According to BYU political science graduates Rachel Bodily and David Trichler, “Stats brings people together.” Since graduating from BYU, both Rachel and David have moved east to attend Georgetown University, landed D.C. jobs in their respective fields, and got married. While going to graduate school, beginning careers, and starting a life together leaves little time, David and Rachel graciously stopped by the BYU political science department while visiting Utah.

Some of their memories of BYU focused on the classes that they took that helped them to develop specific skill sets. Both of them had praise for Professor Jeremy Pope’s statistics class. They said that knowing how to read a regression table before graduate school gave them a decided advantage over their peers. The skills learned in Pl Sc 328 gave them tangible skills in graduate school and their jobs. They discussed the skills learned by doing a 25 page group paper in Professor Dan Nielson’s 150 comparative politics course and the benefit of having an actual paper at the end of a capstone course.

Since graduating from BYU, David went to graduate school at Georgetown University where he received the prestigious Presidential Management Fellow at Office of the Secretary of Defense. Prior to this, he was a Teacher’s Assistant for Secretary Madeleine K. Albright at Georgetown University. He has also worked in a variety of institutions including the Exxon Mobile, Albright Stonebridge Group, The World Bank, and the National Democratic Institute.

After Rachel graduated from BYU she served a mission, then headed to Georgetown for a MPP. She firmly believes that being in D.C. is paramount to getting a job. Rachel interned at 3 different places while a student and all three of these internships led to job offers. One place she interned was the Brookings Institute. The led to her current job at the World Bank where she works with impact evaluation, specifically looking at the efficacy of different interventions on child mortality.

For students at BYU who want to follow similar paths as Rachel and David they recommend focusing on developing skills in statistics, policy memos, writing, and conflict resolution. They strongly encourage students to develop good resume writing skills and work on networking with alumni.