

## The DEAN'S MESSAGE

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

We had 223 undergraduate degrees, 23 master's degrees, and 5 PhDs who graduated in April and many more who graduated in December or who will graduate in June. Overall, over 400 students were recognized at the convocation held last month. 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 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, carried out in an environment of faith—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.

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

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

.....➔ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

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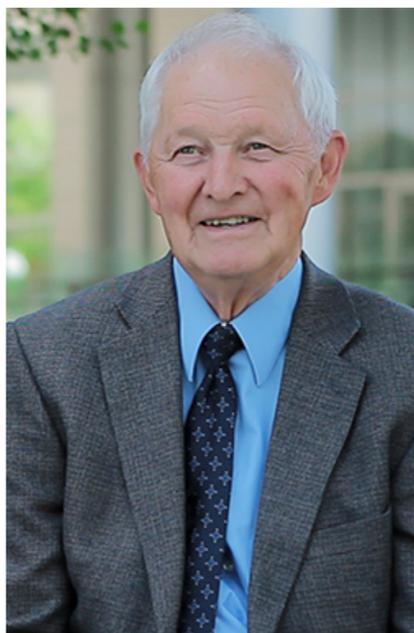


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William Strong was awarded the Silver Medal in Musical Acoustics, the second highest honor given by the Acoustical Society of America. Strong taught at BYU from 1967 to 2001.

## Hearing the Music of Science

*The College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences is proud to congratulate emeritus professor William Strong on receiving the Silver Medal in Musical Acoustics for a lifetime of acoustical research excellence.*

The Silver Medal is the second highest honor presented by the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) and is only awarded when the board determines that a nominee has provided significant and long-lasting contributions to science. Strong is the ninth person in the history of the ASA to receive the Silver Medal in Musical Acoustics.

"The award was fully unexpected," Strong said. "But it's an honor. An unexpected honor." Unexpected, but not at all unmerited. Physics was a favorite subject of Strong's beginning in high school. This interest continued when he attended BYU in the 1950s where he was exposed to a broad range of physics topics.

"Then I took an acoustics course taught by Dr. Harvey Fletcher toward the end of my studies at BYU and I decided that's the thing that really appealed to me," Strong said.

After completing his undergraduate education, Strong entered into a doctoral program in physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he joined a musical acoustics research group. His research there centered on the synthesis of wind instrument tones. It was at MIT where he observed and grew close with professors, something that sparked his interest in pursuing a career in academia.

"When I was at MIT, I had a couple of professors that I very much enjoyed, and the idea of becoming a professor appealed to me more and more," Strong said. "Working in the university environment combines the best of all worlds because you can teach, you can do research, you get to interact with students, you get to interact with colleagues, [and] you get to do some travel. It's an exciting environment."

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

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