

The DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the June edition of our eNewsletter. With spring and summer upon us, we are excited about the research opportunities afforded our students during these months. BYU's schedule provides a substantial amount of time during these summer months for our students to pursue research and internships.

Within the college, we have students studying mechanisms for combatting HIV, how glaciers can give us information regarding climate change, nanoscience applications that can contribute to energy solutions, and how separation analysis can be performed with smaller, cheaper equipment—just to name a few.

The Department of Geological Sciences becomes especially active during these summer months, with field camps operating all over Utah in places like Green River, Wendover, Kanarraville, Fillmore and the San Rafael Swell. Summer is ideal for taking advantage of the unique location of BYU and its surrounding geological formations, and the students participating with professors in each of these field camps are doing just that.

As our readers, there are several areas where we are always interested in hearing your feedback. As alumni, you are already well aware of the great education CPMS offers.

We'd 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 this in the upcoming issue of *Frontiers*, coming out in September. 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 balancing religion and science.

Finally, 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.

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 2012 to you in the near future. We are certain you will also enjoy getting acquainted with them through this newsletter.

Warm and safe June to all,

Sincerely,

.....→ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

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STATS GRAD LANDS HIS DREAM JOB

Cameron Willden landed his dream job — developing innovative products like GORE-TEX®, high-tech guitar strings and anti-friction rope.

However, it wasn't just his good grades and charming personality that made him Gore's newest statistician. His unique collaboration with the BYU chemistry department helped him become the perfect candidate for W. L. Gore and Associates — a company that repeatedly makes *Fortune's* list of the 100 best employers.

Beginning in October of last year, Willden helped design efficient, money-saving capillaries used in chemical separation. Thanks to his professors Dennis Tolley and John Lawson, Cameron became involved with Milt Lee of the chemistry department as his part of his master's project.

Traditional capillary columns contain tiny particles that work great, but at a high price — literally. Expensive pumps are required when using particle columns in order to prevent backpressure interference. Willden and the chemists worked to develop a polymer design that offers the same separation efficiency but for a lower cost.

"Right now the particle-packed columns are the gold standard," he said. "With a monolithic polymer column, you still get the really tiny pores, but not as much surface area which means you can have the same efficiency with less pressure and cheaper pumps."

Willden feels his master's degree, which he will officially receive in June, and his experience with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry set him apart from other newly graduated statisticians.

"I feel much more comfortable going into this job now than I would have had I not done something related to experimental design," he said.

After completing his last class, Willden packed up his family and moved across the country, looking forward to working for the company widely known for inventing GORE-TEX® — a material that is both breathable and waterproof.

"They are just really original thinkers," Willden said. "I'm really excited. I feel like I landed the perfect job." —Stacie Carnley, College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences

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