

The DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another issue of our electronic newsletter. We continue to receive numerous emails with constructive and helpful comments from friends and alumni of the college, and we hope to continue building that dialogue with each of you in the future. We hope that each newsletter provides you with a regular connection to the college and departments, as well as a brief glimpse into our ongoing progress and accomplishments.

This issue of the newsletter highlights a group of dedicated individuals who play an integral role in helping our students obtain their goals: the College Volunteer Leadership Council (CVLC). These accomplished friends and alumni support us in achieving the educational mission of the college by helping provide students with the environment, mentors, tools and experiences necessary to contribute in their various career fields and become lifelong learners.

In this spirit, CVLC members are working to help identify and develop opportunities for students to successfully transition to their future careers by increasing their exposure to internships and scholarships, as well as working to secure resources to allow students to perform research with a faculty mentor. By performing in-depth lab and field work and writing research papers, CPMS students receive a glimpse of the wonders that await them in their chosen career discipline. CVLC members also help students achieve that vision by providing connections to the resources necessary for future success.

In addition, CVLC members have exciting opportunities to become personally involved with students and faculty on a more personal level, as evidenced in this issue's feature story. This past June, council members and their families had the unique opportunity to visit a BYU dinosaur dig site, work alongside researchers and even discover a few fossils in the central Utah desert. This type of interaction allows CVLC members to meet the students they work so hard to support and become acquainted with the important research in which students are constantly engaged.

This issue also highlights a number of recent discoveries made and awards received by our faculty members. These great accomplishments underscore the dedication of both the university and the college to academic and scholastic excellence, and indicate that we are garnering success in our pursuit. We look forward to similar accomplishments that will surely come as we strive to involve students in cutting-edge research and build the bright minds that will shape the future.

Again, we continue to be interested in hearing from you. We encourage you to email us (college@cpms.byu.edu) and let us know some of the interesting things you are doing. We look forward to keeping in touch.

.....> **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

DEPT. NEWS

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY
Researchers discover potential clean energy source using carbohydrates

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY
BYU celebrates National Chemistry Week

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Geology professor solves mystery of Central Asian glacial phenomenon

MATHEMATICS
Math professor receives prestigious teaching award from national association

STATISTICS
American Statistical Association honors professor with national award

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DIGGING FOR DINOS

Members of the College Volunteer Leadership Council (CVLC) of the BYU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences were privy to some unique opportunities this past summer, including some dinosaur hunting with BYU paleontologists.

The group took two separate trips to central Utah in the month of June and participated in a variety of exciting activities, including visits to two dinosaur dig sites. CVLC members, family and friends attended the excursions, along with other CPMS faculty and staff.

The goal of these trips was to introduce CVLC members to the research work being performed by faculty and students in the Department of Geological Sciences. Participants met student researchers and individually engaged with them in their research. Council members and their families were able to dig alongside researchers in search of Jurassic and Cretaceous dinosaur fossils (150 to 124 million years old).

Both groups were able to find dinosaur bones at their respective dig sites. The first group, which traveled to a location in Mill Canyon on June 4th, uncovered a number of smaller bones, while the second group discovered a large vertebra at the Dalton Wells site on June 26th. Student and faculty researchers at BYU have been involved in studying dinosaur bone deposits like these for almost 50 years. These studies have led to the discovery of many new dinosaurs and a better understanding of the world in which they lived.

CVLC members also had the good fortune of experiencing a guided tour through Arches National Park, provided by BYU geology professor Tom Morris. The group experienced the park's many famous sandstone arches in a new way as Morris, an expert in the field, pointed out the many fascinating scientific aspects of the ancient geological structures. Participants were also able to engage in various other fun activities, including horseback rides along the Colorado River and making ice cream with the sub-zero power of liquid nitrogen.

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