The Provo Student Chapter of BYUPAS has had an exceptional year. We started off with a campus networking event that focused on connecting students to opportunities such as internships and research projects. Our theme for the event was “BYUPAS: Connecting You to Your Future,” and we tried to carry this theme over for the year. One way we embraced this theme was by collaborating with other organizations on campus to promote our activities to wider audiences. Our Oktoberfest in conjunction with the Political Science department was a huge success and featured the Political Science faculty band, The Collective Action Problem (we are eagerly awaiting their debut album!). For another event we hosted Mayor John Curtis of Provo City and representatives from Google to talk about GoogleFiber coming to Provo. For this event we reached out to the Rollins Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology as well as the Marriott School of Management to advertise to students interested in the intersection of businesses, technology, and government. We also cosponsored events with the BYU College Republicans and College Democrats and hosted Congressmen Jim Matheson and Jason Chaffetz to encourage students to engage in civil dialogue with their representatives.

Our alumni liaison, Dallin McKinnon, and our events team put together an excellent trip to the Utah state capitol during the state legislative session where students were able to meet and have informative discussions with members of all three branches of Utah’s state government, including Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox and Attorney General Sean Reyes. In March, with the help of a grant our chapter received this year, as well as the generous co-sponsorship of the Political Science Department and BYU’s Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy, we were able to bring John Sides and Lynn Vavreck to our campus to talk about their book, The Gamble. This book uses political science and data to discuss why the 2012 presidential election panned out the way it did. We teamed up with BYU’s Communications Department to advertise this event for students who would be interested in hearing about the ways media coverage portrayed, or misportrayed, the campaigns. Students who attended this panel discussion tweeted their questions to our panelists using the hashtag #YMittLost, which was a successful way to hold a live Q&A and simultaneously promote the event.

For our final event of the year, BYU Law Professor Jim Gordon spoke with banquet attendees about how to get the most from a BYU education, a lesson I appreciated as a graduating senior. I have been privileged to work with a wonderful team of student leaders and supportive advisors during my time as a member of the Provo Student Chapter of BYUPAS and I am proud of our accomplishments this year. Thanks to everyone who made it possible! -Kyrene Gibb