

## The DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another issue of our electronic newsletter. We received a number of emails with constructive and helpful comments after our inaugural newsletter, and we hope to build that dialogue in the future with many of you. We hope that these newsletters help you feel more in touch with the college and the department you called home at BYU.

We hope to provide you with various news items and stories in these newsletters that will be of interest to you and help you feel connected. In particular, we will also highlight ways in which you can help the college. Many have expressed an interest in becoming more involved with the college, but have not been certain what opportunities exist and how to get involved. Some of the ways in which you can help are financial, and we are grateful when many of you generously help the college in such endeavors. There are other significant initiatives that you can become involved with that do not involve money – mostly just a little time and interest in getting involved. Look for additional information on these initiatives next month.

This issue of the newsletter highlights Sambridi Gautam, a computer science undergraduate student from Nepal. The story highlights her experience at BYU, and illustrates the need that many students have to receive financial assistance. We have many students who are deserving of scholarships that we are not currently able to help, due to financial limitations.

Over 100 students in the college have a GPA greater than 3.6 but do not currently receive any form of scholarship. If you have an interest in helping in this regard, please contact Brent Hall in our office to see how you can help. In this regard, I want to mention that our College Volunteer Leadership Council (CVLC) accepted the challenge this past spring to match student donations for scholarships at a ratio of 5:1. As a result, we were able to provide an undergraduate scholarship in each department this year. If many of us are able to get involved, the good that we can do in providing scholarships will be very significant.

This issue also highlights a number of recent awards and grants that our students and faculty have received. Perhaps you know a number of these individuals. I think you will agree that these are significant awards and grants. It is indicative of the quality of students, faculty, and staff in the college and the significant projects that they are pursuing. We look forward to additional accomplishments in the future, and will keep you informed as they occur.

Again, we are interested in hearing from you. We encourage you to email us ([college@cpms.byu.edu](mailto:college@cpms.byu.edu)) and let us know some of the exciting things you are doing. We will highlight some of your activities in Frontiers as we can.

.....➔ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

## DEPT. NEWS

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

[Two CS students receive esteemed awards for academic excellence](#)

### GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

[Geology professor explores Saturn's moons in the Australian Outback](#)

### MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

[Math Ed professor prepares to fund large-scale education study with NSF grant](#)

### PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

[Physics professor receives prestigious NSF award for international research collaboration](#)

### COLLEGE NEWS

[CPMS faculty and staff receive university awards for excellent performance](#)

### COLLEGE NEWS

[CPMS dean elected to executive council of the Acoustical Society of America](#)

### COLLEGE LINKS

[CPMS Homepage](#)  
[Giving to the College](#)

## SAMBRIDI'S JOURNEY



*Sambridi Gautam, a BYU junior majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics, traveled a long distance and received a lot of assistance to get where she is today.*

Originally hailing from Kathmandu, Nepal, Gautam came to the United States to obtain an education in 2006. After enduring the lengthy process of obtaining a visa, she prepared to face the great unknown.

"It was [sad] that I would be very far away from the people I know and love," she said. "I would be on my own for the first time in my life and in a place where I [had] never been before, and thus didn't know what to expect. It was a mixture of excitement, fear and speculation."

After spending a semester at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark., Gautam knew that, like most Nepalese families, her parents couldn't help fund her education any further. She applied and was accepted to BYU and, with the generous assistance of donors, was able to come to Provo in the fall of 2007.

Gautam received a half tuition scholarship to help pay for her education, funded primarily by donations. She worked to pay for the other half of her education and, due to her hard work and academic excellence, qualified for a full-tuition, Brigham Young Scholarship. Additionally, she was awarded a Microsoft Scholarship that helped her cover the cost of books and other various school supplies.

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