



The DEAN'S MESSAGE

The holiday season is here! This winter is off to a cold start, but here at the college we are staying warm in labs and classrooms. We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the holiday season.

The college has kept busy with several events. Earlier this semester the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry hosted Chem Week, where families came to experience the "sweet" side of chemistry, as the theme this year included the chemistry behind candy making.

Technical director Chris Buck visited BYU to talk to computer science students about his experience co-directing Frozen, as well as other experiences he's had in his career. Jacob Merrell, from Pixar Animation Studios, also visited campus to give a lecture on lessons he's learned while working at Pixar

Along with these activities, we have also had some exciting events and discoveries. The Department of Physics and Astronomy was well represented at this year's Four Corners Meeting at Utah Valley University. There, students were able to present research and network with professional physicists.

This year has been a successful one for the college. Many of our faculty and students have been involved in groundbreaking research, helping to develop such things as at-home disease testing technology and innovative digital storage devices. Throughout the year, our students have excelled in the classroom and in research projects.

We are proud of our graduates, and we look forward to the things they will accomplish in the future, whether in further studies or in the workforce. We also anticipate many good things to come from new incoming students; our students are some of the best and brightest, and we have high confidence in them.

The holiday season is a time for reflection and gratitude. At the end of another great year, we are pleased with the progress we are seeing at CPMS. We look forward to even more progress and growth for next year. We are also thankful for the involvement and support of our alumni. You are an integral part of the college's success, and we are blessed by your service. We hope to continue to include you in our progress.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from CPMS!

.....→ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

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How to Master Your Fate

Being prepared for the "real world" after college can be a challenge, but Gregory Hebertson offered his experiences and tips for success to help students feel more prepared.

Hebertson, an alumnus of the Department of Geological Sciences and the current Senior Vice President of Exploration at Midstates Petroleum, was the presenter at this year's Honored Alumni lecture. In his lecture titled, "Mastering Your Fate: A Few Insights from a Career in Science," Hebertson shared his experiences of innovation, technology, and risk.

"[I took] the title of my remarks from the poem 'Invictus' by William Henley, because I think so much about our life is about choosing your own destiny and making your own destiny happen," Hebertson said. "It's about doing something. It's about, as the poem says, 'Be[ing] the captain of your soul and . . . the master of your fate.'"

Hebertson talked about four different stories from his life in the energy industry. The themes of the stories were applying good science, good technology, and technical know-how to get the job done. One of his stories focused on the discovery and creation of an oil field in Alaska.

"At the time of [the Alaskan Alpine Field] discovery in 1994, it was the largest on-shore conventional discovery in North America in the last twenty years," Hebertson said. "The traditional source rock for the north slope is the Triassic Shublik Formation, the source rock for the large fields on the north slope. This was actually a different source rock, and it took some really good geoscientists and engineers to figure out that you weren't dealing with the same source rocks on the North Slope here that you were in the traditional oil fields. It was a paradigm shift, and that led to the exploration, which ultimately resulted in the discovery of Alpine field."

[Read more of this story here.](#)

[Read the lecture transcription here.](#)

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[Gregory Hebertson](#)

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For more information about the college, contact Lynn Patten at lynn_patten@byu.edu.
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