Student Spotlight

Every year political science graduates go on to do great things. From working as a legislative assistant, attending graduate school, or working at the Center for Global Development; our students go to places around the globe and use their skills learned as a student.

Luke Bell

As a political science student at BYU, I have enjoyed the challenge of learning to analyze the political world in a systematic way. Drawn to the major by an excellent experience in Political Science 110, I quickly became involved as an intern in the Utah Legislature, where I assisted two members of the House of Representatives. After completing my work in the legislature, I served as a teaching assistant on four occasions for three different courses. I have worked as a research assistant for Professors Chris Karpowitz and Adam Brown on various projects related to political tolerance, racial resentment, and the Utah Supreme Court.

As a student research fellow for the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy, I have developed several research projects of my own, my current research on domain specific political knowledge recently qualified for a 2014 ORCA grant.

Following graduation, I hope to enhance the critical thinking and research skills I gained as a political science undergraduate by attending law school. I am currently undecided as to which institution I will attend this coming fall. Regardless of the law school I choose, I feel that my political science background has prepared me well for the challenges ahead.

Melanie Miles

My experience as a student in the political science department has been marked notably by my involvement as a TA for three years for PLSC 201 and PLSC 202, working together with Professors Hancock and Gilchrist to expand research and publications on important moral subjects, such as same-sex marriage, the Ordain Women group, the importance of the family with the Constitution, and institutional frameworks of American society. As such, my role as a TA and as a Research Assistant for these professors has come hand-in-hand with working for the John Adams Center for furthering the philosophical foundations for moral and political viewpoints that the LDS Church has taken, a foundation which enjoys the support of this department.

Through my education from all of the fine professors in this department, I was able to attain a comprehensive, philosophical vision from which I may coalesce my reason and intellectual skills with my faith of the Savior and of His mouthpieces, our Apostles and living Prophet. My experience as a political science student in this department did not just teach me, say, the quantitative problems of democratic freedom, it taught me that there are permanent truths of man and freedom, a vision from which our current political paradigm is vastly diverging. In short, my work as a TA, Research Assistant and student developed a love for searching out Truth and coming to view the political issues of our time with a heightened understanding of my role as a steward of the Lord.