

The DEAN'S MESSAGE

We're happy to share the March eNewsletter with you! We are thankful to have this monthly opportunity to communicate with our alumni and friends and keep you informed of the wonderful things happening at CPMS.

Every year, we honor our outstanding faculty and staff at the annual college awards banquet. This year we highlighted several exemplary people who are helping to improve both the lives of our students and the state of the college as a whole. Our college is staffed by many hardworking, innovative individuals who create an environment where lifelong learning takes place.

Linda Richards of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Rod Scheetz of the Department of Geological Sciences, and Lonette Stoddard of the Department of Mathematics received University Service Awards. Additionally, Sue Mortensen from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry received the Outstanding Staff/Administrative Employee Award.

Faculty award recipients included Matt Heaton (Statistics), who received the Faculty Young Scholar Award; Roger Harrison (Chemistry and Biochemistry), who was presented with the Distinguished Citizenship Award; Natalie Blades (Statistics), who was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award for 3–10 years; and Tom Morris (Geological Sciences), who was the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award for 10 or more years.

We would also like to draw your attention to our full March calendar, beginning with the university Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, which will be held on March 5 at the Varsity Theatre in the Wilkinson Center.

You can find more information on 3MT by clicking [here](#).

Closely following 3MT is the Rex Lee Run, an annual race that raises funds for research at BYU's Simmons Center for Cancer Research. More information on the Rex Lee Run can be found in the article below and in several videos produced for the event. You can visit the race website [here](#).

We also hope you will be able to participate in BYU's 2015 Pi Day celebrations on this special Pi Day (since the date will be 3/14/15). Events will be held on Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14.

On March 19, we will be honored to host Alexis T. Bell of the University of California at Berkeley, who will speak at the annual Reed M. Izatt and James J. Christensen Lecture. Bell will speak on experimental and theoretical research in renewable energy. He will deliver two lectures: first a more technical lecture at 11 a.m. in room W111 of the Ezra Taft Benson Building, and a second, general lecture at 5 p.m. in room 140 of the Joseph Smith Building.

Finally, our annual Student Research Conference will take place on Saturday, March 21 in the Jesse Knight Building. This research conference is designed to give students presentation experience in a professional research conference setting.

A very full March here at CPMS offers you several opportunities to come experience and participate in our work here. We would love to have you back on campus to see the great things that are happening.

Thank you for your continued support of the college.

.....➔ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

DEPT. NEWS

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Celebrating 20 Years of a Community Against Cancer

More than twice as many people die from cancer than from malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis combined. Cancer touches almost everyone in some way, whether personally or through someone they love. It's a devastating disease, but BYU is working for a cure, and you can help.

The Rex Lee Run Against Cancer will celebrate two decades of fighting cancer with the 20th annual run on March 7, 2015 at the BYU Outdoor Track. Proceeds will go to the BYU Simmons Center for Cancer Research to fund cancer research fellowships.

The run was organized in 1996 to honor BYU president Rex Lee who had passed away that year from cancer. Today, the run is hosted by the BYU Cancer Awareness Group, a student club that works to increase public awareness about cancer, offer support to cancer patients and families, and raise money for cancer research. To date, the Rex Lee Run has raised more than \$400,000 for cancer research.

Thomas Lee, an Associate Justice on the Utah Supreme Court and son of Rex Lee, and Diana Lee Allred, Rex Lee's daughter, remember their father as an avid BYU fan who loved running and was committed to beating cancer.

"When his cancer diagnosis came, running was a way for my dad to still feel alive," Allred said. "He pushed his body to run as long as he could and continued to enjoy running until just a few months before he died . . . I can think of no better tribute to give Rex Edwin Lee than a run honoring his memory and in his name, [assisting] research at his beloved BYU to cure the disease that took his life."

In addition to honoring the memory of Rex Lee, runners can donate \$10 to register to wear an Honor a Cancer Fighter Certificate bearing the name of their loved one who has battled cancer.

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

[Runners compete in the Rex Lee Run.](#)

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