

The DEAN'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived with blooming trees and days of sunshine, which means that the April eNewsletter is also here! I'm glad I have this chance to update you on the many exciting things happening in our college.

March was definitely an eventful month for CPMS. In celebration of Pi Day, several professors got pied in the face. They should have run away like the hundreds of students who lined up to participate in the Rex Lee Run Against Cancer, which is sponsored by the Cancer Research Center in the college and held annually in honor of former BYU President Rex E. Lee, who died of cancer.

Many guests came to our college in March. Professors from universities in Japan joined forces with our Mathematics Education Department to collaborate their different methods of math instruction. Dr. Eric J. Steig from the University of Washington spoke about polar warming at the Quey Hebrew Lecture, and several companies visited campus seeking innovative BYU students to help expand their companies. However, March's biggest event was definitely the Student Research Conference (SRC).

This year's SRC was quite a success. Students, faculty, and members of the community all attended the insightful conference. With research presented on a wide variety of topics, from predicting risk factors for suicide to calculating future tsunamis, attendees were enlightened as students presented their hours of hard work.

Education for students in our college means much more than just tests and textbooks — it means experience. Because students

continually search for answers to new questions, they excel in academic and research pursuits in their scientific studies. While those who attended the SRC had their eyes opened to new research, the presenters also gained valuable experience presenting research to an audience.

If this reminds you of your own experiences with science over the years, please remember that we would love to hear about them. Please send your anecdotes (of up to 200 words) to cpms@byu.edu with "Memory Bytes" in the subject line. We'll publish the best ones in the next issue of Frontiers magazine. Please remember that submissions may be edited.

As winter semester wraps up, I look forward to watching seniors' excitement, as all their hard work will be honored at graduation. On Thursday, April 25, CPMS seniors will proudly attend commencement ceremonies. During the college convocation exercises on April 26, Norman Jarvis, our college representative on the BYU Alumni Board, will once again be able to welcome our graduating seniors into the BYU Alumni Association.

This semester has sped by, and I am grateful for opportunities like the SRC and graduation where students can receive recognition for their academic efforts. I'm also grateful for your continued interest in our students and our college, and I hope that we can continue to work together to help our students change the world, one experiment at a time.

.....> **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

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Jared Ward runs cross country for BYU and is majoring in statistics.

Beating the Odds: Jared Ward Succeeds on the Course and in the Classroom

The probability for student athletes to make the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA) All-Academic team is pretty low. For those with a challenging statistics course load, the odds are even slimmer. But Jared Ward, a cross-country athlete and junior majoring in statistics, is beating the odds.

Along with his talent for running, Ward has a knack for mathematics.

"In high school, I always felt like I excelled in math relative to other subjects. My senior year, I took AP statistics, and I had an incredible teacher. I loved it. So I came to BYU and put down stats as my major until I could decide, and I haven't changed."

Though Ward isn't sure which direction he'll go with his major, he ties his love of statistics to his appreciation for the educated guess.

"Right now I would just say I love the science of it. I like the art of coming up with an educated guess from the data. You say, 'Chances are pretty good that this is going to happen, but I'm not sure.' I like the idea of my job being based on decisions that are my best guess but aren't certain."

Ward was recently accepted into the statistics BS/MS integrated program at BYU, and he'll begin this program as he finishes his last year of running. Though his workload is heavy, he hasn't found it too difficult to manage.

[Read more of this story.](#)

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