

The DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the May edition of our eNewsletter. With our spring commencement exercises recently completed, we are excited to watch our new graduates excel and help shape the future of both industry and academia.

Last month, we had the pleasure of awarding 184 undergraduate degrees, 14 master's degrees, and 5 PhDs. Through their education at BYU, these men and women have been well prepared to blaze new trails in their chosen fields — thanks to hours of classroom instruction and a variety of mentored research opportunities.

These graduates have begun moving on to exciting opportunities outside Provo that will undoubtedly allow them to expand their horizons and magnify their influence. Some of our students are starting work at prestigious organizations while others will seek advanced degrees from some of the world's finest academic institutions.

The college is proud of these students and the work they performed during their time at BYU. We are eager to watch them put their education to work and contribute to our changing world.

Graduation exercises provide a valuable opportunity for me to reflect on our continued commitment to excellent teaching and research — a commitment we renew with each new semester.

Without outstanding faculty and programs, a BYU degree might mean very little. Yet our graduates can step out into the world

confident that they have received quality training and instruction from an outstanding college.

Just over a month ago, one of our math courses was nationally recognized for its high caliber. After studying more than 200 college and university calculus programs nationwide, the Mathematical Association of America identified BYU's introductory calculus course, Math 112 as one of 16 exemplary calculus courses. This course benefits not only students in our majors but also students across campus.

While not all of our courses have been so publicly noted, each class in our college is taught by caring professors with world-class knowledge.

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 cpms@byu.edu with any news about your career or your family. We'll be publishing these in the upcoming issue of Frontiers.

We are also still accepting submissions for the Memory Bytes section of Frontiers. You can email us at the above address with your anecdotes (of up to 200 words) about balancing religion and science.

We truly appreciate hearing from you and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

.....➔ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

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ASTROFEST COMES TO TOWN

BYU's annual Astrofest will take place on Saturday, May 19th in the Eyring Science Center. The community is invited to attend the all-day event and participate in many free, family activities that combine science and fun.

This year's Astrofest will take place on the day before a solar eclipse — an event that hasn't happened near Provo in many years.

"For part of the activities that day, we'll be handing out solar eclipse glasses and instructions on how to use them," said astronomy professor Denise Stephens.

Other activities include complimentary planetarium shows as well as acoustic and physics demonstrations that show just how cool science can be.

"You can go down to Clark Planetarium and spend \$6 per person to watch a show that is very similar to the one we are presenting here for free," Stephens said.

Kids and adults alike will also have the opportunity to enjoy the nice weather with various outdoor activities like an egg launch, paper airplane competition, solar telescopes, Mars training and personalized rockets.

"We're going to have an inflatable obstacle course and a climbing wall for future Mars astronauts," Stephens said.

Astrofest will take place in and around the Eyring Science Center on BYU campus, Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is made possible through generous contributions from David and Marsha Derrick.

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