



Campus testing

Some answers about how BYU randomized testing works

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BYU ranked 15

Read a recap of BYU's 45-14 win over opposing team LA Tech

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October 6-12, 2020

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

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Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

Conference speakers address social issues, offer hope



The First Presidency and members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles wait for the broadcast to start at the Conference Center Theater on Temple Square in Salt Lake City during General Conference on Oct. 3. Speakers at the virtual conference focused on a range of contemporary issues like the pandemic, racism, elections and more. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read additional conference coverage.

By JOSH CARTER

Leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints tackled a number of contemporary issues head on and offered messages of hope during the 190th Semiannual General Conference.

Broadcast live from the Conference Center Theater for the Church's second consecutive all-virtual conference, speakers boldly addressed timely topics such as racism, protests, a heated election and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The work of the Lord is steadily moving forward," President Russell M. Nelson said. "Amid social distancing, face masks and Zoom meetings, we have learned to do some things differently and some even more effectively. Unusual times can bring unusual rewards."

Social unity

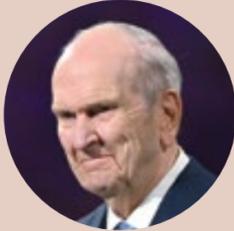
President Nelson, acknowledging the recent racial tensions throughout the United States, called on Church members to "lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice."

"God does not love one race more than another," President Nelson said. "His doctrine on this matter is clear. He invites all to come unto Him, black and white, bond and free, male and female."

"I assure you that your standing before God is not determined by the color of your skin," President Nelson added. "Favor or disfavor with God is dependent upon your devotion to God and His commandments, and not the color of your skin."

President Nelson's words were echoed by speakers throughout the conference who condemned racism and encouraged members to find ways to improve the current social climate. President Dallin H. Oaks pleaded with members and citizens to "do better."

"As citizens and as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of



President Russell M. Nelson
Today, I call upon our members everywhere to lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice. I plead with you to promote respect for all of God's children.



President Dallin H. Oaks
As citizens and as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we must do better to help root out racism. Knowing that we are all children of God gives us a divine vision of the worth of all others and the will and ability to rise above prejudice. and racism.



Sister Sharon Eubank
Unity doesn't magically happen; it takes work. It's messy, sometimes uncomfortable, and happens gradually when we clear away the bad as fast as the good can grow.

Latter-day Saints, we must do better to help root out racism," President Oaks said. "This nation's history of racism is not a happy one, and we must do better."

Elder Quentin L. Cook pressed members to draw from Christ's example and teachings in order to improve race relations. He pointed out that those who have "accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ have committed themselves to achieving both righteousness and unity."

"Christ's ministry and message have consistently declared all races and colors are children of God," Elder Cook said. "The culture of the gospel of Jesus Christ is ... not determined by the color of one's skin or where one lives."

Protests and politics

Addressing the protests on racial inequality and police brutality that have frequented the U.S. over the past few months, President Oaks supported peaceful gatherings while denouncing violence and looting. According to President Oaks, although Christ's teachings were

revolutionary, "He did not teach revolution or lawbreaking. He taught a better way."

"In public actions and in our personal attitudes, we have had racism and related grievances," President Oaks said. "This does not mean that we agree with all that is done with the force of law. It means that we obey the current law and use peaceful means to change it."

President Oaks went on to address the seemingly increasing political polarity and partisan bitterness apparent in today's society. With the U.S. presidential election just weeks away, President Oaks encouraged members to let go of anger, regardless of the outcome.

Also addressing the tense political landscape, Elder M. Russell Ballard noted the comforting and healing power prayer can have amid such times. He urged members to exercise faith and "pray for your country and for your national leaders."

"This is not about politics or policy," Elder Ballard said. "This is about peace and the healing that can come to individual souls as well

as to the souls of countries."

COVID-19

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf acknowledged the hardships caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and consoled those suffering as a result. While he admitted the pandemic is not "what we wanted or expected," Elder Uchtdorf spoke on the importance of remaining optimistic and keeping the bigger picture in mind.

"We will endure this, yes," Elder Uchtdorf said. "But we will do more than simply grit our teeth, hold on and wait for things to return to the old normal. We will move forward, and we will be better as a result."

Elder David A. Bednar pointed out that mortal tests are vital to eternal progression. He noted that some of life's most important lessons can only be taught through "challenging experiences."

"The year 2020 has been marked, in part, by a global pandemic that has proved, examined and tried us in many ways," Elder Bednar said. "I invite each of us to consider our ways and examine ourselves. What have we learned

during these recent months of lifestyle adjustments and restrictions?"

Looking ahead

While acknowledging the worrisome circumstances of today's society, many speakers outlined their hopes for a brighter future. Sister Lisa Harkness, second counselor in the Primary general presidency, reminded members of the strength that comes from putting our faith in Christ during "turbulent times." Sister Michelle D. Craig, first counselor in the Young Women general presidency, said hope can be found by praying for God to help us better see his power and plan for us.

President Henry B. Eyring claimed the greatest blessing one can receive during trials comes when they "notice the tribulation of others and try to help." In attempting to help others, "our backs are strengthened and we sense a light in the darkness," according to President Eyring.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland promised members that through faith in the Atonement of Christ, burdens caused by the current global circumstances will be lifted "by and by."

"The path to holiness and happiness here and hereafter is a long and sometimes rocky one," Elder Holland said. "But, of course, the reward for doing so is monumental."

At the close of the conference, President Nelson encouraged members looking for a "new normal" in their lives to do so by increasingly turning to God. He also acknowledged the importance of temples, which continue to reopen throughout the world, in helping members keep an optimistic and eternal perspective.

President Nelson then announced six new temples to be built at the following locations: Tarawa, Kiribati; Port Vila, Vanuatu; Lindon, Utah; Greater Guatemala City, Guatemala; Sao Paulo East, Brazil and Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

"May we go forward together to fulfill our divine mandate — that of preparing ourselves and the world for the Second Coming of the Lord," President Nelson said.

BYU students listen to General Conference differently amid pandemic

By ANDREA CABRERA

BYU students tuned in to General Conference differently due to pandemic and remote streaming.

The 190th Semiannual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held remotely once again due to the coronavirus pandemic. This time, students were still in Provo, unlike April's remote conference when many students were home with family after classes shifted online.

"The way that (General Conference)

is being presented in our homes is pretty similar to a lot of the work and the normal things that we have," BYU junior Elise Sandland said. "I don't want it to feel like any other Zoom call or conference that I'm attending."

Since BYU's fall class plans have been a mixture of in-person instruction and online components, students are spending more time online than regular semesters.

In order to make General Conference feel more eventful, Sandland said she planned to watch conference and eat chilaquiles (a Mexican dish) with a few close friends while following social distancing guidelines.

"Pretty much all of the people we're getting together with are also very, very strict about mask wearing and social distancing," said Sandland. "(One of the girls we're meeting with) has three couches in her apartment, so we're going to be socially distancing there."

In an Instagram question on the Daily Universe's account asking students what their plans were for conference weekend, one frequent answer was to watch conference with family or friends — a common tradition. The way some students listened to conference with family and friends, however, is unique.

Kyrie Papenfuss, a BYU senior

studying psychology, said she was looking forward to conference because she is listening in "a very different way."

"I've always been kind of the one that invites all of my friends over and we all watch it together," she said. "Obviously with the pandemic going on right now and the need to social distance, that isn't really feasible."

Papenfuss said she went on a hike with a friend while listening to the women's session on Saturday.

"I feel really close to God when I'm in nature," she said.

Papenfuss said she was looking forward to conference because she needs "that guidance right now" as she thinks about post-graduation plans.

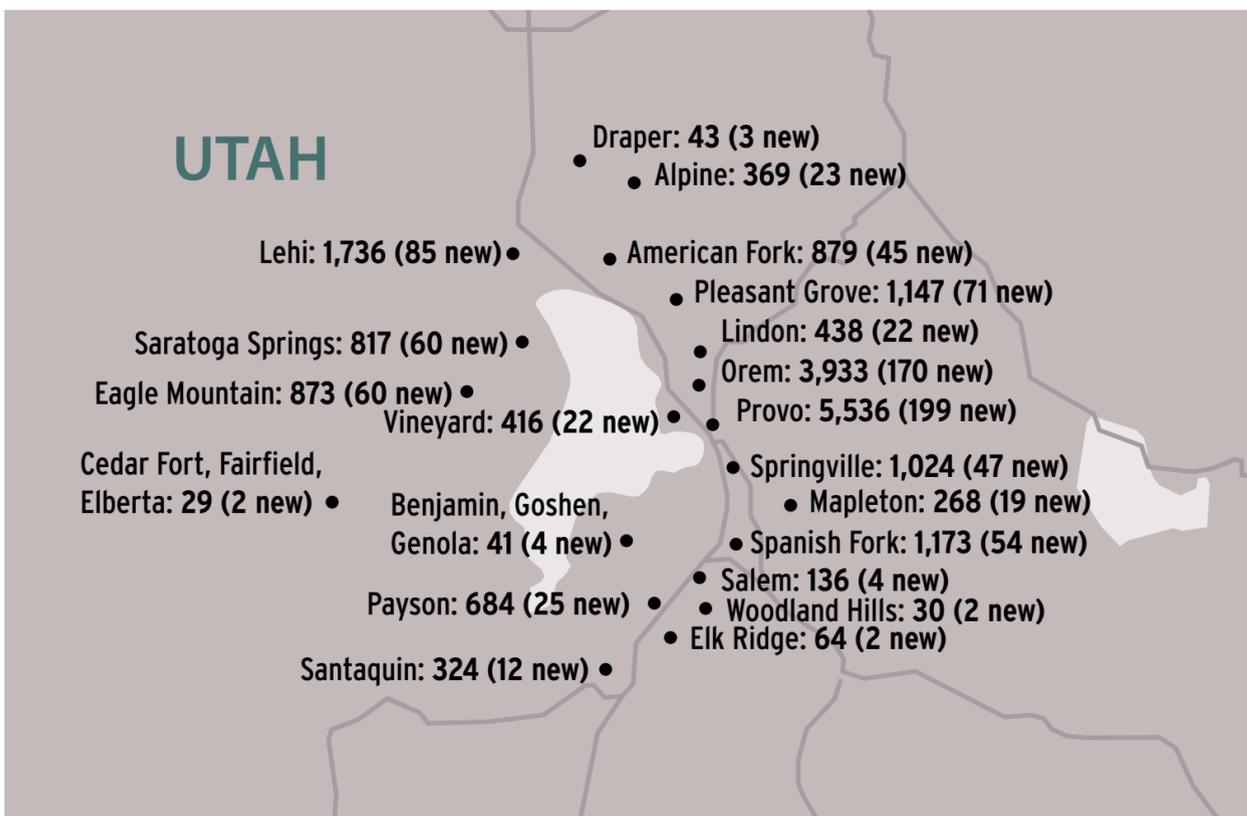
"I feel like we're all kind of wanting answers like wanting some sort of comfort from God," Papenfuss said.

"I think (the pandemic) definitely allows more of an opportunity to focus and not be so worried about trying to get somewhere or looking your absolute best to be in the Conference Center," Sandland said. "It helps us to really focus on what matters, which is just that message."

See Pages 2 and 4 for more info on the effects of COVID-19

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Total coronavirus cases in Utah County



Total cases and new cases as of Oct. 4-5 in each city according to the Utah County Health Department.

Allie Peterson

Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



Record California wildfires surpass 4 million acres

In a year that has already brought apocalyptic skies and smothering smoke to the West Coast, California set a grim new record Sunday when officials announced that the wildfires of 2020 have now scorched a record 4 million acres – in a fire season that is far from over.

The unprecedented figure – an area larger than the state of Connecticut – is more than double the previous record for the most land burned in a single year in California.



Facebook, Twitter flounder in QAnon crackdown

Facebook and Twitter promised to stop encouraging the growth of the baseless conspiracy theory QAnon, which fashions President Donald Trump as a secret warrior against a supposed child-trafficking ring run by celebrities and government officials, after it reached an audience of millions on their platforms this year.

But the social media companies still aren't enforcing even the limited restrictions they've recently put in place to stem the tide of dangerous QAnon material.



Historic female voter honored with gravestone correction

For more than 80 years, the grave of the first woman to vote under an equal suffrage law in the United States was marked with a misspelled name. Not anymore.

On Sept. 28, her descendants, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and others gathered at Seraph Young's corrected headstone in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

"She was a pioneer for women's suffrage," Herbert said in a press call after the wreath-laying ceremony.

Virus tests costlier under Utah contract with startup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — A multimillion-dollar coronavirus-testing contract the state of Utah signed with a startup company ended up costing significantly more per test because fewer people than expected took the tests, according to an audit released Sept. 30.

The agreement with Nomi Health was for a flat fee and didn't have a way to scale back

if the number of tests was lower than planned, the audit found.

The \$7.6 million contract was for up to 3,000 tests per day, which would have made them cost less than other providers, according to the Utah State Auditor.

But instead there were only about 540 tests processed per day at TestUtah sites, so each one ended up costing \$235, significantly higher than the \$125-per-test average of other testing companies, according to the review.

Utah governor candidates debate masks, infrastructure

By KAELA CLEARY

Utah gubernatorial candidates Spencer Cox, a Republican and current lieutenant governor, and Chris Peterson, a Democratic professor of business law at University of Utah, went head to head in a debate Sept. 29 about their political stances as potential governors.

Peterson has called for a mask mandate since July and said he would still make it a matter of law with reasonable exceptions.

Both Cox and Peterson agreed that wearing a mask is extremely important for people's safety, health and lives. Peterson emphasized how important wearing a mask is and said according to the CDC, Utah is the 4th worst state in terms of per capita infection, therefore residents need to do more to minimize the spread of coronavirus.

Cox mentioned that there is more work to do to improve infrastructure in public transit while Peterson spoke about air quality and school system funding.

Trump's diagnosis sparks conspiracy theories

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO, Illinois — News that President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump had tested positive for the coronavirus sparked an explosion of rumors, misinformation and conspiracy theories that littered social media feeds.

By Oct. 2, nearly 30,000 Twitter users had retweeted a variety of conspiracy theories about the news.

The news is ripe for foreign and domestic internet instigators to exploit by pushing online disinformation about the two presidential candidates and opens the door for unwitting people to spread misinformation without realizing what they're sharing is false, experts say.

Facebook and Twitter said they immediately began to monitor misinformation and attempts by users to inundate feeds with repeating phrases about Trump's illness.

Virus spreads on panel handling Supreme Court nomination

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Two Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have tested positive for the coronavirus, raising questions about the timing of Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett and whether additional senators may have been exposed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared the confirmation process was going "full steam ahead."

The positive tests come as Senate Republicans are pushing to quickly confirm Barrett in the few weeks they have before the Nov. 3 election. There is little cushion in the schedule set out by Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham and McConnell, who want to put a third Trump nominee on the court immediately in case they lose any of their power in the election.

Democrats, many of whom have been critical of Barrett, seized on the virus announcements to call for a delay in the hearings.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

CFAC creates a diversity, inclusion and accessibility committee among professors



Jaren Wilkey/BYU Photo

The Harris Fine Arts Center is the home of the BYU College of Fine Arts and Communications, which recently established a new committee focused on diversity, inclusion and accessibility.

By ALLISON MCARTHUR

The College of Fine Arts and Communications recently established Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee has been tasked with helping faculty and students create diverse, inclusive and accessible learning environments within all college departments.

The committee's statement established three main areas in which it will help and support faculty in every department in achieving this goal.

First, the committee will (provide) guidance about the recruitment, training, retention, promotion, and support faculty and staff of color, women faculty, and faculty from other underrepresented groups, recognizing that their perspectives and contributions enhance the quality of our college's research, teaching, performances, and programs."

Second, "collaborate) with faculty members, mentors, chairs, deans, and other college partners to create inclusive learning environments where students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds and experiences can succeed, thrive, and contribute to the aims of Brigham Young University."

Third, "directly (support) the college in its goal to help students become informed citizens — scholars, artists, and communicators — who help our college and the broader communities in which they

live become more diverse and inclusive."

The statement from the committee also invites students to learn how to be an ally for all minority groups, such as those who have been marginalized for their "gender, age, culture, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, physical and neurological ability, learning style, religion, immigration status, and socioeconomic status."

As directed by the college, students are instructed to listen and learn from these minority voices, attend to those who are often left unheard, engage in productive conversation, and be prepared to understand and approach all learning opportunities with the humility to learn and gain awareness.

"I hope these changes expose our students to more rich, diverse and unique human experiences. In turn, I hope it inspires them to further create and advocate for art that reflects those diverse experiences," said Kris Peterson, a committee member from the Department of Theatre and Media Arts.

As a committee member representing the Department of Dance, Keely Song said she is delighted for the changes that will be happening throughout the college. She explained that from the Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee of the college, subcommittees will also be created within each department. This will allow each department to implement changes effectively.

"Within each department there have been strides in making changes for a more inclusive environment. By having a college committee, it brings the collective ideas of many into one arena where it can be shared and incorporated within other departments more quickly," Song said.

The committee has created opportunities for student voices to be heard through Learning and Listening Sessions with CFAC Students. In these sessions, the committee will work to gain a greater understanding of the needs of the students. Students are encouraged to come before the committee and share their experiences so changes can be made.

CFAC will begin hosting Listen Up Sessions with Guest Artists and Communicators beginning Winter Semester 2021. Guest speakers from diverse backgrounds will be welcomed to the college for an organized discussion open for students to attend.

Ysabeaux Ng, a senior in the theatre and media arts department, said she is excited to attend the events the committee will be hosting and hear from speakers of her same demographic. She expressed her hope for greater changes that will happen throughout the college rather than in individual classrooms.

"It is our responsibility to listen to these voices, they have been trying to speak up for so long," Ng said.

IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Students, professors win awards for civil engineering



Civil engineering students

BYU civil engineering students and faculty won several awards from the 2020 Institute of Transportation Engineers Mountain District Conference. Students Logan Bennett, Camille Lunt and Bruce Wang won first place in the Traffic Bowl, a quiz challenging what students know about transportation engineering. The team of Natalie Gray, Sami Lau and Bruce Wang placed first in the Kell Competition, a competition to see who can create the most creative travel route using different types of transportation. Logan Bennett, Justin Hunter and Camille Lunt placed second in the Kell Competition. Awards also went to individuals, including the Outstanding Educator Award for professor Grant Schultz, Outstanding Undergraduate Award for Logan Bennett, and Outstanding Graduate award for Camille Lunt.

"The awards received are some of the most prestigious awards for civil engineering students who are focusing their studies on transportation engineering," Schultz said. "This was the first year that these awards were given and to have the recipients of both student awards and the faculty award be from BYU speaks to the quality of students here at BYU and their ability to represent BYU in an exceptional way."

MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

BYU alum continues applying what he learned during school



Lee Bowen and family

BYU Marriott School of Accountancy alum Lee Bowen attributes his success to lessons he learned at BYU. As the chief financial officer of Young Living Essential Oils in Lehi, Bowen gets to move at a fast pace and face exciting challenges every day. Before joining Young Living, Bowen worked as the regional director of finance for Hilti Corporation in Latin America, where he put into practice the value of service he gained at the Marriott School.

"One of the things BYU Marriott instilled in me was having a standard of excellence," Bowen said. "My experiences at BYU helped shape who I am as a person and made me who I am today, and that's why my love for BYU will always stay strong."

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Graduate honored by The Design Kids' annual competition



Illustration by McCall Keller

A BYU graphic design graduate was recently honored by The Design Kids' annual competition. The competition, which helps new designers gain recognition in their field, appreciated McCall Keller's monochromatic, "intriguingly playful," "well-executed" and "confident" portfolio, judge Annie Atkins said. Keller currently works in Los Angeles as a brand designer for the creative agency R/GA.

Keller said his love of black-and-white art comes from how it "provides a different perspective than what we're used to in the colorful world that we live in." Keller also mentioned his admiration of his ancestors' propensity for thinking outside the box.

"I want to live a life that makes future generations proud," Keller said.

You can follow Keller's journey on Instagram @macmosskeller.

BYU announces new security department, will remain separate from BYU Police

By JOSH CARTER

BYU is creating a security department that will operate separately from BYU Police, the school announced Oct. 1.

According to a school press release, the BYU Security Department will oversee on-campus security for buildings such as the Museum of Art and Harold B. Lee Library, as well as campus properties such as the Motion Picture Studio and West Campus. The department will operate alongside BYU Police and will also be responsible for campus parking.

The release noted that BYU Police will patrol campus and "continue to be subject to GRAMA and other state and federal laws applicable to law-enforcement agencies." Although the release did not specify whether the new security department would be subject to the same open records laws, BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins told The Daily Universe it would not be.

"The security department does not have law enforcement authority and is therefore not subject to GRAMA," Jenkins said in an email.

The announcement comes after years of legal battles over whether BYU Police officers improperly shared police evidence with the Honor Code Office while investigating alleged criminal misconduct by students. In response to such



Sadie Blood

BYU announced Oct. 1 the formation of the new BYU Security Department, which will function separately from BYU Police. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.

reports, state legislators passed a law requiring private campus police organizations to follow the same public records rules adhered to by all other public police agencies, as of May 2019.

The announcement also comes while the Utah Department of Public Safety is in the process of attempting to decertify the BYU Police Department entirely.

The initial decertification effort began in Feb. 2019, when the Utah Commissioner of Public Safety sent BYU President Kevin J. Worthen a letter stating BYU failed to conduct an investigation into misconduct allegations and failed to comply with a subpoena for internal records. The effort stalled, however, after BYU responded with a statement saying it planned to appeal the state's decision.

Jenkins told The Daily Universe in May 2019 that there

would be an administrative hearing in the fall of 2019 concerning the decertification. A hearing date was never set, and nearly two years since the initial decertification effort such a hearing has yet to take place.

Chris Autry, who was appointed BYU Police Chief in Jan. 2019, will now serve as Managing Director of BYU Police and BYU Security. The school plans on hiring a new BYU Police Chief soon, who, along with the BYU Security management team, will report to Autry. Autry will in turn report to BYU's Administration Vice President and CFO Steve Hafen.

Ten full-time BYU employees will oversee more than 300 student employees in the new security department. These employees will have specialized safety training but will not have authority to make arrests like sworn law enforcement officers.

TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL
Tuesday, October 6,
11:05 a.m.

This event will be streamed live and available for viewing on BYUtv.



Candace Berrett

Associate Professor, BYU Department of Statistics

Dr. Candace Berrett is an associate professor in the BYU Department of Statistics. Her research interests focus on Bayesian spatial and spatio-temporal methods for non-normal data in environmental, epidemiological, and signal processing applications. She most often teaches courses on probability and generalized linear models. She is actively involved in both national and interna-

tional statistics communities. Dr. Berrett earned her bachelor's degree in actuarial science from BYU and her master's and doctoral degrees in statistics from The Ohio State University. In addition to being a statistician and professor, she is also a daughter, sister, wife, stepmom, mom, colleague, friend, quilter, runner, prayer, learner, A Lot football player, and more.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu.

NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

Bishop Gérald Causé
*Presiding Bishop,
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints*



October 13, 11:05 a.m.
Marriott Center

Some BYU classes move online during COVID spike

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

Some BYU professors are moving their in-person or blended class completely online or making other adaptations as COVID cases rise in Utah County.

Provo is one of only two cities in the state to be in the moderate risk category, and BYU reported 190 active cases (out of 1,525 total) as of Oct. 3.

Journalism senior Anna Bryner's POLI 150 class recently moved online for a week and a half due to the upward trend in COVID cases. Her professor gave the stipulation that the class would wait to return to in-person until the number of active cases on campus declined.

Now she only has to go on campus for a religion class and a class she TAs for. She said she generally feels safe being on campus despite the rise in cases. "But I guess it is nice, though, on days that I've just totally stayed home, I know I couldn't have been exposed that day. So I'd say there is a little bit of comfort in that."

The biggest difference of shifting most of her classes online has been the logistical convenience. "I tended to go on campus back and forth because I found it kind of annoying to try to find a place on campus to do an online class," she said. The switch also means that if she has to quarantine as she did a few weeks ago, she doesn't need to worry about falling behind if there are technical difficulties that prevent the professor from recording the class.



Nate Edwards/BYU Photo

Professor Paul Frandsen uses Zoom to teach on March 19. Some professors are moving back to online classes as COVID cases at BYU and in Utah County rise.

Allison Baker, a computer science sophomore, has most of her classes online. Only two of her classes — a math class and a women's studies course — are blended. She said her women's studies class hasn't met in person yet, but they may do so for the first time this week.

Her math class offers an online lecture class and smaller TA labs once a week. After going to the lab once in person, she decided to switch to the only online TA section.

"I just saw how it was all set up," Baker said, describing a small classroom where there weren't enough seats for everyone to social distance. "I was nervous. It didn't seem bad at the moment, the class setup, but I was afraid that as things got worse, I wouldn't

want to be in class."

A few weeks into the semester, all the TA labs for the class went online, hopefully temporarily. She said now she's relieved she made the switch earlier on. "I feel safe that I don't have to go to any in-person classes on campus."

History professor Evan Ward hasn't moved his in-person classes online, but he has started to record his classes and allow live remote delivery.

"I did not anticipate having to remotely deliver and record lectures, but as the number of concerned as well as quarantined students increased, I felt it was more of a public service rather than a convenience to accommodate student concerns by taping class as well as offering it remotely," he said. The setup isn't without its

challenges, though. Ward said teaching in a classroom and blended setting simultaneously "creates a sort of schizophrenia that makes reaching students a bit more difficult."

Currently, the decision about whether to move classes online temporarily or longer is up to individual professors. That may change within a week or so if case counts don't go down, according to a joint letter released by BYU President Kevin J. Worthen and UVU President Astrid S. Tuminez on Sept. 22. In the letter, Worthen and Tuminez said moving to online instruction for the rest of the semester could be a possible consequence if student behavior around COVID guidelines does not improve.



Josh Carter

A DJ at Afuego Fridays prepares for an Aug. 14 dance party. The Utah County Health Department identified Afuego Fridays and Utah Country Dance as having helped fuel the recent COVID case surge in Utah County. Scan the photo above with the **UNIVERSE PLUS** app for a Spanish translation of this story.

Health Department identifies COVID-linked Provo party businesses

By JOSH CARTER

The Utah County Health Department released the names of two Provo party businesses that have helped fuel local COVID-19 cases over the last three weeks.

Country Dance Provo, an event hosted twice a week by Utah Country Dance at 116 W. Center, and Afuego Fridays at 1700 N. State, have been linked to multiple COVID-19 cases, according to documents obtained by The Daily Universe through a GRAMA request.

Cases began to surge in Utah County on Sept. 10, when a then-record 224 new cases prompted state health officials to urge young adults in the area to exercise more caution. Case numbers continued to rise, however, causing Utah Gov. Gary Herbert to move Provo and Orem back to the moderate or orange restriction level under Utah's phased pandemic

plan on Sept. 22. The County Health Department and Utah County Commission then issued a public mask mandate later that day.

Health Department spokesperson Aislynn Tolman-Hill told the Universe on Sept. 15 that a large portion of the surge of positive cases were "definitively" traceable back to the two party businesses.

Both Utah Country Dance and Afuego Fridays have been hosting events since June when the county first moved to a low-risk restriction level and have seen a considerable amount of business since then. Despite the recent change back to the moderate restriction level, both businesses plan to continue hosting events with a number of additional precautions.

Neither Utah Country Dance owner Miguel Guzman nor Afuego Fridays owner Luis Castro said they had heard from the Health Department about being linked to the COVID-19 cases.

Answers about BYU's randomized COVID testing leads to more questions

By CASSIDY WIXOM

BYU's requirement that members of the campus community agree to randomized COVID testing has produced both answers and questions about the process and results.

The overall student experience with randomized testing has been met with positive reactions, but when questioned on the details of the procedure, BYU has kept quiet.

BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said any student or faculty member who is physically on campus is eligible to be selected for randomized testing.

Students are selected for testing through a randomized process where a sample of individuals are drawn from the campus community. If the individual selected meets the requirements outlined by Jenkins, they are sent an email with instructions on how to get tested.

The actual selection process was not explained except that it is "a random process."

Communication disorders senior Rebecca Lyman praised BYU for being involved in preventing and containing outbreaks. "This is cool, it's historic. I think it's awesome that BYU is being on top of this stuff. They aren't being passive about it," she said.

Students are directed in the email to be tested at one of three testing sites: the Richards Building, the BYU Student Health Center or the Risk Management Building. They report to the testing site designated within a timeframe specified by the email. Jenkins said students must be tested at the site specified in the email because BYU is covering all costs for the randomized testing.

Freshman Mia Delli Gatti said she was excited to get tested but felt like it was an inconvenience to her time. She expressed her nervousness of doing a nasal swab and was relieved that her test instead was spitting into a tube. She was tested at Risk Management where they conduct saliva tests. The Richards Building also does saliva tests while the Health Center administers only nasal swabs.

Neither Risk Management or University Communications gave a reason for different types of testing being assigned to different students.

"I wasn't happy when I got selected to be tested but overall the process wasn't bad," said Isaac Johnson, a sophomore



Addie Blacker

The Student Health Center is where students and faculty can get tested for COVID-19 on campus. People either come to get tested because they are exhibiting symptoms, have been in contact with someone who has the virus or were randomly selected by BYU.

majoring in statistics who was tested at the Health Center.

BYU declined to release the number of students that have been tested so far through this randomized process. BYU also would not say how many students are chosen each week to be tested. The percentage of positive cases from randomized tests is also not being released at this time.

Test results are emailed to the individual within a few days. COVID test results are also available for viewing on the Healthy Together app.

Johnson, Gatti and Lyman all received a result of "Not Detected," or in other words, negative.

Finance junior Allison Long started showing symptoms quickly after her random coronavirus test. The Healthy Together app showed her positive result after about 48 hours. But a week later, longer than the health center said it would take, she received an email that said "Good news! Your test result has come back NOT DETECTED." She said she still does not know why there was a conflict in test results.

University Communications and Risk Management declined to comment on why Long's results came back contradictory.

Johnson and Long were both tested at the Health Center yet received their results in drastically different time lengths. Johnson said it took only two hours for him to get his results. Long, however, had to wait over a week to receive the email that had a result contrary to her actual viral status.

Health Center Executive Secretary Juleah Roberts explained that BYU has been

ordering new faster coronavirus tests that can give results in two hours. They had a shipment of the new tests but have since run out. According to Roberts, more are on the way. So those who are tested at the Health Center have a possibility of the faster, less intrusive nasal swab test being given to them. If a student is sent to a different testing site on campus or the Health Center is out of the fast tests, however, they will have to

wait the usual two to three days for their results.

Roberts showed excitement for the faster tests. "We love being able to give the results out faster."

Randomized testing is part of BYU's testing plan to help maintain and prevent COVID-19 outbreaks for Fall Semester. This plan had four main categories for testing: testing of symptomatic individuals, testing of those who have been

in direct close contact with a known COVID-19 case, risk-based evaluation and testing, and randomized testing across the BYU campus community.

Before Fall Semester started, all students and faculty were required to complete a back-to-school training where they agreed to participate in the randomized testing if requested by BYU.

If a student or faculty member does not comply with the

request for testing, individual follow-up by BYU administration will occur. Jenkins said on-campus privileges may also be restricted if they refuse to get tested.

When tested at the Student Health Center, the student is encouraged to set up an appointment in advance. The individual drives up in their car and has a nasal swab inserted about an inch into the nose. People may also walk to the health center to be helped.

When being tested at the Richards Building or Risk Management, students are given time slots where they can walk into the testing site to get their saliva test conducted. The individual must spit into a tube, fill it to a designated line and mix a liquid into it before giving the tube back to the nurse helping them.

Risk Management turned down answering any questions about the randomized procedure, instead referring all questions to University Communications.

"Because of the potential for asymptomatic cases, randomized testing helps us better understand the prevalence of COVID-19 within our community," Jenkins said.

BYU has more information on its COVID-19 updates webpage.

Police Beat

Provo

AUTO THEFT

Sept. 26 - An individual has been arrested after confessing to stealing a box trailer from a church parking lot at 4506 N. Timpview Dr.

Sept. 26 - An automobile was reported stolen near 800 West on Center Street.

BURGLARY

Sept. 29 - An attempted burglary was reported at an unlocked residence near 500 East and 3050 North.

Sept. 29 - A burglary was reported at a rental property near 4000 West on Center Street.

THEFT

Sept. 26 - Property theft was reported at a residence near 2600 North and 700 East.

Sept. 26 - Vehicle parts were reported stolen near 1300 West and 570 North.

Sept. 26 - Property theft was

reported at a residence near 600 West and 100 South.

Sept. 27 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 100 West and 880 North.

Sept. 28 - Property theft was reported near 300 North and 400 East.

Sept. 28 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 800 East and 700 North.

Sept. 28 - Property theft was reported near 600 South on University Avenue.

Sept. 28 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 100 East and 300 North.

Sept. 29 - Property theft was reported near 300 West and 400 North.

Sept. 30 - Property theft was reported at a residence near 200 North and 900 West.

Sept. 30 - Property theft was reported near 500 West and 100 South.

Sept. 30 - A bicycle was

ported stolen from a residence near 200 North and 300 East.

Oct. 1 - An iPhone was reported stolen from Americas Best Value Inn & Suites at 1625 W. Center.

Oct. 2 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 100 East and 600 North.

ASSAULT

Sept. 27 - A female juvenile reported being sexually assaulted while on a date with a male college student near 100 South and 300 West.

Oct. 1 - A woman reported being sexually assaulted by a man she knew after being invited to his apartment at Belmont Condos at 454 N. Seven Peaks Blvd.

BYU

THEFT

Sept. 28 - A lock was reported cut and a bike stolen from a bike rack at the Life Science Building.

Sept. 28 - A bicycle and its lock were reported stolen from

a bike rack between the Richards Building and the Smith Fieldhouse.

ARRESTS

Sept. 26 - An individual was arrested after fireworks were reportedly discharged outside of the legal date and time in the Y Trailhead parking lot.

THREATS

Sept. 26 - A student reported receiving threatening messages at Wyview Park.

Sept. 26 - A student reported receiving harassing messages at Helaman Halls.

TRESSPASSING

Sept. 30 - University Police responded to West Campus after a security officer noticed students trespassing on the roof.

VANDALISM

Sept. 26 - A student reported her car was vandalized during the night while in a parking lot near the Cannon Center.



Associated Press

BYU quarterback Zach Wilson dives for his third rushing touchdown against Louisiana Tech on Oct. 2 at LaVell Edwards Stadium. Wilson was named the Walter Camp FBS Offensive Player of the Week for his performance.

Wilson leads BYU Football to highest ranking in 11 years

By CALEB TURNER

BYU Football was ranked No. 15 in the AP Top 25 Poll on Oct. 4 following a 45-14 win over Louisiana Tech two days earlier. It is the highest ranking for BYU since 2009.

The ranking was accompanied by individual recognition for quarterback Zach Wilson, who broke a BYU record for completion percentage against LA Tech, throwing for 325 yards at 92.3 percent. Wilson was named the Walter Camp FBS Offensive Player of the Week, the first at BYU since Max Hall in 2009, as well as the College Football Performance Awards National Performer of the Week.

Wilson and BYU have officially entered the national college football conversation, with a 3-0 record and eye-popping statistics that make the Cougars hard to ignore.

BYU is currently first in the FBS in the following categories: total offense (585.7 yards-per-game), total defense (214.3 yards-per-game), pass efficiency (214.9), completion percentage (82.9%) and fewest penalties per game (2.7). BYU is also second in FBS scoring offense (49.3 points-per-game) and fourth in scoring defense (8.0 points-per-game allowed).

Wilson is a big reason for a lot of those offensive numbers. On the season, Wilson leads the nation in completion percentage (84.5%), rates second in yards per attempt (13.37) and pass

efficiency (221.85), and is third overall in points responsible for, both passing and rushing, with 66.

His offensive versatility was on full display against LA Tech as he threw two touchdown passes, both from 22 yards out, and became the first BYU quarterback since Taysom Hill in 2014 to rush for three touchdowns in one game.

On his final rushing touchdown of the game, Wilson took off from 14 yards outside the end zone, spun to avoid a defender, then dove across the goal line for his fifth score of the night. Following the highlight play, ESPN commentator and former Heisman trophy winner Andre Ware said, "We are watching one of the best college football players in the country right now."

Ware wasn't the only person with words of praise for the Cougar quarterback, as players and pundits from all over the country tweeted out their admiration for Wilson and BYU during and after the LA Tech blowout.

"Time for the CFB world to wake up on @BYUfootball QB Zach Wilson," ESPN and SEC Network analyst Cole Cubelic said on Twitter. "On the season he is 60-of-71 (for) 949 yards, six touchdowns (and) one interception."

Despite the lopsided wins and national attention, head coach Kalani Sitake wants his players to remain "humble and hungry," pointing out that there is "a lot more football to be played" just three games into the season.

His quarterback seems to embody that humble and hungry mindset,

deflecting any talk about what could happen down the road for this team and instead focusing on what is right in front of them.

"We're taking it one day at a time," Wilson said after the LA Tech game. "We're preparing for UTSA now - they're a great team."

The Cougars welcome the Roadrunners of the University of Texas at San Antonio to Provo on Oct. 10 for homecoming and their third consecutive home game before making the trek to Texas themselves for a meeting against the University of Houston on Oct. 16.

The game against UTSA will be broadcast on ESPN2 on Oct. 10 at 1:30 p.m. MST. It is the first meeting between the Cougars and Roadrunners.

Whitney Bower ready to lead Cougars after valuable freshman experience



BYU Photo

Whitney Bowers, number 7, celebrates during a 2019 game against Pacific in November. Bowers started every game of her freshman season.

By ANDREW CALL

The BYU women's volleyball team is in good hands with the reigning Y Awards Female Rookie of the Year at setter. Whitney Bower dominated on the court in her freshman season, and she's just getting started.

Bower began playing volleyball at an early age and always knew she wanted to play at BYU.

"I went to BYU camps ever since I was little," Bower said. "My mom played volleyball at BYU, so I was always into the sport."

Coming from Skyview High School in Nampa, Idaho, Bower was immediately thrown into BYU's lineup as a freshman. She started every match and played in every set of the 2019-20 season. While the transition may have been intense, her coaches welcomed her in with open arms.

"The coaches were great," Bower

said. "They were super patient in helping me gain new skills and adjust."

BYU women's volleyball head coach Heather Olmstead has led the Cougars deep into the NCAA Tournament in each of her five years at BYU and was a big influence in Bower's early success.

"She always says, 'we can do hard things,'" said Bower, referring to her coach. "That goes with our situation now with COVID and everything. But also freshman year when I was younger than everyone else, she was like, 'that doesn't matter.' So that spoke volumes to me."

Bower also looked to her teammates for support, namely Mary Lake and McKenna Miller, who both graduated at the end of last season.

"I watched them my whole freshman year and they were amazing," Bower said of the senior duo. "They just kept pushing me and encouraging me. Even though I was getting disappointed, they

always had my back. They were kind of like my role models, so I'm really grateful for them."

Bower's favorite memory of the 2019-2020 season was the victory against No. 2-ranked Stanford on Sept. 21, 2019. She finished with a career-high 18 digs to go along with 37 assists, two kills and a service ace.

"That was the craziest moment of my whole life," Bower said. "We had each other's backs and we were just playing for each other. It was awesome."

Bower's accolades at BYU include All-WCC Freshman Team, All-WCC First Team, VolleyballMag.com All-America honorable mention, and Shocker Volleyball Classic All-Tournament Team. She had 10 double-doubles last season, the most by a BYU freshman in the rally-scoring era.

Off the court, Bower's favorite restaurants are Café Rio and anywhere that serves sushi. She also loves to walk her dog and go on drives with her friends when she's not training.



Hannah Miner

Students in the SWELL class at BYU play a game of pickleball. Scan this image with the *Universe Plus* app to read a Spanish translation of the story.



Pickleball continues to gain popularity at BYU and in Provo

By EMILY FAIRBANKS

What felt like an overnight sensation is now one of BYU's most in-demand classes.

The sport of pickleball became widely popular in recent years but skyrocketed after the pandemic left people looking for socially-distanced outdoor activities.

"Pickleball is super versatile so anybody can play it," Provo resident Jeffri Pa said. "It is a lot of fun playing with older folks who have more experience in the game."

Pickleball is a game resembling tennis in which players hit a plastic ball over a modified tennis net with paddles. It has a small learning curve and can be played at a variety of skill levels.

BYU had a pickleball club that grew into a SWELL (Student Wellness) class. Now the class is doubling its sections to meet the demand of students.

"Pickleball seemed like it appeared out of nowhere in the last few years. It got super trendy and everyone was doing it," BYU student Rachel Riley said. "I've never played and had no idea what (the sport) was. I signed up for the class so I could know what was going on

when I played with my friends."

BYU currently has two sections of the SWELL class but plans to add two more during Winter Semester when there will be four sections for students to choose from. The class can be found under SWELL 105 on the registration website.

During Winter Semester, the SWELL class will be held in the indoor tennis courts located south of the Smith Fieldhouse.

"I like this class because it is a break from my other classes. I can come and play pickleball rather than sitting and doing statistics all day," said David Teuscher, a SWELL pickleball class member.

The love for the sport goes beyond BYU campus. Currently, Provo has four pickleball leagues and three pickleball networks.

There are 18 professional-size pickleball courts in Provo. The Provo Recreational Center and many local schools are now adding pickleball court lines on their tennis and basketball courts.

"I'm a big fan of pickleball. I think the main thing is that the community is awesome," BYU student Abbie Calhoun said. "Everybody is competitive. I tend to get a little too competitive with sports. But everybody is so nice which helps me calm down a bit and just have fun with it. I really appreciate it."



WEEKLY QUESTION

Daily Universe editors post a question on Instagram each week asking readers their view on a specific topic. Here's what they had to say. Responses are unedited.

Who won the presidential debate and why?

Biden, bc HE ACTUALLY HAD REAL ANSWERS & DIDNT INTERRUPT EVERY 5 SECOND
@ELISABETHCURRIT

There were no winners. Decency, civility and spirited but respectful debate are dead.
@MAMALUNT

Chris Wallace. He had a tough job but inserted himself into the debate more than he should of.
@CLASSYLASSY101

Trump won but it wasn't pretty. Biden lied and contradicted himself Everytime he spoke
@TDUB.WOODFIELD

The stations that profited from airing it and literally no one else. It was horrible.
@RILEYREBECCA

Nobody. Wasn't even a debate that was children arguinig. Very unprofessional&immature
@MADELATINE

Nobody. I support trump but he's better than that. They both were stupid in that debate
@WALKERIST

America lost. We all lost. And we will continue to lose as long as we keep voting for the "less bad" guy.
@DANIELLEOAZ

Biden. Though Trump surprisingly made a couple decent points.
@ITS_PRONOUNCED_HEYMIN

It felt like both lost, but if I had to pick; trump made the best arguments I think
@DEVMC97

Everyone who didn't watch it
@LAURELANEVANS

I don't know who won, but America lost
@HANNAH.GLADWELL

Trump because he can make articulate thoughts and remarks.
@KIERNI_JENSEN

READERS FORUM

Love your neighbor

"Be not ashamed" is a phrase I have heard since my Primary days, when shame was not even something I could comprehend. It is a phrase I have repeated, oft and confidently.

And I am not ashamed. Not of Christ, not of His gospel and not of being a member of His church.

But I am ashamed to be associated with a culture I want no part in. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-40).

These are the teachings I have heard since my youth. Love thy neighbor. There is no caveat, no condition, no qualification. Jesus does not say love thy neighbor, only if thy neighbor is not an illegal immigrant. He does not say love thy neighbor, only if that love does not infringe upon your perceived personal freedoms. He does not say love thy neighbor, only if he or she or they resemble you. He says love thy neighbor. Period.

There is no room for a comma. There is no room for a semi-colon. Love thy neighbor. That is it. That's all there is. So, please, wear a mask. Register to vote. Support basic human rights. This isn't about you. This is about your neighbor.

—Kelly Woods
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Requiring world religion

Last Winter Semester I took REL C 351, or World Religions. It wasn't the easiest religion course I've taken at BYU, but it was one of the most rewarding and I believe it should become one of the required religion classes.

After being at BYU for more than three years, I have noticed that there isn't a lot of racial or religious diversity on campus or in Provo.

Only 1% of BYU isn't affiliated with the LDS Church, which makes sense since it is an LDS organization, but 82% of students on campus are white.

One non-white, non-LDS student stated, "BYU students are kept in the 'Provo bubble' and aren't very accustomed to interacting with other types of people."

Other non-white, non-LDS students have given the advice to not make judgements or assumption, to be open-minded, ask questions, and to keep your own position while respecting the positions of others.

Requiring this course would help many students at BYU achieve just that. Becoming more open-minded, not judging, asking questions and improving our interactions with people of other religions and races will create a greater sense of love and respect for all of God's children.

—Stuart Brown
Riverton, Utah



2020 Presidential Debate starter pack



When Coronavirus hits the Tanner Building



When you're in a Zoom class but your roommate lets out a small cough



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

@Chase_Swartz3
Firmly believe that teams are thinking twice before scheduling BYU this year after those first two weeks. Not saying that BYU is the best team in the land, I am saying that they have caught people's attention.

@Hookemcougs
Welp, thanks to BYU coaches, I now feel better about my dance moves for the first time in my life.

@bayoulejeune
He was a BYU student

She was a Brazilian soccer jersey

Can I make it any more obvious

@totman_17
As soon as I perform my first show at Comedy Sportz "Comedy Sportz provo" is going on every single one of my Bios

@laney0g
Utah county: moves to orange
BYU: issues warning
My ward: announces in-person Sunday school

@meghan_trout
Ravens vs Chiefs tonight?? Lakers vs Heat on Wednesday?? BYU vs LA tech on Friday?? Conference on Saturday??

This is the Lord's week indeed.

@SportyMcSports
Interesting to note that the Pac12 no longer considers BYU a regional game for Utah. It's because BYU is playing out of this world.

@saraah_bearaah
A guy in my breakout room just said "love you guys" before we returned to the main room lol sometimes I i like BYU culture

@AnyaMeredith
The girls at BYU are looking especially exactly the same this week

@factaurial
How did BYU miss out on the opportunity to name its candy store "Wilky Wonka's Chocolate Factory"?

@lucybigail27
living in provo is just texting my mom every few days to tell her that i almost got run over again

Tweets are unedited.

OPINION OUTPOST

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

Trump's finances

President Trump's financial records paint a picture that would raise warning flags if Mr. Trump were applying for even a low-level government job. For a president, they pose urgent questions of national security.

Mr. Trump's apparently disastrous financial situation may help explain his unwillingness to assure the country that he will leave office if defeated at the polls. Clinging to power as major debts come due might help him.

Lacking a record in public

service, Mr. Trump built his appeal on his supposed business success. To evaluate this claim, voters should have been allowed to examine how he conducted himself in business, what conflicts of interest his sprawling entanglements would bring and what risks his presidency might pose. By continuing to hide and deny, Mr. Trump only advances the ever-strengthening case that none of these questions can be answered favorably.

—Editorial Board
The Washington Post

Wealth gap

America will need time to recover economically from the pandemic and lockdowns no matter who wins the election.

Americans with the most at stake are middle- and low-income earners who have benefited tremendously over the last three years.

It's important that before the pandemic less affluent Americans were sharing more in the country's growing wealth. That's the economy Americans should want to return to, not the slow growth and widening wealth gap of the Obama years.

—Editorial Board
Wall Street Journal

The debate

This is not politics. What happened last Tuesday between presidential candidates Donald Trump and Joe Biden has many names — hot

mess, shouting match, boxing bout — but whatever it was, it wasn't politics, and it certainly wasn't a thorough deliberation of the issues that will affect Americans in the coming four years.

It was a historic evening, if for all the wrong reasons,

and many Americans are now scratching their heads wondering what happened and how to fix it.

Neither candidate should be excused for his conduct.

The power to improve the national tenor rests in the hearts of its 320 million residents. It

only takes a moment of conviction to stand up to hate, contempt and provocation, but the consequences will ring out for years.

If America wants better, America must be better.

—Editorial Board
The Deseret News

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Daily Universe encourages students, faculty and BYU staff to add their voice by writing letters to the editor 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.

Opinion editor Kenzie Holbrook can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

BYU College Republicans club encourages discourse as Trump divides party

By EMMA GADESKI

The BYU College Republicans club is helping students form and express their opinions through meaningful discussion as Trump's presidency divides the party — and club members.

One of the club's main goals this semester is to expose people to different opinions — even within the Republican party — and encourage diversity of thought, club president Sam Crofts said.

Communications Vice President Spencer May said Republicans need to have civil discussions with people they do not agree with for the party to evolve. "It's very important to allow other people to say what they feel."

One cause of disagreement within the party is President Donald Trump, with Republican officials and voters being open in their opposition. Similarly, not everyone in the club is voting for Trump.

Quincy Azimi-Tabrizi, vice president of outreach and events, said she will be voting for Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen. "It's kind of a conflict for me," she said. "On the one hand I feel like I'm throwing away my vote. On the other hand, I can be comfortable with myself voting for Jo Jorgensen."

She said she thinks Trump disrespects the position he's in and detracts from people who are being oppressed in the country.

"I wouldn't be comfortable if I voted for someone who I didn't believe in," Azimi-Tabrizi said. She encouraged people to "be bold in their choice" if they do decide to vote third party.

May said he will be voting for Trump. "In all honesty, the president does leave you wanting more on the moral end."

It's hard sometimes to separate the individual from the office they hold. We are not in



President Donald Trump waves as he walks to Marine One from the Oval Office of the White House in Washington Oct. 1. Not all BYU College Republicans will be voting for Trump this year.

a Book of Mormon situation where our leaders are virtuous from the office they hold, May said.

"But what I do believe is that the agenda that's being pushed by the Republican party is more beneficial and less destructive, less divisive, than what is being pushed by the Democratic Party," May said. He added that he feels good about what his vote entails in this current election and situation.

One way the club encourages meaningful discussion is through debates.

"People love debates," Crofts said, adding that they are a great way for people to get involved and explore both sides of different issues.

The first intraclub debate of the semester was held on Sept. 23. Club members argued their positions on Trump's presidency and COVID-19 mandates over Zoom. This event revealed just how much convictions can clash among people with similar political beliefs.

Luke Kempe, a freshman from Bountiful studying business, argued that another nominee would've done a better job than Trump. Robinson Bracken, a junior majoring in political science from Redlands, California, defended

Trump's presidency.

Kempe said Trump's awful performance with minorities puts the future of the Republican Party in jeopardy. He suggested Republicans "ditch Trump and find new leaders" to restore the GOP.

A recent example of Trump's controversial behavior was his Tweet during the nationwide protests over George Floyd's death in May. He used the phrase, "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." Twitter flagged it for violating its rules about glorifying violence.

Bracken argued that Trump did better with minorities than former presidential candidate Mitt Romney did in 2012. "Donald Trump has fundamentally expanded the identity of the Republican Party."

Club members also debated COVID-19 mandates. Josh Christensen, a sophomore from Pleasant View, Utah, argued that the government has not overstepped its bounds in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Faith Hoggan, a freshman from Texas majoring in political science, argued that the government has gone too far through "tyrannical shutdowns of businesses and schools."

At the conclusion of the

debate, moderator Scott Williams said, "I want there to be at least one major take-away here: that this group, the College Republicans, is full of diversely thinking intellectuals — people who are capable of articulating thoughts that need to be articulated." He compared club members to "up and coming Ben Shapiros."

The club will have a debate with the BYU College Democrats on Oct. 27 and is planning on having another intraclub debate right before Thanksgiving. Club members will post updates on Instagram.

The BYU College Republicans club is not endorsing any specific candidate, May said. However, it will be serving as an "intermediary" to help students get involved in campaigns and programs they might be interested in.

Another plan for the semester is a voter registration initiative. Advertising chair Parker Stohlton said the club is partnering with the College Democrats to encourage BYU students to vote.

Stohlton said, "We want as many people as possible to register and vote, regardless of who they vote for. Voting is a right and a privilege that we don't take for granted and we trust the democratic process."



Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden speaks to a group Sept. 30 in Alexandria, PA.

BYU College Democrats club focuses on increasing political participation

By EMMA GADESKI

The BYU College Democrats club is focusing on increasing political participation this semester by encouraging voter registration and campaign involvement.

To encourage students to vote, the club partnered with the BYU College Republicans club and created an initiative in which club members help students register to vote and request absentee ballots, club officer Luke Romney said. The goal of the voter registration initiative is to get as many people to cast their ballot in November as possible.

"This is a crucial time to vote, and it's important that as many people as possible are able to do so, even in the midst of a global pandemic," Romney said.

Club co-president Abigail Ryan said it's important for students to register to vote and be involved in politics because this upcoming election "will impact legislation for generations to come."

"This election is a really pivotal moment in U.S. history, and I want my generation to help tackle COVID-19, climate change, racism, transphobia and many other issues we are facing today," she said. "We have so much power when we vote."

In addition to the voter registration initiative, club members are also helping students

get involved in campaigns. At the opening social on Sept. 17, club officers went over some of the local campaigns students can participate in. One is recent BYU grad Jenna Rakuita's campaign. Rakuita is running to represent Provo, District 63, in the Utah State Legislature.

Club officers played a video from Rakuita at the meeting. She said that if her campaign is a success, "We will send a message to the university, to the state and to the country that BYU is a place of inclusion. In Provo, women use their voices. In Provo, our LGBTQ brothers and sisters are accepted. In Provo, Black lives matter. And in Provo, young people engage in politics and they vote."

The club also encouraged students to participate in the campaigns of Democrats Ben McAdams, who is running for reelection in the U.S. House of Representatives; David Hunt, who is running to represent District 51 in the Utah House of Representatives; and Joe Biden.

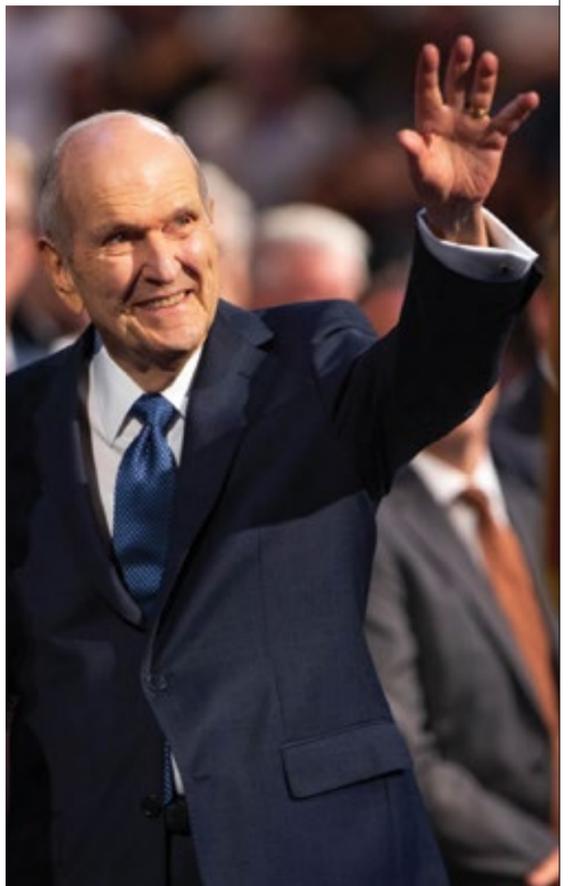
Ryan said another way for club members to participate is by becoming a poll worker, as most poll workers are high-risk individuals like senior citizens.

"Regardless of political opinion, our future is being made and I think we, as college students, deserve a say in it," Romney said.

Some activities this semester include meeting with LDS Democrats and debating with the BYU College Republicans. The club will hold all events over Zoom.

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