

The DEAN'S MESSAGE

Although campus may seem less crowded during the spring and summer terms, our college is just as full as ever with opportunities. BYU's schedule provides a substantial amount of time during these summer months for our students to pursue research and internships. Many students are able to take advantage of the research opportunities during these months and have valuable experiences where they learn and discover much.

However, opportunities for research are not limited to just the students. Whether engaging in research on campus or at other locations, our faculty members take advantage of these summer months to do research and to write up that research for publication.

As our readers, you are already well aware of the great education that CPMS offers, but we realize that there are always ways for us to improve as a college. There are several areas where we are always interested in hearing your feedback. If you have any feedback regarding our websites or any other materials we produce, we welcome that feedback. We would like to know if the articles, subject matter, and quantity are serving your needs. We truly appreciate hearing from you.

We'd also like to hear from you about where your degree has taken you. Please email us (cpms@byu.edu) with any news about your career or your family. We'll be publishing some of the information we receive in the Fall 2015 issue of Frontiers.

Speaking of Frontiers, we are still accepting submissions for the Memory Bytes section of Frontiers. You can email us (cpms@byu.edu) with your anecdotes (of up to 200 words) about memorable experiences you may have had as a student.

You may also be interested to know that we have hired some great new faculty in the college this year. We look forward to introducing our exceptional new hires of 2015 to you in the near future. We are certain you will also enjoy getting acquainted with them through this newsletter.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

.....→ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

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Matthew Heaton uses his statistical skills to help improve public health.

BYU Professor Uses Spatial Data to Help Prevent Illness

Summer temperatures can pose a serious threat to public health, but BYU professor Matthew Heaton is using statistics to help alleviate this problem.

With his education in spatial data analysis—the study of data collected over various locations—Heaton has spent the last few years analyzing heat-related 911 calls in Houston, Texas, providing valuable input that can assist in decreasing health issues in the future.

“Houston issues a heat advisory when the heat index is above 106,” Heaton said. “One of the interesting things we found is that 106 degrees is too high. Something like 103 would be more effective at decreasing the number of heat-related health incidences.”

For this research, the Houston Fire Department gave Heaton access to the 911-call database so he could know when and where most heat-related injuries happened.

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

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