectual humility seems to be in short supply. Tom Nichols, author of *The Death of Expertise*, said that “many Americans have become insufferable know-it-alls, locked in constant conflict with each other, while knowing almost nothing about the subject they are debating. . . . They have decided that attending the university of Google . . . is the same as going to [graduate] school.”³

I have three concrete suggestions on how to cultivate and maintain intellectual humility:

1. *Recognize your blind spots.*
2. *Be aware of your cognitive bias.*
3. *Learn from your mistakes.*

1. Recognize Your Blind Spots

Knowing what you know and deferring to others on things you don’t know is the beginning of intellectual humility. Astrophysicist and writer Ethan Siegel said:



Regardless of your chosen career path, a key element of your success will be the expertise you develop and the value that expertise will bring to society.

As you develop expertise in your chosen fields, cultivate intellectual humility.

*Unless you yourself have spent many years studying, researching, and actively participating . . . in a particular field, you can be certain . . . that your non-expertise will fundamentally limit the depth and breadth of your understanding. Put simply, your inexperience, relative to that of bona fide professionals, gives you too many blind spots that you yourself will be unaware of, to be able to distinguish what’s valid and conclusive from what’s not.*⁴

I had the rare privilege of working with a group of incredibly seasoned experts on almost every possible topic related to our nation’s security. But even with them, the drop-off in expertise was palpable when they ranged into other topics—including wading into my area of expertise on East Asian affairs or even sometimes attempting to explain to me the tenets of my own religion.

Even C. S. Lewis took exception to another twentieth-century intellectual giant, Sigmund Freud. Lewis said:

*When Freud is talking about how to cure neurotics he is speaking as a specialist on his own subject, but when he goes on to talk general philosophy he is speaking as an amateur. It is therefore quite sensible to attend to him with respect in the one case and not in the other—and that is what I do. I am all the readier to do it because I have found that when he is talking off his own subject and on a subject I do know something about (namely, languages) he is very ignorant.*⁵

This is not to say you must strictly stay in your own lane, for it is important to be conversant on a wide range of topics. However, you should be honest about what you truly know and what you don’t.

2. Be Aware of Your Cognitive Bias

Everyone has cognitive bias, or an inherent worldview that they use to make sense of new information. In fact, numerous studies show that when you get new information and are able to quickly place it in the context of your preexisting worldview, your brain gets a little dose of dopamine to make you feel good about how smart you are to have sorted it all out. Unfortunately, the same studies show that these judgments that you are making are often wrong, despite how

good you feel about them. Unfortunately, most never make further inquiries and instead accept these snap judgments as truth. As Paul Simon wrote in his song “The Boxer” (1968), “a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.” This trend has only been amplified in the current media environment.

Ethan Siegel said most of the “information curated to you through social media is . . . actively misinforming you in a way that’s designed to play to your preconceived biases.”⁶

Legal scholar Richard Hasen said that “while some false claims spread inadvertently, the greater problem is not this misinformation but deliberately spread disinformation, which can be both politically and financially profitable. Feeding people reassuring lies on social media or cable television that provide simple answers to complex social and economic problems increases demand for more soothing falsities.”⁷

We often hear of people who reject the advice of the experts, stating that they have decided to “do their own research.” On its face, that is a wonderful sentiment, and in fact, we all should be doing our own research. But I fear that people are not actually doing research but instead seeking only information that will confirm their preexisting biases. If we are intellectually humble, we will at least recognize our cognitive biases. One way to fight this bias is to get your information from experts through credible studies and mainstream media organizations that uphold high journalistic standards, not from social media or cable news, which are particularly geared to prime the dopamine pump.

3. Learn from Your Mistakes

Chef Alain Ducasse provided this nugget of wisdom:

*Failure is enriching. It’s also important to accept that you’ll make mistakes—it’s how you build your expertise. The trick is to learn a positive lesson from all of life’s negative moments.*⁸

Late in my analytical career, not long after Xi Jinping became the general secretary of the Communist Party, we noticed that Chinese behavior was changing—becoming more populist, adventurous, and

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risk-taking. I printed out a makeshift sign in large font that said, “We keep getting surprised” and tacked it up next to my computer screen. This was a constant reminder that we were in the middle of a paradigm shift and that all the mental constructs I had built up to explain China in the first two decades of my career were no longer reliable. Dogged commitment to a particular position may be helpful to a politician, but a true expert will constantly reassess and adjust their position as new data comes in. And in a field like international relations, as in epidemiology of climate science, the volume of data coming in is immense. We should expect our experts to be wrong from time to time; they are operating on the edge of knowledge and are bound to have missteps along the way. As the Nobel Prize–winning physicist Erwin Schrödinger said, “In an honest search for knowledge you quite often have to abide by ignorance for an indefinite period.”⁹

Conclusion

Because this is BYU and because I am an adherent of the faith and a member of the Church that sponsors this university, I would like to offer a brief sermon.

If there is a scripture that best justifies the pursuit of a degree in International Relations, it is found in Doctrine and Covenants section 88:

Teach ye diligently . . . , that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, . . .

*Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms.*¹⁰

Sounds like International Studies to me—maybe with a dash of geology and history thrown in.

The quest for knowledge by experts and the quest for truths by believers is essentially the same. Both require dedicated study. Joseph Smith, in the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple, said, “Seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.”¹¹

Both require humility. The Lord taught, “Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee.”¹²

And both require an understanding that our thought processes and biases may lead us astray. The prophet Isaiah revealed the Lord’s admonition that “my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,”¹³ and in Proverbs we learn that we must “trust in the Lord with all [our] heart; and lean not unto [our] own understanding.”¹⁴

As we seek diligently, remain humble, and recognize our mental limitations—with the added essential ingredient of reliance upon the Holy Ghost—we can gain access to truth, or, as the Prophet Jacob said, “things as they really are, and . . . things as they really will be.”¹⁵

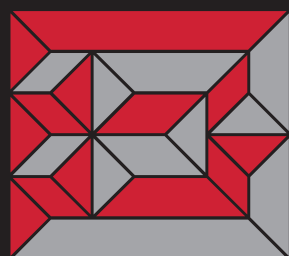
Best of luck in your future endeavors. I can assure you that graduates of this university punch above their weight in the Civil Service and in other fields, and I fully expect that, with the application of your talents and hard work, you will likewise do so. ☒

Remarks given at the BYU Kennedy Center Convocation held in the Harris Fine Arts Center on 22 April 2022. Because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, this was the first in-person graduation held since 2019.



NOTES

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2. “About: What Is Intellectual Humility?” introduction to Michael P. Lynch, Casey Rebecca Johnson, Nathan Sheff, and Hanna Gunn, “Intellectual Humility in Public Discourse: Literature Review,” Humility and Conviction in Public Life, Humanities Institute, University of Connecticut, humilityandconviction.uconn.edu/blank/what-is-intellectual-humility.
3. Tom Nichols, “The Problem with Thinking You Know More than the Experts,” interview with Judy Woodruff, PBS NewsHour, PBS, 14 April 2017, pbs.org/newshour/show/problem-thinking-know-experts.
4. Ethan Siegel, “How America’s Big Science Literacy Mistake Is Coming Back to Haunt Us,” Big Think, 16 September 2021, Starts with a Bang, bigthink.com/starts-with-a-bang/how-americas-big-science-literacy-mistake-is-coming-back-to-haunt-us.
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6. Ethan Siegel, “America’s Big Mistake.”
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8. Eliza Anyangwe, “Alain Ducasse: ‘No Geniuses Have Ever Come from the Kitchen. We Are Simply the Bridge Between Nature and Our Clients,’” The Guardian, 24 May 2014, [this-much-i-know](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/24/alain-ducasse-this-much-i-know).
9. Erwin Schrödinger, Nature and the Greeks, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1954), 6; quoted in Stuart Firestein, “The Pursuit of Ignorance,” TED2013 conference talk, 26 February 2013, video 14:35, [ted.com/talks/stuart_firestein_the_pursuit_of_ignorance](https://www.ted.com/talks/stuart_firestein_the_pursuit_of_ignorance).
10. Doctrine and Covenants 88:78–79.
11. Doctrine and Covenants 109:7; see also Doctrine and Covenants 88:118.
12. Doctrine and Covenants 112:10.
13. Isaiah 55:8.
14. Proverbs 3:5.
15. Jacob 4:13.



BY SHARON EUBANK, DIRECTOR, LATTER-DAY SAINT CHARITIES

Expressed in Our Actions

IHAD AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE during October general conference of 2021. I was sitting in my chair on the rostrum, but the hall was largely empty because of COVID-19 restrictions. As the conference was concluding and we were getting ready for the closing prayer, I looked up across the hall. Way in the back, at the very back doors, I could see something: it sounds funny, but I thought it looked like angels dressed in white standing behind the last row of chairs. I was puzzled as I bowed my head for the prayer. When I opened my eyes again, I saw that they were not angels but women who were going to be serving the lunch. They were wearing white aprons, and it made them look like angels. They had come into the hall and were standing behind the chairs so they could hear the concluding testimonies of general conference before they went to work.

As I slowly understood what I was seeing, the Spirit spoke to me and said, “You might get to be the face of Latter-day Saint Charities, but there are unseen people all over the world who are making things work.” They are the ushers, they serve the lunch, they park the cars, they program the lights, they use their skills for the translation—all of the thousands of elements that make general conference viable are happening because of an army of unseen people. They will never show up in the *Church News* and they will not be on TV, but it is the way things work. It is true of general conference, it is true of Latter-day Saint Charities, it is true of the International Society, and it is true of every good organization we belong to. The little bits that we personally are able to contribute are seen by the Lord. He brings it all together in a great flywheel that begins to spin. I am thankful to be a small part of what the Lord is doing on the earth.

So many people in the world want to do good, but they are only one person, and they are opposed by many different forces in their societies. There is a great organizing power of the priesthood of God that brings people together in order. The priesthood establishes order

over chaos so that good things can happen exponentially. I love the chance to connect with other well-intentioned people who want to do something good but who don't have the benefit of an organization, of a system. They're looking to connect with others, so when there is a disaster and they spy a bunch of people in yellow shirts who are working together, having fun, and cleaning up, they are attracted to that; they want to be part of that.

I have had the happy experience of having people from the local mosque or church come up to a group that is sawing up felled trees after a hurricane and say, "Can we wear those yellow shirts with you? Can we do this work with you?" That's what this is all about. The Church of Jesus Christ facilitates order and systems that bring people of good hearts together.

I appreciated what Bishop Gérald Caussé said earlier in the [International Society Annual] conference, that every ward is a humanitarian organization. It is a very compelling idea that we have the resources in every small congregation to do something powerful and good in the world. That's what a quorum is about. It's what a Relief Society is about. Those are the basic organizations we belong to as adult members of the Church.

My JustServe colleagues were at a conference for the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., recently. They were describing the JustServe platform and how it connects people from many faiths or organizations to local volunteer opportunities in their own communities. A man listening asked, "Who sponsors this? Who is paying for this?"

And my colleague answered, "Well, it was designed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

The man said, "I knew it. Only the Mormons would do this for free."

I am energized by the themes we have talked about today and the idea that we can each do things voluntarily and for free that will bless the people around us.

Often when I speak at different venues, individuals will come up to me afterward and ask, "What can I do? I love humanitarian work. I love refugees. I love this work. What can I do?" Your personal answer to that question is what I hope you will take with you today.

For myself, having attended the International Society's conference today, I have determined three aspects of service I want to work on, and I am asking myself three questions: How can this be done more humanely? How can I waste less? Does what I am doing align with my core beliefs? In other words, are the things I feel as a Christian and as a Latter-day Saint being expressed by my actions every day?

I don't know what your three things are, but I hope you act. I hope something we have heard actually changes our behavior.

When I drove to Provo this morning, I was listening to chapters in Exodus (Exodus 7–13) that are the *Come, Follow Me* assignment for this week. I couldn't help but be struck by Moses and what he was trying to do. He is confronting an extractive, power-hungry regime. The Pharaoh of Egypt was bleeding Israelite slave labor dry to build his empire. Moses came before him with the word of God: "Let my people go." When Pharaoh wouldn't, Moses used the mighty priesthood to call down plagues. Even then, Pharaoh was still trying to negotiate: "Well, maybe you can leave, but only for one day." Or "You take the men, but leave the women and children." Imagine, he's trying to haggle with the prophet of God because he doesn't want to give up his power!

Well, the Lord doesn't negotiate. He told Moses, in essence, "I'm

going to make of you a kingdom of priests. I want you to bring my people out of slavery and come to the mount of God where they will make covenants with me and you will be my people." You all know the story. For various reasons, the Israelites ended up living a lower law.

But today—the "latter days"—is a time Moses also foresaw. When the transfigured Moses appeared in the Kirtland Temple before Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, he restored the keys of the gathering of Israel (see Doctrine and Covenants 110:11–12). The restored gospel of Jesus Christ offers the way. Many here have been to the temples; we have been anointed and clothed. To do what? To help other people escape from spiritual slavery—from the extractive, power-hungry regimes that exist all over this world—and to become a kingdom of priests who will serve God and His children. Nothing energizes me more than this vision, this work.

It is a privilege to be gathered here with you today. There are hundreds of people affiliated with the Latter-day Saint International Society and millions of people around the world who are spiritually dedicated to the themes of inclusion, caring for the earth, and building peace. I thank the International Society for everything you do in furthering the idea that Zion actually can be built in our time and it can be built by imperfect people who have pure hearts.

Because we have been talking about Moses, let me conclude my remarks with a few of the lyrics from "Redeemer of Israel" (*Hymns*, 2002, no. 6):

*Redeemer of Israel,
Our only delight,
On whom for a blessing we call,
Our shadow by day
And our pillar by night,
Our King, our Deliv'rer, our all!*

...

*As children of Zion,
Good tidings for us.
The tokens already appear.
Fear not, and be just,
For the kingdom is ours.
The hour of redemption is near.*

I pray those words will be the glory of our days and leave these thoughts with you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. [℣](#)

Remarks delivered at the International Society 32nd Annual Conference, held in Provo, Utah, on 4 April 2022, where Eubank received the Distinguished Service Award. As Robert Griffiths, President of the International Society, observed, "In 2020 alone, Sister Eubank oversaw 3,611 projects involving food security, clean water and immunization, maternal and newborn care, refugee assistance, and wheelchairs. In implementing these projects, which over the years have included work in nearly 200 countries and territories, LDS Charities has worked with over 2,000 partner groups."

Join the International Society to see the full list of Distinguished Service Award recipients, read proceedings from previous conferences, and meet other Kennedy Center alumni and global professionals. To become a member of the International Society, visit international-society.org.

*I have determined
three aspects of
service I want to
work on, and I am
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questions: How can
this be done more
humanely? How can
I waste less? Does
what I am doing align
with my core beliefs?*



Consular Life

Brooke Dean's expertise involves helping people and solving problems creatively, a skill set that has been invaluable in her role as a U.S. diplomat in Asia.



Brooke Dean is a Foreign Service Officer currently serving as the Nonimmigrant Visa Chief at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong. She specializes in consular work. Her previous posts include China, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as the Consular Training Division at the Foreign Service Institute in Virginia, where she trained newly hired officers. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in International Development in 2004 and from George Washington University with a master's degree in Asian Studies in 2008. Prior to her employment with the Foreign Service, she worked for three years for a defense contractor in Washington, D.C. as a Chinese-language research analyst. She is married and has three children ages seven, eleven, and thirteen.

Where are you currently posted in Hong Kong?

It's actually a consulate because there's only one embassy per country, and Hong Kong isn't technically its own country. It's different, though, because the consulates in China all report to Beijing; they're within China, so Beijing's in charge of all the consulates. But Hong Kong is unusual—we don't really report to Beijing, but we're also not our own embassy, so we have sort of a different chain of command. We don't have an ambassador, but the Beijing ambassador won't come and visit us; he or she would do that in Guangzhou or Shanghai.

How has the pandemic affected your day-to-day work?

Obviously, when there are COVID surges, we have to cancel visa appointments and take care of emergencies only. That creates a lot of work with people saying, "I have an emergency," and then we have to evaluate it and say, "Okay, your daughter's giving birth; does she really need her mom to be there?" It's really hard to decide where the line is.

So we have less work because we don't have the applicants coming in; they'll have to come in later. But then we have additional work where we have to say yes or no to these expedites. Then, once the COVID wave goes down, we have long wait times because we had to cancel all those appointments.

Every country has handled COVID differently. In some places, they barely closed; in some places, they closed for a year, and now it takes another two years to get an appointment. Consular work has been really thrown for a loop with the COVID pandemic. Some people have a mountain of work. COVID also hits at different times in different places. In Hong Kong, we were shut down in March of 2022, while almost everywhere else, they were getting back to normal. It hit later here because they had a zero COVID policy that worked for a long time—until Omicron. Omicron was too contagious to contain in the quarantine hotels; it slipped out of the quarantine hotels, and that led to that actual first-ever outbreak of COVID in Hong Kong.

How did you get into consular work? What helped you make the decision to steer that way?

I have always been fascinated with people's immigration identity and cultural identity. I did a field study to South Africa, and we each had to work on our own research project. Mine was the emigration of white people out of South Africa. This was in 2000 or 2001, and I was just so fascinated with people's stories. It wasn't that long after apartheid, so I was talking to them about their experiences: now that there's not apartheid, is there a place for them in this country, and where would they go? I just couldn't get enough of that.

So it's not surprising that I ended up in a field where I'm dealing with immigrants. I'm doing nonimmigrant visas at the moment, but I'm still really fascinated with people that change their entire life and work somewhere else. That and wanting to live overseas just combined to this career path where I get to work with something that really fascinates me.

As I understand it, you had a background in Asian Studies.

Yes, I served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Taiwan, so when I came back, I added a Chinese Studies minor, which included Chinese language. I did that at BYU my last year, since I only had one year left, and then I went to Beijing for a year of more Chinese study. Then I did grad school at George Washington University, where I did Asian Studies. My mission definitely influenced my interest in Asia; before my mission, I was interested in everywhere, but I hadn't really focused on a particular place. But, obviously, speaking that language changed that.

It's actually not normal that my Foreign Service career has been only in Asia. Almost everyone will go to different parts of the world. I can't even explain it; I have just ended up only in Asia. It's actually a bad career move, and people have advised me against it. My mentors say, "You really need to diversify and go somewhere else; you're kind of turning into a one-trick pony."

But still, the fact that I was part of the Kennedy Center and saw people coming through talking about the Foreign Service did plant the seed and make me think, “This would be amazing if I could only make it happen! I would love to do this. This would be perfect!”

But I really enjoy living in Asia, and there are still so many places I would like to be. I’m not trying to follow the cookie-cutter pathway to becoming an ambassador. I just want to enjoy each tour and do whatever’s the best for my family at that moment. And that has led me over and over again to Asia. I would be open to going to other places, but it’s also not completely in my control because when we submit our bid list, ultimately the decision of where to send us is the department’s.

Also, I speak Mandarin and there’s such a huge consular demand in China, so that’s probably why I’ve been to China twice, and now I’m in Hong Kong; I’ve also been in Singapore. The department says, “We really care about your career development, but we also really need someone in China right now. So we’re sending you back to China. And you’re willing to go, so . . .” So that’s a factor too.

Did you have any experiences at BYU or in your grad studies that helped prepare you for your career?

People ask me, “Did you always want to be a diplomat?” And the answer is no. The first time I can remember considering it as a career was at the Kennedy Center. One of the speakers there was a diplomat. I don’t remember his name, but he was either retired or far into his career, and I remember him talking about how great the lifestyle was for his family—the housing, the job—and I thought, “I would like to do that!”

But then he said how you get in, which is taking a standardized test, and I immediately thought, “I can’t pass that test. It must be really hard; I know the pass rate is low, so I won’t even bother.” I don’t know why I thought that!

Then I had different experiences in my life, particularly when I was studying Chinese in Beijing after I graduated. Many members of the branch there were in the Foreign Service, and one of them encouraged me to do an internship at the embassy. I applied through the State Department and did the internship, and the more I got to know officers there, the more I realized, “Hey, I feel like we’re sort of on the same level; maybe I could pass the test. Maybe I am smart enough.”

So I only took the exam after I did the internship and saw that Foreign Service officers were normal people with normal intellect. I would love to encourage people to just take the test and see what happens. You can take it once a year, and I think it’s actually even sort of fun to take. I wish I could go back—I mean, it all ended up fine, but I wish I could go back to myself at the Kennedy Center and say “Take the test!” because I’m just disappointed that I immediately discounted it.

But still, the fact that I was part of the Kennedy Center and saw people coming through talking about the Foreign Service did plant the seed and make me think, “This would be amazing if I could only make it happen! I would love to do this. This would be perfect!”

So it took some time to get here, but I really love that memory of sitting there at that event at the Kennedy Center and thinking, “If only I could do this, it would be so cool.”

What do you enjoy about serving as a consular officer? If you were going to recommend it to someone who was considering it, what would you say?

I do love consular work; I think it’s the best kind of job in the Foreign Service, because every day is different. You never know what you’re going to face. It’s a lot of problem solving, and you’re actually helping

people. It’s not an abstract, long-term thing; every day, you have people coming in that need your help.

I also love the energy and the hum of a consular section. We have about a hundred and seventy appointments today, and I love having a packed waiting room and walking past the windows and hearing all the different interviews. I think it’s such an interesting job because I had a previous job where I sat at a computer all day and did research, and now I have a job that’s live.

Currently I’m doing visas, but when I did American Citizens Services—I mean, it’s wild what Americans get into overseas. You just never know where you’re going to be: in a hospital or in a prison or at a nursing home or at a shelter. It takes you out of the office. The last time I did an American Citizens Services job, I was in Thailand, and I had to travel. If someone got arrested in Phuket, I had to go to Phuket. We were always excited when someone got arrested in a really beautiful island location. “Who wants to go?” Everyone! Everyone wants that prison visit.

It’s just such a diverse and varied job; no two days are the same.

What would tell you that a person isn’t suited for this kind of work?

People who have a hard time with consular work are those who have a really hard time saying no, who are very openhearted and just want to help everyone. You can’t solve all the problems. Especially with Americans—some of their problems are problems they’ve created, and you can’t fix them, so you have to be okay with that.

With visas, you do have to say no to some people, and it might feel like the wrong thing sometimes. But you’re not adjudicating based on your personal feelings; it’s based on U.S. law. And people who have a hard time with it will not easily accept that. They’ll let it weigh on them.

I think what’s served me is that I’ve always been a little bit less of an intensely feeling person; it’s easier for me to shake off those sad or negative feelings. But I’ve seen people struggle where they just keep going over it: “Oh, that mother that couldn’t help her daughter deliver the baby!” “They can’t go to their dad’s funeral!” Just because the person’s family member died doesn’t mean that we change the requirements that they must meet to travel to the United States. It’s not on you; it’s on the U.S. government. So people that really personalize it will struggle.



Other than that, I think that because it is so dynamic, people who can't juggle a lot of things might not be able to do it. People who like things to be very quiet, and also very black and white, will find it tough because there's a lot of ambiguity in consular work. It's creative problem solving, so you're going to have to be able to figure things out.

I'll give you an example. In Thailand, there are a lot of Americans who retire there but don't have family; maybe they don't have enough money. So in the end stages of their lives, they're reliant on people around them who probably aren't their family, especially if they run out of money. People would literally pull up to the embassy and off-load an invalid elderly American in a wheelchair and drive away. Whether the person's out of money—they're usually out of money—or need medical care, how do we solve that problem, that there's an American on the curb and they need their diaper changed?

So if you don't thrive on those sorts of things, then you might hate this job.

How do you manage career postings with your children and husband, especially when you don't have complete control over where your postings are?

Each tour, I get the bid list, and I cross off all the options where, say, you need to speak Spanish and they don't have time for language training. I cross off everything where the timing doesn't work. Then I hand the bid list to my husband, who's a trailing spouse, and I say, "Where do you want to go? Where are you willing to go?" Sometimes he doesn't circle very many places, and I try my hardest to get those jobs.

Because he has sacrificed everything to support this lifestyle and my career—I mean, think of everything that could have been, right? The least I can do is try to land in a place that he wants to be. So my philosophy is, first, to keep my husband's preferences as my top priority. And then, of course, since we're both parents of our kids, we're trying to find a place with decent schools. My kids are entering second and sixth grade. Can they have some recreation? Are they going to be safe?

But for me, no matter where I go, the job is the job. I just want to be in a place that's good for my family. Everybody has different priorities. Other people are trying to land in the right place that will put them on the right trajectory to make it to the top. For me, this career is so hard to navigate with a family and with keeping everybody happy. It's the very least I can do to try to get to places where my husband wants to be.

What would you say is the ratio of people who are there with children versus people who are not?

It really varies by post. There are some posts that are magnets for families, like Manila—it's a family-friendly post. And then in other posts that, for example, have terrible schools, people will more likely be single or their kids will be older, or maybe their kids will be at boarding school.

But I would say usually—I'm just totally throwing this out—maybe 50 percent have a family. And then obviously the more junior people tend to be single; many of them pick up spouses in the countries where they're serving, especially on their first tour.

I will say, especially to the BYU crowd, we have a Facebook group for the Foreign Service Latter-day Saint community, and there are very few families where the females are the officer. In the Latter-day Saint community, it seems like it's pretty rare. And I would also say

The best thing: I actually enjoy going to work every day because so few people can land in a career where it's work they really enjoy and it's fulfilling.

this job has been such a good job as a working mom, because I've been able to have a live-in nanny at my posts. We even had one nanny that we brought to three different countries, so there was a lot of continuity; my kids really loved her, and they still talk about her.

It's much more difficult to navigate childcare in the United States. It varies based on the country, but with the countries where I've chosen to go, I was looking for places where I could have that childcare situation—where we had a nanny that was full-time in the home. And I just don't think I'd be able to afford that on my salary in the United States. So that opportunity is very attractive.

When I come home, I can devote my complete attention to my kids because I have someone doing the housework. I did a two-year tour in Virginia when I was teaching at the Foreign Service Institute without any childcare or anything, and that was the opposite; I would work and come home and do all the housework. So I really appreciate that this type of job has given me the ability to be present at work and be present at home too. I would recommend it, especially to women who want to work.

Do you find, when you're at a particular posting, that there's a sense of community among the Foreign Service officers? Are you living near each other? Are your children spending time together? Or do you integrate more with the community that you're living in?

I would say it's the exception, more than the rule, that you integrate into the community. I've heard that in some places, like maybe Australia or London—English-speaking places—there's not as much of a consular community because you don't need each other. I'd say the more hardship in the place—if you're in Burkina Faso or South Sudan—the more community there is. You work together, you probably live close by on a compound or in the same building, and they're your social group.

There's definitely a community, and how much you branch out of the community will depend on where you are and your situation; if you have a family, you won't be as motivated to go out and meet people.

But obviously, having the Church community is huge because you can connect with people before you get there, and it's an instant community on top of the Foreign Service community. And when they combine, it's very helpful.

I wouldn't say that it's super typical to be hanging out with locals, especially because, if you have continuing contact with foreign nationals, you have to fill out contact forms and things like that for your security. Obviously, it depends on your job. I don't have a job where I make contacts in the community like a political officer would.



They're reporting on the situation in the country, and they need a network of people who know what's going on in government, with NGOs, and they might have a completely different experience than me because I have customers come to my waiting room. I'm not going out there as much unless I'm dealing with the American Citizens Services, and then I'm dealing with people that work in prisons, the airport, etc.

Have you ever had a posting where there wasn't a branch or an LDS presence?

There are definitely posts like that. I personally haven't been to one yet. But that Facebook group is frequently used to ask people, "I would like to bid on Azerbaijan; does anyone know if there's a branch? Are there any youth? How's the Primary? Do they have an English-speaking service?" I'd say that's probably the main purpose of the Facebook group, though, obviously, people ask a lot of other things too.

I would say that in a career, you probably won't have a ward or a branch at every post. I think that if you talk to more people, they might say, "Yeah, we went to this country and it was just our family, or it was just me." I've definitely heard about it.

In closing: best part of your job, worst part of your job.

I think by far the worst part is moving. Nobody likes it, unless you're leaving a terrible place that you hated. Packing up your life is so emotionally draining; it's so physically draining. The emotions of your families—we go through a lot. It's a roller coaster. And it doesn't matter how many times you've done it before: you're going to get on the roller coaster, and you're going to go up and down. One person's doing good one day, and the next day they're not, and round and round. I think you never can get used to moving and not have it affect you emotionally.

When you get to a new place, it might be an awesome place, but it takes time to feel settled and to find your people and to get your bearings. It's easier for me because I show up for work and I have a purpose and, hopefully, instant friends and people to socialize with. It's so isolating for a spouse to show up in a new country; they may or may not speak the language, and it may or may not be easy to meet other people. And that weighs on me as the person who's subjecting my family to that—when they're struggling, then I struggle. So it is just the biggest challenge: starting over again, and then starting over again, and then starting over again. I would not sugarcoat that to anyone.

The best thing: I actually enjoy going to work every day because so few people can land in a career where it's work they really enjoy and it's fulfilling. It means so much that I'm able to do that.

I'm so grateful that my kids get to have this variety of experiences. Even though the moving is hard, they are citizens of the world. I take so much pride in that because I feel like I'm creating these amazing people. I feel like they'll end up being different people than they would have been if we'd stayed in the same place. So yes, there are challenges, but hopefully, the fact that they've had to overcome them will create some character in them. ☑

INTERVIEW BY EMILY NELSON on 27 May 2022 via Zoom. Dean had recently presented an Ask Me Anything on "Diplomacy, Asia, and Consular Careers in the Foreign Service" for students in the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah.



Lectures

The Myth of Democracy

Vann Newkirk

“If the whole of American history were condensed into one day, the time when all the people we see voting now could vote would only last from about 7 p.m. to midnight,” Vann Newkirk said in his 17 March 2021 lecture, “The Myth of Democracy.” The lecture was part of the Kennedy Center’s winter 2021 lecture series entitled “Race: Myths and Realities.”

Newkirk, a senior editor at *The Atlantic* and host of the podcast *Floodlines*, discussed the discrepancy between the origin and the history of the United States. The country was founded with the intention that ordinary citizens could have a voice in the government and laws that would affect them—and yet, “I think the record actually shows that the most enduring truth of the American idea has been the use of those republican tools for the dominion of the few over the many,” Newkirk said. “The dominant view of the Founders and the generation that came after them was not just skeptical democracy. Rather, it viewed multiracial participation as a degradation and viewed the subjugation of some people as a necessary piece of governance.”

He went on to describe the tremendous progress that has been made in the last fifty years, pointing to the increased voter turnout for people of color in recent years as well as the rise of people of color, such as Barack Obama and Kamala Harris, to high political offices. “We are living in the first real experiment of something resembling true multiracial democracy in American history,” Newkirk said. And who does the country have to thank for these changes? BIPOC communities who have pushed for generations.

But the work is not done. Newkirk discussed regressions such as the 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* court decision, Donald Trump’s false claims about fraudulent voting, and new bills in several states that would strengthen voter ID requirements, among other things—all of which have made or will make it more difficult for people to vote. “The status quo of political domination—the same thing that was at play when the Founders created the Constitution, when slave owners captured the presidency for generations—those things are still around. They are ready to return,” Newkirk warned.

He concluded, “One thing I do know is that we cannot see and shape the future if our understanding of the past is based on half-

truth. And that’s why I believe it is incumbent upon us all to tackle, to dismantle, to get rid of the myth of democracy and replace it with an understanding of just what America is and what it has meant to our people of color in the country. That’s a place of great peril, but it’s . . . also one of great promise.”

Exit from Hegemony: The Unraveling of the American Global Order

Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon

“If you’re going to take away anything,” said Daniel Nexon of his book *Exit from Hegemony: The Unraveling of the American Global Order*, “it’s that the United States is no longer a global hegemon. There’s no going back to the 1990s and early 2000s when people thought that the United States bestrode the world like a colossus.”

On 17 November 2021, Nexon, who is a professor of political science at Georgetown University, and his coauthor Alexander Cooley, Claire Tow Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, delivered a lecture on their book, which had been chosen as the Kennedy Center’s fall 2021 book of the semester. The book argues that the U.S. no longer holds a position of global dominance due to power shifts and the collapse of the order created by the U.S.

The 1990s were a different story. “The dominant aspect of international order was what we call the American and Western patronage monopoly,” Cooley said during the lecture. “What does this mean? It means we controlled everything,” from the standards used to judge other countries’ elections to the international financial institutions. And because the Soviet Union dropped out after the Cold War, “the U.S. [became] the only game in town,” so they “leveraged this position, this patronage monopoly, to push liberal values,” Cooley continued.

But once the U.S. started to push values not widely accepted around the globe, Nexon said, “most of these policy positions did start to produce cracks in support for the liberal order in places that were generally fond of it, and also became a vector for backlash.” This, in addition to events in the world such as the invasion of Iraq under George W. Bush and the Arab Spring uprisings during Barack Obama’s administration, “combine[d] in a set of waves to convince other authoritarian states that they [could] no longer live with liberal order, and certainly not with American liberal order.” This, Nexon explained, gave way to other processes that allowed the U.S. monopoly to fall apart: great power challengers, “increasing leverage of weaker states in terms of the kinds of deals and relationships that they can have in the United States,” and rising countermovements that, “in some cases, want to remake order in ways that are not compatible with continued U.S. preeminence.”

So, Nexon concluded, while the U.S. is a hegemon in “at least part of the world now, and definitely played that role after the end of the Cold War at a global level,” ultimately, it “no longer has the unchallenged ability to influence events around the globe without a pure competitor . . .

The kind of global reach and global influence that the United States enjoyed in the 1990s, early 2000s, is done.”

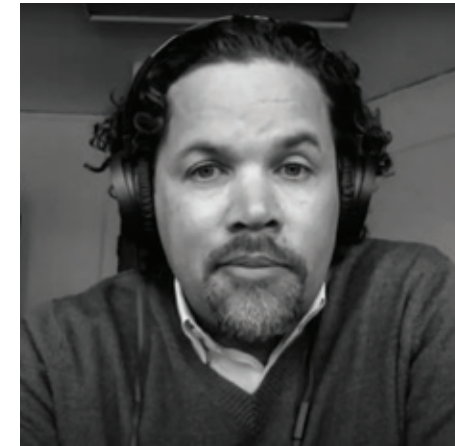


LECTURES A Sampling from WINTER 2021-WINTER 2022

20 January 2021

Monumental Antiracism: Taking Stock of Reparative Memory Work

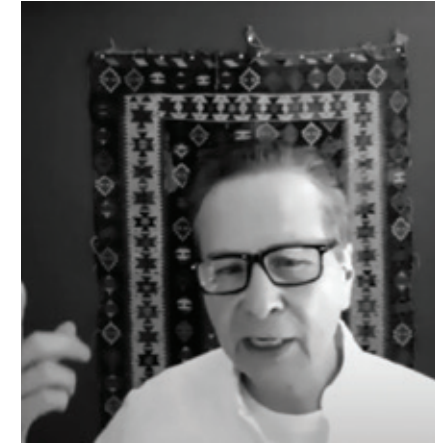
Geoffrey Ward, Professor of African and African-American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis



3 March 2021

Afrodescendants and the Project on Race and Ethnicity in Latin America

Edward Telles, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Irvine



“It became very clear that ethno-racial identification doesn’t work in places like the Dominican Republic—it works for the indigenous in most places, but not for Afrodescendants. But color works very well to show that there’s a racial hierarchy.”

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH



17 February 2021

Sister Style: The Politics of Appearance for Black Women Political Elites

Nadia Brown, Professor of Government, Georgetown University



24 March 2021

Why Race Still Matters

Alana Lentin, Associate Professor of Cultural and Social Analysis, Western Sydney University



31 March 2021

Chinese Workers and America’s First Transcontinental Railroad: A Global Perspective

Gordon Chang, Senior Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Professor of Humanities, Stanford University

15 September 2021
Is China the Cause of International (Dis)order?

Eric Hyer, Associate Professor of Political Science,
Brigham Young University



10 November 2021
Why We Should Decolonize Global Health: Lessons from COVID-19

Mamka Anyona, Policy and Strategy Lead,
UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for NCDs and Mental Health



“The rhetoric of international cooperation, the rhetoric of service, the rhetoric of shared outcomes does not play out when we’re actually faced with a global health challenge, which means that the structure of global health as it is is actually a disadvantage to the world in general.”

2 February 2022
Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization

Branko Milanović, Senior Scholar at the Luxembourg Income Study Center and Visiting
Presidential Professor, Graduate Center, City University of New York



16 March 2022
Addressing and Redressing Racial Prejudice: Lessons from the WWII Japanese American Incarceration

Susan Kamei, author, activist, and professor at the University of Southern California



SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

FEBRUARY

MARCH



22 September 2021
Europe, the United States, and the International Order After COVID-19

Anthony Dworkin, Research Director and Senior Policy
Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations



20 October 2021
The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: 2001-2021 and What Comes Next

Mark Tessler, Professor of Political Science,
University of Michigan



1 December 2021
Political Theology of International Order

William Bain, Associate Professor of Political Science,
National University of Singapore



9 March 2022
Just Add Water: Hydrating Human Rights in the Desert of Inequality

Rhett Larson, Professor at Arizona State University's
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

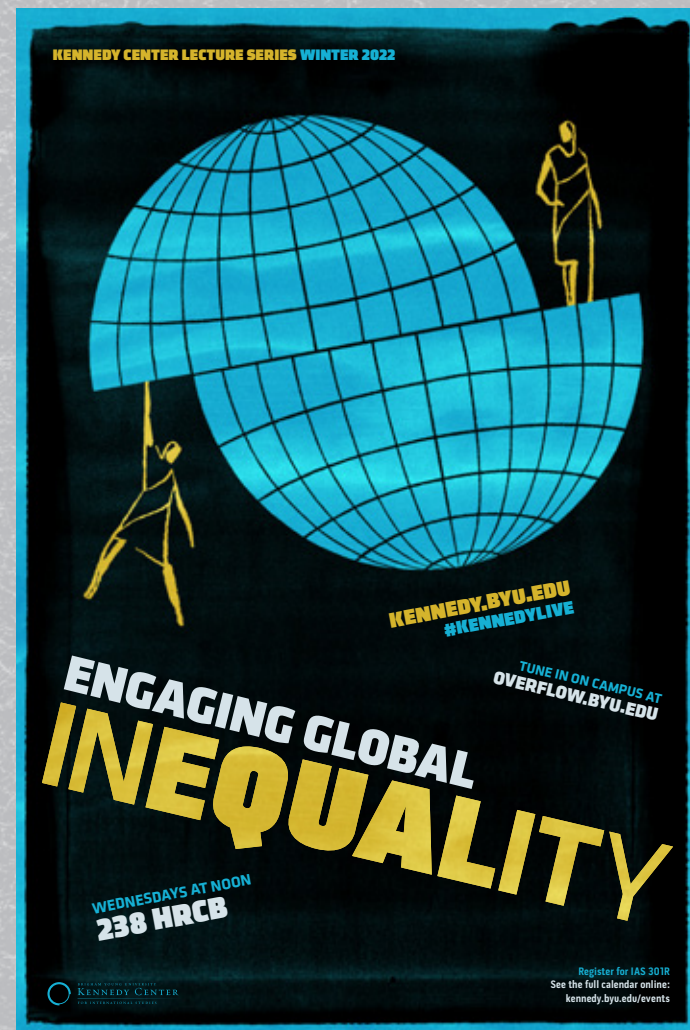
“Our aim is to form clearer conceptualizations of our collective condition and more pointedly to contribute to the liberation of African descendent peoples and all others from socially constructed limitations and diminished life chances.”



23 March 2022
Global Scholars in Solidarity for Housing and Land Justice in Brazil

Keisha-Khan Perry, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania





LECTURE SERIES

CAN THE SYSTEM HOLD? Major power rivalries increase the chance of war and add to a long list of complex issues—fueling chaos and uncertainty. We heard important perspectives from Jeff Flake on the U.S. role, Sandra Destradi on the rise of populism, William Bain on a political theology of international order, and other essential experts during fall semester 2021.

GREAT INEQUALITY IN THE LAND makes ending poverty harder and complicates other issues from housing to tourism to human rights. High levels of inequality limit economic growth and human development—notions that were explored through our insightful winter semester 2022 series. In 2014, Pew Research found a growing global consensus that inequality is a major global problem not getting needed attention.

Miss a lecture?
Alumni can watch most lectures on our YouTube channel @BYUKennedyCenter within a few days of the scheduled event.

“In 1942, the Japanese Americans had no political clout, and, but for some Quakers and other few religiously grounded individuals, neither did they have any allies. So now there’s a commitment among those of us who know the incarceration story to speak out on behalf of others whose civil liberties are similarly threatened, whether by racial prejudice or some other form of inequality.” —SUSAN KAMEI



Alumni

WHERE IN THE WORLD are Kennedy Center alumni? While most current students focus on diplomacy, development, and national security careers, as you can see, most alumni work in the private sector and the government, with some in higher ed, communications, and even the medical field.



HOW DO WE UPDATE THESE PROFILES? Join our LinkedIn group and we'll do the rest. Or send us your profile directly to share your details.

2002

DERRIS T. MOORE has been the general manager and senior vice president of Career-Step, a division of Carrus, in Lehi, Utah, since 2018. He also currently serves as an advisory board member for Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy. Previously, he has worked at Doba Inc., Crux Connect, and School Improvement Network. After graduating from BYU, he worked at Crexendo Business Solutions for nine years in multiple capacities.
BA: International Studies, 2002
Minor: Latin American Studies

2003

DAVID S. PORCARO is currently the vice president of learning for Insight Partners, a company dedicated to providing learning products for startups. Among his various positions, he has worked as a graduate research assistant at the University of Georgia, at Seward Inc in design and education capacities, in learning design at Pearson, and as a director of learning engineering and education at Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.
BA: Near Eastern Studies, 2003
Minor: Anthropology

2006

JOHN C. HUSTEDT currently works in Cambodia as a manager for USAID/PMI (President's Malaria Initiative) Cambodia Malaria Elimination Project 2. Previous to that, he worked in a number of positions related to public health for multiple organizations in the U.S. and Asia. After graduating from BYU, he received a master's degree in Public Health and Global Health and a doctorate in Infectious Diseases Epidemiology from the University of London.
BS: Sociology, 2006
Minors: Asian Studies and International Development

2008

MICHAEL D. CUNNINGHAM is currently a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation. After graduating from BYU, he earned a master's degree in International Affairs from American University, School of International Service. Throughout his career, he has worked in positions such as senior analyst for Control Risks, head of the international department for Grant Thornton Taiwan, and language analyst for the U.S. Department of Justice.
BA: International Relations, 2008
Minor: Chinese

2011

KIMBERLY MATHESON BERKEY is a doctoral student in theology, studying the philosophy of religion, at Loyola University, Chicago. She has written articles for the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* and wrote a book on Helaman, part of a series of brief theological introductions to the Book of Mormon published by the Maxwell Institute. She also serves on the boards of the Book of Mormon Studies Association and the Latter-day Saint Theology Seminar.
BA: Ancient Near Eastern Studies, 2011
Minor: Classical Studies

2012

ZACHARY T. BARRUS currently works as an assistant commissioner for the Utah System of Higher Education. Previous to that, he was an assistant commissioner and director at Utah System of Technical Colleges in Lehi, Utah. After completing a bachelor's degree at BYU, he continued on at BYU to receive his master's degree in Public Policy.
BA: International Relations, 2012
Minor: Middle East Studies

2012

CRYSTAL K. LEE is currently the executive director at Ouelessebougou Alliance, a company that provides resources for and training in health and education for villagers in Ouelessebougou, Mali. She received a master's degree in Public Administration from BYU in 2014, in which she focused on nonprofit/public/organizational management and social innovation. Following her time at BYU, she was the executive director for the nonprofit organizations Bike Utah and Empower Playgrounds.
BA: Social Cultural Anthropology, 2012
Minor: African Studies

2013

JORDAN WILSON is a digital marketing director for BanQu Inc. After graduating from BYU, she went on to receive her master's degree from BYU in Second Language Teaching (Arabic). Following her time there, she became an Arabic instructor for Renaissance Academy and a program coordinator for the Arabic Flagship Center at BYU. She has also worked at Route in multiple capacities in product support and marketing.
BA: Middle East Studies/Arabic and Arabic Language, 2013

2014

MARIEL E. ANDREW is a product research analyst at Liberty Mutual Insurance in New York. Previous to that, she worked for Geico in multiple analyst and research capacities. After graduating from BYU, she was a program and resource coordinator for Teens Act and an English language teacher in Seoul, Korea.
BA: International Relations, 2014

2015

KARI M. MOORE is currently the academic program manager in Latin American Studies at the University of Utah, where she is also completing a graduate program in nonprofit/public/organizational management. Previous to her time at the U of U, she worked at Centro de la Familia de Utah as a program design and community impact manager and family service specialist.
BA: Latin American Studies, 2015

CONDOLENCES



REBECCA A. VAN UITERT (BA: International Studies, 2002) and **JASON E. HOWELL** (BA: International Studies with an emphasis in law and diplomacy, 2002) passed away 31 January 2022.

After completing law school at St. John's University, Rebecca worked as an immigration attorney at Fragomen; she led efforts to provide pro bono attorney representation to asylum-seeking women and children detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement along the southern U.S. border. From 2018 to 2020, she was Assistant Dean for Career Development at BYU Law.

Jason worked in public affairs for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the UN in New York City, then earned his MD from Loyola University. He was involved in service immersion experiences in Guatemala and Peru and founded a peer-led medical Spanish program that has trained more than 1,000 doctors.

Rebecca and Jason married in 2002 and adopted four children in 2015. In October 2022, they were posthumously named the Kennedy Center's Honored Alumni for the year.

LAURA HARRIS HALES (BA: International Relations, 1988) passed away 13 April 2022. She was a historian and writer who focused on the history and culture of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After earning a BA in International Relations from BYU, she earned a master's degree in Professional Writing at New England College and a master's degree in History from Arizona State University. She wrote and published extensively on topics related to Church history and in 2016 created the podcast *Latter-day Saint Perspectives*, which explored Church history, culture, and doctrine through interviews with experts.



N

Newsroom

BYU NO. 1 FOR BOREN SCHOLARSHIPS

BYU has been ranked No. 1 in the nation for Boren scholarships in 2022, according to statistics released by the Boren Awards. With twelve Boren scholarships and one Boren fellowship awarded to BYU students, BYU topped the list of schools receiving scholarships and was second only to the University of Chicago in the list of total awards given (scholarships plus fellowships). The Boren Awards help college students go abroad to study languages that are considered critical to U.S. national interests.

“The Boren Awards are the most prestigious scholarships that the Kennedy Center works with,” says James Mayo, international scholarships coordinator at the Kennedy Center, who assists students applying for Boren scholarships. “In general, universities across the country have one or possibly two students receive them, if any. This clearly demonstrates the caliber of students studying languages at BYU.”

This is not the first time BYU has made the list of top-performing institutions for Boren Awards, but it is the first year the school has placed so highly.

BYU NAMED NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

In conjunction with the University of Utah, Brigham Young University has been named a National Resource Center (NRC) for Latin American and Asian Studies, providing the two schools with seven million dollars in funding. This grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Education, provides funding to help institutions establish themselves as national centers of excellence when it comes to language and area studies for specific regions of the world.

The Asian Studies programs at BYU and the U of U first formed a consortium to apply for the grant in 2010; after they were successful, the Latin American Studies programs followed suit in 2014. The grants are given for four years at a time and schools must reapply when their grant is up; this marks the fourth time that BYU and the University of Utah have been named an NRC for Asian Studies and the third time for Latin American Studies. The two schools contribute equally to the grant applications. Once the grants have been received, each school administers different aspects while also collaborating and sharing information on their programs as much as possible.

The grant money has made possible courses in less commonly taught languages like Vietnamese, Cebuano, K’iche’, and Quechua. It also provides funding toward courses in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. However, these classes are just one of the benefits the NRC grants bring to campus. “The whole goal with all this funding,” says Kennedy Center scholarships coordinator James Mayo, who was involved in applying for the grants, “is that our campus community can have more in-depth interactions with Latin America and Asia, and our students can have better opportunities to become more engaged with and more knowledgeable about these regions of the world.”

Eric Hyer with his grandson at the Great Wall of China.



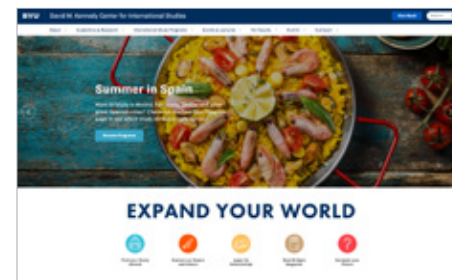
NEW FACES AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

After thirty-four years at BYU, Eric Hyer has retired. Hyer has been associated with the Kennedy Center for the duration of his time at BYU and has served as the coordinator of the Asian Studies program for the last fourteen years.

In 1988, he began teaching at BYU, and in 1990, he was named the coordinator of the now-defunct International Studies program. In 1996, after a year’s leave in China, Hyer became the director of graduate studies at the Kennedy Center. In 2008, he was asked to be the Asian Studies coordinator.

Following Hyer’s retirement, Marc Yamada was named the new Asian Studies program faculty coordinator. Yamada, an associate professor of Comparative Arts and Letters, has been at BYU since 2013. He received a BA in Japanese with a minor in International Relations and an MA in Comparative Literature from BYU before receiving a PhD in Japanese Literature and Culture from UC Berkeley. Yamada is the recipient of a Fulbright fellowship; a scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education.

An additional change at the Kennedy Center is the hiring of Raquel Petrus as an academic advisor. Petrus studied youth agency administration at BYU, graduating in 1995; she began working at BYU’s International Student and Scholar Services in 2019 and was hired at the Kennedy Center in 2022. She recently earned her Master of Public Administration degree from BYU.



NEW WEBSITE AND LOGO

As part of a university-wide rebranding effort, the Kennedy Center began using new logos in fall 2022. The new logos are more in line with logos and brand architecture across the university.

At the same time, the center unveiled a new website, which is still found at kennedy.byu.edu and which is more streamlined and easier to navigate. Those who are not familiar with the website are encouraged to visit it; parts that may be of interest to alumni include the newsroom (kennedy.byu.edu/newsroom), which has more articles and up-to-date news than what’s found here; resources to help alumni stay connected with the Kennedy Center (kennedy.byu.edu/stay-connected); and the *Bridges* magazine archive (kennedy.byu.edu/bridges), which contains feature stories from *Bridges* issues dating back to 2000.

FINALLY, CONVOCATION

After two years in which the COVID-19 pandemic forced convocation exercises to be held virtually, the Kennedy Center was finally able to resume in-person graduation events in April 2022. Following a reception for graduates and their families at the Kennedy Center, convocation was held in the de Jong Concert Hall in the Harris Fine Arts Center.

The alumni speaker was national security expert Michael Hale (MA, 1992), while the student speaker was European Studies valedictorian Morgan Selander. The BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble performed two numbers.

RECOGNIZING KENNEDY CENTER VALEDICTORIANS

This year, for the first time, the Kennedy Center named valedictorians for each of its six major programs. Quinn Mecham, Associate Director for Academics and Research, explains, “We thought it was important that each major honor their top students.”

The valedictorians were Rachel Barnes for Ancient Near Eastern Studies, McCall Andersen for Asian Studies, Morgan Selander for European Studies, Patricia MacCabe for International Relations, Roman Orr for Latin American Studies, and Christian Moody and Shelby Jo Huey as co-valedictorians for Middle East Studies/Arabic.

“The valedictorians honored by the Kennedy Center are some of the most accomplished students at BYU,” says Mecham. “Because of the unique academic experience that the Kennedy Center provides, they are also some of the most globally experienced, linguistically talented, insightful, and empathetic graduates one can find anywhere.”



A new tradition for outstanding student academic achievement, with Stan Benfell, Director, at Kennedy Convocation.

The valedictorians honored by the Kennedy Center are some of the most accomplished students at BYU.

—QUINN MECHAM



See what students are interested in on both of our Instagram channels: [@byukennedycenter](https://www.instagram.com/byukennedycenter) for lectures, programs, and global activities and [@byuabroad](https://www.instagram.com/byuabroad) for international experiences. During 2021, with no programs abroad, the latter channel revisited past student stories—and wistfully looked forward to when students could safely go abroad again.



Scholars

EVEN WITHOUT TRAVEL, students continue to research and produce outstanding global work—a unique strength and student opportunity based on the BYU mission and aims. Notably, we continue ranking among top universities in national security, language, and international/area studies scholarships. And we’re not slowing down. Watch for more student awards next year in FLAS, Gilman, Boren, Fulbright, and beyond.

KENNEDY SCHOLARS

The Kennedy Scholars award was established in 2005 to honor David M. Kennedy, the namesake of the Kennedy Center and a man distinguished by his service in business, government, and church positions. The award is given to full-time undergraduate students who embody the mission and purpose of the Kennedy Center, particularly those students with an international or global emphasis to their studies, research, or extracurricular activities.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Kennedy Scholars 2022

Andrew Bonney
Hometown: La Plata, Maryland, USA
Major: Middle East Studies/Arabic
Minor: Economics

Dallyn McCracken
Hometown: Burley, Idaho, USA
Major: Linguistics

Elisabeth Brynn Morse
Hometown: Greenville,
South Carolina, USA
Majors: Middle East Studies/Arabic,
Arabic Language
Minor: International Strategy
and Diplomacy

Alix Hess
Hometown: Milford, Michigan, USA
Major: Political Science
Minor: Business

Noah Petty
Hometown: Gretna, Nebraska, USA
Major: Middle East Studies/Arabic

Garrett Maxwell
Home states: Texas, North Carolina,
Idaho, USA
Majors: Middle East Studies/Arabic

Kyli Fox
Hometown: Sandy, Utah, USA
Major: Sociology
Minors: International Development,
Global and Community Impact

Michael Ryan
Hometown: Enterprise, Alabama, USA
Major: Ancient Near Eastern Studies
Minors: Modern Hebrew, Anthropology

Matias Hiltunen
Hometown: Haugesund, Norway
Major: International Relations

Claire Farnsworth
Hometown: Centreville, Virginia, USA
Major: European Studies
Minors: German, Cultural/World Dance

Amelia Watterson
Hometown: Denver, Colorado, USA
Major: International Relations
Minor: International Development

Sarah Read
Hometown: Dexter, Michigan, USA
Major: International Relations

**Boren Fellowship
2021-2022**
Mandarin/Singapore
Elena Guañuna

**Boren Scholarship
2021-2022**
Mandarin/Taiwan
Riley Eastmond
Caleb Harding
Jenna Mathews
Ayden Olsen
Esther dos Santos

Arabic/Morocco
Shelby Jo Huey
Sarah Koger
John McHenry
Isaac Miles
Elisabeth Brynn Morse
Jonah Phillips

Russian/Latvia
Kara Molnar

**Fulbright US Student Program
2021-2022**
Isabella Errigo, Ecuador, Study/Research Award

**Foreign Language and Area Studies
Scholarships (FLAS)**
Asia FLAS, Summer 2022
Chinese
Cameron Breinholt
Ian Stewart

Hindi
Jacob Blood
Lindy Miller

Japanese
Jesse Wayment

Korean
Daniel Taylor

Russian
Faith Hall

Tagalog
Catalina Valdez

Vietnamese
Jacob DeGraw
Porter Dixon

SCHOLARSHIPS

**Latin America FLAS
Summer 2022**
Brazilian Portuguese
Elisabeth Morris
Devyn Roberts
Xana Rogers

Guarani
Zachary Payne

K’iche’
Thomas Robins

Quechua
Charles Alger
Auna Brooks
Ashley Lundquist

**Asia FLAS
2022-2023**
Chinese
Fiona Bates
Caleb Hyde
Caleb Lindgren
McKay McFadden
Erin Wong

Hindi
Aedan Andreason
Nicholas Bown
Brooklynn Scott
Emma Steimle

Japanese
Samuel Bahr
Madison Yamamura

Korean
Cameryn Kahalewai
Katherine Rose
Elizabeth Rydjeski
Daniel Taylor

Tagalog
Olivia Black
Jason Celaya
Amanda Murdoch

Thai
Benjamin Duffield

**Latin America FLAS
2022-2023**
Brazilian Portuguese
Evelyn Alton
Andrea Amado-Fajardo
Cayden Bro
Siena Christensen
Jessica Clark

Eliana Harmer
Carson Hernandez
Nash Karrington
Sean Lavering
Elisabeth Morris
Seth Sudweeks
Ashton Welker
Mikaela Wood

Guarani
Sarah Tailleir

K’iche’
Thomas Robins

Quechua
Charles Alger
Emma Westhoff

**Critical Language
Scholarship
Summer 2022**
Indonesian/Indonesia
Maquelle Drummond

Turkish/Turkey
Laura Andersen

**Gilman Scholarship
Winter 2022**
Spain
Preston Moe

United Kingdom
Grettel Garcia
Judy Jacob

Spring-Summer 2022
Austria and Germany
Anders Jensen

Brazil, Costa Rica, and Peru
Jonathan Boyack

Ecuador
Mykel Godwin

Fiji
Emily Scanlan

France
Andrew Tonn

France, Italy, and
United Kingdom
Remington Butler

Greece
Savannah Bullock

Hungary
Samantha Stabler
Benjamin Stubblefield

India
Daniel Bradford
Emma Steimle

Israel
Calan Christensen

Italy
Austin Hansen
Leo LeSueur
Rachel Simmons
Eliza Terry

Italy, Austria, France,
and Switzerland
Machaela Pulsipher

Italy, Switzerland, and
United Kingdom
Edgar Columna
Hannah Smith

Jordan
Jack Vassau

Morocco and Spain
Megan Cann
Tayla Ingles
Patricia Ann MacCabe
Margaret Price
Abigail Woodfield

Nepal
Esther Erickson
Mariah Taylor

Peru
Ethan Gardner

Tanzania
Jeffrey Taylor

United Kingdom
Mary Freeman

United Kingdom and Italy
Owen Tolley

Vietnam
Ellecyn Brimley

Fall 2022
India and Nepal
Maquelle Drummond

Italy, Germany, France,
and Switzerland
Cassandra Johnson

Nepal
Laura Langford

Jordan
Mary Harris
Jacob Neil
Jonathan Roylance

Jordan and Israel
Andrew Bonney
Judy Bonney
Stuart Christiansen

Academic Year 2022-2023
Taiwan
Riley Eastmond
Ayden Olsen



KENNEDY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Kennedy Research Fellowships are awarded twice a year to recognize the best in undergraduate research. Starting in fall semester 2022, the program was opened to faculty applicants as well. Applicant research should connect to the semester theme for the weekly Kennedy Center Lecture Series.

Undergraduate recipients receive research grants of \$1,000, while faculty recipients receive \$4,000 grants. They also have the opportunity to present their research as part of our lecture series.

Videos of many of these research presentations can be found on the Kennedy Center YouTube channel, [youtube.com/@BYUKennedyCenter](https://www.youtube.com/@BYUKennedyCenter).



Jason Combs



Winter 2022 Theme: “Engaging Global Inequality”

Student recipients:

- Morgan Rushforth** (Political Science): “The Livelihood of Indian Women: How Does Perseverance Affect Empowerment?”
- Grace Wilson** (European Studies): “Sexual Terrorism: Resource Motivated Acts of Sexual Violence by Terrorist Groups”
- Brandon Checketts** (Political Science): “Political Institutions and Remedying Ethnic Divides in Malaysia, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea”

Fall 2022 Theme: “The Global Religious Experience”

Faculty recipients:

- Jason Combs** (Ancient Scripture): “Gendering Ancient Christian Dreams: The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas”
- Sarah Reed** (History): “‘As many rare flowers as you can bring’: Anna Widtsoe’s Mormon Norwegian Immigration Letters”
- Marin Leggat Roper** (Dance): “Witness: How Religious Theology Frames Performance Intentions in Dancers”

Student recipients:

- Clayton Van Woerkom** (Anthropology): “Becoming Good Muslims: Pious Republican Personhood in Small-town France”
- Becca Driggs** (History): “From Fjords to Fields: The Journeys of Early Swedish Mormon Settlers”
- Isaac Richards** (Communications): “Rhetoric, Memory, and the Global Monotheistic Experience in Israel: The Repurposing of Ancient Synagogues for Present Concerns”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ISABELLA ERRIGO AWARDED FULBRIGHT RESEARCH GRANT

Isabella Errigo was awarded a prestigious Fulbright research grant during the summer of 2022. She is currently in Ecuador, building on her master’s program research about the impact of land use on aquatic systems. Her ten-month Fulbright experience, which began in September 2022, is taking place in Ecuador’s Chocó region, where she’s researching how different types of land use in the Amazon affect biodiversity. Errigo is a 2020 BYU Honors graduate in Environmental Science who recently earned a master’s degree in the same discipline.

“Isabella possesses deep research skills and an innate ability to lead through consensus,” said Cory Leonard, an associate director at the Kennedy Center. “She navigates politics and differing perspectives effectively while focusing on getting results. These diplomatic skills will serve her well in helping ensure that her scientific research makes a wider impact.” Leonard first met Errigo through his Model United Nations class and later hired her as his teaching assistant.

In fall 2021, Errigo visited Ecuador for the first time and got a glimpse of what her Fulbright research would entail. “Despite Ecuador’s small size, it has an amazing amount of diversity,” she said. “Not only is it one of the five most biodiverse countries in the world but it is also multiethnic, with a wide variety of spoken languages and many different types of ecosystems.”

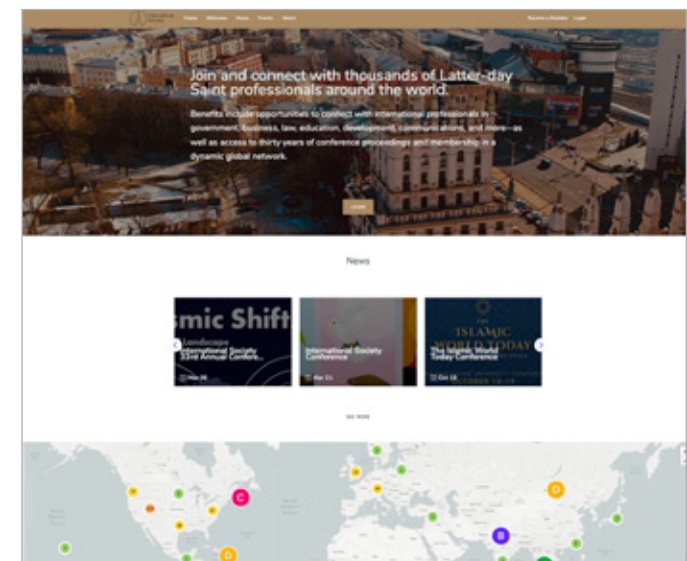
During her time in Ecuador, Errigo hopes to be an ambassador for BYU and the United States through her formal research and her involvement in the local community: “I hope I will be able to meet people doing activities that I enjoy (such as rock climbing or exploring new places), and I can continue these relationships throughout my life,” she said. “I also plan to be an ambassador for BYU, Fulbright, and the U.S. through science communication. By communicating my research, I want to convey to people how amazing our planet is while showing them why they should care and what they can do to minimize harm.”

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Facing uncertain environments and wicked problems, breadth of experience is invaluable. Facing kind problems, narrow specialization can be remarkably efficient. The problem is that we often expect the hyperspecialist, because of their expertise in a narrow area, to magically be able to extend their skill to wicked problems. The results can be disastrous.

—David Epstein

*Author of Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World
and January 2021 BYU Forum speaker*