

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

Peace out, Boy Scouts

Families react to church's split with Boy Scouts

By KAITLYN BANCROFT

Lucinda Wade's sons were disappointed upon being told they soon won't participate in Boy Scouts anymore. The youngest, age 5, had watched his older brothers, ages 8, 9 and 12, advance through the various ranks, and the 12-year-old had gone on camping trips with his dad, a scoutmaster.

One of her sons, however, had an optimistic response: "Well, at least we get to do one more Pinewood Derby."

"We reassured (our kids) that that the church is going to provide them something different but new ... and because of the changes, they'll be some of the first kids as far as youth that will go through those programs," Wade, a mother from Bountiful, said.

The Wades are one of countless families affected by the LDS Church's recent decision to end its 105 year relationship with the Boy Scouts of America, announced in a joint statement from the church and the Boy Scouts.

The statement reads that the church has grown from a U.S.-centered institution to a worldwide organization, with the trend only accelerating. This decision comes from the church's increasing need "to create and implement a uniform youth leadership and development program that serves its members globally," according to the statement.

The decision is effective Dec. 31, 2019, which allows time for boys ages 14 and older to continue their rank advancements, according to a frequently asked questions page on lds.org. Until then, "the intention of the church is to remain a fully engaged partner in scouting for boys and young men ages 8-13 and encourages all youth, families and leaders to continue their active participation and financial



Lucinda Wade

Carson Wade, second from left, participates in a Pinewood Derby in Bountiful. Carson's mom, Lucinda Wade, said her sons were disappointed at hearing they wouldn't participate in Boy Scouts anymore.

support," according to the statement. This includes camps, regular activities and Friends of Scouting, according to the frequently asked questions page.

Then, on Jan. 1, 2020, a new children and youth development initiative will "replace all existing activity programs for girls and boys, young women and young men," according to a statement on lds.org. This change is intended to help youth strengthen faith, build character and resilience, develop life skills, and participate in outdoor activities and service opportunities, according to the FAQ page. It is also intended to allow greater flexibility in adapting to the needs of individuals and families.

This change may affect Faith in God for Girls and Boys, Activity Days for Girls and Boys, Personal Progress and Duty to God, according to the FAQ page, but until Jan. 1, 2020, "we (the church) encourage children and youth,

parents and leaders to remain fully engaged in these programs."

Lucinda Wade and her husband, Brad, anticipate helping their 12-year-old son earn his Eagle Scout rank, even though "that will mean that we will have to work a lot harder, a lot faster, to get it than we had planned," Lucinda said, particularly because their 12-year-old son is on the autism spectrum.

They'll also support their other boys should they pursue an Eagle Scout rank, but they'll first consider the new church program.

"I am excited," Brad Wade said. "Whatever the church decides to do will be a good replacement of the Boy Scouts."

Reasons for the change

Brad Wade said he likes the Boy Scout program, but he's been disappointed by some of its decisions. "I

think they got away from some of their core values."

Pleasant Grove resident Christy Giblon, whose brothers and grandparents were involved in scouting, said she thinks particular decisions by the Boy Scouts factored into why the church is cutting ties, such as the Boy Scout's Oct. 2017 decision allowing girls into scout troops, the July 2015 decision lifting the ban on openly gay troop leaders and the May 2013 decision ending the ban on openly gay youth.

"I think (the church's separation from Boy Scouts) will be good for scouting as more boys will be encouraged to participate in multi-faith neighborhood groups," she said.

Lynn Matthews Anderson, who participated in Girls Scouts while two of her three brothers are Eagle Scouts, said she thinks the church was "clearly unhappy" with policies

allowing gay and transgender scouts to participate and that the inclusion of girls was the last straw.

Software engineer and Eagle Scout Michael Thomas Steed, however, said the idea that the separation is over gay rights and combined boy/girl troops "is more of a flame or a click-bait approach."

"I believe the church is doing this so that it can have a unified international youth program as well as to better control the youth program to be focused on modern life," he said. "Boy Scouts was too restrictive, too expensive and it has a high administrative cost as far as callings and volunteers in local wards and stakes."

Possible stigmas, pressures

Another issue is a possible stigma associated with not earning the Eagle Scout rank, "the highest advancement rank in scouting" according to the Circle Ten Council website. The Circle Ten Council is a chartered Boy Scout group serving counties in Texas and Oklahoma.

However, the website also states that only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts earn this rank, representing over 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Requirements include earning 21 merit badges, serving in at least one scouting leadership position for six or more months and leading a service project that benefits an organization other than the Boy Scouts.

"The goals of scouting — citizenship training, character development and personal fitness — remain important for all scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank," according to the Circle Ten website.

Lucinda Wade said while there's some stigma associated with young men who don't earn their Eagle Scout rank, she never asked young men she dated if they were Eagle Scouts. She doesn't know if the stigma will go away, but feels it is more present in Utah than anywhere else.

See SCOUTS on Page 2

Rocketry Club blasts into international competition

By KAITLYN BANCROFT

TOOELE — Rockets of all sizes shot through the sky on May 5, launched from a remote desert field in Tooele County. Some were painted bright colors or had clever names, some rose with a burst of fire or screeching sound, but they nearly all made the crowd crane their necks back.

The BYU Rocketry Club was among those having a blast in more ways than one.

And they'll continue at this year's Spaceport America Cup, "the world's largest intercollegiate rocket engineering conference and competition" that saw 110 teams from colleges and universities in 11 countries last year, according to its website. This year's competition will be June 19-23 in New Mexico.

Mechanical engineering major Riley Meik, who currently leads the group of club members participating in the upcoming Spaceport America Cup, said this year's competition will include 130 universities from all over the world.

The BYU Rocketry Club launched several rockets on May 5, but they were particularly testing their Spaceport America Cup competition rocket named Wasatch 1. Meik said their competition category requires rockets get as close to 10,000 feet as possible, with points reduced for every foot off. Meik said Wasatch 1 hit 9,918 feet during the May 5 launch.

Meik explained a rocket contains a motor with a solid propellant in it; burning the propellant creates pressure, which creates thrust inside the rocket's body. The rocket's fins stabilize its flight, and when it reaches apogee, the highest point of the flight, a small charge goes off inside the rocket,



Lexie Flickinger

From left: BYU Rocketry Club members Alex Laraway, Ryan Garrison, Riley Meik, Mark Sweeney and Bradley Butters show off their rocket Wasatch 1 during a test launch on May 5. Wasatch 1 will fly in next month's Spaceport America Cup competition. Scan the photo with the *Universe Plus* app to see a video of the BYU Rocketry Club's May 5 launch.

releasing the parachute.

He added that at last year's competition, other universities were surprised the BYU Rocketry Club did a test launch before the event. This year, they have now tested twice on the same motor they'll be competing with, "which is unheard of in this competition. Most people don't even get one launch out of their competition," Meik said.

This advantage means they now have two data points from which to make adjustments, such as fixing a parachute

that didn't deploy properly during the first test launch.

"So today, it was everything it needed to be," Meik said.

This will be BYU Rocketry Club's second time competing at the Spaceport America Cup. Recent mechanical engineering graduate Ryan Garrison started the club several years ago after touring the NASA space station in Houston, Texas, where he saw Saturn V, the rocket that went to the moon, and "got obsessed" with rockets, to the point

where he couldn't focus on homework because he was watching YouTube videos of rocket launches.

Garrison initially went to BYU's aerospace club to get involved in rocketry, but found they were largely focused on airplanes. He began the BYU Rocketry Club under the umbrella of the aerospace club, where they operated "until we got so big that I convinced them to let us have our own club," Garrison said.

Meik said the club has various events and multiple launches throughout the year, which help students gain the certification needed to build increasingly larger rockets, participate in various building projects and get hands-on experience applying what they're learning in their engineering classes.

However, participation is not limited to mechanical engineering students. Meik said the club holds meetings every Wednesday night in the Fletcher Building, and everyone is welcome.

"There is a spot for everyone in BYU Rocketry, whether you've been launching rockets since you were 6 or if it (is) your first launch," he said.

Mechanical engineering major Matthew Fisher got involved with the BYU Rocketry Club during the Fall 2017 semester after hearing about a competition through an engineering class. He joined the competition with some friends and had a positive experience. He's since participated in several more launches, including the May 5 launch.

Fisher said rockets provide not only entertainment value but practical application as well. For example, rockets can put satellites into orbit and may eventually provide space travel. He also said the biggest misunderstanding people have about rockets is the difficulty of building them.

"I was surprised at how simple it can be and how easy it is to get into and start learning," he said. "Of course there's a

lot of complicated things that you can do with them, but you can start small and just kind of build up until you're launching bigger rockets."

Meik agreed people misunderstand rockets' difficulty and said once people come to the BYU Rocketry Club, they can build something successful and realize they're capable.

"And I think that's why our club is growing so fast," he said. "I wish people knew that it's not that hard and that they can get involved and they can just jump right into it."

Garrison said the BYU Rocketry Club growth has been "explosive," going from a handful of students who knew virtually nothing about rockets to over 60 students, a group so large they can no longer meet in their lab space.

"And I think it's just going to continue to grow because there's a huge interest in space right now," he said. "The space industry is exciting again, like it was in the '60s. And that's because of SpaceX and other private companies that have kind of come out of nowhere and started doing things that inspire people to want to work on rockets."

He also said the best part of the BYU Rocketry Club is getting a different, hands-on perspective of engineering, which has helped him both obtain and perform well at internships. Club involvement has also helped other students land internships at companies such as SpaceX, Orbital ATK and Northrop Grumman. Garrison will soon be working for SpaceX in McGregor, Texas.

Meik agreed the BYU Rocketry Club provides unique experiences that are attractive to job and internship recruiters.

"You learn a lot from the smaller rockets that also apply to the bigger rockets and allow (students) to work in the actual space industry," he said.

SCOUTS

Responses to new church program

Continued from Page 1

Eagle Scout Christopher Moynihan, who has been either a scoutmaster, assistant scoutmaster or Young Men's president for the last five years, said he anticipates the stigma going away now that the church is cutting ties with the Boy Scouts. He also said there's an overemphasis on the Eagle Scout rank, which undermines the purpose of scouting.

"The goal of the scouting program is to get boys to First Class (rank), where they should have learned all the skills and started to learn how to teach others," he said.

The problem, however, is many LDS troops put so much emphasis on earning the Eagle Scout rank that they forget "scouting isn't school," according to Moynihan.

"It's a shame when scouts show up to an adult leader taking control of their meeting and instructing them on a merit

badge topic for an hour, instead of a boy-led meeting divided into multiple sections to keep things interesting and exciting," Moynihan said.

Brad Wade also said that in light of the Dec. 31, 2019 cut-off date, there may be some increased pressure to earn the Eagle Scout rank, though perhaps not as much as people think. He said he feels more pressure will go on parents, particularly mothers since leaders generally cover only the camping and cooking merit badges.

Lucinda Wade, however, said she doesn't feel any pressure to complete her son's Eagle Scout rank for him simply "because that's not right."

"If he wants his Eagle, he'll get it," she said. "I think it's not so much the award. I think it's the process that they do to get it and the things they learn along the road."

Looking ahead

Brad Wade said he's grateful to the Boy Scouts.

"It was a great experience, and I think that scouting teaches you a new set of skills that you need for your life and to become an adult," he said.

Lucinda Wade said the Boy Scouts gave her 12-year-old son socializing opportunities and commonality with other kids; however, she's not sure her family will continue with scouting outside of the church, particularly because she wouldn't be comfortable with combined boy/girl camping trips.

In addition, Moynihan said the church is losing "a great potential missionary tool" in the Boy Scouts program; though there may be missionary opportunities for children who join multi-faith scouting troops, he's concerned that one poorly behaved LDS child could shape the other children's perceptions of Mormons.

"By creating our own program, I fear that many of those opportunities to foster friendship with others is lost," he said.

Giblon, however, spoke about one of her brothers joining a Catholic scouting troop because the kids in the local LDS ward "were horrible to him and the leaders made zero effort to stop the bullying."

"If I had kids, I would prefer for them to be in a neighborhood troop that was not exclusive and restricted to members of only one church," she said.

BYU formalizes updated sexual assault policy

By SAHALIE DONALDSON

BYU approved an updated sexual misconduct policy that, among other things, will implement all 23 recommendations from the school's Advisory Council on Campus Response to Sexual Assault.

The recommendations were put together a year and a half ago after BYU came under fire amid students' claims that the university investigated them because they reported sexual assault.

In 2016, BYU President Kevin J. Worthen organized the Advisory Council on Campus Response to Sexual Assault to identify the changes

BYU needed to make to better help survivors.

These recommendations, many of which are ongoing currently, included the adoption of an amnesty statement; a new location for the Title IX Office separate from the Honor Code office; and providing additional training for those involved in investigating, supporting and responding to sexual assault.

A comprehensive list of recommendations and its status can be found at titleix.byu.edu.

The BYU President's Council approved the new, updated BYU sexual misconduct policy May 2018 after a number of discussions with the faculty and student Advisory Councils.

The Title IX Compliance Committee also weighed in on the decision.

The updated policy includes all of the Advisory Council's recommendations, including the already implemented resolutions.

The Title IX update says, "A concern for the intellectual, emotional, social, physical and spiritual well-being of its students is deeply engrained in Brigham Young University's identity and purpose. This concern for the total person demands a corresponding commitment to creating an environment that is edifying, secure and safe."

More information on the updated policy can be found at titleix.byu.edu.

Tribune v. BYU: Judge defers decision on police records

By SAHALIE DONALDSON

The ongoing court battle over the BYU police department's records moved ahead May 14 when The Salt Lake Tribune and the university squared off in 3rd District Court Monday morning in Salt Lake City.

According to Tribune attorney Michael O'Brien, the two argued for a little over two hours. No decision was reached, but Judge Laura Scott said she would "take it under consideration" and have an official judgment within the next 60 days.

Monday morning's court hearing was the latest in a long series started in 2016 when the Tribune published a story on the dozens of BYU student's who said they faced university discipline after reporting sexual assault.

The Tribune said while it was breaking the story it requested the communication transcripts between University Police and the school's Honor Code and Title IX offices, but was denied access. The Tribune asked for the records under Utah's Government Records Access and Management Act. However, the university's police department said it doesn't have to release records because it is affiliated with a private university.

The Tribune sued after the State Records Committee denied its appeal to access the records.

According to state record administrators, University Police doesn't operate under the same transparency requirements as other police officers across the state. The state Records Committee described University Police as a private institution, which means it isn't subject to the rest of the state's

open-records laws.

Statutes and case law across the United States are mixed about whether private campus police departments are subject to state records laws, according to the Student Press Law Center.

In a high-profile case involving Notre Dame, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled that the Roman Catholic university police were not subject to that state's records laws because they were not officially part of government. An Indiana legislative bill that would have restricted access to private institution records was vetoed by the then-Gov. Mike Pence, now President Trump's vice president.

Only six states explicitly provide the public access to the records of police at private institutions: Ohio, Connecticut, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas, the Student Press Law Center reports.

Temples, marijuana, donations, NAACP: news from LDS Church

By JENNIFER BALL

Perpetual Education and Temple Patron Assistance funds removed from LDS online donation form

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said the Perpetual Education and Temple Patron Assistance funds have received sufficient donations and have been removed from the online donation form. The church is encouraging members to donate to other categories online. The Perpetual Education and Temple Patron Assistance funds are still available for donations processed in wards or branches.

Joint statement by First Presidency and NAACP national leadership

The First Presidency will meet with the national leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on May 17 as part of the organization's visit to church headquarters. Following their meeting, they will make a joint statement to members of the media.

St. George Temple break-in

A man broke a window and entered the St. George Temple at about 5 a.m. on Saturday morning, according to church spokesman Eric Hawkins. The man proceeded to the fifth floor of the temple, damaging furniture,

artwork, and other items along the way. After causing additional damage on the fifth floor, he was contained by temple workers until police arrived and the man was arrested.

According to the St. George News, police identified the intruder as 22-year-old Charles Gregory Logan, of St. George. Preliminary charges against Logan include felony offenses for criminal mischief and burglary, as well as misdemeanors for assault, interfering with an arrest and disorderly conduct.

The St. George Temple was closed for a few hours on Saturday morning to address the damage.

Utah medical marijuana initiative memorandum

The LDS Church asked a Salt Lake City law firm for a legal analysis of the proposed Utah Medical Marijuana Initiative to be submitted to voters. The memorandum raises grave concerns about this initiative and the serious adverse consequences that could follow if it were adopted. The church invites all Utah voters to read the memorandum and to "make their own judgment."

Major renovation planned for Mesa Arizona Temple

The church has released detailed plans of major renovations for the Mesa Arizona Temple. According to a statement, the 75,000-square-foot temple will undergo site improvements, exterior maintenance, interior finishes, and building system

maintenance for HVAC systems. The temple grounds will also be renovated and enhanced.

The visitors' center will be demolished, and a new center will be built across the street. It will be home to various interactive exhibits and events, historical information about the temple, and family history research and teaching facilities.

Thousands of youths unite at Jordan River Temple

Youths from 66 stakes in the Jordan River Temple district walked up to six miles from their stake centers to the temple grounds to be part of a celebration and unity event. The youths performed musical numbers practiced with their stakes and wards.

Two new exhibits at the Church History Museum

Two new art exhibits will open at the Church History Museum on May 17. The exhibits, "Jorge Cocco Santángelo: Sacred Events from the Life of Christ" and "Light & Life: Stories and Photographs of a Global Faith," both reflect the worldwide membership of the church.

Argentine artist Jorge Cocco Santángelo depicts the ministry of Christ as recounted in the New Testament in the collection "Sacred Events from the Life of Christ." "Light & Life" exhibit photographers Leslie Nilsson and Cody Bell showcase large-scale photographs that document the everyday lives of 34 LDS Church members across six continents.

Police Beat

BYU

FRAUD

May 8 - An individual reported a BYU Creamery customer for using a counterfeit bill, but when officers arrived and checked the money they determined it was real.

DISORDERLY

May 10 - Officers responded to an argument two individuals were having over a parking stall.

OREM/PROVO AREA

DRUGS

May 7 - Police stopped a car suspecting the driver to be impaired. The individual was arrested after doing field sobriety tests and meth and a meth pipe fell out of his pant leg.

May 7 - Police responded to a report of loud music being played in a home. After arriving the officers gave a citation to the home-

MISSING PERSON

May 11 - Officers found Robert Flygare's body near the railroad tracks several weeks after his disappearance. The 75-year-old was reported missing from his home on April 25. No information on how Robert passed is available at this time, but police said no foul play is suspected.

owner for smoking weed.

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Campus News



V. Stanley Benfell

MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF Business

BYU Marriott School of Business alumna **Ashley Emig** applies her math, creativity, product management and entrepreneurial skills as she brings famous characters to life. Working as the director of licensing and sales at Retail Monster, Emig balances her passion of art and business by developing strategies for buyers and bringing concepts alive for companies such as Paramount, Nickelodeon, Disney, DreamWorks and Hasbro.

DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR International Studies

V. Stanley Benfell, professor of comparative arts and letters, originally attended BYU in 1980 to prepare for medical school. However, after a mission to Paris, his focus shifted and



Ashley Emig

14 years later, he received his Ph.D. from New York University in comparative literature.

Upon completing his Ph.D., Benfell started teaching at BYU, served as department chair and received BYU's Honors Professor of the Year in 2004. Passionate about medieval and Renaissance literature, Benfell replaced outgoing Kirk W. Larsen as Kennedy Center associate director over Academics and Research, effective May 1.

COLLEGE OF Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Chemical companies, specifically Chevron Phillips Chemical, are looking for ways to improve the production process of plastic precursors. Luckily, a BYU chemistry team, including professor **Daniel Ess**



Daniel Ess

and two of his graduate students, recently published their findings in a top-ranked journal, ACS Catalysis. The team created new catalyst structures that when tested by chemists at Chevron Phillips, proved to be remarkably accurate. This unique approach will open doors for advancement in computer simulations.

COLLEGE OF Nursing

The lieutenant commander at Mercy and Naval Medical Center in San Diego extended a personal invitation to BYU nursing professor **Kent Blad** and BYU nursing students to tour one of the three major U.S. polytrauma centers that serve Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Jumping on this rare opportunity, Blad and his students embarked on a two-day trip to witness firsthand how to treat veterans.



Associated Press

In this June 8, 2014, file photo, Boy Scouts march during the annual gay pride parade in Salt Lake City. An announcement Tuesday, May 8, by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Boy Scouts marks an end to a close relationship that lasted more than a century built on their shared values.

Diverging values lead to Mormon retreat from Boy Scouts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — For more than a century, the Boy Scouts of America and the Mormon church formed an ideal pair as they helped each other expand their organizations and build their brands while molding countless young men through bow knots, pinewood derby races and campouts.

But as the calendar flipped to the 21st Century, the longtime partners originally drawn to each other by shared values began drifting apart. The LDS Church continued expanding into far off countries where Boy Scouts wasn't offered and began eyeing its own program.

Amid declining membership, Boy Scouts of America recently opened its arms to openly gay youth members and adult volunteers, transgender boys, and girls while the Mormon religion clung to its opposition of homosexuality and stuck to its traditional gender roles.

On Tuesday, the two sides announced what had become inevitable: They will split permanently starting in 2020. The memories will live on in Norman Rockwell paintings, the Boy Scouts training complex named after a former Mormon church president and in the pictures from the church's 2013 extravagant theatrical production commemorating their 100th anniversary together.

But, their futures are now headed in divergent directions.

The Boy Scouts will try to make up for the loss of its largest sponsor through the addition of girls and a welcoming message that all are invited. Last week, the organization said it will change the name of its flagship program next year to Scouts BSA to account for the inclusion of girls.

The organization says its current youth participation is about 2.3 million, down from 2.6 million in 2013 and more than

4 million in peak years of the past. So far, nearly 4,000 girls have joined roughly 170 Cub Scout packs participating in the first phase of the new policy, and the pace is expected to intensify this summer under a nationwide multimedia recruitment campaign.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will bank on nurturing its youth in a still-to-be developed program set to launch in 2020 that will likely include outdoor activities and character building similar to Boy Scouts but be tailored for the church's doctrine and designed to roll out around the globe.

Unhitching from Boy Scouts will trigger nostalgia for American Mormons who grew up aiming for the important life milestone of Eagle Scout, said Mormon scholar Patrick Mason, professor of religion at Claremont Graduate University in California. Mason, who is Mormon, said his mother told him and his three brothers they couldn't get their driver's license until they earned Eagle Scout.

Joining the Boy Scouts is practically automatic among Mormon boys, and the religion has long been the biggest sponsor of Boy Scout troops in the United States. The 425,000 Mormon boys who will be leaving represent about 18.5 percent of youth in the Boy Scouts. Another 185,000 Mormon boys ages of 14 and 18 already left the Boy Scouts this year to focus on church-related activities and community service.

Mason said the time had clearly come for a split — with the Boy Scouts following shifting American culture that no longer matched church's core principles. The LDS Church, which opposes gay marriage and considers homosexual relationships a sin, initially said it was "deeply troubled" by the Boy Scouts' 2015 policy change on gays but stayed after receiving assurances it could appoint

troop leaders according to its own religious values.

"The church remains concerned about cultural drift. The church doesn't want to move with the culture. So actually this is kind of a counter-cultural move," Mason said.

The move also shows the Utah-based religion's efforts to solidify its global footprint. More than half of the church's 16 million members live outside the U.S.

"The great challenge that Mormonism is facing right now is if it can make that leap from being simply a religion that is present all around the world and become a religion that is rooted all around the world," said Matthew Bowman, a Mormon scholar and associate professor of history at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

The church's announcement also revealed that its existing program for girls will be shuttered and replaced by the new youth program, leading Mason and Bowman to predict that more parity could be in store for girls and boys even while the church stops short of allowing women in the lay priesthood.

The church has long spent more money on Boy Scouts than the internal girls program and given more recognition to boys who earn Eagle Scout than girls who earn the highest medallion in their program, they said.

The new program will also give the Mormons a shot at putting young members on a path closely tethered to the church that can then lead to a mission, and hopefully, lifelong membership, Mason said.

"It's great to get the boys out in canoes and shooting bows and arrows but that's not going to do them any long term good if they leave the church," Mason said. "The focus is going to be on faith because they're worried about the rising tide of secularization."

BYU alumnus shares passions, beliefs through a cappella

By SADIE ANDERSON

Eric Corpuz has enjoyed music his entire life. But it wasn't until he served a mission for the LDS Church that he discovered his love of singing — a skill that would lead him to co-found a co-ed a cappella group at BYU called Beyond Measure.

Corpuz's passion led Beyond Measure to placing first in this year's Southwest Quarterfinal of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella competition. The group received the highest score they've ever achieved in the competition. Corpuz was awarded for outstanding choreography, and the group placed fourth in the Southwest Semi-final round.

Corpuz's singing career began when a mission companion saw potential in his musical abilities. He said singing quickly became important to him and made efforts to improve his talent.

"My companion really believed in me and he really encouraged me to develop my talent," Corpuz said.

After coming home from his mission, Corpuz decided he wanted to join an a cappella group at BYU. Corpuz noticed there weren't any co-ed groups on campus that had excelled and decided to start a group of his own. He, with the help of his friend Skyler Holman, held auditions and formed the group.

"The name Beyond Measure comes from the hymn 'Have I Done Any Good?'" Corpuz said.

He said they wanted a name that reflected both the group and their music. One of their goals is to spread the gospel as they sing.

Corpuz said his favorite part about his role as the group's director was the people he met and performed with.

"There's just something



Sadie Anderson

Eric Corpuz co-founded Beyond Measure five years ago and just finished his final year performing with the group.

really special about getting to sing with people that you love," Corpuz said.

Beyond Measure member Spencer Davis said Corpuz was great at getting to know the members, always willing to take time to understand and care for people and their needs.

"I sincerely believe that anyone can be your best friend," Corpuz said.

Beyond Measure member Andrew Robinson said Corpuz was willing to honestly tell members when their singing isn't up to par.

"I appreciate that honesty because it helps me get better," Robinson said. "When he does tell you, 'you sound good,' you know you can believe him."

Corpuz said his goal as a director was to help both the singers and the audience members leave performances feeling uplifted and strengthened.

"There's nothing that invites the Spirit faster than music," according to Corpuz.

To help encourage this, Corpuz instigated a group scripture study at the start of every rehearsal.

"I think our group scripture study is one of the things that

really holds this group together and sets us apart," Beyond Measure member Jordan Cho said.

Cho said he believes it's one of the most important things they do when it comes to lifting each other up.

Besides sharing their beliefs, Corpuz said another purpose of the group is to have fun. He said he hopes people who come to their shows leave feeling like they can face the next day with a smile and a light heart.

Beyond Measure member Annalyse Webber said Corpuz helped the group have fun with his infectious energy and enthusiasm.

Corpuz recently graduated from BYU in April with a degree in business. He said, even though he is leaving, he will always be attached to Beyond Measure. He said he will always help whether or not he is directing the group himself.

"I will be doing music 'til the day I die," Corpuz said.

He said Beyond Measure has changed him and helped him become the person he is today and said he hopes the group will continue to help uplift and inspire others.

TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL
Tuesday, May 15, 11:05 a.m.
de Jong Concert Hall

This event will also be broadcast to the JSB Auditorium.



Brianna M. Magnusson

Professor, BYU Department of Public Health

Brianna Magnusson completed a degree in community health education from BYU in 2002. She went on to earn a master's degree in public health and a PhD in epidemiology from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2005 and 2011.

Following her graduate work, she joined the BYU faculty in the

Department of Public Health. Dr. Magnusson teaches courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, and statistical computing. Her primary areas of research include sexual and reproductive health.

Dr. Magnusson was born in California and raised primarily in Virginia. She has been married to Jason Curtis for five years.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu.

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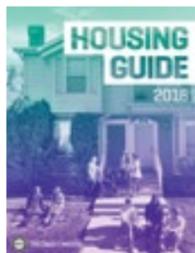
Randal W. Beard
Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

May 22, 11:05 a.m.

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Utah MLM explosion

Popular or profitable?

By MARINDA RISK

The statements “I found myself again,” “I own my home-making status now” and “my experience has only been positive,” might sound like snippets from a promotional video, but these are statements taken from interviews with LDS women when asked about their experiences selling with multi-level marketing companies (MLM).

MLMs have had a big impact both in recruitment numbers and economically. Every day, 5,500 new people join MLMs as sellers, swelling the ranks of companies throughout the world, according to KUTV. This rapidly growing business market has taken an especially strong root in Utah, and the state has more MLMs per capita than any other in the U.S.

Jane Driggs, president and CEO of Utah's Better Business Bureau, said there are about 70 companies registered as MLMs in Utah. She said the majority of these companies are rated by the Better Business Bureau with a “B” or better, and only four fall below a “B.”

Driggs said Utah's Better Business Bureau gets a couple complaints a year about the MLMs in Utah, but that number has dropped since MLMs started initially popping up in Utah.

“We'd get more complaints about their programs where you register to become an independent distributor and then you're automatically shipped the product every month, but that has dropped off significantly,” Driggs said. “Now we mostly get complaints about advertising — so the product is not what they advertised or what they implied it would be, or people are seeking refunds and aren't able to get them from the company.”

Driggs said Utah has high MLM activity because Utah is a state with low government intervention. This makes it easy for Utahns to start small businesses and grow them.

Having supportive friends who are already selling the same products seems to “help people make it in the MLM business — or not make it,” according to Driggs.

In 2017, total annual revenue from the nine top-earning Utah MLM companies came to over \$7.6 billion. That much money influences Utah's economy; although, depending on the company, much of the money may stay with the top leadership instead of trickling down to the most-recently recruited sellers.

Mark Showalter, BYU Department of Economics chair, said companies qualify as MLMs when their retail sales are done through individuals rather than storefronts or registered business sites and when part of the



Lauren Gemmill

Lauren Gemmill's daughter hides among the brightly colored LuLaRoe clothing her mother sells in Utah through the multi-level marketing company.

compensation for the recruited seller comes through fees on “downstream” agents.

“The most successful MLMs I'm aware of in Utah Valley (like Nuskin and doTerra) have very large markets outside the U.S.,” Showalter said, adding that the vast amount of multilingual people in Utah Valley also adds to the high number of MLMs in Utah.

Showalter said, “Things that sound too good to be true usually are.” If the pitch for a product focuses on making a lot of money from downline distributors, it is not likely to make a profit for the seller. People shouldn't see such an offer as a “winner of the lottery opportunity,” according to Showalter, because sellers are more likely to lose money in that system.

Driggs echoed Showalter's statement, highlighting the difference between Ponzi schemes, a form of fraud in which investors believe in a nonexistent product, or enterprise, and quick returns to the first investors from money invested by later investors, and MLMs.

“I think consumers need to make sure that the company they want to sell for is actually an MLM and not a Ponzi scheme,” Driggs said. “It can be hard to tell the difference, but consumers need to make sure they're dealing with a company that's more concerned with selling the products than getting more people on the team.”

According to a 2011 study conducted by Jon Taylor, president of the Consumer Awareness Institute and specialist on MLM companies, the actual numbers for those making a profit by selling for MLMs was remarkably low, especially when compared with other common means of making money. The following numbers are likely tempered by the type of MLM a person is involved with (individual companies may have higher or lower rates of profit than this for sellers):

After expenses, zero percent of wage earners at traditional jobs in the study lost money.

After expenses, 61 percent of small business owners lost money.

After expenses, 99.6 percent of recruitment-driven MLM sellers lost money.

Based on this study, any consumer looking to purchase from an MLM or join one as a seller would benefit from checking multiple sources about the specific company. However, positive stories with MLMs are just as noticeable as any negative ones.

Lauren Gemmill is one such example.

Gemmill has been selling LuLaRoe clothing for about a year and has had a positive experience with the company. She started selling with them because a friend of hers was a consultant, and she loved the clothes enough that she wanted to start selling them herself.

“I have made money working my business. It wasn't easy, but paying off the initial investment was a huge goal and accomplishment,” Gemmill said. “I spend about 25 hours every week working my business. I try to use all of my daughter's nap time and a couple of hours after she goes to bed to work as much and as efficiently as I can.”

Gemmill said she enjoys recruiting other people to sell the clothing but said she can also make “plenty” of money without a downline of sellers under her as well. She said her experience selling with LuLaRoe has left her feeling “definitely more positive and happy.”

Out of the women The Daily Universe interviewed, the majority said they were most successful when they treated their MLM selling like a real business and put a great deal of time and energy into marketing and selling their product.

“(Selling for an MLM) is not always about the money, and it's certainly not a competition,” Gemmill said. “It's hard work, but I have thoroughly enjoyed having something to call my own, watch it grow and have something I look forward to doing every day.”

Mormon moms balance MLMs, family life

By MARINDA RISK

Utah has become a hotbed of multi-level marketing (MLM) companies in recent years, and much of this activity can be attributed to Utah being 60 percent Mormon. At least eight Utah MLM companies were founded by Mormons, showing the close connection between members of the LDS faith and this type of business.

Because Utah has more MLMs per capita than any other state, very few people manage to escape pitches from friends, family and neighbors regarding some new product sold through multi-level marketing, where sellers earn an extra kick-back bonus for each new seller in their “downline.”

BYU School of Family Life professor Jeff Hill has specialized in research that examines finding harmony between paid work and family life. He said he thinks a lot of people get involved with MLMs because they think it is “the fast way to make money.”

“Mormons in particular have a lot of faith, and that is sometimes coupled with the attitude that if you're keeping the commandments, you'll be blessed financially. With MLMs, there's always people at the top that are very rich and successful,” Hill said.

Usually, these people “at the top are credible and good people,” Hill said, causing the belief that success is achieved through “getting rich” and “spreading the gospel” attached to their MLM product.

Many Mormon mothers, in particular, sign up with MLM companies because they want to feel productive in their family and bring in extra income,

all while balancing being a stay-at-home mom, according to multiple interviews conducted by The Daily Universe.

“I feel like (selling for an MLM) was a way for me to straddle the influence of my local culture pulling at me to work and my church culture pulling me home,” Kelly Eddy said, an MLM sales representative. “Every non-LDS friend I have works outside the home, so I think MLMs are appealing because they give you a way to say, ‘Hey, I'm contributing too!’”

Hill cautioned that although MLMs can seem appealing as a way for stay-at-home-mothers to focus on the value of the product instead of recruiting a “downline” of sellers.

He said it would be unethical to have most of the money in an MLM company coming from the tiered system of recruiting instead of product sales.

Hill encouraged sellers to look at the actual benefits of the product and not just the potential placebo effect of certain items commonly sold by MLMs.

Families need to consider the time and resources available to them alongside their monetary concerns, according to Hill. Research shows that having both parents in a family working full-time often begins to have a negative impact on the family and children, but part-time work for the stay-at-home parent can often have no negative family impact and can bring in extra money, Hill said.

“What every family needs is resources, time and energy. And what each family needs to do is optimize the amount of time that is spent gathering resources such that they have sufficient time and energy for the nurturing that happens in the family,” Hill said. “When either men or women are involved in paid work to the degree that it compromises the amount of energy and time available for nurturing in

their home, it's a problem.”

People considering selling for MLMs should also take into consideration some of the retention numbers for sellers, according to the Federal Trade Commission and MLM researcher Jon Taylor.

Taylor poses the following statements in his 2008 research study:

Within the first year of representatives' selling (for most companies surveyed), a minimum of 50 percent of sellers dropped out.

After five years of representatives' selling, a minimum of 90 percent dropped out.

By year 10, only those within the top ranks of the company were still selling — meaning at least 95 percent of sellers dropped out.

Despite these statistics, many people find success selling with MLMs, and this is part of MLM companies' impressive growth in numbers each year. People hoping to sell for an MLM company can benefit from checking the individual company's statistics and rates of seller retention. From that data, a potential seller can assess whether he or she is committed to selling or if he or she is likely to join the ranks of those who quickly drop out.

Ashley Pugmire began selling cosmetics with Younique, a Utah-based MLM company, in 2014. She worked hard and quickly rose to the top 2 percent of sellers within the company, and she still sells for them today. She said being a seller gave her a greater purpose than being “just a mom” and helped her feel empowered as a leader.

However, Pugmire also said she often found herself making her family and household responsibilities a second priority to the business, which had an impact on her home.

It's important to find balance in running an MLM business from home, according to Pugmire.

Pugmire also said it can sometimes be difficult to be at the top of a long “downline.” For example, she had 400 members of her downline leave because of problems caused by a member on her online training pages.

She built up her business over time, not by being too pushy but by being genuine as a person and about the products she sells, according to Pugmire.

“When I first started, I was adding people to my Facebook sales groups without permission, and I was all ‘buy buy buy!’ Now, I'm all about sharing testimonies of others and letting the products really speak for themselves,” Pugmire said. “Building real relationships with people and knowing them on a personal level allows them to trust you and lets them know you aren't just being friends with them to get a sale.”

Film production in Utah provides jobs, opportunities

By SAM BIGELOW

When people think of movies, they often picture larger-than-life stars who attract massive audiences and amaze the world with their performances. However, for these stars to reach such heights, hundreds of crew members help create and film imaginative worlds for the stars to inhabit.

Shantell Guy, a Utah-based costumer, notes the best part of her job is the trust formed between herself and the actors she works with.

“The trust I build with an actor allows me to be creative with the art of wardrobe,” Guy said. Her responsibilities are often crucial in filming a perfect stunt or emphasizing a character's status.

Utah's filmmaking industry has long been a vital part of the state's economy, allowing Utahns and aspiring BYU filmmakers to participate in professional filmmaking. In 2017, Utah's tax incentive brought over 1,900 jobs and nearly \$60 million in revenue, according to KSL.

In 2012, Utah revised its tax incentive policy for filmmaking, promising a 20 percent incentive for film productions, making the state an attractive location to film television shows and movies. According to Salt Lake Magazine, studios like Fox, Disney and HBO have spent nearly \$270 million since the tax incentive was passed.

Utah-based filmmaker and BYU alumnus T.C. Christensen said many of his films might not have been made if not for Utah's tax incentive.

“Films are a business, and you have to succeed or you can't keep making them,” he said. “The tax incentive is what pushes the financing over the top so it all works.”

Utah's tax incentive doesn't show any sign of stopping either. In the 2018 Utah legislative session, Sen. Jake Anderegg, R-Lehi, sponsored SB 185, which allows the state “to provide motion picture incentives for companies engaging in post-production work in Utah.” That, according to the Deseret News, would increase Utah's motion picture incentive by \$5 million.



T.C. Christensen

A camera crew films on location during production of “17 Miracles.” Filmmaking has long been popular in Utah.

Anderegg said the proposal would continue to bring jobs to the state.

“They film here in Utah because we have fantastic scenery, it's a great place to work,

highly educated workforce and a really good collaborative environment,” he said.

While film projects provide plenty of entertainment, they also offer opportunities for BYU

students and Utah residents to develop professional skills and take part in popular productions like “Westworld” and “Andi Mack.”

Christensen said that although

he films all over the world, his favorite place to make movies is Utah. Christensen said a major reason filmmakers choose to shoot in the Beehive State is the variety in terrain, great tax incentives and hardworking cast and crew members.

“I have what I call the ‘T.C. stable of actors,’” Christensen said. “I use them over and over because they do such a good job and have always been there for me.”

Guy said cast and crew members in Utah have formed a tight-knit community, one she calls her “film family.”

For BYU students interested in jumping into Utah's film industry, Christensen offers four tips for success:

Go to a school with a good film department.

Study beyond the assignments. Read film books, watch great movies and find ways to get on sets.

Make friends in film school. They create a great support system and can help you throughout your career.

Don't just talk about it; make films.

[ISSUES & IDEAS]



Tweet Beat

Trending topics

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

Leave comments at universe.byu.edu or @UniverseBYU

@VP



It was in Jerusalem that King David consecrated the capital of the Kingdom of Israel. Since its rebirth, the modern State of Israel has called Jerusalem the seat of its government. Today @POTUS & the American people acknowledge this historic truth w the opening of the US Embassy.

@jeremycorbyn

The killing of dozens of unarmed protesters and wounding of many more by Israeli forces in Gaza, on the day President Trump moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, is an outrage that demands not just international condemnation, but action.

@alexbkane

It takes an unbelievable sickness, and a willfulness blindness to Palestinian humanity, to be celebrating the US embassy opening in occupied Jerusalem while Israeli troops gun down unarmed people in Gaza. What a world.

@ACTBrigitte

President Clinton Promised. President Bush Promised. President Obama Promised. President Trump Delivered. The US Embassy is FINALLY where it belongs - in Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel. God Bless Israel, and God Bless President Trump.

@SenSanders

Over 50 killed in Gaza today and 2,000 wounded, on top of the 41 killed and more than 9,000 wounded over the past weeks. This is a staggering toll. Hamas violence

does not justify Israel firing on unarmed protesters.

@Leslie007

I would like to imagine that Christopher Reeve picked up Margot Kidder and they are flying together again without paralysis and mental illness weighing them down. RIP

@MarshallJulius



Sad to say goodbye to Margot Kidder, gone at 69 but forever my Lois Lane. "Acting's fun, but life's more important."

@Seth_Flora

I'm glad that First Lady Melania Trump (@FLOTUS) had a successful surgery and I wish her a quick recovery.

@dhookstead

The Supreme Court has knocked down the federal ban on sports gambling. Today is a great day for America.

@GovChristie

A great day for the rights of states and their people to make their own decisions. New Jersey citizens wanted sports gambling and the federal Gov't had no right to tell them no. The Supreme Court agrees with us today. I am proud to have fought for the rights of the people of NJ.

@Pappiness

I'm outraged that the Supreme Court has overturned the federal ban on sports gambling. I just lost \$500 betting the decision would go the other way.

@RoKhanna

How often does the mainstream media talk about the the more than 40 million Americans who are living in poverty? Almost never. I'm glad that the #PoorPeoplesCampaign is shining light on the travesty of poverty in America.

@ABC7Suiters

Does everyone get texts like this from their 76-year-old mom? "I am at the #PoorPeoplesCampaign Rally -National Call for Moral Revival. I'm not planning to be anywhere I will be arrested but if I am you can text this # to get an update on my status. Hugs, Mom" #loveher #standup

Tweets are unedited

[CAMPUS PULSE]

Confusing English grammar

We need to re-evaluate and streamline our English grammar rules so anyone learning English can communicate effectively without being overly concerned with correct grammar. There are many grammar rules in the English language such as the "i before e" rule, the endless debate about the Oxford comma and the countless rules involving apostrophes. While it is undoubtedly good to have grammatical structure to ensure effective communication among speakers, there are notorious grammatical rules that have confounded English speakers for years. In some of my classes, for example, I have been writing and wondered how to say something in a grammatically correct way. After consulting peers and even faculty, I was no closer to knowing how to communicate that thought correctly.

The "i before e" rule that we all learned in elementary school has an incredible number of exceptions — so why do we learn it? Then there is the debate about the Oxford comma, one I fear will never be conclusively resolved since each side has its own strong opinions. Those who don't grow up learning English as their first language have an incredibly hard time learning all the grammar rules we have imposed upon ourselves.

I implore that we reevaluate the grammar rules we have created and find a way to condense them or make them simpler. Then we can have a more effortless and effective way of communicating.

—Taylor Von Forell
Salinas, California

Safe in the sun

May celebrates Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, and Utah has the highest incidence rate of melanoma, a deadly skin cancer. However, as the weather starts to heat up, it's natural to spend more time outdoors. So have fun in the sun with these recommendations:

1. Apply broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Look for a product that has SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 30 or more, and re-apply every two hours, even when it's overcast.
2. Seek shade. The sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the sun can cause damage within 15 minutes.
3. Wear protective clothing. Wear sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats (3-inches or greater), long-sleeved shirts, and pants when possible.

4. Vitamin D is not the "sunshine vitamin." Instead, get vitamin D safely through a healthy diet.

5. Check your birthday suit. Examine your skin monthly, and if you notice any spots changing shape, changing color or bleeding, see a dermatologist. Remember the "Ugly Duckling" rule of melanoma. Look out for a lesion that appears to be an outlier — or ugly duckling — in the presence of similar-appearing moles.

Everyone is at risk, no matter skin color or age. Have a great summer and be sun safe!

—Meredith Gaufin
Provo

The power of music

Music has the power to change lives. The power of music on our memories, brain function and even physical health is absolutely astounding. Music is also a common element in spiritual gatherings for many (if not all) faiths. I recently heard the BYU Vocal Point arrangement of "Nearer, My God, to Thee" performed by an African boys choir, and their performance demonstrated both the power of music and the power of language in musical form. While the song is already beautiful and moving, this arrangement was adapted to include lyrics in Swahili "to bring the message closer home". Having the music in their own language made the music even more meaningful to them because they understood the messages they were singing.

Especially here at Brigham Young University, there are many with both the ability to speak multiple languages and to create beautiful music as well! These talents could be combined to offer a similar gift to people throughout the world, spreading the same beautiful message that these boys did. I therefore prompt musicians with the ability to speak other languages to reach out by creating and arranging the music we hold dear to speakers of other languages can enjoy with us!

—Hailey Wentz
Syracuse, Utah



Use the Universe Plus app to scan the Campus Pulse logo and see a video of BYU students' reactions to the LDS Church's announcement to discontinue its relationship with the Boy Scouts of America.

[OPINION OUTPOST]

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

LDS-BSA split

(The resources spent on BSA programs) were (unnecessarily exclusive). ... A typical girls activity might include baking cookies for widows in the congregation while boys attended expensive adventure camps. Speaking of those camps, it will become important as the church moves forward with this split to deal fairly regarding both the land and the facilities of the many scout camps.

—Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

U.S. Embassy in Israel

Mr Trump's ambassador, who gave money to Jewish far-right groups in Israel, opened his nation's new embassy in Jerusalem. This is a reckless and provocative step that will harm the prospects for peace.

Like the issue of refugees, settlements and borders, the status of Jerusalem is unfinished business. No state is internationally recognised as having sovereignty over Jerusalem. Its status was meant to be determined through negotiations.

—Editorial Board
The Guardian

Carson and HUD

The contempt of the housing and urban development secretary, Ben Carson, for the Fair Housing Act of 1968 has blinded him to policies that are in the nation's best interest, and made him a prime target for lawsuits and court intervention.

—Editorial Board
The New York Times

Iran deal

Trump also has talked of ending Iran's aid to terrorism worldwide and its threat to the Middle East. ... All of this needs to be organized into a recognizable and achievable

policy, and it needs the support of allies who opposed Trump's decision to revoke the deal. ... The president should identify short-term goals that keep the entire array of Iranian threats at bay. And if he negotiates a new treaty, it must be done with the advice and consent of the Senate, which would give it lasting authority.

—Editorial Board
Deseret News

Trans fats

Trans fats are responsible for about 540,000 deaths around the world every year. ... Regulators can reduce the use of palm oil by, among other things, encouraging the use of butter and other oils. ... People can improve their health even more by opting for polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, like olive oil. Trans fats are a silent killer that many people are not aware of and can easily live without. Banning them should be an easy call for nations around the world, and the W.H.O. is right to push them to do so.

—Editorial Board
The New York Times

Utah cannabis initiative

It is possible to be for the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes and be absolutely against the Utah initiative. To suggest otherwise is a false choice. ... The initiative is flawed and would produce far-reaching, and potentially devastating, unintended consequences. In the rush to potentially alleviate the suffering of some, it is crucial to ensure that solutions do not create suffering for many. ... When it comes to crafting good public policy, legislative language must create clarity, not confusion.

—Editorial Board
Deseret News

Bigotry against migrants

(The) ethnic groups who suffer ... change from time to time. There is no reason to accept the slander that today's migrants are any less hardworking, any less devoted to making a better life for themselves and their children and, in the process, the whole nation, than were those previous waves of immigration. ... Like all those people who built (the Transcontinental) Railroad, today's immigrants are going to build the intellectual, physical and cultural infrastructure for the next generation of Americans.

—Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

Title IX and birth control

The Trump administration is clearly trying to take a program that has successfully provided legions of clients medically effective birth control and counseling and use it to promote its philosophy that abstinence is the best policy, especially for adolescents. ... But not only does the new policy arguably violate Title X by emphasizing abstinence over other forms of family planning and encouraging single women not to have sex, it does so at the expense of other proven methods of birth control.

—Editorial Board
Los Angeles Times

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 Ciera Lundberg can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

Senior softball shortstop Alexa Strid slugging to team success

By CALEB TURNER

Shortstop Alexa Strid has found her stride in her senior season on the BYU softball team. Her career-high batting average and hit total have helped the Cougars explode en route to a fifth-straight West Coast Conference regular-season title and an automatic NCAA tournament bid, marking their 14th-straight appearance.

"This feels the best of any of the championships we ever won," Strid said after an emotional victory over Loyola Marymount on May 12.

One of five seniors on this year's squad, Strid has been a valuable leader and veteran presence the past few years and was named a team captain prior to the season.

Her recognition and leadership go beyond BYU, however, receiving a First Team All-WCC selection in each of the past two seasons.

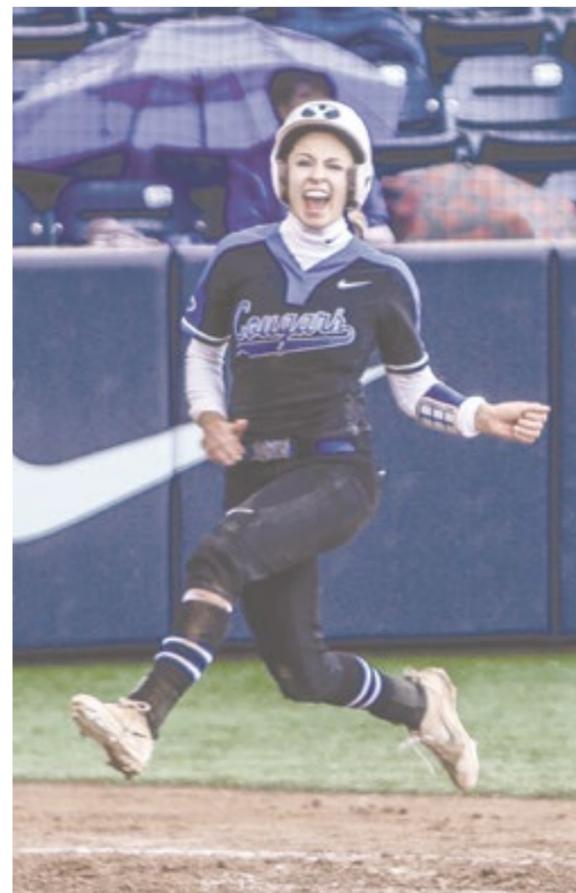
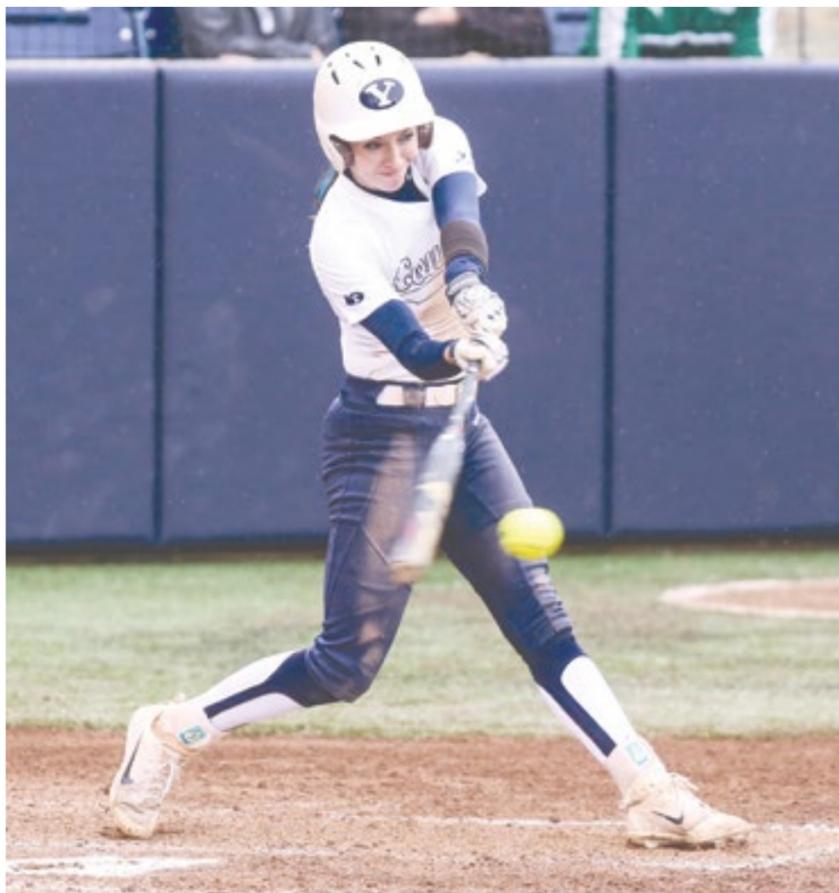
After leading her high school club team, the Georgia East Cobb Bullets, to a top 5 national finish her senior year, the Virginia native redshirted her freshman year at BYU. She went on to start in 40-or-more games and score over 20 runs each of the next four years.

"I've grown so much, changed so much, learned so much. I just feel like a completely different person from when I came, to now that I'm leaving," Strid said of her BYU career. "It felt like a lifetime worth of lessons, but it's only been five years. It's just been really awesome."

Strid has been especially crucial to the team's recent 10-game win streak, scoring in eight of the ten games, and totaling nine runs over the streak. This hot hitting gives her a blistering .467 batting average over those ten games.

"Peaking in senior year, that's got to be the best thing ever," Strid said. "It's very happy and relaxing when you're playing at your best when you need to be - at the end."

Strid, along with fellow senior captains Caitlyn Alldredge and Brielle



Josh Ellis

Left: Alexa Strid hits a pitch against Santa Clara on April 6. Strid is a senior posting career highs in batting average and total hits. Right: Alexa Strid comes across home plate during the first game of the Cougars' doubleheader against LMU on May 12. BYU beat the Lions in both games to clinch the WCC championship and the automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

Breland, forms part of an experienced group of seniors that will be missed after this year. All three were crucial to the team on both sides of the ball, making winning plays on defense and getting hits when the team needs it.

Allredge went flying into her own dugout for a game-clinching catch against LMU, earning her the No. 4 spot on the "Sportscenter Top 10."

Luckily, star slugger and catcher Libby Sugg is only a junior and will return to the squad next year, along with a talented group of underclassmen. The veteran presence of players like Strid will be missed, but the team will be in good hands with big hitters like Sugg.

For now, the focus remains in the here and now with BYU softball,

following the invitation to the team's 14th-straight postseason appearance.

"We are playing the best softball we've played all year," Strid added. "The whole team feels like we're going to be playing for several more weeks the way we're playing right now."

BYU will take on Drake on May 17 at 3 p.m. PDT in the Eugene Regional of the NCAA Tournament.

Overall No. 1 seed and region-host Oregon and Albany round out the double-elimination regional.

"We are excited to be playing in the NCAA tournament again this season," said BYU coach Gordon Eakin. "Oregon has passionate fans and is one of the best softball venues in the country. It's a strong regional and will be a great test. We are ready."



BYU Photo

Rory Linkletter runs in the Indoor Track and Field Championship on May 9. Linkletter qualified again for the NCAA Regionals after finishing in second place.

BYU track and field hosts final meet before NCAA competition

By CALEB TURNER

BYU track and field entered its Last Chance Meet, May 11-12, ranked No. 7 in the nation for men and No. 36 for the women. This was the last meet for both teams before they head to the NCAA West Preliminary May 24-26 in Sacramento, California.

Coach Ed Eyestone mentioned one of the main purposes of the meet was to give those who were on the edge of NCAA qualification the chance to make the jump, as well as sharpen the times and performances of those

who already qualified.

"We (wanted) to give them the opportunity to have a solid effort two weeks out from the first round of the NCAA's," explained Eyestone, a 10-time All-American and NCAA champion distance runner himself.

Most of BYU's distance runners competed last week at the Payton Jordan Invitational in California, and did not compete in the Last Chance Meet after already qualifying for regionals. Two of those runners, Connor McMillan and Rory Linkletter, finished with the No. 4 and No. 7 best times in BYU history, respectively.

Linkletter is one to watch for BYU,

after finishing second in the 10,000 meter at the NCAA championships last year. McMillan posted a career-best at the Payton Jordan Invitational and looks to break out in the postseason this year, having never earned a top-10 finish at nationals.

The men's 10,000-meter race remains one of BYU's strongest events, posting the No. 1 event group. BYU is also No. 1 in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase and women's high jump.

Prior to the Last Chance Meet, BYU athletes had already qualified more than 50 times for regionals competition.



BYU Photo

Rose Huang swings at the NCAA Austin Regional May 9. Huang was the only BYU golfer to qualify for nationals competition.

Huang advances to golf nationals, women's team finishes ninth

By CALEB TURNER

BYU junior Rose Huang was the only member of the BYU women's golf team to qualify for NCAA nationals, as the No. 41 ranked team finished ninth overall at the NCAA Austin Regional on May 9 at the University of Texas Golf Course.

"We are disappointed we didn't get to the NCAA Championships as a team," coach Carrie Roberts said. "But, we are super proud of Rose Huang, who qualified as an individual."

Only the top six teams at regionals advance to nationals, as well as the top three individual finishers outside of those teams.

Maddie Szeryk from Texas A&M claimed the first individual place with a total score of 209 (-7). Tied for fourth place, Huang faced off against Michigan State's Sarah Burnham and Houston's Leonie Harm in a five-hole playoff for the second and third individual spots.

The three players remained tied through four holes, but Huang separated herself with a birdie on the fifth hole. The shot secured the second individual spot for Huang, with Harm taking the third and final spot.

Huang earned a season-best score of 212 in Austin, golfing a 71-70-71 over the three-day competition.

Kendra Dalton, the lone senior at the competition, also finished in the top 20, shooting one over on the final day to earn 16th place at the regional.

The team as a whole was a 10-over on the final day and a 21-over for the entire tournament. The Cougars are just a few strokes behind nationally-ranked Michigan State (11) and Texas A&M (38).

No. 3 Arkansas won the regional shooting 5-under par on the final day to finish at 26-under. The Razorbacks, along with No. 8 Texas, No. 19 Auburn, No. 14 Florida, No. 35 Baylor and No. 21 Oklahoma advance to the 2018 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championships in Stillwater, Oklahoma May 18-23, where Huang will represent BYU as an individual.

Women face challenges, opportunities in male-heavy STEM

By MADALYN MCRAE

Lacey Murphy wanted to be a novelist, but that changed when she took a biology class as a sophomore in high school.

"I would just sit there and read my biology textbook just for fun," she said. "And I was just enthralled."

After graduating from the University of Utah with her bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science and master's degree in immunotoxicology at Montana State University, Murphy now works in a clinical laboratory at the Salt Lake Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Her work reaches to areas like clinical chemistry, hematology, blood banking or microbiology — though chemistry is her favorite.

"I see something different everyday," Murphy said.

Status of women in STEM

In 2015, women like Murphy filled 24 percent of all science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) jobs in the U.S., according to a November 2017 report by the Economics and Statistics Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

According to a January 2017 report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor, there were 8.6 million STEM jobs as of May 2015, meaning women held approximately 2 million of those jobs, leaving the other 6.5 million STEM jobs to males.

In February 2017, a former teacher started the Hope Institute of Science for Girls in Philadelphia, where she now teaches STEM to preschool-aged girls, according to a story by CBS News.

In a 2016 article, "Gender Gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM): Current Knowledge, Implications for Practice, Policy, and Future Directions," Ming-Te Wang and Jessica L. Degol said they found multiple

explanations for women's under-representation in STEM.

Explanations included different career preferences, different ways of balancing work with family, and gender discrimination.

Wang and Degol said their goal was to increase women's career options by capitalizing on female cognitive strengths, cultivating women's interests in STEM and removing stereotypes and obstacles that could "cloud career decisions."

STEM education

Kathryn Rasmussen graduated from BYU in April in computer science and was president of the BYU Women in Computer Science club. She said females have different experiences than males in computer science.

She said the beginning computer science classes are difficult, and it's easy to feel lonely.

"Our biggest focus is to help women feel accepted and feel hopeful about being in the major," she said.

To cultivate a community in the major, Women in Computer Science hosts weekly Code Together nights where girls work on homework, personal projects and get help from their peers.

Rasmussen said there are no female computer science professors, though she was supported by her male professors.

"A lot of them are very vocal about their support and how much they just don't care about men versus women," she said.

However, Murphy said she valued having a female mentor. "Had I not had my female mentor, I really don't know that I would have stayed in graduate school," she said. Her mentor was able to help her progress in science and help her emotionally.

STEM workforce

Erica Zaugg graduated from BYU in 2016 in civil engineering and said her STEM experience was positive because her college offered the Women in



Madalyn McRae

BYU alumna Kathryn Rasmussen said females have a different experience in the computer science major.

Engineering and Technology club, retreats and mentoring opportunities for women.

Zaugg now works at a civil engineering design company doing subdivision design.

"You make a huge impact," she said. "Civil engineering — it's everything. All of the roads, all of the water, all of the infrastructure that everyone uses."

Jill Lundell, a statistician who received her master's in 1998, is now working on her doctorate at Utah State University. She said she loves her job because statistics allows her to dabble in everything and the visual component of statistics speaks to her interest in art.

"I think we don't think about that visual, creative aspect when we think of sciences, and it definitely exists in statistics," Lundell said.

Obstacles in pursuing STEM

Zaugg said she remembers a BYU professor speaking about sexual harassment in a class. She also had a negative experience when a fellow male student asked her if she was going

"I remember just sitting in his office crying about like, 'I feel so much pressure to stay home, but I really want to work. And yet I feel like that's a sinful thing to do,'" Skriloff said. "I really resent that I had that pressure that what I was loving, that my goal to make technology for everyone — to benefit the whole world — was a bad thing for me."

Now Skriloff's 17-year-old sister has expressed an interest in working at NASA.

"I love seeing how confident my sister is and how confident she feels that she is going to have a good experience. Because I think that she will," Skriloff said about her sister's future journey exploring STEM. "I really hope it is different from my experience."

Women's STEM future

Many organizations and educational efforts support girls' interest in STEM.

Timpview High School junior Quincy Taylor is on the math team, has taken Advanced Placement math and science classes and also heads the Timpview High Girls Who Code Club.

"My initial exposure to STEM was actually through my grandfather, who is a physicist and works at a lab in D.C.," she said. Her parents have also been supportive of her interest in STEM.

She said she's met a number of supportive teachers, but her calculus teacher, Anne Crosland, "really advocates for girls in the STEM fields."

However, Taylor said the school administration hasn't noticed Timpview's STEM efforts as much as she would like. She said the school's college and career counselor only recently learned of the Girls Who Code Club, which has been running for two years.

Taylor originally got the club off the ground, and eight to 10 girls usually attend activities, including lessons from BYU students, field trip

opportunities and helping girls find internships.

Maggie Betts has years before she can apply to college, but the 10-year-old living in Logan, Utah, said she already knows she wants to be a "rocket engineer" for NASA. Maggie's mom, Laura Betts, said since Maggie was 3 years old she has loved astronomy.

"My husband gave her this textbook that she would flip through all the time. It was called 'Our Universe,'" Laura Betts said. "That was (Maggie's) favorite book when she was 3 years old."

She said things are different today from her experience growing up.

"It's not so weird for a girl to have an interest in science and things anymore like it used to be," she said.

Laura Betts said she and her family see science in action though spending time camping, going to observatories and watching meteor showers together. Maggie Betts also recently got a telescope for her birthday and has been working to identify craters on the moon.

"She was telling me all about the things that they're finding in the Kuiper belt, and I didn't even know what that was as a kid," Laura Betts said. "It's just been fun to learn it with her."

Laura Betts said Maggie has no doubt NASA and astronomy is where she is headed.

"She knows that she can be whatever she wants to be," Laura Betts said. "I just really hope that that's how she approaches the rest of her life."

She said their family went to an "eclipse party" in Idaho for the August 2017 solar eclipse.

Maggie got up early to watch the eclipse, but was disappointed when she saw cloud cover, Laura Betts said in a Facebook message.

"I said, 'Mags, as an astronomer, clouds will be your nemesis,'" Laura Betts said.

"When I work at NASA," Maggie Betts told her mom, "I will go above the clouds."



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On Page 1, use the app to see video highlights from the BYU Rocketry Club launches. Or, on Page 5, watch a video of BYU students' reactions to the LDS Church/BSA announcement.

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