

The DEAN'S MESSAGE

It has now been two years since we launched our redesigned website. Over the course of having cpms.byu.edu we have expanded our ability to reach our current and prospective students, alumni, faculty and supporters. Along with the college website, we have also grown our marketing team to publicize events in the college, recruit potential majors, and inform about research being done.

We are constantly updating our website with news stories, found [here](#). Keeping up to speed on college happenings has never been easier. Speaking of news, we have had some exciting events happening lately in the college. We have new leadership in two of our departments, mathematics and statistics. This month, we announced that Robin Roundy has been appointed as chair of Mathematics and Dennis Tolley has been appointed as chair of statistics. They replace Tyler Jarvis and Del Scott, both who have served effectively as chairs for the past six years.

These two new department chairs are experienced and capable, and we look forward to their leadership. Read more about them in the story to the right.

Other news in the statistics department includes the recent annual Summer Statistics Institute. On the website, you can read how one of our skilled faculty, Gil Fellingham, taught participants about Bayesian statistics, a relatively new statistical approach that is powerful and rapidly growing in popularity within the discipline.

We are still accepting submissions for the Memory Bytes section of Frontiers magazine. We are looking for responses to the following: Did you ever have a lab mishap while at BYU? Were you ever the cause of a small explosion or a scorched eyebrow? Or maybe you fell victim to a friend's failed experiment. Tell us about the ups and downs of working with lab equipment as a student. You can email us your stories (up to 200 words) at cpms@byu.edu.

Stay cool in the heat and enjoy the summer!

Sincerely,

.....→ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

DEPT. NEWS

COLLEGE

[New Department Chairs](#)

CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY

[Fellowship Awarded to PhD Student](#)
[New Tape Measure for Molecules](#)

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

[Mars Invasion](#)

STATISTICS

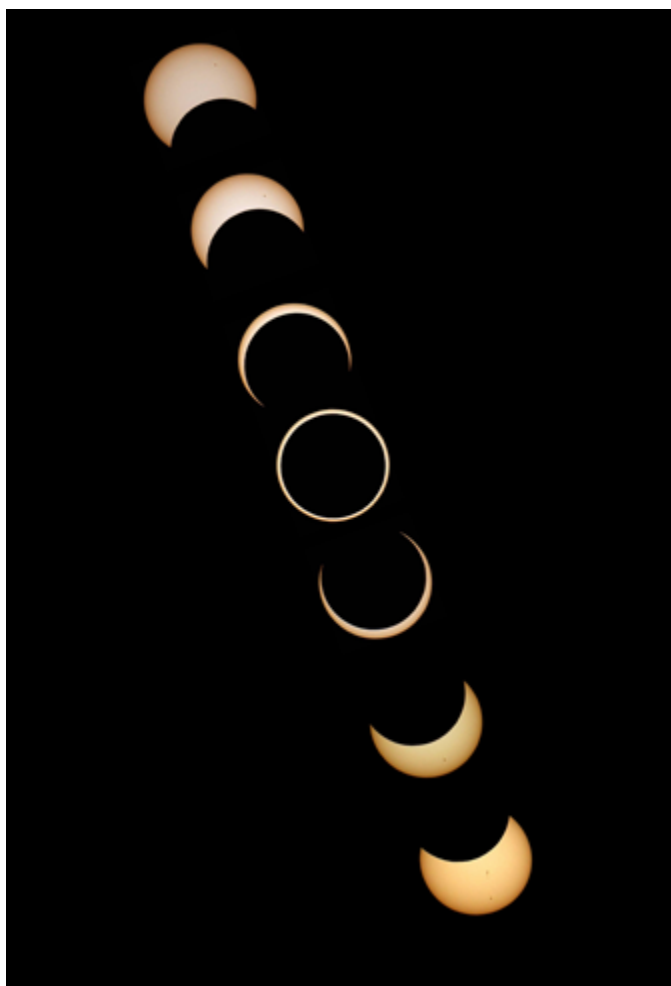
[Learning New Statistical Tricks](#)

COLLEGE LINKS

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FRONTIERS MAGAZINE

[Spring/Summer 2012 Issue & Videos](#)



RARE SOLAR ECLIPSE CAPTURED

About a mile northwest of Kanarrville, Utah, BYU astronomer Mike Joner waited near the center of an eclipse path to make this image. He captured this stunning astronomical phenomenon in a series of photos (shown at left) as the moon gradually darkened the sun during a rare solar eclipse on May 20, 2012.

In addition to Dr. Joner's photo, another image from BYU astronomers has left millions of observers around the world starry-eyed. Astronomers at the West Mountain observatory, located near Payson, Utah, about an hour from campus, captured images of NGC 891, a spiral galaxy 100,000 light-years in diameter 30 million light-years from Earth, in the fall of 2010. Dr. Robert Gendler, a medical doctor from Connecticut, then combined the details of these astronomical images with additional data obtained from the 8.2-meter Subaru Telescope on Mauna Kea, Hawai'i and the Hubble Space Telescope.

The combined image was featured on May 26, 2012 as NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) online at [this link](#). This was the first picture APOD has published from Dr. Michael Joner and Dr. C. David Laney of the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

"It is a huge honor to be selected to have an APOD," Joner said. "Only the very finest images get posted and there are lots of images contributed that do not ever make an APOD."

The APOD site is viewed daily worldwide by astrophysics enthusiasts interested in the latest photographs and events.

The mosaic picture reveals an extremely clear and detailed image of the dust-filled galaxy. According to the APOD website, the dust probably came from supernovae explosions or intense periods of star-formation activity.

[Read more of this story.](#)

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