In the spring of 2019, Dr. Michael Stacey and Dr. Marion Forest were accompanied by Scott Ure to lead an inspiring learning experience with BYU students to excavate a Viejo period site (AD 700–1050) in northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico. Over the course of six weeks, the group uncovered the remains of a large, 30-foot wide community house. Professor Janis Nuckolls also led a field school to Ecuador which included three days of visits to a community of Wao Tedeo speakers, whose language and culture are threatened and not yet well understood by linguists or anthropologists. The department also added a new course, Marx and Marian Anthropology, which discusses the Marxian theory of political economy and its modern extensions in the study of culture.

In the School of Family Life, several professors were awarded new positions. Laura Padilla-Walker was named a Camilla E. Kimball Professor, and Sarah Coyne was named a Mary Lou Fulton Professor. The department’s student journal, Family Perspectives, published research from students Kaelie Crockett, Emma Allen, and Madisen Bird. Janessa McQuay and Kaylin Cash were published in Family Today, a site dedicated to strengthening families. Student Isadora Ferreira De Mello and associate professor Hal Boyd’s article “Hollywood Needs a Better Marriage Story” was published in the Deseret News. Hal Boyd, a graduate of BYU and Yale Law School, was hired as a director of public scholarship and associate professor of family law and policy.

As part of the Kilimanjaro study abroad, 14 students hiked Mount Kilimanjaro and participated in a weeklong safari in association with the College of African Wildlife Management. Other student experiences included travel to China, work in Wyoming and Michigan on tree ring research, and tourism survey research in California. This year the department produced the second annual geography calendar, with photographs from Dr. Jim Davis and quotes from geography faculty. In the 2019 Geography Brown Bag Lecture, numerous faculty members gave presentations to the students on their research.

Since the summer of 2019, the History Department has celebrated the publication of books authored by faculty members Karen Carter, Mark Christensen, Jeffrey Shumway, M. Scott Forsyth, and Brian Cannon. Publications included Karen Carter’s Scandal in the Parish: Priests and Parishioners Behaving Badly in Eighteenth-Century France and Mark Christensen’s Return to Ixil: Maya Society in an Eighteenth-Century Volcanic Town. The department continued its annual debate that brings historical figures to life. In November, Professors Jeffery Rensink and Brian Cannon, and five students presented papers on historical topics. The department continued its annual debate that brings historical figures to life. In November, Professors Jeffrey Rensink and Brian Cannon, and five students presented papers on historical topics.

This year was the 20th anniversary of the Neuroscience Center at BYU. There are currently over 600 undergraduate majors, making it one of the largest undergraduate neuroscience programs in the US. Neuroscience student Eric Winzenried received the Travel Award from Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience to attend the Society for Neuroscience meeting in Chicago. At the meeting, Eric presented his work with Dr. Jeff Edwards on prophylactic treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in a rat model. Three neuroscience faculty members received university awards at the university conference in August: Dr. Ramona O. Hopkins received the Earl G. Maeser Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award, Dr. Scott Steffenssion received the Alumni Professorship Award, and Dr. Jeff Edwards received the Phi Kappa Phi Award.

This year, Juliane Holt-Lunstad was appointed to serve on a consensus committee for the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, which was established to provide “expert advice on some of the most pressing challenges facing the nation and world.” Kat Green, a new faculty member who supports the clinical psychology PhD program, received ABPP board certification in child and adolescent psychology, which is a rigorous peer-review certification that recognizes “demonstrated competence.” The faculty continues to receive large grants that support students and their labs, and the number of undergraduate majors joining the department continues to increase about 6 percent each year, with over 1,300 majors enrolled in the 2019–20 school year.

In the fall of 2019, Dr. Steve Hoffman was honored with a nomination to participate in a health literacy workshop in Washington D.C. sponsored by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Cole Hodey joined the social work faculty after receiving his PhD from Washington University in St. Louis. In October, Dr. Gordon Limb gave the Virginia F. Cutler Lecture about American Indian stepfamilies. Dr. Shaw worked with refugee communities in refugee camps in the US. Dr. Saasa worked on a project with a team of students to better understand the intersectionality of poverty and education among children from sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Dave Wood continued to work on help-seeking behavior and suicide prevention program outcomes for veterans, military service members, and youth. In November of 2019, the Social Work Conference hosted Dr. William Miller, the founder of Motivational Interviewing.