



In his centennial address at BYU in 1975, President Spencer W. Kimball stated:

I am both hopeful and expectant that out of this university . . . there will rise brilliant stars in drama, literature, music, sculpture, painting, science, and in all the scholarly graces. This university can be the refining host for many such individuals who will touch men and women the world over long after they have left this campus. ("The Second Century of Brigham Young University," BYU devotional address, 10 October 1975)

John S. Tanner, former academic vice president of BYU, noted that the "brilliant stars" in this quote refer to the students (see "A House of Dreams," BYU annual university conference address, 28 August 2007). We then—the faculty, staff, alumni, and donors to BYU—become the "refining host."

I am struck by the multiple definitions of the word *refine*. On one hand, *refine* could represent the aspirations of higher education in general—to produce students who are polished, civilized, educated, and prepared to be participating citizens. On the other hand, it could refer to the mission of BYU—to move students to a higher spiritual state of finer moral quality, even assisting them "in their quest for perfection and eternal life" (BYU Mission Statement, 1981).

Our role, then, as "refining hosts" is to help students become cultured, refined, and educated while also moving them to a higher spiritual state as part of "their quest for perfection and eternal life."

As you read this issue of our college magazine, you will see a few of the ways that the faculty and staff in the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences—with help from alumni and donors—work together to provide refining experiences for our students. Perhaps one of these stories will encourage you to join us in hosting one of our many inspiring learning opportunities.

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