



Nate Edwards/BYU Photo

## Cosmo: mascot, dancer and fan favorite

By COURTNEY TIETJEN

BYU's beloved mascot Cosmo the Cougar is known for his flips, tricks and impressive dance moves whether he's making appearances at sporting events or performing viral dances with the Cougarettes.

Cosmo's look and costume have changed drastically over the years, but no matter who is inside it, the excitement he brings to every event remains constant.

BYU's mascot got its name after BYU was named a "cosmopolitan" school in 1953.

Now, several decades later, Cosmo is as popular as ever, begging the question, "Who is Cosmo?" While there are many guesses and assumptions, his identity remains a mystery.

The person who plays Cosmo gets their start with a tryout on the dunk team. After years of training, the best are picked to wear the costume — usually a senior. According to several sources, many students play Cosmo since there are numerous appearances each year.

### Underneath the costume

The first person to play Cosmo was Daniel T. Gallego in 1953. The costume reportedly cost \$73.

During the '60s and '70s, university presidents Ernest L. Wilkinson and Dallin H. Oaks donned the Cosmo costume and then revealed their identity during school gatherings and sporting events.

Wilkinson was inside the costume in 1960, and President Oaks played Cosmo at a BYU basketball game in 1979.

Former BYU football coach LaVell Edwards was Cosmo when the Cougars hosted Utah in a basketball game in 1981.

Today Cosmo is very athletic; however, for the first 40 years, Cosmo wasn't allowed to do any flips or tricks. The main role was to simply jump and cheer.

In 1976 Cosmo began dunking the basketball as he led the team out of the locker room before the game. An opposing team's coach was once overheard saying, "Man, their mascot's dunking; we're in trouble."

After a touchdown in 1980 at the "Miracle Bowl" against Southern Methodist University, Cosmo ran to the end zone to help the referees pull players off of tight end Clay Brown.

Beginning in the 1990s, simple interactions with the crowd caused some technical difficulties with the early Cosmo costume. It was big and bulky and restricted simple movements like turning his head.

Cosmo underwent some major costume design upgrades to help fix these

problems in 1997. Cosmo now has a full range of motion and improved sightline.

The Cosmobile — the mascot's van — helps Cosmo maintain secrecy by giving the mascot a place to prepare and get dressed for events in private. When Cosmo is getting ready for home events, he has his own changing room in the Smith Fieldhouse.

"It's very much like Bruce Wayne and Batman."

Aaron G. McGavok  
Former Cosmo

There are four different costumes, allowing Cosmo to have everything packed and ready for his next event while having a fresh, clean costume to perform in.

There are nearly 600 events for Cosmo per year with up to a dozen events per week. Football and basketball seasons include larger events, which take a great deal of time and effort to prepare for.

The university wants Cosmo to be a character, an important part of BYU,

not just a person playing a mascot, so the people who wear the costume are under strict rules to not reveal their identity during their time as a student, though some have come forward afterward.

Aaron G. McGavok was Cosmo from 1999 to 2001 and went on to be a professional mascot for the NBA, AAA baseball and the UFL.

"It's very much like Bruce Wayne and Batman," McGavok said, "knowing that in my day job as a student I was just like everyone else, but at various events, Cosmo got to be the center of attention and the cougar that everyone looked to for entertainment."

McGavok described his last experience as Cosmo as the most memorable. "It was graduation and I had gone through the line as myself. Everyone else was wearing church dress clothes under their graduation cap and gown, (but) I was wearing shorts and a T-shirt and my bare legs were sticking out from underneath."

After his name was read, McGavok ran to the changing area in the Smith Fieldhouse, quickly changed and got back in line with the graduate students.

"I filled out the name card and the dean was so busy with the previous students in line he didn't realize that Cosmo was standing next to him graduating until he picked up the card and read the name, 'Cosmo!' The crowd

erupted in cheers," McGavok said. "I started the wave and I'm sure everyone involved, with the exception of possibly the dean, had a very memorable graduation."

McGavok said BYU has always kept the identity of the mascot under wraps, explaining that not even his parents knew until he went home for Christmas and had knee surgery for a Cosmo-related injury.

"It's actually good that they do try to keep things a secret because it keeps the character separate from the goofy students that often portray him," McGavok added. "My roommates were really good at keeping things under wraps as well and often covered for my missed dates and others that thought they had figured things out."

Matthew Richardson, current BYU advancement vice president, was McGavok's bishop at the time and was one of the few who knew the secret, outside of his roommates and the cheer squad.

Rich Summers, who replaced McGavok as Cosmo from 2001-2004, said the closest comparison to being a mascot is dressing up for Halloween.

"At Halloween parties, you are allowed and encouraged to act crazy and no one thinks it's weird," Summers said. "Cosmo gets to pretend it's Halloween all year long."

See COSMO on Page 6

## Documenting illegal border crossing deaths a challenging process

By KAITLYN BANCROFT

*Editor's note: Immigration has been a political boondoggle for at least two decades in the United States. Congress has yet to come up with a system that will successfully address the complexities, and President Donald Trump has taken some decisions into his own hands.*

Fifth in a series

TUCSON, Ariz. — Bones aren't anything new at the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office.

Femurs. Foot bones. Pelvic bones. Some are found by Border Patrol agents, some by people hiking or four wheeling in the Arizona desert.

But skulls are the most common bones brought to the medical examiner.

That's because while other bones can be mistaken for animal bones, "everybody knows what a skull is," said Dr. Gregory Hess, chief medical examiner in Tucson.

Since 2002, Hess said the medical examiner's office has received 160 to 165 bodies a year that were found in the desert compared to about 12 bodies per year throughout the 1990s. The bodies range from fully fleshed to nothing but bleached bones, and most are believed or confirmed to be foreign nationals attempting to illegally enter the United States.

By its own count, the medical examiner's office received 147 bodies during the most recent fiscal year.

Despite the risks of crossing the desert — from heat to rough terrain to dangerous wildlife — the Border Patrol apprehended 173,594 people trying to cross the southwest border from October

to March, according to data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection. President Donald Trump recently ordered the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to deploy National Guard troops to the border to stop drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

Hess said the numbers, however, aren't stopping anyone. "Are you going to come all the way through Mexico from Guatemala, stop at the border and see a sign that says 'dangerous crossing' and turn around and go all the way back?"

### By the numbers

Hess said people used to enter the country illegally through heavily populated areas, such as El Paso and San Diego, when there was much less border security in those areas.

That changed when the Border Patrol introduced Operation Hold the Line in El Paso in 1993 and Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego in 1994, which concentrated agents and new technology in these areas.

According to the Border Patrol's website, these operations were "a show of force" that drastically reduced the number of people crossing illegally at both points.

Hess said these operations were so successful that immigrants began crossing through the Arizona desert, which is when the number of bodies brought to the medical examiner's office began increasing dramatically, jumping from 17 bodies in fiscal 1998 to 71 in fiscal 2000 to 222 bodies in fiscal 2010.

Varying reporting procedures make a uniform tally difficult. "If you're trying to go across the border and figure out how many of these types of deaths there are, you can't," he said.

New Mexico, for example, funnels all human remains to one medical examiner's office while California handles



Dani Jardine

Human remains found in the Arizona desert are laid out at the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office. Most remains found in the desert are believed to be or confirmed to be foreign nationals attempting to illegally enter the United States.

border deaths on a county-by-county basis. In addition, the Border Patrol also reports numbers by sectors rather than by counties or states and only reports bodies its agents find themselves. This makes it difficult to compare numbers of border deaths across the U.S.

But no matter how bodies are counted, "I think we probably still see the highest number of remains in any single jurisdiction in the U.S. because the remains in Arizona are funneled here," Hess said.

Those numbers have created cold-storage issues in the past. Family members quickly identify and claim

most bodies coming through the medical examiner's office, such as people who die in car accidents. But the bodies of those who cross the border illegally can be in storage for weeks or longer while the medical examiner's office attempts to identify them.

"Even a relatively small number of (unidentified bodies) can create storage problems because they can be here for an extended period of time," Hess said.

Hess said the most common cause of death among the bodies of border crossers his office examines, at 45 percent, is undetermined. This is because there's often so little left of the body that they can't say how someone died. However,

it's likely those people died from exposure, which is the next most common cause of death at 40 percent.

Exposure is an umbrella term for conditions like heat stroke, dehydration and hypothermia, determined by a lack of other findings such as traumatic injury or underlying disease.

Other less common causes of death are blunt force trauma, firearms, drowning and hanging.

Entering the exam room and seeing the skeletal remains on the table was chilling. Even more so was entering the indoor cold storage refrigerator holding dozens of bodies stacked to the ceiling. The sour smell of decay permeated everything.

Despite what they regularly experience, Hess said there's not much emotional toll because he separates work from his personal life.

Border Patrol Agent Christopher Sullivan said their agency values human life and doesn't want anyone to die crossing the border. He's seen immigrants on the verge of succumbing to injuries getting help from Border Patrol agents, and those types of experiences are why the Tucson sector has invested many resources in providing aid. For example, the Border Patrol trains all its agents as first responders, and many agents become EMTs or paramedics.

The Border Patrol also has 34 rescue beacons scattered throughout the desert. The 30-foot beacons reflect sunlight during the day and flash a blue light at night. Each sends a distress signal with the push of a button.

"Despite someone's criminal history, what country they're from, if they need help we're going to do our job to make sure that person lives another day," Sullivan said.

See DEATHS on Page 2

# UNIVERSE news briefs

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## US says North Korea ready to discuss nukes

North Korea's government says that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said Sunday, April 8, increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will occur.

The confirmation from Pyongyang directly has created more confidence within Trump's administration, as the administration has long said that if North Korea wasn't ready to discuss giving up their nuclear program, there was no reason for the two countries to hold negotiations.



## Facebook suspends another firm in privacy scandal

Facebook suspended another app firm that may have misused data on Monday, April 9, adding to a growing list of firms being investigated by the social media company.

Facebook says CubeYou, a firm associated with the University of Cambridge Psychometrics Centre, will be suspended after it was found to be collecting information about users through quizzes. According to CNBC, CubeYou labeled its quizzes "for non-profit academic research" then shared user information with marketers.



## Israel blamed for missile strike in Syria

Russia and the Syrian military blamed Israel for a pre-dawn missile attack Monday, April 9, on a Syrian air base that reportedly killed 14 people, while international condemnation grew over a suspected poison gas attack that was said to be carried out by the Syrian government.

Opposition activists said 40 people died in the chemical attack, blaming President Bashar Assad's forces. The U.N. Security Council planned to hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the chemical attack.



## Federal agents seize records from Trump lawyer

Federal agents carrying court-authorized search warrants have seized documents from the office of President Donald Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen.

Cohen's attorney Stephen Ryan said the search warrants are "in part" related to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

Ryan says agents seized "protected attorney client communications." Ryan called the search warrants "completely inappropriate and unnecessary."



## Exhibit showcases clothes of sexual assault victims

A new exhibit unveiled at Dixie State University on Monday, April 9, showcases clothes that sexual abuse victims were wearing at the time of their assaults to dispel the myth that a person's clothing justifies or condones acts of violence.

The clothing items featured in the "What Were You Wearing?" exhibit range from denim shorts to pajama pants to a toddler's size 2 nightgown, which represented the clothes worn by a woman who said she was assaulted by her father as a child, the Spectrum reported.

## DEATHS

### Border crossing risks

Continued from Page 1

#### Identity crisis

After bodies are brought to the medical examiner's office, the staff's next task is identifying as many of the remains of the possible.

Hess said the medical examiners' chances of identifying a body are directly proportional to how much of the body is left and how many personal belongings are found. Between 2000 and 2017, most border crossers' bodies they examined were either fully fleshed, meaning they had been dead less than a day, or skeletonized with bone degradation, meaning they had been dead six to eight months.

The office positively identifies about 65 percent of the border crossers' bodies.

"The skeleton is a 206-piece puzzle," said Forensic anthropologist Jennifer Vollner. She determines, as much as possible, characteristics such as sex, ancestral background and approximate age and height. "The more pieces I have, the better picture I can paint."

Vollner said it's rare to get a full skeleton, though she can approximate how long the bones have been in the open based on how bleached they are or if there's still some flesh. They also look for distinct features,

such as above or below average height or even dental work, such as in one case where there were stars on the front teeth.

Vollner said they take DNA samples from the bones so they can request DNA samples for comparison if they get a solid lead on the person's family members. They also do a dental examination, though Hess said due to the difficulty of obtaining pre-death dental records from other countries, they rarely identify someone that way.

In cases in which more of the body is intact, the medical examiner's office looks for tattoos, fingerprints or other distinguishing features. In some cases where the desert heat has mummified bodies to the point that tattoos aren't visible or fingers are too flat for fingerprints, they've used an infrared camera to see tattoos and re-hydrated hands to take fingerprints.

Fingerprints can then be sent to the Border Patrol, which can check them against its own records. If the Border Patrol has apprehended the person before, it can make some kind of identification, though that's not necessarily helpful because of how commonly people who cross the border illegally carry fake IDs. Money or important phone numbers sewn into pant seams or tied onto bra straps to hide them from robbers can also provide clues.

Other commonly found items are prayer cards, toiletries and extra clothes. They also see camouflage clothing and unique items sold in border



Dani Jardine

A painting on the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border warns potential immigrants that death will meet them in the desert. The Mexican side of the border fence is covered in similar works of art as well as memorials.

towns: carpeted shoes for covering tracks and water bottles painted black so they won't reflect light.

Hess also said they would like to return the remains to family members the way they were found; however, when a body cannot be identified, it's sent to the Public Fiduciary Office for cremation. The ashes are then kept in the county portion of the cemetery, where they can be reunited with family members, if they're ever identified.

#### Missing persons problem

Hess said the medical examiner's office gets many phone

calls and visits from people looking for loved ones, since people can't report their friend or family member who's entered the country illegally as missing to the police.

"So it (the missing persons system) is kind of broken for these people because law enforcement owns missing persons," Hess said.

That's why the Colibri Center for Human Rights has an office in the medical examiner's office.

According to its website, the Colibri Center is a family advocacy nonprofit that "work(s) with families, forensic scientists and humanitarians to end migrant death and related suffering on the U.S.-Mexico border."

Forensic anthropologist Dr. Bruce Anderson and Dr. Robin Reineke, who is now the executive director, started the center as the Missing Migrant Project in 2006 at the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office. It was expanded into the Colibri Center in 2013.

Colibri has three main programs: the Missing Migrant Project, which helps families create "forensically detailed" missing persons reports to help medical examiners in identifying bodies; the DNA Program, which archives genetic data of unidentified bodies; and the Red de Familiares (Family Network), a support system for families whose loved ones have gone missing while crossing the border.

The Missing Migrant Project effectively acts as the missing person systems for people who cross the border illegally because all information is confidential and "collected solely to support the search for a missing loved one last seen crossing the U.S.-Mexico border."

The medical examiner's office also puts all the information about bodies it can't identify into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, or NamUs, a centralized "resource center for missing persons and unidentified decedent records" created by the National Institute of Justice, according to its website.

Anyone, from medical examiners and law enforcement officials to the general public, can search the free, online databases for missing and unidentified people.

Hess said the NamUs database looks for potential matches between missing person reports and the details the medical examiners compile from border crosser bodies, such as distinct effects, height comparison and DNA characteristics. However, only law enforcement can put missing person reports in the database.

Vollner said foreign nationals will sometimes post data from the NamUs site to Facebook groups, which has provided some leads for their office.

Hess said his office also meets every week or two with officials from the local Mexican, Guatemalan and El

Salvadoran consuls for help identifying bodies.

#### Reasons for crossing

Hess said despite the risks, people continue crossing the desert because they've attempted it multiple times and have been apprehended or have been successful. He compared the attitude of people crossing the desert with most people's attitude toward traveling by car.

"So when you get in your car and go to your next location, are you intending to die in a motor vehicle accident? Do you believe your odds of successfully arriving at your location is going to be high?" he said. "So yes, maybe I wear a seat belt, but I'm not worried about it."

Hess said there isn't much controversy surrounding the office's work identifying people who cross the border illegally because it's less than 1 percent of what the office does and the facilities are already there.

The office doesn't run toxicology tests, and funding through grants, such as through the National Institute of Justice, pays for DNA tests.

In addition, Mexico City and Guatemala City also occasionally run their own DNA labs, and Colibri has never asked the county for funding because volunteers run the center.

Though there have been some costs over time associated with expanding the office's cold storage, Hess said that hasn't cost millions of dollars.

He added that the office's work with people who cross the border illegally is simply about providing accurate information, not about pushing any kind of policy change.

"We just want people to have whatever information we have so they can make more informed decisions," he said.

*Next: Immigrants continue crossing the border as cultural and economic incentives outweigh the deadly risks.*

## THE UNIVERSE

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## Police Beat

is still under investigation.

#### BYU

##### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

**March 29** - A male reported seeing inappropriate physical contact between a male and a female making out at the Y Trailhead.

##### THEFT

**April 1** - A female reported the theft of a 2016 Jeep Wrangler from LaVell Edwards Stadium. The vehicle was recovered in Orem. No suspect was found in relation to the theft.

**April 2** - A male student reported an unsecured skateboard worth \$150 taken from the Wyview Park commons area.

**April 3** - An individual reported that an individual photographed football and basketball tickets and then sold them online without the owner's permission. The tickets were valued at \$120 and the owner of the original ticket is a BYU staff member. The case

#### OREM/PROVO AREA

##### THEFT

**April 2** - A man was stopped for shoplifting at Target. Despite lying about his name twice, police discovered his real name, found warrants out for his arrest and arrested him.

**April 6** - An Orem man claimed that someone withdrew \$2,500 from his bank account using the Zelle app.

##### DRUGS

**April 2** - Orem police responded to a report of residents smoking marijuana in their apartment. Police spoke with the residents, who willingly gave up their marijuana. They were arrested.

**April 2** - Police spotted two individuals hanging out near a storage unit that had its lock cut off. The police officer found a large amount of methamphetamine in-

side the two individuals' car and arrested them.

**April 4** - Police stopped a vehicle for lack of insurance but smelled marijuana while talking to the female driver. Police searched the vehicle, confiscated marijuana and cited the female driver.

**April 6** - Orem police stopped a driver for failure to signal a lane change and discovered 30 pounds of methamphetamine in the speaker of the car. Police estimated its worth between \$250,000 and \$1.5 million.

**April 6** - Police stopped a male driver for lack of a license plate. Police searched the car and arrested the man for possession of LSD.

##### ASSAULT

**April 6** - A man reported being assaulted while leaving Costco. He was hit twice by another man's cart from behind while he was being receipt checked at the exit.

## Campus News



Kevin Stocks Milgard Corporate Social Responsibility Case Competition team Jeff Jenkins From left: Gaye Ray, Patricia Ravert, McKenzie Weir George Sugai

### IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF Engineering and Technology

The winning team for the 2018 Student Innovator of the Year competition created Portal, a device that opens doors automatically when a wheelchair user with the app is near a door. The team received a \$6,000 cash prize and plans to use the money to bring Portal to the mass market.

### MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF Business

Professor **Kevin Stocks** will retire

at the end of this semester after a 35-year career. Stocks has earned several awards, conducted extensive research and presented in countries around the world.

A team of Marriott School students won first place at the Milgard Corporate Social Responsibility Case Competition for the second year in a row. The team's winning presentation, pitched to Microsoft executives, focused on improving the implementation of AI in everyday uses.

Professor **Jeff Jenkins** was recently

named a winner of the AIS Early Career Award in Seoul, South Korea. Jenkins was one of five individuals to be honored for their contributions to the field of information systems.

### COLLEGE OF Nursing

The College of Nursing cohosted the Magic Yarn Project's largest ever wig workshop on March 17. More than 500 volunteers contributed to make 301 yarn wigs for child cancer patients. The DAISY Foundation recently acknowl-

edge assistant teaching professor **Gaye Ray** and nursing student **McKenzie Weir** for their compassionate service by the DAISY Foundation.

### DAVID O. MCKAY SCHOOL OF Education

University of Connecticut professor **George Sugai** presented at the McKay School's Benjamin Cluff Jr. Annual Lecture on March 22. Sugai discussed the importance of schools supporting the success of all students beyond academics.

# BYU students alleviate poverty through 'Brighten Africa'

By AUBURN REMINGTON

Several BYU students are working to alleviate poverty in Ghana by providing Ghanaians with data entry jobs and technical training.

BYU student Brighton Krisher founded Brighten Africa, a company that finds Ghanaians with basic computer skills, pays them to do data entry work for six hours a day and then teaches them higher level computer skills.

"We hope that as time goes on and people gain higher level web-development skills that we will also be able to provide jobs for them to do different programming, like front-end web development and things of that nature," Krisher said.

The seeds of the idea for Brighten Africa started growing while Krisher was serving an LDS mission in Ghana. During his mission, Krisher realized that although many Ghanaians were gaining education, there didn't seem to be enough jobs in Ghana for everyone, and many people were unemployed.

Then Krisher met and baptized a man named Augustine Boateng.

"Augustine had gone to college and after graduating was unable to find a job because the job market was bad within Ghana," Krisher said. "Because of this, he taught himself web development and was able to source jobs for himself from different places like America and Europe."

Krisher spoke with Augustine and asked him what he could do to give other Ghanaians a similar opportunity. After much discussion, Brighten Africa began with Augustine as the program manager.

"Currently, we are employing four Ghanaian citizens, and are hoping to bring on two more employees each month for the next six months, and we are really looking forward to being able to provide jobs," Krisher said.

BYU student Jeff Todd, another member of the Brighten Africa team, said he is proud Brighten Africa is able to pay its student employees much more than the Ghanaian minimum wage.

"We currently pay our students more than 50 percent above Ghanaian minimum wage for only six hours of work a day," Todd said. "On top of the social impact of higher wages our students earn, these students also receive great technical training in web development that will lead to far higher incomes in the future."

Brighten Africa is currently using the web to find various data entry jobs for its employees, but according to BYU student Whitney Larson, another member of the team, the company's goal is to work with businesses here in Utah to find data entry work.

"We want to let local businesses know that we have this service in Ghana that can get work done for like half the price you are paying someone to do



Brighten Africa

From left: Boone Christianson, Ashton Murray, Whitney Larson, Brighton Krisher and Jeff Todd – the Brighten Africa team – created the company to help alleviate poverty by providing Ghanaian citizens with data entry jobs and technical training.

it right now, and it is for a good cause," Larson said.

Krisher agreed. "Our goal is to build a pipeline between our company and local Utah and other U.S. companies so that we can reduce wages for the

U.S. companies but also provide jobs in the struggling Ghanaian economy," Krisher said.

Krisher and the rest of the team has big goals for the business and hope to continue to expand in the future.

"My dream would be to provide as many jobs as possible to alleviate poverty and to help people become self-reliant and to also one day provide a resource for those who are physically disabled to have jobs," Krisher said.

## TODAY

**UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL**  
Tuesday, April 10,  
11:05 a.m., Marriott Center

This event will also be broadcast to the JSB Auditorium.



**Elder Neil L. Andersen**

*Member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

Elder Neil L. Andersen was serving as the senior member of the Presidency of the Seventy prior to his calling to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in April 2009. He was named a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy in April 1993. He has led or helped oversee the work of the Church in Brazil, Mexico, Central America, and western Europe.

In addition, he supervised Church audiovisual production, including the filming of *The Testaments: Of One Fold and One Shepherd*, and managed construction of the broadcast facilities in the LDS Conference Center as the executive director of the Church Audiovisual Department.

Prior to his call as a General Authority, Elder Andersen served as a mission president in the France Bordeaux Mission and as president of the Tampa Florida Stake.

Elder Andersen graduated from Brigham Young University, where he was a Hinckley scholar, and earned a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University. After completing his education, he settled in Tampa, Florida, where his business interests included advertising, real estate development, and health care.

Elder Andersen and his wife, Kathy Williams Andersen, are the parents of four children.

Selected speeches available at [speeches.byu.edu](http://speeches.byu.edu)

## BYU landscaping values design, sustainability



BYU Photo

BYU student Leslie Stewart draws a landscape plan. Stewart placed first in the National Collegiate Landscaping Competition for her exterior landscape design.

By HANNAH LAFOND

Landscaping at BYU is not just about aesthetics.

BYU Grounds Director Glenl Wear said keeping the campus beautiful is important. However, in a state where drought is common, BYU Grounds also values the importance of sustainability.

According to Wear, BYU Grounds has a program it has been refining for the past three years in case there is a drought.

In a serious drought, BYU would maintain the shrubs and tree areas while only watering the grass once a month.

Wear said while watering once a month would not keep the lawn green, it would be enough to keep it alive so it will grow back once the drought has ended.

Wear also said BYU uses irrigation water for about 60 percent of campus landscaping, which saves millions of gallons of water each year. Though, he said if there was a drought, BYU would still have to do more to conserve water.

Anne Thomas, president of BYU's Earth Stewardship Club, said landscaping is one of the biggest private users of water.

"It may be worth re-examining how much we prioritize the appearance of landscaping when water is limited," Thomas said.

BYU's School of Landscape Management offers one of the top landscape-related programs. In fact, BYU students recently placed first in the National Collegiate Landscaping Competition for the second year in a row.

BYU earned the overall high score at the National Collegiate Landscaping Competition, and many BYU students received top individual results.

One of these students, Leslie Stewart, received first place for her work in the exterior landscape design competition.

Stewart found her love for landscaping after taking the residential landscape design class, PWS 103, at BYU.

"I love taking a list of needs and wants from a client and creating a design that is functional and beautiful," Stewart said.

An important part of making landscape functional is to be conscious of water use, especially in dry places like Utah, where lawn watering can be both expensive and detrimental.

Stewart said she encourages xeriscaping in an effort to conserve water. Xeriscaping is a landscaping style that requires less water. It usual involves less lawn and more native plants that can thrive with less water.

"We need to be conscious of how much water we use so we don't send ourselves into a massive drought," Stewart said.

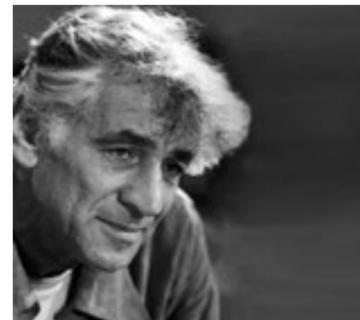
## BYU ARTS

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### BYU Philharmonic and Concert Choir

Happy 100th Leonard Bernstein! Featuring Overture to Candide, Three Dance Variations from *Fancy Free*, Chichester Psalms, & Prelude, Fugue, and Riffs Suite from *On the Waterfront*.

Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall



### Synthesis

The BYU School of Music's premier big band presents a program of swinging jazz standards.

Wed., Apr. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall



### BFA New York Showcase

Thurs.-Fri., Apr. 12-13,  
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Nelke Theatre

### The Taming of the Shrew

Thurs.-Sat., Apr. 12-14,  
7:30 p.m.  
Sat., Apr. 14, 2:00 p.m.  
Pardoe Theatre

### Wind Symphony

Fri., Apr. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall

Evening of Percussion  
Sat., Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall

University Chorale  
Tue., Apr. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall

The Tallis Scholars  
Wed., Apr. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall

All events are ticketed.

**BYUarts**

## Mammography screenings give peace of mind, save lives

By LAURIE BRADSHAW

Utah is among five states with the lowest mammography screening rates, according to a new study released by the Utah Women and Leadership Project.

The study highlighted the demographics of women who do and don't get mammogram screenings, the rates of breast cancer in Utah and a discussion on efforts to improve the number of mammography screenings in the state.

Dixie Severson, Director of Women's Services and Resources at BYU, said women may not get regular mammogram screenings because of a lack of support from family and friends. She added that regular screenings are incredibly important to women's health.

"Going in for a yearly mammogram empowers me," Severson said. "I know I am being proactive in taking care of my health, and it also gives me a sense of peace knowing I'm OK. Also, when breast cancer is diagnosed early, the possibility of having a

positive outcome is greater. To me, this makes going in for an annual mammogram screening a no-brainer."

Darcy Simmons, a Utah resident and BYU graduate, considers regular mammogram screenings to be incredibly important. Simmons admitted she went four years without a screening; she said the gap began while serving a senior LDS mission in Nauvoo. Since returning home, Simmons has returned to her regular yearly screening schedule.

"They aren't foolproof, but they do often save lives," Simmons said. "(They give) peace of mind, too."

Severson said Utah women can help improve the state's mammogram statistics by making mammograms a matter of conversation.

"Women need to start talking to women about mammograms," she said. "If you have daughters, granddaughters, sisters, friends, reach out to them. Tell them you love and care about them and you want them to have a mammogram screening. The billboards are great; however, it is the human factor that makes things happen."



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## Hindu BYU student embraces Mormon culture

By KATELYN STILES

Rishabh Sharma grew up in New Delhi, India, where about 81 percent of the population is Hindu, according to the 2011 India census.

But at BYU, Sharma represents a minority of students who aren't LDS. Despite this, he has found a way to live what he believes while making the most of his BYU experience.

Sharma is pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering with an emphasis in computational material science. Sharma said he came to BYU in 2016 to intern and do research with mechanical engineering professor David Fuller, which led to his decision to pursue graduate studies here.

When deciding where to get his master's degree, Sharma said he knew almost all BYU students are LDS, but it did not hold him back. He said the idea of living the Honor Code was never hard for him because he already lives the values it outlines.

"I am in line with the Honor Code because there are a lot of similarities between my culture, Hinduism and Mormonism," Sharma said. "Some similarities I've found in beliefs are chastity, no drinking and smoking, the sense of family and a lot of other things."

Sharma also said he has felt extremely welcomed by coworkers, classmates and people in his YSA ward.

"One thing that's great about my ward and people I'm working with is they do have different beliefs sometimes," Sharma said. "But they don't really impose their beliefs on me. I'm free to think what I want to think or whatever I want to believe or not believe."

Josh Fuller, a BYU



Katelyn Stiles

BYU graduate student Rishabh Sharma sits at his desk in an engineering lab in the basement of the Clyde Building.

student and one of Sharma's close friends, said he admires Sharma's standards.

"He follows all the (LDS) church standards with ease, and his reasoning is that living those standards makes you happy," Fuller said. "Basically, he loves getting to know and serving others, he is responsible and he is a great example of the BYU standards."

Sharma also said he loves to socialize and get to know people better, even though his schedule as a graduate student is crazy. Because of this, he attends activities, service projects and church with his ward.

Kirstin Smith, a member of Sharma's ward, said he not only socializes; he also organizes fun activities to get other people to socialize. She said he helped organize a lip sync battle with some friends.

"He is always really good at making people get together to do

things and be involved in planning activities," Smith said.

Many of his ward members said they are amazed by how active he has been, both socially and in the ward.

Fuller said Sharma goes to almost every ward activity, goes to church nearly every week and stays for all three hours, counsels with his bishop and is the first person to arrive at service projects.

Sharma's friend Kassidy Bowen said he is so immersed in the BYU culture that she could not have guessed he isn't LDS.

"For the first several weeks that I knew him, I just thought he was LDS because I'd see him at all the activities," Bowen said. "It's BYU. You just kind of assume."

Sharma's friends agreed he has never had a problem respecting their beliefs, even when they are different from his. Sharma said Hindus

don't have strict beliefs about which manifestation of god people should worship. They have many manifestations of god, and one can choose their preferred form of god to worship. To Sharma, Mormons worshipping their God is an example of another preferred manifestation.

Fuller said Sharma is not afraid to share his beliefs.

"He expresses that his beliefs are different from ours during meetings but makes comments when the topic is relevant to him," Fuller said. "For example, when we talk about family and parents, he has a lot to say."

Sharma's friend Anna Zapalac said she thinks the cultural differences make him unique.

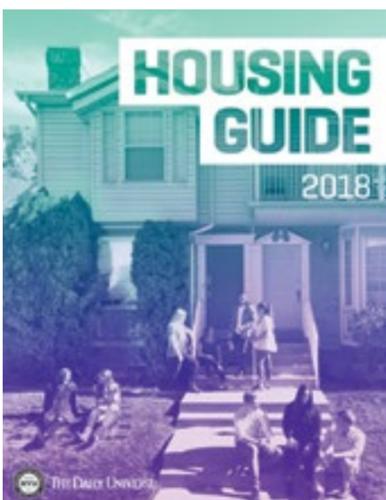
"He's diverse and he always offers such interesting viewpoints on life that Americans typically wouldn't hear," Zapalac said. "He makes life interesting."

One of these unique viewpoints is a belief in karma. Sharma explained that Hindus believe each person starts from the same place and "go up" according to their actions within their lifetime. He also said he believes in reincarnation.

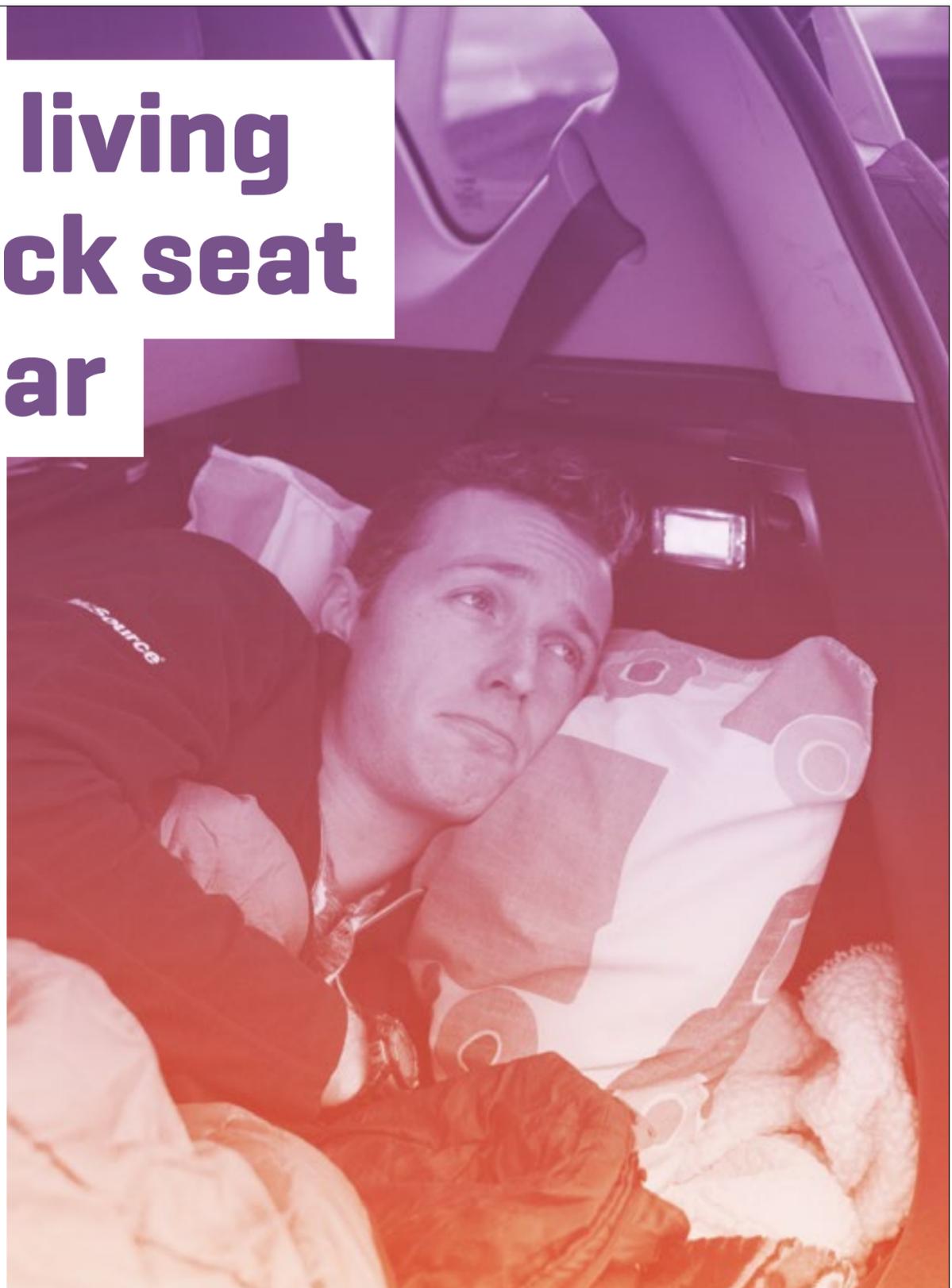
According to the textbook "Religions" by Philip Wilkinson, karma is the moral law of cause and effect. Wilkinson said Hindus believe it takes more than one lifetime to achieve perfection, so they look forward to reincarnation. An individual's karma contributes to how "good or bad" their next life will be.

"In a lifetime, a person cannot just do good or just do bad," Sharma said. "So, there are different outcomes of different actions. Everything adds up and, in the end, according to their karma, they get their result. You will get rewarded in your next life."

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# [ ISSUES & IDEAS ]



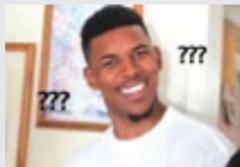
## Tweet Beat

#BYU #BYUprobs

Want to see your tweet in print? Tweet something about life around you with #BYUprobs or #BYU and hopefully it makes the cut.

Leave comments at universe.byu.edu or @UniverseBYU

@Tony\_lax\_flow



Heard this on the bus today: "yeah, we called the temple a week and a half after we first met." #BYU marriages #smh

@YouSweetThing

@HeardAtBYU  
"engaged couple"

Guy: I'm just saying that if we're getting married on May 4th we should celebrate! It's Star Wars day!

Girl: we are not doing Star Wars outfits.  
Guy: okay well obviously not to the temple, I mean they wouldn't let us in wearing those...

@laceyloohoo8

"If you think you have relationship problems, remember that my girlfriend is serving her mission in Orem." @HeardAtBYU

@geneticwitch

"I don't know how people do it." "Do what?" "Anything." @HeardAtBYU

@AllredCash

"She kissed me and I didn't know what to do. All I could say afterward was: 'Thanks Pal...'" @HeardAtBYU

@lannadanielle

girl 1: do you have any melatonin?  
girl 2: no, sorry. I'm really white  
well I guess melanin and melatonin sound similar @HeardAtBYU

@tayjanetay

Replying to @ByCommonConsent  
When I was a kid I left a Book of Mormon under my pillow along with my tooth for the tooth fairy. I also left a note explaining why I hoped she would convert. 🙄

@mad\_dawwwg

"talking about their wedding registry" "Haha, yeah...I put a 3D printer on my registry too." @HeardAtBYU

@SpencerGeilman

I'm pretty sure Satan invented calculus and accounting @HeardAtBYU

@elisabethcupp

American heritage professor:  
"Do you guys date still? The impression I get is you guys text and then get married" @HeardAtBYU

@thelovehelpguy

Does ministering look like a romantic dinner for two at the new Italian place in town? #ministering @HeardAtBYU

@LauraEliz09

"Man, don't they know they need to restock the chocolate milk everyday?!" @HeardAtBYU

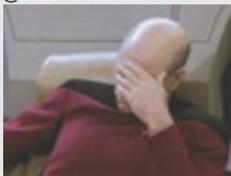
@megkgeo

"Before I came to college I thought everyone else knew everything. Turns out, nobody knows anything." @HeardAtBYU

@LauraEliz09

"BYU may not have spring break, but they have free counseling!" @HeardAtBYU

@BlakeScullin

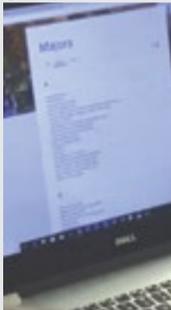


"My friend served their mission in Brazil" "oh cool did they speak Brazilian?" @HeardAtBYU

@lexi\_torg

It's not enough that Provo is always under construction, but now they have to start this on campus. Ya girl is just tryna get to a bathroom in the SKWT 🙄

@cioaonk



Sitting in a weed out Engineering class like

Tweets are unedited

## [ READERS' FORUM ]

### Thank you

To two Good Samaritans:

On March 22, I received a call from my brother pleading for help. This young man's fiancée had just broken off their engagement, and he had just hit soul-crushing rock bottom. It took me 10 minutes to get to him, but when I got there, I saw that two young students had stopped and were trying to comfort him. I am so thankful they did. I do not know if I could have done it by myself.

I am glad to tell you two he is doing well again. Both he and his fiancée had been under an enormous amount of stress, and the fallout surfaced with an intensity that shocked both of them. It was a rough couple of days for them, but they each made the independent decision that they wanted to make their relationship work. Their engagement is moving forward again. Seeing the way they are talking with each other, I suspect they'll get through it. Thank you both for taking 15 minutes out of your busy schedules to help a soul in need. I could not have gotten him through that critical moment without your help.

— Anonymous

### Purchase of a lifetime

Today, it is easy to buy items you can't afford. With a quick signature you can have the purchase of your dreams — but at what cost? Borrowing money can turn a purchase of a lifetime into a lifetime purchase. Once a quick, easy way to get more money now becomes a long, uphill slope to get out of debt.

Last year, U.S. household debt was over \$13 trillion. Although there are some benefits to credit cards and loans in making purchases, many don't understand what they are getting into and become slaves to interest. Young people need to be educated on how to properly manage their money. Marketing and media help convince the consumer their life won't be the same without something. Educating people to better handle their money will improve the average American's quality of life.

The solution is to educate students in high school about personal finance. Schools should require personal finance courses to teach students to handle their resources and to understand appropriate times to borrow money. Students will graduate with a better understanding of the consequences of debt and will make better financial decisions. Because the best way to get out of debt is to never go into debt at all.

— Robert Crofts  
Ogden, Utah

### Mutual mindset

Picture this: it's 1985. You have no car and no smart phone, but you do have a date with a different girl in your ward each weekend. Not long ago, this was the norm of meeting people. So, what's the norm today? Many changes in society and technology make it not so simple.

College students suggest a new norm for dating: the Mutual app. Mutual allows you to connect with other single adults around you, yet many college students are embarrassed to admit they use Mutual.

However, because boys aren't asking every girl in their ward out on dates anymore, there must be an alternative approach to meeting people. Using this app simply facilitates the creation of new relationships in a technological era. It also isn't exclusively applied to romantic relationships but on a friendship level as well.

In a changing time, we must embrace a new mindset toward dating apps like Mutual. Rather than shaming those who "stooped low enough" to download Mutual, view it as a new avenue towards the same goal. Instead of looking down on Mutual, start swiping up!

— Erin Cook, Spanish Fork, Utah  
Cole Ballard, Las Vegas, Nevada

### BYU testing environment

BYU has an ineffective test-taking environment. The testing center has a distracting atmosphere, proctors interrupting focus and increased levels of anxiety. These issues affect test performance. To promote students' success, surroundings must be conducive to test taking.

Students experience the opposite in the Heber J. Grant building because of distraction. There are endless pages turning, doors opening and beeping as exams are checked out. With proctors walking up and down each row to monitor exams, distractions increase. Although proctors help to enforce the Honor Code, they interrupt students' focus and do more harm than good.

Students who attend BYU work extremely hard to maintain good grades while staying involved in extracurricular activities. Why, then, are students required to find time outside of class, within a limited period, to take exams? This is exactly our point and why we would like to make a change. Please consider our plea to changing the way exams are taken at BYU.

— James Baird, Barstow, California  
Elizabeth Nemelka, Provo, Utah  
Bailee Arnett, Mesa, Arizona  
Natalie Bascom, Cummings, Georgia

## [ OPINION OUTPOST ]

The Opinion Outpost features opinions and commentary on the latest hot topics from national news sources.

### Trump's fake news

When the president calls every piece of information he does not like "fake news," he also encourages politicians in other countries who are not constrained by constitutional free speech protections or independent judiciaries to more aggressively squelch the press. They know that there will be little international condemnation of their actions because one of the most important standard bearers for a free press — the American government — is led by a man trying to discredit the free press.

— Editorial Board  
The New York Times

### Amazon

Trump has frequently taken aim at CNN parent company Time Warner, and his Justice Department is challenging its proposed merger with AT&T. And lately he has grown fixated

with Amazon, claiming several times this week, as he has before, that it pays too little in taxes and gets too good a deal from the U.S. Postal Service. Any other administration would see the AT&T-Time Warner merger as unobjectionable. And any other administration would see Amazon for what it is, a phenomenally innovative and disruptive business that generally plays by the rules, pays its taxes, and provides something of a lifeline for a troubled postal service.

— Editorial Board  
USA Today

### Senate

The Senate ought to be holding freewheeling and difficult debates on immigration reform, hashing out the details of a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, bill that each side professes to support. It ought to be debating a federal budget, with all the necessary, honest give-and-take around worries about deficits and a mounting national debt. Instead, it does little. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., told Politico, "There's a lot of weeks I'm not sure why I show

up." And the public may be wondering why it pays the salaries and attendant costs for this.

— Editorial Board  
Deseret News

### Dangers of vaping

It is time that the FDA took seriously the hazardous risks of vaping, listening to parents and educators who need market regulations to limit access to e-cigarettes among youths who can easily purchase devices online. In the meantime, schools and advocacy groups should continue to do essential consciousness-raising work among youths and their parents to the dangers of vaping. ... Parents, school administrators and government officials should apply the same advocacy tactics to stop this new nicotine-fueled phenomenon.

— Editorial Board  
Deseret News

### Trump's border plan

President Trump escalated his verbal fusillade against immigrants this week by

announcing a foolish plan to deploy troops along the Mexican border. Such a move has at best a tenuous basis in law and none in logic, and it will burn through federal funds better spent elsewhere.

— Editorial Board  
The New York Times

### Syria

The situation in war-fractured Syria remains hideously complex. Trump is correct that neighboring Arab nations should help defray the costs of stabilization. But he'd be wrong to telegraph U.S. intentions by putting an artificial timetable on withdrawal,

something he has roundly criticized his predecessor for doing in other circumstances.

— Editorial Board  
USA Today

### Background checks

... It has recently been reported that a relatively small number of crucial bits of information that were supposed to be fed into state and federal databases by a couple of Utah state agencies were accidentally omitted due to a technical glitch that apparently occurred when the system was updated. ... The goof only involved people who would be banned from gun purchases due to mental

competency issues. It did not affect the much larger number of people who belong on the list due to felony convictions.

— Editorial Board  
The Salt Lake Tribune

### Domestic violence

Domestic violence is a scourge. It takes advantage of vulnerable women and children, mostly. Sometimes men are victims, of course, but few times is there a power imbalance such that a man fears violence from a woman. And that is the crux of domestic violence — fear and power.

— Editorial Board  
The Salt Lake Tribune

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Universe encourages students, faculty and BYU staff to add their voice to ours by writing letters to the editor and guest editorials, or by submitting editorial cartoons.

- All letters should be submitted by email to universe.ideas@gmail.com. The topic of the letter should be included in the subject line.
- Letters should also include the author's name, hometown (for students), campus position (for faculty and staff) and phone number. Anonymous letters will

not be published.

- Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity or style.
- Guest editorials should be 500 to 700 words and are encouraged from individuals with professional or academic expertise on the topic.
- Original cartoons are also welcome.

Opinion editor Camille Baker can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

## Football spring camp concludes with rainy scrimmage



Freshman Zach Wilson scrambles to evade defenders in BYU football's spring scrimmage April 7. Wilson threw for 29 yards and rushed for 25 in the practice game.

By CALEB TURNER

The rain and cooler temperatures did not stop thousands of BYU football fans from attending the team's annual spring scrimmage Saturday, April 7, at LaVell Edwards Stadium. The players made it worth it for the crowd, giving them a first glance at Jeff Grimes' new offense and the surplus of talent at quarterback.

"We probably should have practiced in the rain a little bit more, but there were some things I was pleased with," said coach Kalani Sitake. "I thought discipline wise, the offense did a lot of hard counts today. We had more success offensively then we have had in the past."

The battle for starting signal caller has been the talk of spring practices this year, with seven of them on the roster and each with a unique and tempting skillset.

Only five of them played during the full 11-on-11 scrimmage, with just three playing multiple possessions: Joe Critchlow, Beau Hoge and Zach Wilson.

Tanner Mangum, last year's starter, participated in pre-scrimmage drills and some 7-on-7 but told BYUtv's Jarom Jordan he still has a few weeks to go before being fully healthy and game-ready.

Critchlow started the scrimmage for the offense and almost immediately threw a 40-yard pass for the highlight of the day.

The intended target was junior receiver Micah Simon, who made the

acrobatic one-handed catch to complete the play.

Critchlow and Simon connected on several plays during the scrimmage, giving hope to BYU fans who lacked a consistent quarterback-receiver tandem to cheer for last season.

Critchlow finished the scrimmage with 130 yards — over 100 more than any other quarterback — on 9-for-12 passing and also found the end zone once. The performance may come as a surprise to many who saw Hoge, and even possibly Wilson, as the front-runner for the starting position with Mangum still out.

Hoge was the second quarterback to see action and showed off some of his dual-threat qualities with a scramble and a few solid throws, as well. He also threw a near-interception that someone landed in the hands of Inoke Lotulelei.

Wilson took over on the third possession, rushing for a few plays and threw a few double-digit yard passes to Neil Pau'u and Brayden El-Bakri.

Wilson was the breakout star of spring ball, along with fellow freshman running back Zach Katoa. Both performed composed and consistently at a high level for their lack of college experience.

Katoa led the running backs in total yards in the scrimmage with 86, but was not able to find the end zone.

Baylor Romney and Stacy Conner each played just one possession at quarterback, with no notable plays to make them stand out in the crowded race.

Running back Squally Canada was

the star of the spring scrimmage, after sitting out of several practices last month with sickness and injury.

Canada scored three touchdowns during the practice game and was the go-to option in the run game for BYU's offense.

Offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes elected to guide the scrimmage from the press box, while his assistants communicated with players from the sideline.

"I certainly like the view and the ability to think in a calm, serene atmosphere, but I certainly don't like not being with the guys," Grimes said. As for whether he'll coach from the field or the press box in the future, he said the decision will be made after talking with the coaching staff.

Looking forward, the team and staff now prepare for fall camp in July, when they hope to establish a clear depth chart and culture for this year's squad.

"Guys are willing to be coached, willing to work hard, but we aren't where we need to be yet," Grimes said. "I think our culture is moving towards what we want, and with a good summer and fall camp I believe we will be there."

Sitake did not specify the current pecking order for quarterbacks but did confirm that Mangum will be ready in the coming weeks.

"Tanner Mangum is really close to going live. He will join the competition in the summer at player-run practices," Sitake said. "We would like to establish a depth chart in the position groups (during fall camp) and see what happens."

## No. 21 gymnastics wraps up 2018 season at NCAA regionals

By COURTNEY TIETJEN

No. 21 BYU gymnastics took fourth place at NCAA regionals Saturday, April 7, at the Huntsman Center in Salt Lake City. The Cougars wrapped up their season with a 196.300 score, the highest ever in program history at regionals.

"We just came out and did BYU gymnastics," said coach Guard Young. "To come out strong on bars and permeate all the way around all of our events was great. I'm sad our season is over but super happy with how we performed."

The meet was Young's third NCAA regional appearance coaching at BYU, and the team's 27th regional competition overall.

The University of Utah placed first, followed by California in second, Auburn third, Stanford fifth, and Southern Utah in sixth.

BYU sophomore Shannon Evans qualified for the national championship after scoring 9.900 on the bars. Teammate Jill van Mierlo also set a career high with an overall score of 39.400, putting her in fifth place for individuals scores at the regional meet.



Shannon Evans celebrates after receiving a 9.900 on bars at regionals in Salt Lake City. Evans was the only Cougar to qualify for nationals.

Cougar coach Brogan Evanson was named one of three Regional Assistant Coaches of the Year by the NACGC/W. BYU started its rotation with a bye, followed by bars, beam, another bye, floor and finished on the vault.

The first three gymnasts on the beam for BYU — Hill, Miller and Marsh — all scored a 9.800 or above.

Freshman Abby Boden impressed with her beam routine, earning a score of 9.985.

The Cougars were strong on their floor routines, with Jill Van Mierlo setting a season and career-high of 9.900.

A couple of strong individual performances were not enough to lift the whole team, however, and the program's best season this decade came to an end.

BYU was ranked in the top 25 the entire season and proved to be a force to be reckoned with in the future.



BYU Photo

Cosmo poses with BYU quarterback Gifford Nielsen in August 1977. The original costume shown here did not allow Cosmo to perform the acrobatic tricks and stunts he now showcases.

## COSMO

### History of beloved mascot

Continued from Page 1

Summers recalled one of his favorite memories as Cosmo at the rivalry basketball game against the University of Utah in December 2003.

"There was a timeout where both Swoop and Cosmo were on stilts, walking around trying to get their fan base loud. Cosmo was shooting some T-shirts in the stands but decided instead to fire a T-shirt directly at Swoop," Summers recalled. "The T-shirt hit Swoop directly in the face, and Swoop fell from the stilts and landed on the court. That was the loudest applause I have witnessed at a basketball game."

### Modern Cosmo

In 2017, Cosmo received huge publicity when he danced with the Cougarettes during halftime of the football game against Boise State. They did a collaboration to the song, "Rolex" by Ayo and Teo.

After the song, the entire LaVell Edwards Stadium erupted and the iconic performance went viral.

Cougarettes coach Jodi Maxfield elaborated on the collaboration and what she looks for in Cosmo.

"It has to be someone who can pick up choreography and can keep up with the Cougarettes, quite frankly," Maxfield said. "It didn't happen a lot in that past, but we happened to collaborate with this individual who wears the Cosmo costume."

Maxfield said much time was spent in preparation leading up to the performance on the field.

"The Cougarettes came up with the music, my captains did the choreography and sent it to (Cosmo) in a video so he could learn it and then come in and rehearse with the Cougarettes," Maxfield said. "The rest was history after that."

When asked if there were any

concerns with Cosmo performing the dance, Maxfield said, "Everyone loves Cosmo. We knew that going into this collaboration. I told the dancers, 'Be prepared to be upstaged by him.'"

On Jan. 27, the Cougarettes once again performed with Cosmo and the original artists, Ayo and Teo, during halftime at the BYU-Pacific basketball game.

The Marriott Center was packed, and the performance didn't disappoint.

They originally tried to schedule the performance during the football season but couldn't find a game when Ayo and Teo were available.

"We put it on hold for a little bit but they really wanted to come here to Provo to perform," Maxfield said. "It was a lot of fun and we made it work. We knew it was going to be huge."

In addition to the Cougarettes, Cosmo regularly collaborates and performs with the BYU Dunk Team, where he shows off more acrobatic and challenging tricks.

"Cosmo brings a lot of skills to this team," said dunk team member Charlie Bird. "He brings out a lot of creativity and team unity because we all have to work together. We are always telling him to do this, try that — we are always bouncing ideas off of each other."

Beyond the dunks and tricks, the team admires the impact Cosmo has on the community, bringing joy into people's lives.

"Cosmo brings a lot of light to everyone he comes into contact with," said teammate Sayre Stewart. "It's something that is really special to watch. Cosmo is more than just a mascot; he brings joy to a lot of people who are sick, struggling or having a hard time."

They added that Cosmo can go from entertaining thousands at a sporting event to focusing on the individual when visiting children in hospitals.

"Cosmo always says that it's all about making each individual person happy," Stewart said. "Cosmo is everyone's best friend, he acts like that all the time. He is everyone's personal mascot."

## No. 4 men's volleyball clinches MPSF regular season title

By MELISSA WISE

The BYU men's volleyball team clinched the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation regular-season title by sweeping Pepperdine (25-20, 25-17, 25-14) on April 5, but then got swept by UCLA (25-21, 25-23, 25-22) just two days later.

The loss to the Bruins dropped BYU two positions to No. 4 in the most recent rankings. UCLA is now No. 2 and Pepperdine, No. 5.

At Pepperdine, the Cougars were led by Brenden Sander, who had 11 kills on a .429 clip. Leo Durkin set the team with 27 assists and Wil Stanley served a career-high four aces in the 3-0 win.

"This was an impressive team performance tonight," coach Shawn Olmstead said. "We served tough and kept Pepperdine out of their system. I'm proud of our focus from start to finish."

BYU's loss in the regular season finale at UCLA, came despite 14 kills from Gabi Garcia Fernandez and nine kills from Storm Fa'agata-Tufuga.

Olmstead attributed the loss to poor execution on BYU's part, but is hopeful for what the post-season holds.

"We just want to keep improving so that we can get better and better, especially as the end of the season nears," Olmstead said.

BYU's weekend ended on a high note, however, as Brenden Sander was named the March National Player of the Month. This award is highly deserved, as Sander had 20 kills and a .375 attack percentage against two nationally ranked teams, and also finished with double-digit kills in six matches and 15 aces during the month.

BYU will host the MPSF semifinals and championship at the Smith Fieldhouse, starting on Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. MDT. The Cougars go in as the No. 1 seed with their opponents yet to be named.

**Dilbert®**

**HOW CONSPIRACY THEORIES START**  
I CAN'T FIND MY SPREADSHEET FILES.

**HOW CONSPIRACY THEORIES HAPPEN**  
I THINK DILBERT IS TRYING TO RUIN MY CAREER.

I SAW DILBERT GOING INTO THE SERVER ROOM.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANY... CAROL SAID HE WAS MAD ABOUT SOMETHING YOU SAID.

CAROL SAID HE WAS MAD ABOUT SOMETHING I SAID, AND HE WAS IN THE SERVER ROOM RIGHT BEFORE I LOST MY FILES.

THIS MORNING HE SAID HE HAD WORK TO DO. OMG, HE ALREADY STARTED THE COVER-UP.

CONTINUED...

**Pickles®**

OH! FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

WHY THE HECK ARE THEY PLAYING THESE STUPID CHRISTMAS COMMERCIALS IN APRIL?!

BECAUSE YOU'RE WATCHING A PROGRAM WE RECORDED IN DECEMBER.

STUPID RECORDED PROGRAM!

WHAT'S THAT THING? IT'S A ROBOT VACUUM.

I BOUGHT IT AT A GARAGE SALE FOR \$10. THEY SAID IT WORKS.

WHY WERE THEY GETTING RID OF IT? I DON'T KNOW.

THEY SAID IT HAD A QUIRKY PERSONALITY, WHATEVER THAT MEANS.

**Garfield®**

SALAD'S READY!

GARFIELD?

SALAD'S READY! I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THAT INFORMATION.

POOKY, I UNDERSTAND THAT JON PUT YOU IN THE WASHING MACHINE AGAIN, WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

HE DOESN'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

**Zits®**

I THINK MY CAT LIKES YOU, JEREMY.

YEAH, HE'S COOL.

MAYBE I SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTING A CAT.

DO THEY SHED MUCH? SOME...

SO ANWAY, I WAS THINKING--

JEREMY DUNCAN! FEMINIST, FUTURE ROCK IDOL AND TOTALLY WOKE DUDE!

SERIOUSLY? A POP-UP AD?? I'M JUST TRYING TO STRENGTHEN MY BRAND.

**Non Sequitur®**

WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE TOUR, CHILDREN! NOW BEFORE WE BEGIN, EVERYONE NEEDS TO SIGN A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT...

SURE, IT'S A BIT OF AN INVASIVE PLANT, BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY COMPLAINTS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS.

**Peanuts®**

HERE... YOU GOT A LETTER FROM MISS HELEN SWEETSTORY...

MISS HELEN SWEETSTORY, AUTHOR OF "THE SIX BUNNY-LUNNIES AND THEIR LAYOVER IN ANDERSON, INDIANA," ISN'T SHE?

MISS HELEN SWEETSTORY TOUCHED THIS ENVELOPE WITH HER HANDS! THIS IS TOO MUCH!

YOU GOT A LETTER FROM HELEN SWEETSTORY?

SHE'S THE AUTHOR OF "THE SIX BUNNY-LUNNIES AND THEIR LAYOVER IN ANDERSON, INDIANA," ISN'T SHE?

MAY I READ HER LETTER? I SHOULD SAY NOT!

WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU THAT SHOULD BE SUCH A SECRET? YOU'D BE SURPRISED SWEETIE!

**Sudoku**

Use the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column and marked grid of 9. Puzzles increase in difficulty from left to right. Solutions are at [universe.byu.edu/sudoku](http://universe.byu.edu/sudoku).

	1							8
2		6	8					1
	8	9	5					
	9	7	3	5				2
	4	8	9	7				
	7	1	4	2				5
	1	5	8					
9		3	6					7
8								3

			7	3				
	1	8	2	5	6	7		
	4		8			2		
4	2					5	1	
		7				9		
9	8					6	2	
	5		6			9		
7	6	9		2	3	8		
			4	8				

8	4					9	1	
3			5				8	
			1	9				
	2	9	8	6				
	3					7		
	9	5	1	4				
	6	5						
1		9				6		
7	5					2	3	

								4
	1						7	
						2	3	9
			6					7
			7	4				8
		9	2					8
			3	7	1			
6			8					
7								5

**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0305

**ACROSS**

- Snake charmer's snake
- Pushy
- Coquettishly playful
- First zodiac sign
- Highway
- Network of medical providers, in brief
- Country bumpkin's counterpart
- Oil-drilling apparatus
- Weed-whacking tool
- Assists
- Prius maker
- Following
- From Shanghai or Mumbai, say
- Woman having literary interests
- Hosts for roasts

**DOWN**

- Carried the day
- Corporate head, for short
- Group choosing a 35-Across
- Smucker's product
- Grew ashen
- Hit on the head
- Ad exhortation
- Solitary sorts
- Pompous person
- Usually spicy Indian dish
- Disheveled
- Lou on six winning World Series teams
- Soup can painter Warhol
- Motorists' org.
- "How doing?"
- Know-it-all
- Smith & Wesson product

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

T	A	P	E	D	S	T	A	R	A	S	P		
S	P	A	C	E	L	A	K	E	D	U	E		
A	P	R	O	N	A	R	I	S	T	O	T		
L	A	N	G	S	T	O	N	H	U	G	H		
J	E	D	V	E	T	A	R	S	O	N	S		
O	P	I	A	T	E	A	P	T	R	A	Y		
S	I	G	M	U	N	D	F	R	E	U	D		
H	E	M	E	N	I	D	I	R	O	T	F		
S	A	L	V	A	D	O	R	D	A	L	I		
E	M	U	R	A	E	B	O	O	M	E	D		
M	O	S	C	O	W	A	H	I	A	W	S		
E	V	E	R	L	Y	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S
R	E	D	A	L	E	R	T	S	A	X	I	O	M
G	R	U	B	R	I	S	E	M	E	N	L	O	
E	S	P	S	O	Y	S	M	S	D	O	S		

**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0305

**ACROSS**

- French clerics
- Resource in the Mesabi Range
- Lacking any tread
- Florida's Key
- Hit center
- Official state sport of Wyoming
- Forced walk with arms pinned behind the back
- Relating to element #76
- Something "lost" in the highest-grossing movie of 1981
- Precalculator calculators
- Grace under pressure
- "Hogwash!"
- Hit 2000 animated film set on a farm
- Specialties
- State with conviction
- Test, as 6-Across
- Seriously injure
- Moines, Iowa
- Core-strengthening exercise performed on all fours
- Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
- Commend
- Swine
- Muss, as the hair
- Young raptor
- Old ragtime dance
- Cockney greeting
- Courtyards
- Trickled
- Bit of a draft?
- Fire department V.I.P.
- Straight-kneed military movement
- Any of eight English kings
- "Barbara..." (Beach Boys hit)
- Hunger for
- Physics units
- "Get it?"
- Propelled a boat

**DOWN**

- Cattle or horse feed
- New York's Spanish Harlem and others
- Employees at Re/Max and Coldwell Banker
- Bad thing to have on one's face
- "Brave New World" drug
- Who said "I'm black. I don't feel burdened by it.... It's part of who I am. It does not define me"
- Christina who played Wednesday Addams
- Honesty and hard work, e.g.
- Particles in quantum mechanics
- Looked up to
- Sports & (Trivial Pursuit category)
- Museum guides
- Borders of boxing rings
- Some kindergarten instruction
- Attack as Hamlet did Polonius
- Sutra

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

H	A	Z	Y	B	R	E	C	H	T	E	C	O
O	R	E	O	M	U	L	L	A	H	C	O	X
S	T	A	Y	S	I	N	S	I	D	E	U	R
L	O	W	T	A	C	O	S	T	A	N	D	
T	H	O	M	A	S	N	O	I	D	E	A	
H	I	T	A	N	E	R	V	E	U	B	O	A
Y	D	S	R	E	I	N	T	E	R	S	E	
S	T	R	E	P	O	N	A	T				
T	H	A	N	I	W	A	C	O	T	E	X	A
A	R	A	M	A	D	A	S	A	I	L	E	D
M	O	R	S	E	C	O	D	E	L	T	R	
I	W	O	M	S	I	C	S	C	H	O	O	L
N	O	D	I	T	H	A	C	A	E	S	S	O
A	N	S	C	E	A	S	E	D	R	E	S	T

**PUZZLE BY LYNN LEMPEL**

- ...-do-well
- Mount Olympus residents
- Subsides
- No longer relevant
- Historical account
- Monkeys named for monks
- Skip
- Hindu-inspired exercise
- "Peanuts" boy with a security blanket
- Shaggy Tibetan beast
- Cab company competitor
- Elemental bit
- Persuades
- Card game stake
- Ingmar who directed "The Seventh Seal"
- Lucky (nickname for the Spirit of St. Louis pilot)
- Monkeys named for monks
- Children's writer Blume
- Looney Tunes character who says "Th-th-th-that's all, folks!"
- Dev who starred in 2016's "Lion"
- One of the five senses
- Infatuated
- Birds on Australian coins
- Operatic solo
- Cleaned one's plate
- Santa winds

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**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0306

**ACROSS**

- French clerics
- Resource in the Mesabi Range
- Lacking any tread
- Florida's Key
- Hit center
- Official state sport of Wyoming
- Forced walk with arms pinned behind the back
- Relating to element #76
- Something "lost" in the highest-grossing movie of 1981
- Precalculator calculators
- Grace under pressure
- "Hogwash!"
- Hit 2000 animated film set on a farm
- Specialties
- State with conviction
- Test, as 6-Across
- Seriously injure
- Moines, Iowa
- Core-strengthening exercise performed on all fours
- Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
- Commend
- Swine
- Muss, as the hair
- Young raptor
- Old ragtime dance
- Cockney greeting
- Courtyards
- Trickled
- Bit of a draft?
- Fire department V.I.P.
- Straight-kneed military movement
- Any of eight English kings
- "Barbara..." (Beach Boys hit)
- Hunger for
- Physics units
- "Get it?"
- Propelled a boat

**DOWN**

- Cattle or horse feed
- New York's Spanish Harlem and others
- Employees at Re/Max and Coldwell Banker
- Bad thing to have on one's face
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- Who said "I'm black. I don't feel burdened by it.... It's part of who I am. It does not define me"
- Christina who played Wednesday Addams
- Honesty and hard work, e.g.
- Particles in quantum mechanics
- Looked up to
- Sports & (Trivial Pursuit category)
- Museum guides
- Borders of boxing rings
- Some kindergarten instruction
- Attack as Hamlet did Polonius
- Sutra

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

H	A	Z	Y	B	R	E	C	H	T	E	C	O
O	R	E	O	M	U	L	L	A	H	C	O	X
S	T	A	Y	S	I	N	S	I	D	E	U	R
L	O	W	T	A	C	O	S	T	A	N	D	
T	H	O	M	A	S	N	O	I	D	E	A	
H	I	T	A	N	E	R	V	E	U	B	O	A
Y	D	S	R	E	I	N	T	E	R	S	E	
S	T	R	E	P	O	N	A	T				
T	H	A	N	I	W	A	C	O	T	E	X	A
A	R	A	M	A	D	A	S	A	I	L	E	D
M	O	R	S	E	C	O	D	E	L	T	R	
I	W	O	M	S	I	C	S	C	H	O	O	L
N	O	D	I	T	H	A	C	A	E	S	S	O
A	N	S	C	E	A	S	E	D	R	E	S	T

**PUZZLE BY BRUCE GREIG**

- Hurricane's center
- Balcony section
- Clogged (up)
- Noninvasive diagnostic procedure, for short
- Honesty and hard work, e.g.
- Particles in quantum mechanics
- Looked up to
- Sports & (Trivial Pursuit category)
- Museum guides
- Borders of boxing rings
- Some kindergarten instruction
- Attack as Hamlet did Polonius
- Sutra
- Embassy worker ... or something that worker might carry
- Wind that typically brings warmer air
- Operating smoothly, as an engine
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, for a record 19 times
- Take over for
- Super G competitors
- Like lettuce, spinach and kale
- French summers
- Coverage of senators in ancient Rome?
- Overtime news exec Arledge
- O3
- Art
- Mme., in Madrid

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# BYU students share impact of Arabic study abroad on faith, religion, politics

By LILIAN WHITNEY

Five times a day voices raised in prayer echo across the city on loudspeakers. The rhythmic chants of worship bounce across stone walls and streets of bustling passersby and guards. The busy city stops as devout Muslims kneel in prayer.

Hearing the daily call to prayer was one of Amanda Solomon's favorite rituals during her time studying Arabic in Jordan last semester.

Solomon, a junior at BYU studying Middle Eastern studies and Arabic, participated in BYU's Jordan Intensive Arabic program last fall. BYU's Arabic Section Head in the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages Kirk Belnap runs the program, which allowed 33 BYU students to study Arabic while living in Amman, the capital of Jordan.

"BYU graduates more advanced-level speakers than any other school in the country," Belnap said. "That's partly a function of the fact we put more students into a rigorous semester abroad than anyone else. This is an intensive program, and people really respond to that. They really work hard, and we have a great time."

The program's rigorous schedule includes intensive Arabic language and culture classes during the day, as well as private language tutoring sessions and an additional two hours of Arabic language practice with native speakers.

Solomon and other BYU students volunteered several times a week at the Collateral Repair Project Refugee Center, teaching elementary and middle school boys ranging from 8 to 13 years old. Many of the youths were recently displaced from Iraq and Syria.

BYU students played games, conducted science experiments and even taught yoga and meditation to refugee children. Connecting with Arab youths allowed the students to improve their language skills and create enduring friendships across cultures.

## Faith in Jordan

Jordan's faith-filled culture had a large impact on the students.

Amman has one LDS Arab branch and one expatriate branch. BYU students attended the Arabic branch during their stay in Jordan. Solomon said there were usually 10 to 15 people in the Arabic branch.

The expatriate branch is somewhat larger and is composed of individuals from many countries, including Americans working for the embassy and individuals from the Philippines. Many Arab members found the LDS Church while living abroad or through family members.

"It was amazing to see how (members) brought their Arab culture and their Middle Eastern heritage to the church and how those came together and strengthened each other," Solomon said. "Seeing the way that the church is still growing in the Middle East ... emphasized to me that God has love for all of his children."

Solomon said one misconception many students have is that Muslims and Mormons do not worship the same God. This couldn't be further from the truth, as Muslims and Mormons worship the same God and have many similar beliefs, Solomon said.

"The Middle East is so misunderstood, but it's a lot closer to us than we realize, especially in religion," Solomon said. "We both have really strong principles of fasting and prayer and



Amanda Solomon

Amanda Solomon gets a kiss from a friendly camel in Wadi Rum, Jordan. Solomon found many similarities between Islam and Mormonism while living in Jordan.

family togetherness. The family is super important (in Muslim culture)."

While seeing the suffering of refugees and Jordanians was difficult, Solomon said it provided her the opportunity to trust in God's plan.

"Seeing them and their lives — they don't know where they will end up — that was hard to see," Solomon said. "I had to pray about it, and I still don't have an answer as to why that happens to some people. But I know that God knows they are there, and he feels their pain more acutely than I do. He is aware of them."

## Politics amidst crisis

For BYU student Jonathan

Lifferth, a Middle Eastern studies and Arabic major, insight into the political conflict surrounding Jordan made the study abroad experience particularly meaningful.

While Jordan is fraught with political tensions, Lifferth said the majority of his interactions with Arabs were positive. Many Jordanians told students that while they do not agree with current American policy, they still embraced the U.S. students as friends.

Lifferth said he began his study abroad experience in Jordan with three political and social questions: How are women treated in the Middle East? How is same-gender attraction addressed? Is

anti-Semitism prevalent?

"There are strong gender roles, but I was impressed with how many women have access to education," Lifferth said. "Around 60 percent of college graduates in Jordan are women. Many of them told me that they don't feel pressure to conform or stay at home. They feel free to pursue their educations, and they don't wear hijab if they don't want to."

Lifferth said homosexuality is a topic many people do not feel comfortable discussing.

"There is a lot of social pressure against it, and it is very culturally taboo," Lifferth said.

The majority of Jordanians said they do not identify as anti-Semites, Lifferth found. Rather, Lifferth said Jordanians respect Jews as a race and a religion. It is the state of Israel that Jordanians dislike.

Living in the center of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict taught Lifferth to be hesitant before making judgments about people or drawing conclusions about situations.

"There were so many perspectives that widened my view," Lifferth said. "You can't put all people into one category. You have to really expand your mind to see every aspect of a situation."

## Palestine: A sacred experience

The students visited Jerusalem during their final two weeks, an experience Belnap described as "one of the jewels of the study abroad program."

During the trip to Jerusalem, led by Belnap and political science professor Joshua Gubler, students visited biblical sites while learning about the Arab-Israeli conflict from the side opposing Jordan.

For BYU student Melena Warden, a junior studying Middle Eastern studies and

Arabic, it was the trip to Palestine-Israel that changed her perspective on conflict and tolerance.

"It's amazing because we get to study the conflict from both sides — Jordan and from Palestine-Israel," Warden said. "Jordan was amazing, but Jerusalem opened new pathways for my future. ... The extremes of the conflict highlight extremes in our society — and on campus. We just don't ask other people how they feel or try to understand their history. Studying extreme cases allowed me to understand issues of conflict in our own society."

Creating real relationships with Arabs on both sides of the conflict allowed Warden to better understand her own beliefs.

"Because I became close with so many people, I was able to learn what they really believe and step into their views," Warden said. "That allowed me to learn a lot about myself and solidify my own beliefs."

Warden said a main takeaway from her experience was to have an open mind towards those who do not share her same culture or beliefs.

"God is all-loving and all-aware of his children, no matter where they are," Warden said. "The same way he has spoken to me and led me, he is doing for them too."

## Taking Jordan home

Solomon, Warden and Lifferth each think of their experiences in Jordan as gifts that will guide their future careers and life missions. All three plan to return to Jordan and surrounding countries to continue to serve the Arab people, either through humanitarian aid or social work.

"I just want to go where God puts me and use my Arabic in the process," Solomon said.

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