



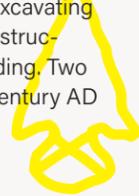
# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

BRIGHT SPOTS FROM EVERY CORNER OF FHSS



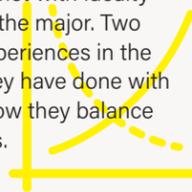
## Anthropology

BYU's archaeology field school students had the unprecedented opportunity to help save a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Petra, Jordan. The Ad Deir monument ("the Monastery") is the largest rock-cut facade in the ancient Nabataean-built city and is recognized as a symbol of Jordan's cultural heritage. The project, under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Finlayson, is currently excavating and restoring the ancient Roman-era structures that protected this massive building. Two Nabataean tombs dating to the first century AD have been partially excavated.



## Economics

As part of an ongoing department-wide effort to increase the number of female economics majors, the department held a semiannual Economics Women's Info Session. During this event, current and prospective female majors met with faculty and alumni to learn more about the major. Two female alumni spoke on their experiences in the male-dominated major, what they have done with their economics degrees, and how they balance their family life with their careers.



## Family Life

The School of Family Life has decided to include public scholarship as an expectation for senior faculty. This means that faculty are encouraged now more than ever to use their scholarly talents to speak to broader audiences about crucial family issues instead of just speaking to other scholars. In using their status and knowledge as family scholars to speak out about important issues, community members and individuals of all backgrounds can receive, learn, and better understand family and relationship information and research.



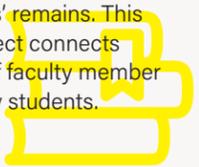
## Geography

In May 2017 the Geography Department held its first study abroad in years to Tanzania. Students and faculty hiked Mount Kilimanjaro (which all four students summited, finishing in a blizzard) and visited the Mweka College of Wildlife Management. From this study abroad, the Geography Department established a relationship with the Mweka College that they hope will lead to training and education in the fields of GIS and drone imagery.



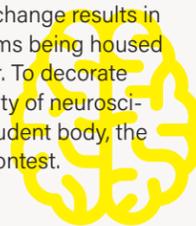
## History

The Department of Defense has been collaborating with BYU Family History/Genealogy to find living relatives who will agree to have their DNA tested in order to identify soldiers' remains. This groundbreaking repatriation project connects Pentagon work with the efforts of faculty member Dr. Sydney Bjork and BYU history students.



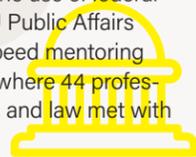
## Neuroscience

Big, unifying changes are happening in the Neuroscience Center. The master's and doctoral programs in neuroscience administration were moved there from the Department of Physiology and Development Biology. This change results in all neuroscience student programs being housed in the BYU Neuroscience Center. To decorate the office and to reflect the beauty of neuroscience and the character of the student body, the department held a student art contest.



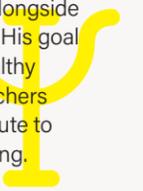
## Political Science

To bring purposeful and reputable opportunities to students, the Political Science Department held its first annual Political Science Student Poster Conference. Sixty-one students presented research on timely issues ranging from the state of small businesses in America to the use of federal financial aid by gender. The BYU Public Affairs Society (BYUPAS) also held a speed mentoring event at the Utah State Capitol, where 44 professionals in government, business, and law met with 50 political science students.



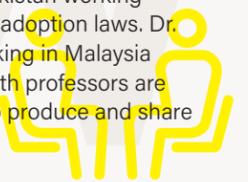
## Psychology

Associate professor of psychology Dr. Brock Kirwan received a Fulbright scholar grant. For four months, Kirwan was at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest researching behavioral measures (such as how individuals perform on tests of short-term and long-term memory and how much individuals eat and exercise) alongside brain measures as viewed through MRIs. His goal was to see if assessing brain maps of healthy late-middle-age adults will enable researchers to identify brain mechanisms that contribute to successful aging versus unsuccessful aging.



## Social Work

BYU Social Work values sharing their expertise to better the lives of individuals around the world. Dr. Jini Roby is currently in Pakistan working with the local government on adoption laws. Dr. Stacey Shaw is currently working in Malaysia and with refugees in Utah. Both professors are working with their students to produce and share their research.



## Sociology

Sociology took on a national role and gained a new perspective in 2017. Dr. Lance Erickson was appointed to be a member of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Sociology Dissertation Review Panel. Additionally, Dr. Ryan Gabriel mentored 16 students who traveled to the southern United States to visit civil rights sites in Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; and Selma, Alabama. The student group's experience was highlighted by meeting with participants of the 1960s civil rights movement.

