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universe.byu.edu

March 30 - April 5, 2021

# THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

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Brigham Young University  
Provo, Utah

## Utah not immune to anti-Asian hate, but barriers to reporting are strong

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

BYU alumna Stella Lew was running with her husband down Bulldog Boulevard in Provo in May 2020 when a white man driving past rolled down his window and yelled “F--- you!”

No one else was on the street in front or behind them and both Lew and her husband had masks on. Lew was sure the statement was meant for them and that it wasn’t related to mask non-compliance.

“I can only come up with one reason — that it was because we’re both Asian,” Lew said. “I was mostly in shock at first. But more than anything, I was scared and was worried about our safety.”

### A rise in violence or a history of hate?

Anti-Asian rhetoric, sentiment and violence appear to have escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic, with people of Asian or Pacific Island descent experiencing everything from verbal and physical assault to discrimination in the workplace, at businesses and on transportation.

Stop AAPI Hate — a non-profit that tracks and responds to incidents of discrimination, hate and xenophobia against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States — received 3,292 reports of incidents that occurred in 2020 and 503 that occurred in 2021. Four of those events took place in Utah.

Verbal harassment incidents made up the majority of reports at 68%, followed by shunning and avoidance at 20% and physical assault at 11%.

The tragic killing of eight individuals — six of them Asian women — during a shooting in Atlanta on March 16 has acted as an additional springboard for calls of social justice, with protests to end anti-Asian hate spreading across the U.S. — including one planned for April 3 in Salt Lake City.

Although police have reported that the shooting was not racially motivated, many advocates argue the violence was linked to a history of sexualization and racialization of Asian women in the U.S.



Associated Press

A demonstrator participates at a rally “Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power” to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence outside the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles on March 13. Asians are the fastest growing minority group in Utah, but only make up 2.7% of the population.

Emilio Manuel Camu, the president of OCA Asian Pacific Islander American Advocates Utah, said although there’s been increased attention on and media coverage of anti-Asian hate during the pandemic, it’s a problem deeply embedded in American history — one that’s obscured by model minority stereotypes about Asians that erase current and past discrimination and struggles.

“People think Asians are doing well and that Asians have never been discriminated against — they forget the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1868, they forget Japanese internment, they forget the Watsonville Riots in California against Filipinos. They forget all of these different things that Asians have experienced,” Camu said. “A lot of these sentiments against Asians, sentiments

against other folks, tend to be a repeat of history.”

That doesn’t mean current discrimination isn’t difficult to deal with, especially on top of a pandemic.

“Our community members have felt microaggressions before, but for this to all come out during a pandemic and to not be able to walk into a place to be able to secure the basic necessities they need for their family to cook dinner, to provide water — I think it’s a pretty sad time to live in if that’s the case,” Camu said.

### Barriers to reporting Anti-Asian incidents in Utah

Although Utah recorded 836 violent crimes against people of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage last year, none

of them are considered hate crimes, Utah House Minority Whip Rep. Karen Kwan told KSL.

“Zero of these are considered hate crimes, which underscores how inconsistent and underreported hate crimes are,” said Kwan, who is the state’s first Chinese-American representative and is urging Utah’s Asian Americans to report any racially motivated attacks or harassment.

Likewise, BYU’s Committee on Race, Equity, and Belonging has not received any reports of anti-Asian racism on campus, according to committee member Lita Little Giddins.

Ze Min Xiao is the director for the Salt Lake County Mayor’s Office for New Americans. She said in order to understand how the national trend in

rising anti-Asian sentiments impacts Utah and why the state’s seen zero official hate crimes, it’s vital to first understand the realities the community faces.

Although Asians are the fastest-growing minority group in Utah, they still only make up 2.7% of the state’s population, according to Census data, and there are few systems in place to support Asian Utahns, especially those who live outside of Salt Lake City.

“Part of the reason we haven’t seen reported cases of anti-Asian sentiment in Utah could be contributed to that we don’t have a mechanism in place for people to report,” Min Xiao said.

Camu said OCA and others are working on removing some of the barriers that prevent Asians from reporting, including social stigma, a lack of resources in languages other than English, a lack of trust in the police, and socio-economic situations that make finding the time to report difficult.

“These people, most of them are low-income people in our communities who have to go to work the next day, who have to take care of kids, who have to take care of extended family members,” Camu said. “And at the end of the day, they are overwhelmed with all the different things that they have to do that then reporting doesn’t become the priority.”

He said any improvements in infrastructure should take into account the various communities that fall under the Asian umbrella and the specific issues they face.

While Min Xiao believes her office, which only has jurisdiction in Salt Lake County, is making headway with some of these issues, she said there’s a need to think “wider and broader beyond Salt Lake County” if the state wants to keep up with the trend of more Asians moving outside the county for housing and jobs.

In the meantime, Min Xiao said individuals can take advantage of the local resources that do exist and work to build those support systems in their communities.

See RACISM on Page 8

## Where is the Church on political neutrality?

By CASSIDY WIXOM

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sends a letter during national election years in the United States to be read in sacrament meeting regarding the Church’s politically neutral stance.

The Church’s official statement on political neutrality says the Church does not “endorse, promote or oppose political parties, candidates or platforms,” or allow church buildings or membership lists to be used for partisan political purposes. The statement also says the Church cannot direct members in choosing which candidate or party they should vote for.

“The Church’s mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, not to elect politicians,” the statement says.

With this politically neutral stance, all General Authorities and general officers of the Church “should not personally participate in political campaigns.”

Recently the policy received media attention when donations to President Joe Biden and other Democratic politicians’ campaigns were made under the name of Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Elder Uchtdorf gave KSL a statement saying he regretted the “oversight” on his part. He said a family member donated through a family-shared online account associated with his name but he “fully supports” the Church’s policy regarding Church leaders and political donations.

### Reasons for neutrality

One of the reasons the Church stays politically neutral is to retain the Church’s tax exempt status as a



Preston Crawley

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints maintains a politically neutral stance in party politics, but research shows the majority of members lean Republican.

nonprofit organization.

According to University of Notre Dame political science professor David Campbell, it is particularly critical for the Church to be neutral because it is so centralized. “It wouldn’t be just a ward or stake, it would be the entire Church” that would lose the exempt status, Campbell said.

Besides the tax exemption, the Church stays neutral to keep away from complications with partisanship.

“If the Church were officially to line up or semi-officially line up with one party, it would alienate its own members and potential converts,” said Utah State University Latter-day Saint history professor Patrick

Mason.

University of Utah history professor Paul Reeve said he thinks the Church favors neutrality because of the changing dynamics of party politics. He said a dynamic of divisiveness is entering some congregations and families and it is amplified by party politics becoming a religion for some people.

Campbell also said being too aligned with one party would weaken the Church’s credibility when it speaks on issues. “The Church has sought to be above the partisan fray, and that’s viewed by Church leaders as important so they can speak prophetically to what they consider key moral issues.”

The Church does “reserve the

right as an institution to address, in a nonpartisan way, issues that it believes have significant community or moral consequences or that directly affect the interests of the Church,” says the neutrality statement.

Mason said the Church must be careful walking the “very fine line” of speaking out on issues or expressing support for policies without violating the tax exemption requirements.

The Church’s political involvement has ranged from abortion and immigration to prohibition and gambling, with gay marriage and medical marijuana as the most recent prominent examples.

While there is no uniform agreement on what constitutes a moral issue, Campbell said the Church typically gets involved with nonpartisan ballot initiatives where there are less restrictions.

### The Church’s political history

Historically, the Church has not always had a neutral stance politically. In the 1870s, the members in the Utah territory formed the People’s Party, and all non-members were part of the Liberal Party. The Church ran candidates and pushed policies, and party politics were strictly divided along religious lines.

In the 1890s, residents began giving up the People’s Party and adopting the two party system. Reeve said at this time the Republican Party was “ironically” seen as the “Anti-Mormon” party, so Church leaders would preach it was OK to be a member and Republican.

General Authorities in the 20th century varied on political beliefs, with Hugh B. Brown active in the Democratic party and Ezra Taft Benson vocal in the Republican

party.

Utah, and most voters in the Church, swung to the right in the 1970s along with various other Western states when the nation’s political map was “dramatically realigned” during the Reagan Revolution, Reeve said. “Utah went red and has been red ever since.”

Issues like gay rights, the equal rights amendment and abortion accounted for religious minded people to start associating with the Republican party which was aligning the South and many Mountain states into the Religious Right, Reeve said.

### A conservative majority Church

The majority of U.S. members in the Church today lean Republican despite the Church’s neutral stance. A study in 2018 found that 67% of members voted Republican in that year’s midterm election, and in 2014, the Pew Research Center found 71% of members identified as Republican.

“The Church’s official position is one of neutrality but that’s certainly not the way many voters, including many members of the Church itself, perceive the Church’s positions,” Campbell said.

Campbell said the Church is not in the middle of the political spectrum, but it is also not far right. The Church typically speaks out for the conservative sides of issues, but the Church’s positions are moderately conservative compared to some Utah legislators or individual members on issues such as immigration and LGBT rights, he said.

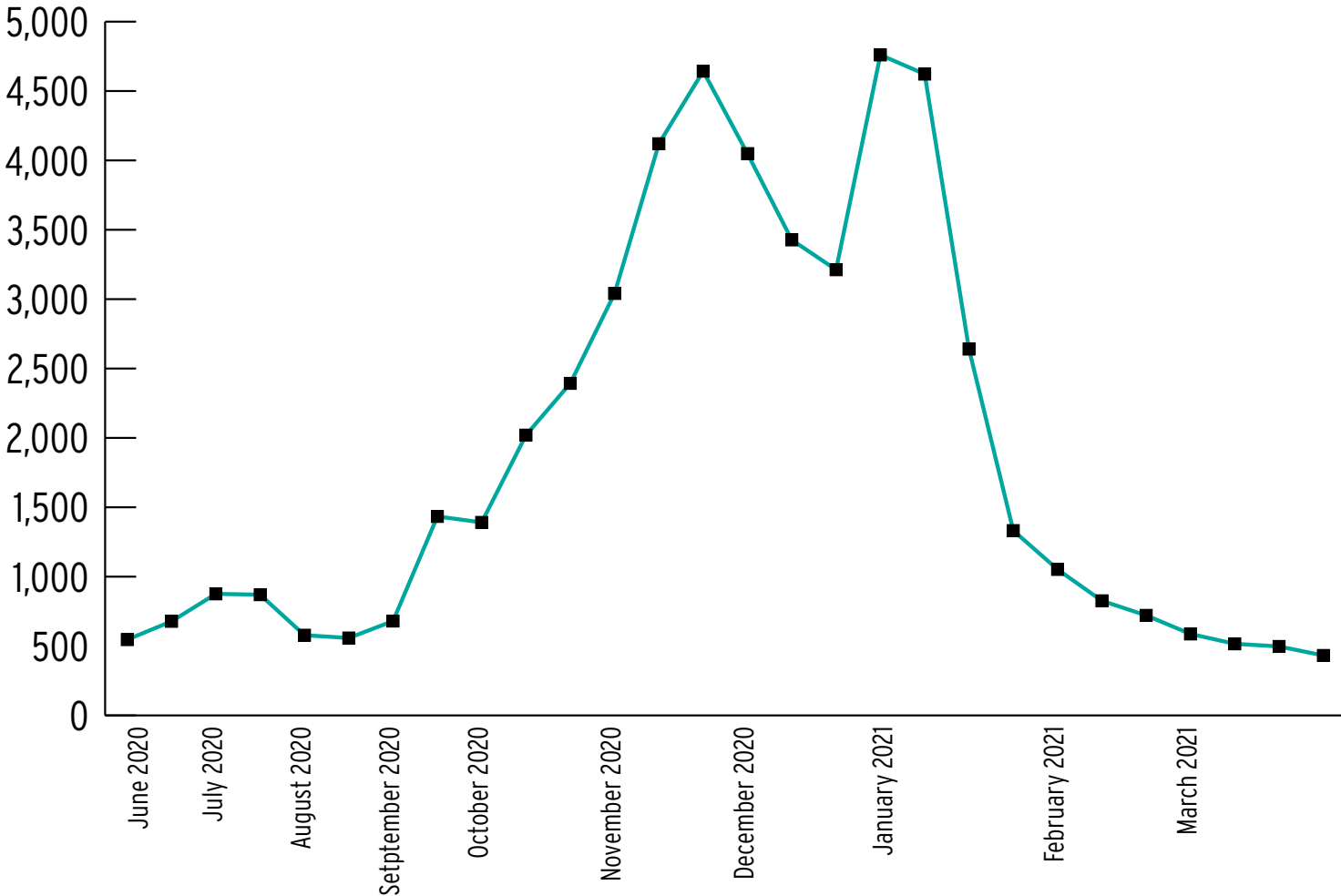
“The Church can be a moderating influence on Utah politics and the politics of Church members,” he said.



# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Reported COVID-19 cases in Utah

June 2020-March 2021



Allie Peterson

Reported cases in Utah from June 2020-March 2021. Data provided by the Utah Department of Health.

### Utah governor signs law to lift mask mandate April 10

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah's mask mandate will end April 10 after the Republican governor signed a bill March 24 that lays out a new timeline for lifting some of the state's COVID-19 restrictions.

Masks orders will remain in place for schools and gatherings of more than 50 people, and businesses can still choose to require them. Gov. Spencer

Cox signed the measure the same day that vaccinations opened to all people in the state aged 16 and older.

New coronavirus cases and hospitalizations in Utah have been on a downward trend since January. More than 438,000 of the state's 3.2 million residents have been fully vaccinated, according to state data.

More than 382,000 virus cases have been reported in Utah, along with 2,082 known deaths, according to state data.

### Pandemic masks ongoing child abuse crisis as cases plummet

ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Associated Press analysis of state data reveals that the coronavirus pandemic has ripped away several systemic safety nets for millions of Americans. It found that child abuse reports, investigations, substantiated allegations and interventions have dropped at a staggering rate.

In the analysis, it found more than 400,000 fewer child welfare concerns reported during

the pandemic and 200,000 fewer child abuse and neglect investigations and assessments compared with the same time period of 2019. That represents a national total decrease of 18% in both total reports and investigations.

A loss in reports means greater potential for harm because "there has not all of the sudden been a cure for child abuse and neglect," said Amy Harfeld, an expert in child abuse deaths with the Children's Advocacy Institute.

### Governor hopeful Utah may lift virus restrictions by July

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah is on pace to remove all coronavirus-related restrictions by July if transmission rates keep dropping, but the situation could change, Gov. Spencer Cox said March 25.

He urged residents to get vaccinated as soon as possible and to remain cautious.

More than 450,000 of the state's 3.2 million residents have been fully vaccinated,

and over 814,00 have received at least one dose, according to state data.

"Even if we do see an increase in cases, the fact that we have vaccinated so many of our most at-risk population makes us even less vulnerable to the outcomes," Cox said at his weekly COVID-19 briefing.

About 80% of people 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Over half of that group have been fully vaccinated, said Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson.

### School survey shows 'critical gaps' for in-person learning

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly half of U.S. elementary schools were open for full-time classroom learning as of last month, but the share of students with in-person instruction has varied greatly by region and by race, with most nonwhite students taught entirely online, according to a Biden administration survey.

Among schools that enroll fourth graders, 47% offered full-time classroom learning in

February, while for schools that teach eighth-graders, the figure was 46%. The results suggested, however, that at least some students weren't opting in.

In total, about 76% of elementary and middle schools were open for in-person or hybrid learning, while 24% offered remote learning only, according to the survey. The percentage of students spending at least some time in the classroom has probably increased since February, when coronavirus rates were just coming down from a national surge.

## Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



### Romney receives award for impeachment vote

U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney was named the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award on March 26 for splitting with his party and becoming the only Republican to vote to convict former President Donald Trump during his first impeachment trial.

The award was created by the family of the late president to honor public figures who risk their careers by embracing unpopular positions for the greater good, and is named after Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage."

"Sen. Romney's commitment to our Constitution makes him a worthy successor to the senators who inspired my father to write 'Profiles in Courage,'" Kennedy's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, said in a statement from the JFK Library Foundation. "He reminds us that our Democracy depends on the courage, conscience and character of our elected officials."



### In shift, oil industry group backs federal price on carbon

The oil and gas industry's top lobbying group on March 25 endorsed a federal price on carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming, a reversal of longstanding policy that comes as the Biden administration has pledged dramatic steps to address climate change.

The American Petroleum Institute, whose members include ExxonMobil, Chevron and other oil giants, announced the shift ahead of a virtual forum by the Interior Department as it launches a months-long review of the government's oil and gas sales.



### After 100 years, California condor could return

The endangered California condor could return to the Pacific Northwest for the first time in 100 years.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to allow the release of captive-bred giant vultures into Redwood National Park as early as this fall to create a "nonessential experimental population" for California's far north, Oregon and northwestern Nevada, the San Francisco Chronicle reported March 24.

The project will be headed by the Yurok tribe, which traditionally has considered the California condor a sacred animal.



### Beloved children's author Beverly Cleary dies at 104

Beverly Cleary, the celebrated children's author whose memories of her Oregon childhood were shared with millions through the likes of Ramona and Beezus Quimby and Henry Huggins, has died. She was 104.

Cleary's publisher HarperCollins announced March 26 that the author died March 25 in Carmel Valley, California, where she had lived since the 1960s. No cause of death was given.

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## COVID vaccine found highly effective in real-world US study

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. government's first look at the real-world use of COVID-19 vaccines found their effectiveness was nearly as robust as it was in controlled studies.

The two vaccines available since December — Pfizer and Moderna — were 90% effective after two doses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Monday. In testing, the vaccines were about 95% effective in preventing COVID-19.

"This is very reassuring news," said the CDC's Mark Thompson, the study's lead author. "We have a vaccine that's working very well."

"The evidence base for (currently available) COVID-19 vaccines is already strong, and continues to mount ever higher with studies like this one," said David Holtgrave, dean of the University at Albany's School of Public Health, in an email.

The study included roughly 2,500 volunteers who got two vaccine doses, about 500 who got one dose and about 1,000 who did not get vaccinated.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

## How BYU students can sign up for COVID-19 vaccinations



BYU Photo/Rebekah Baker

With all adult Utahns now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, students are signing up to be vaccinated. Students can sign up for an appointment through the Utah County Health Department and the BYU Student Health Center. *Read a Spanish translation of this story at [unvr.se/spanish](https://unvr.se/spanish).*

By VERONICA MACIEL

BYU students can make COVID-19 vaccination appointments now after Utah Gov. Spencer Cox announced all Utahns over 16 could get vaccinated starting March 24. There are a few different ways students can sign up for vaccinations. Aislynn Tolman-Hill, Utah County Health Department public information officer, said the department website is a great resource and includes links to health care providers and local pharmacies. Students can also sign up through the BYU Student Health Center.

Tolman-Hill said there would only be two restrictions for students who want to receive the vaccine. Those 16 and older can only receive the Pfizer vaccine, and those 18 and older can receive any vaccine.

“We strongly suggest that people sign up for our text notification system to be alerted of when we are releasing more appointments,” Tolman-Hill said. Students and others can sign up by texting UCHEALTH to 888777, and those who do will be notified when

appointments are available.

BYU students, faculty, staff or dependents living in the same household are eligible to receive the vaccine at the Student Health Center. They can sign up for an appointment to receive it at the center’s website. Instructions on what to bring to the appointment can also be found on the Student Health Center website.

BYU experience design and management student Rachel Johnson said she found out how to sign up for the vaccine through friends and family. She used the Utah County Health Department’s website to sign up.

The website had her pick a day and time to get the vaccine, Johnson said. She received a confirmation email and instructions on how to prepare for her visit.

Johnson said she wants to get the vaccine so she can spend more time with her family without worrying. With a sister who is pregnant, a cousin who is immunocompromised and other high-risk people around, getting the vaccine would take away that stress.

However, that is not the only reason she wants to get

the vaccine. She said she’s receiving it to do her part to help life normalize. “The more of us who get vaccinated, the better it works and the sooner we can live life without a mask.”

Johnson said while she is very optimistic and excited for the future, she thinks the reason many people are nervous about getting the vaccine is that they don’t have all the information.

Despite the competing voices surrounding the vaccine, she said she has tried to hear from both perspectives to educate herself.

Gillian Ellsworth, a BYU wildlife and wildlands conservation student, said she signed up to receive the vaccine at the Student Health Center. “Signing up for the vaccine was pretty simple. My coworker had signed up for it and sent me the link, then I just signed up through BYU.”

Ellsworth said she is not nervous to get the vaccine. “I had COVID back in October. I feel like I can do anything at this point.”

Johnson also said she isn’t nervous to be vaccinated. “Of course, I don’t love getting stabbed with a needle, but I can handle that if it means I can get vaccinated.”

### COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

#### Dance professor’s film ‘Sedimented Here’ wins awards



A BYU dance professor’s award-winning film showcases student talent and Utah landscapes. Rachel Barker’s dance film “Sedimented Here” was accepted into multiple film festivals last year including the prestigious Dance Camera West festival. This Los Angeles event is considered one of the top three film festivals in America. Barker’s film won a spot as a finalist. Barker’s project was in the works for three years, from scouting shooting locations in Southern Utah to filming the final production. Dancers featured in Barker’s film include students Abby Trinca, McCall McClellan and Jared McClure.

Barker said she based her choreography on the sites she filmed in.

“I didn’t want to take a dance and put it somewhere else,” Barker said. “I asked, ‘What is the movement that comes out of these spaces?’”

Barker said she hopes the film’s audiences “have a visceral, kinesthetic multi-sensory experience.”

“Sedimented Here” has not been released to the public yet as it continues to compete at film festivals. The trailer is available on YouTube.

### DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

#### Research journal featuring student works read around the world



A student journal at the Kennedy Center helps students make their ideas heard across the world. Scott Cooper, a political science professor at BYU, supervises the publication of “Sigma” every April. This research journal has featured BYU students’ work since 1984. The journal is read not only by BYU students and faculty but also by readers around the world, Cooper said. Last year, through the BYU online scholars archive, articles were downloaded more than 1,800 times at 836 institutions in 136 countries.

Recent graduate Brynne Townley said she appreciates BYU’s unique research opportunities for undergraduate students.

“Publishing my article has definitely had a

positive impact on me,” Townley said. Her research paper outlined the factors that encourage women to participate in politics in sub-Saharan Africa. “I felt proud that my hard work had paid off, and it gave me confidence in the skills I had gained during my undergrad experience.”

Other papers published in “Sigma” include a study on immigration rates’ effect on crime rates by Kelly Duncan and Gabe Darger and a paper on European attitudes towards immigration by Matthew Easton and Connor Kreutz.

“It is extremely rewarding to have your paper read in a real-world context rather than just inside the classroom for a grade,” said the current Editor-in-Chief, Sara Naumann Lopez. “Students that get published in ‘Sigma’ have the opportunity to apply their own research to the current political climate.”

### MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

#### Students present at academic conference



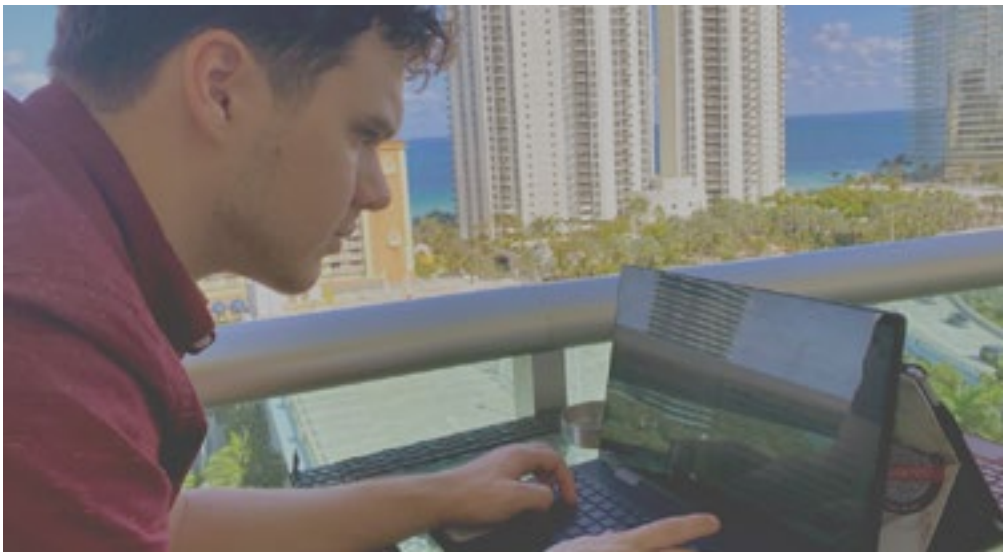
Madison Corbin and Cherileigh Leavitt

Two Marriott School students became the youngest to present at the longest-running international conference on information technology. Information systems students Madison Corbin and Cherileigh Leavitt participated remotely in the 2021 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences. Corbin and Leavitt’s research process began in February 2020 when information systems professor Greg Anderson asked them to research the effectiveness of INTEX, a BYU Marriott program. INTEX is a project information systems students complete during their junior year to learn how to solve business-related problems.

Leavitt and Corbin surveyed INTEX participants about what takeaways they had from their experience. Their research data showed that more than 97% of participants saw INTEX as positive and beneficial for their future careers.

“Their passion, drive, and quest for excellence in their work was indispensable for the success of this presentation,” Anderson said of Corbin and Leavitt. “They presented the paper at one of our top information systems conferences, where distinguished academics and Ph.D. candidates present their research.”

## Students find traveling to be easier with online learning



Harley Larson

BYU student Justin Lapicola does schoolwork while on vacation in Florida. Many classes can be taken remotely and online because of the pandemic. *Read a Spanish translation of this story at [unvr.se/spanish](https://unvr.se/spanish).*

By INGRID SAGERS

Students are finding travel to be much easier while taking remote, online classes and are going on small vacations throughout the semester with friends and family.

BYU junior Dathyl Larsen and UVU junior Breanna Benjamin are roommates who have taken a handful of trips together during the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 semesters.

Larsen and Benjamin combined have traveled to California, Arizona, Florida, Boston, Lake Powell, Colorado, Moab and St. George since the pandemic started.

Benjamin’s class load is completely online and she appreciates the versatility of virtual learning. “I have so much flexibility with my schedule and can get all my work done before our trips; I can take all

of my responsibilities with me,” she said.

One of the greatest benefits of online schooling is strengthening relationships with family and friends, Benjamin said.

“I think the best parts of these trips are the new friends we’ve made and the friendships that we’ve strengthened,” Larsen said. “I’ve been able to spend time with family out of state and I don’t think I would’ve spent so much time with them if I wasn’t doing school online.”

BYU neuroscience junior Stephen Sheffield said he enjoys seeing new places, while still accomplishing valuable, scholastic efforts.

A key part of traveling during a school semester is the preparation before leaving, Sheffield said. It’s a little more difficult to get schoolwork done during a trip, but not impossible.

“I put in a concentrated effort into getting homework done the week before my trips. That’d be my advice to anyone trying to travel while enrolled in online school,” he said.

There are times when friends would have live remote delivery classes and the group would do other activities and hang out until those friends were ready, Larsen said. “I tried to be ready beforehand so I wouldn’t have to find Wi-Fi wherever we were.”

Benjamin encouraged other students to use the freedom online schooling gives to go anywhere with their loved ones.

Online school is a unique chance students have to experience new places and cultures while still getting further ahead in their education, Sheffield said. They won’t ever regret the special time spent with family and friends, he added.

# TODAY

**UNIVERSITY FORUM**  
**Tuesday, March 30**  
**11:05 a.m.**

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



#### Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust

*President of Harvard University (2007–18), American Historian, and Author*

#### “Humility, Hope, and the Work of Becoming Educated”

In 2007, Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust became Harvard’s 28th president and the first woman to serve in the role. During the course of 11 years, she excelled as she improved access to Harvard University for students of all economic backgrounds.

Dr. Faust graduated magna cum laude from Bryn Mawr with a bachelor’s degree in history, then earned master’s and doctoral degrees in American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania. She was the Annenberg Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, where she twice earned awards for distinguished teaching. She later served as founding dean of Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study from 2001 to 2007.

Much of Dr. Faust’s scholarship has focused on the lives of women during the Civil War, with her more recent work addressing the topics of death and mourning in the war’s aftermath. She is the author of six

books, including *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, which was awarded the 2009 Bancroft Prize and the New-York Historical Society’s 2009 American History Book Prize. It was also recognized by the *New York Times* as one of the Ten Best Books of 2008 and was the basis for a 2012 Emmy-nominated episode of the PBS American Experience documentaries titled *Death and the Civil War*, directed by Ric Burns.

Dr. Faust has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Society of American Historians, and the American Philosophical Society. In September 2018, she was awarded the John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity by the Library of Congress. Currently, she is the Arthur Kingsley Porter University Professor at Harvard. She and her husband, Dr. Charles E. Rosenberg, a Harvard medical historian, are the parents of two daughters.

### NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

**Ryan Gabriel**  
*Assistant Professor of Sociology*



**APRIL 6**  
11:05 a.m., BYUtv



# Muslim BYU student feels at home at mostly Christian university

By ALLIE RICHAEAL

A small group of Muslim BYU students gathers in a conference room on the third floor of the Wilkinson Student Center each Friday afternoon.

A Muslim leader called an imam leads the group of students in prayer on the sacred day Al-Jumah.

Omar Boudiaf is one of these faithful Muslims. Boudiaf said he feels at home at BYU despite practicing a different religion than the majority of students.

According to BYU Media Relations Manager Todd Hollingshead, there are about 45 Muslim students enrolled at BYU this year. More than 98% of all students are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but there are students of more than 30 faiths at the university.

Boudiaf said Islam and the Church have much in common. “Honestly, I feel like religion, in most cases, gives more values and morals,” he said. “I feel like at BYU, even though people have different beliefs, our values are very similar. I don’t feel rejected. I don’t feel like an outsider.”

Currently a senior studying finance, Boudiaf came to BYU

after spending two years studying at Mt. San Jacinto College in California. Someday he hopes to start an investment firm in his home country of Algeria.

Although Boudiaf initially chose BYU because of its value for money, he now feels more at home here than he did in California. It’s very easy to make friends, he said.

“I feel like everyone here at BYU is very welcoming and trying to learn more about me,” Boudiaf said. “People are very friendly.”

He said members of the Church have values like honesty, trust and love in common with Islam, and both religions share a belief in God, which is the most important thing.

“By believing in God, we love God and we fear God, so we don’t do bad stuff to people or to ourselves,” Boudiaf said. “We don’t hurt ourselves by doing unhealthy things like alcohol, drugs or being in relationships that lead to dangerous things.”

Adam Wride, business management and pre-med major from Highland, Utah, went to a Friday prayer meeting with Boudiaf. Wride is a member of the Church and met Boudiaf when they sat next to each other in a finance class at BYU. Wride said he and Boudiaf have often discussed the similarities



Sydnee Gonzalez

Omar Boudiaf is a senior studying finance at BYU. He came from his home in Algeria to California before deciding to come to BYU.

between their religions.

“I wanted to go to his prayer service on Friday and he wanted to come to church with me on Sunday,” Wride said. “We had a lot of fun times just talking about our different

religions and having really open conversations about the similarities between our morals and our standards.”

Boudiaf can’t go home to Algeria very often due to long traveling hours, so he went to

Wride’s family Thanksgiving dinner in 2019. Wride explained how Boudiaf was willing to talk to everyone at dinner and answer questions that could have been awkward for him. Wride said he was impressed with how at ease his friend seemed around so many new people.

“He’s an amazing guy,” Wride said of Boudiaf. “I admire him.”

BYU freshman Salma Shakhshir became friends with Boudiaf at the Friday prayers and described him as an “older brother” to her. Like Boudiaf, Shakhshir said she chose BYU because of the religious values students uphold. She is a practicing Muslim, yet found the environment at BYU similar to her home country in the Palestinian territories.

“When I was applying to college in the United States, my parents really weren’t OK with other colleges,” Shakhshir said. “When they saw BYU cares so much about values and standards, they liked it. They liked the idea of sending me to BYU. If it was another college, I don’t think they would have approved.”

Shakhshir agreed that members of the Church at BYU are very accepting of Islam, despite not knowing many details about the religion. She said the

beautiful thing about members of the Church is they do not hate others because they have been hated before.

Shakhshir’s Christian friends have come to Muslim prayers on campus, and she has gone to their church meetings. Though she said she always felt respected by members of other religions on campus, she also said it was important for her to reach out and find a group of people who shared her religion.

“I like to have a good relationship with my religion,” Shakhshir said. “But if I didn’t find a place for it with other Muslims, it wouldn’t have been the same. I would have still had a relationship with my religion, but since there are other people who are in the same boat with me, I feel like we can relate to each other.”

Both Boudiaf and Shakhshir said their BYU experiences have been very positive. They have made friends both within the Muslim community and outside it.

When asked what BYU students could do better to be accepting of other religions, Boudiaf said all the people he has met at the university have been respectful, helpful and kind.

“The only thing I would say is thank you,” he said.

## Couples struggle to schedule temple dates, plan weddings

By MADISON SELCHO

COVID-19 temple restrictions have caused Latter-day Saint couples to struggle in securing dates for temple endowments and sealings, creating wedding planning difficulties.

The different booking schedules at temples and wedding venues have made planning a temple wedding during the pandemic a frustrating task for many couples.

“It has been difficult because you can only book temples 90 days in advance but all venues are booked out six months in advance because of all the postponed weddings from COVID,” said Rebecca Heath.

Heath’s fiancé Isaac Richards said they have been planning their wedding since December, but because things can change so quickly they have really been on their toes for every detail of their wedding.

“Regardless of the difficulties in planning, weddings are worth it. I’ve just been amazed at how so many people just move forward and create a new family even in these uncertain times. It’s inspiring,” Richards said.

Soon-to-be bride Sara Bunker said she ran into similar scheduling issues. She and her fiancé decided to go



Whitney Bigelow

Liz and Carlos Vergara were sealed in the Jordan River Temple nearly six months after their civil marriage at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Couples can only book temple appointments 90 days in advance of a wedding date, which makes it difficult for many to plan their weddings.

ahead and choose a venue and a date, but they picked a weekday when the temple would likely be less busy in the hopes that there would be some availability.

Vanessa Valdespino said many plans couples have had for a long time won’t be possible because of both the scheduling difficulties and COVID-19 restrictions still in place.

“I can’t have all my friends and family waiting outside. It has always been my dream to have everyone I love who can’t come in wait outside,” Valdespino said.

Despite these challenges, Valdespino said they have found the silver linings in planning a wedding during this difficult time. She said the restrictions have actually helped

her and her fiancé see that getting sealed for time and all eternity is the most important thing for them.

“My fiancé and I got to the point where we realized we can’t please everyone. Especially with the COVID regulations. Ultimately, it’s only about me and him and the promises we are making with God,” Valdespino said.

## Alpine School District approves fee schedule despite community pushback

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

Alpine School District approved the district fee schedule for the 2021-2022 school year by unanimous vote at its board meeting on Tuesday, March 23.

Despite community pushback on expensive school fees at the last board meeting on March 9, the board approved fee adjustments for the coming school year.

“Fee schedules in the state of Utah have been in existence for many years. In essence, they are a user fee and they are a key component to funding public schools in Utah,” said assistant superintendent Rob Smith.

Smith also said funding for Utah schools is different than other states. “Those who have lived in other states will understand (that) coming to Utah can be a shock when you register your students because there are user fees for participation.”

The purpose of school fees is “to preserve equal opportunity for all students and to limit diversion of money and school and staff resources from the basic school program,” according to schools.utah.gov.

Smith said school administrators understand these fees



BYU Photo

Despite community pushback on expensive school fees at the board meeting on Tuesday, March 9, Alpine School District board members approved the adjustments to the fee schedule for the coming school year.

often place a heavy financial burden upon families, especially families with multiple children in middle and high schools.

“I’m grateful for the administrators, principals and secretaries that actually work with our students and coaches and parents, whether it’s fundraisers or fee waivers, to try to ensure opportunities for all students,” Smith said.

School administrators hope to make the school fees process run more smoothly in order to help parents know and

understand the expenses long before they are due.

“We’ll continue to support (school administrators) and continue to help find ways to make the process easier while also being transparent and trying to make a process helpful for parents too,” said Steve Reese, director of accounting for the district.

Members of the school board expressed their support for the school fees process as well.

“Extracurricular and curricular activities are an integral part of our schools and this is a

wonderful opportunity for kids in public schools. They get the best bang for their buck in our schools. I think we need to protect our programs,” said board member Ada Wilson.

“Our extracurriculars are the things that keep kids coming because it provides opportunity to develop talents, friendships and connections,” said board member Sara Hacken.

The full 2021-2022 Alpine School District fee schedule is available on the district website.



Marieka Creek

Marieka Creek is a BYU master’s of public administration student and also a first-time mom. She balances motherhood and academics during the pandemic.

## BYU moms juggle motherhood and school during a pandemic

By ELENA CASTRO

The pandemic has changed how most BYU students experience college, but for new moms, it brought both challenges and unexpected benefits.

Master’s of public administration student Marieka Creek gave birth to her daughter in August of 2020. As a first-time mom and student, Creek said she had to learn to juggle motherhood and academics.

“I never thought I would have to nurse in between classes in the mother’s lounge or hand off a baby to my husband in the middle of campus as I sprinted to the Tanner building for my next class,” Creek said.

It was hard that first semester of being both a mom and student, she said. The pandemic was still an emotional, stressful time for Creek and her little family, although she said it did bring blessings in unexpected ways.

“The pandemic was honestly a lifesaver. My husband’s summer internship in New York turned remote and he was able to be there for the birth of the baby, and we could spend the whole summer together without being apart,” she said.

Creek said she felt confident in pursuing motherhood while still in school because of the examples she saw in her peers, as well as benefiting from the resources BYU and her master’s program offer.

Mother of twins Jessica Lopez said she was told she would need to drop out of school to take care of the demands newborns bring — let alone twins.

However, Lopez has taken motherhood and school in stride. She said the pandemic proved to be an aid to her and her husband in this time of family growth.

“It’s definitely more difficult to manage my schoolwork and me and my husband’s

schedules, but it always works out,” Lopez said.

Both Lopez and her husband are home more now and can take turns working on school, taking care of the babies and spending time together, she said.

A lot of their classes went online because of the pandemic, which she said “has been a major blessing.”

“Having school online makes it so much easier. I have a lot more flexibility and can focus on my babies more during the day and school more at night,” Lopez said.

She said more classes being offered online has opened up a lot of doors of opportunity for her, and she can graduate a semester early as a result.

New mom Emmily Brown was in school up until the end of her pregnancy. She said she and her husband decided she would take a brief break from school when the baby was born.

“When we decided to get pregnant we made a plan for school. My husband and I both still want me to get my degree, but we decided that I would take a bit longer to get it,” she said.

Brown said there were definitely shifts in parenthood she didn’t expect because of the pandemic. She hasn’t had play dates with other moms or had friends come see her new baby. But the hardest part, she said, was not having her mother there when she had her first baby.

Juggling motherhood, Brown is soon to throw school back into the mix. She said she has plans to resume her family science degree this summer.

“My plan for this summer is take fewer classes than I normally would and do the homework mostly during naps and at night after my little one goes to bed,” she said.

Brown said she looks forward to working with her husband in taking care of their baby while still striving for her education.



# BYU Olympic overview: Women's soccer wins fourth-straight, records in field events

By CALEB TURNER

The BYU women's soccer team defeated Gonzaga 4-0 on March 27 to extend its win streak to four and the track and field team broke a pair of school records in Texas. This is the BYU Olympic sports overview.

**Women's soccer**

The No. 16-ranked Cougars won their two matches last week by a combined 10 goals to none, extending their current win streak to four games and moving to 5-1 in West Coast Conference play. BYU has scored at least four goals in each of the last four games.

Sophomore Rachel McCarthy scored a hat trick in a 6-0 win at San Diego on March 24, and the Cougars achieved just their fourth clean sheet of the season on March 27 against Gonzaga at home.

Head coach Jennifer Rockwood praised the Cougars after the win against Gonzaga at South Field, saying the full 90-minute effort shows the team is "really making progress."

The team's next four games come on the road in California against Santa Clara and Saint Mary's this week, followed by a two-game series at Pepperdine on April 10 and 12. The Cougars next home game is the regular season finale against Portland on April 17 at South Field.

**Track and field**

The outdoor track and field season is now underway for BYU, immediately following an NCAA Championship run in the indoor season. The Cougars competed at the Texas Relays in Austin on March 25-27, achieving a pair of BYU records in field events.

Pole vaulter Zach McWhorter cleared 5.70 meters in the men's pole vault to break the school record by 10 centimeters. Former Cougar and national champion Robison Pratt set the



Preston Crawley

The BYU women's soccer team celebrates against Gonzaga on March 27 at South Field. The Cougars have won four matches in a row, scoring four-or-more goals in each of the four wins.

previous record of 5.60 meters in 2006.

McWhorter now holds the indoor and outdoor records at BYU, breaking previous records both set by Pratt. The All-American broke the indoor record twice this past indoor season, with the current record of 5.80 meters coming in his national runner-up performance at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Javelin thrower Ashton Riner threw 57.31 meters to smash the previous BYU record by four meters. The All-American's throw ranks as the 25th best performance in collegiate history.

Riner's previous best of 52.91 meters came at the UNLV Spring Opener just a few weeks prior on March 6. All-American Lindsay Johnson set the previous school record of 53.16 meters in 2002.

The BYU track and field team will

next compete April 2-3 at the Hayward Premiere and UVU Invite.

**Women's volleyball**

The No. 15 BYU women's volleyball team swept Saint Mary's in back-to-back matches on the road in Moraga, California on March 26 and 27, extending the Cougars' win streak to seven and claiming the top spot on the WCC standings with a 13-1 conference record.

Sophomore setter Whitney Bower recorded her second consecutive double-double, and her sixth in seven matches, with 38 assists and 14 digs in the second match against the Gaels.

BYU returns to Provo for the final week of the regular season with matches against Santa Clara on March 30 and 31. The Cougars can clinch the WCC title by winning both matches

against the Broncos.

**Men's volleyball**

The No. 2 BYU men's volleyball team traveled to Irvine, California, to take on the Concordia Eagles on March 26 and 27, sweeping both matches.

The wins marked nine-straight victories for the Cougars and three-straight sweeps in conference play. BYU has lost just one set during the nine-game win streak.

Junior Davide Gardini came alive for the Cougars against Concordia, recording eight service aces on the weekend and recording his second double-double of the season with 10 kills and 11 digs against the Eagles in the second match.

"Davide continued to improve on his range which has been a big focus for him and we've benefitted from

that focus," BYU head coach Shawn Olmstead said.

**Baseball**

The BYU baseball team split its opening week at home, with a win over UVU and San Francisco, followed by a pair of losses to USF to drop the weekend series and fall to 8-13 on the season. The Cougars still have a 4-2 winning record in conference play.

The first two games of the three-game series against USF went to extra innings, with BYU winning on a walk-off in the 10th inning on March 25, and giving up a series of runs to the Dons in the 10th inning to lose 10-6 on March 26.

"They did just a little bit more than we did today," BYU head coach Mike Littlewood said after the 3-1 loss on March 27. "Their pitchers did a great job. We hit a lot of balls hard but right at guys. Sometimes that's how baseball works."

The Cougars hit the road again to take on Santa Clara in a three-game series April 1-3 in California.

**Softball**

The BYU softball team also split its opening weekend at home in Provo, falling in its first two games to Stanford on March 24 and Boise State on March 26, before turning around and beating the Broncos in game two later the same day and then Southern Utah on March 27.

The Cougars won the game against SUU 8-0, with the mercy rule ending it in the sixth inning. Arissa Paulson struck out 10 batters in six innings of play while also allowing no hits into the fifth inning.

Rylee Jensen-McFarland scored her 191st and 192nd career runs in the game against SUU, moving her into third all-time at BYU for career runs. Emilee Erickson smashed her second homer of the weekend with a solo shot in the bottom of the fourth inning to help topple the Thunderbirds.



Preston Crawley

Zach Wilson throws at the Indoor Practice Facility during BYU Pro Day on March 26. Wilson showed off in front of 31 NFL teams ahead of the next month's draft.

## Zach Wilson and other NFL hopefuls showcase skills at BYU Football Pro Day

By CALEB TURNER

BYU Football held its 2021 Pro Day on March 26, drawing representatives from 31 NFL teams to Provo as projected top-five draft pick Zach Wilson and other former Cougars performed a variety of drills at the Indoor Practice Facility.

The highlight of the event was a 60-yard throw from Wilson that NFL Network analyst Rhett Lewis called "the throw of the Pro Day season." The recipient of the pass was Aleva Hifo, one of six Cougars from the 2019 team in attendance that didn't get a chance to have a Pro Day last year due to COVID-19.

Wilson did not participate in any of the traditional drills such as the 40-yard dash or vertical jump, but did put on a passing performance of over 60 throws with receivers Hifo, Dax Milne, Micah Simon and Matt Bushman.

Dane Brugler, an NFL Draft analyst for The Athletic, said he received a text from an NFL scout in attendance at Pro Day saying that Wilson is locked in as the second pick in the 2021 NFL Draft on April 29, following Clemson's Trevor Lawrence at No. 1. "The draft starts at

three," Brugler's source said.

Among the NFL representatives at BYU Pro Day were the general managers from the New York Jets, Joe Douglas, and San Francisco 49ers, John Lynch, who now hold the second and third picks in the draft, respectively.

Wilson was asked specifically about New York, and said "it's a great spot," and that he has family in the area. In the end, though, he said, "I'll be happy with any team that drafts me."

The attention and conversations before, during and after Pro Day all centered on Wilson. Players were asked about him during media availability afterward, with teammates praising Wilson's work ethic, growth and maturity over his years in Provo.

"He hasn't let the hype go to his head," offensive lineman Tristen Hoge said. "He's matured so much as a player and a man. He deserves everything coming his way."

Hoge and others mentioned all the "eyes" that Wilson brought to Pro Day and how it benefitted under-the-radar players who may not have been seen by NFL scouts, coaches and executives at all, let alone 31 of the 32 teams in the league.

"My goal was just to get one person's

attention, and we had a lot of eyes today," Hifo said.

Cornerback Chris Wilcox said it was a "bummer" not to have an NFL Combine this year due to COVID-19, but said there were "no excuses" now with an opportunity like BYU's Pro Day to showcase their skills and talents.

Wilcox had one of the more eye-popping numbers in the physical tests, running a 4.31-second 40-yard dash to lead all participants. Other big stats from the day were offensive lineman Brady Christensen's 10-foot-4 broad jump and defensive lineman Khyiris Tonga's 35 bench press reps.

NFL analyst Brandon Thorn said Christensen's jump is the best measurement all-time by an offensive lineman by three inches. Tonga's bench press performance was better than JJ Watt's in 2011 and tied with Aaron Donald's in 2014.

Following the event, NFL Network analyst Daniel Jeremiah said he viewed five former Cougars as being "draftable" next month: Wilson, Christensen, Bushman, Wilcox and Milne. Christensen could go as high as the second round, while the remaining three will likely get the call in later rounds or during the free-agent signing period.

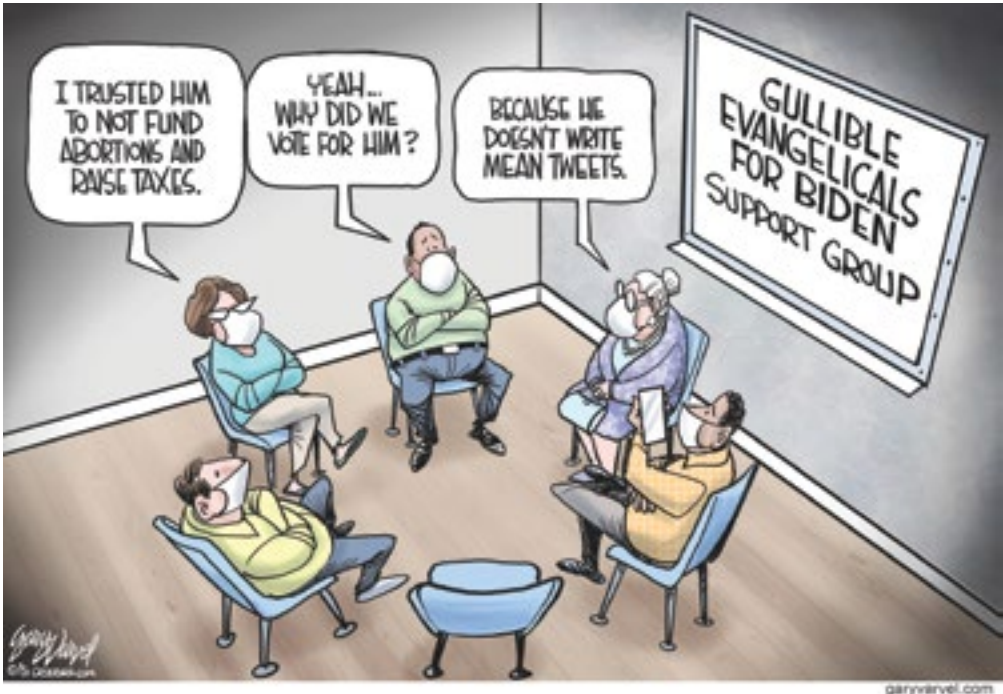
## Softball splits opening week at home



Addie Blacker

Rylee Jensen-McFarland runs the bases in an 8-0 win over Southern Utah on March 27, during which she moved into third all-time at BYU for career runs with 192. BYU dropped a pair of games against Stanford and Boise State before turning around and beating Boise State and SUU to finish the first week at home 2-2.





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.

Are you planning on getting the COVID vaccine? Why or why not?

All the appointments are booked so it doesn't matter if I was going to  
@ASHLEY\_AVERY

Yes. My GI doctor said I should!  
@THE\_GREAT\_DEBACLE

If it will help me get back home, yes.  
@WOOLLEY

No, I've already had covid and they don't even know how long the vaccine will last. I hate needles.  
@MEGAN\_S.JENSEN

Yes!! My parents are both around 60, I want to visit them safely :)  
@THERES\_A\_BELL

Yes! I want to stop worrying about getting exposed  
@SYDNEYSRINGERR

No, I don't have enough trust for it yet. I don't think vaccines should be mandatory.  
@ISLANEDER

Absolutely! The fastest way to herd immunity will be a combo of vaccinations and people contracting the virus naturally.  
@LANDPASK

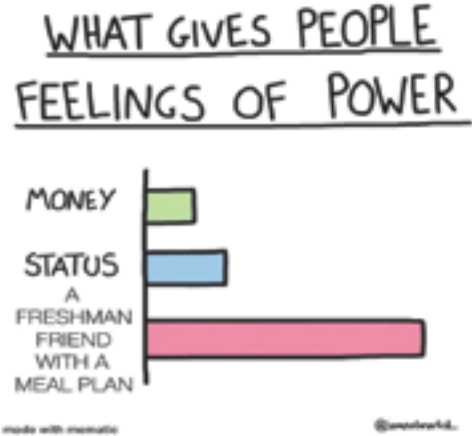
No because I am young and healthy and I already got COVID and I have the antibodies  
@BRAYDEN\_COOK3

Nope. If I still have to wear a mask, I have zero incentive. I'm a young, healthy person.  
@KELSEYAYERS124

Yes, due to my job and I am constantly near high risk individuals  
@BRANDONHULL17

Yes! For the donuts!  
@JOHNTIPPETS

If I still have to wear a stupid mask then what is the point of getting vaccinated :-(  
@BUSBYBERKLY



Brock Dowdle

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

Gun violence

Gun-rights advocates will say assault-style rifles are ... popular, vital for target practice, self-defense and hunting. Any and all of that is outweighed by their potent capacity as a killing tool. With a nation awash in firearms, mass shootings won't end. And they won't stop teaching all of us lessons on how to prevent or at least reduce firearm deaths. That is, they won't stop until we as a society begin to listen.

— Editorial Board  
USA Today

Police's sacrifice

Eric Talley was a latecomer to law enforcement, joining the Boulder Police Department at age 40 after a career in IT. His chief said he went into policing because he felt he had a higher calling. So when shots rang out ... inside a King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colo., he was the first to respond.

No doubt the horror at the killings will devolve in the coming days into one more fruitless debate over gun control. ... Meantime, let us mourn the victims. And give thanks for men such as Eric Talley, who didn't lose his life at that Boulder grocery store. He gave it.

— Editorial Board  
The Wall Street Journal

Climate change

Climate change is not some isolated change in the air temperature. It encompasses sea-level rise, heavy storms, heat waves, droughts, wildfires, acidifying oceans and disruptions in the sensitive planetary rhythms on which human society developed. Scientists know some things for sure — the planet will warm because of greenhouse gas emissions, with a variety of negative results. But they have not cataloged all the consequences. Some are only just coming clearly into view, and some remain obscure. The longer humans fail to adjust our behavior, the worse the consequences are likely to be.

— Editorial Board  
The Washington Post

Pork-barrel spending

Do you remember the "bridge to nowhere"? How about the "Cornhusker kickback"? Many people in Congress apparently hope you don't. Both of those

were examples of outrageous federal spending or perks directed to specific states or districts ...

Other people used to call them "pork-barrel spending." Congress euphemistically called them "earmarks." Whatever you call them,

they are on the verge of coming back, and that is a bad idea.

Supporters of pork barrel spending say outlawing them simply moved them to the executive branch or hid them. The truth is less nefarious.

— Editorial Board  
Deseret News

READERS' FORUM

General Conference

I'm a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; I'm also a steadfast student who savors learning and doing well in school. Twice a year, we have General Conference, where we hear from Church leaders for guidance and reassurance. These conferences are all weekend long — six hours on Saturday, four hours on Sunday. As a college student, when is the prime time to do homework? The weekends. As a private college owned by the Church, where 99% of the students are members, BYU should cancel Monday classes after General Conference weekend to provide a homework day for its students.

According to Data USA, 87.5% of students at BYU are enrolled full-time — taking twelve credits or more. According to studies, for every one-credit hour you're enrolled in, you will spend approximately two to three hours outside class studying. That means, the lowest amount of time spent studying outside of class is 24 to 36 hours, which normally works. But when six hours of a solid studious Saturday is spent being flooded with spiritual fireworks, that leaves less time for studying.

It's possible to get everything done beforehand, or study in between sessions. However, I've tried this, and it results in me staying up too late and being so tired that it's not a good study. If BYU cancels the Monday classes after General Conference, it will provide more time for a good, effective study and ultimately less stressed students.

—Cacia Rasmussen  
Orem, Utah

BYU's trust in students

I love BYU and am grateful to have the opportunity to study here. Unfortunately, however, over the past year, some of those sweet feelings have started to sour. The pandemic blindsided all of us, but I fear it did so in more ways than one. BYU's COVID-19 restrictions are not just limited to certain campus privileges and buildings. Professors at their discretion are also authorized to verify students have completed a daily checkup as they enter on-campus classes.

As more and more restrictive policies like these are put into place, I often find myself asking, "Where does the line of social responsibility end and the line of encroachment on privacy and common decency begin?" I also find myself questioning if these policies are effective and reasonable in the first place. Inconsistency in policy, such as the requirement to show a completed daily checkup before entering the library, but not before entering similarly populated locations like the Wilkinson Student Center, is dumbfounding.

Does BYU trust that its students can use common sense in determining whether they are healthy and safe to attend and use campus facilities? While I doubt it is the intention of the university, the underlying message inherent in these restrictive policies is that BYU does not trust its students. Going forward, I hope BYU will let logic and reason determine how it enacts policies pertaining to COVID-19.

—Ryan Smith  
Highland, Utah

Tweet Beat

A compilation of tweets that relate to college students, Provo and the BYU campus. Submit tweets to universe.ideas@gmail.com or @UniverseBYU

@benjamin\_david3  
i'm at the point in the semester where i start doing an assignment and i don't even know what class it's for

@archaider\_  
not interacting with my roommates hoping they return the favor

@mormanarmchair  
my life is one big inside joke that only i understand

@the\_bradpad  
I've been saying this for years but it should change from the top of the phone NOT the bottom I will die on this hill.

@lizbethhess  
Today I washed my sheets for the first time in a month because there were crumbs in them, and then immediately ate a bagel in bed. Someone please cancel me

@knittedlapras  
i love little caesars. they're just like "this pizza is \$5. it is ready to eat right now. who cares about anything else."

@anna\_joy.  
"90% of relationships formed in their 20s fail" good thing I got married at 18 then

@joslinkeim  
okay maybe listening to true crime podcasts while road tripping alone in the early morning wasn't my smartest move, but it makes the time go by faster than listening to music so

@shafer\_soc  
The only thing I love more than @BYU donating space for COVID-19 vaccination clinics is that the parking lot was completely slammed at 8:30a when I drove past it.

@KingDDD1043  
To all those who say "looking for the reason to delete this app" on their dating app bio: This is it. Here's your reason. Delete the app right now.

@mahonrimoriarty  
Maybe I'm just a boomer but when y'all change your profile pics there's only like a 40% chance that I'm gonna know who you are

@violet\_octupi  
when one direction said "you're insecure," i really felt that

@internetanja  
the year-long gap on my resume? oh, i can explain that. i was just walking around

Tweets are unedited.

OPINION OUTPOST

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.



Dilbert®



# Will BYU return to normal this Fall?

By KENZIE HOLBROOK

The COVID-19 pandemic will have been around for about a year and a half when Fall Semester rolls around, but will that be enough time to return to normal? The answer right now is undetermined.

BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said the decision on how Fall Semester will run is still under review, and no official statement has been made.

Utah's mask mandate is set to be lifted on April 10. But even after the statewide mask mandate is lifted, BYU is planning to continue the mask requirement on campus.

According to Utah Department of Health spokesperson Jenny Johnson, as of right now it's hard to know what Fall Semester will look like. "Institutions can also certainly keep restrictions or some of the pandemic changes (remote learning for example) in place if they so choose," Johnson said.

Johnson said the health department can't speak for BYU specifically but if vaccinations continue to go well and people choose to get vaccinated when it's their turn (including college-aged individuals), this pandemic



BYU Photo

Fall Semester will begin nearly a year and a half after the pandemic first caused BYU classes to be moved online. Now some are wondering what plans the school has in store for fall.

will come to an end and people can get back to all of the things they've missed doing. "The quicker we can get people vaccinated, the sooner that day will come."

Michael Rubin, a University of Utah professor of internal medicine, also said it's difficult to know for sure what Fall Semester will look like in the state, but he believes it looks promising.

Utah has recently started offering the vaccine to everyone 16 or older. According to Utah's coronavirus website, 19% of the state has been fully vaccinated as of March 29.

Rubin said because the

vaccine is now available to everyone 16 and older in Utah, there's enough time for most, if not all, university students to be vaccinated and immune prior to Fall Semester, in addition to all faculty, staff and others.

"If that happens, there's reason to believe we can get back to more of a 'normal' situation in the classroom," Rubin said.

According to Rubin, one of the big questions at this time is what will happen with the coronavirus variants. He said it's unknown how well immunity from the vaccines will hold up against the different

variants. "If we can't get enough vaccines into people's arms fast enough, the virus will continue to spread."

Rubin said the goal is to get as many people vaccinated and immune as possible, as quickly as possible. With vaccinations and immunity the community transmission rate and test positivity rate will go down. "If we can accomplish that over the spring and summer, we should be in relatively good shape."

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox has said repeatedly that he believes people will be able to gather without masks by the Fourth of July.

## RACISM

### Challenges faced by Asians in the US

Continued from Page 1

#### Being Asian in Utah

Both Camu and Min Xiao said they've heard reports of racist sentiments against Asians in Utah during the pandemic.

"As aware as our community was of who they are and of being Asian in a predominantly non-Asian state, I think they became hyper-aware and more anxious about the ongoing political timing and trying to fit in but also trying to keep their identities intact," Camu said.

Low said she has felt "super aware" anytime she is in public. "Who knew what could happen? People had been getting attacked in public areas like in New York in San Francisco."

BYU student Hyrum Chen didn't have to go out in public to experience anti-Asian sentiments; it happened to him in a Zoom class.

Chen recalled talking about the Schrodinger thought experiment in class and commenting in the class Zoom chat about cats, as they were involved in the experiment. He then received a direct message from a student that he had never met making a "joke" about Asians eating cats.

"It seemed like he was making the comment to poke fun at my last name Chen and my Chinese ethnicity," he said. "It may seem like a small joke, but to think that these racist phrases are still present in a 'woke' society still doesn't seem accurate when awareness is only for specific races and excludes others."

Nathan Kou, another BYU student, has also felt targeted because of his race. Last year, Kou was with his family at Heber Valley Railroad when he said a white man ahead of him in line stared at him and his family while shaking his head in anger or disgust and whispering to the woman with him.

"At first, I was shocked, then came anger and frustration towards this man I had just met, especially how he was treating my family, giving us a disappointed look, like we are the cause of the virus, based off our race," Kou said.

Callie Turner, a BYU Korean-American freshman said while she's never experienced a hate crime, the incidents she's experienced have been "kind of unspoken."

"People are fascinated by different-looking people because they're not used to it — but it just makes us feel like even more of an outsider than we should feel," she said. "My advice, though, is maybe try to look at people how Christ sees them. Heavenly Father created all of us and we all look different, but He loves us all equally."

## Police Beat

#### BYU

##### THEFT

**March 21** - The seat and handlebar were stolen from a bicycle locked to a bike rack at Helaman Halls.

##### SUSPICIOUS

**March 20** - A suspicious male was reported at the bike racks at Wymount Terrace. Officers searched and were unable to locate the subject.

**March 22** - An unknown man approached a female student at the LDS Philanthropies Building and asked if she would sell her hair. The student felt uncomfortable and contacted the University Police.

#### TRESPASSING

**March 23** - A man climbed over the property fence at the MTC and then left the area. He told security a personal item had gone over the fence and he had gone to retrieve it.

**March 23** - A group of people was reported for playing basketball and volleyball in the Smith Field House unauthorized. An officer made contact with the groups, and all left without incident.

#### TRAFFIC OFFENSE

**March 23** - An Amazon vehicle parked in the fire lane at Wymount Terrace during a package delivery. The driver

was warned not to park in the fire lane.

#### RECOVERED PROPERTY

**March 23** - A license plate reported stolen in Sandy was attached to a vehicle parked near the J. Reuben Clark Building. Officers determined the thieves stole the license plate from the vehicle on campus and replaced it with the stolen plate from Sandy.

#### Provo

##### THEFT

**March 20** - A bicycle was reported stolen near 700 North and 400 East.

**March 20** - A bicycle was reported stolen from a parking garage near 100 East

and 700 North.

**March 21** - Property theft was reported near 4900 North on University Avenue.

**March 21** - A bicycle was reported stolen near 1500 North on University Avenue.

**March 22** - Property theft was reported at a gas station near 2200 North on University Parkway.

**March 22** - A bicycle was reported stolen near 300 North and 1020 East.

**March 23** - A bicycle was reported stolen from a parking garage near 100 East and 300 North.

**March 23** - Property theft was report-

ed near 400 South on State Street.

**March 24** - Property theft was reported at a hotel near 100 West and 300 South.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

**March 22** - A vehicle was reported stolen off the road near 100 West and 700 North.

#### BURGLARY

**March 20** - A residential burglary involving unlawful entry was reported near 1200 West and 1870 North.

**March 20** - A non-residential burglary involving unlawful entry was reported near 2000 North and 550 West.

# The daily part of The Daily Universe

## The Daily Universe Newsletter

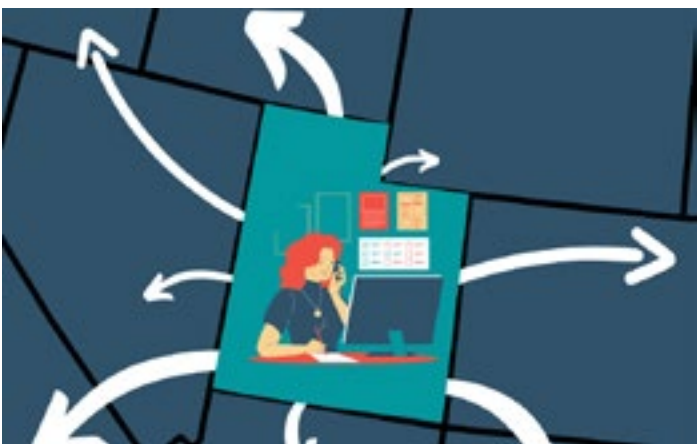


Good morning,

Today's newsletter covers BYU's new policy for out-of-state work, fall sports that moved to winter and the first Reader's Forum of the semester.

Enjoy.

#### News



Sydnee Gonzalez

#### BYU bars out-of-state work for student and non-student employees

By Sydnee Gonzalez

BYU recently announced a new policy barring employees, including those who work remotely, from working outside of Utah.



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