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Jerusalem Center highlights peace, conflict



Decker Westenburg



Mark A. Philbrick/BYU Photo

The BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies is built on the Mount of Olives which overlooks Jerusalem. Construction of the center began in August 1984. It was dedicated on May 16, 1989.

The Jerusalem Center has been home to hundreds of BYU students and faculty and has also employed many Israeli and Palestinian workers over the years.

By DECKER WESTENBURG

In 1979, aboard a Greek ship called the Stella Solaris, President Spencer W. Kimball, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Elder Howard W. Hunter of the Quorum of the Twelve announced to a small group of students that Brigham Young University would build a permanent educational and religious complex in Jerusalem. The center would later be known as the Brigham Young University Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies.

President Kimball was on his way to Israel to dedicate the Orson Hyde Memorial Gardens which was located east of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives.

This garden, established to commemorate Orson Hyde's 1841 visit to Jerusalem, was the largest tract given to an outside group as part of the newly planned 600-acre Jerusalem Gardens National Park, which now encompasses the historic area around the

Old City of Jerusalem according to a 1978 Ensign article.

In attendance at the dedication ceremony was Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who vocally praised the gardens and exchanged gifts with Kimball.

"The Jerusalem Center," President Kimball said after the public announcement of the center, "will stand as further evidence of how seriously the university believes its long held assertion that the world is our campus."

In 1980, a location was chosen in East Jerusalem on the southwest side of Mount Scopus, two kilometers northeast of the Orson Hyde Memorial Park. The selected land, however, was not for sale, as it had been expropriated from Arab owners by the Israeli government after the 1967 Six Day War and was under the authority of "the Israel Land Authority. The Israel Land Authority is the public manager of 93% of the land in Israel according to its website."

The Israel Land Authority agency was founded in 1960 and follows a basic policy of not selling any land or transferring any land ownership rights, but

instead offering interested parties 49- or 98-year leasing rights to real estate under its control, according to the agency's website.

At the time, much like today, Israel was facing international pressure to return its captured and annexed lands in the West Bank located east of Jerusalem to its previous Arab owners. However, rather than do this, the Israeli government throughout the 1970s and 1980s sought to establish demographic and physical presence in the region, thereby "redeeming the land" by making it appear less Arab and more Jewish according to the book "Jerusalem: Bridging the Four Walls: a Geopolitical Perspective."

By the end of 1980, the Church had negotiated a preliminary, renewable 49-year lease of the land with Israeli authorities. This lease agreement was adapted multiple times over the proceeding years until it was agreed upon and signed in its final state in 1988.

A 1985 Washington Post article documented how while other Christian groups were interested in gaining a presence in the Holy Land in the

1980s, the Israeli government (in part because of Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox opposition) often sought to prevent these groups from gaining a significant physical presence.

An article titled "Spatial Transgression and the BYU Jerusalem Center Controversy" details how the Israeli government welcomed the political backing and solidarity of Christians. For either major party to gain a majority in the Knesset (Israeli legislature), they needed the support of the Orthodox community (called the Haredim in the Israeli legislature).

The article later documented how the group objects to, among many other practices, any active proselytizing by Christians in Jerusalem and prominent "outsider" building projects by proselytizing Christian groups.

The Washington Post documented how many people feared that the new center would enable an increase in missionary work among Jewish people living in Israel. The Haredim were among the most vocal critics when construction of the BYU Jerusalem Center began began in August 1984.

The dedication was completed on May 16, 1989, nearly a year after construction was finished and a group of students had already moved in. No press was present at the dedication, and the Church did not share that the dedication happened until one month later.

Since the dedication, the center has been home to hundreds of BYU students and faculty. The center has also employed many Israeli and Palestinian workers over the years according to a 2016 BYU devotional from David Whitchurch.

Kaye Terry Hanson served as the associate director at the Jerusalem Center in the 1990s. During a 2002 devotional, she said that everyone she knew in the Holy Land sought peace.

"In the Jerusalem Center we employed both Israeli and Palestinian workers. They worked side by side—respectfully, for the most part; hopefully; and with responsibility," Hanson said. "That microcosm of Holy Land society leads me to believe—to hope—that there is a solution to the anger between the two peoples."

'The Chosen' resonates with believers who see authenticity in its characters

By CASSIDY WIXOM

A new television series featured on BYUtv called "The Chosen" is becoming widely popular around the nation and is one of the most successful crowd-funded TV shows ever created. "The Chosen" is the first ever multi-season TV show to depict the life of Jesus Christ and shows much of His story through the eyes of His chosen disciples.

Writer and creator Dallas Jenkins is an evangelical raised Baptist who studied both the Bible and media in college, culminating in his expertise in Christian filmmaking. "The Chosen" got its start in 2017 with a short film Jenkins made for his church depicting the Nativity from the perspective of a shepherd.

Executive Producer Derral Eves watched Jenkins' short film and saw the potential of what it could become. He enjoyed the heartfelt, human emotions in the film and "immediately wanted to be part of it," he said.

He met Jenkins the next week, they became partners, and from there, "The Chosen" grew.

The show's first season was released in 2019 and received positive reviews. It currently has a 100% on Rotten Tomatoes with a 99% audience score, 4.9 stars on Google and 9.7/10 on IMDB.

With hundreds of films, shows and videos already made about Christ, why is "The Chosen" making such an impact on believers?

The authentic human approach

"The whole purpose of the show is to have people experience an authentic Jesus," Eves said. He believes the show is resonating with so many people because of its fresh, authentic, human approach to the Bible narrative.

Eves said in most religions, there is a trend of depicting the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ in a distant, stoic way. Without taking away Christ's divinity, Eves said it is important to them that they also represent Christ's human side.

Throughout the show, Christ is presented as a very real, authentic human.

He and his disciples go through difficulties, problems arise, triumphs are made and miracles occur.

In Eves' opinion, Christ was "the most magnetic person that ever walked the face of the earth" and so depicting him in "The Chosen," Christ should be that authentic human who connects with the individual, he said.

"We're not masquerading as something stoic," Eves said. The show fully depicts the difficulty of life in the first century showing cultural oppression, starvation, racism, bigotry, Roman oppression and personal crises of the characters. "It's accurate in the sense of real people, with real problems, with real issues."

Tessa Bagley, a BYU-Idaho student from Sandy, said she loves the show because it helps viewers see Christ as a real person.

"It helped me recognize that He was a regular (though perfect) guy who likes to joke with his friends, loves His mom, and has a special connection with the little children," Bagley said.

A message for everyone

Individuals working on the show come from various faith backgrounds, Eves said. There are Catholics, Presbyterians, Evangelicals, Baptists, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and even non-believers involved in the show. While the vision and direction of the storyline is portrayed from Jenkins' evangelical perspective, Eves said it's vital that the show is not "pigeonholed" for one specific religion.

The show focuses more on the stories and life of Christ, rather than the theology that came after, Eves said. The whole cast and crew are working together to accurately depict the life of Christ as best they can, in a way that anyone, regardless of faith background, would enjoy watching, Eves said.

"That's what I love. This message is for everyone," Eves said. "It's not trying to put your theology over somebody else's theology. We are just focusing in on Jesus."

"The Chosen" is helping some people discover Jesus for the first time, and others to re-discover the Jesus they



BYUtv

Jonathan Roumie portrays Jesus in the Angel Studios production, "The Chosen." The series is one of the most successful crowd-funded TV shows ever created.

grew up knowing, Eves said.

The show is not meant to replace the Bible, Eves said. Instead, the show's creators hope as people watch, they will become curious and it will lead them to read and study the Bible more deeply.

Eves said he has heard from some who watch that they are "getting more devout. Instead of becoming a church-goer, they are becoming a follower and disciple of Jesus Christ."

If there was ever a time the world needed Jesus, Eves said, it's now. "Now is the time we need to share the good word."

The show's deal with BYUtv

"The Chosen" is not endorsed by or affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but many members of the Church are embracing its messages.

Elder Michael Dunn is a General Authority Seventy and managing director of BYUtv. He said "The Chosen" is "one of the most remarkable, embraceable, approachable and understandable depictions of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ that has ever been produced."

Some of the scenes in season two are filmed at the Jerusalem set owned by

the Church in Goshen, Utah. According to the Deseret News, "The Chosen" is the first production to be filmed at the Jerusalem set that is not Church affiliated.

Elder Dunn said after a lot of wrangling, "The Chosen" and the Church came to a "wonderful deal between all parties" allowing the actors to film at the Goshen set in exchange for letting BYUtv stream and broadcast the show on its channel. Several other factors also went into the deal, but both parties agreed on wanting to get as much exposure as possible for the show.

BYUtv is currently the only broadcast network "The Chosen" airs on, Elder Dunn said.

Although "The Chosen" is not endorsed by the Church, Elder Dunn said it is "right in the bullseye of where we aim to deliver in programming." Because the show has good wholesome values, is family oriented, and promotes further study of the life of Christ, Elder Dunn is happy to have it streamed on BYUtv.

Dunn said he thinks by the time creators of "The Chosen" release all seven seasons, it will be the most watched series ever on the life of Christ. He feels "very blessed" to be a small part of sharing the show with viewers, he said.

"The Chosen" landed on BYUtv with "great success and receptivity," Elder Dunn said. "In a very short timespan it has become one of our most watched and most popular programs."

All released episodes are currently available on demand on the free BYUtv app and BYUtv's website. Starting Sunday, May 30, BYUtv began broadcasting an episode from season two each week at 4 p.m.

Reaching a billion people

"One main goal we have is not only to produce the show, but to get it out to a billion people," Eves said.

To do that, creators of the show made it available through a device almost everyone has access to: a phone. "The Chosen" has its own app anyone can download to watch each episode for free.

According to a counter in "The Chosen" app, there are already over

172,836,500 views as of May 30. But the number is continually growing. Eves said creators hope that a billion people actually watch the show, rather than simply achieving a billion views.

"We're not going to stop at anything until we get that because that right there, is something that we believe needs to happen," Eves said.

When an individual finishes watching the show on the app, there is an option to "Pay It Forward," giving free access for 10+ other people to view the show and contributing to the funding of future seasons.

The "Pay It Forward" option is one part of the crowd-funding that has funded the entire show. Other ways "The Chosen" fundraises is through selling merchandise such as T-shirts, hats, books and DVDs. Eves said on the app people can also pay to "unlock" certain features faster.

Creating a multi-season show from crowd-funding is a difficult task, but Eves said he believes "the content will sell itself." So far the first two seasons were successfully crowd-funded and the third season is 38% funded.

The series can be viewed through its own app, on VidAngel and through various other streaming services, including BYUtv. Season one and most of season two are now available for viewing, with new episodes being released every few weeks. Season three's script is written and production is scheduled to start later this fall.

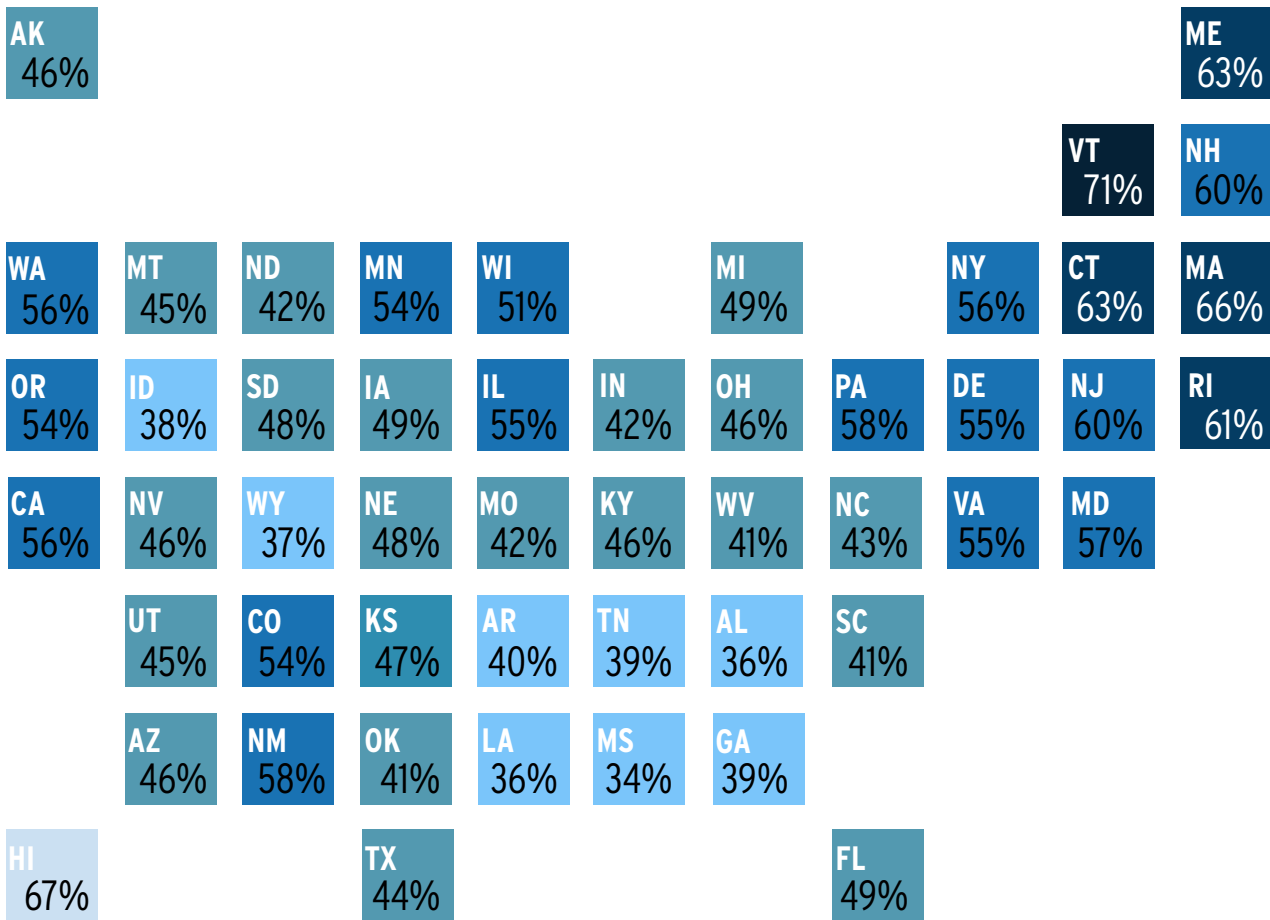
In season one, Christ is gathering his disciples and backstories are shown of memorable main characters such as Mary Magdalene, Simon, Andrew and Nicodemus. The calling of Matthew, Christ turning water into wine, the healing of a paralytic and a leper and more familiar Bible stories are depicted.

Season two depicts Christ beginning His ministry as He and His disciples travel into Samaria and surrounding regions. The famous Sermon on the Mount is depicted in season two.

"The Chosen" creators expect to produce seven seasons that cover the rest of Christ's three-year ministry, His death and resurrection, following the New Testament narrative.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Percentage of state population vaccinated



Data as of May 30 provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Illustration by Allie Peterson

MTC to reopen in late June with limited capacity

By CASSIDY WIXOM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced a limited reopening of the Provo, Ghana and New Zealand Missionary Training Centers for on-site training in late June 2021. The opening dates for each MTC will be evaluated weekly and are dependent on local health guidelines and circumstances. This is a “phased and cautious approach” the Church is taking as

it begins to reopen the MTCs that have been closed for 14 months, according to a Church press release. Because of limited numbers allowed to attend, missionaries and local leaders will be contacted directly if they are invited to receive on-site training. All others will continue training online. A negative COVID-19 test will be required for all missionaries to enter an MTC and tests will be administered to any missionaries who show symptoms during their time at the MTC.

Schools try pep-rally tactics to get students vaccinated

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A growing number of public schools are using mascots, food trucks and prize giveaways to create a pep-rally atmosphere aimed at encouraging students to get vaccinated against the coronavirus before summer vacation. Officials are concerned that once school lets out, it will be even tougher to get enough teens vaccinated in time to guarantee widespread immunity on campuses.

The massive effort has just gotten underway because it was only on May 10 that federal regulators authorized the Pfizer vaccine for children 12 to 15. Moderna said on May 25 that its COVID-19 vaccine strongly protects kids as young as 12, a step that could put it on track to become the second option for that age group in the U.S. Younger children are not yet eligible. So far, about 14% of the nation’s 15 million kids ages 12 to 15 have received their first shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Pandemic has fueled eating disorder surge in teens, adults

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The pandemic created treacherous conditions for eating disorders, leading to a surge of new cases and relapses that is not abating as restrictions are loosened and COVID-19 cases subside in many places, doctors and other specialists say. “We are absolutely seeing massive increases,” said Jennifer Wildes, an associate psychiatry professor and director of an outpatient eating disorders program at the University of Chicago Medicine. Some patients are

waiting four to five months to get treatment such as psychotherapy and sometimes medication. Waits usually lasted only a few weeks pre-pandemic, Wildes said. Her program is treating about 100 patients, a near doubling since before the pandemic, she said. Daily calls from people seeking treatment have doubled, from roughly 60 in 2019 to up to 130 since the pandemic began, said dietitian Jillian Lampert, the program’s chief strategy officer. “We know that anxiety and isolation are typically very significant components of eating disorders,” she said.

BYU announces traditional fall semester

By KENZIE HOLBROOK

BYU officially announced that this fall semester would be a traditional semester meaning no physical distancing, no masks and the vast majority of classes being offered in person in an announcement on its website. Although masks and physical distancing won’t be required for fall, that decision could change depending on trends in disease prevalence and guidance received from local and state governments, according

to the announcement. BYU Academic Vice President Shane Reese said the university is looking forward to gathering together on campus. “We’re grateful for the resilience, creativity and fortitude of our students, faculty and staff as they’ve adapted and overcome the higher education challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.” Students could begin building fall semester registration carts on Monday, May 24. Priority registration begins on June 7, and the first day of Fall Semester 2021 is Monday, August 30.

Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



Jets rookie QB Wilson ‘relentless’ to learn offense

During his short time with the Jets, Wilson has impressed his coaches and teammates with his insatiable desire to improve. “He’s relentless, in terms of his want for knowledge and in terms of studying,” coach Robert Saleh said. “He’s got a lot of horsepower in his mind. And he’s not afraid to use all of it.” The Jets held their third session of organized team activities on May 27, and it was the first open to reporters. Wilson looked anything but a wide-eyed rookie, zipping crisp passes around the field with the type of accuracy and touch that made him so coveted by New York that it chose to move on from Sam Darnold and start fresh with a young signal caller.



New wolf killing laws trigger push to revive US protections

Wildlife advocates pressed the Biden administration on May 26 to revive federal protections for gray wolves across the Northern Rockies after Republican lawmakers in Idaho and Montana made it much easier to kill the predators. The Center for Biological Diversity, Humane Society and Sierra Club filed a legal petition asking Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to use her emergency authority to return thousands of wolves in the region to protection under the Endangered Species Act.



Ex-Speaker Ryan rejects Trump, ‘2nd-rate imitations’

Emerging from two years of relative silence, former House Speaker Paul Ryan joined the fight against Donald Trump on May 27, urging fellow conservatives to reject the former president’s divisive politics and those Republican leaders who emulate him. Ryan made his remarks during an evening address at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California. He was critical of both Republicans and Democrats, though he saved his sharpest barbs for Trump, who is by most measures the leader of the modern-day Republican Party. “It was horrifying to see a presidency come to such a dishonorable and disgraceful end,” Ryan said, referring to the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol that Trump inspired on Jan. 6.



76ers, Knicks, Jazz issue bans on fans after incidents

The New York Knicks, Philadelphia 76ers and Utah Jazz banned a total of five fans from their respective arenas and issued apologies on May 27 for incidents during playoff games, and the NBA said that rules surrounding fan behavior will be “vigorously enforced” going forward. All three incidents took place during playoff games on May 26. The Knicks said they banned a fan from Madison Square Garden for spitting on Atlanta guard Trae Young, the 76ers banned a fan who threw popcorn on Washington guard Russell Westbrook, and the Jazz said three of their fans were banned indefinitely following a verbal altercation during their game with Memphis.

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EDITOR
Emma Gadeski

■

CAMPUS EDITOR
Cassidy Wixom

METRO EDITOR
Decker Westenburg

SPORTS EDITOR
Caleb Turner

OPINION EDITOR
Gabrielle Shiozawa

■

ONLINE/COPY EDITOR
Kenzie Holbrook

■

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PHOTOGRAPHERS
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Addison Blacker

■

DEVELOPER
Brayden Lewis

EDITORIAL DESIGNER
Allie Peterson

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
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SPECIAL SECTIONS
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f **t** **@**UniverseBYU
letters@byu.edu
News 801-422-2957
Advertising & Circulation 801-422-7102

Temples continue to reopen in phases

By EMMA GADESKI

Temples have continued to gradually reopen in phases, and 76% of them will be open for proxy work by the end of July. A May 25 press release from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said 60 temples will reopen in Phase 3 during June and July 2021. 13 temples will begin Phase 2-B on June 7. Temples have been reopening in four phases since May 2020 “based on local circumstances and governmental restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.” Phase 1 allows living husband-and-wife sealings by appointment. Phase 2 means the temple is open for all living ordinances only with restrictions. In Phase 2-B, temples are open for all living ordinances and baptisms for deceased individuals with restrictions. At Phase 3, the temple is open for all ordinances with restrictions. Temples set to reopen in Phase 3 include both the Provo Utah Temple and Provo City Center Temple. Phase 4 means temples are open for full operations.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

Students help others connect through family history application

By CASSIDY WIXOM

A Relative Finder application built by students in BYU's Family History Technology Lab recently hit one million users.

Mark Clement, manager of the Family History Technology Lab and a computer science professor, said users can create custom groups of people and find out how everyone in the group is related with this application.

"The big thing is connecting people," Clement said. "Helping them to feel the Spirit of Elijah and then help them be motivated to do other family history."

Users sign in with their FamilySearch ID as the application uses FamilySearch's data. Users can then start searching and finding relatives in various categories, such as famous authors, prophets or astronauts. He said the application is used frequently by wards for activities.

Relative Finder can also be used to connect with people who are physically nearby. Clement said the application was once used in Brigham Square during a RootsTech Conference and the approximate 700 people there were able to connect and form relationships with their newfound relatives.

This function of Relative Finder is similar to FamilySearch's "relatives near me" function. Relative Finder, however, does not require individuals to be physically nearby for it to calculate relationships.

When a custom group is made, Relative Finder will automatically show the relatives and relationships between the individuals in the custom group regardless of where the users are located, or if they are even using the application at the same time.

The application was built 20 years ago and has been continually maintained and improved upon by information systems and computer science students over the years.



Rebekah Baker/BYU Photo

Students and professors in the Family History Technology Lab created a Relative Finder application, which recently hit one million users.

Information systems student Joseph Steed is one of the project managers for the application. He said when the application was first created, it was the only one that could accurately calculate relationships. Since then, students have improved the interface, expanded abilities and functions and innovated new aspects of the website.

Relative Finder is "a bridge that allows people to actually bring people into their family and to collaborate on things they normally wouldn't," Steed said. A Facebook group has even been created by users of Relative Finder to help open conversations and make more relative connections, Steed said.

Computer and data science student Lawry Sorenson said working on this project is "a really nice meeting place" for two things he is passionate about: family history and computer programming.

Using Relative Finder and FamilySearch to find out how his friends are related to him has been a bonding experience for Sorenson. He hopes this application and other projects in the lab help lower the entry point and get others more interested in doing family history work.

Working on this project as a student has been surreal for Steed. He said it is exciting, but

he feels a lot of pressure and responsibility. The website has gone down a few times; one time he was accidentally the one who brought it down.

The students and the professors working on the application, however, all use it as a tool to learn. Clement has helped Steed and other students to be less self-critical when they make a mistake and to focus on making things better when mishaps happen.

Steed said the reason the application is so good today is because the students weren't afraid to make big mistakes in trying new things. Working through the crashes and issues that arose helped them make the application better than it was before and into what it is today.

Those involved in Relative Finder hope the number of users continues to grow so they can keep connecting people and making the website more user friendly.

Currently, Sorenson and the rest of the students are working on moving Relative Finder to a new infrastructure and system to make it easier to maintain and update.

Additional family history resources can be found on BYU's Family History Technology Lab website.

MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Students learn about diversity, equity in class aimed at inclusion



Ramon Zabriskie

A course in the Marriott School of Business is teaching students about the importance of inclusion. EXDM 350: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Experience Design, taught by professor Ramon Zabriskie, teaches students about biases they may be unaware of and the importance of creating an inclusive atmosphere. Students get to participate in activities that help them understand the importance of diversity and equity, such as playing adaptive sports or attending diversity panels on BYU's campus.

Many of the students appreciate what they learn from the class and are eager to apply it to the real world. "The class helps students learn how they can influence those in their own spheres around them for the better—in their homes, families, workplaces, and ultimately the world around them," Zabriskie said.

IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Engineering professor and students' invention beats record



Wood Chiang

BYU electrical and computer engineering professor Wood Chiang and a team of engineering students have created the world's most efficient, high-speed analog-to-digital converter (ADC) microchip. ADC microchips convert analog signals to digital signals. The piece is present in almost every electronic; the faster and more efficient it works the

faster it is to upload and download items. Other aspects like video quality, Wi-Fi and battery life also improve.

Chiang and the engineering students beat the current record by a long shot. Their ADC uses only 21 milli-watts of power at 10 GHz for ultra-wideband wireless communications. In comparison, competing ADCs use hundreds of milli-watts or even watts of power at similar speeds. This makes their ADC faster while using less energy. Chiang is proud of the work he and his students put into this feat.

"It's like building a little city. There are so many details that went into this project," Chiang said. "The student team did a marvelous job — all the pieces fit perfectly together to realize this engineering feat. I am fortunate to have worked with such talented students at BYU."

COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES

Students receive sought-after scholarship for stellar research



Anna Everett

Anna Everett and Nolan Cole are two students who received the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, a prestigious award given to life science students who display excellent work. Over 5,000 students applied for the scholarship, but only 410 of them received it. Cole has worked with internships at Harvard University and is set to intern at UCLA this summer. His work also includes meta-analysis and studying DNA with Steve Johnson in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Biology. He applied for the scholarship as a boost to his Ph.D. applications and believes that hard work leading up to the award was worth it.

Everett majors in neuroscience and has done research with multiple teams. Her work with professor Jeff Edwards on PTSD is what put her name over the top to receive the scholarship. She plans on continuing her study of neuroscience and research. "When you're doing your research, you know more about something than anyone else in the world because it's not published yet," she said. "I feel like each of my research projects has helped me become a better scientist."

BYU professor's award-winning film gets theatrical debut

By CASSIDY WIXOM

BYU photography professor Robert Machoian Graham's film "The Killing of Two Lovers" was accepted into the Sundance Film Festival and is now in select theaters across the nation.

Machoian said getting accepted into Sundance was very exciting. "It's always been a dream of mine to have a feature there," he said.

The award-winning film was shot in only 12 days with limited budget and equipment and a crew of only students. The film was shot in December 2019, accepted into Sundance in January 2020, and won the 2020 Jury Award for "Best Narrative Feature" at the Atlanta Film Festival.

Studio Neon bought the film in February 2020 but when COVID-19 hit, Neon decided to delay the release of the movie so it could have a theatrical release. Machoian said he was very appreciative that Neon was willing to delay the release so viewers could have the theatrical experience of the film that he intended it to have.

"You always hope it will happen and we shot it very much for the theater," Machoian said. He said that having the film bought by a studio, accepted into Sundance and released in theaters in 35 cities was a huge accomplishment for him.

"The Killing of Two Lovers" is Machoian's first solo feature and officially debuted in theaters on May 14.

It started out as a short film Machoian had written about a dialogue between a couple. But through connecting with Clayne Crawford, the lead actor in "The Killing of Two Lovers," Machoian



BYU Photo

BYU photography professor Robert Machoian Graham's film "The Killing of Two Lovers" was accepted into the Sundance Film Festival and is now in select theaters across the nation. It was shot in only 12 days and with a crew of students.

expanded it into a feature, got some funding and could film the movie all within a few months.

The movie explores the difficulty in marriage and how couples sometimes drift apart as they grow older. "It's a very vulnerable thing to be married," Machoian said. He wanted to explore the rawness, nuances and hardships couples might go through while also opening up a dialogue about divorce and separation.

Machoian said he wanted his film to connect with the audience and he wanted to address family "because it's a crucial part of the gospel." When he makes films, he tries to find ways to

intertwine gospel ideas while still creating a story people outside the religious faith could connect with.

Machoian tries to involve students in his projects as often as possible because when he was an undergraduate, experiences like that were the most impactful for him. His crew for "The Killing of Two Lovers" was entirely students, or former students of his. One such student is Oscar Jiménez who was the cinematographer of the film.

Jiménez first worked with Machoian in 2018 on a short film titled "The Minors." This film was also accepted into Sundance and won a jury award. Jiménez said he

was so excited and his goal to make it into Sundance in 10 years was completed in two years.

Although "The Minors" didn't go much further after the Sundance festival, it put both Jiménez and Machoian on people's radars in the film world. Jiménez said his collaboration on this project with Machoian also built a foundation of trust that led to them working on "The Killing of Two Lovers" together.

During Jiménez's last semester as a media arts student at BYU, Machoian gave him the script for "The Killing of Two Lovers" and asked Jiménez to be the cinematographer.

Jiménez said when he first started working on the film, he felt a lot of pressure to do well and was worried he could ruin the film. Jiménez also had to take his final college exams during the filming period which added extra stress.

Despite the challenges, Jiménez said being the cinematographer was a "super rewarding experience" and he grew confident in his skills, especially in working with limited production gear. He said he is grateful for the opportunity to work on a film that is doing so well.

"It's a very rare experience to not only shoot a film at my experience level, but also to win and to see it grow and to have it rubbing shoulders

against other films who have directors and cinematographers who are waiting 20 or 30 years to get that," Jiménez said.

Jiménez said he helped Machoian's aesthetic vision of the film become reality, giving it a "worn out family album" look. The film feels like a series of photographs or moving portraits that show the characters' lives. They achieved the look through static, long, wide shots, he said.

Beyond "The Minors" and "The Killing of Two Lovers," Machoian and Jiménez completed another film project together in December 2020 and are excited to see where it will take them.

Colonial Pipeline cyberattack raises awareness of cybersecurity

By JEFF SALCEDO

The Colonial Pipeline cyberattack, which ended with Colonial Pipeline paying a \$5 million ransom, set off alarms around the state of cybersecurity in the United States.

The cyberattack has been resolved and the 5,500 mile pipeline is up and running, but the ramifications of the pipeline shutdown serve as a reminder of the severity of cyberattacks.

“The risk of a cyberattack has been going steady for quite a while, this is just another manifestation of the risk that’s out there,” said Spencer DeGraw, program chair of information technology at Ensight College.

DarkSide, a Russian-based ransomware company, is being blamed for the cyberattack. DarkSide utilized ransomware to encrypt Colonial Pipeline’s business network, which it uses for payroll and reporting data according to a Politico article.

Although DarkSide did not directly shut down the pipeline, Colonial Pipeline did as a precautionary measure.

“Clearly these are not inexperienced hackers. These guys are very good, very experienced, they know what they’re doing,” DeGraw said.

An adequate back-up of Colonial Pipeline’s data could have prevented the shutdown of the pipeline, which created gas shortages and increased gas prices, DeGraw said.

According to the Berkeley Information Security Office, the ransomware hacks target a company’s data to encrypt and lock it until the company pays the hackers. By having a backup of data, the company could bypass the hackers, since it has another copy of the data that is not encrypted.

“If you built in a good security strategy, a business continuity strategy, you should have all your data backed up, so basically you can tell them ‘To go pound sand, I’m not going to pay you what you want, I’ve got a good



Associated Press

A ransomware cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline caused a shutdown, which created gas shortages and increased gas prices.

copy of my data over here,” DeGraw said.

Unfortunately for Colonial Pipeline a good security strategy was not in place and it had to shell out the \$5 million ransom. In exchange DarkSide handed over a decrypting tool for the data, which didn’t even work according to Bloomberg.

This recent cyber attack of Colonial Pipeline came on the heels of cyberattacks against other large companies such as SolarWinds and Microsoft.

The threat of a cyberattack against companies is becoming more relevant, DeGraw said. Companies need to be aware of the dangers of cyberattacks and prepare security measures against them.

Even with the risks of cyberattacks, companies can minimize the harm by having an adequate cybersecurity system. Smaller companies can prevent disasters from happening by hiring a monthly security operation center, DeGraw said.

The Colonial Pipeline cyberattack is the biggest domino to fall in a string of cyberattacks and the aftermath is leading to government involvement to prevent another major cyberattack.

Cybersecurity guidelines for businesses already exist, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to protect companies from

cyberattacks like Colonial Pipeline experienced.

“There are already very substantial regulatory standards that have been defined,” DeGraw said.

U.S. representative Ted Lieu is proposing a bill to incentivize people to join the cyber career field in an effort to prevent hacks.

While there is a demand for cybersecurity professionals, DeGraw said he feels that the market is creating enough incentive for people to join. “There is no doubt about it, we need more cyber professionals. I think the market is doing a good job of fixing that.”

No need for an overreaction

While the federal government is trying to enact laws to prevent another major cyberattack, people took matters into their own hands by filling up on gas in a variety of methods.

From car tanks, gas cans, storage bins and even grocery bags, people used anything to ensure they had gas, but DeGraw said it is important to not overreact.

“These risks are real, but I also think that we don’t have to overreact. We know enough about cybersecurity now, we can get in, we can clean up the mess, we can run cyber forensics and figure out what happened,” DeGraw said.



Associated Press

Educators and community activists protest Utah lawmakers’ plans to pass resolutions encouraging a ban of critical race theory concepts.

Critical race theory sparks ongoing debate in Utah and across America

By KRISTINE KIM

Critical race theory is an intellectual movement that was organized in 1989.

According to Britannica, critical race theory is based on the premise that race is a socially constructed category, not a biologically natural feature of subgroups of human beings.

The theory also states that the socially constructed idea of race may be used to oppress and exploit people of color. It originated at the first annual workshop on critical race theory in 1989, but ideas of the critical race theory date back to the 1960s and 1970s.

Scholars Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic published “Critical Race Theory: An Introduction” in 2001 which became a work that many scholars and theorists would widely accept, according to Britannica.

According to Purdue Online Writing Lab, critical race theory scholars focus on understanding how systemic racism affects minorities, how they are affected by cultural perceptions of race and how they can counter prejudice.

There has been a mix of responses toward critical race theory and dissents over

whether including it in school curriculum and the federal government would be beneficial or detrimental to society.

According to Time magazine, former President Donald Trump and many other right-wing conservatives have said that critical race theory is a “radical revolution.”

Trump also told Time magazine, “We are paying people hundreds of thousands of dollars to teach very bad ideas and frankly, very sick ideas. And really, they were teaching people to hate our country, and I’m not going to allow that to happen.”

On President Joe Biden’s first day in office, he signed an executive order “On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.”

This executive order rescinded President Trump’s order to stop teaching about the critical race theory.

Since this has been rescinded, state governments across the nation have taken action by passing bills and resolutions regarding the subject. The Utah State Legislature called an “extraordinary session” to discuss critical race theory on May 19.

Steven Leach, a BYU history, Japanese language and literature student, said as a

white male, it seems that any contribution to critical race theory he makes academically or by any other means is unwanted.

“Any majority-minority interaction promotes a power imbalance, and therefore, to rid our society of systems of racism, I feel incentivized to avoid those interactions altogether,” Leach said.

Loyola Law School professor Priscilla Ocen told Time magazine she believes critical race theory is an important theory that addresses and explains a history of inequality. It also explains the changes that can be made to counteract the inequality.

“Critical race theory ultimately is calling for a society that is egalitarian, a society that is just, and a society that is inclusive, and in order to get there, we have to name the barriers to achieving a society that is inclusive,” Ocen said.

BYU communications alum Joseph Carson said the critical race theory is like any other moral panic. “Critical race theory doesn’t exist in all the ways that many opposed to it think it does. Any article about critical race theory is barely controversial or radical, all of this is just more culture war fodder fueled by (usually) right-wing pundits,” Carson said.



A Menagerie of Fun

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TWO

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Out on racks now

Coach Diljeet Taylor sets faster pace for champion women's distance runners

By ISABELLE ZYHAILO

The BYU women's cross country team is running in unison during a grueling practice and in the distance, all that can be heard is a coach yelling, "This is fun!"

Meet BYU women's track and field and cross country coach Diljeet Taylor.

Taylor's journey to success at BYU began five years ago, when she took a leap of faith to move from California to Utah and built a championship team.

Not only did the move pay off with the Cougars winning the 2021 NCAA National Championship in March, but Taylor has also developed her athletes to become women with vision, to be confident and to empower others. That is her secret.

"When people ask them 'What was it like being coached by Coach Taylor?' 20 years from now, I don't want people to say that, 'She helped me become a three-time All-American,' or, 'She helped win a national championship,'" Taylor said. "I want women to say, 'She changed my life.' That is hard and you don't get to reach everyone that way, but that is a goal of mine."

Taylor had a female distance coach in college that helped her become a three-time All-American, but didn't change her life, according to Taylor. She wants her athletes to become the women they needed growing up.

"She invests in my life as a whole," All-American cross country runner and 1,500-meter national champion Courtney Wayment said. "Yes, she wants me to be competitive and yes, she wants all these goals for me in running, but she wants me to accomplish the goals I have outside of running too."

Wayment came into the program as a freshman the same year Taylor moved from California.

"Coach Taylor is very intense, which is good. It takes us good places," All-American Aubrey Frentheway said. "I think that the biggest thing is that she really opens your eyes to your potential. Even when you don't see, she always sees it."

Why Taylor coaches

Taylor ran for Frank Gagliano, also known as "Gags," after college for a Nike farm team. She said that he instilled the importance of caring about people and believing in them.

"I wasn't an Olympian," Taylor said. "I wasn't even the best kid on the team with him, but I could see him doing it with others, and immediately when someone believes in you and they know



Jaren Wilkey/BYU Photo

BYU women's distance coach Diljeet Taylor holds up the cross country national championship trophy upon the Cougars' return to Provo in March.

that you believe in them, it takes you to a different level, and it allows you to flourish in ways that you might not be able to without that faith."

She said this principle she learned early on became her staple for coaching, and now she wants her women to win in life.

"I think as I believe in my athletes, they are learning how to believe in themselves. They then learn how to believe in each other and in me," Taylor said. "The most powerful thing a coach or a person can do is believe in someone. It's probably been my greatest tool in coaching."

Frentheway said she admires Coach Taylor's confidence and belief. "She's all about empowering women. She loves to show us that and for me, it just really helped me see ways how I could be better, not only in running but also in my life later. Whether I become a coach, a teacher, a mom, whatever it is, it's the lessons that I am learning here that can reach so many other places in our lives."

Taylor never expected to end up in a coaching career, but is now very passionate about her chosen profession.

"I coach because that same man that coached me after college saw something in me," Taylor said. "He saw the coach in me long before I saw it. I attribute a lot of what I am doing to him seeing that and having that vision."

Wayment said that because Taylor is a woman who is also married, and ran before and after college, she knows

what it's like to relate to them on every level.

"I think of where the course of my life could have gone, and if it wasn't for her, I would not be where I am," Wayment said. "She has been one of, if not the most influential person in college (for me)."

Taylor even made sure to get to know Wayment's husband and said that he was part of the family. "If we are being honest, I always want to be in someone's corner when it comes to chasing their dream and following their passion because I didn't necessarily have that same support system growing up."

Taylor goes above and beyond, hand-making cards on race days for each player and planning elaborate dinner parties for the team.

"What people don't know about Coach Taylor is that she is very artistic and has an eye for design," Wayment said.

Winning 2021 NCAA National Championships

"I always talk about that my role here is to bring in girls with dreams and watch them become women with vision," Taylor said.

The cross country team ran well to take a close second at NCAA nationals in 2019 and missed first place by six points.

"That 2019 team is what prepared me for this 2021 win," Taylor said.

She said it wasn't anything they did

differently in training to win in 2021, but it was because of what they have been doing for the past five years.

"It wasn't just this season, it was a combination of so many seasons before," Taylor said. "It wasn't just these seven women, it was all the women that came before them. It's going to be about all the women who come after them."

She believes that a program is more than the athletes that are currently here. "I feel like when you can buy into that and truly represent that and that's when magic happens. And I think what people are seeing is magic happening with women's distance at BYU. And it's because these women know they are running for something bigger than themselves."

Sisterhood

When she looks for new talent, Taylor said she looks for two things: passion and dreams.

"If girls come into this program with those two things, they will leave the program with a lot more than they came in with," Taylor said.

The distance teams have two hashtags that are unique to them. #BYUrun4her and #Taylormade are attached to Taylor's social media accounts and were made into temporary tattoos that her runners wear during races.

#Taylormade originated from her athletes in California at Cal State Stanislaus, where she coached before

coming to BYU.

"I go back to that belief," Frentheway said of the hashtag. "Coach Taylor made these workouts, she's been training me and she believes in me, so when I am on that line I can look at her and think 'she believes in me, so I can believe in myself.'"

Ira, Taylor's husband, surprised them all with the "Taylor Made" tattoos this season. He put them in Taylor's purse before a meet so she could find them.

"Taylor Made represents every athlete I have ever coached," Taylor said. "The tough workouts, the hard office talks, the excited post-race hugs, the not so excited post-race talks. It's the hashtag that binds every athlete I have ever had."

She said that it makes her two groups of athletes, at Stanislaus and BYU, one.

"To me that's why it's special, the opportunity to go through the things you go through when you are coached by me, which is different than when you are coached by someone else," Taylor said. "And it's not all the good stuff. There are a lot of hard things these athletes do and endure."

Wayment said Taylor is real and transparent and will tell you if she thinks you can run a certain pace, but will also tell you if she thinks you are not doing all you can.

"You know I have had times in my life that she would pull me into her office and she would tell me, 'I don't think you are doing this right', and I would think 'Oh man, she knows,'" Wayment said. "Honestly it's the best thing ever, because when she says, 'I'm proud of you,' you know that she means it."

Taylor said #BYUrun4her is about remembering the little girl who fell in love with the sport and running for her. All the runners wore the hashtag as a washable tattoo on the back of their right shoulder on race days as a reminder.

"It's just knowing I would give anything to be where I am now and (to not) ever give up on that," Frentheway said. "It's running for your teammates and running for the 'her' right next to you, and whenever you are going to do it for yourself, you are going to do it for your teammates."

Coming to Provo

Taylor said that she knew it was where she needed to be when BYU gave her an opportunity, even though it was hard to initially come.

"I'm shocked sometimes when I look at that leap of faith I took," Taylor said.

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BYU Football announces plans for full capacity at home games this fall



Preston Crawley

The BYU football team will have full capacity home games this fall. The first game will be against the University of Utah on Sept. 11.

By CALEB TURNER

The BYU football team announced on Friday, May 21, that it is planning to have full capacity at home games at LaVell Edwards Stadium this fall after a 2020 season that featured limited to no fans.

"We are really excited to welcome back Cougar Nation into LaVell Edwards Stadium this fall," BYU Athletic Director Tom Holmoe said in a press release. "I know our football team is looking forward to a great schedule this season. We are all extremely excited to be able to see the return of the unmatched atmosphere generated by BYU fans in LaVell Edwards Stadium."

Following the season opener in Las Vegas against Arizona, the 2021 home opener for BYU will be against the University of Utah on Sept. 11. It will be the first BYU home game to allow full capacity since Idaho State on Nov. 16, 2019.

The first three home games of the 2020 season had no fans because of state COVID-19 guidelines. 6,000 fans were allowed at home games against Texas State and Western Kentucky before COVID-19 spikes caused further limitations,

dropping to 1,000 fans against Northern Alabama and no fans against San Diego State.

LaVell Edwards Stadium has a full capacity of 63,470 fans, which has not been reached since Boise State visited Provo in 2015. The Boise State Broncos return to LaVell Edwards Stadium this season on Oct. 9 after BYU renews meetings with Arizona State and South Florida at home on Sept. 18 and 25, and Utah State in Logan on Oct. 1.

Former BYU head coach Bronco Mendenhall makes his return to Provo on Oct. 30, leading the Virginia Cavaliers, and the final home game of the 2021 season will be against Idaho State on Nov. 6.

In addition to full capacity in the stadium, BYU is planning on the return of fan activities such as tailgating for the 2021 season. This could include the "Cougar Walk," where fans greet the players as they enter the stadium, and "Cougar Canyon," featuring games and food outside of the stadium before kickoff.

"Plans for full stadium capacity will continue to be contingent on COVID-19 cases staying at a low rate and will also be influenced by vaccination rates," the press release added. "With these variables, plans are subject to change."



Elijah Bryant/Twitter

Former BYU men's basketball player Elijah Bryant signed with the Milwaukee Bucks on May 13 and made his NBA debut in the final game of the regular season.

Cougars in the pros: Bryant and Bucks make NBA playoff run

By CALEB TURNER

BYU men's basketball alumnus Elijah Bryant is part of a Milwaukee Bucks team looking to make a deep run in the NBA playoffs, and another volleyball star got his professional start.

Elijah Bryant signed with the Bucks in the last week of the regular season on May 13, moving on from professional basketball in Israel after almost three years. He played previously for the Bucks Summer League team, and the NBA franchise kept a close eye on the former Cougar during his time overseas.

Bryant made his NBA debut on May 16 in the final game of the regular season, putting up 16 points, six rebounds and three assists in 32 minutes off the bench. He did not play in the Bucks' first playoff game against the Miami Heat, but made his way onto the court at the end of games two and three, putting up four points, three rebounds and three assists over the two appearances.

With his debut in the playoffs, Bryant became the first former Cougar to appear in the NBA playoffs since Rafael Araújo on May 30,

2007. The Bucks are poised to win the first-round series against the Heat and make a run at an NBA championship with two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo leading the way.

Brandon Davies was named to the All-EuroLeague Second Team on May 21, selected from among the top basketball teams in Europe. Davies is averaging 10.1 points and 3.9 rebounds while shooting 57.3% from the floor in league play with his club, Barcelona.

Kyle Collinsworth was named the Japanese B League's MVP for the months of April and May after putting up five triple doubles and breaking the league record for consecutive triple doubles with four. His first season in Japan is now over. BYU men's volleyball middle blocker Felipe de Brito Ferreira joined Gabi Garcia Fernandez as the first two Cougars to sign professional contracts in 2021. Garcia Fernandez signed in Italy, and de Brito Ferreira will return to his native Brazil to play for Vôlei Taubaté in São Paulo.

De Brito Ferreira was a major part of the Cougar defense as a starting middle blocker, and showed efficiency on the attack as well. A native of Maringa, Brazil, de Brito Ferreira helped BYU reach the national championship match in 2021.

I am not your Asian fantasy



Kristine Kim

“Yellow fever” is the obsession of Asian women rooted in racialized and gendered stereotypes.

By KRISTINE KIM

My sister once received a message on social media from a BYU student she had never met. Before he asked her even a single question, he told her, “I think you’re so pretty. I’m also really into Korean girls.” When my sister asked him why specifically Korean girls, he said, “I just always have, I think Koreans are beautiful.”

Many BYU students go on missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for a period of 18 months to two years. Sometimes they go to a different country, learn a different language and come back with a love for the culture and the people they were surrounded by.

There is nothing wrong with appreciating cultures and people from a specific country, but there is a problem when individuals only date people because they come from a specific country and are a specific type of people.

“Yellow fever” is the obsession with Asian women and is deeply rooted in racialized and gendered stereotypes. It’s different from “having a type.” Chin Lu speaks directly about this in her article “Why Yellow Fever is Different than Having a Type.”

“We can’t help whom we’re attracted to, and a lot of us ‘have a type,’ but no one should project the kind of personality, behavior and values they like in a romantic partner onto someone else, let alone an

entire ethnic group,” she said.

Michelle Erdenesanaa from Yale News Daily said when girls feel that they are being loved not as who they really are, but only for the culture they come from, they feel they are being tokenized.

An article from NCAA Together by Britney Hong exemplifies this idea that “Asian American women are more self-conscious and doubtful in dating because they can’t tell if men are attracted to them for them or if it’s for their race.”

Hong included a poem in her article that said, “If men are the ones contaminated with this illness, then why am I the one who feels ill because I can no longer tell if I’m wanted for who I am or for my race.”

Many times I have gone on a date with someone who served in Asia and wondered if they have yellow fever. Did they ask me out because I’m Asian? Do they even genuinely like me as a person? If I don’t go on a second date with him, will he just go and ask out another Asian girl?

Some BYU students have mentioned to me that they only date girls from a specific ethnicity because they exemplify certain traits. They date Latina girls because they’re fun and open, Japanese girls because they’re submissive and polite. They go for Korean girls because they’re smart and quiet.

These girls, they say, are the ones they want to date because they remind them of their missions and the people they served around for a short two years.

Perpetuating these

stereotypes puts minority women in a box, making them feel as if they are only wanted or valued if they fit a certain stereotype.

This limits the amount of freedom these women feel, making them feel that they have to act a certain way or refrain from saying certain things, because that will keep them likable enough to be dateable.

One time while on a date, the guy who asked me out told me I was different than what he had expected. I was different because I wasn’t as “Korean” as he thought I would be. He told me that I was too loud and didn’t focus as much on my grades as he thought most Korean girls did.

In that moment, I knew he was just seeing me for my culture, but not for who I was. He was stereotyping me and realized I didn’t fit that compartmentalized definition of a “quiet and smart” Korean girl.

“When you simplify us to our exotic features or stereotype us as quiet, submissive, obedient, you deny us of our culture, complexity, strength. I think of the Asian women I know who are all loud, confident, strong,” Hong said in her poem.

Instead of generalizing women from a certain country or ethnicity, everyone should check the unconscious biases that dictate their actions and realize that Asians are not a monolith. All Asians have unique circumstances and personalities. They should be treated as individuals, not just a cultural add-on, especially in dating.

Shameful modesty culture

By EMMA GADESKI

I was 13 years old when I went to the local YMCA for a youth pool party. I was hanging out with my friends when a Young Women leader came up to me and asked, “Do you have a shirt you could put on over that?”

The swimsuit? A tankini. It looks like a one piece, but comes with a tank top and bottoms. It’s supposed to be a modest two-piece swimsuit.

The problem was, about an inch of my skin was showing.

I responded “no”, and she went on her way. But the sense of shame and embarrassment stuck around. Why was it necessary to make that comment? The young men were running around shirtless and no one batted an eye.

A year later, I was in my third year of girl’s camp. A couple of my friends and I were wearing leggings. Our Young Women leaders asked us to change because there were members of the bishopric around.

What kind of message is that sending? Are bodies of young women inherently sexual, needing to be policed? Why was it up to me, a teenager at the time, to control how grown men saw me?

Young women are sometimes told that the way they dress can “send the wrong message” to the young men around them. The idea of “sending a message” can become a dangerous one. It implies that young women who are sexually assaulted were “asking for it” based on what they were wearing.

Why should we assume they are dressing for anyone but themselves?

The way modesty has been taught places responsibility on young women to prevent young men from objectifying them. This perpetuates a cycle of shame and hyper-vigilance, as they will worry about how they are perceived rather than just being comfortable in their own skin.

College of Family, Home and Social Sciences Dean Ben Ogles gave a devotional speech in 2018 titled, “Agency, Accountability, and the Atonement of Jesus Christ: Application to Sexual Assault.”

In a section called, “Victim Blaming,” Ogles shares a powerful message clarifying that the perpetrator alone is



Addie Blacker photo illustration

Young women are sometimes told that the way they dress can “send the wrong message” to the young men around them.

responsible for an assault.

“Let me be very clear about the responsibility for sexual assault. The perpetrator is responsible for their actions,” he said. “A victim was deprived of their agency, and they are not accountable for what happened to them without their consent—no matter what they were wearing, where they were, or what happened beforehand. They did not invite, allow, sanction, or encourage the assault.”

Dressing modestly has nothing to do with the actions men choose to take. We all have our agency, and suggesting that men can’t respect women based on the clothes they wear is harmful to both parties.

Take the former reality show “19 Kids and Counting,” for instance. It followed a giant family of fundamentalist Christians who engaged in extreme modesty practices — not allowing their daughters to wear pants and requiring long skirts. This modesty didn’t stop the eldest son from molesting his sisters. He was recently arrested on child pornography charges.

The point here is this — nothing the girls did would have made a difference in whether their brother chose

to violate them. If preventing sexual assault was as simple as dressing modestly, this wouldn’t have happened. But sexual assault is the fault of the perpetrator and never the victim.

So why put responsibility on women to dress modestly in hopes that it will prevent desires in men? Shouldn’t we have more faith in men? How demeaning is it to assume they are so out of control that something like shoulder skin would send them over the edge?

Teaching young women they need to dress modestly because of how men will potentially see them creates shame they internalize and place onto others. Kids repeat what they hear from adults. Growing up, I would look at how other girls dressed and deem it “immodest,” judging them for something I now see as so inconsequential.

Putting all the energy we spend as Church members judging young women for what they wear into something more constructive would do wonders. Focus on preventing sexual abuse by looking at its perpetrators, rather than the victims. Teach everyone to respect themselves but in a way that makes them feel comfortable, not ashamed.

Hope for students languishing in the pandemic

By CASSIDY WIXOM

As a student in her golden years of college, the pandemic has left me feeling quite stuck. I keep making plans to accomplish my dreams but COVID-19 keeps getting in the way.

I have never struggled with depression or anxiety before and have always been a very positive, optimistic person. But suddenly during the pandemic phase where it seemed like absolutely nothing could be certain, I started to lose focus and felt that not much mattered.

I had energy, yet no motivation to use it. I still had my drive to work hard, but I felt aimless. I was optimistic for the future, but didn’t know when to plan on everything returning to normal.

Waking up each day became more difficult because I knew it would just be another day of online classes, virtual work, higher case counts and limited social interaction. Another day where the grand plans I had for my near future seemed way too far out of reach.

All in all, I didn’t feel hopeless. But I did feel quite helpless.

An article in the New York Times titled, “There’s a Name for the Blah You’re Feeling: It’s Called Languishing,” talked



Addie Blacker photo illustration

Students are dealing with loss of motivation and focus because of online school, leading to a feeling called “languishing.”

about the exact feelings I was having. The author, Adam Grant, discussed languishing: the “forgotten middle child of mental health.” He said the condition can dull motivation and focus and create a sense of emptiness and stagnation.

“It’s the void between depression and flourishing — the absence of well-being. You don’t have symptoms of mental illness, but you’re not the picture of mental health either. You’re not functioning at full capacity,” Grant said.

As I read this article, I realized I was not the only one facing this. Others were also

dealing with a loss of focus and effort in this limbo state of the world.

Luckily, I had the amazing opportunity to join the staff of The Daily Universe in December 2020. This new job gave me a brand new push of motivation and having things to write about gave purpose to the monotony of my pandemic life.

But as time went on, with the end of the pandemic nowhere in sight, life began to feel long and draining again.

One day I came across an Instagram post analyzing the Lost Generation, the

generation that came of age during World War 1 and the 1918 flu pandemic. The post discussed how everyone came stumbling out of the war and pandemic and were desperate to move on. The ‘20s roared because individuals were trying to forget all they lost and come to grips with a reality that seemed pointless.

The Lost Generation had no hope for the future and instead lived as intensely as they could while they still had time. They created new styles of art, music and clothing to shout into the void that they lived, they mattered and they were worth

remembering.

As the end of the pandemic is approaching, it feels like we are entering a new Roaring ‘20s. I can see pieces of the Lost Generation’s desperation in the protests and riots from the past year. I see it in people fighting for their lives, the high tensions within governments and friendships, and in everyone trying to make an impact on the world for the better.

Brand new art, music and poetry are being produced to show we are still living and reality isn’t pointless. We matter and we deserve to be remembered.

While several more parallels could be made about the Lost Generation and the current generation coming of age, the post made it clear we have an advantage over them: We know there is a future after this. We know things will be better again. We know there is reason to hope.

I believe reaching out and enjoying genuine human connection is the best way to feel that life still matters. Whether it is calling your grandma, making art, hiking in the mountains or learning something new, there is life still to live here, even in the uncertainty.

Sister Sharon Eubank, first counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency, shared a

similar idea at the 2021 BYU Women’s Conference. She said because of the pandemic, “our hearts are more tender toward one another, and we understand every heart has a hidden sorrow. Everyone is isolated in some way, and we all need reassurance that we’re cared about and that we’re valued, and that we belong.”

Although it’s easy to slip into languishing, there is still reason to hope. There is life to live here, human connection to make and good things to look forward to despite the difficulty.

I echo the words of President Dallin H. Oaks, first counselor in the First Presidency, in the October 2020 General Conference Women’s Session: “Yet, in the midst of all of this, we have that heavenly counsel to be of good cheer and to find joy in the principles and promises of the gospel and the fruits of our labors.”

As a generation, and as students, we can come out of this pandemic stronger and more resilient than ever before. We do not need to languish anymore. As Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve said in April 1989 General Conference, “It was intended that life be a challenge, not so that you would fail, but that you might succeed through overcoming.”

Dating at BYU, coping with loneliness

By LINDSEY REESE

It was 2017, and London Rhodes had just finished high school. After months of deliberation on where to go to school, she decided to attend BYU. In her community, it was a cause for congratulations. Her admittance also became the subject of light teasing.

Her bishop at the time teased her about dating in her ecclesiastical interview. “The next big meeting you’ll have with a bishop is when you’re getting married!” At the time she was only 17, but rumors of dating culture at BYU continued to fly and became a constant remark when others discussed her choice of school.

Rhodes, an English major and now a senior, realized quickly when she arrived this wasn’t the case. Despite having an open mind about dating her freshman year, there were few opportunities. Weekend after weekend she was home, studying and doing homework while other ward members were getting engaged.

“There was pressure from the stereotype alone,” Rhodes said when reflecting on this time. “I felt like I needed to be dating frequently so I could find an eternal companion quick, even though I wasn’t truly ready.”

A Boston University survey of college students across the country revealed that half of students in fall 2020 screened positive for depression or anxiety. Two-thirds of those students struggled with loneliness and isolation. Amid a pandemic and increasing school workloads, dating is still a central part of BYU culture and still causes stress.

Madi Michaels, a junior studying music education, knew before even arriving at BYU that there was a robust dating culture here. “You go there expecting everyone to be dating like crazy,” Michaels said.

However, when she started school and met her peers, she also felt that the reality was different than her expectation. “In my ward, none of the guys were as friendly as I had hoped. I felt like it would be easy to go on a lot of dates, but in reality, I needed to put in a lot of work,” she said.

For others, it wasn’t the lack of dating that caused stress. Hailey Kim, a junior majoring in genetics, had unique experiences dating at BYU as a woman of color. Even though



Jacob Reese

BYU students opened up about their feelings of inadequacy that came from the pressure to date and marry at BYU. When it didn’t happen right away, some felt discouraged.

she dated frequently before her mission, she felt like coming home made her see the dating scene in Provo in a new light.

“I never feel white enough for the guys here, because the majority of people here are white,” Kim said. “On the other hand of that, there was almost a fetishization of women of color. If a guy served a mission in a certain country, they wanted to date women from that country.”

The feeling of being either disregarded because of her race, or sometimes being praised for it alone, made Kim feel like she was in limbo. Along with this stress, coming home from her mission caused a deep pressure to date and marry quickly.

When relationships she pursued after coming home didn’t work out, she realized maybe she needed more time to work on herself and that dating wasn’t something she needed to do right away.

Commercial music major Nathan Winters also struggled with post-mission dating expectations. For him, coming home early from his mission complicated much of his dating at BYU. “After I was home, I tried to go out and date and make friends. That did not happen,” Winters said.

With so many feeling discouraged about their dating

experiences, Bishop Miles Pitcher stressed that in his YSA ward he occasionally sees what he calls “discouraged daters.” “One’s self-worth shouldn’t be judged or measured by how many dates you go on,” Pitcher said.

Brianna Miller, a junior studying English, experienced self-esteem issues from the pressure of dating and felt a push to rush relationships. “There was this feeling of ‘Oh, I need to get married soon because I know so many people who are,’” Miller said.

For many, the journey of acceptance and patience is something that will take time.

In a recent general conference address, President M. Russell Ballard, acting president of the Quorum of the Twelve, spoke to single adults in the Church and gave hope for those who may feel discouraged. “Marital status has nothing to do with one’s capacity to serve. The Lord honors those who serve and wait upon Him in patience and faith,” President Ballard said.

In reflecting on how the culture surrounding dating can change, Miller felt like it was important to go at her own pace and not compare herself to others.

“The reality is, not everyone is doing that. ... It is OK to take your time,” she said.



Department of Microbiology and Molecular Biology

BYU microbiology professor Brad Berges works on an experiment researching HIV. Berges’ expertise in viruses led to different opportunities to study SARS-CoV-2 during the pandemic.

BYU microbiology professor finds silver lining during COVID-19 pandemic

By VERONICA MACIEL

Many BYU research projects were halted or postponed because of restrictions or social distancing concerns when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. However, microbiology professor Brad Berges was able to make the most of a tough situation and even contribute to research on SARS-CoV-2.

As an expert on viruses, Berges could take advantage of new research opportunities during the pandemic related to COVID-19. He said he had more publications this year than any other year at BYU, two of which had to do with COVID-19.

“I recognize there are a lot of faculty members who have not been able to come onto campus or have not been able to work with our students as effectively, so I feel blessed,” Berges said. Doing research on COVID-19 has been a silver lining for him during the pandemic.

Some of the research Berges has done with his students and colleagues includes a study on alcohol-free hand sanitizer’s effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2. Berges also helped write a publication outlining the influences on people’s reaction to potential COVID-19 vaccination in the U.S.

His journey to becoming a virologist started at a very young age. “I’ve always been fascinated by biology. When I

was a little kid, I was always trying to catch whatever kind of animal I could so I could learn about it,” Berges said.

His love for biology moved into virology during his mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to Brazil. “There were a lot of infectious diseases that I experienced in Brazil, that I wasn’t that familiar with,” Berges said. “I think that was a lot of what piqued my interest in trying to understand infectious diseases better.”

After graduating from BYU with his undergrad in microbiology in 1999, Berges went on to pursue a Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from the University of Pennsylvania. He then was a postdoctoral research fellow at Colorado State University where he did research on HIV.

Berges said his wife Brooke has always been supportive, even during his six years as a Ph.D. student. Berges met Brooke at BYU while she was studying elementary education. They have four children, one boy and three girls. Their oldest son, who is married, is studying cybersecurity at BYU.

Berges recently did a science fair experiment related to COVID-19 with his youngest daughter, Sadie. They tested to see if different types of masks stopped bacteria from coming through when people cough. While their data isn’t publishable, Berges said this is one of the reasons it is fun to have a microbiologist as a dad.

Berges said he didn’t always plan on being a teacher but BYU ended up being a great fit for him and his research.

“I was somewhat surprised that BYU had all the resources I needed to do my research because some of it is highly specialized, but everything I needed was here,” Berges said. He has now worked at BYU for almost 13 years.

Though Berges didn’t plan on being a teacher, two of the students in his lab say he is an excellent one. Former microbiology master’s student Benjamin Ogilvie said Berges is not only great at research but at helping his students get involved.

“He does a great job of connecting students with opportunities and coaching them through the whole life cycle of a project. He might have been an HR guy in another life,” Ogilvie said.

Brandon Lopez is a microbiology undergrad and research assistant in Berges’ lab. He said Berges has been an amazing mentor during the two years they’ve worked together. During an especially hard experiment, Lopez said Berges took the time to encourage him and help him find new ideas to make the experiment work.

“I feel that Dr. Berges is not just a mentor, but a good friend, and I know that he is happy to be that for anyone who walks into his office. His door is always open, both metaphorically and physically,” Lopez said.

BYU class teaches intuitive eating, body positivity

By HOLLY CLUFF

Bella Lunt, a sophomore from Georgia studying psychology, spent years trapped in a restrictive relationship. It gave her a lot of anxiety, and she struggled to find a healthy solution. Ending the relationship wasn’t an option, because she couldn’t live without it.

Her toxic relationship was with food. “I was attempting to recover from an eating disorder, but still had extremely disordered eating,” she said.

Corinne Hannan, a clinical psychologist at BYU Counseling and Psychological Services, has seen firsthand how eating disorders affect women like Lunt, so she developed a course, listed under Student Development 214R, to help prevent them called Intuitive Eating, Diet Culture and Body Image. It has helped numerous students — including Lunt — improve their relationships with food and their bodies.

Before the class

One of its first students was Janae Smith, a senior in communications studies. Smith grew up dancing in Florida, where everyone on her team looked different and her coach could care less whether her dancers were “skinny” or not. Her body-image issues arrived when she started college and magnified when she returned home from her mission.

“I felt like I had to be a certain size to be able to date,” Smith said. She felt she did not match the stereotypical Provo “look.”

Smith was also struggling with an undiagnosed illness, and she said she got sucked

into a wellness culture that told her she could cure her body if she ate a certain way or took supplements. Her illness didn’t budge.

“People were just making money off of me being sick,” she said.

Christine Renfro could list many more stories. She has worked as a family nurse practitioner on college campuses for the past 20 years, and she said she has seen teenagers obsess over their weight and young girls become osteoporotic from eating disorders.

Navigating a toxic sea

Dietitian and activist Christy Harrison attributes situations such as these to diet culture, which she defines as “a system of beliefs that equates thinness with health and even moral virtue.”

Hannan described diet culture as a toxic sea of misinformation in which everyone swims, and she said it saddens her.

“It’s like I work in a lung cancer ward and people are having their lung masses cut out, then I go into the world and see everybody smoking,” she said. “If you’re working in a lung cancer unit, you’re going to see smoking very differently. I work on the front lines with eating disorders every day.”

Her attempt to help people navigate the sea of diet culture took form in her new class. As its name suggests, the class covers the dangers of diet culture, principles of intuitive eating, and tools to improve body image. Class materials included Harrison’s book “Anti-Diet,” abstracts from reputable studies, and documentaries addressing the



Bella Lunt

Sophomore Bella Lunt enjoys a plate of dinner at La Jolla Groves. She said she used to have anxiety around food, but a BYU class helped her heal her relationship with it and find joy in eating.

problems within the diet and beauty industries.

She said she has witnessed many students’ and clients’ lives “gorgeously heal and transform” as they overcome disordered eating and negative body image.

Student experiences

Smith signed up for the first class while still steeped in the pressure to be skinny because she needed two extra credits, and the mention of body image intrigued her. She said the

course opened up a new world for her — one where she didn’t have to feel bad about her body.

“I wish that everybody knew how stupid and twisted and manipulative diet culture is,” she said after taking the class. “Anybody trying to tell you to change your body or sell you a product — they just want your money from you. They just want your money.”

She said she has heard many people say they wish the class was required, including Lunt. “If we collectively as a

campus stopped focusing on bodies and instead focused on the things we are doing, that would be awesome,” Smith said.

Lunt said she signed up for the class because she also thought she could use a class talking about body image, but intuitive eating was a foreign concept. She said she thought it would teach her how to diet. It did the opposite.

“I hated food and was scared of it before taking this class, but have learned how essential

loving food and creating a good relationship with it is,” Lunt said.

Renfro has seen similar (albeit more extreme) transformations in her work. She said when her patients enter recovery, they are better off physically, mentally and emotionally. They’re happy.

“When they’re done, they’re just so relieved that they don’t have to devote that kind of energy to an eating disorder,” she said.

Addressing skepticism

Hannan said the material is personal, provocative, and sometimes destabilizing for people, but she is basing it on thousands of hours of her own clinical experience and decades of research from other scientists.

She invited anyone who struggled with the material to ask themselves two questions. First, how would they know if they were wrong? Second, do they want to know?

She said she asks herself those questions every day and has moved away from her past beliefs about food and body in that way.

The material challenged Lunt’s beliefs, but she said it was for the best. She feels she has the right tools to be able to work through her body image issues, and she knows what she would say if she could give her old self a message.

“Society is trying to tell you that your body is an ornament meant to be meticulously polished and flaunted,” she said. “Your body is so much more than that. It is a vessel that carries a beautiful mind and an incredible spirit. Your body shape is definitely the least interesting thing about you.”

How BYU's tuition increase stacks up to other schools

By DECKER WESTENBURG

BYU has announced a 2.5% increase in undergraduate tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year. This will bring the undergraduate rate per semester for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from \$2,985 to \$3,060, an increase of \$75.

These increases in tuition tend to exceed inflation in the general economy by anywhere from 2% to 5% according to Forbes.

BYU said the “increase is intended to cover cost increases in areas such as supplies, library needs and laboratory materials.”

Next year’s BYU tuition for advanced-standing (graduate) students will be raised by 2.5%, from \$3,755 to \$3,850 per semester, an increase of \$95. Graduate students in the J. Reuben Clark Law School and Marriott School of Business will pay \$7,104, an increase of \$174 from last year’s rate of \$6,930 according to the announcement.

Advanced-standing non-member students will pay \$7,700 per semester, an increase of \$190 over 2020-2021, while non-member graduate students attending either law school or business school will pay \$14,208, an increase of \$348.

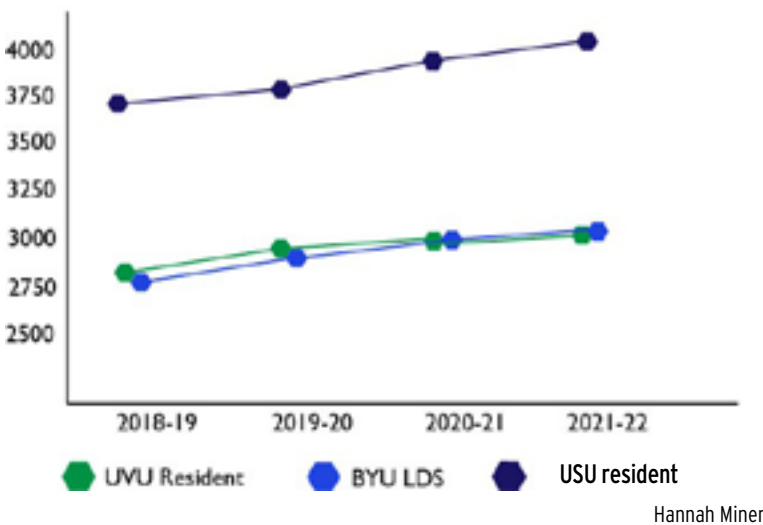
As the nation’s fifth largest private university by enrollment, BYU does not charge different rates to Utah residents and non-residents; however, students who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints pay twice the base tuition for both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Nearby public universities such as Utah State University, Utah Valley University and the University of Utah have separate tuition and fee schedules for in-state and out-of-state students.

This year’s tuition increase will be on par with many other schools in Utah. The University of Utah has considered implementing a 1.8% to 2.5% increase in tuition for the coming school year after coronavirus caused the university to delay a 2% increase for 2020-2021.

Utah Valley University is implementing a 1.7% to 1.8% increase for

Semester Tuition Rates in Utah



The graph shows a visual comparison of tuition cost per semester for undergraduate students across the state of Utah. BYU’s tuition increase is on par with other schools in Utah.

both their resident and non-resident tuitions, while Utah State University will be increasing its tuition and fees by 2.5% to 2.8%.

While BYU’s tuition increase is very similar to other Utah-based schools, when compared with the rate of tuition increases at other private religious universities in the U.S., BYU finds itself in a middle tier of its own compared to other religious universities.

BYU generally increases its tuition rate by 2.5% to 3.0% each year. BYU’s largest single-year increase over the last decade was 3.1%, which occurred just before the 2020-2021 school year. Most years have seen an increase of roughly 2.9%.

Several other private Christian universities have implemented much larger tuition hikes over the last decade.

Notre Dame, with a total enrollment of less than 9,000 students, has increased its annual tuition by an average of 3.8% per year over the last decade, with tuition per semester growing from \$19,706 to \$27,523 during that time.

Like Notre Dame, Baylor University, (a private Christian university in Waco, Texas), reports it has increased tuition by anywhere from 4% to 6.5% each year over the past decade. These increases have brought

its tuition rates from \$26,966 in 2010-2011 to \$44,544 in 2020-2021.

On the other hand, some of the nation’s other largest religious universities have elected to freeze their tuition increases entirely.

Liberty University, the nation’s second largest private religious university by enrollment, recently announced it will not increase tuition through at least the 2021-2022 school year. Liberty has not increased tuition for residential (on-campus) students since 2019 and has kept tuition for online students the same since 2016.

Grand Canyon University, the nation’s largest private religious university, has not increased its tuition for on-campus or online students since the 2008-2009 year; however, it should be noted that the university can do this largely thanks to 70,000 of their 90,000 students attending classes exclusively online.

BYU’s tuition increase comes during a time of uncertainty when many college students nationwide are calling for a decrease in tuition in response to increased online classes amid the global pandemic. BYU announced a traditional fall semester on May 24, meaning no physical distancing, no masks and the vast majority of classes being offered in-person. Students can start registering for classes on June 7.

RUNNERS

Coach Taylor takes the team forward

Continued from Page 5

Taylor said she had no plans to leave Cal State Stanislaus, where she coached men and women at the Division II level, producing 16 All-Americans, but decided to interview at BYU while making a visit to her in-laws.

“There was a very little percentage of me that would ever jump into this opportunity, but when I came on campus, it was completely different than what I had envisioned,” Taylor said.

Taylor was impressed with Liz Darger, senior associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, who changed her view of what leadership looked like at BYU.

“I liked that I could have complete control over the women’s program, and that’s what attracted me to it,” Taylor said. “But more importantly it was just a feeling that I got when I was here.”

She said it was a huge leap of faith to leave the beach and sun to come to the mountains and altitude, but she is so grateful she did and for what she has been able to build.

“I didn’t take the safer choice. I took a risk. I never could have imagined that this was the impact that I could have had,” Taylor said. “I can’t tell you I knew all along that this was what I was going to build here because the leap of faith is blind. You don’t know why you are doing what you are doing, but I am very proud.”

She said the athletes at Stanislaus made her into the coach she is today and though it was hard to leave them, this was her next step.

First years at BYU

“In 2016 BYU had been in a slump, and originally, I just wanted our program to be the best in the state because we really hadn’t been,” Taylor said. “Internally looking out, I just wanted to build confidence. I knew we had women who had talent and so one thing I noticed we lacked is the ability to line up against women from other universities and not be intimidated by them.”

BYU became the best in the state and made it into the top 10 in the nation in Taylor’s first year at BYU. She then created a cycle of developing talent.

“As you develop talent, the women get even more confident and that self-belief gets stronger,” Taylor said. “Self-belief has been our stepping stone to success here at BYU, and I attribute

that to women who bought in and trusted me.”

For Taylor, it was about having the right combination of women who gave her a chance.

Running through COVID-19

“I think in the beginning, we were all shell-shocked, but what COVID allowed me to do was take a step back and realize why we do what we do and how much we love it,” Taylor said. “It really taught me this is my call in life and when you find your calling in life, you love it and you do it with gratitude and with joy.”

She brought that energy to practice and put together a fall “competition calendar” to have her own races. Her team wore their uniforms, had an announcer, and printed out number bibs. Taylor also had an Olympic gold medalist and author Damon West talk to the team over Zoom to stay motivated and focused.

“I would be lying if I didn’t say it was hard,” Taylor said. “It was hard to see women lose opportunities.”

Waymunt said that their practices haven’t changed since her freshmen year in 2016. Monday, Wednesday and Friday practices are going to be the same and she always knows what she will be running on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Excellence comes from the mundane and from doing the same things over and over again the right way, according to Daniel Chambliss, who studied Olympic swimmers.

“There was no magic plan. I didn’t have someone telling me,” Taylor said. “It was just me trying to say, ‘Hey, we are going to get better through this and we are going to win the wait.’”

Future of BYU women’s distance

Taylor said that people are wondering what her next move is, and according to her it’s to stay here in Provo.

“I am drawn to BYU. I’m here at BYU because we can win the right way here and that’s what we did,” Taylor said. “When it’s about the people and not performance, when it’s about creating memories and not just chasing trophies, it is so much more meaningful. That is what draws me to staying here.”

She said her team ran to the best of their ability and the plan for next season is to not worry about the outcome.

“It’s not about winning again,” Taylor said. “It’s about being the best version of ourselves and seeing what that does for us.”

Taylor mentioned how important it is for her to remind herself to stay true to doing what works, and not cutting corners.

“I just think anyone who gets to be her athlete or friend is incredibly lucky,” Waymunt said.

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Good morning,

Today's newsletter covers a look at the first Black faculty member to give a BYU devotional in over a decade, the Tweet Bear and an overview of news from the field of education.

News

First Black faculty member in 14 years to give devotional

By Holly Cluff

A Black BYU faculty member will give a campus devotional for the first time in fourteen years on April 6.

Ryan Gabriel, a professor specializing in urban sociology, will give an address titled, "Healing Racism through Jesus Christ." He said he hopes his address can play a small role in helping people better understand Jesus Christ's atonement and its power to unite people of different races and ethnicities in a Zion community.

"It is pointing to Christ and thus not about the individual (giving the address), but who the individual is will shape how that message comes across," he said.

[Read more...](#)

End of an era: The Daily Universe to print final weekly paper April