Practical Politics:
Helping students prepare for life after graduation
all lectures can be found at Kennedy.byu.edu/archive

Jennifer Hogge
LDS Philanthropies, Donor Services
Career Reflection: Philanthropy
“I really could relate to her. She explained problems and solutions. She shared joys and disappointments in her life. That really helped me to create definitions for success and failure for myself. It also helped me create new goals and life plans. It was good to hear from someone like her who has really found unique success in her field of work.”

John Dinkelmann
Deputy Chief of Mission, U. S. Embassy Nassau, the Bahamas
Career Reflection: Diplomacy
“What an excellent and personal presentation. I loved it because I could really relate to Brother Dinkelman. He was a humble man and didn’t make me feel like he was better than me. He answered the questions well and explained the duties, obligations joys of working in the foreign service. I feel like he painted a very clear picture of a career in the foreign service.”

Stan Taylor
Emeritus Professor, Political Science
Career Reflection: International Studies
“I loved it. He is a very intelligent and inspiring man and he did a very job of informing us about these important job opportunities in the field of intelligence. I like his candid manner and his willingness to answer questions. I could have asked a million questions if time permitted. He also make some big important points and expressed his opinions. I got a lot out of his presentation.”

Matt Asay
Vice president of corporate strategy, 10gen
Career Reflection: Business/Start-up
“Matt is such a great guy. He really made me think about my ‘back-up’ plans in life. He was very candid and realistic as he explained his career path and gave suggestions to us. I also learned many new things about technology that I never knew before. The presentation was definitely worth my time.”

Roger Gardiner
Vice president, Credit Risk/Finance
Goldman Sachs
Career Reflection: Business
“I really enjoyed his presentation. I don’t see myself working for an investment bank, but I still found his presentation applicable to me as I apply for grad school and need to emphasize why my experience has prepared me for specific schools. I really liked how he suggested we show our quantitative as well as qualitative skills, even though we’re in the social sciences.”

Judge Thomas B. Griffith
Circuit judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
Career Reflection: Judiciary
“Judge Griffith gave an excellent presentation. He was candid and very informative. I learned a lot of new information from him. He was passionate about what he did and that inspired me to really pursue my goals more diligently.”
National Advisory Council

Political Science Students had the opportunity to meet with five of BYU's National Advisory Council members to listen to advice on how to succeed with a political science degree. The panel included David Mann, co-founder of Amaze; Dan Elenbass, a technology entrepreneur; Mike Knudsen, president of Knudsen and Associates; Dr. Calvin Andrus, a Chief Information Officer at the CIA; and Natalie Gordon, general manager of Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools. The entire panel agreed that while some of their careers may not be directly related to their political science major, that the skills learned—specifically statistics, advocacy, and critical thinking—influenced their career trajectory. The panelists emphasized that students shouldn't ignore the people sitting next to you because you will never know when you will come in contact with those people. For example, both David Mann and David Elenbass reconnected after college to work together and become successful entrepreneurs. The panelists also stressed the importance of developing relationships with professors and mentors.